Speech by Mr. Mikio Mori, the Deputy Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Kenya,

at the Handing Over Ceremony of the Project for the Construction of Suswa Dispensary on 5th November, 2013

County Executive Committee Member for Public Service management, Hon. George Meshuko

County Executive Committee Member of Health, Hon. John Marindany

County Director of Health, Mr. Wilson Gachare

Officials from Local Government,

Representative and Members of Baptist Relief Agency in Africa and Suswa CBO,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mabibi na Mabwana,

Hamjambo? Asanteni sana kwa kunikaribisha leo. Ninaitwa Mori. Ninatoka ubalozi wa Japani nchini Kenya.

I am very pleased to be here today for this remarkable handing over ceremony and I wish to congratulate you for the completion of this Project for the Construction of the Suswa Dispensary.

This project was funded by the Government of Japan through its *Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects*, or GGP in short. GGP funds of about 7.2 million Kenyan Shillings was spent in constructing a new dispensary, Staff houses, sanitation facilities as well as for the purchase of medical equipment and water tanks which

we can see today.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I thank the local authority, Baptist Relief Agency in Africa (BARAA), chairman and committee members from community based organization, and the contractor for the dedication and hard work they put in for the successful completion of this project. Well done, everybody.

I was informed that there had been no medical facilities in the neighborhood and that the nearest hospital was 30 km away. For this reason, the community of Suswa was suffering from lack of access to primary health care. Having a health facility, therefore, has been a longstanding desire of the people of Suswa. I was also told that the community contributed the land for the dispensary and formed a Community Based Organization (CBO) which is an implementing partner with BARAA.

At last, your prayers have been answered and your dream to have a medical access nearby Suswa has finally come true.

I wish you all the best and sincerely hope that the new Suswa dispensary will not only bring you improved health care but also enhance the future of this community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through its GGP scheme, the Government of Japan has provided funding to medical institutions, schools, community based organizations and NGOs in areas such as health care, education, water and many other fields to improve the lives of the people at the grass-roots level in all developing countries as well as Kenya since 1990. This year, 2013, marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic mutual ties between Kenya and Japan. We will keep working with the

people of Kenya to raise the quality of their lives by assisting in areas which meet basic human needs.

In closing my remarks, let me wish all of you long life, good health, great happiness and prosperity.

Asanteni sana, Thank you