



Signing and Exchange of Notes for the Provision of Four Wheelchair-Accessible School Buses for disabled students in Eswatini through the Economic and Social Development Plan

Eswatini, 8 December 2025 – Ambassador Fumio Shimizu signed and exchanged a letter of grant assistance valued at ¥103 million (approximately US\$660,000) with the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development of Eswatini for the implementation of “The Economic and Social Development Plan” for Eswatini. The signing ceremony was hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry of Economic Development and Planning of Eswatini, and attended by Deputy Prime Minister Thulisile Dladla and Minister of Economic Planning and Development Dr. E.T. Gina.

In the Kingdom of Eswatini, insufficient public transport and the absence of accessible infrastructure present significant barriers to school attendance for children with disabilities, restricting their access to learning opportunities. This project aims to improve the vulnerable commuting environment that students with mental and physical disabilities face by providing four wheelchair-accessible school buses. This will enable disabled learners to commute to school alongside other students, and help to eliminate educational inequalities associated with disabilities.

Project Name: FY2025 Grant Aid Project “The Economic and Social Development Plan”

Project Summary: Provision of Four Wheelchair-Accessible School Buses

Implementing Agency: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Signatory: Minister of Economic Planning and Development, Dr. Elieser Thambo Gina

Grant Amount: ¥103 million (approximately US\$6.6 million)

