

## Gambia: Dutch Foundation Inaugurates Nursery School, Others in Sukuta

By Sheriff Barry

Onderwijs Voor Gambia (Education for Gambia) foundation based in the Netherlands, in collaboration with Sukuta Madina Development Association in The Gambia, over the weekend inaugurated Lift Nursery School, a sewing studio and a milling machine worth over two million Dalasis for the community of Sukuta Medina. The foundation also donated 31 (25kg) bags of rice and other valuable materials to the community and the school.

The project is aimed among other things to provide a standard and quality education for the children of the area, support the community to overcome challenges and become self-reliant.

Speaking at the occasion, Marco Schonewille, the chairman of the foundation, spoke extensively on the fruitful relationship that exists between the two institutions.

He recalled his first visit to The Gambia in 2011 when he met Muhammed Jabbi, saying since then so much has happened. According to him, once the first roof was put on the first school, huge transformations came one after the other.

"The first 106 children were able to attend their own nursery school in their own village; public lavatories have been built and the area has been equipped with electricity and running water; a milling machine has been bought; a sewing studio built numerous first aid materials acquired among other things," he disclosed.

He also disclosed that the foundation has realized two possible sources of income: the milling machine and the sewing studio. "By maintaining and developing these businesses properly, you will be able to generate funds that will help cover the cost of maintaining the Lift Nursery School," he told the community.

Mohammed Jabbi, the principal of Brufut Upper Basic School, underscored the significance of such facilities in the community, noting that it will go a long way in enhancing the development of the people of Sukuta-Madina, particularly the children.

He assured the community that the partnership has come to stay, and assured that they will continue the good work. He thanked the donors for the gesture.

In her inaugural speech, Alimatou Keita- Jabbi, the head mistress of Lift Nursery School, said it is worth knowing that 72% of their children are under sponsorship, including 10 students who are currently in the lower basic school.

Jabbi thanked the donors for the support describing them as true friends not only to the community of Sukuta Madina, but the country as a whole.

She equally thanked the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education for facilitating the registration process and Mohammed Jabbi for his support to the project.

Malang M Kuyateh, senior Education officer, Region-2, commended the donors and the community of Sukuta Madina for their foresight in bringing such project to the community.

He urged the beneficiaries to make best use of the opportunity, stressing that education is very fundamental in the development of every nation.