

Message from SAPESI

This year SAPESI reached several milestones and made progress towards implementing a strategic vision to enhance literacy skills in disadvantaged schools through the donation of Mobile Libraries to all nine provinces. This has been possible through the tireless and dedicated support of volunteers, supporters and sponsors.

On behalf of SAPESI I would like to thank you all for your continued interest and support, and wish you and your family a happy and blessed holiday season.

Tadashi "Tad" Hasunuma, Director

The National Launch of SAPESI

Giving the gift of education through Mobile Libraries

On 17 November 2011 SAPESI and the Department of Basic Education co-hosted an event in Pretoria celebrating the expansion of the existing Mobile Library Services to cover all 9 provinces, due to the handover of an additional 11 Mobile Libraries to the remaining 5 provinces.

The Japanese Ambassador, Mr Ozawa, was in attendance along with the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs A Motshekga. Approximately 130 invitees consisting of guests from the Department of Basic Education, Provincial Departments of Education, members of SAPESI's Advisory Board, corporate sponsors, and members of the media attended the function.

The ceremony took place in the foyer of the conference hall of the Department of Basic Education in Pretoria. As the master of ceremonies, Mr Tim Modise's humorous introductions set the mood for the rest of the proceedings. Three Mobile Libraries were parked at the venue to showcase the incredible work being done by SAPESI through the Mobile Library initiative.

The objective of the launch was to:

- **Celebrate the extended Mobile Library coverage to all 9 provinces on South Africa with the handing over of 11 Mobile Libraries to the 5 remaining provinces**
- **Celebrate the partnership and highlight the positive work being done by the DBE and SAPESI**
- **Thank Japan and SAPESI's corporate sponsors for their on-going support to education in South Africa**

Speakers



Mobile Libraries on display



Gift to Mrs Motshekga



The following media were represented: SABC TV News; Beeld; The Times; Sowetan; Education SA Magazine and Yomiuri Shimbun. Articles appeared in the November 18 issue of Business Day, Sowetan, Times and Beeld.

This event would not have been possible without the assistance of Volcano Advertising, SAPESI's sponsor for creative and PR work, and we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all participants.

At the same time, without our corporate and institutional supporters, this project would not have taken off and we would like to thank the following organisations for their support: The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pretoria Japanese embassy, MOL, K-Line, Sony, Bridgestone, JTI, SAB Miller, Sumitomo Corp., Toyota, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Hino, Isuzu, Volcano Advertising, and Dedicated Freight & Trading.

Extract from the SAPESI Press Release



Mrs A Motshekga - Minister of Basic Education



Mr T Ozawa - Ambassador of Japan



Mr E Surty - Vice Minister of Basic Education

SAPESI (South Africa) and SAPESI (Japan) secure and ship the Mobile Libraries to South Africa. They have pledged their continued support to assist and improve education within the country and to help find solutions to curb illiteracy. The project, which is in its 6th year, undertakes to be fully operational within all 9 provinces within the first quarter of 2012.

Currently there are 32 Mobile Libraries deployed in four provinces: 13 buses in KwaZulu-Natal, 7 in Free State, 7 in Western Cape and 5 in Gauteng. These buses support 510 schools, some 6250 educators and 174 000 learners. SAPESI has extended its footprint and now covers all nine provinces with the donation of an additional eleven Mobile Libraries to the remaining five provinces in 2011. Three of these buses were donated to Mpumalanga, and 2 each to Limpopo, Eastern Cape, North West and Northern Cape. This means that 43 Mobile Libraries will be fully operational in the country in 2012.

In this way SAPESI assists learners, teachers and schools in underprivileged communities by providing free and easy access to books. The Mobile Libraries travel around each province offering this valuable service, thus enabling learners to gain access to valuable reading material. Tad Hasunuma, SAPESI Founder and Director, pointed out that while there are 14 380 South African elementary schools, only 8% is said to have functioning libraries. We are confident that the SAPESI project will assist in reaching out to schools in South Africa to bring the joy of reading to children. We are thankful to be supported by the Department of Basic Education in our challenge to reach 2 million children in 4500 schools with 1 million books and 100 Mobile Libraries by 2015 if the funds are available.

