

**Monday 16 April, 2018**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Labasa Campus takes shape**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.**

First phase of the multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art Fiji National University (FNU) Labasa Campus is expected to be completed and ready for operations in eighteen months.

FNU signed the project agreement with contractors Kartikas Construction Plumbing Services Limited in Nasinu this afternoon. The project works will be managed by Civil & Environmental Engineering Solutions Limited (CEESOL) with technical support provided by Design Hut, Engineered Designs, Edison Consultants and Quantech Pacific.

Several sites were considered but the current location was selected due to its close proximity to the Labasa Town Centre and accessibility to public transport. Civil works on the estimated twenty-seven million dollar government funded project commenced in 2015 with filling and compacting works. After proper settling and geo-thermal testing the green light has been given by the project consultants to commence with construction works.

Once completed, phase one will include modern lecture theatres, tutorial and teaching rooms, staff administration offices, computer labs, library and cafeteria.

Engineering workshops, gymnasium, student accommodation, dining hall and sports fields will follow in due course.

FNU Chancellor, Ikbal Jannif said the development of the FNU Labasa Campus was timely given the Fiji Government's continued focus on infrastructure development in Vanua Levu under the '*Look North Policy*'.

The Chancellor said the FNU Labasa Campus will greatly assist with the workforce development and knowledge creation needs of the northern division in key economic areas and FNU will work very closely with the Government and Industries in the north to develop programmes targeted towards this.

He further acknowledged the Government for its understanding and patience while FNU ensured that the proper processes are followed for the long term durability of the Campus.

FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey highlighted that with the new Labasa Campus design, the University will move into internet enabled or digitally connected blended learning.

"The design of the Campus needs to be future-proof. It will be a campus for the future. It won't be just a collection of buildings. This will be a forward looking campus that is going to provide a high quality relevant education to the people of the north."

"This campus is also designed to provide both high quality and relevant education for employment opportunities in Vanua Levu," Prof Healey added.

Managing Director of Kartikas Construction Plumbing Service Limited, Stephen Naidu said they expect to complete the project within the given timeline.

"It is an honour to be part of the FNU Labasa Campus Project and contribute to the growth of Fiji's own national University. We assure FNU and all other stakeholders a timely and quality delivery of the project," said Mr Naidu.

The agreement was signed in the presence of members from the University's Senior Management Group, Student Association and other important stakeholders.

**For further information, please contact Kalpana Kaajal on Email: [kalpana.kaajal@fnu.ac.fj](mailto:kalpana.kaajal@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).