



**From
the People of Japan**

Japan extends support for the construction of a pre-primary education unit at Nkoyaphiri Primary School

Gaborone, 21st August 2024 - The Government of Japan and Nkoyaphiri Primary School today celebrated a significant milestone with the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a pre-primary unit. This initiative underscores the continued devotion to fostering educational opportunities in Botswana. The Government of Japan awarded Nkoyaphiri Primary School a grant amounting 66,241 USD through a grant scheme called the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)* for this project. The pre-primary unit will be constructed on the premises of Nkoyaphiri Primary School located in Mogoditshane.

An investment in pre-primary education fosters a strong and equitable society where every child can thrive and reach their full potential. Nkoyaphiri Primary aims to provide such a conducive environment for young children to realize their full abilities. The school prides itself with providing quality education which has been challenged in the past few years due to a limitation in resource particularly quality learning environment. With the support of the Government of Japan, the school will now have a building, with not only two classrooms, but also a sick bay, a kitchen, child friendly bathrooms and offices for teachers.

When delivering her remarks, Ms. Nkhana MOEKETSI, the School Head for Nkoyaphiri Primary School, mentioned that the reception class at Nkoyaphiri Primary School currently has 32 learners that use a storeroom as a classroom. She said that there is a significant need for increased capacity for reception class as is evident by their waiting list. She showed great appreciation for the Government of Japan for the classrooms to be constructed as they have registered 65 learners for the year 2025. With the provision of the pre-primary unit, they will be able to accommodate these learners.

In delivering his keynote speech, H.E. Mr. Setsuo OMHORI, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, highlighted the significance of the project, stating, "I have learnt that Nkoyaphiri Primary School upholds that education is the cornerstone of progress, development, and empowerment. It is the key that unlocks doors of opportunities and paves the way for a brighter future that is why the school motto is *Thuto ke Botho*, meaning education is Humanity. I believe the donation by the People of Japan will ensure that no student is left behind due to limitation of resources and ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning." In addition, Ambassador OHMORI mentioned his hope that the pre-primary unit will stand as proof of the friendship and cooperation of our two countries, as well as all stakeholders.

In his address, Hon. Tumiso RAKGARE, Minister of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture, Member of Parliament for Mogoditshane, highlighted that the gesture made by the Embassy of Japan comes at a time when Mogoditshane has just been declared the biggest village in Botswana with over 88000 residents which comes as no surprise that the schools are crippling with a shortage of resources to accommodate the high rates of children that need to be enrolled in schools. He further recognized the continued support of the Government of Japan to Botswana through programmes such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) established in 1993 when Japan's involvement in Africa's development became more pronounced.

Through the GGP scheme, Japan has supported more than 60 projects in Botswana that address human security issues since 1997. 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.



Remarks by Ambassador OHMORI



**Remarks by Ms. Moeketsi,
Nkoyaphiri Primary School Head**



**Nkoyaphiri Primary School
reception class pupils**



Groundbreaking by Ambassador OHMORI