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PRESS RELEASE

FNU holds historic graduation in Marshall Islands

Suva, Fiji Islands. A graduation ceremony for Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) students who completed Fiji National University's Postgraduate Diploma in Nurse Practitioner training will be held tomorrow (Saturday) at the Capital building in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

FNU Chancellor and Chair of Council, Mr Ikbal Jannif, Vice Chancellor, Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey, Dean - College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Dr William May and few other senior officers from the University will be present at RMI to conduct this inaugural graduation ceremony.

These graduating students completed the programme in their home country with FNU's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Science (CMNHS) academic staff travelling on a regular basis to provide learning and teaching support.

The twelve students are from different islands and atolls of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and are currently serving at the major hospital in Majuro.

CMNHS Dean, Dr William May said it was indeed a proud moment as it was the first time for the University to provide this mode of delivery in the Micronesian region.

"RMI should be honoured as it is the first country to have hosted the Nurse Practitioner program for full-time students outside of Fiji," said Dr May.

Dr May said that the College accommodated the request from RMI and is committed to providing continuous support for training of the health sector in the region.

The RMI Nurse Practitioner Training Program was established following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RMI Ministry of Health & Human Services, Pacific Island Health Officers' Association (PIHOA) and Fiji National University in 2016.

Nurse practitioners are licensed, autonomous clinicians focused on managing people's health conditions and preventing diseases.

The training has made the graduating students highly skilled with advanced education, clinical training and demonstrated competency to serve the local community in RMI.

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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).