

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

09 February, 2026



Warm Pacific Greetings FNU Family!

As we step into a new academic week and the beginning of Semester 1, I extend my best wishes to you all at the Fiji National University.

At the outset, I wish to sincerely thank the Chair of the Higher Education Commission of Fiji (HECF), Mr Steve Chand, and the Director HECF, Dr Eci Naisele and their team, who were in the North last week visiting our Naiyaca and Naduna Campuses. Their visit reaffirms our shared commitment to strengthening quality higher education across Fiji.

I also extend my appreciation to the Gone Turaga Bale na Tui Nayau, Sau ni Vanua ko Lau na Tui Lau, Ratu Tevita Uluilakeba Mara, for meeting with me last week to discuss how FNU and the Province of Lau can work together to expand educational opportunities and support community development. These talanoa are vital as we deepen our provincial and regional partnerships.

I also commend the Office of Learning and Teaching and the International Office for hosting a Meet and Greet session welcoming 58 new Australia Awards Pacific Scholarship recipients and 14 Manaaki Scholarship recipients for the 2026 academic year. These scholars from Fiji and across the Pacific will pursue studies in medicine, arts, agriculture, engineering, and business at various academic levels. We are honoured to support their educational journey and the development of future regional leaders.

Later today, Monday 9th February, I will attend the Opening of the Commonwealth Ministers of Justice Meeting in Nadi, representing FNU at this important regional forum. This week, as we begin a new academic year, it brings fresh beginnings and renewed focus. Guided by our **CHASE values—Care, Honesty,**

Accountability, Service, and Excellence

—we continue to strengthen our culture of excellence while contributing meaningfully to Fiji's National Development Plan through inclusive growth, strong governance, and sustainable progress.

At the heart of our work is "Student Success". FNU offers a wide range of support services, including academic advising, library and learning resources, student affairs, counselling, health services, and career guidance. At FNU, we also have the FNU Foundation, which provides for the 'underserved' student population.

I encourage students to make full use of these services and to remember that seeking support is a positive step towards achieving their goals.

This Wednesday, I will attend the Naiyaca Campus Student Orientation Programme in the Northern Division, reaffirming our commitment to students and supporting the broader vision of the Na Vualiku Project, which continues to strengthen our outreach across Northern Fiji.

To our staff, I thank you for your continued dedication and professionalism in supporting our learners.

Together, we continue crafting futures, empowering individuals, and strengthening national and regional development.

I wish you all students and staff a successful and rewarding start to the semester 1, 2026.

Professor Unaiji Nabobo-Baba
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