

SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR YONEZO FUKUDA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY WITH CAFOD FOR “THE PROJECT FOR SUPPLYING SAFE WATER IN CHIVI DISTRICT”

MARCH 14, 2013

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF CAFOD, MR ATTERTON,

It is my great pleasure to sign Grant Contracts with you, Mr Atterton, whereby Japan is extending to CAFOD, a grant of USD 117,190 for your project entitled “The Project for Supplying Safe Water in Chivi District”.

In recent years, we note, with concern, that global weather patterns are ever changing and Southern Africa in particular is experiencing prolonged dry spells and erratic rainfall combined, paradoxically, with intermittent flooding. Affected communities are putting themselves at serious risk by adopting dangerous coping mechanisms such as sourcing water from unprotected and often distant sources such as rivers and dams thereby exposing themselves to water borne diseases.

In Zimbabwe, the southern regions, Masvingo Province included, are drastically reducing agricultural production and greatly reducing standards of living. Borehole drilling and rehabilitation for improved access to water for domestic consumption, sanitation, health livestock and livelihood support is essential for communities in drought prone areas such as Chivi.

In order to mitigate the adverse effects of the lack of a basic human need such as safe water, the Embassy has been actively supporting the provision of water supply through the sinking and rehabilitating of boreholes throughout the country, often including the establishment of nutritional gardens. We are pleased to partner with CAFOD in view of your vast experience in the field of water supply, water point management and WASH.

We are extending this grant to CAFOD in the knowledge that it will have a very positive impact on beneficiary households and that sustainability of facilities is assured. We wish you every success in the smooth implementation of this project and look forward to visiting the project sites once completed.

THANK YOU