

Japanese Grant Aid

The Economic and Social Development Programme Exchange of Notes Signing Ceremony

17th January 2018



Ambassador Yanagisawa exchanging the signed Notes with Hon. Minister Gondwe

On Wednesday, 17th January 2018, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, Kae Yanagisawa and Malawi's Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Hon. Goodall Gondwe signed the Exchange of Notes for the implementation of the Economic and Social Development Programme.

The signed Notes are for a grant, amounting to **200 million Japanese Yen (approximately 1.8 million USD at present value)**, provided to Malawi for the development of the private sector, particularly the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The grant will capacitate the SMEs in irrigation and agro-processing to improve their operations through the procurement of various goods and equipment on loan. Once the loans are repaid, the funds will be deposited into a Counterpart Fund for the implementation of other economic and social development projects deemed fit by the Government of Malawi.

The Government of Japan has been providing the "Economic and Social Development Programme Grant Aid", previously known as "Non-Project Grant Aid", to Malawi since 1988. To date, Malawi has received about 4.8 billion Japanese Yen (approximately 43 million USD at present value). The programme aims at supporting the Malawi Government's efforts for the economic and social development including poverty reduction.