FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

26 October 2026

Bula vinaka FNU Vuvale,

We have come to the final week of October, with only two months remaining before the end of 2026. As I reflect on the year so far, I acknowledge the many demands placed upon our University and the dedication of our staff and students in carrying out their responsibilities.

As we approach the end of another year, I wish to take a moment today to remember those members of our FNU vuvale who are no longer with us.

This year, we have lost both staff and students. Just last week, we bid farewell to Filipe Bulimaibau, one of our students from Derrick Campus. It is deeply saddening to lose a young person with so much of life still ahead of him.

On behalf of our Chancellor, Council, Management and the wider FNU vuvale, I extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends and fellow students. We also remember our colleagues and students who have passed on during the year. May their souls rest in peace, and may their families find comfort and strength.

To our students, I ask that you take good care of yourselves. You are here at FNU for a purpose. Your families have made sacrifices, and many of you have travelled far from your homes and communities to pursue an education. Do not lose sight of why you are here.

Be wise in your decisions, mindful of the company you keep and avoid situations that may place your lives at risk. Your families and communities look forward to seeing you return home safely and achieving the future you have worked towards.

This week marks the beginning of your study break, and I encourage you to use this time wisely as you prepare for your final examinations. Review your lessons, manage your time and seek assistance from your lecturers where necessary. Remember also to get enough rest and look after your health. For those travelling home, please travel safely and return ready for your examinations. I wish you all the very best.

Turning to the activities of the past week, I am pleased to acknowledge the work and achievements of our students and staff across the University. At our Bonunaqwele Campus in Nadi, we hosted the Crest Chicken National Salon Culinaire 2026 and Worldchefs Global Chefs Challenge Pacific Rim Semi-Finals. I congratulate our students who competed and those who received awards. I also acknowledge our academic staff and trainers for their guidance and preparation.

Our Bachelor of Medical Imaging Science students also marked World Radiography Day, recognising the important contribution of radiographers and radiologists to healthcare and the responsibility they carry in ensuring patient safety.

I was particularly pleased to see our Chancellor and Chair of Council, Dr Alisi Talatoka Vudiniabola, together with Council members, visit the Climate Smart Vuvale Garden at our College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF).

We recognise that some of our students face considerable financial difficulties, including the daily challenge of accessing proper meals. The garden is a practical initiative to support our CAFF vuvale while providing opportunities for students to apply their agricultural knowledge. I commend the College leadership, staff and students for recognising this need and taking steps to address it.

Also at CAFF, our Animal Science students participated in an animal de-sexing clinic organised in collaboration with SPCA Fiji Islands and the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry. This provided valuable practical experience for our students while contributing to animal welfare in the community. I thank our partners and academic staff for their support.

Our outreach team visited DAV Girls Secondary School, engaging with students and parents on FNU programmes, subject choices and career pathways. I thank the team for helping young people make informed decisions about their educational futures.

I also commend our Central Division Student Environment Ambassadors, who worked alongside Information Technology Services to conclude their 2026 activities with a community clean-up around the Pacific Centre for Maritime Studies Campus, the neighbouring settlement and seawall. I appreciate the time and effort our students and staff have given to caring for our environment.

At Nasinu Campus, our inaugural Market Day brought together more than 20 vendors, with stall fees contributing to the FNU Foundation to assist students facing financial difficulties. I congratulate the organisers and thank everyone who supported the event, including the Chief Guest, Mr Felix Magnus, Chief Executive Officer of the Nasinu Town Council.

Looking ahead, I encourage our staff and students to join the Diwali celebrations organised by the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies at Nasinu Campus. Such occasions allow us to appreciate the different cultures and traditions that form part of our University and our nation.

As we conclude Pinktober, I also remind our staff and students, particularly our women, of the importance of breast health awareness and early detection. Please make time for appropriate screening and seek medical advice when needed. Our health must remain a priority, even amidst the demands of work and family.

To all our staff, thank you for your dedication and the many responsibilities you carry in serving our University. As we enter the final two months of the year, I encourage our Colleges, Centres and Divisions to remain focused on the work that still needs to be completed.

To our students, I wish you a productive study break and every success in your examinations.

Vinaka vakalevu, and may God bless and protect our FNU vuvale.

Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba

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