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## PRESS RELEASE

### **British American Tobacco Fiji takes onboard five apprentices**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.** Five students from the Fiji National University's National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC) have signed contracts as apprentices with British American Tobacco (BAT) Fiji.

The five successful students signed are enrolled in various trades under the apprenticeship programme from electrical to mechanical engineering.

Acting Director NTPC Mr Peni Taoi said this agreement does not only strengthen NTPC's partnership with the multinational company but also introduces our apprentices' to a wide range of working experience.

"This partnership continues to raise the awareness of the apprenticeship programme while making it more beneficial to our students and corporate organizations."

He added that organizations such as BAT Fiji have international standards and high expectations with regards to occupational health and safety policies. This is will be a valuable learning for the students."

"It is a great opportunity for NTPC as this affiliation enables our students to have hands on experience which very different from formal learning" he said.

"We have a comprehensive selection criterion that selects the best apprentices sent out into the industries."

British American Tobacco Fiji's General Manager, Mr Ritesh Dass was present for the signing of the contract and commended NTPC and the National Apprenticeship scheme for the partnership.

"We are excited about this partnership venture with the Fiji National University and particularly NTPC's apprenticeship scheme" Mr Dass said.

"We have been searching for the right talent, now with this partnership we will move in the right direction. Our organisation is committed to the apprenticeship programme and we look forward in taking more in the future."

Apprentice Tukai Mataibeci, completed his secondary school education at Natabua High School, said he was excited about the journey ahead of him with BAT. He said while he would complete the programme in four years, he was happy to be attached with BAT Fiji.

"At BAT Fiji I will be able to further my knowledge and experience in my trade of electrical engineering. I am glad that I was chosen to be here," he said.

Manager National Apprenticeship Scheme Mr Reenal Chand reminded the apprentices that they were ambassadors of the programme and of NTPC.

He said the apprentices would have to continue to keep their grades up as well as their attendance to work.

Mr Reenal said they are proud to be partnered with BAT Fiji for the apprentice program along with forty other organizations.

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