



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

20 July 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

HANDOVER OF A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING FUNDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO THE ANDARA COMBINED SCHOOL, MUKWE CONSTITUENCY, KAVANGO EAST REGION



Ribbon cutting of the new school block witnessed by Ambassador of Japan, Governor of Kavango East Region, Councillor of Mukwe constituency among others.



Celebrating the successful completion of the project in the classroom, which is ready for occupation by learners.



Welcoming learners of the Andara Combined School

On the 19th of July 2017, a handover ceremony was held at the Andara Combined School. **H.E Mr. Hideyuki Sakamoto, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia handed over a new school building which is funded by the Government of Japan** through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) to **H.E. Ambassador Dr. Samuel Mbambo, Governor of Kavango East Region** who represented the teachers and learners of the Andara Combined School and the people of Kavango East Region.

The Andara Combined School was established under a tree in 1923 and was run by a missionary. Upon independence of the country, the school was transformed into a public school, and currently

accommodates 952 learners from Pre-Primary to Grade 10 among which many learners are registered as orphans and vulnerable children. The school is located in a disadvantaged region as the unemployment rate, which is 5th highest in the country, shows. The number of learners is dramatically increasing and the school lacks classrooms. It is with this background that the Government of Japan extended grant assistance amounting to NAD 1,011,738.00. The grant was utilised to build two new permanent classrooms for those learners who were learning under trees. A store room, a security guard house as well as a fence in front of the school were also built with the grant in order to provide more conducive educational environment. The Andara Combined School is the 30th school that the Government of Japan supported through GGP.

Education and economic empowerment are some of the priority areas for the Government of Japan in its extension of GGP assistance to Namibia. The programme aims at bringing about direct and immediate impact on the well-being of disadvantaged communities at a grass-roots level by supporting relatively small development projects in areas of local needs such as education, agriculture, health, to be implemented by Non-Profit Organisations and local authorities. The Government of Japan has been implementing the GGP in Namibia since 1997. To date, 48 projects have been supported, totally amounting to approximately NAD 33 million.

For further information and registration, contact Ms Kaoru Yokotani, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Namibia. Email: kaoru.yokotani@mofa.go.jp, Tel: 061-426-700/ FAX: 061-426-749.

-END OF STATEMENT-