



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

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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



The new school block funded by the Government of Japan



H.E. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan, and Hon. Ms. Ester Anna-Lisa Nghipondoka, Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, celebrate the inauguration of the new school block with school learners

HANDOVER OF A NEW SCHOOL BLOCK FUNDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO AUGEIKHAS PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KATUTURA EAST CONSTITUENCY, KHOMAS REGION

On Thursday, 6th June 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 Augeikhas Primary School in the Khomas 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.**

Augeikhas Primary School was established in 1969 in response to the growing population in the area before independence. It currently accommodates 1,049 learners from Pre-Primary to Grade 7 with 35 teachers. The school is located in one of the disadvantaged settlements in the Khomas Region. While a continuous population influx into the area and the introduction of free primary education in 2013 have dramatically increased enrolment, classrooms were not enough for accommodating all the learners to study. Thus, 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 697,096.80 for building a new school block consisting of four permanent classrooms and one store room. The immediate beneficiaries of this new block are 140 learners in Grade 3 studying in the afternoon. Upon the handover of the new school block, all the learners in Grade 3 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 Augeikhas Primary School is the 37th school that the Government of Japan has assisted in constructing school blocks for 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.

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