



FIJI NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S Message for Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna Day

Dear All,

Ni Sa Bula Vinaka!

Today, marks a significant time in the calendar for all Fijians as we remember the life of Fiji's visionary leader, statesman, scholar and soldier who was born to lead and serve his country – **Ratu Sir Josefa Lalabalavu Vanayaliyali Sukuna**.

This day is a reminder for all Fijians to pause, reflect and honour the enduring legacy of one of Fiji's greatest sons.

We may have come across many great leaders, but Ratu Sukuna proved to be the greatest as his work continues to play a part in our lives and the lives of our families today.

It has been 67 years since his passing, but the legacy that Ratu Sukuna left behind, can never be erased from our minds.

Empathy was the component Ratu Sukuna was really known for while being a visionary leader, having a planned vision for his people and the people he served.

Despite being a high-ranking chief, an honored statesman, and a decorated soldier, he tirelessly journeyed across Fiji, visiting every Fijian or iTaukei village. With passion and conviction, he persuaded our traditional landowners, our forefathers, of the urgent need for an institution to safeguard their land from exploitation.

This relentless effort culminated in the creation of the Native Land Trust Board now known as the iTaukei Land Trust Board, the revered guardian of all native land in Fiji.

Fiji is known for its multiethnic history, which I believe was considered highly important by Ratu Sukuna, in his tireless effort to include all types of races under our Noble Banner Blue making us all feel as one.

As Vice-Chancellor, and on behalf of all FNU students and staff, I join the nation in commemorating our visionary leader whose life and service have left an indelible mark on our history and identity.

His dedication to the advancement of his people through education, dialogue, and good governance remains a powerful example to us all.

Let us continue to honour his memory not only through ceremony, but through action—by cultivating future leaders who embody his values of service, wisdom, and integrity.

May the legacy of Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna continue to guide and inspire us in shaping a more inclusive, educated, and resilient Fiji.

Professor Unaiyi Nabobo-Baba
Vice-Chancellor
Fiji National University

Follow us



www.fnu.ac.fj Care | Honesty | Accountability | Service | Excellence