



EMBASSY OF JAPAN

01 September 2023

PRESS RELEASE

EXPANDING HORIZONS: ST. BARNABAS PRIMARY SCHOOL, WINDHOEK INAUGURATES NEW BUILDINGS TO ADDRESS SHORTAGE OF CLASSROOMS AND ENHANCE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Join us in celebrating a new chapter for education as we unveil our newly constructed classroom facility with funding from the Government of Japan.

WINDHOEK, Khomas – Embassy of Japan in Namibia is thrilled to announce the official inauguration of the new classroom buildings at St. Barnabas Primary School, Windhoek, Khomas on 7 September 2023. This momentous occasion marks a significant step forward in our commitment to assisting Namibian students and fostering an environment of growth and learning.

Many prominent Namibians, including **Founding President Sam Nujoma**, furthered their education through this facility.

"I am very excited because this project has mitigated the shortage of classrooms and also given a good reading environment for our students" says the school principal, Mr. Hinuua Mbangura.

As a testament to our dedication to quality education, the construction project has added two school blocks, consisting of: (1) two spacious classrooms and a storeroom; and (2) a library, providing the resources students need to excel academically and explore their passions.

To celebrate this achievement, St. Barnabas Primary School will be hosting an inauguration ceremony starting at 9 am on 7 September 2023 at its premise in Katutura, Windhoek. H.E. Mr. Hisao Nishimaki, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia will hand over the newly constructed facility to Hon. Faustina Caley, Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture.

We are also honoured to have Hon. Faustina Caley, Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture as our keynote speaker and Hon. Nathalia /Goagoses, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development as a special guest for the ceremony. Hon. Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Governor of Khomas Region will give welcoming remarks.

We extend a warm invitation to the media to join us in this moment of pride and joy, witnessing the future of education and standing with us as we usher in a new era of learning.

For media inquiries, interview requests, and others, please contact Ms. Mariko Yano, Third Secretary, Embassy of Japan at:
mariko.yano@mofa.go.jp or Tel: 061 426 700/ FAX: 061 426 749.

About the assistance by the Government of Japan:

The school blocks at St. Barnabas Primary School have been constructed with funding from the Japanese government's "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP)." The GGP program provides non-refundable financial assistance to schools, hospitals, research institutes, non-governmental

organizations (NGOs), local government authorities, and other non-profit associations, providing flexible and timely support to development projects of diverse needs.

The Government of Japan has been implementing GGP in Namibia since 1997. Out of the total 90 GGP projects in Namibia so far with a total grant amounting to more than 75 million Namibian Dollars, 71 projects have been related to school building construction. There are five other ongoing construction projects in Kavango East, Ohangwena, Omaheke, Oshikoto, and Zambezi, adding a total of 19 new school classrooms to Namibia.

For more information about Japan's long-standing cooperation with Namibia, please visit our website:

https://www.na.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/cooperation.html

About St. Barnabas Primary School:

St. Barnabas Primary School is celebrating its centenary anniversary (100 years) in 2023. Being one of the oldest schools for Africans in Namibia, it was established in 1923 by the Anglican Church at Old Location (present day Hochland Park), Windhoek where it remained until 1968 following the forced removal of Africans from Old Location to Katutura. St. Barnabas reopened in Katutura as Herero Higher Primary School in 1969 to comply with the ethnicization of spatial space. This changed the character of the school from being multi-ethnic to virtually mono-ethnic. In 1985, following the relaxation of stringent apartheid laws, the school reverted to its original name, St Barnabas, with the vision of becoming once again a significant center of excellence.

St. Barnabas, during the 1960s did not only provide formal education but also adult education through evening classes. This program was known as Night School. Many prominent Namibians, including **Founding President Sam Nujoma**, furthered their education through this facility.

The ultimate goal of the school is to produce competitive learners and to be the school that upholds excellence in primary education through quality academic services and programs.

St. Barnabas Primary School currently has 940 learners, 32 teachers, 2 administrative officers, 3 institutional workers and 1 librarian.

Photos:



Photo 1: Constructed Classroom Block



Photo 2: Constructed Block (National Flags)



Photo 3: Constructed Library (Outside)



Photo 4: Constructed Library (Inside)

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