

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Hideyuki Sakamoto, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia,
at the Signing Ceremony
for a grant agreement for the Government of Japan's Food Aid,
in Windhoek, Khomas Region,
on 27th February 2016**

Hon. Ms. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO)

Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musagvi, Permanent Secretary, MIRCO

Mr. Jafet Iitenge, Director, Disaster Risk Management, Office of Prime Minister,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today, together with Hon. Ms. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO), for signing the Exchange Notes for the Government of Japan's Food Aid.

The Government of Japan has decided to provide Food Aid worth around 4.7 million Namibian Dollars in support of the Namibian Government's efforts for tackling difficulties caused by the significant droughts which hit Namibia for the last three years. Although, the country has started receiving good rains, and hopes for better harvest are being raised; it will still take time for people to get enough harvest. Additionally, the recent worm outbreak in the north regions is causing concerns. Under this circumstance, I feel particularly glad to sign the documents for the Food Aids today.

Honorable Deputy Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Japan, since the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Government of Namibia in 1990, has been extending development assistance and also building a cooperative partnership with the Government of Namibia in various areas. This Food Aid is Japan's additional support to the Namibian Government's efforts to fight against "Poverty".

In line with the Namibian Government's policy and efforts, Japan is increasing the focus of our support to the Agriculture sector, which is one of the priority areas under the Harambee Prosperity Plan. We are currently implementing a technical cooperation project in the North which aims to improve livelihood of small-scale farmers through diversification of agricultural & farm

products, provision of skill training, facilitating farmers' access to markets. Total 7 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers have been deployed in the sector since 2008, and worked/ works closely with Namibian people on the ground. Recently, a scientific research project which aims to introduce a new method of mixed cropping of the drought resilient mahangu and the flood resilient rice has been successfully completed. I believe that the Japan's supports help improve food security in Namibia and contribute towards eliminating hunger and poverty.

Honorable Deputy Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank your team of the Office of Prime Minister, Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation and other Ministries involved for their cooperation and dedication for materializing this Food Aid to date. I hope that the same cooperation and dedication are to be continuously provided to the Japanese team till the foods are actually delivered to the people in needs.

Finally, the food aid symbolizes strengthening relationship between Japan and Namibia. I would like to reaffirm Japan's continuous commitment for working with the Namibian Government and the people for the prosperity of our two countries.

I thank you,

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