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**Speech by, Mr. TANAKA Kenichiro Chargé d'affaires ad interim of Japan to the  
Republic of Fiji, At the Handing Over Ceremony for Habitat for Humanity Fiji**  
at 10:30am, 8th November, 2023 at Nawaisomo Primary School

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Mr. Sowane Puamau, Senior Manager, Habitat for Humanity  
Fiji

Mr. Ledua Koto, Project Manager, Habitat for Humanity Fiji,  
Representatives of Nawaisomo Primary School,

Students and Teachers,

Media partners,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good Morning, Yadra Vinaka, Namaste and Ohayou  
Gozaimasu.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr.  
Puamau, his team and Nawaisomo Primary School for hosting  
this very important event and for the warm hospitality extended  
to us today.

Ni bera niu tomana na noqu vosa, au gadreva me'u taura na  
gauna vinaka qo me'u vakavinavinakataka na mata timi ni

Viti e na vuku ni nodratou qito e na rakavi ni vuravura ka qaravi tiko mai Varanise.

(Before I proceed further, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the Fiji National Flying Fijians Rugby Team and all Fijians for an outstanding performance at the 2023 Rugby World Cup in France.)

E dina ni ratou druka vei Igiladi vei na kai veivolekati sara, au vakabauta na mata ni meke e ratou vakaraitaka e na vukea vakalevu na nodratou vakavakarau e na qito rakavi ni vuravura ka tarava. E da na duavata kece ni ratou na rawa ni rawata mai na qaqa vei Viti e na qito ni vuravura ka tarava e na yabaki 2027.

(Even your team's exit from the tournament was on such a narrow margin. Such a feat has already set the stage for the next Rugby World Cup for Fiji, even though the current one is still in progress. I suppose you all agree with me that next time, the Flying Fijians will surely proceed further in the World Cup. )

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, I am honored to hand over a new Water supply system to Nawaisomo Primary School. This project is one of the three beneficiaries of the fund donated by the People and Government of Japan in the year 2020 for the water sector projects. The other two locations includes Toki Village and Navunisea District School, and in

total is worth Approximately Four hundred thousand Fiji dollars (FJ\$397,127). This project is being implemented under the Government of Japan's Grassroots Grant Assistance scheme or GGP. Since 1990, we have funded 423 Grassroots Grant projects for the sustainable development of Fiji, which are collectively worth more than 32 million US dollars.

“The Project for Improvement of Water and Sanitation Environment in Nawaisomo Primary School” will enhance the water quality, water supply and sanitation standards for approximately 100 pupils and teachers. They are always experiencing lack of adequate clean water supply and this led to some challenges.

It is common knowledge that a clean and regular water supply together with proper sanitation is key to maintaining good health and hygiene as well as prevent diseases. It gives me great joy to see that in recognition of the difficulties faced by the

students, handing over the new system will ease such challenges, and bring about a healthier and more hygienic lifestyle.

Supporting this project is an integral part of our continued partnership with the Fijian Government to help it achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 and it is also in line with Fiji's 20 Year National Development Plan (NDP) of 100% access to clean and safe water in adequate quantity and 60% access to central sewage system for rural communities by 2031.

Students, I hope the new water system will make life easier for you. I sympathize with you on the struggles and issues that you have been facing for such a long time and I hope this new water project will be able to minimize or solve your problems. Please ensure that the water committees conduct regular inspection and monitoring of the water system so that it can sustain you for a longer period. Look after it and maintain it for the future generations to come.

On the other hand, I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the efforts of Habitat for Humanity Fiji for their professional works carried out through our projects. Since 2010, the Embassy has been collaborating with Habitat and I am proud to say that we have formalized 10 water projects across Fiji. The result of all projects implemented by Habitat are incredible and we look forward to our continued collaborations for future projects to develop and improve the water sector in Fiji

I conclude with confidence that this project will brighten up the faces of the people and in addition further strengthen friendship between the People of Japan and Fiji.

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, Dhanyavaadh and Arigatou  
Gozaimasu

**END.**