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PRESS RELEASE

Tui Macuata appointed to FNU's Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Suva, Fiji Islands. The Turaga na Tui Macuata Ratu Wiliame Katonivere was appointed as the Chair of the Fiji National University's Labasa Campus Stakeholder Advisory Committee (LCSAC). Whilst the campus is located in Labasa, FNU serves all the three provinces in the North namely; Cakaudrove, Bua and Macuata.

The high chief was unanimously appointed to the position following the inaugural meeting on 25 May, held at the Commissioner Northern's office.

The LCSAC is made up of representatives from government, industry, education sector, municipal council, business, women, youth and marginalised sectors. It also consists of FNU Labasa Campus reps from various Colleges and the National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC).

Labasa College Principal and FNU Council rep Kamlesh Prakash was elected as Deputy Chairman.

Speaking at the opening of the meeting FNU's Pro Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching Dr. Eci Nabalarua highlighted the importance of Labasa Campus as a hub of excellence and quality for both higher education and TVET in the Northern Division.

Dr Nabalarua said the new Labasa Campus for which construction is currently underway, reaffirms the University's commitment to ensuring quality education for increased productivity leading to sustainable socio-economic development is one of FNU's priority in Vanua Levu.

She said that as a dual sector university, it intends to develop and offer new programs that are realistic, suitable and sustainable for the people and economy in the Northern division.

"We cannot as a university, operate in isolation. We intend to improve our marketing strategies, hold consultations in the three provinces through the provincial councils, and other local area forums. We regard these forums as key players in reaching out to the provinces," said Dr Nabalarua.

The Head of Campus, Labasa, Pardeep Lal presented the profile of the Campus which included demographics, institutional profile, programmes on offer and student numbers by programmes with a forecast on student numbers over next 3 years.

Also highlighted were future and potential growth areas and how the Government initiated Sustainable Livelihood Project (SLP) which is being conducted by NTPC can be made available to a greater cohort in the rural and maritime communities in the north.

Lal said they were pleased with the outcome of the meeting and the University looks forward to working with the LCSAC to ensure the tertiary education needs of the people in the northern division are fulfilled.

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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).