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## Press Release

### FNU to host World Hindi Day celebrations

A group of around fifty students from the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Humanities and Education (CHE) will participate in various activities as part of celebrations to mark World Hindi Day tomorrow.

The students who are pursuing Bachelor of Primary and Secondary Education will participate in oratory, debate, essay writing, poetry recital, singing, drama and role play.

Vidya Singh, a lecturer in Hindi Studies at FNU said the three-hour event is an annual function hosted by the College is to raise greater awareness and promote the use of Hindi Language.

"This year we have an exciting program planned and we are expecting about 200 people to attend and these are students, academics and our invited guests. Students will participate in a range of fun and educational activities including essay and poetry writing competition, talent quest and drama. We have several i-taukei students participating which will add more colour to the events," said Singh.

"This day is celebrated to mark Fiji's relationship with the Hindi language which goes with the history of the girmitiyas from the time they arrived in Fiji. Fiji adopted Hindi as an official language. The dialect of the Hindi spoken in Fiji is known as Fiji Hindi or Fiji Baat. We celebrate this day so that people maintain their language and culture which was brought to Fiji by our ancestors. We will also have a few speeches on Hindi Diwas by the lecturers and our students," she said.

Second-year FNU Student Sarveshni Ram said it's an honor to participate in the Annual event adding she's privileged to be taking the lead role in tomorrow's function.

"Some Hindi students are doing a talk-back show. The topic is "The status of Hindi in Fiji." I have been selected to be the host for this talkback show and I am very happy about it," she said.

A final-year student Sonia Singh shared the same sentiments saying this is an opportune time to market the Hindi Language.

"We want to bring awareness and we believe everyone will enjoy and learn about the Hindi Language from tomorrow's program," said Singh.

The event will be held at the Natabua Campus in Lautoka from 7pm tomorrow.

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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).