

UN donates E3.8 million equipment to government ... the tools include four cars and 40 computers

BY SIBUSISO SHANGE

MBABANE - Swaziland has received risk and management tools worth E3.8 million from the United Nations System.

These include Japan International Cooperation Agency, United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations entities.

The tools include four cars and 40 computers.

The donated material was handed over to the Deputy Prime Minister's Office on Wednesday.

Speaking during the presentation, United Nations Development Programme's Israel Dessalegne said

UNDP and its resident and non-resident sister agencies, funds and programmes were happy to collaborate with the country in supporting its development efforts in various fields.

Dessalegne said they include strengthening national capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction. He said the UNDP was aware; vulnerability to disaster was growing faster than reliance to in most developing countries. "Over the past we have seen devastating floods, landslides and earthquakes around the world. Just recently, floods have taken eight lives in Swaziland," he said. Dessalegne said there were remarkable records of the Japan's commitment to the developing countries.

He said the Government of Japan

which is working through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) collaborated with the UNDP which in turn was working with its sister UN entities to support the Kingdom of Swaziland to strengthen national systems and structures for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The co-ordinator said Japan provided one million US Dollars in grant aid (about E10 million) for a project aimed at strengthening institutional capacities for disaster risk management at national, regional and local levels.

"The ongoing support includes building capacities for national risk assessment, monitoring, early warning and emergency response, and disaster management," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister thanks UNDP, JICA

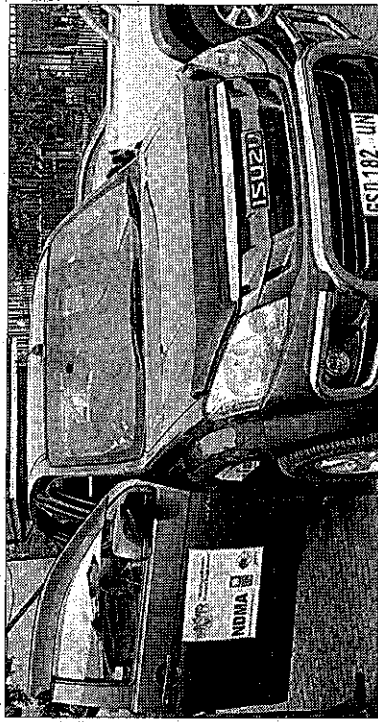
MBABANE - Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini on behalf of His Majesty's Government has extended his gratitude to UN System, (UNDP and JICA).

UNDP stands for United Nations Development Program while JICA stands for Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Dlamini said the donation came at a time when the country was still wondering how to repair the damages which resulted from the natural disasters.

Disasters

He said Swaziland has been experiencing an increased number of natural disasters which have affected a number of households, crops, schools



DPM Paul Dlamini in the donated double cab Isuzu. (Pic: Sibusiso Shange)

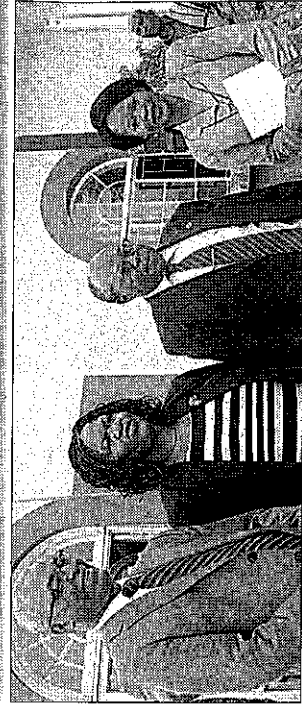
'Affected areas should contact us'

MBABANE - Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini has urged Tinkhundla to alert his office of any damage caused by natural disasters.

Dlamini said this would help his office to respond effectively

to the reported disaster incidents. He revealed that last year up to February this year, there were many damages to schools and homesteads.

"Those who will receive the donated material should make sure that they use them wisely," he said.



(L-R) UNDP Resident Coordinator Israel Dessalegne, DPM's Office PS Khangeziwe Mabuza, DPM Paul Dlamini and Sithembiso Gina from UNDP.