

Vice-Chancellor's

RATU SUKUNA DAY

Message



Bula Vinaka to our students, staff, partners and the Fiji National University vuvale.

Today, we pause as a nation to honour and remember one of Fiji's greatest sons, **Ratu Sir Josefa Lalabalavu Vanayaliyali Sukuna**, a visionary leader, scholar, soldier, and statesman whose life was dedicated to the service of his people and to Fiji.

Like other leaders, we have a lot to learn from his example.

Ratu Sukuna, as he was mostly known to all Fijians, was not simply born into leadership, he earned the respect and admiration of generations through his wisdom, humility, courage, and unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of all Fijians. His legacy continues to shape our nation, our communities, and the lives of countless families across Fiji.

His leadership was grounded in empathy and service. Despite his distinguished status as a high chief and respected international figure, he travelled tirelessly throughout Fiji, visiting villages and listening to the concerns of ordinary people.

He understood the importance of protecting the rights, dignity, and future of indigenous landowners, and through his foresight and determination, the Native Land Trust Board, now the iTaukei Land Trust Board, was established to safeguard native land for future generations.

Ratu Sukuna also recognised the strength of Fiji's multicultural identity. He believed in unity, mutual respect, and the importance of bringing people together under one nation. His vision of an inclusive Fiji remains as relevant today as it was during his lifetime. As a visionary leader, Ratu Sukuna understood that sustainable progress could only be achieved through collaboration, education, and long-term planning.

Ratu Sukuna's vision for a united, resilient, and progressive Fiji continues to inspire the University's commitment to inclusivity, service, and sustainable development, ensuring that his legacy lives on through the work of educating and empowering future generations.

As we commemorate Ratu Sukuna Day, his story serves as a powerful reminder to our students and to all Fijians that true leadership is not measured by title or status, but by service to others, integrity, compassion, and the courage to create positive change.

I wish to encourage our young people, to emulate the life of Ratu Sukuna to inspire you to pursue education with purpose, to value your culture and identity, and to become leaders who uplift your communities and contribute meaningfully to the future of our nation.

On behalf of the Fiji National University community, I join the nation in honouring the remarkable legacy of Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna.



Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba

Vice-Chancellor

Fiji National University