FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

13 October, 2026



Bula vinaka, FNU Vuvale,

As we begin another short yet busy week, I wish to acknowledge the important work undertaken across our University.

Last week was particularly significant, as Fiji hosted the Pacific Pre-COP31 engagements in Nadi, bringing together regional and international leaders, policymakers, researchers and development partners to advance discussions on climate action, resilience and sustainable development.

As part of these engagements, I am pleased to acknowledge the successful hosting of FNU's Pre-COP31 Engagement on 5 October at the Hilton Fiji Beach Resort & Spa, Denarau. The event was hosted by the Fiji National University (FNU), organised by the Pacific Action for Climate Transitions (PACT) Research Centre, and held in partnership with Monash University.

Held under the theme "Investing in Natural Capital: The Pacific Opportunity," the engagement provided an important platform for Pacific perspectives on the protection and sustainable management of our forests, oceans, mangroves and other natural resources, while exploring opportunities for climate finance, investment and community development.

We were honoured by the presence of the Prime Minister of Fiji, Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka, who delivered the closing address, and the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Honourable Matthew Wale, alongside Na Turaga na Tui Macuata, Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, traditional leaders, government representatives, researchers and development partners.

As Fiji's national university, we have an important responsibility to ensure that our research and knowledge contribute to practical solutions for our communities. Our partnership with Monash University and PACT reflects our commitment to bringing together academic expertise, traditional knowledge and regional perspectives to address the challenges facing our Pacific people. I sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the successful delivery of this engagement.

Last week, our Nasinu Campus also brought staff and students together to celebrate World Teachers' Day, Fiji Day and Pinktober under the theme "Celebrating Fiji – Unity in Diversity, Culture and National Identity." These celebrations recognised the important role of our educators, the richness of our cultural diversity and the importance of community well-being.

Similarly, our College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry celebrated Pacific Climate and Environment Week under the theme "Celebrating the Deployment of Climate and Environmental Student Works." The event, held last Friday, highlighted the importance of translating student knowledge and research into practical solutions that address climate change, strengthen food security and promote sustainable practices across agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Today, we also mark another important milestone through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics. This partnership will provide valuable workplace attachment opportunities for final-year students from our College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies, allowing them to apply their classroom knowledge, gain professional experience and strengthen their readiness for employment.

This week, I will also be joining the College of Humanities, Education and Law (CHEL) in Nadi for its Senior Leadership Team Strategic Planning Workshop. This is an important engagement as we continue working towards finalising the University's Strategic Plan 2027–2031.

As we prepare for the next five years, it is important that all our Colleges, Divisions and Departments have a clear understanding of where the University is heading, the priorities we must pursue and the contributions expected from each of us. Our new Strategic Plan must provide a shared direction for the entire University, ensuring that our teaching, research, training and institutional development remain responsive to the changing needs of Fiji and the wider Pacific.

We are also now in the final quarter of the year, and I encourage all our academic and professional staff, students and the wider FNU Vuvale to continue looking out for one another. Let us support our colleagues, work together across our Colleges and Divisions, and remain focused on the responsibilities and targets we have set for this year.

Above all, let us remember our shared purpose as the national university: to serve our people, contribute to the economy and support the wider Pacific region through quality education, training and improved employability. Our success depends not only on what we achieve individually but also on how we work together as one University.

I thank our Senior Leadership Team, academics, professional staff and students for your continued hard work, commitment and service.

Vinaka vakalevu, FNU Vuvale. I wish you all a productive and meaningful week ahead.

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Vice-Chancellor
Fiji National University