



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

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PRESS RELEASE



Unveiling of a commemorative plaque by H.E. Ambassador Harada (left) and Hon. Minister Nghipondoka (right) at Kaisosi Combined School

HANDBOVER OF NEW SCHOOL BLOCKS FUNDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO NGWEZE AND KEHEMU PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND KAISOSI COMBINED SCHOOL IN ZAMBEZI AND KAVANGO EAST REGIONS

On Monday 10, Tuesday 11, and Wednesday 12 August 2020, handover ceremonies of new school blocks funded by the Government of Japan through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) were held at Ngweze Primary School in Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency, Zambezi Region, Kaisosi Combined School in Rundu Urban Constituency, Kavango East Region, and Kehemu Primary School in Rundu Urban Constituency, Kavango East Region, respectively.

H.E. Mr. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia, officiated these events and handed over the new facility at Ngweze Primary School to Hon. Alufea Lawrence Sampofu, Governor of Zambezi Region, and at Kaisosi Combined School and Kehemu Primary School to Hon. Ester Anna Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts & Culture.

Ngweze Primary School was established in 1966 and it is one of the oldest primary schools in Zambezi Region. It has experienced a shortage of classrooms due to a rapid increase of learners. It currently

accommodates 1,605 learners from pre-primary to grade 7 with 52 teachers. The school is situated in Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency and through the platoon system as well as accommodating more than 50 learners per classroom it has dealt with the shortage of classrooms. It was against this backdrop that the Government of Japan extended a grant of 898,122 NAD for building a new school block consisting of four permanent classrooms and one storeroom. The recommended number of learners per classroom is 30 which became more important to adhere to under the new COVID-19 social distancing protocol. All the new classrooms will be used by grade 7 learners considered to be an important transitional grade to advance to the next educational level.

Kaisosi Combined School was established in 1971 and caters for Kaisosi community which has a population of over 10,000 with a high unemployment rate and a literacy rate of around 35%. It has a student population of more than 900 from pre-primary to grade 10 with 27 teachers. Due to overcrowding of classrooms some learners are studying in tents. It was against this backdrop that the Government of Japan extended a grant of 1,189,706 NAD for building a new school block consisting of three permanent classrooms and one storeroom. Grade 2 learners currently accommodated in tents will benefit from the new permanent classrooms.

Kehemu Primary School was established in 1984 and has more than 2,600 learners and 57 teachers which makes it one of the largest primary schools not only in Kavango East Region but also in Namibia. Due to overcrowded classrooms, many of the learners in grades 2 and 3 are subject to the platoon system and as a result, school dropouts and those who are not admitted to the school have increased. Against this background, the Government of Japan extended a grant of 1,088,007 NAD for building a new school block consisting of three permanent classrooms and one storeroom. This new school block will be used by learners in grades 2 and 3 who will have classrooms of their own for an improved learning environment.

Education is one of the priority areas for the Government of Japan in its implementation of GGP to Namibia, and the above three schools in the Northern Regions are the 41st – 43rd schools 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. Four 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.
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Dignitaries at the side of the new classroom block of Ngweze Primary School: H.E. Ambassador Harada (centre), Hon. Sampofu, Governor of Zambezi Region (third left), and Hon. Sibalatani, Chairperson of National Council (third right), in the front row



Unveiling of a commemorative plaque by H.E. Ambassador Harada (left) and Hon. Sampofu, Governor of Zambezi Region (right) at Ngweze Primary School



The new classroom block of Ngweze Primary School



A brand new classroom of Ngweze Primary School



The new classroom block of Kaisosi Combined School



Dignitaries at the side of the new classroom block of Kaisosi Combined School: H.E. Ambassador Harada (third right), Hon. Minister Nghipondoka (centre), and Mr. Kapapero, Director of Education Kavango East Region (third left)



Classroom viewing by H.E. Ambassador Harada (right), Hon. Minister Nghipondoka (centre), and Mr. Kapapero, Director of Education Kavango East Region (left) at Kaisosi Combined School



A brand new classroom of Kaisosi Combined School



Learners' dance as a token of appreciation in front of the new classroom block of Kaisosi Combined School



Learners' dance as a token of appreciation in front of the new classroom block of Kaisosi Combined School



The new classroom block of Kehemu Primary School



Dignitaries at the side of the new classroom block of Kehemu Primary School: H.E. Ambassador Harada (centre), Hon. Minister Nghipondoka (fifth left), and Hon. Kauma, Councilor of Rundu Urban Constituency and Vice Chairperson of National Council (fifth right)



Ribbon cutting by H.E. Ambassador Harada (right) and Hon. Minister Nghipondoka (left) at Kehemu Primary School



Unveiling of a commemorative plaque by H.E. Ambassador Harada (left) and Hon. Minister Nghipondoka (right) at Kehemu Primary School



Handing over of classroom keys by H.E. Ambassador Harada to Mr. Gideon, School Principal, joined by Hon. Minister Nghipondoka (first right) and Mr. Kapapero, Director of Education Kavango East Region (second right) at Kehemu Primary School



H.E. Ambassador Harada having a conversation with learners of Kehemu Primary School



Learners' dance expressing their appreciation with dignitaries' photos at Kehemu Primary School



Learners' dance expressing their appreciation with learning materials at Kehemu Primary School

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