

\$120M Japan-funded Kilu'ufi upgrade poised to transform health services in Malaita

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THE SBD120-million Kilu'ufi Hospital Improvement Project, funded by the Government of Japan, is expected to be fully completed by April 2026, bringing significant improvements to health-care services in Malaita Province.

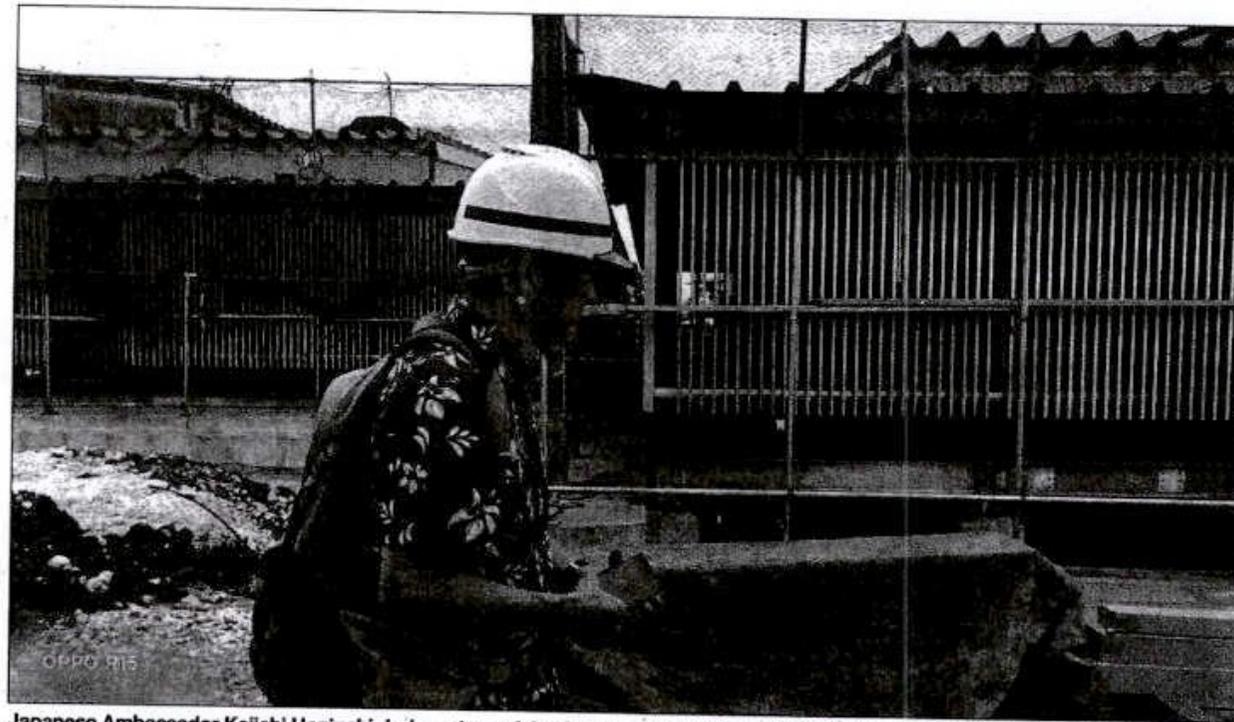
The project includes the construction of a new central clinical building and a dedicated delivery building at Kilu'ufi Hospital, along with the installation of modern medical equipment.

It is aimed at strengthening diagnostic and treatment services and enhancing the overall quality of healthcare provided to people across Malaita and other Solomon Islanders at large.

Once completed, the upgraded facilities are expected to greatly improve access to essential medical services, reduce patient referrals to the National Referral Hospital (NRH) in Honiara, and ease the financial burden on families who previously had to travel long distances for specialised treatment.

The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS).

During a three-day press tour conducted last week by the Japanese Embassy, members of the local me-



Japanese Ambassador Keiichi Hagiuchi during a tour of the Japan-funded Kiluufi Hospital Improvement Project in Malaita last week

dia visited the hospital site and received updates on the progress of construction.

Officials confirmed that work is progressing smoothly and is nearing completion.

According to the project briefing, the upgraded facilities will include:

- Emergency Medicine and General Outpatient Services — consultation

- rooms, treatment rooms, observation beds and a pharmacy

- Medical Imaging Unit — general X-ray and ultrasound rooms

- Operating Theatre Suite — two operating theatres with scrub areas and Central Sterile Supply facilities

- Delivery Room and Special Care Nursery (SCN) — delivery room, labour ward

- and post-natal day beds

- Supporting Infrastructure — upgraded electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems

The new development will provide approximately 2,000 square metres of floor space.

Health officials say the improvements will enhance emergency response services, improve maternal and child health outcomes,

and allow more surgical procedures to be conducted locally.

This is expected to save lives, particularly in rural communities where access to timely medical care has often been limited.

Kilu'ufi Hospital Secretary Jack Atomea acknowledged the continued support of the Japanese Government to the health

sector in Solomon Islands.

"On behalf of the health services, I would like to sincerely thank the Government of Japan for its commitment.

Many important projects have been funded through this partnership, and we are grateful for your continued support," Atomea said.

Malaita Premier Mr Elijah Asilaua also welcomed the Japanese Ambassador and delegation, along with members of the press.

He thanked the Japanese Government for its ongoing assistance to communities in Malaita Province, noting that projects such as the market and jetty have significantly improved the livelihoods of local people since their completion.

Asilaua said Japan has supported Solomon Islands and Malaita in key sectors including health, education, fisheries, economic development and sustainable resource management.

He described Japan as "our very strong friend" and reaffirmed Malaita Province's commitment to continuing development cooperation with the Japanese Government for the benefit of both Malaita and Solomon Islands.

The Kilu'ufi Hospital Improvement Project is expected to play a vital role in strengthening the province's health system and improving the quality of life for thousands of families across Malaita.