

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Kazuya Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan, on
the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the Project for
Rural water Supply Phase 2, August 21st, 2013**

Honorable Professor SilasLwakabamba Minister of Infrastructure,

Honorable Emma Francoise Isumbingabo, Minister of state in charge of Energy
and Water

Ms. Uwamariya Odette, Governor of Eastern Province,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentleman,

Good morning/ Bonjour/ Mwaramutse

It is my great pleasure to be here today on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of "the Project for Rural Water Supply Phase 2". The Government of Japan has supported the improvement of water supply in eastern Province for a very long time. Not only putting in place the basic infrastructure necessary for water supply, also the Government of Japan supports capacity building through technical assistance. Moreover, 8 Japanese volunteers under the nickname "W-SAT: The Water Security Action Team" have been dispatched to Eastern Province to cooperate at the grass-root level. The approach to water supply in eastern Province which has synergetic effect is one of the good practices

among Japan's ODA in this country.

I am delighted to inaugurate this project today after all those years since the government of Rwanda and the government of Japan agreed this project on March 2010 following the phase 1 dated in June 2006. This phase 2 project which is worth 1.435 billion Japanese Yen, will enable 55,000 people in targeted communities to get access to safe and clean water, and contribute to improve the rate of water supply to the communities from 41.6% in 2008 to 57.4%. We are delighted to see their contribution for Rwandan government to attain Vision 2020 goals that include increasing access to clean water. In addition, the improvement of water quality will help to reduce infant mortality rate and water born diseases. This project will also see the reduction of time spent on water drawing labor which will promote women and children's participation in society and especially help children to ensure more hours are spent on their studies.

One small concern is whether the facilities constructed will be properly managed and maintained. In order to make full advantage of these new facilities and to utilize them for a long time period, both the authorities and people in the

communities will have to put jointly more efforts for the good maintenance of the facilities. In this regard, I expect good leadership of the authorities and the ownership of the people in the communities.

In concluding my remarks, I would like to commend JICA, Earth System Science Company, Tone Engineering Corporation, EWSA and all concerned for their devoted work to complete this project. It is my sincere wish that the facilities constructed under the project will be made best use of and improve and enrich the lives of people in the communities.

Thank you for your attention / Merci de votre attention/ Murakoze cyane.