Basic Education Minister Angie Motsekga welcomed the initiative as the education system still struggles with inherited backlogs in schools: "...given the enormity of addressing backlogs and financial implications thereof, we've had to opt for an incremental approach to the provisioning of library resources."

Good Publicity for the Plight of Literacy

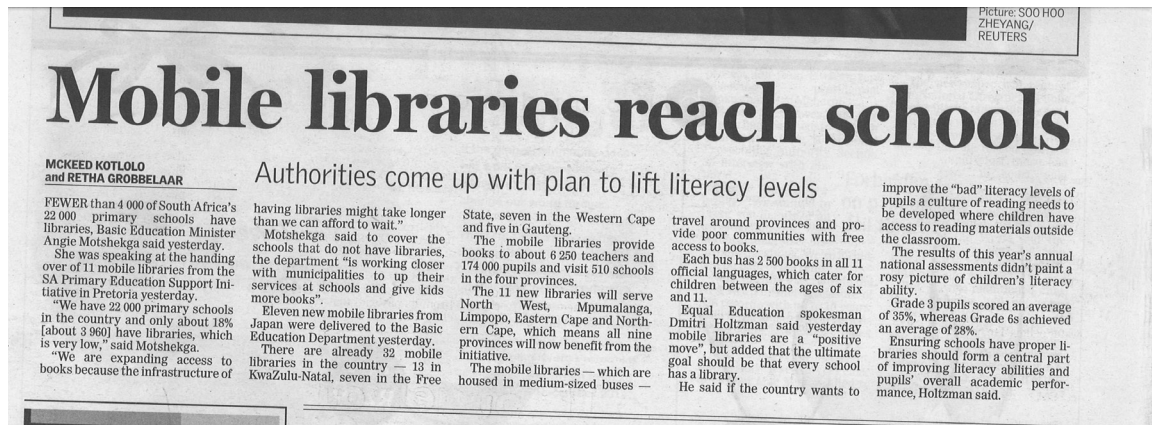
There's no question about it: SAPESI is not only bringing literacy and education to where it is most needed, but is also bringing plenty of public attention to the need for literacy, as these extracts, from some of South Africa's biggest newspapers illustrate:

Die Beeld - SA skole kry 11 rybiblioteke by

Die departement van basiese onderwys het gister hulp gekry om die swak geletterdheidsvlak van leerlinge te verbeter met 11 mobiele biblioteke wat aan hom geskenk is. Die South African Primary Education Support Initiative (Sapesi) is a projek van die Japanse regering en het al 32 mobiele biblioteke aan 520 skole in Gauteng, Kwa-zulu Natal, Die Vrystaat en die Wes-Kaap geskenk.

Die Mikpunt is om teen 2015 sowat 100 mobiele biblioteke oor die land heen te he wat 2 miljoen leerlinge in 4 500 skole sal bereik, het mnr Tad Hasunuma van Sapesi gese. Busse wat tussen 40 000 km en 60 000 km afgele het, word Suid Afrika toe gebring. Elke bus het sowat 2 500 boeke in al die amptelike tale gemik op leerlinge tussen ses en 11 jaar.

Alet Rademeyer - 18 November 2011



The Times - Mobile Libraries reach schools

Speaking at the handing over of 11 Mobile Libraries from the SA Primary Education Support Initiative in Pretoria yesterday. Mr Motsekga said "We have 22000 primary schools in the country and only about 18% [about 3960] have libraries, which is very low. We are expanding access to books because the infrastructure of having libraries might take longer than we can afford to wait." Motshekga said to cover the schools that do not have libraries, the department "is working closer with municipalities to up their services at schools and give kids more books."

Eleven new mobile libraries from Japan were delivered to the Basic Education Department yesterday. There are already 32 Mobile Libraries in the country - 13 in KwaZulu-Natal, 7 in the Free State, 7 in the Western Cape and 5 in Gauteng. The mobile libraries provide books to about 6250 teachers and 174000 pupils and visit 510 schools in the four provinces. The 11 new libraries will serve North West, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape, which means all nine provinces will now benefit

from the initiative. The Mobile Libraries - which are housed in medium-sized buses - travel around provinces and provide poor communities with free access to books.

