



# VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

03 June 2024

## Dear All,

I am happy to connect with you once again through my weekly message to inform you of the activities that our FNU family took part in over the course of the week.

Firstly, I want to highlight the successful Technical, Vocational, and Education Training Forum we organised through our National Training and Productivity Centre. I acknowledge the presence of participants from different organisations and industries to talk and discuss skills development and the topic of brain drain as we continue to lose our skilled workforce to other countries. The departure of our people has created a gap, and we must ensure that we meet the demand and supply high-quality tradespeople through the training and knowledge we impart at the Fiji National University in collaboration with stakeholders.

As the nation's very own university, these matters deserve our attention and swift action, as such the outcomes of the 2024 National TVET Forum will be collated into a report and submitted to the Minister for Education, Honourable Aseri Radrodro, who will be submitting the report to cabinet.

Secondly, I am pleased to announce that the new Medical Simulation Centre for the College of Medicine, Nursing, and Health Sciences will benefit our future health professionals. Fiji National University and Soon Chun Hayang University from South Korea met to discuss the project implementation plan for the Medical Simulation Centre last week.

The project is fully funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) of the Republic of Korea. The project is expected to be completed in 2026, and the Centre is expected to be fully operational for our students by 2027.

Moving on, I am pleased to share that Fiji National University successfully hosted the

Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna Public Lecture at our Natabua and Nasinu Campuses. It was a great opportunity to hear from esteemed speakers such as distinguished Professor, Steven Ratuva who gathered together as a family to honour the legacy of such an historical figure in the history of modern Fiji.

Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna was a brilliant thinker who was keenly aware of the needs of his people. He significantly influenced Fiji's path to independence and the country's subsequent growth as a unified and forward-thinking state. Even now, his passion and leadership serve as an example to us.

Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna was an advocate for education and the preservation of Fijian culture and custom throughout his life. He was adamant that education was the way to empower people and advance the country. His work led to the creation of educational institutions that have profoundly influenced the lives of numerous Fijians.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincerest best wishes to all students embarking on their examinations this week. Your dedication to preparation and the tireless effort invested in learning are truly commendable. Remember, strong academic performance is built upon a foundation of consistent effort, and each successful exam serves as a valuable stepping stone towards your future achievements. Approach these assessments with confidence, knowing that your knowledge and skills are well-honed. May your hard work be reflected in your results.

**Vinaka Vakalevu**

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

