



FIJI NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY



# ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

27 June 2023

**Dear all**

## **Welcome to another new week!**

I have decided to stay connected with the University community through weekly messages via FNUPR. This will allow me to share updates and activities with our students and staff regarding our national University.

I have acted in the position of Vice-Chancellor for close to four months now and would like to acknowledge and thank everyone for their continued support and commitment towards our strategic vision.

We have been quite busy this month with national events, such as the visit to the State House with our senior leadership team, led by the Chancellor and Council members. This was to present a *matanigasau* (traditional apology) to the President of the Republic of Fiji, His Excellency, Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere to apologise and acknowledge the President and his people for land that was given to the University to develop for tertiary education provisions in the North.

We also conducted a similar visit to the landowners of our Ba campus. This is important as it highlights the University's respect for the traditional owners of the land on which our campuses are built on.

Since then, we have hosted the Minister for Education, Honourable Aseri Radrodro at our Natabua Campus in Lautoka; and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Honourable Viliame Gavoka at our Namaka Campus.

The inaugural Office of the Vice-Chancellor's Leadership Seminar Series was held this month and featured Fiji's Ambassador to Indonesia, His Excellency Amenatave Yauvoli as the guest speaker. Ambassador Yauvoli spoke on the topic "*Sustainable Development (SDG 2030) for a Small Island State like Fiji*" Implications for the Fiji National University". The next one will be in July.

As the national tertiary education provider, it is part of our core role to collaborate closely with line ministries, national agencies, and stakeholders to ensure that our programmes are industry-relevant, sustainable, and aligned to current and future skills demands.

Part of nurturing our graduates for the future is prioritising their academic and social growth today. The VC's Office was proud to partner with the FNU Students Association (FNUSA) to host the inaugural Leadership Conference at Natabua Campus last week. This promises to be an annual event. The College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) has volunteered to be the next host after the College of Humanities and Education (CHE).

The four-day conference featured FNU's Senior Leadership Team and faculty staff discussing with students on topics concerning sustainability, the digital age and artificial intelligence, studies enhancement, the importance of female leaders, collaborative teaching and learning, alumni engagement and many more.

Like everything that is undertaken by the University, the conference aligned with our Strategic Plan 2021-2026 pillar on Student Experience.

The Strategic Plan has guided our learning, teaching, research, and support activities since 2021 and is now undergoing a Mid-Term Review. The review will be led by Dr Sereana Kubuabola, who has been appointed by the University as a Consultant in the Office of Learning and Teaching for two years. She will be reporting to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching and will conduct consultations over the next 2 months.

The final draft of the Mid-Term Review is expected to be completed by 30 August 2023. As part of her appointment at FNU, she will be required to meet with students, staff, other internal stakeholders as well as external stakeholders including employers and government representatives.

And finally, I acknowledge our academic staff who have been busy these past few weeks finalising exams and assessment results for our students! Best wishes to all our students who will be receiving your final marks over the next few weeks.

Have a productive week ahead.

*Vinaka*

**Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba**  
**Acting Vice-Chancellor**



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