



**Message from H.E. Mr. HOSHIYAMA Takashi
on Occasion of His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito's Birthday**

23rd February, 2021

The 23rd February is Japan's National Day, celebrating His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito's 61st birthday. This year is also a significant one, marking the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Botswana and Japan.

Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no physical celebrations this year, but I would like to thank our host country, for the notable efforts that it has been making in the fight against COVID-19.

Japan has not been spared by this pandemic, however it has not forgotten its friends during this horrible time. Japan donated medical equipment to the value of approximately P 34 million to Botswana to aid in the fight against the virus.

When I assumed the position of Ambassador to Botswana in last December, I was commissioned by His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito to convey his heartfelt sympathy to the people of Botswana who have been suffering from the pandemic and also to strive to promote the trusted relations between Japan and Botswana.

According to Japanese old writing "Nihonshoki", the Japanese dynasty started in 660 BC when Emperor Jinmu founded the Japanese empire. It is also believed that the Imperial family line has remained unbroken from then until now.

There is some evidence indicating that Japan was actually founded around the 3rd century AD, and that Japanese dynasties were often changed until the 6th century. Although there are still considerable disputes about the fact including the starting points of the Japanese dynasty amongst academicians, Japan's imperial family is said to be the world's longest dynasty.

The Japanese contemporary Constitution prescribes that the Emperor is the symbol of the State, who ensures the unity of the people, and whose position is derived from the consensus-based will of Japanese citizens, with whom sovereign power resides. In this sense, the Japanese political system can be said to be similar to that of the United Kingdom.

Under such a unique political system, Japan, an island country, has built up its unique civilization which differs from other major civilizations. In the old days, Japan gained knowledge about culture, religion and technology from other East Asian countries like China and Korea. From the mid-19th century it started learning about western cultures, technology and political systems, and in turn became the first industrial and democratic country in Asia.

After their defeat in World War II in 1945, Japan restarted its nation-building from the devastation, and now enjoys peace, prosperity, and democracy as well as a unique hybrid civilization, which is a mix of indigenous Japanese, Western, and Asian cultures.

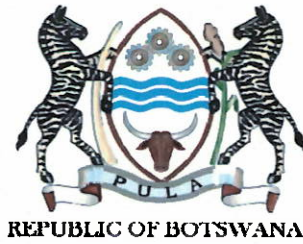
In addition, Japan now deploys value diplomacy which supports and advocates the importance of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Over an extended period of time, Japan has proactively engaged in development assistance to assist developing countries worldwide, and from the mid-1980's to mid-1990's, it was the world's largest ODA donor country, overtaking the United States. At present, Japan is still the world's third largest contributor to the UN and world's second topmost financier to the World Bank.

This year, the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games are scheduled to be held from July 23 to Aug 8. His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito is the Honorary President of the Games. They were originally scheduled for 2020, but were unfortunately postponed for a year due to the pandemic. Japan is prepared to hold the events as a symbol of global solidarity and as proof of human victory against the pandemic, to give hope and courage to the world.

The Japanese government is now making its best effort to host a safe and secure Olympics. As the world began introducing vaccines, Japan also kicked off its inoculation programme against COVID-19 this month. I look forward to seeing world athletes gathering around Tokyo, and to see Botswana athletes winning medals at the Games.

Finally, I would like to conclude by using this opportunity to say, as we jointly celebrate our national day, that Botswana is a trustable partner of Japan, and that our relations should be further promoted under our common values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

TELEPHONE: +267 3600740
EMAIL: minfa@gov.bw
FAX: +267 3903658



Office of the Minister

**MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION**
GOVERNMENT ENCLAVE
PRIVATE BAG 00368, GABORONE

EA 16/7 LXV (39) MINFA

23rd February, 2021

Your Majesty,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Botswana, I would like to convey to His Majesty the Emperor and the Japanese Government, as well as the people of Japan, our best wishes on His Majesty's birthday, and on the National Day of Japan.

I am honoured to note that this year marks the 55th anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Botswana and Japan. Over the years, we have nurtured trusted bilateral relations founded on common values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

We understand that Japan has been putting all efforts to successfully and safely host the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympics Games this year. It is my hope that our Botswana athletes, competing in the Olympics, will fly our flag high in Japan's sky.

On this joyous occasion, we would like to express Botswana's continued commitment to further enhance the longstanding and fruitful collaboration with Japan.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Lemogang Kwape
Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation

His Majesty Emperor Naruhito
TOKYO

"Promoting Botswana's Interests Abroad"