



FIJI NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

17 June 2024

Dear All,

I am pleased to be connecting with you— staff and students— at Fiji National University for another week.

First and foremost, a round of applause for all of you who tackled the FNU exams these past two weeks. I acknowledge the immense effort you poured into late-night study sessions, meticulous revisions, and dedicating yourselves entirely to the exam process. It is no secret—these exams can be overwhelming and demanding.

Believe me, I have been in your shoes. I understand the anxieties, the doubts, and the sheer volume of information you have grappled with. The journey you have embarked on at the Fiji National University is no small feat. It requires commitment, perseverance, and a whole lot of resilience. But let me tell you, the challenges you have overcome so far represent a significant step in a much larger journey—one that will shape your future.

You have channelled your energy into demonstrating the knowledge you have acquired throughout the semester. Now, take a deep breath and acknowledge what you have accomplished. You pushed yourselves, conquered obstacles, and emerged stronger. Let this be a moment of pride before we move on to the next chapter.

Students, enjoy your well-deserved break before we begin the next semester, where we will take you one step closer to your dreams. The applications for Semester 2, 2024, are open, and you can visit any of our campuses to enquire further, get counselling, or even enrol in the programmes of your interest

Secondly, I am pleased to inform you that I recently had the opportunity to contribute to a Parliament Speaker's Debate focused on the crucial issue of Women's Public Leadership: Empowering Women's Participation at all levels of Decision-Making as a panellist.

The Parliament Speaker's Debate serves as a vital platform for discussing and debating critical issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 5 calls for ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels.

The under-representation of women in leadership positions across political, economic, and public spheres is a persistent challenge. This not only represents a fundamental inequality but also hinders sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Research consistently demonstrates a strong correlation

between female leadership and improved corporate performance, more responsive policymaking, and, ultimately, a more prosperous future for all.

Therefore, achieving SDG 5 is not simply an aspirational goal, it is a strategic imperative! To unlock its full potential, we must focus on targeted interventions.

By prioritising these strategies, we can dismantle the barriers that have historically restricted women's leadership potential. The benefits will be far-reaching. Empowered women will drive innovation, create jobs, and contribute meaningfully to solving some of the world's most pressing challenges.

I am also pleased to inform you that FNU's National Training and Productivity Centre successfully hosted the Breakfast Productivity Talk (P-Talk). We are pleased to announce the successful hosting of the third Breakfast Productivity Talk (P-Talk) by the Fiji National University's National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC). This initiative underscores the NTPC's continued dedication to fostering a culture of productivity within Fiji.

The P-Talk served as a valuable platform to elevate awareness of productivity among key stakeholders.

I was also part of the Sustainable Livelihood Project graduation in Taveuni last week and I am pleased to share that the Fiji National University continues to touch the lives of our people. At the graduation, FNU also graduated the youngest member, a 14-year-old Fijian of Indian descent female. This shows that education has no age barrier if one has a heart to learn and succeed.

Moving on, students, Team FNU Leaders and our whole FNU family stand behind you every step of the way. Whether you are waiting for results, charting the course for your future endeavours, or seeking support, your FNU family is hereto support you. Utilise the resources at your disposal, and remember, the lessons learned here extend far beyond the classroom.

As always -we wish you the best!

Vinaka Vakalevu

Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba
Vice-Chancellor

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