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the People of Japan

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Japan Hands Over New Facilities to Waicoba District School and Sigatoka School for Special Education**

The Government of Japan is pleased to announce the completion of a three – classroom block equipped with furniture at Waicoba District School as well as the procurement of a new school bus for Sigatoka School for Special Education.

The assistance to the two schools is funded by Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. The total value of assistance is worth FJ\$284,642. H.E Mr. Takuji Hanatani, Ambassador of Japan, will hand over the new facilities and equipment to Waicoba District School and Sigatoka School for Special Education at respective ceremonies to be hosted by both accordingly schools at 10:00a.m. and 1.00p.m. on Friday, 24 July, 2015.

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 [oejeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:oejeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp) and phone number: 3304633.

### **Details for the Two Respective Projects**

#### 1. The Project for Upgrading of Waicoba District School

##### (1) Basis for Implementing the Project

Waicoba District School had been facing difficulties in delivering proper education to its students due to improper school infrastructure. The old wooden classroom block constructed back in 1965 had greatly deteriorated with fallen ceiling, broken floors and walls with leaking roofs and shaky walls during rainy and windy days. An OHS inspection had revealed that the deteriorating structural components risked the safety of both students and teachers. Hence, upon recognizing Waicoba District School's urgent need for assistance, the Embassy of Japan committed to provide funding assistance under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme to the school for construction of a new three-classroom block with furniture. This project is aimed at providing a safe environment to both students and teachers that is conducive to learning.

##### (2) Basic Information

- (a) Donor: Embassy of Japan in Fiji
- (b) Recipient: Waicoba District School
- (c) Total Value of the Funding Assistance: F\$162,990 for construction of a three-classroom block equipped with school furniture.

##### (3) Long Term Benefits of the Project

Besides ensuring safety of the school community, this project will further open doors for new intakes in the new fiscal year, as well as enhance the overall delivery of quality education.

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## 2. The Project for Provision of School Bus to Sigatoka School for Special Education

### (1) Basis for Implementing the Project

Sigatoka School for Special Education had been using an 18-year old 7-seater minivan to transport students to and from school. The increment in the school's roll to 55 had caused congestion problems in the schools existing vehicles. The aforementioned minivan's current aging condition had made it unsafe and inconvenient for students to travel on due to its frequent sudden breakdowns. This affected the performance of the students who were unable to reach school on time which became a matter of concern for both the teachers and parents. As further use of the existing bus may put the safety of its passengers at risk, the Government of Japan decided to fund the purchase of a new 30 seater school bus that will enable the school to continue serving its current students and enhance its outreach capabilities to greater areas of Sigatoka that may have children with special needs who might not have received any formal education.

### (2) Basic Information

- (a) Donor: Embassy of Japan in Fiji
- (b) Recipient: Sigatoka School for Special Education
- (c) Total Value of the Funding Assistance: F\$121,652 for purchase of a 30 seater school bus.

### (3) Long Term Benefits of the Project

Availability of a new school bus to Sigatoka School for Special Education will minimize the high risk of accidents which could have occurred with the use of the old minivan and will further contribute towards the enhancement of special education in the Sigatoka area.

## 3. 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 and education, transportation and IT, agriculture and fisheries since 1990. To date, more than 320 projects have been implemented under the GGP Programme which amount to an approximate value of USD 18 million.

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