

**Japanese Government handed over
a school bus to Oracabessa Primary School
under the Grass-Roots Human Security Projects.**

On Friday, November 16, 2018, Ambassador Yamazaki attended the Handing over ceremony at Oracabessa Primary School located in North West of St. Mary for the 29-seater Toyota Coaster Bus. Approximately 120 people attended the ceremony. Having recognized the need to assist with the implementation of improving transportation system for the school, the Embassy provided the requisite funding support through our Grassroots Grant Assistance Programme which is focused on human development and human security.

Mr. Gregory Davis, the Principal of Oracabessa Primary School and other teachers expressed their appreciation for all who wish the better society in St. Mary and they were honoured by receiving the grant funding support from Government of Japan. As the students had challenges with the issue of safety and economical condition in transportation, this project provided the solution. The principal declared that the Oracabessa Primary School will ensure the safe transportation of students to and from school. They also pledged to take care of the bus.

The Honourable Robert Montague, Member of Parliament, St. Mary-Western, and Minister of Transport and Mining, expressed sincere appreciation “Eternal Gratitude” to the people and Government of Japan. He mentioned that the Government of Jamaica places great importance on education, the Oracabessa area is the one of target area under the Pilot Improvement of Rural School Bus Transport System led by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information through the special partnership with the Ministry of Transport and Mining. He extended the gratitude for the support to this area from Government of Japan and encouraged the students and staff to take care of the new school bus and keep it in good condition.

In his remarks, Ambassador Yamazaki expressed his greatest pleasure to be at this memorable ceremony with the Oracabessa primary school, and other stakeholders from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, National Education Trust and other key persons that had been involved in the project since the preliminary stages. He mentioned the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects started in 1989 and welcomed 30th anniversary in this year, also the Government of Japan has been supporting the Jamaica’s educational development. He wished that all students will receive the better educational opportunity through this improved transportation system and it leads for them to be the future leaders in Jamaica. He also expressed the continuous support for the basic human needs for better future in Jamaica.

Other notable attendees were Mrs. Yasieka Blackwood-Grant, the Senior Education Officer, Ministry of Education, Youth & Information, Ms. Shirley Moncrieff, Director Education (Donor) Projects, National Education Trust, Mr. Michael Matthews, Vice Chairman Board of Management, Oracabessa Primary School, teachers, students, citizens and stakeholders from Oracabessa, St. Mary.



Minister Montague expressed his gratitude



Ambassador delivering his remarks



Mrs. Yasieka Blackwood Grant, Senior Education Officer for Secondary Schools, Ministry of Education, Youth & Information



Ms. Shirley Moncrieff, Director Education (Donor) Projects, National Education Trust



Mr. Michael Matthews, Vice Chairman Board of Management, Oracabessa Primary School



Mr. Gregory Davis, Principal of Oracabessa Primary School



Many students and citizens from Oracabessa celebrated together



Newly provided coaster bus :
Improving the safe transportation for students



Ribbon cutting to reveal the bus



Minister shaking hands with Ambassador



Showing their appreciation by dance to the people and Government of Japan



Song of appreciation from students