PRESS RELEASE

6th, February, 2023
Embassy of Japan in Botswana

Japan and Botswana Signed Exchange of Notes for Yen Loan, in the amount of 1.5 Billion Pula, in Response to COVID-19

On February 3rd, 2023, the signing of the exchange of notes between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Botswana took place in Gaborone, under Japan's Covid-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan, amounting to Fifteen Billion Japanese Yen (¥15,000,000,000), equivalent to approximately 1.5 Billion Pula.

Hon. Dr. Lemogang Kwape, Minister of Foreign Affairs, expressed his gratitude for the loan on behalf of the Government of Botswana, and emphasized that the loan from Japan was a very timely offer for Botswana still grappling with the negative effects of COVID-19.

Furthermore, he said that Japan has been contributing to the development of Botswana and the improvement of the livelihoods of Batswana through capacity building and the finance of infrastructure, with the most notable contribution being the Kazungula Bridge Project.

Ms. MURAI Makiko, Counsellor of the Embassy of Japan, said during the signing ceremony, that the loan aimed to assist the Government of Botswana to provide social protection to vulnerable groups, pursue green and digital transformations, and positively contribute to the country's economic recovery and social stabilisation in the aftermath of COVID-19.

It is the first such a loan that both countries have agreed since the Kazungula Bridge Project in 2012. The Botswana Government intends to use the loan to implement the country's prioritized projects.

The people of Japan and the Government of Japan sincerely hope that the loan is taken act as a token of friendship between the people of Botswana and Japan, and contribute towards the social development of Botswana in the future.

Hon. Dr. Lemogang Kwape, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ms. MURAI Makiko, Counsellor, Embassy of Japan