

RELEASE

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SCHOOL OF EDUCATION – Theatre Production

Lights, costumes, makeup, props, sound check and 2016 theatre production burst on stage at the Lautoka Campus.

Performing before a packed house, the characters played by the Primary Departments teachers came to life as they showcased their artistic talent and skill in portraying the issues on the theme of Climate Change.

Students from the various Primary Education Departments sections focused on different aspects of climate change and the need to be more aware of these changes happen around us.

In opening the event, Environment Departments Assistant Professor Ajantha Perera commended on the effort and time taken out by students to try and education the public and create awareness on the issue.

She said as teachers the students who prepared the dramas and the songs must make sure that their head knowledge flows into their hearts.

She emphasized that the need of the hour was a change in the hearts.

“When we change our hearts to love our environment, it’s easy to change those whom we teach,”

Prof Perera said each person born to this planet needed air to breathe, water to drink and food to eat, in addition to a house, a car and job.

“As human beings though we rejoice each time a baby is born, that child in fact adds to the population of the earth, which demand on the resources of the earth. So we are all polluters. Once we understand that fact we need to become responsible,” she said.

Prof Perera said the recent Cyclone Winston brought much pain to Fiji, and in fact a heavy burden on the Government in terms of food rations and housing assistance.

She said the money spent on Cyclone Winston could have been used for development if the tragedy did not occur.

Meanwhile Lecturer in charge of the Theatre Production Naresh Chand said theatre production was one of the assessments for the second year teacher trainees in art and music as per the course requirement.

He said Students used art and artistic expression to convey messages on the theme of climate change.

He added that students were expected to demonstrate self-discipline, creative thinking, problem solving, reasoning, imagination, and the ability to see situations from multiple perspectives of the arts and transfer these capacities to real world situations.

He said theater and music education provided a safe place for students to practice creativity and take personal challenges in a venue that celebrated success with every production or performance.

Mr Chand said music education and theatre production were important items on the primary education calendar.

“In addition to acting and singing, the theater offers many, many avenues for children to explore their creativity, including building and painting sets, costume design, lighting and sound system design, writing plays, composing music, and more,” he said.

“Standing on a stage and reciting lines offers the obvious benefit of practicing public speaking skills, but the idea behind that is for children to gain the confidence for themselves and express themselves better and with more style.”

Mr Chand said the objective or aim in staging such a production was for students to realize the importance of music, visual arts, movement and drama in the communication of ideas, emotions and feelings.

He said students also got to explore their creative abilities and learn how to organize programmes involving the arts and music.

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