

HANDOVER CEREMONY FOR THE EXPANSION OF ITEKENG DISABLED CENTRE

On the 14th of November 2017, a ceremony handing over the Expansion of the Itekeng Disabled Centre, funded by people and Government of Japan through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme was held in Free State. The ceremony was attended by Mr Kazumi Fujimoto, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan and representatives from the department of Social Development in Free State.



Itekeng Disabled Centre was established in 1998 to accommodate children with disabilities. At this centre children receive life and educational skills, two meals a day, physiotherapy, psychological support as well as partake in sports and cultural activities. Over the years the centre expanded to include Home Based Care and drop in centre to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). The Government of Japan decided to support this organisation through the grant assistance amounting to R1,188,052.81 for the expansion of the centre. The expanded centre has benefited the children who stay at the centre by providing much needed space which has contributed to a safe and conducive environment for children to be raised on.

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 2016 (April 2016–March 2017), the Embassy of Japan extended GGP assistance to 11 projects, amounting to approximately R13 million.

For further information contact the GGP Section (ggp@pr.mofa.go.jp) of the Embassy of Japan in Pretoria. Tel: (+27) 12 452 1500/ Fax: (+27) 12 460 1631 or consult the web-site: <http://www.za.emb-Japan.go.jp/en/itpr-en/ODA.html>