



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. Martin Andjaba, Acting Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.

HANDOVER OF A NEW SCHOOL BLOCK FUNDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO FIDEL CASTRO RUZ PRIMARY SCHOOL IN TOBIAS HAINYEKO CONSTITUENCY, KHOMAS REGION

On Friday, 25th October 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 Fidel Castro Ruz Primary School in Tobias Hainyeko Constituency, Khomas Region. **H.E. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan, officiated the event and handed over the facility to Hon. Martin Andjaba, Acting Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.**

Fidel Castro Ruz Primary School was established in 2008 in response to the growing population in the area. It currently accommodates 1,238 learners from Pre-Primary to Grade 7 with 41 teachers. The school is situated in one of the disadvantaged settlements with high poverty rates in the Khomas Region. While a continuous population influx and the introduction of free primary education in 2013 have dramatically increased enrolment, classrooms were never enough for accommodating all the learners to study. Therefore, the school had no option but to accommodate learners in the temporary classroom or overcrowded classrooms, thus compromising the quality of education. It is against this background that the Government of Japan extended a grant of NAD 1,077,299 for building a new school block consisting of five permanent classrooms and one store room. This new school block made it possible to abolish the temporary classroom made by tent, as well as to alleviate the overcrowdedness of the classrooms for more than 630 learners from Lower Primary level to study 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 Fidel Castro Ruz Primary School is the 39th 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 Mr Ryuichi Sakamoto, Consultant for Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

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