

## Press Release

18 September

### Japan Provides Food aid to the Kingdom of Eswatini

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

The effects of the COVID-19 outbreak exacerbated the underlying challenge of national food insecurity following a below-average seasonal performance, high food prices, and limited income sources in the Kingdom of Eswatini. An estimated 301,762 people (*27% of the population*) are at risk of food insecurity. Of this number, 178,544 people (*16% of the population*) are chronically food insecure while an estimated 123,218 people (*11% of the population*) are additionally at risk of food insecurity due to the impact of below-average harvest season. It is estimated that effects of COVID-19 will be particularly harsh for the urban poor (4,665) and rural (118,552) poor. In response to this situation, the government of Japan has decided to provide several food items including maize (about 1,300 tons), Japanese rice (about 500 tons), and beans (about 400pp tons) to Eswatini through World Food Programme(WFP).

“The donation will help meet the heightened need for food assistance during this unprecedented time”, said H.E. Norio Maruyama – Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Eswatini. “Our joint efforts will propel our cooperation in food security to new heights and strengthen our friendship further.”

**Signing Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

**Main commodity:** Maize, Japanese rice, Beans, etc.

**Grant Amount:** JPY 200,000,000 (equivalent to about SZL 31.6million)

\* 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](mailto:innocentmohamme@gmail.com)

We thank you for your continued support.

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