



## **PRESS RELEASE**

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Embassy of Japan in Botswana

### JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENDS MS. MAUNGO TINY MOOKI

On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the awardee of the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation, Ms. Maungo Tiny Mooki, the Continental President of the Civic Commission for Africa (CCfA), was presented with the award certificate and a commemorative gift at her office in Gaborone.

The Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in international fields in relation with Japan.

Presenting the award certificate, Ms. FUJINO Yuka, the Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan, congratulated Ms. Mooki and expressed appreciation for her contribution in promoting mutual understanding between Japan and Botswana, as well as Japan and Africa at large, through the commitment and dedication she had shown to the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) processes. Ms. Mooki has been actively participating in the TICAD process over the years, providing invaluable insights of developmental challenges facing Africa from civil society perspective. The Government of Japan announced the awarding of the Commendation to Ms. Mooki on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2020.

Ms. Mooki expressed her gratitude to the Japanese Foreign Minister for awarding her with the commendation and to the Embassy of Japan in Botswana for recommending her for the Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2020, for her contribution to the TICAD

process. She also appreciated, on behalf of Africa and all Africans, Japan's long standing unwavering loyalty and support to Africa's development. This can be attested to the fact that after the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and the end of the Cold War, Japan refocused its global interest to Africa after the international community's global interests shifted mainly to countries that formerly comprised the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

TICAD is an initiative led by the Government of Japan since 1993, co-hosted by United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank and African Union Commission (AUC). TICAD is a multilateral forum whose participants include not only Head of States from African countries but also international organizations, partner countries, private companies and civil society organizations involved in development. The participants have been engaged in fruitful discussions on African development, bringing together a broad range of global knowhow and efforts of the international community. TICAD provides an open forum that generates innovative discussion, among various stakeholders, on African development. TICAD 7, the most recent TICAD, was held in Yokohama, Japan in 2019 and TICAD 8 will be held in Tunisia in 2022.

On participation by the Government of Botswana, distinguished representatives attended TICAD, including the then President, H.E. Ketumile Masire, to the first TICAD in 1993, and the then Foreign Minister, Hon. Dr. Unity Dow to the latest TICAD7 in 2019, contributing greatly to the success of TICAD.

The award is testimony to the fact that not only government to government cooperation but also civil society's involvement is essential for the successful development of African countries and for the evolvement of the TICAD process.

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