

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

10 March, 2026



Dear FNU Vuvale,

I hope you all had a good weekend and are settling well into the rhythm of the semester. It continues to be a busy and productive period for us at the Fiji National University (FNU) as we work together to strengthen the University and the services we provide to our students and the nation.

Last week was a busy and productive one for the University, with a number of important meetings and engagements that contribute to the continued development of the Fiji National University.

Among these was a meeting with Ministry of Commerce and Business Development and the agencies of BusinessNow Fiji, where we discussed opportunities for collaboration and ways in which FNU can continue to strengthen its role in supporting industry and national development. These engagements are important as we work to ensure our programmes remain relevant and responsive to the needs of Fiji and the region. Director Academic Learning and Teaching Mr Rusi Laladidi is our lead in this.

There were also some staff movements and rotations across the University last week. I would like to thank **Mr Waisake Rabuatoka** from the Department of Creative Arts in Lautoka for agreeing to take up the responsibility of leading Music in the North at our Naiyaca Campus. This is not an easy decision, as it involves relocating with his family, and we appreciate his commitment and willingness to serve where he is most needed.

I also congratulate **Ms Katarina Toga-Ruru** on her appointment as Acting Head of Campus – Nasinu, effective from 2 March 2026. Ms Toga-Ruru joined the University in January 2010 and currently serves as a Lecturer in the Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education in the College of Humanities, Education and Law. I wish her well as she takes on this important leadership role.

I would also like to congratulate all other staff who received confirmed appointments last week. I believe that each of you will continue to contribute positively to the University in your respective roles, and I thank you for your commitment to serving our students and the wider community.

Last week, I met with Akanisi Kedrayate, Pro-Chancellor of Pacific Communities University, to discuss community development initiatives and explore opportunities for collaboration in areas of education, research, and outreach that can benefit our communities.

I also had an online meeting with the Landowners Association in Taveuni to discuss matters relating to land and ongoing developments in the area.

We also marked **International Women's Day**, and I take this opportunity to thank the many hardworking women of FNU — both staff and students — for your dedication and contributions. I also acknowledge your families, spouses and children who support you and allow you to serve the people of Fiji and our nation.

Our College of Engineering, Technology and Vocational Education and Training (CETVET) also celebrated **World Radio Day**, while many across our campuses took part in the joyful celebration of **Holi**, a festival that reminds us of unity, colour and community.

This week promises to be another engaging one for the University. Holi celebrations will continue at our Natabua Campus, bringing staff and students together in the spirit of cultural appreciation and inclusivity. The celebrations will also coincide with the important visit from the Fiji Education Commission on Tuesday, which provides an opportunity to showcase the work we are doing at FNU.

Towards the end of the week, I will be travelling to Vanuatu to attend meetings related to the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) and Pacific Community (SPC). These discussions will contribute to partnership strengthening regional partnerships and advancing opportunities for higher education collaboration in our region.

As always, I thank you all for your continued dedication to the work we do together at Fiji National University.

Vinaka vakalevu and have a productive week ahead!

Professor Unayi Nabobo-Baba
Vice-Chancellor
Fiji National University