



**From
the People of Japan**

PRESS RELEASE

29 October 2020
Embassy of Japan in Botswana

**Japan hands over Medical Equipment worth 34 Million Pula,
through Grant Aid, to the Government of Botswana
in Response to COVID-19**

On 29th October 2020, a handover ceremony of the medical equipment procured through the Grant Aid “The Economic and Social Development Programme” was held at the Mass Media Complex in Gaborone.

Welcome remarks were made by Hon. Dumezweni Meshack Mthimkhulu, Assistant Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration, followed by the handing over remarks by H.E. Mr. TAKEDA Kozo, Ambassador of Japan. The ceremony was concluded with appreciation remarks by Hon. Kabo Neale Sechele Morwaeng, Minister for Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration.

To support Botswana in its fight against COVID-19, the exchange of notes for the Programme was signed between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Botswana on 12th June 2020. The grant amount of approximately 34 million Pula was utilized for the purchase of much needed medical equipment.

The equipment has been arriving in batches. Currently, automated external defibrillator (AED) machines and infusion pumps and syringe pumps have arrived and will be distributed to hospitals through the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Other medical consignments that are set to arrive include thermographic cameras and mobile X-ray machines. These equipment is expected to contribute in supporting and strengthening Botswana’s

medical environment.

Ambassador TAKEDA commended the Government of Botswana for its sound leadership in effectively guiding the nation through the challenges of Covid-19, and acknowledged the tireless work by the Ministry of Health and Wellness at the forefront to keep all Botswana's residents safe. He sincerely wished that the medical equipment would help towards building the capacity of the local health system in managing Covid-19 cases as well as helping limit transmission.

Hon. Minister Morwaeng expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan for the donation of medical equipment, and, touching upon the long standing healthy bilateral relations, was appreciative of the fact that in spite of Japan's current challenges with the pandemic, the people of Japan are willing to share their resources with the people of Botswana. He congratulated Japan for her spirited fight against COVID-19 and stated that Botswana recommits herself to continue learning from Japan's best practices in this regard.

In Botswana, the first recorded case of COVID-19 was confirmed on March 30, after which the Government immediately declared a state of emergency. Nevertheless, new positive cases have continued to be reported. With the sharp increase in the number of local transmitted cases and the need for timely screening at the border posts, Japan hopes that the equipment provided under this Programme will assist in upgrading medical environment and facilities in Botswana.

The global spread of COVID-19 poses a major threat to the economies and societies all around the world. The Government of Japan recognizes that global solidarity and cooperation are required more than ever to contain the virus as well as to ensure economic recovery.

Japan, wishing to take a lead in the international pursuit to contain COVID-19 as early as possible, will continue to support countries which are in need of strengthening their medical systems.

For further enquiries, please contact the Embassy of Japan in Botswana (Tel: 391-4456).