

Japan launches science centre

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THE Japanese-funded National Science Centre is ready for commissioning and will be handed to Government before the end of this month, Japanese Ambassador to Zambia Hidenobu Sobashima has said.

The facility, which took seven years to build, will train teachers in mathematics, science and technology.

Mr Sobashima said the double-storey building, which has laboratories and lecture rooms, cost K21 million.

The Japanese envoy was speaking on Thursday after he toured the centre.

He said Japan, under its Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), has invested over K45 million in three phases in the last seven years.

Mr Sobashima said in its first phase, K10 million was injected in the buying and dispatching of chemicals and apparatus to 200 schools countrywide.

In the second phase, K14.7 million was spent with 143 schools benefiting from the buying of 16,000 mathematical graph boards and training of teachers in science and mathematics.

Mr Sobashima said K21 million was used to build the National Science Centre in the third phase.

He said once operational, the centre will promote human resource development within the country and the sub-Saharan region.

Mr Sobashima said Japan will continue to support the training centre by building accommodation facilities and buying of equipment.

And Ministry of General Education Directorate of National Science Centre assistant director for curriculum and training Sidney Nalube called for intensified capacity building among workers.

Mr Nalube said once teachers acquire additional knowledge at the centre, they will be able to transfer it to their colleagues locally and in the region.

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