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# PRESS RELEASE

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## Japan Provides Wheelchair Accessible Van to Spinal Injury Association

The Government of Japan provided assistance worth FJD \$119,986 to Spinal Injury Association, for the Project for Provision of a Wheelchair Accessible Van through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme.

Mr. Kenichiro Tanaka, the Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to the Republic of Fiji, will hand over the van to the Acting Director for Social Welfare, Mrs. Dilitiana Baleinabuli on behalf of the Spinal Injury Association at the NCPD Complex, 3 Brown Street, Suva at 3pm on 11 May 2023.

We welcome your attendance at the ceremony, and for further queries please contact Ms. Mele Raturaga on email address; [mele.raturaga@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:mele.raturaga@fj.mofa.go.jp) or [eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp](mailto:eojeconomics@fj.mofa.go.jp) and telephone number: (+679) 3304633.

### Details for the Project

#### Basis of Implementing the Project

The Spinal Injury Association has been facing many difficulties in assisting people living with disabilities particularly people with transporting people with spinal injuries or amputations and those in need of mobility devices as well.

Previously, the association has been using a van that has been on the road for more than 20 years and the recently purchased twin-cab in 2018. Its condition has deteriorated through various high cost maintenance and repairs, and it is an added burden to the association.

In recognizing the hardship faced by the association, the Embassy has provided the association with an accessible van to assist them in their core role in providing transportation services for people with spinal injuries or, amputations, and to deliver mobility devices to those that need them including the interior of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

- (1) **Project title:** The Project for Provision of Wheelchair Accessible Van to Spinal Injury Association
- (2) **Recipient:** Spinal Injury Association
- (3) **Grant amount:** FJ \$119,986 (US \$57,989)
- (4) **Purpose:** Provision of Wheelchair Accessible Van.

Since 1990, the Embassy of Japan in Fiji has widely implemented GGP projects in areas such as education, water supply, health, transportation, IT, agriculture and fisheries. To date, the Embassy has formalized 421 projects, which amount to an approximate value of USD \$32 million.

**END.**