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Press Release

FNU honours dentist by naming dental teaching clinic after him

Suva, Fiji Islands. Doctor Jonacani Tuisuva, who is regarded an icon in the local and regional dental circles having spent almost four decades in the field of dentistry as a practitioner and an educationist, will have the honour of attending the opening ceremony of the teaching Dental Clinic at Fiji National University (FNU) named after him.

The 60-year-old, who hails from Balenabelo Village in the Province of Nadroga-Navosa is currently Manager Remote Oral Health Services in Northern Territory, Australia, and was the Head of School of Dentistry at the then Fiji School of Medicine (FSM) for 8 years from 1998 to 2006.

The newly renovated Tuisuva Dental Teaching Clinic is located at FNU's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) Pasifika Campus. The facility will be opened on Friday 3 August.

Dean CMNHS, Dr William May said the University acknowledges Dr Tuisuva's contributions towards Oral Health education and services in Fiji and the region.

"We have named the renovated clinic as Tuisuva Dental Teaching Clinic to show our appreciation to Dr Tuisuva's numerous contributions to oral health in Fiji and the region in terms of training and promotion of oral health services," said Dr May.

"Under his leadership, the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme was introduced with the first cohort enrolling in 1993. He has also been instrumental in reviewing the multi-entry and multi exit programmes for dental courses. The multi entry and exit dental programme was unique for the region as it was socially responsive for the Pacific Island Countries (PIC) needs."

The clinic comprised of 12 dental chairs previously, which after renovations has increased to 28 with a state-of-art dental radiography facility.

"Students in Fiji and around the region will now get the opportunity to train at a facility which is on par with the Australia and New Zealand standards," Dr May added.

The Clinic provides general dental services at minimal cost to members of the public through prior bookings.

The following programmes are offered through the School of Dentistry and Oral Health and currently there are 172 students enrolled in this School:

- Diploma in Dental Technology
- Bachelor of Dental Surgery
- Bachelor of Oral Health
- Postgraduate Diploma in Oral Surgery
- Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (Dentistry)
- Master of Oral Surgery

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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).