

SPEECH TO BE PRESENTED BY H.E. MR YONEZO FUKUDA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE HAND-OVER CEREMONY OF “THE PROJECT FOR SUPPLYING SAFE WATER AND SUPPORTING TRAINING TO IMPROVE CULTIVATION SKILLS IN CHIPINGE DISTRICT” IMPLEMENTED BY MERCY CORPS

March 21, 2013

It is a great pleasure for me to visit Chipinge rural and to personally witness the fruition of a project funded by my Government. We were very much looking forward to this moment.

This morning, I was in Musani commissioning another project funded by my Government, which is doubly pleasing for us since local communities in remote Chipinge district are starting to benefit from our assistance.

This project was made possible by a grant of USD 122 thousand, 372 for “the Project for Supplying Safe Water and Supporting Training in Cultivation Skills in Chipinge District” which was extended to our cooperating partner, Mercy Corps, which aims at the upliftment of the standard of living of your communities. .

This project is very similar to the one commissioned this morning as they both incorporate components such as improving agricultural production, the establishment of gardens, the training of local communities in borehole management to ensure sustainability and the provision of safe potable water for domestic use and agricultural production. Such holistic interventions based on vast experience in the local area are sure to bear successful results. This particular project is covering seven wards and has rehabilitated 40 water points and the establishment of an additional two.

Being located in Natural Regions IV and V, Chipinge district is very prone to drought and erratic rainfall and often experiences household food insecurity caused by lack of rainfall and access to safe potable water leading to water borne diseases. This has been the case in districts with similar climatic conditions, particularly in the southern regions, where we have been equally providing similar assistance to mitigate the effects of climate change. We are therefore glad to come to your assistance.

I would like to thank the local authorities who have played a pivotal role in mobilising communities and generally playing a very supportive role. Special thanks to our NGO partner, Mercy Corps, and who have worked tirelessly to ensure the successful completion of this project and to all other concerned parties.

We expect that the allocated plots to households will remain green throughout the year with a variety of nutritional crops including vegetables and legumes using the modern cultivation skills you have learned. Please never allow these gardens to lie fallow.

TATENDA.