



**From
the People of Japan**

**Japan extends support through the Provision of a School Bus for Visually Impaired Children at Mochudi Association in Kgatleng District
Mochudi, 13th December 2022**

The Government of Japan and the Mochudi Resource Centre for the Blind celebrated the successful handover of a School Bus for the visually impaired children at Mochudi in Kgatleng Region, through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects. The school bus was purchased following a grant contract signing agreement between the Embassy of Japan and the Mochudi Resource Centre for the Blind in January 2022, when the latter received an amount of **USD 56,187** from the Government of Japan.

The Mochudi Centre is a pioneer for the wellbeing of virtually impaired children and, for the past fifty years, has been contributing significantly in promoting their education through the provision of Residential services, Rehabilitation, Pre-School and Resettlement. With the support of the Government of Japan, the school will now have a school bus to accommodate all students within the centre during school trips and other travels.

During the ceremony, Ms. MURAI Makiko, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Japan, stated that "Japan's development assistance objectives are well-aligned with key focus areas of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the idea of "Leave No One Behind", including persons with disabilities".

Ms. Murai further highlighted that the relationship between Japan and Botswana has grown over the years since Botswana's independence in 1966. She stated that among the various cooperation schemes between the two countries, GGP aims to improve Basic Human Needs (BHN) by supporting projects that are highly beneficial at the grass-roots level, including improvement of centers or shelters for children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

In delivering appreciation remarks, the Chairman of the Board of Mochudi Resource Centre for the Blind, Mr. Letsebe Sejo, extended gratitude to the People of Japan not only on behalf of the centre but the community of Mochudi at large. He further highlighted that the funding confirms that the organisation is in good standing as they succeeded rigorous checks and processes followed in awarding the grant. In his conclusion, Mr. Sejo assured that the school bus will be maintained in the highest order.

Through the GGP scheme, Japan has supported about 60 projects in Botswana that address human security issues. This is in line with the Botswana Government's aspiration envisaged in Vision 2036, particularly under the pillar of Human and Social Development which aims to achieve a moral, tolerant and inclusive society that provides opportunity for all.

*GGP is a grant scheme which supports projects addressing social challenges and/or aiming at community development at grass-roots level, and supports people-centred development projects which have a direct and immediate impact on the well-being of disadvantaged communities. In Botswana, from 1997 to date, 63 GGP projects in total have been approved, some of which are currently on-going. These projects include rural developments such as the construction of pre-schools, classrooms for students with disabilities and vocational training institutions.



**Ms MURAI Makiko, Chargé d'affaires,
delivering the key note speech**



New School Bus