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Speech by Mr. TANAKA Kenichiro, Counsellor,  
At the Handing Over Ceremony for Emission Testing Equipment to Land Transport Authority  
on Friday, 2nd September 2022, at 10:00 am, LTA, Valelevu

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Mr. James Sowane, Board Chair of Land Transport Authority,

Mr. Flagon Bekker, CEO of Land Transport Authority,

Government Officials,

Media Partners,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning, Bula Vinaka, Namaste, and Ohayo Gozaimasu.

I convey my heartfelt appreciation to the Board Chairman and the Land Transport Authority for hosting me and my staff on this occasion. I also thank you for the warm hospitality accorded to us this morning.

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, I am honoured to hand over Emission Testing Equipment, worth \$89,354 USD to the Land Transport Authority. The project was made possible through Japan's Grassroots Grant Assistance Scheme (GGP), and I am pleased to say that since 1990, the Government of Japan has funded 415 such projects for

the sustainable development of Fiji with a total value exceeding \$31 million USD.

It is a fact that climate change presents unique challenges to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Fiji. SIDS are among the least responsible of all nations for climate change, but they are likely to suffer strongly from its adverse effects and could in some cases even become uninhabitable. For SIDS like Fiji, Global temperature changes of 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures and beyond will have disastrous impacts on the environment, infrastructure, and livelihoods.

To help the fight against global warming, I understand that Fiji has committed to achieving net-zero global greenhouse gas (GHG) emission by 2050 as its National Determined Contributions and as such, has developed strategies and policies such as the National Climate Change Policy which provides the mandate for the National Adaptation Process as well as the Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS).

One of the targets in the LEDS is for improved accessibility and connectivity to environmentally sustainable road transport that will reduce vehicle emissions and its adverse impacts on the health of Fiji citizens and the environment.

In line with the Fijian Government's commitment and LTA's efforts to significantly reduce GHG emissions, and stabilize greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the Government of Japan decided to provide funding for the procurement of Emission Testing Equipment. These equipment will support LTA in monitoring motor vehicle emission standards through more regular motor vehicle tests and I understand that the data gathered, will be used to establish standards for petrol vehicles and review emission standards for diesel vehicles in Fiji.

At this juncture, I wish to commend the efforts of LTA in commendably ensuring that the institution is effective in its commitment to enhancing road safety in Fiji, and contribute towards achieving Sustainable

Development Goal 13. It is indeed very encouraging to see that this project will help 8 different LTA inspection centers on Vanualevu and Vitilevu, in its bid to monitor motor vehicle emissions around the country.

I am happy that Japan's assistance to this project is in harmony with Fiji's Twenty Year and Five Year Development Plan, particularly in line with its policy namely, "Ensure environmentally sustainable transportation for all Fijians based on the principles of the Green Growth Framework"- of which Reducing carbon 'footprints' at all levels, is an important guiding principle. Such alignment of these types of projects with Fiji's National Development aspirations is key to Japan's Development Cooperation with Fiji.

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

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, Dhanyavaadh and Arigato Gozaimasu.

**END**