

Wednesday 2 May, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

Students graduate from FNU's College of Engineering, Science and Technology

Suva, Fiji Islands. Graduates from the Fiji National University's College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) were challenged to become advocates for change by the chief guest, Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Hon Jone Usamate.

Speaking to 312 graduating students Minister Usamate said the world was changing rapidly through technology and everyone needed to be on par with these advancements.

"You must be able to exhibit the potentials that you have acquired throughout your training period at FNU. You must not be scared to wade into new waters and new depths," said Hon Usamate.

"You must not allow yourself to remain idle for a long period of time but you must have the courage to join the workforce or create jobs in the workforce, and make a difference."

"Get a job – or create a job – but keep investing in your growth – be aware of the changes taking place in your area of speciality, so that you remain relevant. Be willing to start from the bottom and work your way up," the Minister added.

Hon Usamate acknowledged CEST's contribution towards the development of Fiji's workforce. He said there was a huge demand of skilled trade people in the country and encouraged more people to take up technical and vocational studies.

"Today, the University is punching well above its weight in terms of producing such skilled human resources. Today, all of us can be proud that our National University is doing well, that the CEST is doing well. We can be proud that many people in Fiji, who now hold executive positions in many of our organisations, are former students of the University," Hon Usamate added.

FNU Chancellor, Ikbal Jannif said the 97 programmes that are currently being offered by the College have been established using the 'staircase Model' which allows students to progress up to the highest level.

"More than 41 new programmes were developed in 2017 and have been successfully implemented from 2018. These programmes accommodate those who have successfully completed their Level II or Certificate II programmes, and those who are seeking higher qualification programmes such as Postgraduate Diplomas, Masters and PhDs," said Jannif.

Meanwhile, Bachelor of Science (Biology and Chemistry) graduate, Vasenai Draunamarama was beaming with joy as she received her certificate.

"Having this certificate in my hands feels fulfilling. All the years of hard work, sacrifices and dedication comes to an end today. FNU was interesting and challenging but I would like to salute the academics at this College for all their guidance and their teachings," said Draunamarama.

The Fiji National University May graduation continues tomorrow with the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF) and National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC).

Full details of the graduation are provided below:



 **FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

MEDIA INVITE

The Vice Chancellor of the Fiji National University
cordially invites you to the

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY [CAFF] and **NATIONAL TRAINING AND PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE [NTPC]**
to be held on **Thursday 03 May, 2018** from **10am** at the **FMF Gymnasium, Laucala Bay, Suva**

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION [CHE]
to be held on **Friday 04 May, 2018** from **10am** at the **FMF Gymnasium, Laucala Bay, Suva**
and **COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES [CMNHS]**
to be held on **Tuesday 08 May, 2018** from **10am** at the **Novotel Convention Centre, Lami.**

Kalpana Kaajal | Public Relations & Communications Officer: Ph: 3394000 | Ext: 2886 | Email: kalpana.kaajal@fnu.ac.fj

For further information, please contact Kalpana Kaajal on Email: 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).