



**From
the People of Japan**

Japan extends support for the construction of a special education unit at Marulamantsi Community Junior Secondary School

Gaborone, 9th March 2023 - The Government of Japan and Marulamantsi Community Junior Secondary School signed a Grant Contract amounting to 80,349 USD for the construction of a special education unit through a grant scheme called the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)*. The special education unit will be constructed on the premises of Marulamantsi Community Junior Secondary School located in Phase 4, Gaborone.

The school is a pioneer special needs school in the city and has been hosting students with special needs since 2015. With the support of the Government of Japan, the school will now have a classroom building with dedicated classrooms, a sick bay, a kitchen, a bathroom, special toilets, shower rooms and a staff room. This will enable the school to provide a more conducive environment for special needs students, according to their requirements and their level of learning difficulties, thus providing a comfortable learning environment for the students.

When delivering his welcome remarks, Mr. Amos Muzila, the School Head for Marulamantsi Community Junior Secondary School mentioned that, most of the students who will benefit from the Special Education unit are students who come from low income but high density backgrounds. The Special Education facility provided by the Government of Japan would assist the students to reach their full potential.

In delivering his keynote speech, H.E. Mr. OMHORI Setsuo, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, highlighted that, “the support from Ministries, parents, teachers, and all other stakeholders in the community will go a long way in ensuring that children with disabilities achieve their goals”. In addition, Ambassador OMHORI mentioned his hope that the special education unit would stand as proof of the friendship & cooperation between the two countries.

Representing the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, Chief Education Officer, Mr Kwante Kwante appreciated the great gesture by the Government of Japan And said that, the efforts made by the Government of Japan really assist the Ministry as they do not have enough resources to cater for all student’s needs including students with disabilities.

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, to achieve a moral, tolerant and inclusive society that provides opportunity for all.

*GPP 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 GPP 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.



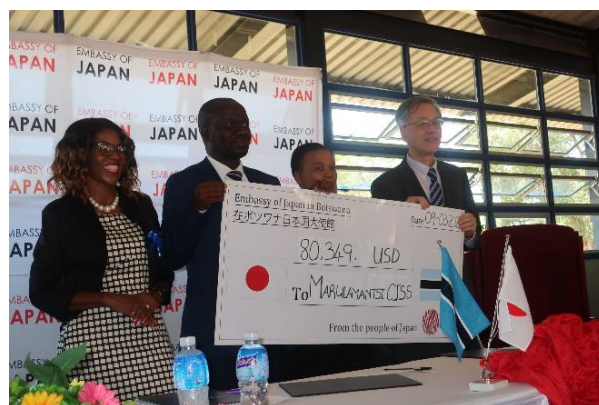
Signing the Grant Contract



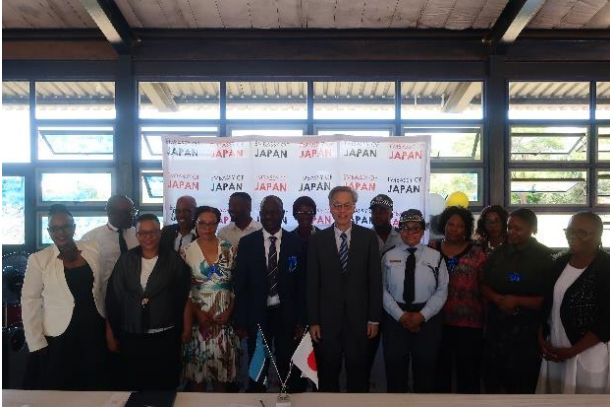
Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, H.E. Mr. OHMORI Setsuo and Marulamantsi CJSS School Head, Mr Amos Muzila



Mr. Kwante, Chief Education Officer from the Ministry of Education and Skill Development, South Central Region



The school teachers with Mr. Muzila and Mr. OHMORI



Some of the guests at the ceremony



Marulamantsi JSS Staff Members