

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

20 October, 2025



Bula Vinaka to our FNU Vuvale!

Last week was an eventful, important, and inspiring one for our FNU community. I had the privilege of visiting our Diploma in Vanua Leadership Programme students at the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Development (CATD) in Nadave on several occasions. Meeting the 28 Sausauvou from our 14 provinces was truly an honour. They represent the next generation of leaders - individuals who will serve their Vanua with wisdom, compassion, and respect. Chiefship plays a vital role in our peaceful coexistence and unity as a nation, for the chiefly jurisdiction and service extend to "all" within.

My sincere appreciation goes to the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Dr Kaliova Ravuiwasa, and his dedicated team for hosting the Sausauvou at the College last week. Their discussions centred on how CAFF can collaborate more closely with the Vanua to promote sustainability in agriculture - a shared vision for the prosperity of our people and our land.

We also witnessed the success of our vibrant Careers Fair, where students explored pathways to their future professions. Such events are a reminder of how FNU continues to bridge education and employment, helping our students take confident steps into the world of work.

Adding to the week's highlights, our Nasinu Campus hosted FNU's first-ever Deepawali Celebration. It was a colourful and joyous occasion, graced by His Excellency Shri Sunil Mehta, the High Commissioner of India to Fiji. Other campuses across the University

also held their own Deepawali celebrations, each filled with light, laughter, and cultural expression.

These celebrations beautifully reflected Pillar 1 of FNU's Strategic Plan - Inclusiveness and Diversity, showcasing our commitment to embracing the many cultures, faiths, and traditions that make our university community truly unique.

As we mark the Festival of Lights, I wish everyone celebrating Deepawali a time filled with happiness, peace, and hope. May this festive season bring brightness to your homes and hearts, and may the coming week be one of positivity and kindness for us all.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the official launch of the Diploma in Vanua Leadership Programme this week in partnership with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, The Great Council of Chiefs (GCC), Australian Government and the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF). This is a significant milestone that reaffirms FNU's commitment to nurturing leadership grounded in culture, values, and service to our communities.

Vinaka vakalevu, and warm Diwali greetings to you and your loved ones.

Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba
Vice-Chancellor
Fiji National University