

SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR YONEZO FUKUDA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE HAND-OVER CEREMONY FOR “THE PROJECT FOR LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT FOR OVCs IN MUREWA DISTRICT” IMPLEMENTED BY THE CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN ZIMBABWE

FEBRUARY 8, 2013

SALUTATIONS,

MANGWANANI. It is my great pleasure to attend the ceremony for the official completion of “The Project for Livelihoods Support for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children in Murewa District”. Since having the agreement in March 2011 with the Centre for Community Development in Zimbabwe, I have been looking forward to this moment.

This project is to improve the livelihoods of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children, particularly of child headed households, affected by HIV/AIDS. Although prevalence of the disease has been declining, it has wrecked havoc in Zimbabwe resulting in young orphans facing untold socio-economic challenges. It is for this reason that we support the collaborative efforts of NGOs, such as CCDZ, who are targeting such households in an effort to make a positive impact on your standards of living.

To this end, CCDZ has established two nutrition gardens and a fowl run. One of the two boreholes which were sunk close to the gardens will also serve the local school, therefore improving sanitation and hygiene conditions there. We sincerely hope that the gardens and fowl run will improve your nutritional status and lead to household food self-sufficiency.

However, this can only happen if these facilities are fully utilised and properly maintained. As the Embassy, we can only assist your own self-help efforts to guarantee you a better future. These facilities are today being handed over to you and their upkeep is entirely your responsibility. We hope to see that the wider community members will benefit from these in the near future.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the CCDZ for their tireless efforts to successfully complete this project.

TATENDA