

**Speech to be presented by H.E. Mr. Yonezo Fukuda, Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, at the Signing Ceremony with Musasa Project for 'The Follow-up Expenses of the Project for Construction of a Counseling and Care Centre for Survivors of Gender Based Violence'**

March 14, 2013

Director of Musasa Project, Ms. Musanhu,

It is my pleasure to meet you again, following the previous contract made in December 2011. This grant will be used for the complement of the construction of the Counseling and Care Centre in Harare.

This kind of follow-up assistance is generally difficult to approve, because we believe that the project ought to be managed thoroughly by the implementing organisation.

Nonetheless, we understand your counseling services have had benefited largely on the victims of domestic violence. You are working together with various organisations and those activities are well known among communities.

We decided to provide this support due to such valuable contributions towards combating gender-based violence. The challenges of economy, including rising prices, in Zimbabwe was also taken into consideration.

I sincerely hope that the construction will be completed in the near future, and more people who are suffering from domestic violence could receive better counseling services.

**-End-**