



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

20 November 2020

PRESS RELEASE



Unveiling of a commemorative plaque by H.E. Ambassador Hideaki Harada (left) and Mrs. Ernfriede Stephanus, Director of Education, Arts and Culture, Erongo Region on behalf of Hon. Anna Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture. (right)

HANDOVER OF A NEW SCHOOL BLOCK FUNDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO OMATJETE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN DAURES, ERONGO REGION

On Thursday, 19 November 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 Omatjete Primary School in Daures, Erongo Region. **H.E. Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan, officiated the event and handed over the facility to Mrs. Ernfriede Stephanus, Director of Education, Arts and Culture, Erongo Region on behalf of Hon. Anna Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.**

Omatjete Primary School was established in 1942 by the then South West African Administration to respond to the educational needs of the local community. It currently accommodates 396 learners from pre-primary to grade 7 and 14 teachers are assigned to the school. The school is situated in Daures Constituency in Erongo Region. More than 50% of learners are registered as Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs). Due to a shortage of classrooms, grade 2 and 3 learners were subject to platoon system. They had to wait until afternoon and to learn outside before the classrooms were made available to them from the morning classes. This caused safety and security concerns for those who commute more than 2 hours to school on foot especially during cold and dark winter months. It was against this background that the Government of Japan extended a grant of 717,887 NAD for building a new school block consisting of two permanent classrooms and one storeroom. This new school block will be used by a total of 80 grade 2 and 3 learners who will be resuming their face-to-face learning early next year.

Education is one of the priority areas for the Government of Japan in its implementation of GGP to Namibia, and Omatjete Primary School is the 44th 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. Three more schools are to be handed over new classroom blocks in the near future and five other schools have nearly completed building new classroom blocks.

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Tape cutting ceremony of the new classroom block by H.E. Ambassador Hideaki Harada (left) and Mrs. Ernfriede Stephanus, Director of Education, Arts and Culture, Erongo Region (right).

The new classroom block of Omatjete Primary School.



Selected learners welcome dignitaries and guests to the handover ceremony waving flags of Namibia and Japan. Guests wearing traditional dresses enter the school grounds.



Selected learners in a choir sing songs of gratitude to the people and the government of Japan.



Dignitaries inside the new classroom: Mr. Simson Ochurub, representative of the Daures Constituency Councillor, H.E. Ambassador Hideaki Harada, Mr. Fabianus Uaseuapuni, Senior Councillor of Zeraeua Traditional Authority, Mrs. Ernfriede Stephanus, Director of Education, Arts and Culture, Erongo Region, Ms. Else Kavari, Principal, Omatjete Primary School.
(from left to right)



H. E. Ambassador Hideaki Harada presented with gifts from the school board. Ms. Else Kavari, Principal, Omatjete Primary School, H.E. Ambassador Hideaki Harada, Chairman of the School Board, a representative of the parents of the learners who made a Herero doll as a token of Omatjete community's appreciation to the people and the government of Japan.
(from left to right)



Invited guests including school board members, teachers and parents of learners, traditional authority representatives and community members listen to speeches. Learners wait quietly at the back when not performing.



Scripture reading and prayer by Pastor John Tjiungua.

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