

July 4, 2011

Fiji National University notes the comment from Labasa Businessman Charan Jeath Singh in the Fiji Times dated Friday July 1 on the lack of skilled workforce for the hotel and hospitality industry in Vanua Levu.

The FNU agrees with the comment and is planning to establish hospitality training facilities in Savusavu.

Vice Chancellor Dr Ganesh Chand said the FNU is planning to establish hospitality training facilities in Savusavu.

"From 2010, FNU commenced Friday and Saturday classes in Savusavu in certain subjects which the facilities allowed."

"Early this year, FNU re-commenced its search for facilities in which hospitality training could be provided. The support in this regard from the administrators of Savusavu town council is most timely," he said.

"A proposal from the FNU to the Savusavu town council is before the council for its consideration. If the proposal is approved, FNU would be able to commence hospitality training in Savusavu from January 2012," Dr Chand said.

"FNU notes that Vanua Levu has over 20 tourism plants, of which many are world-class. FNU is committed to ensuring that the existing employees in this industry get adequate opportunities to upgrade their skills," Dr Chand said.

Meanwhile the Fiji National University has plans to build a campus in Labasa as well.

The new campus will provide the necessary training and give students of Vanua Levu easier access to career-oriented education on their doorstep

Macuata Provincial Council has given the University approval to build a fully-fledged campus at Nayyaca and transfer of the land lease is progressing.

Construction is expected to begin once the land lease and title are transfer is complete. The campus will cover 40 acres and cost an initial investment of more than \$20 million for workshops, laboratories, classrooms, hostel and its own sports facilities and track.