

The Honorable Jese Saukuru, Minister for Youth and Sports, Distinguished
Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning, Yadra Vinaka, Namaste and Konnichiwa.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Hon.
Minister Saukuru, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and Holy Spiritual
Congregation Youth Club for hosting this Handover ceremony as well as
for the warm hospitality extended to us today.

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, I am honored to hand
over the Poultry Shed, Cage, Feeder and Drinker, Layer Chicken, and
Chicken Feed to the Hon. Minister, worth approximately Thirty five
thousand Fiji Dollars (FJD 35,338). I thank all those involved, who patiently
and steadily continued and completed the work despite the limitations
imposed by the COVID pandemic.

Besides improving the collective livelihoods of the youths and the villagers, the new poultry farming facility will benefit them through enhancing their knowledge and skills on equipment maintenance as well as improve their know-how on sound upkeep of farm facilities. After the impact of the pandemic, I am confident that such revitalization of Fiji's youth will meaningfully contribute towards boosting Fiji's economic growth.

This support for Holy Spiritual Congregation Youth Club is part of the “Project for Provision of Livestock breeding Facility for livelihood of Youth Clubs” which was signed in 2020. This project was requested by the Ministry to provide opportunities to different youth clubs to earn a living, geared towards improving their standard of living and for the broader well-being of their grassroots communities. Upon recognizing the importance of the proposal, the Embassy decided to provide assistance based on our development cooperation policy of supporting the ‘Basis for Economic Growth’.

This project includes support for two other youth clubs in addition to Holy Spiritual Congregation Youth Club. One is ‘Naqaranikula Youth Club’, to which we have handed over a new piggery in September 2022; and the other is, ‘Maisuka Youth Club’, for which the construction of a new piggery is well underway and will be completed in due course. The total amount of this project is One Hundred Nineteen thousand Fiji Dollars (FJD118,923).

This project is being implemented under the Government of Japan’s Grassroots Grant Assistance scheme or GGP. Since 1990, Japanese Government has implemented 423 projects through its Grassroots Grant Assistance scheme, with the total value exceeding 32 million US dollars.

It gives me further pleasure to say that in addition to the funding for the three Youth Groups under the Livestock Project, Japan and the Ministry of Youth and Sports have further partnered to implement a project for construction of a new training facility for Nasau Youth Training Centre. This project is completed and ready for handover to the eager recipient. As

the Ministry continues its empowerment of the youth in the years ahead, Japan remains committed to providing assistance and continuing its partnership with the Ministry.

I express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and all stakeholders for their efforts to complete this project. A key part of our engagement with this project is partnering with the Fiji Government to empower the leaders of tomorrow.

I conclude with confidence that these support projects for the Ministry of Youth will address the challenges to improve livelihoods of the recipient youth group and its wider community as well as further strengthen the friendship between the Governments and peoples of Japan and Fiji.

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, and Arigatou Gozaimasu.

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