

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGOs

Launching Ceremony

Mpamantha Health Centre Maternity Wing

Nkhotakota

10th February, 2012



Pictures: **Top:** The new maternity wing;
Bottom Left: Honorable Jooma opening the facility with the help of Ambassador Samukawa;
Right: The first baby to be born in the maternity wing-(Nicholas Madalitso Evance from Kaulungu Village, T/A Malengachanzi, Nkhotakota born on 10th February, 2012 at 8:51 a.m.)

The Ambassador of Japan in Malawi His Excellency Fujio Samukawa on 10th February, 2012 launched a maternity wing at Mpamantha Health Centre in Nkhotakota District which was constructed by Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICCO). The Government of Japan provided financial assistance to NICCO amounting to \$578,924 (about MK98 million) in November, 2010 under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects. This new maternity wing will help reduce high maternal and infant deaths prevailing in the area while serving a population of about 12,650 people. Pregnant women had to either walk 10 kilometers to a private clinic or travel 18 kilometers to the district hospital for delivery costing a lot of women's lives over the years. The ceremony was graced by the Deputy Minister of Health, Honorable Ralph Pachalo Jooma, MP.