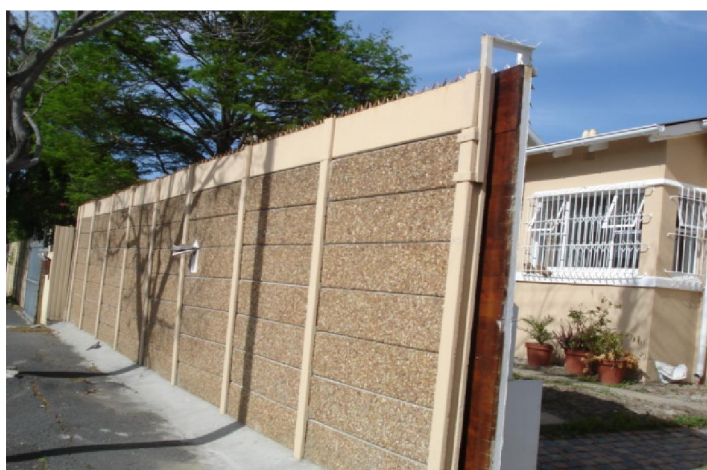


## HANDOVER CEREMONY FOR THE RENOVATION OF CHILD AND YOUTH CARE CENTRE FOR GIRLS AND THE INSTALLATION OF THE SOLAR POWER AT ONS PLEK PROJECTS, IN WESTERN CAPE

On Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2017, Ons Plek Projects in Western Cape, hosted a handover ceremony for the Renovation of Child and Youth Care Centre for Girls as well as the Installation of Solar Panel, funded by the Embassy of Japan through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. The ceremony was attended by Mr Yasushi NAITO, Consul of the Consular Office of Japan in Cape Town, Members of the Press, Personnel and the Staff of the Ons Plek projects.



Ons Plek for Girls was opened in 1988 to respond to the Girls who live on the streets of Cape Town. It is the only residential child and youth care centre in Cape Town that specialises in developmental and therapeutic intake services for girls who were previously living on the streets. The centre provides 24-hour accommodation and, counselling to traumatized girls in Cape Town area. The government of Japan decided to support this organisation through the grant assistance amounting to R1, 124 985. The renovated premises has ensured that 66 girls are kept safely and according to the Director of Ons Plek projects, Pamela Jackson the cost of electricity has been reduced by half due to the installation of the solar power at Ons Plek.



Education and economic empowerment are some of the priority areas for the Government of Japan in its extension of GGP assistance to South Africa. The GGP is intended to assist NGOs and local authorities in addressing development needs in a prompt and comprehensive manner in areas such as education, health, water supply, climate change and in a variety of other local needs. The GGP scheme was first introduced in 1989, and prioritizes human security for vulnerable and marginalised people within society. Since 1990, over 600 GGP projects have been implemented in South Africa. In the Japanese Fiscal Year 2015 (April 2015–March 2016), the Embassy of Japan extended GGP assistance to 14 projects, amounting to approximately R13 million.