



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

20 November 2017

MEDIA RELEASE



H.E. Hideyuki Sakamoto, Ambassador of Japan and H.E. Mdm. Penehupifo Pohamba, the former First Lady, celebrating the launch of the new kitchen block funded by the Japanese Government



The new abluition block funded by the Japanese Government in order for the Mainstream Foundation to improve its hygiene management.

HANDBOVER OF NEW SANITATION FACILITY FUNDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO THE MAINSTREAM FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, IN KATIMA MULILO, ZAMBEZI REGION

On the 16th of November 2017, a handing over ceremony of new sanitation facility, an abluition block and a kitchen block, which were funded by the Government of Japan through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) was held at the Mainstream Foundation in Katima Mulilo, Zambezi region. **H.E. Mr. Hideyuki Sakamoto, Ambassador of Japan, representing the Government of Japan, handed over the facility to the Mainstream Foundation, under the auspices of H.E. Mdm. Penehupifo Pohamba, the former First Lady, Hon. Ms. Alexia Ncube, Deputy Minister Disability Affairs, the Office of the Vice President, Hon. Mr. James Sankwasa, Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Mr. Laurence A. Sampofu, Governor of Zambezi Region,** who represented the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

The Mainstream Foundation is a non-profit organisation which provides care & support to children with special needs and raises awareness on disability. The organisation was established in 2008 by Ms. Sylvia Chidunka, in Katima Mulilo where prejudices and discrimination against disabled persons strongly exist. Currently 54 children who have disabilities and/or disadvantaged family background are cared and educated in an inclusive manner, supported by the Namibian Government in a form of disability grant and by good will of the Namibian public; however, a lack of some physical facility, especially abluition and kitchen which are crucial for hygiene management, have been hampering the organisation's effective operation.

It is with this background that the Government of Japan extended grant amounting to NAD 695,374.64 for building two blocks, an ablution block as well as a kitchen block consisting of kitchen, storage and dining room. The dining room is also being utilised for income generating activities by the organisation in order to support its sustainable management. During the event, other physical facility granted to the organisation, namely two administration rooms funded by NORED, the northern Namibia's regional Electricity Distributor, as well as a kitchen for the staff accommodation by the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund of Namibia, were handed over to the organisation. The Mainstream Foundation stated that the support from the Government of Japan has lured such additional supports by other actors.

GGP 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, welfare, 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, 49 projects have been supported, totally amounting to approximately NAD 36 million.

For further information, 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.

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