Japanese Ambassador's 3rd Karate Championship

（10th August, 2019 at Bingu National Stadium）

10th August, 2019, the Embassy of Japan in Malawi and the Malawi Japan Karate Association co-hosted the Japanese Ambassador's Karate Championship. About 70 karate-kas from Lilongwe, Blantyre, Salima, and Dowa, participated in KATA (Karate forms) tournaments. We also had *ju-jitsu* performance from Proteligent, a local security company and a sponsor of this event.

In her speech, Ambassador Yanagisawa expressed her pleasure in learning that more children are attending this year and more regions are involved with this Championship. Furthermore, while she congratulated the addition of Karate as an Olympics sport in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, she called for the establishment of the Malawi Karate Federation.

The event was graced by the guest of honour, Mr. Simwaka, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, as well as other government officials from the Malawi Olympic Committee, the Malawi National Council of Sports, the Malawi Defence Force and the Malawi Police Service. All the participants and audience enjoyed the Championship and learnt the spirit of Karate.

Furthermore, between the morning and afternoon session of the Championship, the Japanese community led the Japan Cultural Event, where people experience (1) *origami* (paper folding art), (2) *kami-hikoki* (paper plane making), (3) *kendama* (a traditional Japanese toy), (4) naming yourself in Japanese through the traditional calligraphy, (5) *suika-wari* (watermelon crushing with a stick while blindfolded). Everyone enjoyed learning the Japanese sports and the Japanese culture.

【Karate Championship】



Opening Ceremony



KATA Tournament



Ju-jitsu performance by Proteligent



Demonstration of Kumite



A commendation ceremony (children category)



A commendation ceremony (children category)



Speech by Ambassador Yanagisawa

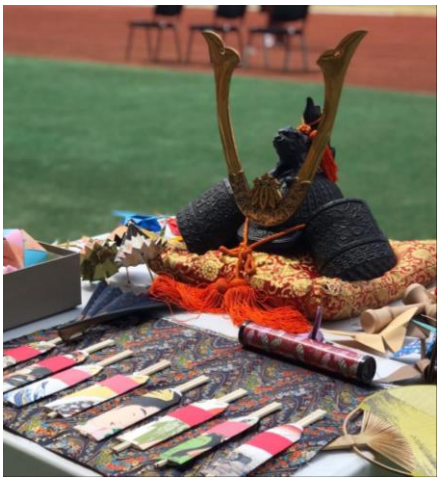


Speech by Mr. Simwaka, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture



Group Photo

【Japan Cultural Event】



Exhibition of Japanese cultural goods



Japanese Community at the *kami-hikoki* booth



Ambassador Yanagisawa and
Children with *kabuto*, a traditional arm-helmet



Suika-wari



A boy holding a paper
Where his name is written in Japanese



Japanese community at the *origami* booth