

Press Release

Embassy of Japan

29 April 2022

2022 Spring Conferment of Decoration from Japan The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star Ambassador Richard Ramoetsi

The Government of Japan has announced the foreign recipients of the 2022 Spring Imperial Decoration and Ambassador Richard Ramoetsi is among the recipients by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Ambassador Richard Ramoetsi, former Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho to Japan, received The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star in recognition of his contribution to strengthening bilateral relations and for promoting the friendship between Japan and Lesotho.

Ambassador Ramoetsi has engaged closely with the Government of Japan in numerous diplomatic engagements during his term as Ambassador from 2010 to 2016. One of which is the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), when Prime Minister Thabane attended TICAD V held in Yokohama in 2013 and Prime Minister Mosisili attended TICAD VI held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2016. Especially, his remarkable contribution to the preparation of TICAD VI contributed to the success of this first-ever TICAD held on the African continent.

After his departure from Japan, Ambassador Ramoetsi continued to play a vital role in Japan and Lesotho's bilateral relations. In November 2018, Ambassador Ramoetsi revisited Japan to accompany His Majesty King Letsie III and Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate, which was Their Majesties' memorable first visit to Japan.

Ambassador Ramoetsi also extended his work to higher education in Japan, making several lectures at universities such as Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and Ryukoku University. Introducing Lesotho's diverse culture and traditions to students and lecturers of Japan, Ambassador has fostered friendly bilateral relations.

In the field of business relations, Ambassador Ramoetsi has contributed greatly to enhance business cooperation between Japan and Lesotho. One of the significant achievements is the Lesotho Business Seminar held in Tokyo in 2014, hosted together with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which brought the business community of Japan and Lesotho closer.

Furthermore, Ambassador Ramoetsi has contributed to supporting relief and aid to the people affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake by donating supplies and tree planting in cooperation with NPO Issatsu no Kai. These efforts were greatly appreciated by the local communities.

Ambassador Ramoetsi continuously promotes friendly relations between Japan and Lesotho and the Government of Japan commends his immeasurable contribution.

The date and arrangements for the conferment ceremony will be announced in due course.

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