

**STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION, HONOURABLE
NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH**

AT THE

**SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES (E/N) ON THE
FOOD DONATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

VENUE: MIRCO

DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 2017

H.E. Mr. Hideyuki Sakamoto, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia,

**Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Permanent Secretary of the
Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation,**

**Mr. Jafet Iitenge, Director of the Directorate of Disaster Risk
Management in the Office of the Prime Minister,**

Senior Officials from the Embassy of Japan,

Senior Officials from the Office of the Prime Minister,

**Senior Officials from the Ministry of International Relations and
Cooperation**

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I take this opportunity to welcome you, Your Excellency, Mr. Hideyuki Sakamoto, Ambassador of Japan and your delegation to this important occasion of the Signing Ceremony of the food donation by the Government of Japan to the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

In the past years, Namibia faced a period of distressing droughts that had robbed many of its citizens their livelihood, and sending them into abject poverty. We believe that the wonderful spirit of solidarity that various friendly countries, including Japan continue to show by donating food relief aid is a blessing to those who are in dire need.

Namibia is one of the countries that are vulnerable to climate change due to the dry nature of its environment. The severe scarcity of water caused by low rainfall in recent years has negatively affected farming activities in all corners of Namibia, a situation that has greatly hampered crops production and reduced the survival of livestock in the country.

As we are still in the middle of the rainy season, and welcome good rains received in some parts of the country, it is still early to tell if we are out of the worse situation or we are still in. Therefore, I am not sure yet if our harvest will improve this year.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namibia being a Child of International Solidarity, it gives me a great honour and humility to acknowledge the support that the country has received over the years from its bilateral and multilateral partners in mitigating the devastating impact of this phenomenon.

Today, we are gathered here, to witness yet another noble gesture from the Government of Japan that has pledged to donate a grant

assistance amounting to Forty Million Japanese Yen (40 000 000), in the form of a food donation.

Therefore, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Namibia, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Government and the loving people of Japan, for realizing the tough challenges posed by food shortages in our country.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Notes of Exchange that the two countries are going to sign here today will mark the beginning of the implementation of this significant food donation.

I therefore wish to assure you, Your Excellency that, upon arrival, the donation which I understand will come in the form of wheat and rice will be distributed to the needy Namibians, as per the assessment made by the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management in the Office of the Prime Minister. I am happy to say this in the presence of officials from the DDRM, who are under strict directives to ensure that the food donated has reached the targeted people.

I also wish to thank the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for its support to the University of Namibia's Ogongo Campus and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry that are jointly implementing a research project under the Framework of Science and Technology Cooperation Programme. The project aims to develop a "flood and drought-adaptive cropping system" which strives to produce flood and drought resistant crops in Namibia.

The rice and pearl millet cropping system experiment currently underway will indeed give Namibia the capacity to cope with future challenges posed by the effect of climate change.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Namibia and Japan on the 21st of March 1990, our two countries have enjoyed cordial and friendly bilateral relations and this gesture amongst many others is a clear testimony to that.

I therefore wish to thank all those that played a role in the lengthy consultations between the Governments of Namibia and Japan, which paved the way for this food donation to become a reality.

We look forward to future collaboration that will further enhance the bilateral relations between our two countries, for the mutual benefit of all our peoples.

I thank you!