
Fiji National Day Special

Committed to safeguarding world's oceans

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AMBASSADOR OF FIJI



It is with great pleasure on this occasion that I extend, on behalf of H.E. Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, the government and the people of Fiji, warm greetings to their imperial majesties

and members of the imperial household, as well as to the government of Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and the people of Japan. I also extend warm greetings and *bula vinaka* (hello) to all Fijians and friends of Fiji in Japan.

The government and people of Fiji are grateful for the special bond underlying its relationship with Japan since establishing diplomatic ties 54 years ago. Japan continues to be Fiji's vital development partner, and

over the years, the government of Japan has contributed immensely to Fiji's socio-economic development. I express my gratitude to Japan for providing development assistance worth over \$1.6 billion (¥234 billion) to Fiji since 1970. Japan's overseas development assistance program, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, provides support for Fiji's human and physical resources, including valuable humanitarian assistance in times of natural disasters, and since 1983 has seen JICA's volunteer program dispatch 765 members to Fiji.

Fiji's commitment as a good global citizen is manifested through its ongoing engagement with the United Nations and the leading role it continues to play in various international forums. Fiji continues to advocate for the Pacific Island Leaders Meeting process, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent aspirations, the fight against global warming and the safeguarding of the health of our oceans — adopting an inclusive and caring approach to all par-

ties concerned — to ensure that no one is left behind. In promoting peace and security in the region, Fiji will continue to advocate the Ocean of Peace concept for a peaceful Blue Pacific Continent to attract resilient infrastructure and sustainable development, which are elements to growing Fiji's economy. Our 2024 Fiji Day theme also reassures our nation that we have and will overcome all the hardships encountered and that our hope is restored, for there will always be better times ahead.

May I extend our sincere appreciation to all our corporate sponsors, The Japan Times, Fiji's honorary consular corps in Japan, the Japan-Fiji Parliamentary Friendship League, and the Fijian community and its friends, for their continued support and promotion of goodwill between Japan and Fiji.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.