

North stakeholders updated on FNU Campus Project



FNU Labasa Stakeholder Advisory Committee during a meeting earlier this year.

The Fiji National University Labasa Stakeholder Advisory Committee (FNULAC) were briefed on the progress of the construction of the Labasa Campus during a meeting last week.

The FNULAC comprises of representatives from Government sector, industries, traditional leaders, business leaders and women's, colleges, youth and disability organisations.

FNU College of Humanities and Education (CHE) Dean Dr Eci Nabalarua chaired the meeting in the absence of FNULAC chairman Tui Macuata Ratu Williame Katonivere, who was away overseas.

An overview of FNU campuses was shown to stakeholders and new developments on the \$6 million FNU Labasa Campus at the Naiyaca Subdivision was also discussed.

Dr Nabalarua highlighted that the first phase of the campus was expected to be completed towards the end of 2019. Part of FNU Labasa Campus is expected to move to the new building in 2020.

The senior academic said students in the North would have the opportunity to study in the new Agricultural Engineering programme under the College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST), which is expected to be introduced by mid-2019 at the campus.

College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) Dean Professor Paul Iji said that there was untapped agricultural potential in the North hence agriculture courses needed to be made more relevant to the needs of the industry and students.

Prof Iji added there were huge investment opportunities in the North for entrepreneurship products such as cassava chips, frozen vegetables and other crop processing ventures.

FNU Labasa Head of Campus Pradeep Lal said there would be more stakeholder engagements throughout next year.

Lal said the FNU Labasa stakeholder advisory group provided support to the campus in terms of community feedback on the programmes offered.

"Stakeholder are looking forward to the new campus in Labasa and once the new campus is functional, they would like to see more programs being offered that are suited to the Northern economy," Lal said.

"They want to see students given better facilities once the new campus opens."

"The stakeholders are also thankful to FNU for this as it will boost the economy in the North."

"Another stakeholder meeting is planned for early next year."