9th Japanese Ambassador's Judo Championship

(21 March 2026 at ABC Blue Gym)

On March 21, 2026, the 9th Ambassador's Judo Championship was held jointly with the Judo Association of Malawi. Approximately 85 competitors participated from Lilongwe, the host city, as well as Blantyre, Thyolo, and the Dzaleka Refugee Camp. The tournament was conducted by gender and weight class. Gold and silver medals and certificates were awarded to the top finishers in each category, and gold medalists were presented with judo uniforms. In addition, special awards and promotion certificates for rank advancement were also given.

In his speech, Ambassador Naito reflected on his own judo experience and remarked that the momentum for spreading judo in Malawi specifically and Africa in general is growing, expressing his expectations for Malawian athletes' success in international competitions. Honourable Alfred Gangata, Minister of Youth, Sports, and Culture, expressed gratitude for the Japanese government's support of judo and showed enthusiasm for promoting judo in schools and other institutions within Malawi.

The event was attended by distinguished guests including the guest of Honour, Honourable Minister Gangata, as well as representatives from the Malawi Olympic Committee and the National Sports Council of Malawi. The visitors also enjoyed the spirited judo matches.

Ambassador's speech: https://www.mw.emb-japan.go.jp/files/100999428.pdf



Male match



Female match



Medalists group photo



Speech by Ambassador NAITO



Hon. Gangata and Guests from sports sector



Warming up



Cheering other athletes



Learning the rules



Awarding ceremony