

Productivity is about continuous improvement – PS Cawaru



Permanent Secretary for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Osea Cawaru speaking at the Productivity Awareness Campaign at Holiday Inn in Suva.

Fiji needs to strengthen and develop further its capabilities across all sectors of the economy, become increasingly versatile and build on recent successes, if we are to remain competitive in the global market.

These were the comments of the Permanent Secretary for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Osea Cawaru while opening the Productivity Awareness Campaign organised by the Fiji National University's (FNU) National Training and Productivity Centre (NTPC).

"The Fijian economy needs to be an environment that encourages companies to continuously innovate and at the same time we all need to identify new sources of growth to replace those that are becoming exhausted," said PS Cawaru.

The senior civil servant acknowledged the role of the private sector as well as those in the import and export business which plays a significant role in driving the economy.

According to Cawaru, Government is focused on having a dynamic private sector that invests, innovates and creates jobs.

"Government strongly believes that a robust and resilient economy is built through collaboration between all key stakeholders and the private sector continues to be the engine for economic growth, at the same time Government continues to provide an enabling and conducive environment for businesses to flourish."

The PS revealed that the Ministry of Employment is currently working with Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) on a Master Plan that will improve Fiji's Productivity standard.

"The Productivity Masterplan is for 20 years and will assist government's effort in improving productivity and the standard of living for all Fijians. The 20-year plan places productivity as a priority in the context of planning for inclusiveness on socioeconomic development and transformation plans."

Cawaru commended the NTPC for promoting quality and productivity through its trainings provided to Fijians.

FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey said NTPC endeavors to work in the national interest, develop human capital, facilitate productivity improvement and assist organisations in raising productivity and excellence.

VC Healey revealed that the NTPC, as part of its key deliverables, will roll out Fiji's Productivity Report in July which will examine the productivity performance at both national and sectoral level.

"NTPC for the first time will launch this report which provides important insights into productivity in Fiji at National and sectoral level which offers valuable information for policy makers, researchers, non-governmental organisations and students," said Professor Healey.

He acknowledged all key stakeholders who were effectively involved in compiling this report.

"NTPC will continue to support productivity and quality efforts in industries and will encourage change through the appropriate incentive systems like granting the chance to our best Quality Circles (QC) to participate in international events like the IETEX Convention in Singapore."

"These opportunities provide Fiji organisations in showcasing their best projects at an international stage," Professor Healey added.

This year Team SMART from the Future Farms Ltd will represent Fiji at the Asia Pacific Quality Organisation Team ACE Competitions in Bali, Indonesia. Team SMART is the champions of last year's National Convention on QC competition organised by NTPC.



FNU Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Healey (first from left) with guests at the Productivity Awareness Campaign organised by FNU's NTPC.