

**Speech by Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, Mr. Yasushi Naito at the Inauguration for The Project for the Construction of Makala Primary School Building in Lilongwe District on 5th February 2026**

Mr. Felix Zephania, Education Management Information System's Officer,  
Lilongwe District Council

Mr. Edson Kalonga, Councillor, Lilongwe District Council

Mr. Edward Chileka, Member of Parliament for Lilongwe Mapuyu North  
Group Village Head Man Mphandula, Representatives of Traditional  
Authority Kalolo

Senior Group Village Headman and Makala all chiefs present

All Government Officials Present

Members of the Press

Children and Teachers of Makala Primary School

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning! Muli Bwanji nonse...!

Poyamba ndikufuna kuthokoza nonse pobwera pano/ kudzaonerera mwambo umenewu. (First of all, I would like to thank all of you for coming to witness the inauguration ceremony here at Makala Primary School.)

It is truly a great honour for me to be part of such an auspicious event. I would like to thank you all for taking the time to be here with us today and the management of Makala Primary School for all of your exceptional hard work in organising this wonderful event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In November 2024, the Embassy of Japan and Makala Primary School

embarked on a vital partnership, signing a grant contract amounting to USD 66,143 (about 114 million Kwacha) under Grassroots Human Security Projects. This support was earmarked for critical infrastructure development: the construction of one school building with two classrooms, four toilet buildings and procurement of 80 double seater classroom desks for the learners.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Up to this day, your school and the people of the Senior Chief Kalolo have persistently worked to improve the quality of education. Your persistent efforts, including raising funds locally and even constructing school buildings through your own initiatives, are truly commendable and serve as testament to your dedication.

Despite the dedication, Makala Primary School faced substantial challenges. Approximately 260 learners in two classes were forced to learn outdoors, often disrupted by harsh weather. In addition, sanitation was in critical state, the existing toilet facilities, serving 180-280 learners per single toilet, were far above the recommended 60 learners per toilet. Furthermore, not only learners but teachers as well faced the risk of waterborne diseases due to the lack of hygienic facilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, with the completion of this project, we celebrate a new chapter for Makala Primary School. The new school building now offers a safe and stable learning environment, protecting learners from adverse weather conditions and ensuring uninterrupted learning. Furthermore the four improved toilets blocks have drastically enhanced sanitation, promoting regular attendance, especially the girl child, and reducing the risk of waterborne diseases. This investment directly supports the well-being, contributing to better overall attendance rates, and learning outcomes of your children, attribute to the future of this nation.

We are confident that this new school building and its facilities will significantly help improve the quality of education and contribute to the development of future human capital in Malawi, in alignment with the goals of Malawi 2063.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I would like to once again express my profound gratitude to Makala Primary School team, the contractor, the auditor and the community at large for your tireless efforts and dedication rendered during the implementation of this project.

Ndili ndi chikhulupiliro kuti chithandizo ichi chochokera ku boma la Japan chidzagwiritsidwa bwino ntchito kwanthawi yayitali ndipo chidzakhala chikumbutso chaubale wokhazikika pakati pa maiko a Japan ndi Malawi (I sincerely hope that this support from Japan will be well-utilized for a long time to come and will forever be remembered as a symbol of the enduring friendship between Japan and Malawi.)

Zikomo Kwambiri.

Thank you for your attention.

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