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the People of Japan**

## **Japan-Botswana Partnership Boosts Inclusive Education with Special Needs Unit Handover at Gaborone West JSS**

**Gaborone, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025** – The Government of Japan through its Embassy in Botswana officially handed over a newly constructed special education block to Gaborone West Junior Secondary School (JSS) in the South-East District of Botswana. This project was implemented through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), following a grant contract signed in October 2022, where Government of Japan provided USD 72,604 to support construction of this project.

The School Head of Gaborone West JSS, Mr. Frank Tautsagae, expressed gratitude for the support rendered to his school, as he said it is a catalyst in the school's attainment of the Inclusive Education principle, ensuring that no student is left behind. He gave assurance that the facility will be effectively utilized to benefit learners and restoring dignity to its beneficiaries.

Delivering the keynote address, His Excellency Mr. SHINDO Yusuke, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, highlighted that the donation reflects the spirit of collaboration and a shared vision for quality education. He commended Gaborone West JSS for its dedication to supporting learners with diverse disabilities, noting that the new unit further strengthens the school's long-standing commitment to inclusive education. He also underscored the project's alignment with the goals of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), particularly the emphasis on protecting fundamental freedoms and dignity. He remarked: "This donation is a tangible example of the Japan Africa partnership co-creating innovative solutions to societal challenges. It proves that through genuine collaboration, we can empower the next generation to drive Africa's sustainable development, ensuring no one is left behind."

For his part Mr. Thamage Kobe, Acting Chief Education Officer, for South East Region of Botswana, expressed appreciation for the Embassy of Japan's continued support, noting the significant impact of resource classes built this region. He emphasized that such initiatives have positively transformed the learning experience of academically challenged students.

Since 1997, Japan's GGP scheme has supported over 60 projects in Botswana, directly addressing human security issues, which reflects Japan's Long-Term Commitment. These initiatives include among others, the construction of pre-schools, classrooms for students with disabilities, vocational training centres, and rehabilitation facilities. The programme aligns with Botswana's Vision 2036,

particularly the pillar of Human and Social Development, which aspires to build a moral, tolerant, and inclusive society that provides opportunities for all.



**Ambassador of Japan to Botswana His Excellency Mr. SHINDO Yusuke delivering the Keynote Speech**



**Official Opening SPED block**



**Special Education Unit**



**Special Education Unit**