



FNU's NTC 70s graduates with Education Minister Rosy Akbar (middle), FNU Chancellor and Chair of Council Dr Rajesh Chandra and senior staff of FNU.

First ever Nasinu Teachers College (NTC) Alumni Reunion for 70s graduates rekindles fond memories

This evening is all about coming back home, networking and giving back to the country. These were the words of the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts Honourable Rosy Akbar on Sunday night while speaking to around 100 former graduates who are part of the Nasinu Teachers College (NTC) Alumni 70s Reunion at the Fiji National University (FNU) Nasinu Campus.

"This is a very special occasion. Thank you all for coming back home to Fiji and I know this place has played a role in your success today, along with your own hard work and determination," Honourable Akbar said.

"When we have stakeholder engagements such as these and get together and share ideas and best practices, when you bring back home your knowledge, skills and support, then I'm sure we can take the Fijian education system to another level."

"Institutions such as NTC are places where we learn a lot of lifelong lessons and make lifelong friends."

"May your next couple of days be filled with successful talks and networking. Your experience is something we cannot take away from you, it is the edge you have."

Honourable Akbar, who is also an alumna of the institution when it was renamed the Fiji College of Advanced Education (FCAE), also reflected on her time as a student.

"When I look across the room I see my former lecturers here too," she said.

"My lecturers and professors had a large role to play in where I am today. It is very apt for us to take a moment today to think about all the teachers and educators who have impacted our lives."

"I have a lot of respect for teachers and especially those that have taught me during my days."

The Minister also encouraged the alumni to visit her office whenever they had contributions and ideas towards enhancing the education system in Fiji.

"Please ensure to also stay connected with each other and with the Alumni Relations Office at the University and discuss how best you would be able to contribute towards FNU's future," she said.

FNU Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey added that the University was thrilled to welcome back the graduates to the campus where they would relive fond memories of their time at NTC four decades ago.

"I am humbled to welcome such a distinguished cohort of former students because as we all know, teaching is a very noble profession," Professor Healey said.

"We're amongst friends here and we are grateful to hear from you of the history of our campuses as it goes back a long way."

"Next year, the University in its current form will be 10 years old but our Colleges date back to 135 years ago so we're proud of institutions and its history."

"NTC is an important part of that journey so we are pleased we have the chance to speak to you so we can tell the narrative of education here in Fiji."

Mr Vasu Deo Maharaj, a former NTC graduate and senior Civil Servant said they were all thrilled to be back home and amongst long-time friends and colleagues.

"This is a very special occasion for us all. Some of us are meeting after 40 years. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet our friends and we are all so happy to be here back where it all began for many of us," said Maharaj.

The reunion continued on Monday with Campus and city tours and talanoa sessions whereby the alumni will share their experiences. Alumni have travelled as far as New Zealand, Australia and Hawaii to join their local counterparts here for the reunion and over 40 alumni have also opted to stay on campus for the 3-day event to re-live their campus days to the full.



FNU's NTC 70s graduates after registration for the reunion at Nasinu Campus on Sunday afternoon.