Each bus houses 2500 books in all 11 official languages, which cater for children between the ages of 6 and 11. Equal Education spokesman, Dmitri Holtzman, said yesterday that Mobile Libraries are a "positive move", but added that the ultimate goal should be that every school has a library. He said if the country wants to improve the "bad" literacy levels of pupils a culture of reading needs to be developed where children would have access to reading materials outside the classroom. The results of this year's annual national assessments didn't paint a rosy picture of children's literacy ability. Grade 3 pupils scored an average of 35%, whereas Grade 6's achieved an average of 28%. Ensuring schools have proper libraries should form a central part of improving literacy abilities and the pupils' overall academic performance, Holtzman said.

McKEED KOTLOLO and RETHA GROBBELAAR | 18 November, 2011 01:06

Sowetan - Move to expand access to books

LESS than 4000 of the country's 22,000 primary schools have libraries, Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga has revealed.

BOOK WORMS: Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga with Japanese officials during the launch of 11 new mobile libraries in Pretoria yesterday. She was speaking at the handing over of 11 Mobile libraries by the SA Primary Education Support Initiative to the department in Pretoria. "We have 22000 primary schools in the country and only about 18% (about 3960) of them have libraries, which is very low," said Motshekga. "We are expanding access to books because the infrastructure of having libraries might take longer than we can afford to wait." Motshekga said to cover the schools without libraries the department "is working closer with municipalities to up their services at schools and give kids more books".

The 11 new Mobile Libraries were exported from Japan. There are 32 Mobile Libraries in the country - 13 in KwaZulu-Natal, 7 each in the Free State and the Western Cape plus 5 in Gauteng. The Mobile Libraries provide books to about 6250 teachers and 174000 children. They visit 510 schools in the four provinces. The new libraries will serve the North West, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape. The Mobile Libraries - which are housed in medium-sized buses - travel around provinces and provide poor communities with free access to books. Each bus has 2500 books - in all 11 official languages - for children between the ages of six and 11.

Equal Education spokesman Dmitri Holtzman yesterday said Mobile Libraries are a "positive move", but added that the ultimate goal was for every school to have a library. He said for the country to encourage a culture of reading among pupils, children had to have access to reading materials outside the classroom. Results of this year's annual national assessments didn't paint a rosy picture of children's literacy abilities. Grade 3 pupils scored an average of 35%, whereas Grade 6 achieved an average of 28%.

18 Nov 2011 | McKeed Kotlolo and Retha Grobbelaar



Business Day - Japan aids rural schools with Mobile Libraries

RURAL South African schools that lack functioning libraries are set to receive a boost thanks to a local initiative backed by Japan that has pledged to introduce Mobile Libraries that will reach 2-million pupils in 4500 schools by 2015. SA's 14000 primary schools are critically under-resourced, with only 8% having functional libraries, while 72% of pupils do not learn to read before grade 6. The Japanese assistance was being channelled through the privately run South African Primary Education Support Initiative (Sapesi), which was launched in 2006 and now has 32 vehicles serving 510 schools. However, this will increase to 100 buses and 1-million books by the project's conclusion.

The vehicles donated by Japan are medium-sized buses that have been converted into libraries. They will each have about 2500 books in all 11 official languages that cater for readers aged six to 11. Speaking during a demonstration of the Mobile Libraries yesterday, Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga welcomed the initiative. She said the education system still struggled with inherited backlogs in schools in the provision of quality reading resources. "Given the enormity of addressing these backlogs and financial

implications thereof, we've had to opt for an incremental approach to the provisioning of library resources," she said. Tadashi Hasunuma, the former MD of Sony SA who began the initiative, praised the government for extending the primary school network to almost universal enrolment. He started the project after realising that Japan used Mobile Libraries to deal with its own problem of rural schools.

