

## Youth Minister Backs new FNU programme

May 15, 2013

Fiji's Minister for Youth, Commander Viliame Naupoto has backed a new commercial agriculture programme launched by Fiji National University for youths in the province of Navosa.

Cmdr. Naupoto said he was thankful to FNU for coming up with the project. "I think this programme should continue and spread out to all the other provinces."

The Minister said government's aim was to reach out to people as far as possible and educate them because they are the energy of the nation.

"FNU is helping us in reaching out to communities and they will have the full backing of the government to continue this programme," he said.

Part of the government-funded Sustainable Livelihood Project (SLP) run by FNU, the programme will see FNU staff travelling to Navosa to deliver the programme to the 34 youths in eight villages in Navosa. This means the youths will receive tertiary-level training at their doorstep, at no cost.

The SLP project was launched last year to provide basic level training for Fiji's rural and maritime dwellers and intends to facilitate or enhance their current forms of livelihood.

While programmes so far have been of a short-term duration, the Navosa programme is the first year-long initiative.

Cmdr. Naupoto said when education is taken to the people, it made them feel comfortable about studying in their own setting with their peers.

"This kind of training suits the young people because it is a mixture of both practical and theory."

He said the benefits of such programmes will go a long way and will keep the youths from indulging in other activities.

One of the candidates, Osea Bilo, 25, is keen about attending classes.

"I am very happy about this programme because it will give me a change. Now I have a chance to learn and I thank FNU teachers and Vice Chancellor for bringing the programme to us," he said.

The programme began on Monday and will run for a year, concluding on May 12, 2014.

Successful candidates will graduate with other FNU students at the 2014 December graduation.

For more information please contact the Communications Office on 3393110.