

PRESS RELEASE

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Japan Hands Over a New Kindergarten and Toilet Block to Uluibau District School in Macuata, Vanua Levu

The Government of Japan is pleased to announce the completion of a new kindergarten equipped with furniture and a toilet block at Uluibau District School. This was funded by Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. The total value of assistance is F\$79,950. H.E. Mr. Takuji Hanatani, Ambassador of Japan, will hand over the new facilities to Uluibau District School at a ceremony to be held at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, 3 July 2015, at the school.

We welcome your attendance at the Ceremony, and for further queries please contact Mr. Peni Saurara on email address: <u>peni.saurara@fj.mofa.go.jp</u> or <u>eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp</u> and telephone number: 3304633.

Details for the Project for Upgrading Uluibau District School

1. Basis for Implementing the Project

Uluibau District School had been facing difficulties in regard to its facilities and in 2013, the Macuata Rural Local Authority issued an order to cease the use of an old staff quarters as a kindergarten and provide a proper classroom due to the high risk of injury in the deteriorated building. The school was also asked to deal with its old toilet block's unsanitary state by constructing a new one on flat land. The old toilet block was located at the bottom of a slope, causing rain water runoff to seep into the toilets and its septic tank. This led to the overflowing of wastewater, which put the health of both the students and teachers at risk. Upon recognizing Uluibau 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 toilet block and a kindergarten with brand new desks and chairs. This is all aimed at safeguarding the health and safety of the students as well as to encourage learning.

- 2. Basic Information
- (a) Donor : Embassy of Japan in Fiji
- (b) Recipient: Uluibau District School (Macuata)
- (c) Total Value of the Funding Assistance: F\$79,950 for the construction of a toilet block and a kindergarten with students' desks and chairs.
- 3. Long Term Benefits of the Project

This project will provide an environment which is less hazardous and minimize the risk of diseases through construction of new educational and toilet facilities at Uluibau District School. It also hopes to improve access to mandatory early childhood education for children of surrounding villages and settlements besides helping enhance the overall delivery of quality education.

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 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 320 projects have been implemented under the GGP Programme which amount to an approximate value of USD 18 million.

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