

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Takuji Hanatani, Ambassador of Japan,  
At the Handing Over Ceremony for “The Project for  
Provision of Garbage Truck to Savusavu Town” funded by the  
Government of Japan**

Wednesday, 16 September 2015, 11:00 a.m. at Savusavu Town Council  
Building

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Honourable Lorna Eden, Assistant Minister for Local  
Government, Housing and Environment,

Mr. Vijay Chand, Special Administrator, Savusavu Town Council,

Mr. Justin Hunter, President Savusavu Chamber of Commerce  
and Savusavu Tourism Association,

Staff of Savusavu Town Council,

People of Savusavu,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning, Yadra Vinaka, Namaste and Ohayou Gozaimasu.

I wish to thank Savusavu Town Council for the warm welcome  
extended to me and my colleague. This is my first visit to  
Savusavu and I have to acknowledge that I am taken by the  
friendliness of the people here, the natural pristine beauty and

greenery all around. I now understand why Savusavu is called the `Hidden Paradise of Fiji`.

Today, I am very pleased to hand over the new five tonne garbage compactor truck to the Savusavu Town Council. The Government of Japan has provided funding worth One Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fiji Dollars (FJ\$175,900) for this project, which is being implemented through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme, or GGP in short.

This garbage compactor truck has greater loading capacity than ordinary trucks and as a result of its compacting ability, there's minimal spillage of waste during transportation. Overall, this project will help enhance waste management and sanitation as well as help reduce the risk of diseases, for the benefit of the Savusavu Town community.

It gives me great joy to say that in line with the joint commitment made by the Leaders of Pacific Island Countries

and Japan at the Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM7) in May this year, today we are able to deliver practical results. Cooperation for waste management is a key component under the broader commitment on environment that is collectively endorsed by the Leaders through the PALM7 Leaders' Declaration.

The other important element for Japan's commitment to this project is that it is aligned with the Fiji Government's waste management strategy under its National Urban and Peri-Urban Development Framework. Such alignment of our assistance with Fiji's development objectives is fundamental to Japan's overall ODA delivery in Fiji.

Fiji is a favored tourist destination to many foreigners. As such, Savusavu has earned itself the reputation of being 'an exotic tourist destination within Fiji'. I am delighted that this project will help Savusavu Town Council serve its community as well as generally contribute to the cleanliness and beautification of

Savusavu, which is a desirable feature for any tourist destination.

At this juncture, I would like to highlight that since 1990, Japan has been providing continued assistance to grassroots communities in Fiji through implementing 327 GGP projects, with the total value exceeding US\$18 million. As Fiji continues its nation-building process in the years ahead, Japan remains committed to providing assistance for the socio-economic development and enhancement of human security in Fiji.

I hope that with proper maintenance and care this garbage compactor truck will continue to serve your community for many years and help Savusavu shine, just like its world famous pearls!

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

**Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, Dhanyavaadh and Arigatō  
Gozaimasu.**

**The End.**