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PRESS RELEASE

FNUSA President attends Commonwealth Youth Leadership Workshop

Suva, Fiji Islands. The recent Commonwealth Youth Leadership Workshop and Commonwealth Week held in Marlborough House in London provided a great opportunity to learn about the irrefutable laws of leadership says the Fiji National University Student Association (FNUSA) President, Ketan Lal.

Lal, who is a final year student pursuing a Degree in Civil Engineering Honours programme at FNU's College of Engineering, Science and Technology, attended a 10-day training from 27 June to 5 July, 2018 as the Pacific Representative to the Commonwealth Students' Association Steering Committee.

The 23-year-old, who hails from Savusavu, was appointed as the Pacific Rep during the 20 Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers hosted by Fiji earlier this year.

According to Lal, the workshop provided participants an insight into the operations and goals of the Commonwealth and its various bodies. Lal said he learnt a lot about the current global youth development issues, how they are being managed as well as key priority areas that the Commonwealth is working on around the world through its various bodies or affiliates.

"I feel honoured to have been part of such a high-profile workshop which was a great opportunity for networking, stakeholder engagement and developing potential partnerships," said Lal.

"Personal and professional development training on leadership, communication, advocacy and strategic planning was one of the main objectives of this training. After this training, I feel I will be able to carry out the responsibilities of my role as the President of the national university more effectively."

The Youth Leaders of the Commonwealth were trained on many different aspects of leadership. These included youth participation frameworks in the Commonwealth, gaining a greater understanding on the leadership and collaborations, promoting respect and diversity in leadership, learning how to prepare and deliver messages as Commonwealth leaders and mobilizing resources for organisations and building partnerships.

Lal said one of the highlights of the visit was meeting the Commonwealth Youth Ambassador, Prince Harry and Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle.

Prince Harry was appointed to this role earlier this year. Lal said the Prince was eager to work with the youths for more youth development and engagement in the Commonwealth.

"I shared a light moment with Prince Harry when he said to me that he wanted the Bula shirt that I was wearing to that occasion. I politely informed him that he can get many when he visits Fiji later this year," said FNUSA President Lal.

"He (Prince Harry) is a very humble person and I believe his visit to Fiji is a way forward for connecting our youths in the Pacific with the rest of the world. The discussions with the Duke and Duchess prompted their interests of creating links between young people and the youth leaders of the Commonwealth," Lal added.

The Commonwealth Youth Leadership Week brought together Commonwealth Youth Leaders from the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC), Commonwealth Student Association (CSA), Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs (CAYE), Commonwealth Youth Climate Network (CYCN), Commonwealth Youth Sport for Development and Peace (CYSDP), Commonwealth Youth Human Rights and democracy Network (CYHRDN), Commonwealth Youth Gender Equality Network (CYGEN) and Regional Youth Councils.

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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).