

# Utilise donor funds, projects well – Japanese envoy

BY ELIZABETH KAMURUNGI

**KAMPALA.** The Japanese ambassador to Uganda, Mr Fukuzawa Hidemoto, has urged beneficiaries of aid and grant projects to take ownership of the projects, and ensure they are efficiently utilised and managed.

• He was speaking at a function held in Kampala on Tuesday to sign off four community assistance projects worth Shs 1b in the Health and Education sectors.

“This is the only project the embassy does directly with the local community in every project, we value partnership and ownership which means serious people to work together. We receive many applications, but we have to see how the local community is doing their best to improve their environment and how they are maintaining their current facilities. Even if it is an old facility, we can see if it is well maintained,” Ambassador Hidemoto said.

He added: “This money is from the taxpayer of Japan, I have the responsibility to see that every single penny of our taxpayer is used efficiently and properly. Today is just signing, the real job starts after... we need contractors to do their job timely and properly and one year later, my team will check how the construction was done, and then I will be happy to handover the facilities.”

Ambassador Hidemoto revealed that the embassy receives 400 proposals from communities seeking assistance annually but can only fund eight. Among the beneficiaries is Obalang



The Japanese Ambassador to Uganda, Mr Fukuzawa Hidemoto (seated left), with representatives of beneficiary communities at the Japanese Embassy in Kampala on Tuesday. PHOTO/COURTESY OF JAPAN EMBASSY IN UGANDA

Primary School, in Kapelyebiyong District, that received funding for the construction of four furnished classrooms and 10 pit-latrines, Busirba Sub-county Health Centre II (outpatient ward), Apurion Primary School in Kapelyebiyong, (five classrooms) and installation of a 300,000 litre tank in Kigagaragara Vo-

litional Secondary School in Insiringiro District that will also serve refugees in the area awarded to ACORD Uganda. The beneficiaries hailed the Japanese people for investing in activities that aim at improving the welfare of Ugandans.

“The school has a lot of challenges and is highly populated, but we are glad that with this things are going to improve,” Mr Noah Achirira, the Headmaster of Obalang Primary School in Kapelyebiyong, said. “We appreciate the citizens of Japan, the taxpayers for committing resources to uplift the lives of Ugandans espe-

## PAST FUNDED PROJECTS

- Construction of a library and a hall at Kapchorwa Mountain Primary School in Kapchorwa District
- Supply of ambulances and fire trucks in 10 districts in 2019
- Installation of street lights in Tororo and improving garbage collection in Fort Portal in 2008

cially marginalised communities,” said Ms Ellen Bajjeya Kajura, the country director of ACORD Uganda.

Last week, deputy speaker of Parliament, Mr Thomas Fuyebe, and legislators hailed Ambassador Hidemoto, whose tour of duty ends in March, for his contribution to the development of the country across different sectors.

However, last year, Ambassador Hidemoto threatened a pause on his country’s funding to the roads sector following the government’s failure to maintain roads constructed using their grants.

Bilateral relations between the two countries span more than six decades that have seen the Asian giant invest considerably in Uganda. According to the diplomat, his government’s assistance to the country focuses on four key areas- refugees, infrastructure, agriculture and Health and Education.

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