

SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR YONEZO FUKUDA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMISSIONING OF THE WATER, SANITATION AND FOOD SECURITY PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY AFRICA 2000 NETWORK IN CHIPINGE RURAL DISTRICT

MARCH 21, 2013

It was a great pleasure to visit Musani Irrigation scheme in Chipinge District to handover the water, sanitation and food security project. It has been successfully implemented at four other sites in Chipinge, but due to time restraints, we are only able to visit Musani.

We were very impressed by what we have seen here today. The provision of adequate water from agricultural purposes has resulted in an increase in the amount of land under irrigation to 20 hectares. This, coupled with the cultivation of a variety of crops, will hopefully result in the increase of household food security and nutritional levels. The facilities being provided will benefit approximately 460 households with a total of 2,300 people.

Furthermore, the boreholes will provide safe drinking water to the local community. Manicaland Province bore the brunt of the cholera outbreak prompting the need for the supply of safe potable water for domestic and agricultural purposes. Our partner NGO, Africa 2000, has been heavily engaged in holistic development projects in three provinces, including Manicaland. They have vast experience in the implementation and sustainable management of community irrigation schemes. We fully support their efforts.

In our Official Development Assistance, Japan has been placing particular attention on water and sanitation as well as food security at household level. Human security is equally a cornerstone of Japan's development assistance policy. It entails freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to live in dignity. Human security provides a guiding principle in tackling current and emerging challenges. The assistance provided under this grant is totally in line with these basic freedoms and basic human needs.

Finally, I would like to encourage all beneficiaries to put these facilities to maximum use to ensure a very tangible improvement in your standards of living over a prolonged period of time.

TATENDA.