

## **P R E S S R E L E A S E**

**February 16, 2012**

### **JAPAN TO ASSIST IN UPGRADING OF HEALTH FACILITIES IN BEITBRIDGE DISTRICT**

At a signing ceremony at the Embassy of Japan today, the Embassy of Japan extended a grant of one hundred and seven thousand, six hundred and forty-six dollars (\$107,646) to an international NGO, HELP, for the implementation of the “Project for the Improvement of Health Facilities in Beitbridge District”.

The Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr Yonezo Fukuda and the Country Director of HELP, Mr Christoph Laurens formalised the grant.

As the name implies, the grant is to be used to improve the health service delivery at all of the 18 Rural Health Centres in the district through a variety of interventions. Three radios are to be installed in three ambulances as well as one at the District Hospital. Two of these ambulances are also to be repaired. All 18 clinics are to be equipped with radios. This will allow for the immediate reporting of disease outbreaks.

Solar lightning systems and inverters are to be installed at 13 clinics, not only to run the radios, but to provide emergency lighting. Boreholes will be sunk at four of the clinics again as most of the clinics have no running water and it has to be fetched from communal boreholes or nearby dams.

HELP has successfully completed a similar project in Centenary District.