

## 434 medical students graduate from CMNHS' four Schools



*College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) students strike a pose after the graduation ceremony.*

A total of 434 students graduated from Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) Graduation Ceremony Session 1 held at FMF Gymnasium yesterday (Wednesday) morning.

The graduates from the first session were from CMNHS' School of Medical Sciences, School of Health Sciences, School of Public Health & Primary Care and School of Dentistry & Oral Health.

Chief Guest, Gordon Burns, Counsellor for Regional Development Cooperation, Australian High Commission, while congratulating the graduates said he was delighted to be part of their milestone achievement.

"Australia is proud to continue their long term partnership with the oldest and most significant medical institution in the region, the FNU's CMNHS, originally established in 1885," said Burns.

"From facilitating the engagement of long and short term Australian academics and specialists, to introducing, strengthening and supporting the various programs, to providing scholarships to name a few, Australia has seen our role as vital to the progress and achievement of the health workforce in the Pacific," the chief guest added.

Burns encouraged the new graduates to be responsible and accountable for their actions. He also reminded them to welcome their patient's participation in decisions about their care and to devote their professional energies not only to their patients' needs but also to the health needs of all the people of the Pacific.

FNU Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor James Pounder said students returning to the University to further their studies reaffirms the College's vision to be the leading health workforce academic education and research institution in the Pacific Region.

"With continuous qualification upgrade and upskilling, compassionate and competent health professionals will be equipped with necessary skills to improve the health of people in the Pacific Region," Professor Pounder said.

The AVC said CMNHS took pride in its community outreach

programmes which were a compulsory component of most of the academic programmes.

"The students are required to complete attachments in different communities. These attachments provide our students with skills outside the classroom and prepare them for the real challenges ahead of their graduations," said Professor Pounder.

"At the same time, the academics conduct workshops to train those already in the workforce."

Meanwhile, Timote Fakasiieiki, who graduated from Bachelors in Medical Laboratory Sciences, thanked God for the knowledge to make his journey possible.

Fakasiieiki said despite being diagnosed with a serious illness in 2015, he continued to work hard.

"When I was here in 2015 and I went to the hospital, they diagnosed me with a severe illness and I had to undergo an immediate operation. I missed school for one month," said Fakasiieiki.

According to the new graduate every student had their own story to share about their experiences.

Fellow Graduate, Ifereimi Naviqa, who graduated with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery, said he vividly remembered leaving high school for the last time and heading into the exciting world of university studies.

"I remember the day I received my offer letter, I was so excited and nervous too, I know a lot of you may have experienced the same myriad of emotions. University is a place for growth," said Naviqa.

Naviqa said when he first joined CMNHS, he knew that he was entering into a prestigious learning institution in the region, which was much more different from high school.

"Some of us came to this great University with expectations, high or low but graduating today, tells me only one thing that our expectations have been met, and the ball has been thrown at us to transform our lives, our families, communities, and humanity in general," he said.



*College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences students celebrate after their graduation ceremony.*

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