



# EMBASSY OF JAPAN

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## MEDIA RELEASE



The new school block funded by the Government of Japan, in order for Groot Aub Primary School to abolish the platoon system.



Ribbon cutting of the new school block by H.E Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan, and Hon. Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.

### **HANDOVER OF A NEW SCHOOL BLOCK FUNDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO GROOT AUB PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WINDHOEK RURAL CONSTITUENCY, KHOMAS REGION**

On Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019, a handover ceremony of a new school block which was funded by the Government of Japan through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) will be held at Groot Aub Primary School in the Khomas Region. **H.E Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan, officiated the event and handed over the facility to Hon. Ms Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.**

Groot Aub Primary School was established in 1952 in response to the growing population in the area. It currently accommodates 1,050 learners from pre-primary to Grade 7 with 34 teachers. The school is located in one of disadvantaged settlements with high poverty rates in the Khomas Region. On top of a continuous population influx into the area, the introduction of free primary education in 2013 has dramatically increased enrolment. However, classrooms were not enough for accommodating all the learners to study. Therefore, the school had no choice but to follow the platoon (double session) system, compromising the quality of education. It is against this background that the Government of Japan extended a grant of NAD 756,090.72 in order to build a new school block consisting of four permanent classrooms and one store room. The beneficiaries of this new block are 128 learners in Grade 3 studying in the afternoon and 45 learners newly enrolled in Grade 1. Upon the handover of the new school block, the platoon system in Groot Aub Primary School was abolished and all the learners attend morning sessions in a more conducive educational environment.

Education is one of the priority areas for the Government of Japan in its extension of GGP to Namibia and Groot Aub Primary School is the 35<sup>th</sup> school that the Government of Japan has handed over to the Government of the Republic of Namibia. GGP aims at achieving a direct and immediate impact on the well-being of disadvantaged communities at the grassroots level by supporting relatively small development projects in areas of local needs such as education, agriculture, and health, to be implemented by non-profit organisations and local authorities. The Government of Japan has been implementing GGP in Namibia since 1997. To date, 58 projects have been supported, amounting to approximately NAD 40.8 million.

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