

# Zoël applauds garden project at Hope Village

WINDHOEK – The French ambassador to Namibia, Jean-Louis Zoël, has applauded the garden project at the Hope Village and encouraged similar ventures countrywide.

He made the observation during a visit to the Hope Village on Friday, following a grant of N\$250 000 to Judea Harvest Namibia in June this year.

The grant was allocated to Judea Harvest Namibia to contribute to food security by improving access to high quality, fresh horticulture products throughout the year, and promoting employment and income generation for the less fortunate population in peri-urban areas of Windhoek, Rehoboth and Okahandja.

Hope Village is located in the Samora Machel Constituency in Wana-heda, Katutura.

Judea Harvest Namibia has been assisting the poor in Windhoek, Rehoboth and Okahandja.

Since 2008, the company has been setting up 'veggie tunnels' for food production at various sites, and has erected four tunnels at Hope Village, a charity organisation caring for destitute, terminal-ly ill adults and children



Nampa

**MISTER GREEN FINGERS ...** The gardener at Hope Village, Emmanuel Muyumba, pictured with some of their produce during a visit by French ambassador Jean-Louis Zoël on Friday.

production are still recent and very restricted. At the same time, urbanisation in Namibia is accompanied by high levels of poverty, unemployment, hunger and malnutrition," said Zoël.

Since 2007, France has donated more than N\$9 million towards small projects aimed at income generation, culture, human rights and the fight against violence against

and health.

The founder of Hope Village, Pastor Marietjie de Klerk, told Nampa that the garden is doing exceptionally well and provides enough food to feed the needy at the organisation.

Some of the left-over produce is handed out to residents living in the surrounding areas.

"We are doing very well as the garden pro-

stressed.

De Klerk added that members of Hope Village will receive training in horticulture, nutrition and entrepreneurship, that will enable the centre and members of the community in the area to produce, eat and sell high quality horticultural products throughout the year.

The garden produces spinach, carrots, beetroot, lettuce, tomatoes, kale, onions and parsley.