
**Speech by Ms. Chika INOUE, Second Secretary of Japan to the Republic of Fiji, at
the Handing Over Ceremony for Lumiboso Village**

at 11:00am, 3rd of June, 2025 at Lumiboso Village, Cakaudrove

Mr. Karalo Maibuca, Tui Tunuloa (Head of Tunuloa District),
Ms. Renivani Serulevu, MEAL Manager, Habitat for Humanity
Fiji,

Government officers,

People of Lumiboso village,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Bula Vinaka, Good Morning, and Ohayou Gozaimasu.

First of all, I would like to thank the people of Lumiboso for their warm welcome and hospitality given to us today. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Tui Tunuloa, Mr. Karalo Maibuca and Government officers for being with us today despite their busy schedules. I also extend my gratitude to Ms. Serulevu and her team for organizing the event.

Today, I am honored to handover Water Supply and Sanitary Facilities to Lumiboso village which worth approximately Three hundred and twenty thousand Fijian dollars (FJD 320,700). This project has being implemented under the Government of Japan's Grassroots Grant Assistance scheme or the GGP. Since 1990, we have funded 423 GGP projects for the sustainable development of Fiji, which are collectively worth more than 32 million US dollars.

The village had been suffering from water shortage, water quality and sanitation problems due to a lack of water supply infrastructure. This had a significant impact on the health and livelihoods of the villagers, and as a result of the urgent need for a stable supply of safe water.

Recognizing these challenges, we decided to collaborate with Habitat for Humanity Fiji, and provide water supply system such as an intake dam, 7 water tanks, 5 kilometers of water pipelines,

9 community toilets, 9 community taps, and workshops to the villagers.

It gives me a great joy to say that this project is not just about providing infrastructure or facilities. It paves the way for a more secure life and a brighter future. I am happy to see that the young and old of this community will have clean water to drink and use every day as well as have access to toilet facilities which are compliant to general hygiene and sanitation standards. To all stakeholders, please look after the new facilities and carry out the necessary maintenance when needed, so that it serves villagers for many years to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey our appreciation to Habitat for Humanity Fiji for their significant 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. Habitat plays a pivotal

role in delivering water problems in rural areas which is indispensable for each individual. We look forward to our continued collaborations for future projects in order to develop and improve the water sector in Fiji.

I conclude with confidence that this project will help build a brighter future for the people of Lumiboso as well as serve to further strengthen friendship between the peoples of Fiji and Japan.

Vinaka Vakalevu, Thank You, and Arigatou Gozaimasu

END.