

# JAPAN OFFERS SH350M GRANT TO BOOST EDUCATION IN LANGO

By Dallen Namugga

The Embassy of Japan in Uganda has awarded Amorigoga Primary School in Kwanja district a grant of \$99,134 (about sh350m) to improve the school's learning environment and sanitation.

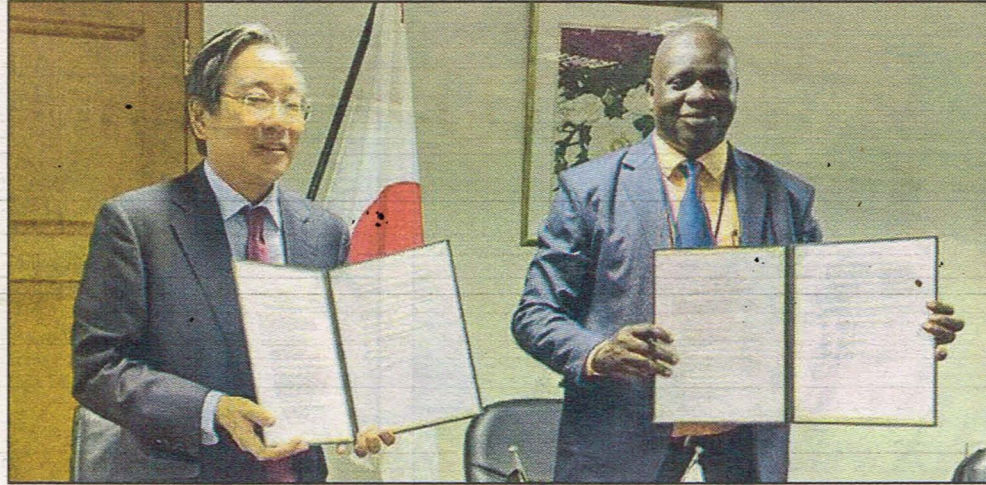
The funding, provided under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects, will be used to construct two fully furnished classroom blocks, latrine facilities and to supply school furniture for the government-aided school, which currently has an enrolment of 1,145 pupils.

The Japanese ambassador to Uganda, Sasayama Takuya, presided over the signing of the contract. Ambassador Takuya described the initiative as part of Japan's long-standing commitment to supporting basic education in Uganda.

"Japan's support for education is rooted in the concept of human security, ensuring that every child can learn in a safe and healthy environment," he said, underscoring the link between proper infrastructure and quality learning.

"Education begins with safe classrooms and proper sanitation, which every child deserves," he added.

The Japanese grant scheme was



**Takuya and Ayeni display a signed grant contract to improve Amorigoga Primary School's learning environment and sanitation**

established in 1992 to support community-based development projects across Uganda. To date, it has supported 296 community projects in sectors including education, health and agriculture.

"Proper maintenance will ensure that children benefit for many years to come," Takuya said.

He expressed hope that the project would nurture future contributors to Uganda's development, fostering the partnership between Japan and Uganda. Located in the Lango sub-region, Amorigoga Primary School has

struggled with rising pupil numbers and ageing infrastructure.

Although the school and its community had previously undertaken self-help repairs to old structures, these efforts were insufficient in dealing with increasing enrolment, nor did they provide a conducive learning environment. The new facilities will include two classroom blocks, a teachers' office, three latrine blocks for boys and girls, and furniture.

The expanded infrastructure is expected to reduce classroom congestion, improve sanitation and

enhance motivation among both pupils and teachers.

The school headteacher, Joel Ayeni, expressed deep gratitude to the Japanese government for the grant, describing the support as "a shining example of kindness, foresight and commitment to uplifting communities through education," he said.

He noted that improved classrooms and latrines would boost morale among pupils and teachers, which was likely to increase attendance and retention.

"Children will have classrooms that

nurture concentration and creativity, and teachers will have the tools and resources to deliver lessons effectively," he said.

Ayeni also emphasised the importance of proper sanitation facilities, noting that they help keep learners healthy.

Improved latrines, particularly for girls, are expected to reduce absenteeism linked to poor sanitation and privacy concerns.

District leaders welcomed the development, noting that education infrastructure remains a priority within the council's broader agenda to enhance learning outcomes and community welfare.

The project marks Japan's first intervention of its kind in Kwanja district, although Japan has a history of supporting community development initiatives across the wider Lango sub-region.

Development partners and local leaders said targeted investments such as the Japanese grant are critical in addressing long-standing infrastructure gaps in rural schools.

As the project enters the implementation phase, community leaders are expected to work closely with the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Japanese Embassy to ensure timely completion.