
Fiji National Day Special

Inclusiveness key to development goals

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AMBASSADOR OF FIJI



I am honored to extend, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Fiji H.E. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, the government and the people of Fiji, our warmest greetings to Their

Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the members of the imperial household and to the government and people of Japan. I also convey heartfelt greetings and *bula vinaka* (hello) to all Fijians and friends of Fiji residing in Japan.

For 56 years, Fiji and Japan have enjoyed a relationship of trust, shared values and mutual respect. Japan is one of Fiji's most reliable and strategic development partners. Through the Japan International Coopera-

tion Agency, Japan has provided more than \$578 million (¥91.4 billion) in official development assistance, significantly advancing Fiji's development priorities.

In November 2025, we entered a new chapter with the establishment of the Japan-Fiji Lomavata Kizuna Partnership. This reaffirmed our commitment to democracy, human rights, sustainable development and the rule of law. Together, we can deliver meaningful outcomes in climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, economic development, environmental protection, infrastructure and connectivity, maritime security and policing.

This year's Fiji Day theme is "An Inclusive Fiji for a Better Tomorrow," and it underscores our national vision of unity, resilience and progress. As Fiji marks the 56th anniversary of its independence, we remain committed to placing our people at the center of development. Our priorities include expanding access to clean water, improving rural infrastructure, climate

resilience and clean energy solutions, and strengthening healthcare and education.

Fiji continues to support regional efforts such as the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and preparations for the 11th Pacific Leaders' Meeting in 2027, contributing to the Ocean of Peace vision for a secure and stable Pacific. We also remain steadfast in global advocacy for climate action, ocean health, peacekeeping and the U.N. sustainable development goals.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our corporate sponsors, The Japan Times, Fiji's Honorary Consular Corps in Japan, the Japan-Fiji Parliamentary Friendship League, the Fijian community and our many friends in Japan for their continued support and goodwill. May God continue to bless Fiji-Japan relations.

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