



Celebrating 15 Years of Partnership and Progress: Impacting the Education Sector in Jamaica Together

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27 January 2026

The National Education Trust Partners with the Embassy of Japan and the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth & Information to Deliver School Buses to the Muschett High School

Kingston, Jamaica: The National Education Trust (NET), in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Jamaica and the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth & Information (MoESYI), officially formalised the donation of two (2) school buses to the Muschett High School during a Grant Signing Ceremony held yesterday, Tuesday, 27 January 2026, at the Student Assessment Unit's Conference Room, Caenwood Centre, Kingston.

The donation, valued at USD 151,588.00 was provided under the Grassroots Human Security Grants Project, of the Government of Japan, for the purchase of two (2) 29-seater Toyota Coaster buses. These buses are expected to enhance the school's transport capacity, providing safer and more reliable travel for students and staff, and enabling greater participation in field trips, academic competitions, sporting events and other developmental programmes.

The Honourable Rhoda Moy Crawford, Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth & Information, described the buses as a vital tool for student development: *"Today's buses will mean safer and more reliable travel for the students of Muschett High School. They will allow greater participation in field trips, academic competitions, sporting events, and extracurricular activities that help shape confident, well-rounded young people. Progress does not always arrive in grand gestures—sometimes it arrives on four wheels, carrying students towards opportunity, confidence and a brighter future."*

His Excellency Mr. Kohei Maruyama, Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica, emphasised the enduring partnership between Japan and Jamaica: *"It was a great pleasure to sign the Grant Contract for the procurement of two Toyota Coaster buses for Muschett High School. We hope this support will contribute, in a practical and meaningful way, to the school community and enable safe and reliable transport for students, helping them pursue their studies with confidence and hope."*

Mrs. Latoya Harris-Ghartey, Executive Director, National Education Trust, reflected on the broader significance of the donation: *"For the stakeholders of Muschett High School, these buses represent safety, dignity, and opportunity. This means arriving at school and returning home safely, participating in academic competitions, field trips, and extracurricular activities without limitation. Today's signing is more than a formal agreement—it is a promise to students whose dreams deserve protection and support."*

The Honourable Paul Muschett, Board Chairman, Muschett High School, highlighted the transformative impact on the school community: *"This donation will have a profound effect on our students and staff. Safe, reliable transport will allow us to broaden learning experiences and encourage greater participation in educational and cultural activities."*

Mr. Leighton Johnson, Principal, Muschett High School, expressed gratitude for the partnership: *"We are deeply grateful to the Government and People of Japan, the Ministry of Education, and NET for their generosity. These buses will enhance our school's ability to provide safe transport and enrich the educational journey of every student."*

The project forms part of the Ministry's Rural School Bus Transportation Programme, through which NET played a central coordinating role by identifying schools in need and submitting them for consideration under the Grassroots Human Security Grants Project. It also aligns with the Ministry's Safety and Security Programme, which seeks to create safer school environments and support holistic student development.

The National Education Trust is a Registered Charitable Organisation (CAIN100-142C) and an agency of the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth & Information. We build relationships with donors and investors to acquire essential educational resources and improve the infrastructure of schools at all levels across Jamaica.

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