

**Monday, 13 March 2017**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**National Training & Productivity Centre Partners with Goodman Fielder**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.** Fiji National University's National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC) has achieved yet another milestone as two of its students have become apprentices with the Goodman Fielder Group of Companies.

The NTPC through its National Apprenticeship Training Scheme signed an apprenticeship training agreement with Goodman Fielder Group of Companies.

Acting Director NTPC Mr Peni Taoi said this agreement not only strengthen NTPC's partnership with the company but also ensures that our apprentices are provided with world class working experience.

"This is a great opportunity for NTPC as this form of affiliation will enable our students to learn first-hand how work is carried out in an internationally managed company," he said.

"We also ensured that the right apprentices are sent out into the industries, therefore a thorough screening process was conducted by the departments."

Goodman Fielder's General Manager, Mr Chris Zaayman commended NTPC and the National Apprenticeship scheme for the partnership.

"We are lucky to have two apprentices who have gone through industry based assessment and qualified to join us here at Goodman Fielder," he said.

"We have requested for 16 apprentices in various trades, for the time being we have signed on two apprentices in Trade of AirCon and Refrigeration, and Welding and fabrication."

The two apprentices that were signed on were enrolled in the Trade of Air-Con and Refrigeration, and Welding and fabrication programmes.

Apprentice Nataniela Tifaktonga, who hails from Vanuabalavu, Lau, completed his secondary school education at Marist Brothers High School.

Mr Tifaktonga said he was always interested in completing a trade programme like the rest of his family members.

"When I was informed of my selection, I was excited as this would assist me in gaining work experience and being in an organisation as large as Goodman Fielder."

Fellow apprentice Mr Samir Siraz Rashid who is studying Welding and Fabrication hails from Labasa.

The 18 year old said that his parents always had their own plans regarding his choice of study.

"But I knew what the career I wanted to pursue, therefore, I decided to do a trade programme and do not regret taking it up," he said.

"I want to enjoy the field that I am currently pursuing."

More apprentices are expected to sign on with Goodman Fielder as the year progresses in various trades.

Manager National Apprenticeship Scheme Mr Reenal Chand said there were 40 Organisations who are currently training apprentices in Fiji.

Some of the organisations include Natural Waters of Viti Limited, Carpenters Motors Limited, Asco Motors Fiji, Niranjans Autoport Limited, Fiji Sugar Corporation Limited, Intercontinental Fiji Golf Resort & SPA, Lincoln Refrigeration Limited, Vatukoula Gold Mines Ltd and many more.

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