



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

23 April 2019

MEDIA RELEASE



Ribbon cutting of the new school block by H.E. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan, and Hon. Ms. Ester Anna-Lisa Nghipondoka, Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.



Mr. Gosuke Sakai, a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) volunteer for mathematics and science education at Ntara Combined School, demonstrated a lesson in a new classroom after the ribbon cutting.

HANDOVER OF A NEW SCHOOL BLOCK FUNDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO NTARA COMBINED SCHOOL IN MUSESE CONSTITUENCY, KAVANGO WEST REGION

On Tuesday, 16th April 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 Projects (GGP) was held at Ntara Combined School in the Kavango West Region. **H.E. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan, officiated the event and handed over the facility to Hon. Ms. Ester Anna-Lisa Nghipondoka, Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.**

After the ribbon cutting of the new school block by the dignitaries, Mr Gosuke Sakai, a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) volunteer for mathematics and science education at Ntara Combined School, demonstrated a lesson in one of the newly built classrooms. The lesson focused on basic mathematics, and presented the learners with a window into Japan's teaching and learning methods.

JICA's Volunteer Program forms part of Japan's multi-pronged approach to development in the education sector, which couples capacity building and human resource development through the Volunteer Program with infrastructure development through GGP. The synergy between the two schemes of cooperation creates a multiplying factor, therefore maximising the impact on the quality of education.

Ntara Combined School was established in 1935 in response to the growing population in the area. It currently accommodates 680 learners from pre-primary to Grade 9 with 23 teachers. The school is located in one of disadvantaged settlements with high poverty rates in the Kavango West Region. Due to the continuous population influx into the area, and the introduction of free primary education in 2013, the number of learners has dramatically increased, although classrooms were not enough for accommodating all the learners to

study. Thus, the school had to utilize iron sheet classrooms alternatively, compromising the quality of education. It is against this background that the Government of Japan extended a grant of NAD 900, 585.10 for building a new school block consisting of three permanent classrooms and one store room, and providing 60 sets of desks and chairs. The immediate beneficiaries of this new block are 81 learners in Grade 4 and 35 learners in Grade 5 who were studying in the temporary classrooms made of iron sheets. The handover of the new school block brought down the curtain on the makeshift classrooms at Ntara Combined School and enabled all the learners to study the permanent classrooms 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. Ntara Combined School is the 36th school that the Government of Japan has handed over to the people 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, 61 projects have been supported, amounting to approximately NAD 43.4 million.

For further information, please contact Ms Izumi Ogawa, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Namibia. Email: izumi.ogawa@mofa.go.jp, Tel: 061 426 700/ FAX: 061 426 749.

-END OF STATEMENT-