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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **CEST graduates reminded to uphold principles**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.** A total of 329 students graduated from the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) at the session two of the second graduation ceremony at Vodafone Arena, Laucala Bay, Suva today.

The ceremony witnessed 59 students graduating with a Bachelor's degree, with another 117 students graduating with a Trade Diploma.

Chief Guest, Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources, Honourable Faiyaz Siddiq Koya advised the graduates to uphold the principles of their respective fields while providing services.

"You are builders. You should remember that whenever you are providing your services to a project, you are providing the right advice. You should ensure that building requirements and standards are complied with at all times," said the Hon Minister.

"You will be the builders of the physical, the digital and the social infrastructure which will include artificial intelligence, robotics and demand for 24/7 connectivity. You will be called upon to solve the problems of a growing and increasingly urbanized population and its impact on the physical world, social and economic systems."

FNU Chancellor, Mr Ikbal Jannif said the University through the College has initiated, introduced and signed on agreements to ensure the students were exposed to new opportunities.

"Earlier last month, the College launched one of its new programmes to be rolled out from 2018 – Certificate IV in Geology, Mining & Quarrying. The introduction of the new programme is driven to ensure we train people who are qualified to be employed in specific areas of work especially in one of the most significant area of employment in the country. The programme was formalised in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme," said Mr Jannif.

“We have also more than 40 programmes that have been developed and aligned to the accreditation of Dublin & Washington Accord. This is a huge milestone marking the College’s commitment in ensuring all its programmes are relevant and compatible not only in Fiji but anywhere we go.

“Most importantly, the College will for the first time offer a new Bachelor of Engineering Honours - the first for Fiji. The new programme will boost the engineering industry in Fiji.

“Following the announcement of the 2017 – 2018 budget, Year 12 students will get TELS funding specifically for engineering programmes with grant covering tuition, accommodation, meals & allowances for the total duration of their study programmes which is approximately 3 years. This will be offered exclusively through FNU’s College of Engineering, Science and Technology.

“We have also developed Certificate III programmes to accommodate graduates from the Technical Colleges of Fiji who wish to enter into FNU through CEST.

“The overhaul in all our programmes has seen a standardized structure with our certificate programmes offered in the new format of delivery of quarter mode,” the Chancellor said.

Mr Jannif added that the new structure was to ensure the University has a more standard and coherent teaching & learning environment.

Meanwhile, lone graduate in Trade Diploma in Marine Engineering, Mr Nikhil Chandu Umaria dedicated his achievement to his parents and wife.

“My parents passed away this year. I really wish they were here to see me graduate today. I would like to acknowledge the support of my wife in this journey of mine.”

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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).