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the People of Japan

PRESS RELEASE

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Japan Hands Over New Blood Donor Bus to the Northern Division

The Government of Japan provided FJ\$195,023 to the Fiji National Blood Service (FNBS) for the purchase of a new blood donor bus for the Northern Division. This project was implemented under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. In the presence of Hon. Alex O'Connor, Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services, Mr. Tsuguyoshi Hada, Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan, will hand over the blood donor bus to FNBS at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 20 October 2017, at Labasa Hospital.

For further queries, please contact Mr. Peni Saurara on email address: peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp or eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp or phone number: **330-4633**.

Details for the Project for Provision of Blood Donor Bus to the Northern Division

1. Basis for Implementing the Project

Due to the lack of a proper blood donor bus, the Northern Division team of FNBS has been collecting blood donations mainly at the Labasa Hospital, but the donor turnout has been low and the number of blood donations in 2015 was only half the targeted amount. This led FNBS to plan mobile blood donor drives across Labasa and surrounding areas, but without a proper blood donor bus, FNBS had to borrow Labasa Hospital's general vehicle. The staff then had to set up a simple makeshift tent on the site with a single bed, without the necessary special equipment to make the process safer and more sanitary. This project aims to address these challenges by providing a fully equipped blood donor bus that can increase the number of voluntary blood donors in the Northern Division.

2. Basic Information

- (a) Donor: Embassy of Japan in Fiji
- (b) Recipient: Fiji National Blood Service
- (c) Total Value of the Funding Assistance: FJ\$195,023 for the provision of a new blood donor bus.

3. Long term Benefits of the Project

The new blood donor bus will enable the Fiji National Blood Service team in the Northern Division to plan and conduct blood drives more efficiently and effectively for the entire island of Vanua Levu. This will encourage existing and potential donors to donate blood at regular intervals and help Fiji achieve its target of 90% voluntary blood donation by 2018, as a practical pathway towards attaining the World Health Organization's target of 100% voluntary blood donation by 2020.

4. Overview of the GGP Programme in Fiji

The GGP Programme is part of the overall Japanese ODA implemented by the Embassy of Japan in order to empower the people and the community from the grassroots level. The GGP Programme in Fiji has been widely implemented in areas such as education, water supply, health, transportation, IT, agriculture and fisheries since 1990. To date, more than 353 projects have been implemented under the GGP Programme which amounts to an approximate value exceeding USD 23.63 million.

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