

FNU Labasa Campus described as 'an agent of change in the North', says Tui Macuata



FNULAC chair, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere (sitting 3rd from right) with Pro VC Learning and Teaching Prof James Pounder, Dean CHE Dr Eci Nabalarua and Commissioner Northern Jovesa Vocea and other representatives at the meeting.

The Fiji National University Labasa Stakeholder Advisory Committee (FNULAC) recently convened to ensure stakeholders were updated on the progress and operations of FNU's Labasa Campus.

The FNULAC is chaired by Turaga na Tui Macuata, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere and comprises of representatives from Government sector, industries, traditional leaders, business leaders and women's, colleges, youth and disability organisations.

Commissioner Northern, Jovesa Vocea and FNU academic representatives that included Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, Professor James Pounder, College of Humanities and Education (CHE) Dean, Dr Eci Nabalarua, College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) Associate Dean Learning and Teaching, Dr Kaliova Ravuiwasa and Head of Campus Labasa, Pardeep Lal were amongst the 31 members present.

Whilst chairing the meeting, Tui Macuata, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere said the committee was an important part of the institution, which is an "agent of change and a strong role model in the North."

The high chief commended FNULAC members for their commitment and passion to spearhead the educational interests of the people in the northern division.

Ratu Wiliame said the provision of quality FNU programmes in the North would produce highly skilled graduates who would inspire others

to enrol and study at the Labasa Campus.

Professor Pounder said this was aligned to the progress and development of the new campus and added that there was the possibility of introducing more programmes in the North and blended and eLearning methods of learning.

Head of Campus Labasa, Pardeep Lal presented a report that highlighted student numbers, community outreach programs, road shows, marketing drives and student support and corporate social responsibilities undertaken recently.

"There was also a visit conducted to three Technical College of Fiji campuses, a school marketing campaign that targeted 95 percent of the Northern Division schools, a successful Open Day event and participation in government roadshows that was carried out by our campus," Lal said.

"For the first time, we also organised a principals talanoa session and this was to inform the principals of application and admission issues, new campus updates and to discuss issues they raised so that we could address it and serve our community better."

"We were pleased with the response from the schools in the North. FNU lecturers and instructors were also part of this session and addressed the queries that were raised."

A similar meeting is planned for later this year.