

High-quality training key to improved workforce productivity – Dr Tagicakiverata



NTPC staff during the launch of the Industry and Community Discussion Forum

Trainers at Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC), were challenged today by the Director, Dr Isimeli Tagicakiverata to be more innovative and deliver high-level of training to clients in a joint effort to improve overall workforce productivity and efficiency in Fiji.

Speaking during the launch of the Centre's Industry and Community Discussion Forum (ICDF) Report in Nabua this morning, Dr Tagicakiverata said NTPC must take strategic steps and actions to address issues raised by the industry.

He said it was important for NTPC to maintain its status as Fiji's premier skills training institution in the face of intense competition.

"We need to remain relevant and responsive to demands and expectations from Fiji's industries. There is a saying that actions speak louder than words, so NTPC must take strategic steps and remedial actions to address issues raised by our industry partners," Dr Tagicakiverata said during the launch.

The ICDF is an annual month-long exercise, carried out by NTPC where special teams go out into the industry and the community to gather valuable feedback on the Centre's events and activities, deliverables, and services.

One of the primary objectives of the ICDF is to understand the prevalence of NTPC skills training programmes in Fiji's various industries.

This year, nearly 100 organisations were visited around Fiji, and majority of the participants of surveys, interviews and discussions agreed that NTPC skills training programmes improved their performance in the workplace.

While previous year's forums had primarily focussed on Fiji's industries, this year included increased community consultations in light of the continual success of the Sustainable Livelihood

Project (SLP) that provides extensive community training throughout Fiji.

Dr Tagicakiverata said while there is a consensus via the ICDF that NTPC is effective in its training delivery, staff should remain vigilant to the continuous change in the needs of Fiji's industries and communities.

"Compared to last year, there has been a marked reduction of the dissatisfaction of NTPC programme delivery rating from 20 to 4 percent," he said.

"In spite of this, we need to continually be more creative and innovative in how we deliver our services. Our objective remains for NTPC to continually improve on industry engagements and promptly act on changing needs," he said.

"While the NTPC has the means and the resources at their disposal to provide training, the frank discussions that are carried out in this report, helps it recognise the limitations and the focus of its mandate."

"These discussions also ensure that its funds and government grants received for its training programmes and engagements are properly directed to designing and providing courses that are not outdated but relevant the needs of its partners," the Director added.

The report noted while there has been continual demand for more training needs in the traditional forms of industrial and occupational skills, this year's event, in particular, has seen an increased need of workers with analytical and adaptability skills and reflecting the change towards a more digitally workplace.

Dr Tagicakiverata said this change of industrial requirements should urge the various departments within the NTPC to promptly update their methods of training delivery, using flexible distance modes and with emphasis on preparing workers of the future.