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Speech by Mr. TANAKA Kenichiro, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of Japan to the Republic of Fiji,  
at the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for Buasali Development Committee  
Friday, 24th March 2023, at 11:00 am at the Embassy of Japan, Suva

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Mr. Nacanieli Nakoronivalu, Chairman of Buasali Development  
Committee,

Representatives from Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yadra Vinaka, Namaste, Good Morning and Ohayo Gozaimasu to  
you all,

I welcome you all to the Embassy of Japan in Fiji. Today, we  
have gathered here to sign the grant contracts and formalize Japan's  
assistance towards the development sector in Fiji.

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, it is my honor  
to formalize with Buasali Development Committee, the Japanese  
Government's Grant Assistance for "The Project for Procurement of  
Boat with Outboard Engine in Tamusua Village", providing the  
approximate funding of Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Fijian

Dollars (FJ\$ 219,494 (US\$ 97,984)). I am pleased to say that the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry Office will support this project through the training program that address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and ensures monitoring of these activities.

This project will be implemented through Japan's "Grassroots Grant Assistance scheme" (or the GGP). I wish to take this opportunity to highlight that since 1990, Japan has implemented 422 GGP projects, which are collectively worth more than US\$32 million, to assist grassroots communities of Fiji.

This project is considered significant in the following ways;

1. Firstly, Tamasua Village has no proper transportation, especially when delivering fish products to the main market in Lautoka and transporting patients in emergency cases. It gives me great joy to see that the implementation of this project will improve fish product delivery and aid in transportation making the lives of the

people of Tamasua Village easy. Upon the completion of the project, we hope that the livelihood and safety of people will be enhanced, guaranteeing peace of mind for the entire community.

2. Secondly, His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, President of the Republic of Fiji, during his speech of the Opening of the 2023-2024 Session of Parliament, highlighted that a prime objective is to improve the economic position and lift living standards of villages and settlements. I believe that the assistance provided by the People and Government of Japan will boost socio-economic development by increasing the involvement in commerce.

I am very pleased to say that Japan's strong commitment towards improving livelihoods in Fiji formed the basis for our decision to award this funding which will greatly benefit the transportation method, as the 10 meter long boat with two outboard engines will support and help further the development of Tamasua Village.

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 Arigatou Gozaimasu.

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