

P R E S S R E L E A S E

December 7, 2011

JAPAN TO FUND CONSTRUCTION OF COUNSELING AND CARE CENTRE FOR MUSASA PROJECT

The Government of Japan has today extended a grant of \$ 107,279 (one hundred and seven thousand, two hundred and seventy-nine dollars) to the Musasa Project, a local NGO, for the Project for the “Construction of a Counseling and Care Centre for Survivors of Gender Based Violence” (GBV).

The Ambassador Designate of Japan to Zimbabwe, His Excellency Mr Yonezo Fukuda and the Director of Musasa Project, Ms Netty Musanhu, signed Grant Contracts formalising the grant.

The grant is to be used for the construction of an office block at Musasa Project’s headquarters in Harare which will house counseling rooms providing legal advice, training rooms for life skills, a boardroom, kitchen and toilet. A much more comprehensive package of services will be offered to victims of GBV seeking assistance. This will greatly enhance Musasa Project’s capacity and will see it scaling up its operations to cater for approximately 100 women per week as opposed to the current 100 per month.

Japan has previously assisted Musasa Project when it funded the construction of a halfway house adjacent to its existing shelter for battered women some ten years ago.

Speaking at the occasion, H.E. Ambassador Designate Fukuda noted that he was pleased that the grant coincided with the commemoration of the Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.