

SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR YONEZO FUKUDA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY WITH WORLD VISION ZIMBABWE FOR “THE PROJECR FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN BUBI DISTRICT”

MARCH 14, 2013

SALUTATIONS,

It is my great pleasure to sign Grant Contracts with you, Mr Brown, whereby Japan is extending to World Vision Zimbabwe, a grant of just over USD 122 thousand for your project for the construction and furnishing of Molo Primary School in Bubi District, Matabeleland North.

Pupils are currently attending lessons in unacceptably poor conditions resulting in bad results and lack of teacher motivation. Pupils are being denied their basic right to basic education.

Education is a prerequisite not just for national socio-economic development, but also to enable pupils to improve their own standard of living and that of their families. In recognition of the pivotal role of quality education, the Government of Japan, together with other donors, under the initiative of UNICEF, contributed to an Education Transitional Fund Phase I which successfully provided every Zimbabwean primary school child with basic textbooks and stationery. The Government of Zimbabwe is committed to maintaining high literacy rates in the country, but recent economic factors have not been favourable.

The Embassy has previously partnered with World Vision Zimbabwe in the sinking of boreholes in Bulawayo City and we are well aware of your capabilities and commitment to the upliftment of the standard of living of the disadvantaged. We are happy to partner with you again.

It is our sincere hope that the improvement of the learning environment at the school, Grade 7 results will be greatly improved and pupils will be able to proceed to high school.

THANK YOU