

SPEECH TO BE PRESENTED BY H.E. MR YONEZO FUKUDA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMISSIONING OF “THE PROJECT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTH FACILITIES IN BEITBRIDGE DISTRICT” IMPLEMENTED BY HELP

MAY 22, 2013

SALUTATIONS,

It is a great pleasure for me to visit Beitbridge today that marks successful completion of an important project, ‘The Project for Improvement of Health Facilities in Beitbridge District’ implemented by HELP. We are honoured to cooperate with them who are putting efforts to support victims of natural disasters and emergency cases, which include the recent heavy flood. At this moment, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the victims of that flood.

The project was made possible by a grant of some 107 thousand dollars that the Embassy of Japan extended to HELP in February last year. It aims to reduce communicable disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies through a variety of interventions.

These interventions included installation of radios at the District Hospital and 18 clinics, and in 3 ambulances. 13 solar panels as well as 4 boreholes were installed at the clinics to provide proper standard of health services.

The completion of this project comes at a very opportune time given the constant threat of outbreaks of water borne diseases such as cholera. Timely reporting of cases and delivery of patients to health facilities is of utmost importance. Emergency cases such as pregnancy complications, particularly in rural areas, require immediate attention.

Of course, this project would not have been possible without the efforts of HELP, in collaboration with the Beitbridge Rural District Council, Ministry of Health and Child Welfare and most importantly, the local community. It is our sincere hope that the impact of this project will be kept, or even expanded, through the participation of all of you.

MAKOROKOTO. THANK YOU.