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**PRESS RELEASE**

## **New FNU *'Na WereLevu'* Complex opened**

### **Suva, Fiji Islands.**

The Fiji National University's (FNU) largest multifunctional lecture theatre with a seating capacity of 670, was officially opened by Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey today at Natabua campus in Lautoka.

*'Na WereLevu'* is a double story building which comprises of a lecture theatre on the ground floor and eight tutorials rooms on first floor. The facility has been fitted with modern furniture which was recently sourced from China.

Professor Nigel Healey said it was a proud day for the University and a great start to the 2018 academic year.

VC Healey said the *'Na WereLevu'* complex is one of the first tangible results of the University's major investments in capital projects.

"We increased our expenditure on repairs and maintenance from just over \$2m from 2016 to over \$5m in 2017 and in 2018 it's close to \$9m. Our capital projects in 2018 is over \$50m. We are making a huge investment in our infrastructure, particularly in new buildings," said Prof Healey.

"This lecture theatre is a world-class facility. It is air conditioned, it has multimedia and it will provide a venue for teaching, community events, theatre and drama and creative arts. It is such a symbolic point to have such facility within the University with infrastructure worthy of the *national* university.

"This is what we are aiming for, going forward we want all of our buildings to be of this calibre," Prof Healey added.

Pro Vice Chancellor Learning & Teaching and Dean College of Humanities and Education, Dr Eci Nabalarua said the lecture theatre was named *'Na WereLevu'* which is the western dialect of *'ValeLevu'* a similar lecture theatre located in Nasinu Campus.

"When you translate *'ValeLevu'* in English it refers to the big house. In the Fijian context *'ValeLevu'* refers to the house of the Chief in any setting. It is the house where knowledge is bestowed, wisdom is learnt and custodians of traditions are actually passed down. It is the place of leadership and it is the one house everyone in the village looks to for guidance, natural justice, good judgment and good role modelling," said Dr Nabalarua.

“It is the hope of the University that from a house that is built specifically for learning and teaching, that from it we will inbuilt our students with wisdom, intelligence, and knowledge, with the values of what it means that we are good and upright citizens of this country.”

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**About the Fiji National University:** The Fiji National University (FNU) was established through the merger of 7 government-owned tertiary institutions in Fiji, and commenced operations from 1 January 2010. The constituent institutions are found at over 40 different locations across Fiji, and collectively offer Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees, Postgraduate qualifications and Skills Upgrading for those who are already in employment. Approximately 30,000 students pass through the University each year. Over the last six years of its operations, the University has registered major achievements with regard to new programme delivery, quality improvements and contribution to research and publications via its 5 Colleges: The College of Humanities & Education (CHE), the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS), the College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST), the College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF), the College of Business, Hospitality & Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).