
**Speech by Mr. Ryota TERAII, First Secretary of Japan to the Republic of Fiji, at the
Handing Over Ceremony for Navunivesi Settlement and Malabi Village**
at 11:00am, 3rd October, 2025 at Navunivesi Settlement and Malabi Village, Tailevu

Mr. Ratu Savenaca Seniloli, Water Authority Board Chairman,
Mr. Sakiasi Kakaivalu, Turaga ni Koro (Head of Malabi village),
Members of Government Officials,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

Bula Vinaka, Good Morning, and Ohayo Gozaimasu

First of all, I convey my sincere appreciation to the Turaga ni Koro Mr. Sakiasi Kakaivalu, the WAF team and Malabi Village for hosting this very important event and for the warm hospitality extended to us today. I also wish to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Seniloli and his team for organizing the event.

Today, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, I am honored to handover Water Supply System to Malabi village

and Navunivesi settlement, which is worth approximately One hundred and fifty four thousand Fijian dollars (FJD 154,510). This project has being implemented by the Government of Japan through its Grassroots Grant Assistance Projects 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 long been affected by water shortages, poor water quality, and inadequate sanitation due to the lack of proper water supply infrastructure. These challenges significantly impacted the health and livelihoods of the villagers, highlighting the urgent need for a reliable and safe water supply.

In response to this need, we partnered with the Water Authority of Fiji to implement a water supply system and conduct workshops for the villagers.

It brings me great joy to say that this project is more than just the provision of infrastructure—it is a step toward a safer, healthier, and more hopeful future. I am delighted to see that both the young and old in this community now have access to clean water for daily use.

To the villagers of Malabi, I kindly urge you to take care of the new facilities and ensure regular maintenance is carried out when needed, so that they continue to serve the community for many years to come.

This marks our first collaboration with the Water Authority of Fiji. WAF plays a pivotal role in addressing water-related challenges across the country, providing an essential service that is indispensable to every individual.

We look forward to continuing our partnership on future projects aimed at developing and enhancing the water sector in Fiji.

In closing, I am confident that this project will contribute to building a brighter future for the people of Malabi Village and will further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the peoples of Fiji and Japan.

Vinaka Vakalevu, Thank You, and Arigatou Gozaimasu

END.