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PRESS RELEASE

Rotuma Day celebrated at FNU Namaka Campus

Suva, Fiji Islands. Members of the Rotuman community, friends and well-wishers gathered in numbers at the Fiji National University (FNU) Namaka Campus over the weekend to celebrate the annual Rotuma Day.

Chief Guest, FNU's Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching (PVC L&T) Dr Eci Nabalarua thanked the Rotuman community for their contribution towards the economic and social development of Fiji as well as its contribution to the education sector.

Dr Nabalarua, who hails from the chiefly island of Bau, also shared with guests her fondest memories growing up as a child and spending her time with members of the Rotuman community.

"I'm over-whelmed to be invited to celebrate this important day with you all at the FNU Campus. I know that Bau and the people of Rotuma share deep links and I was always reminded of this while growing up by my parents and close family members. I have many Rotuman friends, some of whom are present here today. Let me tell you that you are one of us and we Bauans are proud to be associated with Rotuma," said Dr. Nabalarua.

The senior academic said though the Rotuman community was small; they were well connected, active socially and assisted communities in need.

Dr Nabalarua said she has fond memories of her interactions with the Rotuman community and shared her appreciation of the generosity of the Rotuman community when they gave a handsome donation during a religious conference, held in Bau some years ago.

The Chief Guest praised the Rotuman community for maintaining links to their homeland even though they are away from their homeland.

PVC L&T was accorded the traditional welcome ceremony by the Rotuman community. She took time to visit the various stalls with their display of cultural items. The community planned sports and fun activities through-out the day and also had food such as 'taroro' and 'tefui' on sale.

Rotuma Day is an annual celebration which falls on May 13, the anniversary of the island's cession to the United Kingdom in 1881.

The event was celebrated at FNU's Namaka Campus on Saturday 12, May.

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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).