



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

14 July 2026

Ni sa Bula Vinaka, and greetings to the FNU Vuvale,

This week is a significant one for the Fiji National University as we welcome Professor Palatasa Havea of Massey University, New Zealand, as our University Visitor.

Professor Havea is a respected scientist, academic leader and Dean whose work has spanned research, innovation and higher education across the Pacific and beyond. His career reminds us that universities must do more than generate knowledge, they must use knowledge to improve lives, strengthen communities and contribute meaningfully to national development.

Yesterday, I was delighted to welcome **Professor Palatasa Havea** to our Senior Leadership Team meeting, where he shared his insights and experiences as a scientist, academic leader and Dean.

Following his engagement with our SLT, Professor Havea spent time with colleagues from the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, where he participated in a talanoa with staff and toured the University's teaching and research farm. The visit provided an opportunity to exchange ideas, learn about the important work being undertaken at CAFF, and explore areas for future collaboration in agricultural research, innovation and sustainable food systems.

Today, our wider university community will have the opportunity to hear Professor Havea speak at our University Seminar. I thank him sincerely for accepting our invitation and for generously sharing his knowledge and experience with us. His visit strengthens the relationship between our two universities and reinforces our commitment to learning from one another as Pacific institutions. It also encourages us to continue building a university that is globally connected, deeply rooted in the Pacific, and responsive to the needs of our nations.

As we begin this new week, I also wish to acknowledge the successful conclusion of the International Landcare and Sustainable Agriculture Conference held at our Bonunaqwele Campus last week. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for delivering a conference of such high quality. It was encouraging to see traditional leaders, researchers, government agencies, industry and communities come together to share knowledge and explore practical solutions for sustainable agriculture, environmental stewardship and climate resilience. This is the kind of leadership the Fiji National University must continue to provide for Fiji and the Pacific.

This week also marks the beginning of Semester Two, and I warmly welcome our students back to our campuses. Whether you are returning to continue your studies or joining us for the first time, I encourage you to approach this semester with curiosity, discipline and a willingness to learn from one another.

To our academic and professional staff, vinaka vakalevu for your dedication and commitment.

As we begin this new semester, let us continue to walk together with purpose, humility and hope. May we remain committed to serving our people through quality teaching, impactful research and meaningful engagement with our communities.

Vinaka vakalevu, and I wish you all a productive and rewarding week ahead.

Professor Unaizi Nabobo-Baba
Vice-Chancellor
Fiji National University