



FIJI NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY



# VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

06 May 2024

## Dear All,

I hope you all are doing well as we slowly advance through the year.

It has been a busy couple of weeks for me as the Vice-Chancellor as I have been committed in activities that ensure that we are in the right direction to ensure we meet our Strategic Plan 2024-2026.

Congratulations to the 216 graduates from Fiji National University's National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC) Sustainable Livelihood Project (SLP) Training programme at Vunivutu village in Macuata, Labasa.

The programme has opened doors of opportunity for people in rural areas as they have been provided with training and skills training. Under the government-funded Sustainable Livelihood Project (SLP), participants completed trainings in a variety of skills, including wooden house construction, household and sanitary plumbing, domestic electrical, solar installation, small engine repair, cabinet making and joinery, garment construction, screen printing, floriculture, business etiquette, and fibreglass boat repair.

A hearty congratulations to our 710 Nauru-based graduates who graduated in areas ranging from the fundamentals of baking and patisserie to household and sanitary plumbing, small engine repair, carpentry, refrigeration and air conditioning, and front office management for the hotel and resort industry.

To date, the Fiji National University has completed six training sessions under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Nauru's Department of Multicultural Affairs.

These training sessions are being offered by FNU's National Training and Productivity Centre's various departments which include the Department of Community-based Non-Formal Education, Construction and Industry, Tourism, Hospitality, Fashion and Travel, Automotive and Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics, and National Productivity and Industry Innovation and have empowered individuals across various sectors.

The impact of these training sessions is truly profound. In 2023 alone, we witnessed the graduation of 486 individuals who were equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in their respective fields.

I was in Nevada, in the United States of America, with a team from Fiji National University to hold important discussions and strengthen our relationships with the College of Southern Nevada and Nevada National Guard to collaborate and work together in the best interest of our universities.

Our team recently had the opportunity to visit their EMT/Paramedic Programme and the Department of Criminal Justice and Emergency Service. It was not just a tour; we got to dive deep and learn from these incredible professionals. Their expertise and insights into emergency response have been invaluable, and I truly appreciate the chance to exchange knowledge and ideas. This collaboration feels important, and I am excited to see what the future holds for our team working alongside these institutions.

I am also pleased to share that Fiji National University recently hosted Cicia High School students who visited various FNU campuses in the Central Division. I was informed by my team that the students were overjoyed to see the various opportunities and facilities FNU has on offer that will enable them to turn their dreams into reality.

The students had to travel for more than three days to reach the mainland, and I am honoured that our staff and students had the opportunity to showcase our FNU family hospitality to them.

Coming from an island to the mainland was the first for the majority, and I am glad that most of them will go back with information that will assist them in choosing an area of study soon.

In other news, our outreach team interacted with the students and members of the community at Saint Joseph's Secondary School and Suva Grammar School. I believe it is pivotal for us to share academic information with our young minds, so they are equipped with the knowledge to choose the right career path for themselves. Our team will continue with similar outreach programmes in the future.

FNU remains steadfast in its pursuit of academic excellence, community empowerment, and building strong international partnerships. The future holds immense potential, and we are committed to collaboratively shaping it for the betterment of Fiji and the Pacific region.

Finally, I wish the students the very best in their studies, and I ensure that your FNU family will do whatever is within our reach to make your dreams come true and connect you with your future employment with the training and knowledge imparted by our highly educated academic staff members throughout our different campuses

## Vinaka

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

