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PRESS RELEASE

FNU Launches Parliamentary Guide Book

Young people in Fiji should be encouraged to understand what the parliamentary process is about as majority of the voting population are below the age of 30.

The comment was made by Fiji National University (FNU) Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Rouse at the launch of 'Parliament 101: A Student's Guide to Parliament'.

"I think nearly 70% are less than 30, that's vast majority of the population and the significant number are in primary and secondary school and it is a challenge for any country to get people to 100 percent understand the parliamentary process," said Professor Rouse.

Professor Rouse said this publication is very informative and targeted at the audience for which it is intended.

The book has 135 pages of questions and answers of what happens in parliament; glossary terms used, and also describes roles and descriptions of parliamentary positions and groups.

According to Adjunct Professor of Governance and Ethics, Dr. Richard Herr, young people are the future of any nation, but it is up to the preceding generations to prepare them so they can have the best possible future.

He said the guide is structured in a way which would encourage the young people to read.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan, Mr. Takuji Hanatani expressed similar sentiments.

"The 'Parliament 101: A Student's Guide to Parliament' book being launched today is not only for the students. In fact, it gives a very simple, all inclusive and easy to understand explanation on what Fiji's Parliament is all about, to anybody who is interested in getting to know how parliament works and how it champions democracy in Fiji," he said.

Mr. Takuji Hanatani said schools that are going to offer parliamentary studies will find that this book brings exceptional quality to the curriculum.

Meanwhile, Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Jiko Luveni congratulated Professor Herr and FNU for the publication.

"I am glad that this publication is produced. I hear that this publication is going to be made available to students, please can you make them available to members of the parliament as well and I would like to congratulate Professor Herr and FNU for the production of this publication."

She told Professor Herr that he might have to produce more of such guides as people nowadays are so interested in parliament and this could be used as a reference material by them.

Dr. Jiko Luveni also commented on the behavior of the members of the parliament and how she is often told of taking sides of the government.

“The rowdy they are, the more interesting the parliamentary debates will be. I have been told that I’m siding with the government. It is the opposition that will scrutinize those bills; it is the opposition that will oppose to almost everything that the government does and that is why they become rowdy and they are more likely to go out of bounds; they are more likely to break the rules and this is why it is the opposition that I always do a ruling on,” she said.

According to Mr. Takuji Hanatani, there are plans to distribute this book amongst all the secondary schools and FNU libraries all over Fiji and it may also be published online, on the FNU website.

‘Parliament 101: A Student’s Guide to Parliament’ was launched at FNU Nasinu campus yesterday.