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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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**Date: 19 January 2018**

## **Japan Formalizes Assistance to Gospel School for the Deaf, Labasa Divisional Hospital and Nausori Special School**

The Government of Japan will provide assistance worth US\$218,729 to Gospel School for the Deaf, Labasa Divisional Hospital and Nausori Special School through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. H.E. Mr. Masahiro Omura, Ambassador of Japan, will sign on three grant contracts with the respective recipient representatives to formalize Japan's assistance at a signing ceremony that will be hosted by the Embassy of Japan, at Level 2, BSP Life Centre, Suva, at 10:00 am on Monday, 22 January 2018.

You are most welcome to the ceremony. For further queries, please contact Mr. Peni Saurara on email address: [peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp) or [eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp) and phone number: 3304633.

### ***Details for the Three Respective Projects***

1. The Project for Provision of School Bus to Gospel School for the Deaf
  - (a) Recipient: Gospel School for the Deaf (Central Division)
  - (b) Grant Contract Signatory: Mr. Howard Politini, Board Chairman for Gospel School for the Deaf
  - (c) Details: Gospel School for the Deaf will receive up to US\$50,112 for the purchase of a 30-seater school bus to replace the school's 14-year old 30-seater bus. The school's roll has now grown to 56 students, which burdens the school's existing vehicles. The worsening condition of the bus has rendered them unsafe and inconvenient to students due to their frequent breakdowns. This affects the performance of the students who are unable to arrive in school on time and also causes parents to worry because of the high risk of accidents. Additionally, with the current bus, the school is unable to reach out to students with hearing impairment in need of special education in the Suva Nausori corridor. This project aims to boost the daily operations and outreach capabilities of the school by providing reliable and regular transport to students with hearing impairment.
  
2. The Project for Provision of Ambulance to Labasa Divisional Hospital
  - (a) Recipient: Labasa Divisional Hospital (Northern Division)
  - (b) Grant Contract Signatory: Mr. Jaoji Vulibeci, Medical Superintendent
  - (c) Details: Labasa Divisional Hospital will receive up to US\$80,681 for the purchase of a new ambulance. There is growing demand for medical transfers from sub-division health centres and nursing stations to the Labasa Divisional Hospital. The current ambulance burdens the Hospital with huge repairs and maintenance cost due to the poor road conditions. The project aims to assist the Hospital in providing easy access to patients during an emergency, pre-hospital medical care and medical transfers. The new ambulance will also provide 24/7 response to medical and trauma related emergencies which will improve the hospital response-time to the sick and injured persons in the northern division.

# **PRESS RELEASE**

3. The Project for Upgrading Nausori Special School
  - (a) Recipient: Nausori Special School (Central Division)
  - (b) Grant Contract Signatory: Mr. Jitendra Bhan, School Manager
  - (c) Details: Nausori Special School will receive up to US\$87,936 for the construction of a 3-classroom block. With the increase in student enrolments in 2016, the School is faced with the financial burden to improve its faculties and facilities. The school's existing 5-classrooms could not accommodate current students and often resulted in overcrowding. Out of the total 5 classrooms, 4 classrooms are used by year 1 to 5 students and the entire pre-vocational curriculum is carried under one classroom. This includes screen printing, sewing as well as baking and cooking. Through the construction of classrooms, this project aims to enhance the access and delivery of quality education for children with special needs.

The GGP Programme is part of the overall Japanese ODA implemented by the Embassy of Japan in order to empower the people 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, 353 projects have been implemented under the GGP Programme which amount to an approximate value exceeding USD 23.64 million.

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