

Embassy of Japan
Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

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NPGA Handover to the Government of Tonga

His Excellency Mr. MUNENAGA Kensaku, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Tonga handed over Asphalt Distributor Trucks funded through Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid Assistance, NPGA to the Government of Tonga on Thursday, 20 October 2022, at the Fa'onelua Convention Centre.

Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of Tonga received the key of the donated trucks in the attendances of Hon. Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Tourism, Hon. Sevenitini Toumo'ua, Minister for Infrastructure, Lord Vaea, Minister for Internal Affairs, and Hon. Viliami Latu, Minister for Trade and Economic Development.

This NPGA valued at approximately USD\$1million and consisted of two batches. The first batch, which handed over today, consisted of the 3 Asphalt Distributor Trucks, 1 set of spare parts, and 27 spare tires, while the second batch will provide 2 Vibratory Rollers and expect to be arrived next year.

In addressing the occasion, H.E. Mr. MUNENAGA stated, "Roads are basic needs and very important infrastructure, which is necessary to various aspects of our lives as well as a basis for development."

"Though today's provision is not so big, I believe it will help the Tongan Government to do good maintenance for its main roads and it will contribute to the wellbeing of the people of Tonga, as well as the economic development of this Kingdom. I also believe the Ministry of Infrastructure will not only effectively utilize them but will also take good care of these vehicles through good maintenance," he said.

Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of Tonga expressed his appreciation for Japan's generous assistance. "This will greatly contribute to the quality of our roads and certainly towards Tonga's resilience and sustainable development. Moreover the mutual cooperation and support is further strengthened for Tonga's Recovery Plan following the Hunga Tonga – Hunga Ha'apai and commitment to improve our economic development," said the Prime Minister.

Japan's NPGA has benefitted many Government Ministries of Tonga through providing multimillion worth of equipment to promote economic and social development of Tonga.

END

Attached: Photos

Photos;



H.E. Mr. MUNENAGA Kensaku, Ambassador of Japan with Prime Minister Hon. Hu'akavameiliku at the handover ceremony of three Asphalt Distributor Trucks under Japan's NPGA to Tonga's Ministry of Infrastructure, on Thursday, 20th October 2022.



The handover ceremony of the three Asphalt Distributor Trucks and spare parts at the Fa'onelua Convention Centre.

*For further enquires please contact: Mr. Fujiwara Issei, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Tonga.
Level 5, National Reserve Bank of Tonga Building / Telephone: 22-221 / Fax 27-025*



The Asphalt Distributor Trucks handed over to Tonga's Ministry of Infrastructure today, Thursday, 20th October 2022.



The NPGA included spare parts and 27 spare tires

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