



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

25 November 2019

MEDIA RELEASE



In addition to H.E. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan (3rd from left) and Dr Rosa Persendt, Chairperson (3rd from right) and Ms Bernadette Bock, Secretary General (far right) from the Namibia Red Cross, Hon. Dr Samuel Chief Ankama, Deputy Minister (center) and Mr I-Ben Nashandi, Executive Director (2nd from right) from the Office of the Prime Minister, and Mr Percy Misika, Executive Director from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (far left), representatives from all the ministries and office concerned attended the ceremony.



After the signing of the contract between H.E. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan (left) and Dr Rosa Persendt, Chairperson of the Namibia Red Cross Society (right), Hon Dr Samuel Chief Aukama, Deputy Minister (center) shook hands with Ambassador, as a token of appreciation of the support.

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN PROVIDED THE GRANT ASSISTANCE TOTALING NAD 1.2 MILLION FOR DROUGHT RELIEF

On Monday 25th November 2019, a signing ceremony of the Drought Emergency Project for Rehabilitation of Water Points which was funded by the Government of Japan through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) was held at the Office of the Prime Minister. **H.E Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan, signed the contract with Dr Rosa Persendt, Chairperson of the Namibia Red Cross Society in the presence of Hon. Dr Samuel Chief Ankama, Deputy Minister of the Office of the Prime Minister.**

The Extremely poor rainfall in the year of 2018/19 brought a severe drought, which enormously affected water availability and harvest of the crop in Namibia. To address this concern, the President of Namibia made a declaration of a drought emergency on 6th May 2019. In the same vein, the Office of the Prime Minister launched the Drought Response Plan to reduce or mitigate a danger of serious harm or damage to the property for the period of April 2019 to March 2020. Despite the endeavour of the Government of Namibia, it is still challenging for all the necessary interventions to be rolled out to the drought affected communities, due to the increment of number of beneficiaries identified and cost escalation.

It is against this background that the Government of Japan extended a grant amounting to approximately NAD 1.2 million (USD 85,220). It will be utilised for 480 households in Kunene Region to increase access to clean and safe water with rehabilitation of 16 water points, distributing purification tablets and water storage containers and conducting the training on WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and malnutrition surveillance.

GGP aims at bringing about direct and immediate impact on the well-being of disadvantaged communities at the grass-roots level by supporting relatively small development projects in areas of local needs such as health, education, and agriculture to be implemented by non-profit organisations and local authorities. The Government of Japan has been implementing the GGP in Namibia since 1997. To date, 54 projects have been supported, totally amounting to approximately NAD 37.5 million.

For further information, please contact Ms Izumi Ogawa, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Namibia. Email: izumi.ogawa@mofa.go.jp, Tel: 061 426 700/ FAX: 061 426 749.

-END OF STATEMENT-