



## **PRESS RELEASE**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Embassy of Japan in Botswana

### JAPAN HONOURS MR. TIYAPO HUDSON NGWISANYI.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the conferment of the decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon for Mr. Tiyapo Hudson Ngwisanyi, the Chief Executive Officer of the Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI), was held at the Embassy of Japan.

Welcome remarks were made by the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan, Ms. FUJINO Yuka with Mr. Tiyapo Hudson Ngwisanyi following with his acceptance speech. The conferment ceremony was concluded by Hon. Lefoko Maxwell Moagi, Minister of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security to mark the occasion. Those present at the award ceremony were Professor Motsoptse Modisi, Board Chairman and Supervisor of the Botswana Geoscience Institute, and Mrs. Gaobotse Ngwisanyi, as well as officials from the Embassy of Japan.

Ms. Fujino shared that in April 2020, the Government of Japan announced that His Majesty the Emperor had conferred upon Mr. Ngwisanyi, the decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon. The order is one of the most prestigious awards that a foreign national can receive. Ms. Fujino further stated that Mr. Ngwisanyi had over the years contributed to building and strengthening the bilateral relationship between Japan and Botswana, as well as Southern Africa at large, through the promotion of the transfer of technology, academic exchanges and mutual understanding in the mineral sector.

Mr. Ngwisanyi expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan for awarding him with the decoration. He also thanked BGI, Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) Botswana office, the Ministry of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security and the geoscience professionals in the SADC National Geological Survey Organisations for the enormous support that they extended to him. He stated that the Geological Remote Sensing Centre (GRSC), which was established together with JOGMEC in Botswana to facilitate the transfer of geological remote sensing technique to SADC countries, created the linkages, collaborations and partnerships amongst SADC countries. He further stated that GRSC has to be maintained, and the evolution of the GRSC into a Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) Centre of Excellence would be feasible in the future.

Hon. Lefoko Maxwell Moagi, Minister of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security, commended the occasion as a landmark achievement by a 14-year collaborative relationship championed by BGI, under the able leadership of Mr. Ngwisanyi and JOGMEC. Hon. Minister elaborated on the various achievements and milestones of the cooperation with JOGMEC in technical transformation in remote sensing technology in Botswana and the SADC region, and further stated that, building on the achievements, this collaboration has to be maintained and supported, as Botswana and the world intensify efforts to maximise their mineral potential. Hon. Minister remarked the conferment of the decoration on Mr. Ngwisanyi as a national award, a recognition of all efforts by those involved, particularly his BGI team, the former Department of Geological Survey and BGI employees. Finally, Hon. Minister urged Mr. Ngwisanyi and his team to continue working hard to achieve excellence across their value chain as espoused by their brand promise – Excellence in Geoscience.

In the field of mineral resources, JOGMEC has contributed not only to Botswana but also to the SADC region through its human resource development programmes since the opening of GRSC in Botswana in 2008. Thanks to their tireless efforts, site explorations for natural resources are expected to be materialized soon in Botswana and some other SADC countries.

The award is a testimony to the value that Japan places on its relationship with Botswana, and will further promote the strengthening of the bilateral relations that we share.

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