

Press Release

18 September 2020

Japan Donates Food Aid to the Kingdom of Lesotho to Help the Food Insecure

The Embassy of Japan is pleased to announce its Grant aid to the Kingdom of Lesotho, in order to improve food security and aid the economic and social development of the country.

In October 2019, the Government of Lesotho (GOL) declared a drought emergency in the country due to the late onset of rains. In addition to that, the COVID-19 pandemic has directly affected the economy and availability of food in Lesotho since the country's lockdown regulations came into effect on March 29. The number of food insecure households is likely to be 720,000 in rural areas and 179,287 in urban areas this year. Therefore, about 900,000 people (43% of Lesotho's population) in total need food assistance. To support the food insecure, the Japanese government decided to provide Maize meal (about 1,300 tons), fortified foods (about 300 tons) and tinned fish (about 200 tons), etc. to Lesotho through the World Food Programme.

"We hope this donation will contribute to the reduction of food insecurity in Lesotho countries", said H.E. Norio Maruyama – Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Lesotho. "Together we can work towards reducing the country's development challenges, and strengthening our bilateral relations through humanitarian assistance."

Signing Date: 18th September 2020

Main products: Maize, Fortified food, Tinned fish etc.

Grant Amount: JPY 250,000,000 (equivalent to about LSL 39,000,000)

* There is no physical signing ceremony due to COVID-19 restrictions.

For further information, please contact the Embassy of Japan's public relations representative, Ms. Innocent Mohamme, at innocentmohamme@gmail.com.

We thank you for your continued support.

-End of Statement-