



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

18 March 2021

PRESS RELEASE

HANDOVER OF NEW SCHOOL BLOCKS FUNDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO 4 SCHOOLS IN OHANGWENA, OMUSATI AND KUNENE REGIONS



Unveiling of a commemorative plaque by H.E. Ambassador HARADA Hideaki (right of the plaque) and Hon. Welde Ndevashiya, Governor of Ohangwena Region on behalf of Hon. Anna Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture. (left of the plaque), joined by Ms. Palisha Ngulu, Deputy Director of Education, Arts and Culture, Ohangwena Region, immediately left of Hon. Ndevashiya, with a learner and other dignitaries at David Shingo Combined School

On Tuesday 16, Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 March 2021, 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 David Shingo and Egambo Combined Schools in Ondobe Constituency, Ohangwena Region, Ovikange Combined School in Ruacana Constituency, Omusati Region, and Eddie Bowe Primary School in Khorixas Constituency, Kunene Region, respectively.

H.E. Mr. HARADA Hideaki, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia, officiated these events and handed over the new facility at David Shingo and Egambo Combined Schools to Hon. Welde Ndevashiya, Governor of Ohangwena Region, and at Ovikange Combined School to Mr. Peter Shaninga, Acting Inspector of Education of Ruacana Circuit from Omusati Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture, and in absentia at Eddie Bowe Primary School to the school representatives.

David Shingo Combined School, which is a sister school to Egambo Combined School was established in 1976 in Ondobe Constituency near the border with Angola. It has a student population of nearly 500 from pre-primary to grade 10 with 18 teachers. Due to shortage of classrooms, some learners in grade 7 and 8 have been studying in corrugated iron structure and grade 4 have been studying in a

deteriorated classroom with exposed asbestos. It was against this background, the Government of Japan extended a grant of around 900,000 NAD for building a new school block consisting of four permanent classrooms and one storeroom.

Egambo Combined School was established in 1955. It has a student population of nearly 300 from pre-primary to grade 9 with 12 teachers. Due to shortage of classrooms some learners have been studying in corrugated iron structure and a makeshift classroom made of mud. It was against this background, the Government of Japan extended a grant of around 950,000 NAD for building a new school block consisting of four permanent classrooms and one storeroom. Grade 7-9 learners who were accommodated in temporary structures benefit from the new permanent classrooms.

Ovikange Combined School was established in 1997 and has more than 540 learners from pre-primary to grade 7 with 15 teachers. Due to shortage of classrooms learners in grade 7 have been studying in makeshift classrooms made of corrugated iron sheets. As a result, they had to persevere bad weather conditions as well as occasional wildlife intrusions. Against this background, the Government of Japan extended a grant of around 930,000 NAD for building a new school block consisting of two permanent classrooms and one storeroom for the grade 7 learners. New classroom furniture for 80 learners was also provided under the project.

Eddie Bowe Combined School was established in 1982 and has more than 800 learners and 27 teachers. Due to growing number of learners, learners in grades 5 and 7 have been put into a classroom with more than 45 other learners. Against this background, the Government of Japan extended a grant of around 845,000 NAD for building a new school block consisting of three permanent classrooms and one storeroom. New classroom furniture for 130 learners was also provided under the project.

Education is one of the priority areas for the Government of Japan in its implementation of GGP to Namibia, and the above four schools are the 45th – 48th 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 will organize a handover ceremony of new classroom block, respectively, in the near future. Seven new schools have been awarded GGP this year and some have already started construction of new 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 Mr. OGURA Shohei, Third Secretary.

Email: shohei.ogura@mofa.go.jp, Tel: 061 426 700/ FAX: 061 426 749.



H.E. Mr. HARADA Hideaki addressing the audience at David Shingo Combined School



Dignitaries including the regional police chief and officers attended the combined ceremony for David Shingo and Egambo Combined Schools



Colourful and energetic performance by cultural group of David Shingo Combined School



Expression of appreciation by the school representatives to H.E. Mr. HARADA Hideaki. Gifts were presented by Mrs. Hanna Hashipala, Principal of David Shingo Combined School



The new classroom block of David Shingo Combined School



Inside one of the new classrooms of David Shingo Combined School



Learners of David Shingo Combined School singing songs of appreciation



Learners of Egambo Combined School singing and welcoming dignitaries to the ceremony



Unveiling of a commemorative plaque by H.E. Mr. HARADA Hideaki (right of the plaque) and Hon. Welde Ndevashiya, Governor of Ohangwena Region on behalf of Hon. Anna Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture. (left of the plaque), joined by Ms. Palisha Ngulu, Deputy Director of Education, Arts and Culture, Ohangwena Region, (immediately right of H. E. Ambassador HARADA) at Egambo Combined School



Inside one of the new classrooms of Egambo Combined School with dignitaries seated as learners



Performance by cultural group of Egambo Combined School as they welcome arrival of dignitaries



Dignitaries greeting learners as they line up to welcome them in a socially distanced manner in Egambo Combined School



Learners of Ovikange Combined School listening to H.E. Ambassador HARADA Hideaki's remarks



H.E. Mr. HARADA Hideaki making remarks at Ovikange Combined School



Dynamic and musical performance by cultural group of Ovikange Combined School



Performance by primary school learners of Ovikange Combined School expressing appreciation to the Government of Japan



Unveiling painted words on the side of the new school block under a Japanese flag

Mr. Leevi Shikale, Schoolboard Chairperson,
Ms. Rosa Amkongo, Principal, H.E. Mr. HARADA Hideaki,
Mr. Peter Shaninga, Acting Circuit Inspector (from left to right) at
Ovikange Combined School



Inside one of the new classrooms of Ovikange Combined School with dignitaries. Desks and chairs were also donated by the GGP Project