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PRESS RELEASE

TWO MORE ORGANISATIONS SIGN-UP UNDER FNU'S NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

Suva, Fiji Islands. Two more organisations have signed up with the Fiji National University's National Apprenticeship Scheme, bringing the total number of companies under this program to 15 so far for this year.

Government Shipping Services (GSS) employed 11 apprentices while Niranjans Suva outlet signed up 4. The total number of apprentices now stands at 32.

The apprentices signed up by GSS are studying Marine Engineering (3) and Navigation and Seaman (8). All 11 will be on a 4 year contract with GSS.

GSS Acting Director Josese Lawaniasana commended the scheme saying it was a great initiative to engage school leavers looking to acquire a trade qualification.

"Under this scheme students will be guided through on the job training, counseling and monitoring and they are encouraged to reach their goals," Mr Lawaniasana said.

New apprentice recruit Lusiana Cokanasiga, 21 hails from Koro will be taking up the Trade Diploma in Nautical Science.

"I signed up for this programme because I have a goal of becoming a Ships Master on a container vessel and this is a good opportunity for me to help finance my schooling. Not many females would like to sign up for this trade field – but I love adventures and being out at sea and working on board. I have had some experience and I really love it," said Cokanasiga.

Fellow apprentice Monisha Prasad, 20 also a Trade Diploma in Nautical Science, said she was looking forward to the training.

"It's in my blood to be in the sea. My grandfather and other families were fishermen so I decided to take it one step further and sign up to become an apprentice. I am so looking forward to the apprenticeship training with GSS," Ms Prasad said.

Director NTPC Doctor Isimeli Tagicakiverata commended the organisations that had teamed up with NTPC for scheme.

"Since its inception, the Apprenticeship scheme has grown from strength to strength. It's a scheme like no other. The Apprenticeship scheme helped organisations grow its own talent, reduced staff turnover and gave businesses the skills it needed to succeed. Countries around the world who have similar apprenticeship schemes are reaping the benefits partnering with industries and organisations," he said.

Some of the organisations that have been part of the Apprenticeship Scheme are Asco Motors, Bluescope Pacific Steel (Fiji) Ltd, British American Tobacco, Carpenters Fiji Limited, CAS Scale (Fiji) Ltd, Communication Technologies, Douglas Pharmaceuticals Fiji Ltd, Elia Engineering Ltd, Fiji National University, Fiji Gas Limited, Fiji Sugar Corporation Ltd-Ba, Fiji Sugar Corporation Ltd-Lautoka, Fiji Sugar Corporation Ltd-Rakiraki, Fiji Sugar Corporation – Labasa, FMF - Biscuit Company of Fiji Ltd, Goodman Fielder International Ltd, Government Printing & Stationery Dept, Government Shipping Services, Jacks Motor Traders (Fiji) Ltd, J. Kevi Group Fiji Limited, Lincoln Refrigeration Limited, Motor Winders Fiji Ltd, Narseys Plastics Industries Ltd, Natural Waters of Viti Ltd, Niranjans Autoport Limited, On Time Engineering, Pacific Cement Limited, Pacific Fishing Co Ltd, Pacific Transport Limited, S.C. Foods, Rainbow Cooltech Fiji Ltd, Seamech Ltd, Shreedhar Motors Limited, Sitar Indian Thai Restaurant Sofitel Fiji Resort & SPA, Tropica Island Resort, Topik Furniture & Joinery Limited, Valebasoga Tropik boards Ltd, Vatukoula Gold Mines Ltd, Vision Motors, Waiqele Sawmill Ltd, Subrails Furniture, United Containers Fiji Limited.

The National Apprenticeship Scheme was introduced in 1963 under the Ministry of Labour and known as the Fiji Apprenticeship Council. Its role is regulated and administered by the National Training & Productivity Centre through the support from the Industries to address the skills required and to produce competent and certified work force for the organisations.

The NTPC manages the Apprenticeship Department which administers 22 Trade Certificate programmes and 7 Technician levels. The Apprenticeship program offers a systematic on-job practical learning and off-job study.

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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).