

Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects

GRANT CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY FOR THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF OUTPATIENT WARD AT ULONGWE HEALTH CENTER IN BALAKA DISTRICT

1ST DECEMBER 2021



(Left) Ambassador Iwakiri, signing the Grant Contract
(Right) Fr. Medrick Chimbwanya, Administrator of Ulongwe Health Centre, signing the Grant Contract



Group photo

On Wednesday, 1st December, 2021, Ambassador Satoshi Iwakiri and Reverend Fr. Medrick Chimbwanya, Administrator Ulongwe Health Center, signed a grant contract amounting to Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Four US Dollars (USD91,624), (approx.. MK74 million) for the Construction of Integrated Outpatient Ward at Ulongwe Health Center in Balaka District. The occasion was graced by the Vicar General of the Diocese of Mangochi Reverend Fr. Frank Chingale.

The grant was provided under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects with an aim of improving the provision of health care services for the people around Ulongwe Trading Center. Through this grant project, Ulongwe Health Center will construct an outpatient ward that will provide integrated health services including outpatient

services, pharmacy dispensary, primary health care services and short stay rooms amongst others and will cater for about 120,000 people.

The current infrastructure at Ulongwe Health Center is very insufficient and old, being constructed in 1970. This has led to some services being offered outside the buildings. With the growing population in its catchment area, the health centre cannot provide all health care services. This combined with the long distance to referral hospital makes it difficult for Ulongwe Health Centre to serve the people of the area well.

Speaking during the ceremony, Ambassador Iwakiri said the project will facilitate provision of health services in a better environment. With the integrated outpatient ward, the health center can now deliver quality integrated health service in the area as well as reduce referrals to the district hospital and in the process reduce its operational costs.

The Ambassador then called on the management of Ulongwe Health Center to take an active role in the implementation of the project and ensure that funds for the project are utilized as intended. He also called upon the Diocese of Mangochi to fulfil its commitment, ensuring that the integrated outpatient ward has the necessary equipment to deliver quality health care services.

The Embassy of Japan in Malawi has been supporting a number of projects in health, education, women and youth empowerment sectors under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). The GGP is a Japanese Government grant aid scheme introduced in 1989 in order to respond to the diverse development needs in less developed countries. The aim of is to provide financial assistance to non-profit development organisation for implementing projects at grassroots level.