

# Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects

## GRANT CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY FOR THE PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LILONGWE YOUTH VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IN LILONGWE CITY – 16th October, 2019



(From Left) Mr. Dingiswayo Jere, Executive Director National Youth Council; Mr. Yamikani Chunga, Director Lilongwe Youth Organization; Her Excellency Kae Yanigisawa, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi; Mr. Chauncy Simwaka, Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture

On Wednesday, 16th October 2019, Her Excellency Kae Yanigisawa, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, signed a grant contract with Mr. Yamikani Chunga, Director of Lilongwe Youth Organization, for the Project for Construction of Lilongwe Youth Vocational Training Centre in Lilongwe city. This signing ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Chauncy Simwaka, Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture.

Malawi has a young population, with young people of less than 34 years of age making up to 78% of the 17.5 million population. If provided with sufficient education, training and jobs, the young population could be highly beneficial for the development of the nation. However, Malawi, like many other African countries, run the risk of not tapping into this demographic dividend by under-investing in the youth. On a positive note, Malawi has in recent years made impressive strides in promoting access to vocational and technical training for both girls and boys, in order to narrow skills gap, through construction of various Vocational and Technical Training Colleges across the country. In order to support and further enhance this positive trend, non-state actors, including the private sector, can also contribute by establishing and supporting the Vocational and Technical Training Centres. In this regard, the Government of Japan decided to provide a grant amounting to **USD90, 888** under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects to Lilongwe Youth Organization to construct the Lilongwe Youth Vocational Training Centre in Lilongwe City. The funding will be used to construct the Vocational Training Centre and procure into furniture, kitchen tools and a water tank.

Speaking during the ceremony, Ambassador Yanigisawa, expressed her delight in working with Lilongwe Youth Organization. *“I am impressed with the Lilongwe Youth Organization for this initiative. Lilongwe Youth Organization is a Community Based Organization, started by young people. It is a youth-driven organization designed to support fellow youth, women and people with disabilities.”* In connection to this, she kindly appealed for the successful completion of the project, saying *“the success of this project will enhance the employability of the youth and reduce the skills gap.”*