

# Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects

## GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LILONGWE YOUTH VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IN LILONGWE CITY – 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019



Ambassador Yanagisawa laying foundation stones and planting a tree



(Left) Ambassador giving a speech



(Right) Mr. Erick Ning'nga, Director of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture giving a speech



(Left) Ambassador joining the dance



(Right) Ambassador and Mr. Chunga, Director of Lilongwe Youth Organisation



Traditional dance performances by the youth and women in Kauma Village

On Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019, Her Excellency Kae Yanagisawa, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, graced the ground breaking ceremony, for the Project for Construction of Lilongwe Youth Vocational Training Centre at Kauma Township in Lilongwe city. This ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Eric Ning'ang'a, Director of Technical Training in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture

This center which is expected to be completed in a year will be the source of knowledge and expertise as well as the bridge to take many young people around Kauma out, from poverty to self-reliance. Malawian youth, needs access to sufficient education, training and jobs, in order to contribute to the development of the nation. To realize this, two things are crucial. Firstly, prudence is necessary in implementing the project. Malawi has faced with a number of challenges in the construction industry, such as substandard design, misprocurement and mismanagement of resources, and construction of substandard buildings. Secondly, as the construction is underway, capacity building of the instructors and managers with the prerequisite knowledge and skills necessary for this center obtain a Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TEVETA) certification. Ambassador Yanagisawa called upon various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture. Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training and the TEVETA to provide the center with the necessary support.

During the ceremony Ambassador Yanagisawa encouraged the youth organisation to seek support and guidance when they face with challenges during implementation, saying "*Osaopa kufunsira nzeru* (don't be afraid to ask for guidance), there is a local proverb that says "*mutu umodzi siusenza denga*" (No one can whistle a symphony alone; only an orchestra can interpret it) kapena tinene kuti (or we should say) "*nzeru zayekha anaviyika nsima mmadzi*" (alone we can do so little; together we can do so much)". She appealed to the contractor of the Youth Vocational Training Center to work diligently and produce high quality standard structures.

Furthermore, she wished for the successful completion of the project, saying that the success will enhance the employability of the youth and reduce the skills gap.