



DEBMARINE NAMIBIA

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For immediate release

Resource Centre investment for the Gobabis Project School

Debmarine Namibia handed over a newly constructed Resource Centre to the Gobabis Project School worth N\$ 250 000, on Friday 1 December 2017 in Epako, Gobabis (Omaheke Region).

The Resource Centre investment is as a result of the relationship established between Debmarine Namibia and Gobabis Project School which commenced a few years ago when the company initially sponsored the prize-giving ceremony and educational materials.

Handing over the completed structure, Debmarine Namibia Senior Financial Manager, Willy Mertens said, “At Debmarine Namibia, our aim is to deliver lasting benefit by turning diamonds dreams into reality by assisting and supporting the government by contributing to social and economic development that creates long-lasting solutions. Debmarine Namibia is an ardent believer in the importance of investing in education. Today, we remain true to our social commitment in Education, by officially handing over the completed construction of the Resource Centre. This investment further supports the call from Government, in particular the Ministry of Education’s invitation to the private sector, to partner with the Government through interventions such as the “Friends of Education” initiative aimed at garnering support towards education, arts and culture.”

This school provides children from the surrounding community with an equal opportunity to education despite their circumstances. Access to education is a starting block on which to launch dreams and aspirations.

In his acceptance speech, the Project School Principal, Mr Tezee Katjiuanjo applauded Debmarine Namibia for the noble gesture saying, “I appreciate this humble social responsibility investment by Debmarine Namibia, particularly because our relationship with the company commenced in 2013 when Debmarine Namibia donated 200 school bags, 200 calculators, 200 mathematical sets, 200 pencil cases and 200 stationary packs to the school.” He further stated “Government alone cannot provide all services and needs of our education system and therefore concerted effort from private sector stakeholders is greatly valued. Our school board management, staff, parents and learners hereby thank Debmarine Namibia for the much needed infrastructure with which will ultimately serve as a library-cum-tuition room.”

Special Advisor to the Omaheke Governor, Mr Pio Nganate, encouraged learners to take their studies seriously with the aim to make a significant difference in their immediate community,

thereby uplifting their hometown. He further advised parents to teach their children the importance of making a difference in their own environments rather than leaving their communities for greener pastures, and their communities remain impoverished without any improvement.

The Epukiro Constituency Education Inspector Isaac Ueitele and representatives from the Gobabis Council witnessed the Resource Centre handover.

Gobabis Project School commenced operations in 2012 with only 760 children and teaching undertaken in tents, today the school has 1418 children and 46 teachers. The school offers three (3) language stream curriculum: Khoekhoegowab, English and Otjiherero; with elementary Agriculture as the main pre-vocational subject at senior level. The Gobabis Project School is a primary school in the Epako Township on the outskirts of Gobabis which caters for learners whose families live below the breadline. The school runs a feeding programme to supplement the household diet of those who have little or nothing to eat during and after school. It is the only project school in the region that provides equitable access to school to the mostly marginalised and economically disadvantaged children, most of whom are from the San community and low-income farm workers.



Photo: Official handover of the Resource Centre by Willy Mertens (Debmarnie Namibia), Tezee Katjujanjo (Principal), Pio Nghanate (Special Advisor to the Omaheke Governor), Isaac Ueitele Education Inspector.



Photo: The newly constructed Resource Centre.



Photo: Learners performing traditional dance in celebration of the handover.

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ABOUT DEBMARINE NAMIBIA:

Debmarine Namibia is a joint venture marine diamond prospecting and mining company, owned in equal shares by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and De Beers.

Debmarine Namibia became operation in 2002 and mines in the off-shore mining licence area off the southern coast of Namibia. The Company operates five diamond mining vessels, namely Debmar Atlantic, Debmar Pacific, !Gariiep, Grand Banks and Mafuta. Two mining technologies are deployed, the airlift-drill and the crawler mining technology. The mining vessels mine diamonds off the ocean floor using highly advanced drill technology and supported with sophisticated tracking, positioning and surveying equipment. The Company recently acquired and inaugurated its sixth vessel, an exploration and sampling vessel, mv SS Nujoma.

Debmarine Namibia is ISO 14001, ISM and OHSAS 18001 certified, in line with its commitment to safety and environmental management. Debmarine Namibia is a recognised world leader in marine diamond exploration and mining technology.

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