



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 Ms. Veno Kauaria, Deputy Executive Director of Education, Arts and Culture



H.E. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan, and Ms. Veno Kauaria, Deputy Executive Director of Education, Arts and Culture, enjoy utilising the well-equipped new classroom with learners.

HANDOVER OF A NEW SCHOOL BLOCK FUNDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO MARTTI AHTISAARI PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SAMORA MACHEL CONSTITUENCY, KHOMAS REGION

On Friday, 20th September 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 Martti Ahtisaari Primary School in Samora Machel Constituency, Khomas Region. **H.E. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan, officiated the event and handed over the facility to Ms. Veno Kauaria, Deputy Executive Director of Education, Arts and Culture.**

Martti Ahtisaari Primary School was established in 1991 in response to the growing population in the area. It currently accommodates 1,595 learners from Pre-Primary to Grade 7 with 44 teachers. The school is situated in one of the disadvantaged settlements with high poverty rates in the Khomas Region. While a continuous population influx especially into this area 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 choice but to follow the platoon (double session) system, thus compromising the quality of education. It is against this background that the Government of Japan extended a grant of NAD 918,724.40 for building a new school block consisting of four permanent classrooms and one store room. The immediate beneficiaries of this new block are 122 learners in Grade 2 and 42 learners in Grade 3 studying in the afternoon. Upon the handover of the new school block, 164 learners are now able to 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 Martti Ahtisaari Primary School is the 38th 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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