



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

22 September 2026

Bula vinaka and a very good morning to our FNU Vuvale,

Last week, I had the privilege of attending the Aniva Graduation Celebration and Research Symposium in Auckland, New Zealand, together with our Chancellor and Chair of Council, Dr Adi Alisi Vudiniabola. These gatherings celebrated Pacific nursing leadership, postgraduate achievement and research that is grounded in the knowledge, experiences and priorities of our Pacific communities.

At the graduation celebration, I was honoured to present the Postgraduate Certificate awards, while our Chancellor presented the master's awards. It was encouraging to witness Pacific health professionals being recognised for their commitment to advanced learning and service. I congratulate all the graduates and acknowledge the families, mentors and organisations that supported them throughout their studies.

I also delivered the keynote address at the Aniva Research Symposium, which brought together Pacific health professionals, researchers and Aniva master's graduates. The symposium provided an important forum for graduates to share their research ahead of a special Aniva edition of Nursing Praxis in Aotearoa New Zealand. In my address, I reflected on Pacific research methodologies and indigenous knowledge, and on the need for research to remain connected to our people, cultures and lived realities. Research must not only add to knowledge; it must improve lives and strengthen our communities.

Also last week, our College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry represented FNU at the 2026 National Agriculture Show at Subrail Park in Labasa. The event showcases our work in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and food systems through education, research, innovation and community engagement.

Our commitment to practical learning was also demonstrated through the establishment of the CAFF Vuvale Garden at the Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere Labasa Campus. Vinaka Team CAFF.

At the Nasinu Campus, FNU hosted the Fiji University Sports Association Disability Sports Inter-Tertiary Competition, bringing students together in a celebration of ability, inclusion, teamwork and healthy living. This was complemented by the recognition of our Nasinu Campus under the International University Sports Federation Healthy Campus Programme. I congratulate the Office of Learning and Teaching, Professor Jimaima Lako, Acting Head of Campus Ms Katarina Ruru, and everyone who contributed to this recognition.

Our College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies also hosted its 2026 Industry Fair at the Nasinu Campus. The fair connected students with industry professionals and potential employers, allowing them to explore career pathways and build valuable professional networks.

Today, I am travelling to Savusavu for the 8th Pacific Media Summit, a Pacific Islands News Association event hosted by the Fijian Media Association from 21 to 25 September. The Summit is being held under the theme, Reaching the Remote: Media and Digital Innovation for a Connected Blue Pacific, and will bring together

journalists, editors, broadcasters, media owners and development partners from across more than 20 Pacific countries and territories.

The Honourable Prime Minister, Mr Sitiveni Rabuka, will officially open the Summit tomorrow, Wednesday, 22 September. His presence reflects the important role of the media in national development, public accountability and connecting communities across Fiji and the wider Pacific, particularly those in remote and maritime areas.

A major highlight for FNU will be the formalisation of our partnership with the Fijian Media Association. This partnership will strengthen cooperation between the University and the media industry, support the development of journalism education and professional training, and create stronger pathways for students and working media professionals. It is an important step as we work with industry to develop programmes that respond to the changing needs of journalism and communication in Fiji and the Pacific.

I look forward to representing the University and strengthening relationships that can create meaningful opportunities for our students, staff and communities.

With only few days left to the end of Quarter 3, I thank all members of the Senior Leadership Team, our professional staff, academic staff and students for your dedication and contribution to the University so far. Every achievement reflects the collective effort of our FNU Vuvale, and I thank you for continuing to serve with commitment and purpose.

Preparations are now underway for the forthcoming examinations. I ask our academic and professional teams to continue working closely to ensure that all necessary arrangements are completed and that our students are properly supported. To our students, I encourage you to use this time wisely, remain focused in your revision and seek assistance whenever you need it. Your lecturers and support teams are here to help you prepare.

Let us continue approaching our work and studies with purpose, humility and commitment.

I wish you all a productive and blessed week ahead.

Vinaka vakalevu, and may God bless you all.

Be Blessed!

Professor Unaizi Nabobo-Baba
Vice-Chancellor
Fiji National University