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PRESS RELEASE

Continuous Qualification Upgrading Vital: PS Tiko

Suva, Fiji Islands. A total of 335 students graduated from the College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) at the first session of the third graduation ceremony at Vodafone Arena, Laucala Bay, Suva today.

Out of the total graduates, the ceremony witnessed five students graduating with Executive Masters in Business Administration, nine in Masters and 39 in Postgraduate Diplomas in various programmes.

Chief Guest, Permanent Secretary for Education, Heritage and Arts, Mr Iovane Tiko urged the students to continuously advance their qualifications to remain relevant and marketable.

He said as the graduates enter the labour market, they will play a major role in contributing to the economic, social and environmental future and growth of Fiji.

“You will ensure the transfer and application of relevant, practical and creative knowledge and skills that the College has equipped you with in your respective work places,” said Mr Tiko.

“You will showcase the lifelong learning skills acquired at FNU to overcome business and organisational problems with good management skills.

The PS said tourism remains Fiji’s fastest growing industry where service is increasingly important in the global markets and that this transferable ‘people-skills’ can be used in careers far beyond the certificates, diplomas and degrees.

“The contextualized, tailor-made programmes you are graduating in, will allow you to meet the demands from this lucrative industry. You will help meet the needs of guests from different social and cultural backgrounds while they enjoy their time in Fiji and at the same time contribute to the growth of the Fijian economy,” Mr Tiko added.

He congratulated the College for its notable achievements this year.

FNU Chancellor, Mr Ikbal Jannif said the University continues to make substantial progress in providing high quality and relevant programme choices to the students.

“2018 will begin with a refreshed portfolio of TVET and Higher Education programmes which will be delivered on a common semester basis for new students; except for continuing and Postgraduate students who will continue with trimester basis, and the old penster programmes operating on a new quarter basis aligned with semesters.

“The University over the years has partnered with various stakeholders to provide the best industrial experiences to the students. On the job training component of all FNU courses is what sets this University apart from other universities,” Mr Jannif added.

The College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies has achieved the following milestones in 2017:

- Standardisation of all credit points in all its programmes
- Accreditation of Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB) and Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (GDLP) by the Board of Legal Education.
- 50 percent discounted fee for Masters in Commerce with Certified Public Accountant (CPA) programme.
- Accounting programmes gained re-accreditation by the Fiji Institute of Accountant for an additional 3 years ending in 2020.

The University has also been allocated \$0.5m by the government for a four-story building to be constructed on Nasinu campus.

Meanwhile, Executive Masters in Business Administration graduate, Ms Reijieli Biutiganena Mawa’s sleepless nights and family time sacrifices finally paid off as she received her certificate.

“I started my studies in 2014 and it has been a very tough journey. Sometimes I left home for work while my children were asleep and when I return after work and class; my children are in bed again. Working full time and managing studies becomes so hectic when at the same time you have a family to look after as well,” said Ms Mawa.

Ms Mawa has been working at the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for the past 25 years.

She advised working females to keep upgrading their qualifications and said that at the end of all the sacrifices will surely come a happy day.

Ms Mawa's husband, Pauliasi Mawa acknowledged FNU for providing programmes, which people in the workforce were able to complete with flexible hours of classes.

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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).