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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Call for Fiji Business Excellence Awards Evaluators**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.** The National Training & Productivity Centre's Department of Quality Awards and the Fiji Business Excellence Awards (FBEA) Secretariat has called for interested individuals to take on the role as evaluators ahead of the awards 20<sup>th</sup> year launch.

The FBEA secretariat and Quality Officer Taniela Qalilawa said evaluators were carefully selected and provided with comprehensive training in Business Excellence, to assess and provide valuable feedback to the organisations seeking recognition under the FBEA program.

Mr Qalilawa said FBEA evaluators gained knowledge, skills and experience to support the performance improvement initiatives of their own organisations as well.

The call for evaluators is conducted annually. The formal approval is received from the individual's employers; one of the requirements under the framework is to have at least two working weeks of commitment.

The organisers are predicting at least 28 organisations to participate in the prestigious Fiji Business Excellence Awards this year. Last year 138 evaluators signed up for this event.

“Evaluators are at the heart of the FBEA process. We always have evaluators dropping out every year due to shift in priority, personal reasons, etc. At the moment, we have been receiving a lot of enquiries from new organisations wanting to join the Awards process this year. Therefore, we always need to recruit new evaluators every year.”

Mr Qalilawa said evaluators have an enormous task which is to critically scrutinize the organisation assigned to them, highlight strengths and weaknesses and identify gaps and opportunity for improvement for the organisation.

Evaluators were tasked to provide a feedback report to the organisation, which, apart from the Award and publicity, was the most valuable outcome for any organisation participating in the Awards.

Applications for evaluators close on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2018.

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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).