

## ***Japanese Grant Improves Facilities for Vulnerable Children in Durban***

DURBAN, KWAZULU NATAL, 23 May 2024 - Mr USHIO Shigeru, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of South Africa, attended a ceremony that was held to hand over renovated facilities for Durban Child and Youth Care Centre. The funding was provided by the Embassy of Japan through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects programme (GGP). The ceremony was attended by representatives from the Provincial Department of Social Development and the governing body of Durban Child and Youth Care Centre among others.

Durban Child and Youth Care Centre is a non-profit organisation that was established in 1904 to provide shelter for the vulnerable children in Durban. In 2022, the Embassy of Japan received an application from this organisation to renovate two old buildings: Amaqhawe House and Khayelisha House. In his speech, Ambassador Ushio expressed his respect and gratitude to the director, Mrs Mandy Grobler, for the centre's effort to provide a safe and secure environment for the children in its care and to work hard to protect their dreams and future with the children themselves. Quoting from the words of Bishop Desmond Tutu, Ambassador Ushio said, "When we see the face of a child we think of the future, we think of their dreams about what they might become and what they might accomplish."

Reducing economic and social disparities is one of the priority areas of the Government of Japan's development cooperation policy for South Africa. To date, the Embassy of Japan has implemented 600 projects throughout the Republic of South Africa.

