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the People of Japan

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Japan Hands Over Maritime Safety and Security Equipment to the Fiji Police Force**

The Government of Japan is pleased to announce the finalisation of the procurement of Maritime Safety and Security Equipment for the Fiji Police Force, valued at 300 million Japanese Yen (App. FJ\$5.5m) under its Grant Aid titled 'Economic Social Development Programme' (ESDP).

H.E. Mr. KAWAKAMI Fumihiro, Ambassador of Japan to Fiji, will hand-over the equipment to Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management and Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, at a handing over ceremony hosted by the Fiji Police Force, at **10:00AM, on Tuesday, 02 March 2021, at the Police Support Response Unit Head Quarters, Suva.**

We welcome your attendance at the ceremony, and 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 telephone number: (+679)3304633.

### **Details of the "Economic Social Development Programme"**

1. Purpose: Procurement of Maritime Safety and Security Equipment
2. End-User : Fiji Police Force
3. The nature of Fiji Police Force's operations covers the whole of Fiji which consists of 330 islands that are spread across its maritime zone. Most of these islands are vulnerable to natural disasters including cyclones, earthquake and flooding. Fiji's recent experience of TC Yasa and flooding caused by TC Ana has enforced the need to have a more capable and well equipped search and rescue operations facility serving coastal maritime areas. To enhance Fiji Police Force's capacity in search and rescue operations, Japan supported the procurement of maritime safety and security equipment such as life boats, lifesaving launcher, equipment for scuba diving, underwater communication equipment etc. with the aim to further enhance police operations and disaster preparedness in Fiji.
4. **Background of the Economic Social Development Programme**  
Japan's grant aid, the 'Economic Social Development Programme', is a type of assistance which supports the socio-economic development efforts, including poverty reduction, of developing countries. The ESDP enables import of goods, machinery and other amenities (industrial materials such as petroleum and steel products etc.) necessary to promote national development efforts of recipient countries.  
A total of five ESDPs have been implemented in Fiji since 2016 with a total funding of 2.3B JPY approximately FJ\$40.12M.

**END.**