"The issue had been even more pressing for Japan, which, unlike SA, does not have natural resources, and Japan realised early that its best asset would be well-educated human resources," he said. "The solution to increasing literacy rates was simple: 'just offer them nice books. children's books. If SA showed serious effort in increasing childhood literacy, it could expect additional support," he added. Japanese ambassador to SA, Toshiro Ozawa, said of the government's five priorities, Japan identified education as the most important. "We know this from our own experience". SA needs to create a generation that could read and write - which was crucial to their self-improvement and self-respect," he added.

KARL GERNETZKY - 2011/11/18 07:06:19 AM

Portraits of the Handover Ceremony – 17th November 2011



KZN & Free State Buses



Venue Entrance & SAPESI Banners



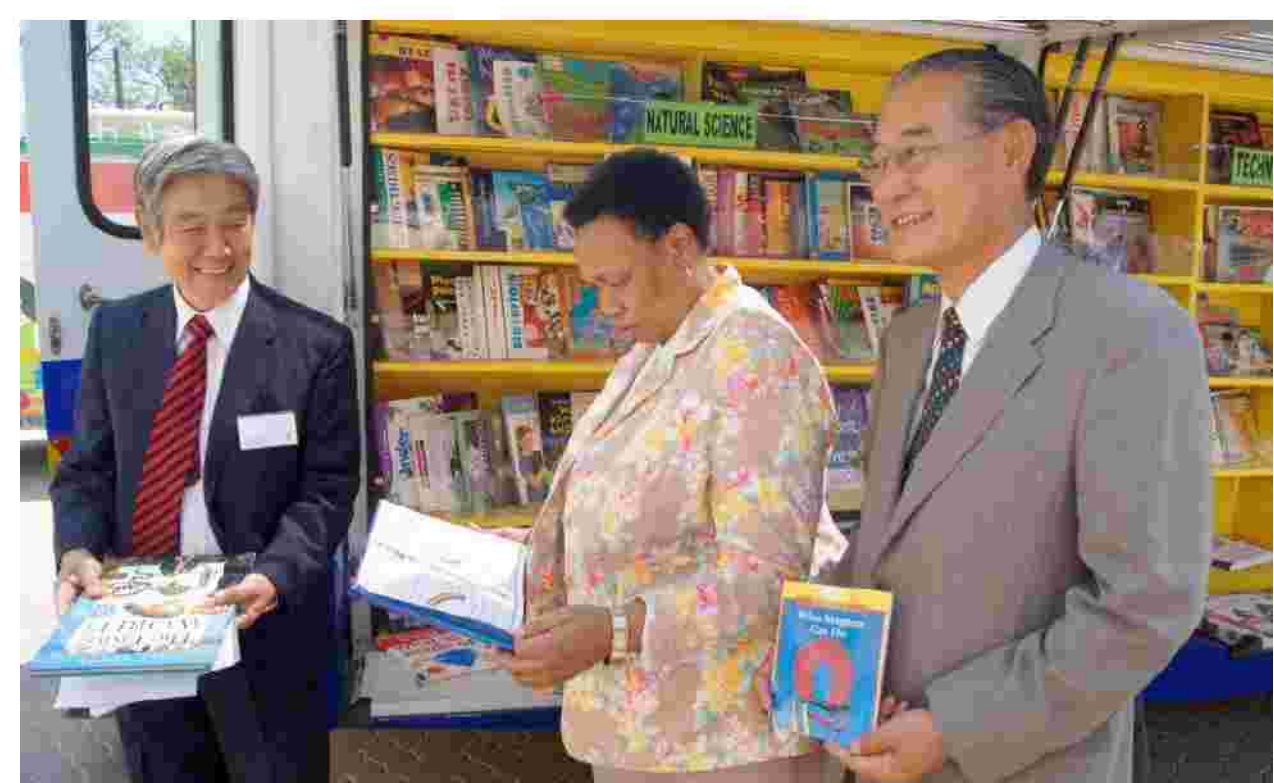
120 Guests



Main Speakers; From left, Mr. Hasunuma (SAPESI Director)
Mrs. Motshekga (Minister of Primary Education) Mr. Surty (V. Minister of
Primary Education), Mr. Ozawa (Ambassador of Japan)



Book Gifts from Hasunuma to Motshekga



SABC & Press Interviews



Receptions



Japanese Sushi Buffets



South African Buffets