

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

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POST PRESS RELEASE

HANDOVER OF NEW SCHOOL BLOCKS FUNDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO THREE SCHOOLS IN KAVANGO EAST AND WEST REGIONS

From 28 to 30 September 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 the three schools below, respectively.

Ambassador Harada officiated these events and handed over the new facility in Kavango East to Hon. Ester Anna Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture and in Kavango West to Hon. Johannes Karondo, Councillor, Kapako Constituency on Minister's behalf.

- (1) Ngwangwa Primary School was established in 1970 in Kapako Constituency, Kavango West Region. It has a learner population of nearly 600 from pre-primary to grade 7 with 14 teachers. Due to shortage of classrooms, some learners have been studying in overcrowded classrooms and some had to take afternoon classes. It was against this background that the Government of Japan extended a grant of around 1,480,000 NAD for building a new school block consisting of five permanent classrooms and one storeroom. Interlocks connecting old and new classroom blocks have been provided to ensure safe and hygienic area for learners to play and assemble. According to Mr. Mukwakwa, the project manager, "this is the greatest gift that the school has ever received. It is the longest block here with five classrooms. The learners, teachers and community at large are thankful to the people and the Government of Japan."
- (2) Ndama Combined School was established in 1978 in Rundu Urban Constituency, Kavango East Region. It is arguably one of the most congested schools in Namibia, if not in Kavango East Region. It has a learner population of over 2,500 from grade 4 to 9 with 68 teachers. Due to shortage of classrooms, many learners have been studying in the afternoon and many of the classrooms are very congested and accommodate more than double or even treble the recommended number of learners per classroom. It was against this background that the Government of Japan extended a grant of around 948,000 NAD for building a new school block consisting of four permanent classrooms and one storeroom. According to Mr. Mukonda, project manager, "we are happy to receive four permanent classrooms from the people and the Government of Japan. It was at one point difficult to oversee the construction due to the COVID 19 lockdown, but I am happy to have managed the project with gratifying outcome."
- (3) Sikanduko Primary School was established in 1998 in Rundu Urban Constituency, Kavango East Region, near Rundu Airport. It has a learner population of over 2,450 from pre-primary to grade 9 with 50 teachers. Due to shortage of classrooms, some learners have been studying in the afternoon and struggled to keep up with their studies. It was against this background that the

Government of Japan extended a grant of around 1,300,000 NAD for building a new school block consisting of three permanent classrooms and one storeroom as well as a counselling room. The counselling room will be used for learners to discuss confidential personal issues with life skill teachers to enhance their personal development in difficult times. “I am happy to have been awarded GGP from the Government of Japan. In addition to classrooms, we were able to construct a counselling room. Our school has more than 500 OVCs and we strive to cater for needs of every child in a confidential manner,” said Mr. Haingura, the principal of Sikanduko Primary School.

The Government of Japan has been implementing GGP in Namibia since 1997 with “Education” as one of the priority areas to Namibia, and the above three schools are the 49th – 51st 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.

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

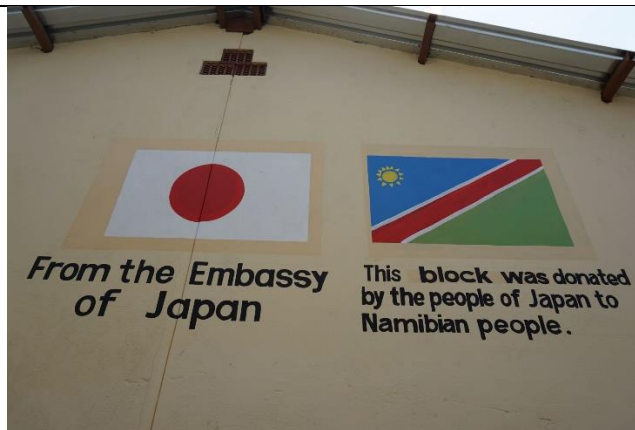
For further information, please contact Mr. OGURA Shohei, Third Secretary.

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Ngwangwa Primary School <28 September 2021>



Ngwangwa Primary School Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque
Mrs. Hamutenya, Principal
Mr. Karondo, Councillor, Kapako Constituency
Ambassador Harada
Mr. Kandjimi, Acting Director of Education Arts and Culture,
Kavango West Region
(from left to right)



New Classroom Block of Ngwangwa Primary School
National flags of Japan and Namibia are painted on the wall.
The painting on the wall also explains that the block is a donation from
the People of Japan.



Ngwangwa Primary School Cultural Group
Showing appreciation by colourful and dynamic dance
to the drumbeat



A representative from Ngwangwa Primary School
Vote of Thanks

Ndama Combined School <29 September 2021>



Ndama Combined School Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque
Hon. Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture (right)
Hon. Kauma, Vice Chairperson, National Council (Centre)
Hon. Wakudumo, Governor, Kavango East Reion (left)



Ndama Combined School Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque
Hon. Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture (left)
Ambassador Harada (right)



Ndama Combined School's new classroom block
Dignitaries (front row) and 68 teachers (at the back)



Ndama Combined School Cultural Group
Performance showing their gratitude

Sikanduko Primary School <30 September 2021>



Sikanduko Primary School Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque
Hon. Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture (left)
Ambassador Harada (right)



Sikanduko Primary School Handover Ceremony High Table
Ms. Masandu, Headwoman, Sikanduko Location
Hon. Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture
Hon. Kauma, Vice Chairperson, National Council
Ambassador Harada
(front row from left to right)



Sikanduko Primary School
New counselling room



Sikanduko Primary School Cultural Group
Performance showing their gratitude