FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

11 November 2026



Namaste and Bula Vinaka, FNU Vuvale,

As we celebrate Deepawali, the Festival of Lights, I extend my best wishes to all our students, staff and their families.

Deepawali is an important occasion for our Hindu community, bringing families and friends together in prayer, thanksgiving and celebration. It is a time to reflect on the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

The lighting of diyas during Deepawali reminds us that even a small light can make a difference. In our daily lives, we too can make a difference through the way we speak, the way we treat others and the help we give to those who need it.

This year's theme, **"Rangoli of Unity – Many Colours, One FNU,"** is a fitting reflection of who we are as a University.

A rangoli brings together different colours and patterns to create one beautiful design. In the same way, our FNU Vuvale is made up of people from different cultures, religions and communities, each contributing to the life of our University.

At FNU, we have students from across Fiji and the Pacific, many of whom have left their homes and families to pursue an education. They come with hopes of building better lives for themselves and their loved ones. Our responsibility is to support them, guide them and provide an environment where they can succeed.

Our staff, too, have an important role in this journey. Whether we are teaching, conducting research, providing student services or supporting the daily operations of the University, the work we do contributes to the education and future of our students.

I have always believed that a University must be a place where people feel respected and valued, regardless of their background, religion or position. We may have different responsibilities, but we must never forget that we belong to one FNU Vuvale.

As we celebrate Deepawali, I encourage each of us to reflect on how we treat one another. Sometimes, it is the simplest things that matter most: a kind word, helping a colleague, listening to a student who needs guidance or taking time to check on someone who may be going through a difficult period.

These are things we can practise every day, not only during celebrations.

Fiji is a country blessed with many cultures and traditions. We have grown up celebrating one another's festivals, sharing meals and visiting the homes of our friends and neighbours. These are traditions that have brought our communities together over generations, and I hope we continue to pass them on to our children.

As a national university, FNU has an important responsibility to uphold this respect and understanding among our people. Our students must leave this University not only with qualifications and skills, but also with an appreciation of the people and communities they will one day serve.

On behalf of the Chancellor, Council and Management of the Fiji National University, I extend my heartfelt wishes to all our Hindu students, staff and families celebrating Deepawali.

May this occasion bring peace and happiness to your homes, good health to your families and blessings in the year ahead.

Happy Deepawali, FNU Vuvale!

May we continue to respect and appreciate the many cultures and traditions that make up our FNU family.

Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba

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