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the People of Japan

The Government of Japan Awards USD 78,474 Grant to Solomon Dihutso Primary School for Three New Classrooms

Mogoditshane, 20th October 2026 - The Government of Japan, through its Embassy in Botswana, has awarded a grant of **USD 78,474** to Solomon Dihutso Primary School in Mogoditshane for the procurement and installation of three prefabricated classroom units. This initiative marks a significant step towards alleviating severe classroom shortages and improving access to quality primary education.

The grant contract was officially signed at Solomon Dihutso Primary School. The project is implemented under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) scheme, which supports community-based initiatives aimed at improving people's everyday lives.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, His Excellency Mr SHINDO Yusuke, highlighted the critical role of adequate educational infrastructure in fostering effective teaching and learning.

"Quality education requires not only dedicated teachers and motivated learners, but also adequate facilities that provide a safe and conducive environment for effective learning and teaching," stated Ambassador Shindo.

Ambassador Shindo noted that Solomon Dihutso Primary School has faced acute classroom shortages, particularly affecting Standard 4 learners. With a cohort of approximately 167 learners divided into five classes but with only two classrooms available, the school has had to operate a shift system that reduced daily instructional hours. The addition of the three prefabricated classrooms will eliminate the shift system for the Standard 4 learners, allowing them to return to full-day classroom instructional time.

Ambassador Shindo emphasized that the grant reflects Japan's unwavering commitment to human security and inclusive community development. He noted that sustainable development begins at the grassroots level and called on both the school and the Mogoditshane-Thamaga District Council to maintain and utilize the new facilities effectively for years to come. Following his remarks, Ambassador Shindo led the official ground-breaking for the new classrooms.

Reaffirming the local authority's commitment, Ms Iris Sitayelo, Council Secretary of the Mogoditshane-Thamaga District Council, assured stakeholders that the project would be implemented

transparently, efficiently and in strict compliance with contractual, legal and quality standards.

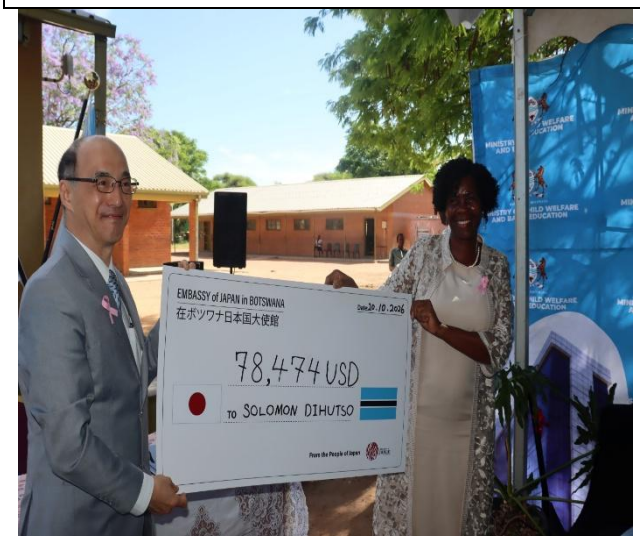
Ms Margaret Koko, Acting Regional Director, Kweneng Educational Region, welcomed the grant as a timely milestone amid growing enrolment pressures. She expressed sincere gratitude to the Government and People of Japan, noting that the new classrooms will provide learners with a safer, more dignified and comfortable learning environment in which to pursue academic excellence.

Closing the ceremony, Honourable Letlhogonolo Barongwang, Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and Member of Parliament for Mogoditshane East, commended the Embassy of Japan and all stakeholders for their commitment to the development of the community. He underscored that strong collaboration between government, local authorities, traditional leaders, parents, and the broader community is essential for empowering children and building an inclusive, prosperous community.

*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 67 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.

	
Chief of Mogoditshane, Kgosi Prince Dihutso delivering the welcome remarks	**Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, His Excellency Mr SHINDO Yusuke delivering the keynote speech**

	
Acting Director, Regional Operations-Kweneng, Ministry of Child Welfare and Basic Education, Ms Margaret Koko delivering her remarks	**Council Secretary, Mogoditshane-Thamaga District Council, Ms Iris Sitayelo delivering her remarks**
	
Assistant Minister, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Member of Parliament Mogoditshane East, Honourable Letlhogonolo Barongwang delivering the Vote	**Official Grant Contract Signing**

of Thanks	
	
Grant Funds	**Official Ground Breaking**