

New Japanese-funded ambulance brings hope to Fauabu community

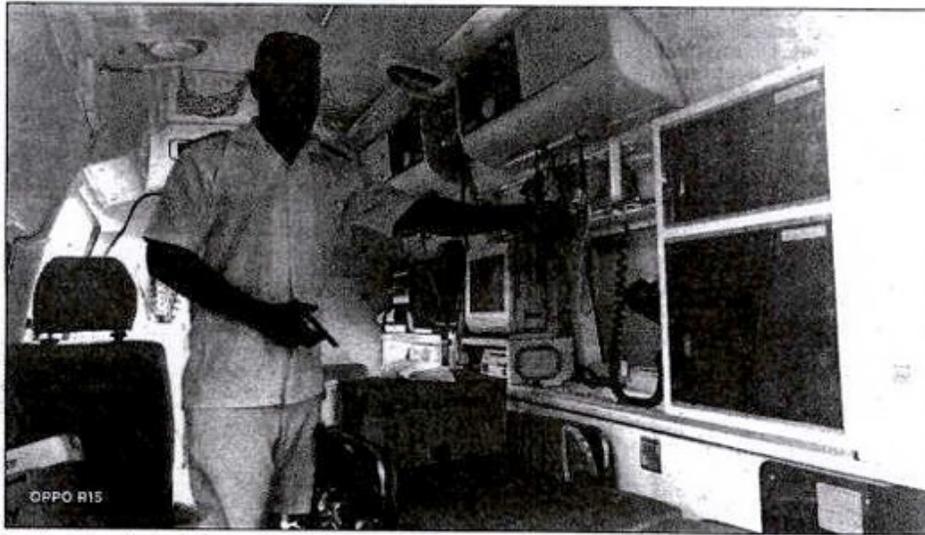
By SOLOMON LOFANA
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A LONG-AWAITED ambulance bus funded by the Government of Japan has been officially handed over to the Anglican Church-owned Fauabu Rural Health Centre on Wednesday 18th February at Kiluuf Hospital compound in Malaita province.

The project has brought renewed hope for faster and safer medical evacuations in Malaita.

The 13-seater ambulance, equipped with a life-saving treatment kit, was presented at a ceremony attended by church leaders, health workers, community members, and government representatives.

Fr Molyneux Nofa, Secretary of the Anglican Diocese of Malaita, said the ambulance will benefit not only Anglican members but also people from other churches and villages in Wards Four and Five, which fall within the catchment area of Fauabu Rural



Fauabu Nursing In-Charge inside the new ambulance bus.

Health Clinic.

"As a tiny island community, we sometimes feel invisible," Mr Nofa said.

"But today we are deeply honoured to receive this support.

"We cannot hide from the Government of Japan and

its people they have seen us. Thank you for recognizing our needs."

Mr Nofa highlighted the ongoing challenges faced at Fauabu clinic where lack of reliable transport has often hampered access to emergency care.

He recalled instances

when public transport had to be hired for urgent cases, and tragically, some patients lost their lives on the journey to Kilu'ufi Hospital due to delays and limited facilities.

"We have waited many months for this day to come," he said.

"It was first announced by the former nurse-in-charge late last year.

"Although it took some time, as we heard from His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan, the wait has been worth it."

The new ambulance, a specially fitted minibus, will serve as a dedicated medical transport vehicle, reducing delays in urgent referrals and easing stress for patients and their families.

Mr Nofa expressed heartfelt thanks to the Japanese government and its people for the new Fauabu hospital Ambulance.

"We are thankful for your support," Mr Nofa said.

"This ambulance is not just a gift, it represents the heart of the people of Japan for Malaita and our nation."

Small gifts were presented to Ambassador Higuchi and two members of his delegation in appreciation.

The handover marks a significant improvement in emergency health services for communities in and around Fauabu, offering a lifeline that many say will

save lives for years to come.

Japanese Ambassador Keiichi Higuchi said the priority of Japan's Grassroots and Human Security scheme is to help meet the basic human needs of communities.

"We recognise that health is the foundation of human security. Without access to medical care, a community cannot thrive.

"Today we provide this ambulance to ensure a safe and rapid response for medical emergencies. This vehicle is more than just a car it is a mobile life-saving treatment unit for mothers, children, and the elderly in this region," he said.

The Japanese Ambassador also urged the community and clinic staff to take strong ownership of the new ambulance.

"Please maintain it with care so that it may serve the people of Fauabu for many years to come. I truly believe that this assistance will save lives and ensure that every individual has a fair chance at a healthy future," Ambassador Higuchi said.