

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

08 June, 2026



Bula Vinaka and warm greetings to our Fiji National University Vuvale,

As we come to the close of Semester One, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the week that has been and to thank the many staff and students who continue to contribute to the growth and success of our University.

Last week, our Division of Marketing and Communications continued its Student Liaison Outreach Programme across the Western Division, reaching schools and communities from the coastline of Sigatoka to the highlands of Ra.

This important work reflects our commitment to ensuring that no young Fijian is denied access to information about quality tertiary education opportunities available at Fiji National University. Education has the power to transform lives, and it is encouraging to see our team travelling the length and breadth of the country to connect with future students and their families. This week, the team continues its journey across the western side of Viti Levu and will also travel to Ovalau. I wish them well and look forward to hearing more stories from the field as they continue to represent the University with pride.

We also marked World Environment Day at our Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies. I thank the students and staff from the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and the College of Humanities and Education for joining the celebrations and demonstrating their commitment to environmental stewardship.

It was heartening to see staff and students come together to plant fruit trees and seedlings around the campus. I particularly thank the CAFF team for providing banana shoots and other planting materials, and the PCMS team for leading the programme.

I would also like to acknowledge our Department of Estates and Facilities.

Throughout the weekend, the team worked tirelessly across our campuses, carrying out cleaning, maintenance and beautification works. Their efforts often take place behind the scenes, but they play a vital role in ensuring that our campuses remain safe, welcoming and conducive learning environments for our students and staff. Vinaka vakalevu for your dedication and hard work.

In the North, our team at Naiyaca Campus in Labasa continues to work around the clock as preparations progress for the groundbreaking ceremony of our permanent campus facilities in August. This is an exciting milestone for FNU and for the people

of Vanua Levu, and I thank everyone involved for their commitment and perseverance.

Last week, I was also pleased to welcome the California Polytechnic State University Maritime Academy delegation, led by Professor Dawn B. Neill. At FNU, we value partnerships and scholarly exchanges that strengthen research, innovation and knowledge creation for the benefit of our communities, our nation and the wider Pacific region.

Today, we are hosting a Mini Summit at our Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies, bringing together representatives from California Polytechnic State University, the United States Military Group, the Nevada National Guard, the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji, FIJI Water and Neptune Pacific. These conversations are important as we continue to strengthen partnerships that contribute to maritime education, workforce development and regional resilience.

This week, we will also welcome the Permanent Secretary for Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, Mr Peni Sikivou, to Naiyaca and Naduna Campuses. We look forward to showcasing the progress being made and discussing the University's contribution to national development priorities.

As Semester One comes to an end, I would like to thank all our academic staff for their dedication, professionalism and commitment to our students throughout the semester. You now have an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learned and prepare for an even stronger Semester Two.

To our support staff, thank you for your teamwork, resilience and the many contributions you make every day to keep our University moving forward.

And to our students, congratulations on completing another semester. Enjoy your well-deserved break, spend time with your families and loved ones, stay safe, and return refreshed and ready for the opportunities that await in the next semester.

Let us all continue to work together as one FNU family as we build a stronger University and a brighter future for Fiji and the Pacific.

Have a blessed week ahead.

Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba
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