

**SPEECH BY H. E. MR. KAZUYA OGAWA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN
TO THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA ON THE OCCASION OF THE
SIGNING CEREMONY FOR THE PROJECT OF RURAL WATER
SUPPLY (PHASE III) MARCH 5, 2015**

Honourable Claver GATETE, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to have signed today the Exchange of Notes for the
Grant aid amounting up to JPY 1,013,000,000 (approx. 9 million US Dollars)
for the Project of Rural Water Supply (Phase III).

This Grant Aid Project is aiming at improving access to safe and clean water in the Eastern Province where water supply service still needs to be improved. The project targets three sectors in three districts in the Eastern Province, namely Rukira Sector of Ngoma District, Murama Sector of Kayonza District and Remera Sector of Gatsibo District. The fund will be used in such activities as constructing piped water supply systems and capacity building of operational staff and technicians. Upon the completion of the project, more than 33 thousand people will have access to safe drinking water. Furthermore, the project will allow women more time to engage in different income generating activities as well as provide more time for the children to study.

This is the third phase of the serial Project of Rural Water Supply that Japanese Government launched 8 years ago. The first phase was completed in

March 2008. The grant of 551 Million JPY, approx. 6.1 million USD at the exchange rate of that time, was provided. The fund was used to construct piped water supply systems and to construct or rehabilitate hand pumps in Ngoma, Kayonza and Rwamagana Districts. The second phase of the project was completed in July, 2013. The grant was 1.43 billion JPY, approx. 16 million USD at then exchange rate. The Fund was used to construct, renovate and expand seven facilities of piped water supply systems at 11 sectors in Ngoma and Kirehe Districts. The First Phase has about 43 thousand beneficiaries, the Second Phase has about 55 thousand beneficiaries and the Third Phase will have about 33 thousand beneficiaries. In total, more than 131 thousand people will be benefiting from the entire project. This project has contributed to improve the safe water access rate in the Eastern Province from 57.7% in 2006 to 66.6% in 2011. The third phase of the project will further increase the access to safe water in the Province.

This support is in line with EDPRS 2, especially its target to achieve universal access to safe and clean drinking water. And the access to water in rural area was also one of the topics of the Leadership Retreat which ended last Monday. Related to this rural water supply project, Japan is providing the technical cooperation project entitled “Strengthening Operation and Maintenance of Rural Water Supply Systems” through JICA. Also, the Embassy of Japan has supported the construction of two facilities of water supply under its Grant Assistance for

Grassroots and Human Security Projects (GGP) for relatively smaller size of installations. In the last two years, water supply facilities in this framework have been built in Gifumba, Muhanga District and in Migina and Nzovi villages, Nyanza district in the Southern Province. Furthermore, members of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) consist of the Water Security Action Team, or W-SAT. They have been actively engaged in such activities as water supply facility maintenance and hygiene promotion in the Easter Province. As the lead development partner in the Water and Sanitation sector, Japan will continue to support Rwanda to achieve its development targets.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate that it is the sincere hope of the Government and the people of Japan that this grant aid will contribute to improve the access to safe and clean drinking water in the targeted sectors of the Eastern Province, and will be used in an efficient and effective manner.

Thank you for your attention.

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