

# Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects

## GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF OUTPATIENT WARD AT ULONGWE HEALTH CENTRE IN BALAKA DISTRICT

16<sup>th</sup> December 2021



(Left) Deputy Ambassador, Mr. Ikeda laying a brick.

(Right) The District Commissioner, Dr. Mc Loud Kadammanja, Balaka District (left), Deputy Ambassador, Mr. Ikeda (centre), The Vicar General, Diocese of Mangochi, Very Rev. Fr. Frank Chingale (right)



Mr. Ikeda (left) and Very Rev. Fr. Chingale (right) giving a speech



(Left) Fr. Medrick Chimbwanya, Administrator of Ulong Health Centre giving a speech

(Right) Youth of the Ulongwe community performing a dance

On Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021, Mr. Hirotsugu Ikeda, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of Japan in Malawi attended a ground breaking ceremony for “ *The Project for Construction of Outpatient Ward at Ulongwe Health Centre in Balaka District*”. This Project is funded by the Government of Japan with a grant amounting to **Ninety One Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty Four US Dollars (USD91,624.00), approx. MK74 million** provided under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects. Through this project, Ulongwe Health Centre 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** from four traditional authorities namely; Kalembo, Kanchenga, Amidu and Chimwala.

Ulongwe Health Centre’s current infrastructure was constructed in 1970. It is small and in a dilapidated state. This has led to some services being offered in the open area, outside the buildings. With the growing population in its catchment area, the health centre cannot provide all health care services.

Speaking during the ceremony, Mr. Ikeda commended Ulongwe Health Centre for taking the initiative to mobilise resources to improve infrastructure of the Health Centre. He believes that the project, once completed, will improve the provision of health care services among the people around Ulongwe Trading Centre and its surrounding areas. In addition, he said the project compliments efforts of the Government of Malawi to improve access to health services especially among women and girls in the area.

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. This scheme provides financial assistance to non-profit development organisation for implementing projects at grassroots level.