

Graduates challenged to be critical thinkers



FNU's CBHTS graduates received their certificates from Chief Guest Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation CEO Nesbitt Hazelman at the graduation

Graduates of Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) were challenged to be critical thinkers and productive members of the workforce.

Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation chief executive Nesbitt Hazelman, who was Chief Guest at the graduation ceremony in Suva, reminded graduates to be creative, hardworking and honest workers that employers could rely on. Hazelman commended the 293 students that graduated today from CBHTS for persevering throughout their studies to achieve their qualifications.

"Graduates – you now have the challenge to translate your education into the national, regional and global workplace needs and realities," he said.

"At the national level, linking your talent skills to the national development teamwork and has become your vocation from here on.

"As a job seeker, you have received well rounded education from your teaching staff and both academic and on the job training to prepare you for the world of work. I also encourage you to be a job creator by going out and starting your own business."

He reminded the graduates to complement their qualifications by having the right soft skills.

"I have observed that global companies hire on soft skills such as your characteristics and work ethic so if you have the right attitude you will get the job. These are soft skills like going to work early, being an active participant at work and listening to your supervisors."

Hazelman also acknowledged employers for allowing their staff to enhance their skills through in-service training.

FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey emphasized this by highlighting that the key to succeeding was continuous professional development and learning.

"In this ceremony, 30 Masters and 21 Postgraduate Diplomas were conferred and this is important because in today's fast-changing

labour market, employees need to constantly upskill and reskill to remain productive.

"We at FNU are focused on developing a culture of excellence that resonates throughout our academic history.

"We believe in empowerment and creating graduate leaders who are creative, intellectually versatile with a 'can-do' attitude and who are committed to positively contributing to the development of their communities and country."

Bachelor of Commerce Management and Marketing graduate Eroni Daunibau Navunisaravi said he was proud to have finally graduated with qualifications in his dream career.

Navunisaravi, 26, said the achievement was worth the personal challenges and family expectations he had to overcome during his studies at FNU.

"When I finished high school my family had this picture of me being a school teacher and but I had other career ambitions in mind," he shared.

"I was very creative and always thinking outside the box and questioning people and things and so when I learnt of this marketing course I knew this was the one for me. Becoming successful in this field and earning from a stable employment has shown my friends and family that whatever one sets his mind on, he can achieve.

"FNU gave me the chance to learn in a field I am very passionate about and now my family are equally as proud as I am of this special day."

Navunisaravi also encouraged high school dropouts and students finishing high school to always pursue their dreams as this will enable them to live a successful life.

A total of 1,854 students will graduate from FNU during its series of December graduation ceremonies.

For more pictures, visit the FNU Facebook page.