

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Yonezo Fukuda, Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe at the Hand-Over Ceremony of a Classroom Block at King George VI Center MARCH 22, 2013**

It is my privilege to attend the Hand-over Ceremony of the Japanese-funded Classroom Block. I wish to express my gratitude to all distinguished guests for your personal presence at this function. Mai Tsvangirai, maita basa nekuuya kwamaita nhasi, nekuti zvinofadza uye zvinokosha kuva pano nevana ava.

It is a natural right for every child to attend a decent school with decent facilities and receive quality education. According to Mai Tsvangirai, “these children and all people living with physical challenges in general, deserve human dignity and respect rather than mere sympathy, formal education is a right for every child, which in most cases denied these children”

These young boys and girls need to be fully equipped with knowledge today and tomorrow so that we are sure the future of this beautiful nation is built on solid sound individuals.

As you may be aware, the project consists of a classroom block with 5 classrooms for deaf students, desks and chairs for students and desks for teachers and a toilet block with 8 toilets which are designed for physically disabled students. The total investment of the project is USD123,450.00. I hope it will contribute significantly to the improvement of education in the local community.

Ladies and Gentlemen: There are many children who wish to be enrolled in this school, but due to the limited capacity of the facilities, the school cannot accept all of them. How does it feel to be turned away from school because you are physically challenged and partly because the facilities are not adequate? As of July 2012, 12 deaf students were on the waiting list, and I believe the number has increased since then. The Embassy saw it fit to assist considering that this project is not only going to increase the intake but also improve the learning environment for deaf students as well as physically challenged students. Today we support “Your aim to develop the strength and skills of each child and to help them reach their full potential”

As, I handover this classroom block, I wish to encourage parents to take part in the education of their children and work very close with educators in molding of our future leaders to become better citizens demanded by modern society.

King George VI team, I am humble myself as I handover this block and to enable you to reclaim your future as we change the face of this community. Allow me to thank all the partners involved for making show this event becomes a success and I wish to urge you to continue supporting their cause. To conclude, please allow me to express my warm congratulations to this project.

**Sibongile, Tatenda, I thank you,**