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## Press Release

### Rewa district sends out better prepared graduates

A total of 134 students of the District of Toga, in the Province of Rewa graduated yesterday from a two-week course under a new government-funded programme aimed at taking education and training closer to the people in Fiji's maritime and rural areas.

The Sustainable Livelihood Project (SLP) is run by the Fiji National University (FNU) and offers courses in OHS Electrical Safety, Basic Cookery, Small Engines Repair, Basic Carpentry and Joinery as well as Basics in Front Office Operation/Food and Beverages.

"The Sustainable Livelihood Project is going to benefit the people of Toga in Rewa in their new initiatives towards economic development," said FNU Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Alifereti Cawanibuka.

It was a historical occasion for the people of the district because it was the first time they witnessed a graduation ceremony with such a large number of participants.

Mr Cawanibuka said the courses were delivered to the participants who had responded to Training Need Analysis Forms distributed through the Roko Tui Rewa and his staff.

The Acting Roko Tui Rewa, Timoci Kacanavesi, said without training, people would not know the importance of development.

"The training is a great opportunity for students who are looking for employment but cannot continue with many barriers faced," the Acting Roko Tui Rewa said.

He added that age is not a barrier which is why participants of different age groups were encouraged to join the training.

Merewaia Lomani, 68, was the oldest participant to graduate with a Certificate in Basic Cookery.

Mrs Lomani, who hails from Moana Village in the District of Toga, said she wanted to learn more like the younger generation and see what she could achieve.

"I am still going strong at the age of 68 and can do anything the young ones can do. I believe that school is not only for the younger generation," she said.

Mrs Lomani has run a floriculture business for the past 20 years, using the income from her business to educate her five children.

"This is not the end of learning for me. I hope to join more training programmes like these in the future and go forward for more education," Mrs Lomani said.

Ana Waqadau, who graduated with a Basic Cookery Certificate, said she is thankful to FNU for bringing the programmes to the people of Toga.

The 21 year old said she had been looking for a job and now hopes to secure employment with the qualification.

Another graduate, Isireli Naqeleuvuki, who earned a Certificate in Basic Cookery, said he took up the course so that he could help his mum at home with cooking.

The 20 year old said he has been staying home after studying up to Seventh Form and is happy that he would be able to help around instead of being idle at home.

“The SLP training has helped us to learn how to make use of scarce resources and at the same time was also fun as we learnt new and exciting recipes,” he added.

Students do not have to pay for most of the SLP courses offered but are required to get their own material for training as well as make their own arrangements for accommodation or transportation to the Training Venue.

Other Cost could be the License that each Boat owner would have to pay to the Licensing Authority after attaining their Certificates from the SLP Training on Boat Safety and Boat Master for those who wish to be trained in those two courses which could be carried out in one Two-week period

**For more information, please contact: [seru.mataidrau@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:seru.mataidrau@fnu.ac.fj)**