

Handover Ceremonies for Japanese Grant Assistance Projects in the Education Sector in KwaZulu Natal (2)

UMZINTO, KWAZULU NATAL, 24 May 2024 - Mr USHIO Shigeru, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of South Africa, attended a ceremony that was held to hand over a block of three classrooms for St. Patricks Primary School. 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 Department of Basic Education, Chief Educational Specialist, directors from the Provincial Department of Infrastructure, School Governing Body and the community members of St. Patricks Primary School.

St. Patricks Primary School is in Umzinto, a 1.5-hour drive from Durban, and has an enrollment of about 1,100. The school suffered overcrowding due to high enrolment and was also affected by the April 2022 floods. The Government of Japan supported the school with funding for the construction of a block of three classrooms. In his speech, Ambassador Ushio spoke about an investment in the educational infrastructure of people as an investment in the right to freedom, a brighter future, and the pursuit of happiness for the people of South Africa, particularly those subjected to overcrowding in classrooms and inadequate infrastructure for conducive teaching and learning.

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 South Africa. By supporting the infrastructure of these schools, the Embassy of Japan hopes to create a positive learning environment and contribute to improving the quality of education and the healthy development of the children in the long term.

