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Press release

For immediate release - 26 August 2026

Zimbabwe and Japan advance healthcare waste management with three modern medical waste incinerators



New facilities at Parirenyatwa, United Bulawayo Hospitals and Masvingo Provincial Hospital strengthen national capacity to safely manage hazardous medical waste.

- Three modern, smokeless medical waste incinerators completed at Parirenyatwa, United Bulawayo Hospitals and Masvingo Provincial Hospital.



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- Funded by the Government of Japan and implemented through UNOPS in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care.
- The facilities strengthen safe, efficient and environmentally responsible treatment of hazardous healthcare waste by introducing Japan's latest technologies.
- Ninety-two hospital personnel received practical training to support safe operation and routine management.

HARARE, Zimbabwe, 26 August 2026 - The Government of Zimbabwe, the Government of Japan and UNOPS have officially commissioned a modern medical waste incinerator at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals, completing the installation of three facilities under the Zimbabwe Medical Waste Management project.

The incinerators Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals, United Bulawayo Hospitals and Masvingo Provincial Hospital, funded by the Government of Japan, will strengthen the country's capacity to safely, efficiently and sustainably treat hazardous medical waste. By leveraging Japan's latest technologies to modernize waste management and disposal practices, the facilities will support infection prevention and control, protect healthcare workers and surrounding communities, and reduce risks associated with open burning and outdated disposal methods.

The official handover ceremony, held under the auspices of **His Excellency Mr Nobutaka Maekawa, Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe**, and the **Honourable Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care, Sleiman Timios Kwidini**, brought together government representatives, UN officials, hospital leadership and development partners.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care, Sleiman Timios Kwidini, said:

"This investment strengthens Zimbabwe's national capacity to manage healthcare waste in line with international standards while protecting both public health and the environment."

Speaking at the ceremony, His Excellency Mr. Nobutaka Maekawa, Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, said:

"The installation of these modern medical incinerators incorporating Japanese latest technologies will greatly enhance the capacity of these hospitals to safely and efficiently manage medical waste. They will help reduce exposure to hazardous materials, strengthen infection prevention and control measures, and improve overall working conditions for healthcare workers."



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These incinerators manufactured by Chuwa Industrial, a Japanese incinerator maker, have smokeless and anti-pollution technology, designed to process approximately 150 to 187 kilograms of medical waste per hour. Automated temperature and fire controls ensure safe and consistent operation, while its energy-efficient design enables reliable service within existing hospital infrastructure.

UNOPS supported the procurement, infrastructure delivery, installation, technical oversight and commissioning in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, the participating hospitals and Japanese incinerator maker . Following the installation, **92 hospital personnel across the three sites received practical training** to support safe operation and routine management of the facilities.

These facilities are a key component of Zimbabwe's broader efforts to modernise health infrastructure, strengthen infection prevention and control, and advance environmentally sustainable public services in line with Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Moving forward, the Ministry of Health and Child Care, together with the participating hospitals, will oversee the continued operation of the facilities, helping ensure that the investment delivers lasting benefits to patients, healthcare workers, communities and the environment.

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