



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

10 March 2021

PRESS RELEASE

JAPANESE AID SUPPORTING QUALITY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN NAMIBIA



--SIGNING CEREMONY OF GRANT CONTRACTS WITH BET-EL AND M.H. GREEFF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN KHOMAS REGION AT THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN, WINDHOEK, 9 MARCH 2021--

On 9 March 2021, H.E. Mr. HARADA Hideaki, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia, signed Grant Contracts with Mrs. Johanna De Koker, Principal of Bet-el Primary School, Katutura East, and Mr. George Kandetu, Principal of M. H. Greeff Primary School, Khomasdal, worth NAD 803,087 and NAD 1,009,101, respectively, at the Embassy of Japan in Windhoek. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Paulus Lewin, Acting Director, Education Arts and Culture, Khomas Regional Directorate, Mr. Milton ya Otto, Inspector of Education, Mr. Harold Tjahikika, Chief Education Officer, Mr. Uzuwira Tjomita and Mr. Nelson Tjituka, project coordinators of respective schools.

The Grant Contracts in the framework of Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects (GGP) were signed to help build new classrooms in respective schools to alleviate teaching and learning environment at M. H. Greeff Primary School and to abolish platoon system at Bet-el Primary School.

“We are committed to quality education in Namibia as we experienced importance of education during our exercise of nation building as well as economic development,” said Ambassador HARADA. “Working collaboratively with our Namibian counterparts is key to ensure every learner becomes empowered to participate in building a better community.”

“We are grateful to the Government and people of Japan for this gesture as we can finally provide safe learning environment to the learners and teachers who are exposed to asbestos in their classrooms built in the 1970s,” said Mr. Kandetu. “We are happy that we will be able to abolish platoon system and provide our learners with conducive learning environment. We have been applying for GGP for many years and I am very happy to have finally been granted the GGP for the sake of our learners,” said Mrs. De Koker. Mr. Lewin added, “Due to COVID-19 pandemic and economic difficulties faced by the parents and guardians, many learners are seeking transfer from private schools to public schools in Khomas Region and it has been difficult to accommodate many of them this year. Therefore the gesture from the Government

of Japan is very important. Khomas Region has benefitted from the GGP the most and we appreciate strong friendship built with the Government and the people of Japan. ”

In the fiscal year 2020, one resource, two combined, four primary schools were awarded grant assistance worth more than NAD 6.3 million in the framework of the Japanese GGP.

The Signing of the Grant Contracts with the following five schools, in addition to the above-mentioned two schools in Khomas Region is now under way.

1. Hearing Impairment Section, Eluwa Resource School, Oshana Region for NAD 942,776
2. King Kauluma Combined School, Oshikoto Region for NAD 972,360
3. Ndama Combined School, Kavango East Region for NAD 948,200
4. Okeeholongo Primary School, Omusati Region for NAD 792,804
5. Donatus Primary School, Otjozondiupe Region for NAD 853,301

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 2020, 52 schools have been granted GGP for the construction of school classroom blocks.

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H.E. Mr. HARADA Hideaki, Ambassador of Japan (seated)
Mr. OGURA, Mrs. De Koker, Mr. Tjomita, Mr. Kandetu, Mr. ya Otto, Mr. Lewin, Mr. Tjituka,
Mr. Tjahikika(from left to right)