
**Address by: His Excellency Mr. Rokuichiro MICHII, Ambassador of
Japan, at the Handover Ceremony for Jeremiah Raibevu College
at 10.00am on 7th of April 2025**

Roko Tui Waimaro, Na Qaranivalu,
Hon. Aseri Radrodro - Minister for Education,
Ms. Merewalesi Tuiloma – Principal of Jeremiah Raibevu
College,
Ministry of Education and Government of Fiji Officials,
Education adviser,
Parents, Teachers, and Students,
People of Community of Naitasili(スペル要確認),
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bula Vinaka, Good Morning and Ohayo Gozaimasu.

Firstly, I would like to convey my appreciation to
Jeremiah Raibevu College for the warm hospitality

extended to us, as well as for organizing this ceremony today. I wish to further extend my heartfelt gratitude to Honourable Minister Radrodro, for your gracious presence here with us today despite the demanding schedule.

Today is an auspicious occasion as we have gathered here to celebrate the completion of new infrastructure and facilities for the school. On behalf of the people and Government of Japan, it is my great honor to hand over this new building, two classrooms and a laboratory, to Jeremiah Raibevu College, worth approximately Two hundred and fourteen thousand Fijian dollars (FJ\$ 213,570).

The increase in roll for students has meant students have been studying in congested classrooms, this has

impacted the quality and delivery of education. In recognition of such challenges and the importance of supporting the education of young students, we decided to provide funding for the construction of these new facilities.

This project has been implemented by the Government of Japan through its Grassroots Grant Assistance Projects Scheme or the GGP. Since 1990, Japan has funded 423 GGP projects for the sustainable development of Fiji, which are collectively worth more than 32 million US dollars. And, the facilities here is the latest projects we have just completed.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for the significant support from the

Jeremiah Raibevu College, its supporters and Ministry of Education. The project faced some challenges during the implementation phase and this caused some delays. Nevertheless, each and everyone's immense contribution here enabled the building to be completed.

Dear Students, I hope you will enjoy the new facilities. Your potential in life is unlimited and these classrooms are where you will take the steps towards realizing your dreams and goals. Therefore, I encourage you all to do your best to utilize what you have learnt for your families, your classmates, your communities, your country and beyond. In other words, you are the protagonists here. Everyone did this project not for somebody else but for you. Please make friends, learn as much as you can, and make

the best use of your wonderful school days.

I hope the new facilities will continue to serve the children, the aspiring scholars of the communities for many years to come.

If you have an opportunity to visit Japan, we will very much welcome you. You may think Japan is far away, but in fact it would take only 8 hours 15-30 minutes from Nadi, so it is not so far away. We have exchange program called JENESYS after you enter university/college and in fact this year we have expanded it to include high school student. For those who would like to pursue more academic path, there are scholarship programs funded by the Japanese government and also by various universities in Japan.

Before I conclude, let me assure you that Japan will remain committed to assist Fiji's nation building effort. Today's project is for education. We have assisted health sector ; we have just handed over Warehouse Tolu in Labasa, for climate change, we will build New Meteorological Centre in Nadi, for disaster response, we will build new disaster response ship and also will start Nadi River Flooding Project, for infrastructure, we have just started construction of Tamavua I Wai bridge, for aviation, we are implementing safety upgrading project for 5 airports in Fiji and for fishery sector, we are currently building new fishing research vessel.

I now would like to conclude with the hope that this project will contribute to improve the school learning environment and further strengthen friendship between the People of Fiji and Japan.

Vinaka Vakalevu, Thank You and Arigato Gozaimasu.

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