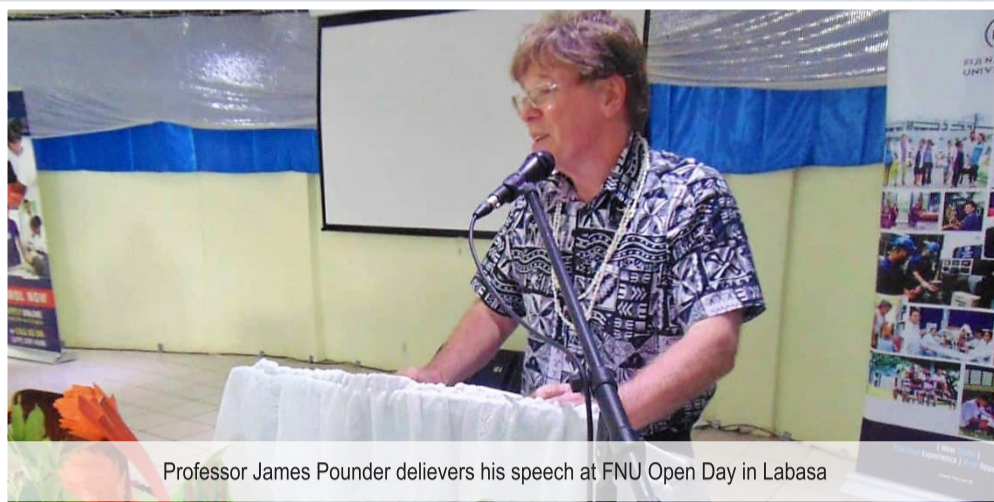


Work hard to achieve your goals – Tui Macuata Ratu Katonivere



Professor James Pounder delivers his speech at FNU Open Day in Labasa

Secondary school students were encouraged to go beyond the frontiers to pursue their dreams and return home to support the growth of their 'vanua' and country.

These were the words of the Turaga na Tui Macuata Ratu Williame Katonivere as he officiated during the FNU Open Day 2019 at the Civic Centre in Labasa today.

“Don't let your circumstances dictate how you as a person will turn out. You are in FNU for a purpose. You are in this school for a reason. That purpose is to accomplish your studies, secure employment and give back to your family and your country,” said Ratu Katonivere.

“If people from poor backgrounds can rise up to be Presidents of nations, so can you; if orphans can turn out to be doctors and pilots, so can you; if those who didn't finish school can turn out to be millionaires in agriculture, so can you.”

“It all begins with you determining in your hearts to get the best of the time that you are here at FNU.”

The high chief thanked the Government and FNU for their vision in constructing a new state-of-the-art multi-million-dollar campus, which is expected to open its doors from next year.

Ratu Katonivere said with the new Campus, new programmes that will be introduced will provide a major boost to the northern division.

He also urged FNU to look at developing new programmes in Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Maritime studies.

“These programs will enable our children to be independent. We want to see more businesses established in the North. The North is expanding fast and we need well educated people to propel a vibrant and productive economy,” Tui Macuata stated.

Meanwhile the Acting FNU Vice-Chancellor Professor James Pounder in his address to students urged them to thoroughly



Tui Macuata Williame Katonivere and Professor James Pounder at the display booth at FNU Open Day in Labasa

explore study programmes offered by each of the Colleges before finalising their study choices.

Speaking to hundreds of students, teachers and parents during the official opening of the FNU annual Open Day in Labasa this morning, Professor Pounder said it is not too long before Labasa will have a new state-of-the-art campus and wide range of programmes for students.

“We have a brand new Campus under construction just up the road which will be one of our showpiece campuses, due to open in February 2020. It is a purpose-built Campus designed with the Labasa community in mind and will be situated next to a major Damodar City development that will result in a shopping city larger than the one in Suva,” said Professor Pounder.

He urged students and parents to take the FNU Open Day as a platform to talk to the Campus staff and gain first-hand information about the developments happening at the Campus.

“We in FNU are justifiably proud of what we are doing in the University but we are also conscious of the big step that high school students are taking in transitioning from school to university. We have introduced systems to make this transition as smooth as possible but this does not diminish the importance of potential FNU students making the most of their visit to the FNU Open Day to get an informed impression of the University first hand,” said Professor Pounder.

“Choosing the right programme to study can result in a rewarding career, which means students need to take full advantage of the FNU Open day,” he said.

Professor Pounder said there is nothing quite like a visit to the University to get a general ‘feel’ of the institution, to get questions answered and to meet students who are studying at the University.

“This means in preparing for the FNU Open Day, I advise potential students to survey the FNU website before the visit and write down a set of questions they would like to have answered when they attend the event. Questions could focus on the arrangement for student accommodation, grades needed to enter a particular programme, the teaching approach used, opportunities for practising what is being taught, methods of assessment and so on,” he said.

The Acting Vice Chancellor advised potential students to take notes of the answers given so they can be reviewed afterwards.

“I also advise that they get cards and/or email addresses of the FNU staff they talk to in the University Open Day to follow up if some of the answers they received are not clear when they have had time to reflect upon them,” he added.

The 2019 FNU Annual Open day is currently underway at three different locations; Valelevu Grounds in Nasinu, Natabua Campus in Lautoka and Labasa Civic Centre tomorrow as well.