

FNU Natabua Campus students and staff mark World Cleanup Day



Environmental advocate Lia Bogitini (Left) with staff and students after cleaning the Saweni beach

Staff and students of Fiji National University's (FNU), Natabua Campus in Lautoka conducted a cleanup campaign at the Saweni beach over the weekend to mark World Cleanup Day.

About 40 staff and students from Lautoka collected rubbish, trimmed overgrown grass and planted Croton plants (*Codiaeum variegatum*) along the roadside and at the entrance of the Saweni beach to beautify the area.

FNU Assistant Lecturer in Environmental Science, Lia Bogitini, who spearheads environmental activities at Natabua Campus, said they were pleased with the response from staff and students who spared time over the weekend to participate in the program.

"The response was overwhelming, and this shows our support to conduct environmental activities which assist towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 13, 14 and 15," she said.



FNU Natabua campus students cleaning Saweni beach to mark World Cleanup Day

According to Bogitini, the activity was a way of giving back to the environment as well as creating greater awareness of the need to look after our surroundings.

"It is imperative to keep our beaches clean because if we don't clean them ourselves, nobody will do it for us," she added.

The environment advocate is pleased with the two student groups to have volunteered to make Natabua Campus more environmentally friendly.

"This is just the beginning, and I am optimistic that our FNU student body will come up with similar projects. Students cooperation in cleaning our environment will be highly cherished for many years to come," she said.

FNU Natabua Campus Academic Leader, Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba, said Natabua Campus is currently on the path to becoming more environmentally friendly and conscious.

"To support the world bid to protect the environment and ensure the sustainability of our planet, we are working towards making Natabua a Green Campus," said Professor Nabobo-Baba.

"Such clean-up campaigns will facilitate the long-term culture of proper waste management, which is an important vehicle to achieve the SDGs," she added.

The Campus has also embarked on a waste paper recycling project to reduce the amount of waste paper being sent to the landfill.



Students planting the croton plants alongside the beach