



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

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PRESS RELEASE

JAPANESE AID OPENING DOORS FOR QUALITY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN NAMIBIA

--THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEVEN SCHOOL BLOCKS AND THIRTY CLASSROOMS IS WELL UNDERWAY AMID SCHOOLS' CLOSURE UNDER COVID-19 PREVENTIVE MEASURES --

The Embassy of Japan in Namibia manages dynamic grassroots-level grant assistance projects. Three combined and four primary schools received grant assistance worth more than NAD 8.9 million in the framework of the Japanese Government's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) in the fiscal year 2019.

H.E. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia, signed the Grant Contracts with the Principals of five government schools for a total amount of NAD 6.7 million earlier this year by the time the lockdown of schools was introduced. The grant assistance was provided to help build new classrooms catering to an increase in demand for learners' enrollment in the following schools: Sibbinda and Kanono Combined Schools of Zambezi Region, Sikanduko Primary School of Kavango East Region, Ngwangwa Primary School of Kavango West Region, and Egambo Combined School of Oshana Region.

"We are committed to help build a better world of learning for all learners who are the future of Namibia," said Ambassador Harada. "Working collaboratively with our Namibian counterparts is key to ensure every learner becomes empowered to participate in building a better community."

Each school has started construction of classrooms and the work is well underway due to dedicated work of responsible members of the respective schools.

"The work is going very fast," said Mr. Johannes Mukwakwa, a project coordinator of Ngwangwa Primary School, sharing photographs of up to window-level walls of a five-classroom school block. "The suspension of schools is somehow a blessing in disguise as we do not need to worry about safety of learners during the construction work. We are working hard to have this done as soon as possible," said Ms. Natalia Ndakalako, administrative officer and the project accountant for Egambo Combined School.

Prior to these five schools, the construction of a five-classroom block started at A.I. Steenkamp Primary School in Katutura, Windhoek. The roof is already placed and the construction work is almost complete. "I am pleased with the progress being made and wish to commend the School Management, Staff and Building Contractor Team for their hard work. The generosity of the People of Japan through the Embassy will eventually reset the trajectory for learners in Junior Primary Phase at the school - we are excited to eventually witness the inauguration of this block of five classrooms and a store and commencing of teaching and learning," said Mr. Gerard N. Vries, Director of Education, Arts and Culture of Khomas Regional Council presenting impressive photographs from the school.

Kehemu Primary School in Rundu Urban Constituency, Kavango East Region also is a recipient of the 2019 GGP and the construction of a three-classroom block is almost complete.

All the on-going construction work is scheduled to be completed before too long and learners of these seven schools are expected to be welcomed in brand new classrooms when they return to school in August according to the present schedule on the lifting of the lockdown. "Those most vulnerable in the society are worst hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and the learners of these schools are no exception. I am looking forward to meeting them all in person at the handing over ceremonies," added Ambassador Harada.

The Government of Japan has introduced GGP in Namibia since 1997. GGP aims at achieving direct and immediate impact on the well-being of disadvantaged communities at a grassroots level by supporting relatively small development projects in areas such as education, agriculture and health, to be implemented by non-profit organisations and local authorities.

Education is one of the priority areas for the Government of Japan's GGP in Namibia. Prior to the above mentioned seven schools in the fiscal year 2019, 45 schools have been granted GGP for the construction of school classroom blocks.

GGP is given annually and this year's applications were received by 3 April. The Embassy of Japan is currently in the process of selecting prospective GGP recipients for the fiscal year 2020.

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At the handing over ceremony of Fidel Castro Ruz Primary School in Tobias Hainyeko Constituency, Khomas Region; the 39th school to be assisted under GGP. H.E. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan (right), and Hon. Martin Andjaba, then Acting Minister of Education, Arts and Culture (left).



Photo of A.I. Steenkamp Primary School's new classroom block taken on 6 May. Courtesy of Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture, Khomas Regional Council.



Photo of Ngwangwa Primary School's new classroom block taken on 7 May.
Courtesy of Ngwangwa Primary School.



Photo of Kanono Combined School's new classroom block taken on 11 May.
Courtesy of Kanono Combined School.



Photo of Egambo Combined School's new construction work taken on 11 May.
Courtesy of Egambo Combined School.

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