
Speech by His Excellency, Hiroshi TAJIMA, Ambassador of the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Fiji, at the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for Lomaivuna High School and Ratu Sauvoli Memorial School

10:30 am, Friday 13 February 2026, at the Ambassador's official residence in Tamavua, Suva.

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Honourable Mr. Aseri RADRODRO, Minister for Education,

スサナ タンギ

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Ms. Susana TAGI, Principal of Lomaivuna High School,

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ラトゥ サウヴォリ

Mr. Nemani Tagane QAQA, Head of School of Ratu Sauvoli

Memorial School,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ヤンドラ

Good Morning, Yadra Vinaka, Namaste and Ohayo Gozaimasu

to you all,

Welcome to my official Residence and thank you for joining us for this important occasion.

I arrived in this beautiful island nation of Fiji in December last year, and recently presented my letters of credence to the President of the Republic of Fiji, formally beginning my tenure as the Ambassador of Japan. Today marks my first official signing ceremony—an occasion of great significance for both our nations.

Today, on behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, I am deeply honored to have signed these Grant Contracts with
ロ マ イ ヴ ナ ラ ト ッ サ ウ ボ リ
Lomaivuna High School and Ratu Sauvoli Memorial School under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

These two projects will become the 425th and 426th GGP initiatives in Fiji —tangible symbols of our enduring friendship.

●Japan's Contribution to the 2 schools

Japan will provide a total of approximately **FJ\$913,000 (US\$428,939)** in assistance for the 2 schools;

- ① For Lomaivuna High School, four hundred three thousand Fijian Dollars (approximately **FJ\$403,000 (US\$189,338)**)
- ② For Ratu Sauvoli Memorial School, five hundred and ten thousand Fijian Dollars (approximately **FJ\$510,000 (US\$239,601)**).

Each project will deliver a fully furnished, three-classroom school building constructed with reinforced concrete and designed to

withstand Category 5 cyclones-ensuring safety, resilience, and uninterrupted learning.

● **Lomaivuna High School Challenges**

At Lomaivuna High School, a fire in October 2024 destroyed one school building and the toilet facilities.

Students continued learning in temporary tents where rain, dust, and overcrowding created extremely difficult conditions.

● **Ratu Sauvoli Memorial School Challenges**

At Ratu Sauvoli Memorial School, the two-story wooden building constructed in 1970 has deteriorated severely.

Decayed walls and floors, and even beehives forming inside classrooms, have compromised the safety and well-being of students and teachers.

● **Importance of Education**

These projects directly address these challenges and offer safer, stronger, and more dignified spaces for learning.

“Education is the bridge to opportunity for every child.” By

improving school infrastructure, we support quality teaching and learning while strengthening community resilience.

● **The Lomavata–Kizuna Partnership – Strengthening Unity and Trust**

Last November, Honourable Prime Minister Rabuka and Prime Minister Takaichi of Japan agreed on the Lomavata–Kizuna Partnership, which reinforces our unity (lomavata) and bonds of trust (kizuna).

Today’s projects demonstrate how this partnership translates into real impact—transforming classrooms, empowering children, and supporting long-term development.

● **Closing –**

To our school partners, we kindly ask for your leadership to ensure timely and successful completion, so these classrooms open their doors as soon as possible.

Japan remains committed to working closely with Fiji to support education and a prosperous, resilient future for its people.

“From classrooms to communities, we are building resilience together.”

Thank You, Vinaka Vakalevu, ダンニャヴァード Dhanyavaadh and Arigatou Gozaimasu.

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