

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Ito
On the Occasion of the Handover Ceremony for
*“The Project for Providing Sustainable Livelihoods to Small Scale Farmers in
Rural Kassala Locality, Kassala State”*
on the 18th of Feb, 2018

Mr. Adam Jamma’ Wali of Kassala State

Dr. Aisha Adam Seedi, Minister of Social Affairs

Mr. Salah Mohamed Ibrahim, Commissioner of Rural Kassala Locality

Mr. Idris Ali Mohamed, Humanitarian Aid Commissioner

Talawiet Organization for Development Board of Trustees

Mr. Hussien Salih Osman, Executive Director of Talawiet Organization for Development

Representatives of Authorities in Kassala

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

It is my honour to be here in Rural Kassala Locality today, to celebrate the completion of “The Project for Providing Sustainable Livelihoods to Small Scale Farmers in Rural Kassala Locality, Kassala State” funded by the Government of Japan. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your warm welcome and my respect to the people of Rural Kassala Locality, in cooperation with the State Ministry of Social Affairs, the State Ministry of Agriculture, HAC, the locality, and all other stakeholders, especially, Talawiet Organization for Development, for bringing this project to a successful completion with the aim of providing sustainable livelihoods to small scale farmers

On the 26th of February, last year, Mr. Mohammed Anwer Idris, Director of Talawiet Organization for Development Khartoum office, and I exchanged the Grant Contract at my residence in Khartoum to start this unique project. This project came out of my conversation with H.E. Engineer Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, Assisstant to the President two years ago. I am very happy to attend the handover ceremony of this project myself before leaving Sudan next week after completing my period of work in it. As Japanese Ambassador, I have tried as much as possible to visit Japanese project sites all over Sudan and talk to the people. That ended up in making 30 field visits out of Khartoum State

and visiting all 18 Sudanese states. However, Kassala is a special place to me. It was one of the first places I visited after I came to Sudan three and a half years ago. And this is my fourth visit to Kassala and my last field visit in Sudan. In my first visit, I was told that he who drinks the water of Mountain Taka will come back to Kassala. I drank Jabana at a coffee house at Mountain Taka. Probably, that Jabana was very strong.

The aim of this project is to provide farmers with sustainable livelihood solutions through three major activities composed of; first: the provision of proper irrigation system including well digging, installation of irrigation pump and solar cells panel. Second: farmers training on water harvest and a diversity of farming techniques as well as marketing and, the formulation of small farmers cooperative along with its official registration. These three activities have the potential to re-vitalize the local market and improve the local standard of living.

One of the main issues often highlighted by locals in this part of Sudan is the sharp fluctuations in the market prices of local products. With the provision of irrigation system and training in farming, we hope to realize sustainable agricultural production and to see a stabilization of these prices, which will benefit all stakeholders, producers and consumers alike.

As such, with the completion of this project, we hope to see all of Rural Kassala Locality's population benefiting from greater economic stability. This project will go a great way to revive Rural Kassala Locality's significant role in food security and economic stability throughout the country.

In the famous proverb: "Only those who plant may enjoy the harvest"

This is especially true in Rural Kassala, where farmers are raising the bar higher ; not only through farming but also through putting effort in learning the right way of doing it. By doing so, they take the lead of teaching generations to come that dedication and hard work will always have a greater positive impact when combined with appropriate techniques and the will to get the most of them. This project, thus, seek to empower Rural Kassala's community and send a powerful message to society as a whole.

I would like, finally, to renew my appreciation to each of you who gathered today for your concerns and enthusiasm, and sincerely hope that all the stakeholders will continue to work hard to complete this project successfully.

Thank you once again for your heart felt hospitality. It was worth traveling all the way to the land of Kassala to be inspired by your power.

Thank you very much.