

Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A MATERNITY WING AT NSIPE HEALTH CENTER IN NTCHEU DISTRICT

13th March, 2020



(Left) Deputy Ambassador Ikeda laying foundation stones
(Right) Deputy Ambassador giving a speech



(Left) Ntcheu District Administrator, Mr. Mlambuzi giving a speech
(Right) Administrator of Nsipe Health Centre, Sr. Gowello giving a speech



(Left) Deputy Ambassador touring the existing Maternity Wing
(Right) Nsipe Secondary students presenting a drama



(Left) Ntcheu traditional dance by community people



(Right) Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, Ms. Yokota introducing her activities in Malawi

Friday, 13th March 2020, Mr. Hirotsugu Ikeda, Deputy Ambassador of Japan to Malawi joined the community in Ntcheu district to celebrate the ground breaking ceremony for the Project for Construction of a Maternity Wing at Nsipe Health Centre in Ntcheu District.

Nsipe Health Centre was established in 1972 to provide health care including maternal health services to its surrounding community. With population growth, the infrastructure cannot meet the demand. The maternity wing is too small, it has a delivery room with two beds such that at times, women deliver in the corridor. In order to establish a safe and dignified environment for healthy delivery and recovery of pregnant women, the Government of Japan approved a grant amounting to **USD90, 847.00** to support the construction of a maternity wing. This grant was provided through the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP).

Speaking during the ceremony, the Deputy Ambassador agreed that lack of access to proper pregnancy care increases the risk for complications during delivery and also increases the risk of maternal and neonatal deaths. He is hopeful that the new maternity wing to be constructed, will become a beacon of hope and motivation to the expectant mothers as well as the nurses and workers, and also that more pregnant women in the surrounding area will be encouraged to seek medical assistance and deliver at Nsipe Health Centre.

Mr. Ikeda called on Nsipe Health Centre management to ensure that the project funds will be used for the intended purpose as stipulated in the grant contract agreement. He asked the project contractor to work diligently and produce high quality structures and further encouraged the chiefs and community members to own the project.

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Ikeda reiterated that the Government of Japan remains committed to support development efforts in Malawi evidenced by the ground breaking ceremony. He also took time to explain about Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) work in Malawi and introduced Ms. Miku Yokota, one of JOCVs in Malawi working near Nsipe who attended the ground breaking ceremony.