

February 3, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

**Japanese Government Funds Procurement for Ambulance for Libi Makandra
Emergency Unit**

The signing ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for the Procurement of an Ambulance for the Libi Makandra Emergency Unit” took place at 10:30 a.m. on January 31, 2014, at the Indira Gandhiweg 432 Room, Libi Makandra Emergency Unit, Wanica, Suriname. The Libi Makandra Emergency Unit will receive a grant of up to US\$61,000 from the Government of Japan for the procurement of an ambulance, which will be used for first aid services.

The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Yoshimasa Tezuka, Ambassador of Japan and Mr. Harty Stanley Dijksteel, Director, Libi Makandra Emergency Unit. Mr. Michiel Raafemberg, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs was also in attendance along with the invited guests and media.

In his speech, His Excellency Tezuka stated that the objective of this project is to improve Libi Makandra’s emergency response services, which includes assisting the government’s ambulance service. The project will allow the Libi Makandra Emergency Unit to improve the quality of their services which will help them save lives. Additionally, he stated that he has no doubt that this project is truly one which meets basic human needs and Japan is very pleased that it can assist the project through the GGP especially since this year marks the Japan-CARICOM Friendship year 2014.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and the people of the Republic of Suriname, all with a view to strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding which exist between the two countries.

END

Attached are pictures of the ceremony which may be resized and distributed.

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