



**High Commissioner John Feakes**

**Handing over for the Kangemi Special Unit  
9<sup>th</sup> July, 2015**

Honourable Tim Wanyonyi, Nairobi Country Government representatives, Mr Mburu Kimando, teachers, parents, children, ladies and gentlemen.

It is wonderful to be here today to see the handing over of the Kangemi Primary School Special Unit to the primary school. The unit was funded by Australia's Direct Aid Program, which assists small projects like this make a big difference in Kenyan lives. We have been a longtime friend of Kangemi, and when the Hon Tim Wanyonyi proposed that we support this project we of course jumped at the opportunity.

Education is a fundamental right, and every Kenyan child must benefit from its rewards. Whether or not they attend a specialist school, children with disabilities have the right to the same quality of education as their able-bodied peers. Kenya's Vision 2030 prioritises the inclusion of all children in education, and to do that, we must address the needs of children with disability. Units like the one we see today will enable Kenya to realise this vision.

Today we see how the work of a dedicated few can make the difference in the lives of children, their families and this community. It is inspiring to hear the stories of the families who have worked so hard to see their children receive the education they deserve, and to meet the teachers who dedicate their time and energy to Kenya's future.

I am not the star of the show today, so I won't talk much longer. We can all see who we are here to support, and I look forward to hearing more from you about the success and challenges you face working in special education.

I am very proud to be standing beside all of you and the Hon Tim Wanyonyi to handover this project to the management of Kangemi Primary school, and proud that Australia has had a small hand in its success.

Thank you

## **Background**

In August 2014, Hon Tim Wanyonyi MP for Westlands Constituency aided Kangemi Primary School Special Unit to apply for Direct Aid Program.

The proposal received AUD 12,500 on April 23, 2015.

The project caters for children with mental health issues at Kangemi Primary school.

The funding provided:

1. Refurbishment of the Special Unit by painting and putting tiles on the floor
2. Electricity installation in the Unit
3. Purchasing furniture (storage cabinet, desks, chairs and tables)
4. Sewing machines
5. Mattresses for the children
6. Stationery and teaching aids

The project was completed by June 9, 2015.

Kangemi Primary School was started in 1927. Kangemi Special Unit for the Mentally Challenged Learners was established in 2008 with six mentally challenged learners. Today there is a total of thirteen learners some of whom have multiple challenges such as mental challenges, autism, hyperactive physical disabilities, those without limbs, without speech and behavior disorders, among others.

Kangemi Special Unit is within Kangemi Primary School, in Kangemi Slums of Gichagi in Kangemi Ward, Westlands Sub County.