

HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE JUDO FOR HOPE CENTRE IN ALEXANDRA

On the 30th of May 2022, Ambassador Maruyama handed over the Judo for Hope Centre in Alexandria to Judo South Africa. The Government of Japan funded this project through the Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects. This Centre makes it possible for the community to learn and practice Judo, contributing to the health and development of the youth as well as the overall promotion of the community's health.



Judo South Africa, in partnership with the International Judo Federation, has organized Judo activities in Alexandria since 2018 to the benefit of local youth. These activities led to the establishment of a permanent Judo Centre in Alexandria in order to provide the community with a place and the opportunity to socialize and improve their mental and physical state.

During the ceremony, children who are taught Judo at the Centre demonstrated their skills to show what they had learned and a cherry blossom tree was planted by Mr Tefo Raphadu, the Ward Councillor, Mr Temba Hlasho, the President of Judo South Africa and Ambassador Maruyama to celebrate the relationship between Japan and South Africa.

In his remarks, Ambassador Maruyama said that Judo was not merely the training of the body, but it taught virtues such as courtesy, modesty and respect for others. Ambassador Maruyama further expressed his confidence in the Centre's positive impact on the community in Alexandria and the role it will play to promote Judo and its virtues throughout South Africa.

