

Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects

Inauguration Ceremony of the Project for Construction of Biwi Clinic in Lilongwe city 27th February, 2019



Top Left: H.E. Kae Yanagisawa (left) and The Minister of Local Government & rural Development, Hon Kondwani Nankhumwa MP(center) opening the clinic

On Wednesday, 27th February 2019, Kae Yanagisawa, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi celebrated the inauguration of a newly built Biwi clinic in Lilongwe, constructed by the Lilongwe City Council with funding from the Government of Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP). Upon request from the City Council, the Government of Japan agreed to fund the project with a grant worth **USD193, 515**, and the grant contract was signed in December 2012.

Under the GGP, implementing organizations in Malawi are fully responsible for the management of the project, including designing, procurement, contract, supervision and payment while the Government of Japan is merely funding. Unfortunately, it has taken more than six years instead of the initially agreed 12 months for the Lilongwe City Council to complete the project. This significant delay came mainly from the unqualified design and substandard work which caused a collapse of a pillar at the main entrance, as well as incompliance with the regulation of the District Health Office.

Despite these challenges, the Lilongwe City Council took bold steps in rectifying the problems and worked tirelessly towards the completion of the project. In this connection, Ambassador Yanagisawa commends the management of the Lilongwe City Council for its commitment to serve the communities, exemplified by its move in securing additional budget for the project to be completed.

Ambassador Yanagisawa kindly urged the Lilongwe City Council and the District Health Office, to step up efforts to ensure deployment of adequate and qualified staff, as well as necessary medicine and equipment to the clinic. She also requested the leaders and members of the communities within this area as well as the City Council to take good care of the facility, beds, mattresses, wheelchairs and other equipment purchased through this grant. In conclusion, she appealed the importance of providing sufficient safety and security for expected mothers so that they are able to deliver their babies in a calm and quiet environment.