



**MINISTRY: EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Mr Tadashi Hasunuma

Director: Sapesi Mobile Library Project

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Dear Mr Hasunuma

Mobile Library Project

I am delighted that permission has been given by the Department of Trade and Industry (ITAC) for the importation of the mobile libraries that have been ready for delivery for some time, as well as for the importation of additional mobile libraries. This permission will enable Sapesi South Africa and the Department of Education to proceed with the delivery of 100 mobile libraries.

I believe that the Mobile Library project has assisted children in remote and rural schools to develop their interest in reading and to foster a continued commitment to quality learning and teaching in these schools. I am grateful to you, to the Japanese Embassy in South Africa and to the SPJD for supporting this valuable project. It is the intention of my Government that every school child should have access to a well equipped library and schools are now being built that will have a library. However, while this is being implemented, it is essential that children be encouraged to engage in and enjoy reading and writing.

The 21 mobile libraries that are currently in operation are already making a difference in rural schools. I am sure that the additional libraries that will be delivered over the next three years will enable many more children to enjoy reading and become literate and educated adults.

In order for this project to be implemented fully (that the full 100 mobile libraries are delivered) I am pleased that Sapesi-Japan has undertaken to raise funding for 50 Mobile Libraries by 2009-2011, and a further 50 Mobile Libraries by 2012-2014 subject to a review after the 2009 - 2011 delivery. These libraries will be delivered by Sapesi-Japan to provincial Education Departments with the support of Sapesi-South Africa to address all the import procedures.

As maintenance of the libraries was a major concern of the Department of Trade and Industry and of my Department, I encourage Sapesi - South Africa to work closely with the Department of Education and Provincial Education Departments to honour the Sapesi commitment to coordinate the maintenance of the vehicles with Japanese vehicle manufacturers. I would also encourage Sapesi South Africa to work closely with my Department to share best practice procedures among the Mobile Library operators.

Thank you again for your support to education and development in South Africa.

Yours sincerely



G.N.M. Pandor MP

Minister of Education

Date: 5-05-2009.

cc. Director General: Mr D Hindle