



VICE-CHANCELLOR’S MESSAGE

27 October, 2025

Bula Vinaka FNU Vuvale!

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Diwali week with your loved ones. May the spirit of the season continue to inspire us in our shared journey of learning, service, and unity.

Last Friday marked a proud milestone for FNU and for Fiji — the launch of the Diploma in Vanua Leadership Programme. This initiative reflects our deep commitment to nurturing, preserving, and advancing the wisdom of the Vanua. It is not merely another academic qualification; it is a calling that acknowledges education’s vital role in embracing indigenous knowledge systems, values, and identity.

The Vanua is not just land, it represents our people, our relationships, and our responsibilities. Through this programme, FNU reaffirms its role as a university deeply rooted in our rich history and traditions, yet boldly forward-looking in vision.

This milestone was made possible through the strong partnerships of the Great Council of Chiefs, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, and the Australian Government (DFAT). On behalf of FNU, I extend heartfelt appreciation to these valued partners for their trust and shared belief in this vision.

To our 28 pioneering students, the iSausauvou, you are the bridge between tradition and transformation. The knowledge you will gain is not only for personal growth but for the strengthening of your communities and your Vanua.

The Diploma in Vanua Leadership also reflects FNU’s broader mission; to decolonise education, indigenise learning, and ensure that higher education remains relevant to Fiji’s cultural identity and national priorities.

In the past week, I also had the pleasure of meeting with a delegation from the Federated States of Micronesia, where we explored opportunities for regional collaboration in higher education, research, and skills development. Strengthening these connections within our Pacific family is vital as we continue to build a more integrated and resilient region that values knowledge-sharing and mutual growth.

I was also deeply honoured to meet with members of the Bose Vanua Ko Lau, led by the Gone Turaga Bale Na Tui Nayau, Sau ni Vanua Ko Lau, Ratu Tevita Uluilakeba Mara. Our discussions centred on how FNU can extend its reach to ensure that quality education and training are accessible to all, including those in maritime and remote communities. It was an inspiring dialogue that reaffirmed the importance of collaboration between traditional leadership and modern education in shaping a future that honours our culture, strengthens our people, and empowers our nation.

This week, we look forward to signing a Memorandum of Agreement between FIJI Water, Neptune Pacific, and FNU to establish the FIJI Water & Neptune Pacific Career Centre. This partnership will provide practical training, industrial skills, and academic certification for careers in the marine and manufacturing sectors — another shining example of FNU’s commitment to industry-aligned and sustainable education.

As October draws to a close, I encourage all staff and students to take advantage of the free breast cancer screenings offered by our UniClinic across campuses this Pinktober. Let us turn awareness into action by taking care of our health and encouraging others to do the same.

Finally, to our students, as you prepare for your final exams, stay focused, disciplined, and confident. You have worked hard all year to reach this point. To families and friends, please support and encourage our students during this crucial period, your understanding and care make a real difference.

Let us continue to move forward as one Vuvale — connected, resilient, and united in purpose.

Vinaka vakalevu and have a productive week ahead and be Blessed.

Professor Unaiji Nabobo-Baba
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