

**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 FOR  
DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION SCHEME IN NGOMA  
DISTRICT AUGUST 8, 2014**

Honourable Minister Claver GATETE,  
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 One Billion Five Hundred Forty-Nine Million (JPY 1,549,000,000) (about 15.3 Million USD) for the project for Development of Irrigation Scheme in Ngoma District** with Hon. Claver Gatete, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning .

This Grant is aiming at helping to improve and stabilize agriculture productivity in Ngoma District through such activities as the construction of a water reservoir and irrigation facilities. It will enable farmers to utilize agricultural water more efficiently and promote intensive agriculture in Rurenge and Remera Sectors in the Eastern Province. The water will be provided to 300 hectares of farmland (265 hectares of upland fields and 35 hectares of paddy fields). The project includes the construction of a dam pond, water canals, a pump station, and a solar power generation unit that will provide electricity to the water pumps to pump up water to the hillside water canal that will be constructed. It also consists of soft components including establishment and strengthening of Water Users Organizations

(WUOs) and support the management and maintenance of the irrigation facilities.

It is also important to mention that this project is aiming at helping Rwanda to mitigate and adapt the potential effects of climate change such as change in the pattern of rainfall.

This Grant is in line with the EDPRS2 and Rwanda's efforts to develop agriculture sector which is one of the main drivers of its economic development and poverty reduction. In addition to this irrigation project, in agriculture sector, Japan has dispatched an irrigation advisor to MINAGRI since 2011 and started a technical assistance project entitled "Smallholder market oriented agriculture project" which is designed to improve livelihoods of smallholder farmers through various activities. These also show Japan's continuous support to the Government and the people of Rwanda.

I am glad to mention that since my arrival in Rwanda in 2013, it has been a great pleasure for me to witness the successful implementation of many projects across Rwanda that are supported by the People of Japan.

The Government of Japan appreciates the strong ownership of the Government of Rwanda regarding its development requirements as well as its determination towards self-reliance. I assure you that Japan will continue to stand by Rwanda and work side by side to achieve various

goals set forth.

In concluding my speech, I would like to reiterate that it is the sincere hope of the Government and the people of Japan that this Grant assistance will contribute to increase and stabilize agriculture productivity in the project area, and be used in an efficient and effective manner.

Thank you for your attention.