

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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JAPANESE AMBASSADOR COMMISSIONS WATER AND SANITATION AND FOOD SECURITY PROJECT IN CHIPINGE DISTRICT

The Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr Yonezo Fukuda, has today officially commissioned the “Project for Water, Sanitation and Sustainable Food Security in Chipinge Rural District”.

The project was implemented by an international NGO, Africa 2000 and was held at Musani Irrigation Scheme. It was made possible by a grant from the Embassy of Japan of USD 101,678 (one hundred and one thousand, six hundred and seventy eight dollars) which was extended in 2011.

The project was implemented in three wards in Chipinge rural, benefitting 461 households or some 2,305 people. The grant was used for the establishment of six water points for irrigation, domestic use and gardening facilities to promote sustainable livelihoods and the construction of toilet facilities to improve water and sanitation levels in the targeted districts. Africa 2000 has extensive experience in the implementation and sustainable management of community irrigation schemes through “Participatory Development Management” which fosters community ownership of projects by the community themselves through intensive training.

Manicaland Province was particularly hard hit by the recent cholera outbreak. Improved irrigation is expected to rise whilst at the same time reducing poverty of local communities through sale of produce and boosting their nutritional standards.

H.E. Ambassador Fukuda urged beneficiary households to put the facilities to maximum use so as to ensure a very tangible improvement in their standards of living over a prolonged period of time.