



**From
the People of Japan**

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

Gaborone, 8th November 2023 - The Government of Japan and Motswedi Community Junior Secondary School signed a Grant Contract amounting to 77,130 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 Motswedi Community Junior Secondary School located in Ledumang, Gaborone.

The school is a pioneer special needs school in the region and has been hosting students with special needs for 12 years. With the support of the Government of Japan, the school will now have a building with a dedicated classroom, a sick bay, a kitchen, a bathroom with special toilets, and two offices. This will enable the school to provide a more tailor-made education, according to the students' health conditions and their level of learning difficulties.

When delivering her welcome remarks, Mrs. Mpho LESEGO, the School Head for Motswedi Community Junior Secondary School mentioned that Motswedi JSS learner enrolment stands at 935, of which seventy-four (74) of them are learners with varying intellectual needs as well as those with physical disabilities. Mrs. Lesego further said that every year a significant number of special education learners transit to senior secondary schools mainly because of the support from the teachers, and with the provision of the special education block by the Embassy of Japan, more students' academic results may improve.

In delivering his keynote speech, H.E. Mr. OMHORI Setsuo, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, highlighted that, "It is important to note that Motswedi Community Junior Secondary School receives every graduate from Ledumang Primary School, to whom we as the Government of Japan, donated a special education unit through the same GGP scheme in 2020. With the new project at Motswedi Community Junior Secondary School, I believe the region will be able to provide continuous educational opportunities for those who require it, which is undoubtedly beneficial not only for students but also for the community." In addition, Ambassador OMHORI mentioned his hope that the special education unit will stand as proof of the friendship and cooperation of our two countries, as well as all stakeholders.

In his address, Hon Mpho Balopi, Member of Parliament for Gaborone North, highlighted that the gesture made by the Embassy of Japan aligns with Botswana’s Vision 2036 and its aim for inclusive education for all. He further said that “the Embassy recognises the need to contribute to the welfare of the students and teachers.”

When giving his appreciation speech, Robert Moumakwa, special education student representative, highlighted that the grants came at the right time as it will assist special education students facilitate different programmes and activities to equip them with skills to use in the future.

Representing the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, Mr. Kwante Kwante, Chief Education Officer of Southeast Region, appreciated the great gesture by the Government of Japan and said that the Government of Botswana, the Ministry and Motswedi community are grateful for the grant as it will not only benefit the students but the teachers as well. This is because they will also have a conducive environment for counselling and teaching students with special needs.

Through the GGP scheme, Japan has supported more than 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.

*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. These projects include rural developments such as the construction of pre-schools, classrooms for students with disabilities and vocational training institutions.



**Ambassador Mr. OHMORI
handing over cheque to Mrs. Lezego,
Motswedi CJSS School Head**



Some invited guests at the signing ceremony



Remarks by Ambassador Mr. OHMORI



**Remarks by Mrs. Lesego,
Motswedi CJSS School Head**



**Speech by Robert Moumakwa,
Special Education Student Representative**



Motswedi CJSS Students