



FIJI NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

# GIRMIT DAY



Girmit Day holds deep historical and cultural significance for Fiji, marking the resilience, sacrifice and enduring legacy of the Girmityas who arrived on our shores in 1879. As we commemorate the 147th Girmit Day under the theme **“From Roots to Wings: Carrying the Girmit Flame Forward,”** we honour not only their struggles, but also the strength, values and contributions they have passed down through generations.

For the Fiji National University (FNU), Girmit Day is a powerful reminder of the foundations upon which our diverse nation has been built. Our University is a vibrant reflection of Fiji’s multicultural identity, bringing together staff and students from different ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds. The Girmit legacy speaks directly to this diversity – a story of perseverance, adaptation and unity in the face of hardship.

The journey of the Girmityas was one of courage and determination. Despite immense challenges, they laid the groundwork for future generations to thrive in education, enterprise and community life. Today, their legacy lives on in our lecture theatres, workshops and campuses, where students pursue knowledge and skills that empower them to shape a better future.

As an institution committed to inclusivity and national development, we recognise the importance of preserving and sharing this history. It strengthens our collective identity and reminds us of the values of hard work, resilience and respect for diversity.

On this Girmit Day, let us reflect on our shared past and reaffirm our commitment to carrying the Girmit flame forward – by fostering understanding, embracing diversity and working together to build a more inclusive and progressive Fiji.

*Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba*

**Vice-Chancellor**

**Fiji National University**