

July 28, 2011

Fiji National University opened a centre for the people of Rakiraki in the Kalawati Building, Vaileka, on Tuesday.

The Centre will do its best to serve the needs of Rakiraki district, the Minister for Education Filipe Bole said at the opening ceremony.

“The opening of the centre is in accordance with the plan the Council has for the development of FNU in Fiji,” he said.

“As we develop our own country, we need people who are trained according to the development plan of our country.”

“We know our country; we know what we want and that is why we have amalgamated six of our tertiary institutions into this University,” Mr Bole said.

In a traditional ceremony the Ra Provincial Council thanked the Fiji National University for the development.

The Provincial Council presented a *sevusevu* to the Fiji National University to express their gratitude to the University for the choosing to open the first university centre in the province.

Vice Chancellor, Dr Ganesh Chand said the move was in line with the University’s vision to bring education closer to the people.

He said despite the big buildings and flashy cars in Suva, a vast majority of people in Fiji were deprived of access to University education.

Dr Chand said it became very difficult for parents to send their children to educational institutions that were based in Suva.

“Fiji was blessed with tertiary institutions for over 130 years. We have had a lot of tertiary institutions but all of them were either based in Suva, or like Fiji Institute of Technology, had only one campus out of Suva,” he said.

The Rakiraki centre currently offers short courses in information technology and Diploma in Front Line Management.

The University plans to offer award programmes such as Diploma and Certificate level courses in Business, Occupational Health and Safety and much more.

Dr Chand said the aim had been not just to make higher education available, but to make it accessible and possible for all.

He said FNU, being Fiji’s own national university from the very beginning of its existence, had determined to take tertiary education out to the people who wanted it in ways that they could afford.

FNU will open a centre in Sigatoka next week and in Savusavu, Kadavu and Bua at a later stage.

