

FNU student crowned Miss Coral Coast 2019

Strong determination and good communication skills laid the platform for Fiji National University (FNU) Law student, Natasha Saiyad to achieve a major personal goal over the weekend.

Saiyad, 22, was crowned Miss Coral Coast 2019 at the week-long Vodafone Coral Coast Carnival in Sigatoka.

“From a very young age, I have been seeing beautiful young ladies participating in such pageants showcasing their talent, beauty and ideas. It has been a childhood dream to be the voice of the minorities,” said Saiyad.

The fourth-year FNU student participated in the 2019 Tebara Carnival in June but the victory was afar for the young lady.

“The biggest challenge was to build my confidence level. I overcame that by doing a lot of reading and research,” she said.

Born and bred in Cuvu Sigatoka, Saiyad said her will to succeed was strong enough that she decided to partake in the Coral Coast Carnival.

Saiyad was sponsored by Nadroga District Council of Social Services, a non-government organisation under Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) which provides services for the underprivileged.

While Saiyad advocated on social issues like rape, teenage pregnancy and suicide, she picked obesity as her research topic.

“I found this as an interesting topic to talk on, given that we have a lot of people in Fiji who have or are dying due to obesity and the health risks associated with it,”



Miss Coral Coast 2019 – Natasha Saiyad. Picture supplied.

“I gave my example while talking about this because according to the BMI calculation, I am obese,” she added.

“Some of the ways how we can combat obesity is by eating healthy that is to include fruits and vegetables in our meals and doing regular exercise,” said Miss Coral Coast 2019.

Expressing her emotions, the newly crowned queen said being a winner in her hometown is a milestone for her.

“It’s a special feeling which cannot be described. I am overwhelmed. I feel blessed to be a queen for Sigatoka, where I grew up. This win has always been a dream for me,”

“I used to juggle between my classes and assignments to take out time for rehearsals for this contest but all my sacrifices have paid off now,” she said.

Saiyad will now represent Sigatoka in the Miss Fiji pageant that will be held later this year.