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Press Release

Government's education assistance scheme offers students greater access to study opportunities

Suva, Fiji Islands. Secondary school students have a very strong platform to pursue and achieve their educational goals thanks to the Government-initiated Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board (TSLB).

Fiji National University (FNU) Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey said students have greater access to choose which career path they intend to pursue as the payment of fees and other educational costs are now part of an affordable loans scheme, which takes the financial pressure off parents and guardians.

Professor Healey said with rising cost of education globally, Fiji's education policy ensured that the younger generation are given equal opportunity to undertake studies of their choice, enter a profession or trade and then re-pay the loan which is set at affordable rates.

"Often we hear from the older generation that they could not afford to pursue further studies and enter the profession they had dreamt of; now in Fiji the education system enables current generation to enrol in their chosen study programmes and go on to do what they love. This is a wonderful opportunity for the students, their families and for Fiji as it will assist with the country's economic development and prosperity," said Professor Healey.

The TSLB team has been part of the two-day Open Day event. The team has been assisting students by providing important information on financial assistance to students intending to pursue tertiary education.

The Vice Chancellor toured the Open Day at Nasinu Campus meeting prospective students from different schools and discussing their choice of subjects.

While meeting a group of students from Baulevu High School from Nausori, Professor Healey advised them to be patient and find out as much as possible about the programmes available before committing to their choice of study.

He said that with such a wide range of programmes on offer at FNU, students need to thoroughly research their choices before finalising them.

"It's not easy to decide on your career choices. Students are often under a lot of pressure to make their choices. Sometimes students can feel under pressure from family and teachers. For example, students who excel at science subjects may feel there is an expectation that they should study medicine, but deep down they are really passionate about engineering. So it's always important to carefully weigh your options. You can speak with people, do your own research and also browse through the internet to see what more information you can get to assist you in making the best decision for you," said Healey.

"At the end of the day the choice is yours. Whatever programme you choose will lead you to a career and it is important that that is a job you will find fulfilling and rewarding. This is an exciting time in your lives, so make the best of it and I wish you all the best with your studies."

The FNU organised its Open Day on Thursday and Friday 19 and 20 July, which is being hosted at three centres, Nasinu Campus (Central Division), Natabua Campus, Lautoka (Western Division) and Labasa Civic Centre (Northern Division).

All three Open Day venues feature displays from all five Colleges of the Fiji National University namely the College of Humanities and Education (CHE), College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS), College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST), College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF).

105 secondary schools will visit the three Open Day venues over the two days and together with members or the public, the total number of visitors to this event is expected to be more 10,000.

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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).