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Speech by Mr. Tsuguyoshi Hada, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Embassy of Japan, at the Handing Over Ceremony for 'The Project for Provision Garbage Compactor Truck to Nadi Town Council'

Wednesday, 19 October 2016, 9.30am, at Nadi Town Council Chambers

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Honourable Parveen Kumar, Minister for Local Government, Housing & Environment, Infrastructure & Transport,

Honourable Semi Koroilavesau, Minister for Fisheries

Honourable Members of Parliament

**Government Officials** 

Mr. Robin Ali, Special Administrator, Nadi Town Council,

Mr. Peter Dining, Chief Executive officer, Nadi Town council

Turaga in Koros

Nadi Town Community,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good Morning, Yadra Vinaka, Assalam-Alaikum, Namaste and Ohayo Gozaimasu.

I wish to thank Nadi Town Council for the warm welcome extended to me this morning. It gives me great pleasure to say that in a short period of time, since the March 2016 formalization

of this project, today I am able to hand over this new garbage compactor truck to Nadi Town Council.

The Government of Japan has provided funding worth One Hundred and Seventy Nine Thousand and Forty-Three Fiji Dollars (FJD 179, 043) for the purchase of this new compactor truck. This project has been implemented through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme or GGP in short.

Nadi is known as the Tourism Town of Fiji. Very soon it will become Fiji's Tourism City. The Government of Fiji has taken a lot of initiatives to improve the facilities to make Nadi a new city. Such noticeable improvements are the upgrading of Nadi International Airport and construction of 4-lane highways. These improvements will also make the stay of tourists more enjoyable and attract more tourists in future. Apart from these developments, there has been a rapid increase in the number of businesses and housings within the Nadi town area. As a result, the work load for the council to collect garbage has increased.

Despite being in charge of the fastest growing district in Fiji, Nadi Town Council has always outsourced garbage trucks from private companies for waste management services. I hope that with its compacting ability, this new truck will be able to assist Town Council's effort through maximizing its carting capacity and at the same time minimizing spillage of waste during transportation.

Aside from the obvious benefits of cleanliness, a good waste management system is also crucial to maintaining an investorfriendly township and soon to be 'City' which shall benefit the residents, investors, tourists and future generations of Nadi.

It is also encouraging to see that this project is aligned to Fiji's Green Growth Framework. The implementation of our assistance in line with this country's development aspirations is underlying reason to Japan's Development Cooperation with Fiji.

Since 1990 Japan has been providing assistance to grassroots communities in Fiji through 341 GGP projects, with the total value exceeding US\$19 million. It is my honour to reiterate that Japan is committed to providing continued assistance for the nation building in Fiji.

I sincerely hope that with proper care and timely maintenance, this new garbage compactor truck will continue to serve the people of Nadi for many years ahead.

I conclude with confidence that this project will further strengthen the friendship between the people and governments of Japan and Fiji.

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, Shukryia, Dhanyavaadh, and Arigato Gozaimasu.

The End.