
**Speech by H.E. Mr. Masahiro OMURA, Ambassador of Japan, at the Grant Contract
Signing Ceremony for the Nasinu Town Council**

Monday, 26 February 2018, 3:00p.m, Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment

The Honourable Praveen Kumar Bala, Minister for Local Government,
Housing and Environment, Infrastructure and Transport

Mr. Mosese Kama, Special Administrator, Nasinu Town Council,

And

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good Morning, Bula Vinaka, Namaste and Ohayo Gozaimasu.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your warm hospitality accorded to me and my colleagues. I also wish to extend my gratitude to the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment for hosting this ceremony. Today, we have gathered here to sign the grant contract formalizing Japan's assistance to Nasinu Town Council.

I am very pleased to say that the Government of Japan will be providing;

Two- hundred thirty two Thousand US dollars (USD 232,237) for "The Project for Provision of Garbage Compactor Trucks to Nasinu Town".

This project will be funded through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme or GGP in short.

The Project is part of our continued commitment in assisting municipal councils in Fiji to create cleaner and healthier environment for its communities.

The Government of Japan has recently assisted Nasinu Town Council in 2014, with the provision of a five ton garbage compactor truck. I have been reliably informed that this garbage truck is still fully operational.

I am keenly aware of the constant struggles the Council endures, as it is often highlighted in the media. I commend the tremendous effort of Council workers and residents of Nasinu in addressing the issue of garbage collection and littering.

I understand that Nasinu is experiencing an accelerated population growth due to an influx of in-migration. Additionally, Nasinu, currently hosts 18 informal settlements, is developing new subdivisions and there are plans to absorb the Tacirua Area under the Council waste collection jurisdiction. The vast area coverage and burgeoning population has placed a lot of stress on the available labour and machinery of the waste collection team.

The degree of difficulty in waste collection for Nasinu Town council is unparalleled, however this can be mitigated with the right equipment and commitment.

Upon implementation, I am confident that this project will help address the difficulties faced by Nasinu Town Council and assist in the accomplishment of its respective goals.

I am pleased to inform you that this project is in line with Fiji government's national development objectives. Such development harmonisation is the key to Japan's development cooperation with this country.

Furthermore, I would like to highlight that over the years a number of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers have served in Fiji and the region, contributing to the development of the waste management sector.

Let me introduce Ms. Shoko Tanaka, one of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, who is stationed with Nasinu Town Council to facilitate improving environment in Nasinu Town. In her tenure she has been positively contributing to the waste management programme.

Since 1990, Japan has been providing assistance to grassroots communities in Fiji through 359 GGP projects, with the total value exceeding Twenty-Four Million US Dollars (US\$24 million).

I wish to kindly urge Nasinu Town Council that upon receiving the two compactor trucks, it should exercise timely maintenance. This will ensure its longevity in serving the people of Nasinu.

It is my honour to reaffirm Japan's commitment to providing continued assistance for the sustainable development of Fiji.

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

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, Dhanyavaadh and Arigato Gozaimasu.

The End.