

パルビーン कुमार बाला
The Honorable Parveen Kumar Bala, Minister for Employment,
Productivity and Industrial Relations and Youth & Sports,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon, Bula Vinaka, Namaste.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the Honourable Minister and the Ministry for the warm hospitality accorded to us today as well as for hosting this Grant Contract Signing Ceremony.

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, it is my honor to formalize with the Honorable Minister, the Japanese Government's Grant Assistance for the "Provision of Livestock breeding Facility for livelihoods of Youth Clubs" in Fiji.

I am very pleased to say that the Government of Japan will provide Sixty thousand US Dollars (USD 60,211) to the Ministry for procurement of piggery facilities and equipment for Maisuka Youth

マ イ ス カ

ナンガラニクラ
Club and Naqalanikula Youth Club as well as layer poultry farming
facilities and equipment for Holy Spiritual Congregation Youth Club,
through our Grassroots Grant Assistance.

In his request for assistance, the Honourable Minister prioritized this project as essential for improving livelihoods of communities through the development of youth clubs.

Fiji is a young country with around 62 percent of the population below the age of 35.

We believe that supporting the economic activities of the youth will have a very positive effect on the economic development of Fiji, and decided to provide assistance based on our development cooperation policy titled, “Strengthening of the Basis for Economic Growth”.

Upon implementation of this project, I earnestly look forward to the ministry providing training on livestock management, project management and financial literacy to the youth of the recipient communities.

Since 1990 , the Government of Japan has provided a total of One Hundred and Forty Seven Thousand US Dollars (USD146,786), approximately Three hundred and Seven Thousand Fijian Dollars through the Japanese NGO namely, “The Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International or OISCA(オイスカ)” for capacity building and implementation of training programmes for youths in various fields.

This project is the first, through which we are directly funding the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

We strongly hope that our support combined with the ministry’s assistance in implementing this project, will lead to the empowerment of the youth of the respective recipient communities by enabling them to learn valuable livelihoods skills through running piggery and layer poultry farming operations.

They will gain expertise in income generating activities as well as acquire knowledge on how to better protect their environment and resources.

The added advantage of this assistance is that the youth will not be the only beneficiaries.

When the youths share their newly acquired skills in the community, and when the earnings from the piggery and layer poultry farming start flowing within the community, the wider delivery of this project will occur.

It is my privilege to reaffirm Japan's commitment to provide continued assistance for the capacity building and skills development of the youth of Fiji as well as for the sustainable development of Fiji.

Since 1990, Japan has implemented 399 Projects under its Grassroots Grant Assistance (with the total value exceeding 28 million USD).

The youth are our future. I would like to praise the Honorable Minister for your leading role in ensuring empowerment of the Youths and sports development in Fiji.

I am happy to see this project materializing as an integral part of our continued partnership with the Fijian Government, aimed at assisting its effort in empowering the youths who are the leaders of tomorrow.

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

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, Dhanyavaadh and Arigato Gozaimasu.

END