

**Wednesday, 17 January 2018**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**New Academic Year Begins**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.**

The Fiji National University officially commenced its 2018 academic year this week as students studying on trimester mode returned to classes.

FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey said the New Year brings forth new challenges and objectives for the institution.

“With the start of the first trimester for continuing students, FNU is back in business for 2018 which means fulfilling our mission to support the economic and social development of Fiji through relevant, high-quality education and training that maximises graduate employability and applied research that has positive societal impact,” said Prof Healey.

Professor Healey said FNU strives to be the University of First Choice for all students and huge efforts are being made to improve services to meet the demands and needs of its main stakeholder – the students.

“We aim to improve the quality, choice and value for money of catering facilities on campus, either through in-house provision or outsourcing services. Increase the number of beds and the quality of hostel accommodation, either through in-house provision or by entering a public: private partnership (PPP) with a third partner. Increase the range of social and sporting facilities on campus. Bring the quality of teaching and office accommodation up to modern standards. These actions imply a willingness to rethink the way we provide services to our students, by looking at new ways of doing business and working with external partners,” added Prof Healey.

Students have been crowding around the academic and ICT office paying fees and collecting identification cards at most campuses around the country. Two friends, Maneesh Naidu and Ravikash Singh were amongst the group of students who were paying their fees at Nasinu Campus. Both students are keen to complete their studies this year with a ‘very good GPA.’

“This is my final year so I hope to finish off on a high note. I’m excited to go out and work especially as I wish to venture onto cyber technology with the evolution of technology but for now my main aim is to get the best grade I’ve ever scored,” said Mr Naidu who is completing his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science & Information Systems.

“I have four final units to undertake to complete my programme and I’m also aiming at getting a very good GPA. I don’t just want to graduate, I want to be proud of what I achieve and I look forward to going for attachment later in the year,” said Mr Singh who is currently enrolled in Trade Diploma in Occupational, Health & Safety.

While continuing students commence studies in trimester mode, all new students doing undergraduate studies will enrol on Semester mode which starts on Monday 5 February.

For further information, please contact the Litia Tuiqaqa on Email: [prol-lt@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:prol-lt@fnu.ac.fj) or Phone: 3394000 ext. 2886

**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).