



**From
the People of Japan**

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN PROVIDES FOOD ASSISTANCE TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO THROUGH THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

MASERU, 18 December 2023 – Mr USHIO Shigeru, Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Lesotho, signed an Exchange of Notes (E/N) with Ms Aurore Rusiga, Country Director and Representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) in the Kingdom of Lesotho, to formalise a grant of 150,000,000 Japanese Yen (approximately LEL 19,000,000) to implement the Food Assistance Programme through WFP to the Kingdom of Lesotho. The Government of Japan has continuously supported the Kingdom of Lesotho with food assistance in cooperation with WFP since 2002.

The Kingdom of Lesotho is facing a shortage of food due to severe weather conditions, such as heavy rains and floods, that led to a poor harvest. The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho is encountering an increased number of households where the most affected are children and vulnerable communities.

In response to this situation, the Government of Japan has decided to provide food assistance including vegetable oil (about 115 tons), yellow split peas (about 150 tons), and Japanese tinned fish (about 60 tons) to the Kingdom of Lesotho, through cooperation with WFP.

At the signing ceremony, Ambassador Ushio said, “Japan has committed to assisting with Food Aid to Lesotho in cooperation with the WFP since 2002. The two countries have also worked together to improve food productivity in Lesotho for a long time. To alleviate the food shortage affecting those who are in need, I am hopeful that the food assistance illustrates Japan’s commitment towards eradicating hunger and ending malnutrition in all its forms.”

Signing Date: 18 December 2023

Main commodity: Vegetable oil, yellow split peas, Japanese tinned fish.

Grant Amount: JPY 150,000,000 (approximately LSL 19,000,000)

-End of Statement-