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PRESS RELEASE

Students' Parliament Initiative

The Fiji National University is pleased to announce that FNU will convene a Students' Parliament to be held in late August this year.

This is a cooperative venture with the Parliament of Fiji and the Ministry of Education and sponsored by the Government of Japan.

The Students' Parliament will be comprised of two Year 12 and 13 students from 35 schools in the Central Division and will be held on the 20th and 21th of August in Suva.

After a day's orientation at FNU's Nasinu, the participants will sit in the chamber of the Fijian Parliament. The Speaker of the Parliament, Dr Jiko Luveni, has generously agreed to chair this special parliamentary sitting.

The Teachers' Workshop on Saturday 20th June will be the first stage in this project. This workshop is to familiarise staff from the participating schools with the project and to provide background for promoting student interest in the Students' Parliament.

The second stage will be the election of the two students from each participating school to attend the Students' Parliament. The students will be elected by their classmates a month or so before the Student Parliament on a non-partisan youth-based themes.

The final stage will be the two-day Student's Parliament. The orientation day on the 20th August will involve background lectures on Parliament and its procedures, assignment of roles for the following day and group discussions on topics for debate. Provision has been made for more participants than there are MPs to allow for a range of roles including Secretariat staff, reporters and technical advisers.

The student's program in Parliament on the 21st will follow generally the order paper for a routine sitting day with questions, motions on bills and debate on a committee report or matter of importance.

Media are invited to attend opening of the Teachers Workshop by Mrs Kerela Taloga, Acting Permanent Secretary Education at the Tanoa Plaza Hotel at 9.00 a.m.

For further information on this initiative, please contact:

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