



# EMBASSY OF JAPAN

12th March 2018

## MEDIA RELEASE



### JAPAN HANDED OVER FOOD AID TO NAMIBIA

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018, **H.E. Mr. Hideyuki Sakamoto, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia, officially handed over wheat, Food Aid worth 40 million JPY (about ND4.7 million), to Hon. Ms. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,** in Windhoek. The ceremony was Ambassador Sakamoto's last official event as the Ambassador of Japan to Namibia.

The Food Aid is to support the Namibian Government's efforts on Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) to rescue the most vulnerable households who have been seriously affected by the negative impact of drought and flood emergencies repeated in past many years. Over 400 MT of wheat have arrived when this year's rains have not yet come as forecasted thus another drought may bring further challenges to the country. The wheat will be distributed to the needy population in the 6 regions, namely Zambezi, Oshana, Omusati, Omaheke, Oshana and Hardap.

During the ceremony, H.E. Mr. Hideyuki Sakamoto, Ambassador of Japan, stated that the Food Aid was to support the Namibian Government's efforts on Harambee Prosperity Plan, among other supports by the Government of Japan in tackling food insecurity in the country. He continued that the supports from Japan in this field came as a natural response in the spirit of solidarity as Japan is also prone to natural disasters. He concluded that that he was very happy to conclude his duty with such a significant event which highlights growing bi-lateral relations between Japan and Namibia.

Hon. Ms. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, responded with appreciations to Japan for its generous support towards Namibian Government's relief efforts, explaining that the climate change and consequent droughts have affected the livelihood of most of Namibian by severely undermining food security. She continued that that the food aid by the Government of Japan

was yet another reaffirmation of the excellent relations of the two countries, rooted in its long-standing economic, political and cultural cooperation and people to people contacts.

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