



FIJI NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

27 May 2024

Dear All,

The Fiji National University (FNU) continues to thrive as a centre of academic excellence and a key contributor to Fiji's social and economic development. Last week had been a whirlwind of activities, highlighting our commitment to inclusion, collaboration, and national engagement.

We were honoured to welcome the Minister for Education, Honourable Aseri Radrodro, to our Namaka, Natabua and Naceva campuses. His visit signified the Ministry's ongoing support for FNU.

FNU was proud to be a part of the national conversation on illicit drugs in a talanoa session, where the Fiji Government and key stakeholders convened at the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies Lecture Theatre at our Nasinu Campus to discuss the pressing issue affecting our nation. In his opening remarks, keynote speaker and Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration, Honourable Pio Tikoduadua, emphasised the power of collaboration in order to tackle this issue amongst our youth. Honourable Tikoduadua said this was vital to combat "this great evil that has descended on our nation" and its people.

Furthermore, at the inaugural Provincial Education Forum, our Pro-Vice-Chancellor TVET, Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata, emphasised the crucial role of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in developing skilled workforces and driving sustainable economic growth in Fiji and the Pacific. This forum marked a significant step towards collaboration and shaping TVET policies for the region's benefit.

The University community is made up of a diversity of people and cultures that are to be celebrated, respected, honoured and protected.

The rich cultural heritage of our language, food, festivals, expressive arts, and traditions that

hold essential intrinsic values are to be taught, celebrated, and promoted to ensure continuity and sustainability.

Keeping this in mind, FNU was proud to be part of the Rotuma Day celebrations at the Vodafone Arena from 17-18 May, 2024. Our team was part of this to answer questions about our diverse academic programmes and help chart educational pathways.

Meanwhile, we kickstart this week, with the National TVET Forum hosted at our wonderful Namaka Campus. With the theme "TVET in Fiji, Focus on the Future," we will collectively explore the pivotal role TVET plays in shaping our nation's future.

On that note, we will examine the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and the innovative strategies needed to equip our people with the skills necessary for the dynamic and evolving job market. Our commitment to enhancing the quality, accessibility, and relevance of TVET is crucial for fostering economic growth, social inclusion, and sustainable development in Fiji.

For our students who are preparing for their examinations, I wish you the very best!

Remember to stay focused, stay calm, and believe in your abilities. Take care of your health, get plenty of rest, and approach your exams with confidence.

Good luck, and I look forward to celebrating your successes with you.

I wish you all a new week filled with purpose, productivity, and positivity.

Vinaka and Warm Wishes

Professor Unaisi Nabobo Baba
Vice-Chancellor

