



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

7 August 2020

PRESS RELEASE



Unveiling of a commemorative plaque by H.E. Ambassador Harada (immediate left of the plaque) and Hon. Jacobs (immediate right of the plaque) joined by Ms. Vries, inspector of Education for Circuit 1 (first left), Ms. Kamahene, Principal of A.I. Steenkamp (second left), Hon. Sheehama, Regional Councillor of Katutura East Constituency (first right), Pre-primary learners are in the front row.

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

On Thursday, 6 August 2020, 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 A. I. Steenkamp Primary School in Katutura East Constituency, Khomas Region. **H.E. Mr. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan, officiated the event and handed over the facility to Hon. Rachel Jacobs, Chairperson of Khomas Regional Council on behalf of Hon. Anna Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts & Culture.**

A. I. Steenkamp Primary School was established in 1969 and celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. It currently accommodates 1,572 learners from pre-primary to grade 7 with 45 teachers. The school is situated in Katutura East and more than 80% of learners come from disadvantaged families, hence the school serves as a haven for children's personal development. Due to a shortage of classrooms, pre-primary learners were accommodated at temporary classrooms which were 30 minutes away from the main school campus on foot and caused safety and security concerns. It was against this background that the Government of Japan extended a grant of 1,102,572 NAD for building a new school block consisting of five permanent classrooms and one storeroom. This new school block will be used by 150 pre-primary learners who will be resuming their face-to-face learning next month together with all other learners on the school's main campus.

Education is one of the priority areas for the Government of Japan in its implementation of GGP to Namibia, and A. I. Steenkamp Primary School is the 40th school that the Government of Japan has assisted in constructing school blocks for the people of the Republic of Namibia. 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 of local needs such as education, health, and agriculture, to be implemented by non-profit organisations and local authorities.

The Government of Japan has been implementing GGP in Namibia since 1997. Seven more schools are to be handed over new classroom blocks in the near future and five other schools are currently in the process of building classroom blocks.

For more information on Japan's long-standing cooperation with Namibia through GGP, please see our website:

https://www.na.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/cooperation.html

For further information, please contact Ms. Izumi Ogawa, Second Secretary.

Email: izumi.ogawa@mofa.go.jp, Tel: 061 426 700/ FAX: 061 426 749.



Performance as a token of appreciation
by pre-primary learners
both in English and Khoekhoe Gowab.



Handing over of classroom keys by H.E. Ambassador Harada to
Hon. Jacobs joined by five teachers who will use the classrooms
Mr. Vries, Director of Education, Arts and Culture, Khomas
Regional Council (first left),
Ms. Kamahene, Principal of A.I. Steenkamp (second right),
and Hon. Sheehama, Regional Councillor of Katutura East
Constituency (first right).

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