



**From
the People of Japan**

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

Gaborone, 4th December 2024 - The Government of Japan and Motswedi Community Junior Secondary School celebrated the successful handover of a special education block at Motswedi CJSS, in the South East District, through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). The block was constructed following a grant contract signing agreement between the two organizations in November 2023, when Motswedi CJSS received an amount of USD 77,130 from the Government of Japan through its Embassy in Botswana.

When delivering the welcome remarks, Ms. Mpho Lesego, the School Head for Motswedi CJSS shared that the learner enrolment stands at 1,009, including 74 learners with varying intellectual needs and physical disabilities. She highlighted the school's dedicated efforts to ensure all learners, regardless of their varying learning difficulties, physical disabilities, or socio-economic status, are given the opportunity to succeed. As a testament to their hard work, she noted that every year a significant number of Special Education learners transition to Senior Secondary Schools mainly due to the unwavering support from teachers and teacher aides. She concluded her speech by expressing her gratitude to the People of Japan for their investment in the school and the education of children, stressing that initiatives such as these improve the quality of the life of citizens and went on to commit to improved overall learner achievements.

In delivering his keynote speech, H.E. Mr. OHMORI Setsuo, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, emphasized that the new facility represents a gift of opportunity, growth, and inclusion in education. He highlighted the vital role of education as a powerful tool for change particularly for children with special needs, highlighting how it often serves as a lifeline to discovering their full potential. He also noted that the new facility embodies a renewed commitment to overcoming these barriers, serving as a true testament to the power of communities and relentless determination to foster transformative and enduring change. Addressing the students, he encouraged them to leverage the opportunities before them, reminding them that education is the key to unlocking their full potential and shaping the world around them. In closing, he expressed appreciation to all those involved in making the special education block a reality.

In delivering her Vote of thanks, Ms Reneiloe Shandukani, a student at Motswedi CJSS, shared her heartfelt appreciation for the generous donation by the People of Japan. She went on to share that, the new facility is not just a structure but rather a representation of optimism and advancement for

the school providing learners with additional opportunities to learn in a child friendly environment, motivating students to have grander aspirations for the future. When addressing her peers, she encouraged them to use the opportunity for greatness to show appreciation for the generous donation. Ms Shandukani, on behalf of the students reaffirmed their commitment to utilizing the facility in creating a brighter tomorrow for themselves and the nation at large.

Through the GGP scheme, Japan has supported over 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. In Botswana, from 1997 to date, over 60 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.



Ambassador of Japan to Botswana His Excellency Mr. OHMORI Setsuo delivering the Keynote Speech



School Head of Marulamantsi CJSS Ms. Mpho Lesego giving welcome remarks



Motswedi CJSS Student, Ms. Reneiloe Shandukani giving Vote of Thanks remarks.



Official opening of the SPED block.