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PRESS RELEASE

New graduates urged to maintain professionalism

Suva, Fiji Islands. Fiji National University's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) graduated 618 students in a ceremony this morning at the Vodafone Arena, the highest number among all the colleges.

Among those who graduated, 73 percent were females and 33 percent from the region.

The College produced pioneer graduates in Postgraduate Diploma in Non Communicable Diseases and Postgraduate Certificate in Food Safety.

Chief Guest, Minister for Health and Medical Services, Rosy Akbar asked graduates to maintain the highest standards of professionalism at the workplace.

"Wherever you work you must always seek to maintain the highest standards of professionalism. That doesn't just mean clinical expertise and technical know-how. It means maintaining the fundamental sense of humility and willingness to serve that has been a constant theme in clinical practice for centuries," she said.

"When we are busy, or confronting a difficult, argumentative patient, it can be all too easy to appear abrupt – but we need to stay calm and respectful however hard that might be. Communication is essential to turn your academic success into clinical excellence," she added.

Ms Akbar said the College's courses are recognised as equivalent to leading institutions around the globe.

"As a result, we can be confident that our health professionals and the graduates with us here today, are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to provide truly world-class health care to our people and patients," she said.

FNU Chancellor, Ikbal Jannif said it was the duty of the University to prepare the students for the workforce and provide them with a holistic experience.

“Their career is shaped by their educational experiences and they carry their qualifications from FNU on their Curriculum Vitae for the rest of their professional lives, therefore, for students and alumni – where they study for their qualifications matters immensely,” he said.

“I am pleased to say that the University continues to make substantial progress to provide high quality and relevant programme choices to our most important stakeholders – our students,” he added.

Erima Raikoti who graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) said the journey from first year at CMNHS was tough.

“I am grateful for the support from my parents, teachers and friends,” she said.

Erima’s father, Malakai Raikoti said he was happy to see his daughter graduate with an MBBS degree.

“My wife and I are both graduates and it was our wish to see our daughter graduate,” he said.

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About the Fiji National University: The Fiji National University (FNU) was established through the merger of 7 government-owned tertiary institutions in Fiji, and commenced operations from 1 January 2010. The constituent institutions are found at over 40 different locations across Fiji, and collectively offer Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees, Postgraduate qualifications and Skills Upgrading for those who are already in employment. Approximately 30,000 students pass through the University each year. Over the last six years of its operations, the University has registered major achievements with regard to new programme delivery, quality improvements and contribution to research and publications via its 5 Colleges: The College of Humanities & Education (CHE), the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS), the College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST), the College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF), the College of Business, Hospitality & Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).