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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FNU's popularity amongst regional students on the rise**

**Suva, Fiji Islands.**

Fiji National University is fast becoming the educational hub for Solomon Island students as more are opting to study with the national University.

For a group of friends, Dickson Tabai, Edwin Lengakuanga and Nimrod Funusui, choosing FNU was an easy decision because of its safer and ever improving learning and teaching environment.

They are currently enrolled with the College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST) and expect to complete their programme later this year.

Draftsman, Mr Tabai who is currently pursuing Trade Diploma in Architect said FNU offers a holistic learning experience.

“Back in the Solomons, we only have two options for further study to either go to UniTech in Papua New Guinea or FNU; but most of us prefer Fiji National University because it’s safer to study here and we are not restricted by any form with curfews and we can actually have a social life too,” said Mr Tabai.

“And also because with FNU we have a wider option to study at diploma level or even degree which is not available back home as technical programmes are only up to certificate level,” Mr Tabai added.

Mr Lengakuanga who is also undertaking Trade Diploma in Architect highlighted it is the hands-on training that most students are enticed to.

“One of the things we consider when seeking a place to study is practical work especially for technical fields and Fiji National University offers that. I enjoy the practical training as we learn better that way and with the new equipment and facility improvement, it’s a great time to be at FNU,” said Mr Lengakuanga.

Meanwhile, Mr Funusui who is pursuing a Trade Diploma in Renewable Energy shared similar sentiments.

“In the one year we have been here, we have witnessed major developments and transformation at FNU. There have been changes in the learning facilities, improvements in

our labs, more renovations around the campus and student support services has become highly accessible,” said Mr Funusui.

“I believe more students back home are choosing FNU because they have seen the changes and improvements and have heard from us that it is one of the best places to study in.”

FNU Vice Chancellor, Professor Nigel Healey said applications received from potential regional students are very encouraging.

“We have about 600 regional applications so far. They would be spread out in our Colleges unlike before where they used to be mainly at the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, but now we have got applicants in engineering, humanities & education and also in agriculture,” said Prof Healey.

Prof Healey is confident FNU is building itself up to be one of the leading institutions in the region with intakes from our neighboring Pacific Island nations.

“We will continue to invest in upgrading our facilities to ensure our students get the best teaching and learning facilities while at the same time restructure our programmes to suit the employment market ensuring employability of our graduates.”

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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).