



## SINUSA elects a new executive

The Solomon Islands National University Student Association (SINUSA) now has a new body following the successful election held on Thursday 9 May 2024.

Following the election, three new students were elected to the positions of President, Vice President and Secretary while the treasurer position remained unchanged.

The new President elect is Ray William Ereoli, the new Vice President elect is Ben Besa Jatobatu, the new Secretary elect is Patricia Leah Suiau, while Ericson Rurai returns the position of Treasurer after he was unopposed.

Speaking to UniVois following his successful election, SINUSA President Mr. Ereoli thanked students for having the trust in him to be their voice and their representative.

He said with the power vested on him, he is committed to serving the students to the best of his abilities where he said his new executive is ready and willing to represent the voice of SINU students moving forward.

The new president and his executive also vowed to work together with SINU on key issues affecting students.

“I am deeply honoured and humbled by your trust and confidence in electing me as your Student President for Solomon Islands National University.”

“Your support means the world to me, and I am committed to serving each and every one of you to the best of my abilities.”

“I want to express my sincere gratitude to all faculties for

believing in me and for giving me this incredible opportunity to represent our student body.”

“I am fully aware of the responsibilities that come with this role, and I am eager to work together with all of you to address the issues that affect us as students.”

“As your president, I am committed to being a voice for every student, advocating for our needs, concerns, and aspirations.”

“Together, we will strive to create a positive and inclusive environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, Spiritually, and personally.”

“I am looking forward to collaborating with all faculties, students, and staff members to find innovative solutions to our challenges and to make our university experience the best it can be.”

“Once again, thank you for your trust, confidence, and support. Let's embark on this journey together and make a difference in our university community.”  
Best regards.



From left to right; Ericson Rurai (Treasurer), Ben Besa Jatobatu (Vice President), Patricia Leah Suiau (Secretary) and Ray William Ereoli (President).

### Inside this issue:

SINU hosts historical symposium	2
Dr. Vaeno joins SINU as new dean of FAFF	3
Staff Profile	5

# SINU Successfully Hosts European Union Day Symposium

On Friday, May 17, Solomon Islands National University (SINU) successfully held a symposium to mark the European Day. The two-hour symposium, under the theme "Decentralized Service Delivery for Peace and Unity in Solomon Islands," was supported by the EU, UNDP, UNICEF, and the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS).

The aim of the symposium was to empower future leaders by strengthening provincial government for impactful development. The highlight of the event included a panel discussion, presentations, and a Q&A session, fostering knowledge sharing and networking.



UNDP OIC Mr Patrick Pee presents his speech.

Pee highlighted, "the common values that underlie life in Europe are freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and promoting peace and stability".

Mr. Pee encouraged Solomon Islanders to identify their own path to development through either centralization or decentralization to move the country forward.

In his remarks, the SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau



SINU VC Professor Transform Aqorau delivers his speech at the event.

thanked students, staff, stakeholders, and panellists for making the event a successful one.

Prof.Aqorau said," SINU is glad to organize the forum on decen-



From left to right; panellists Ms Josie-Anne Ashley, Ms Sharon Inone Mekupe, and Robert Kaua.

tralization, stating that the idea is not new since the country has been discussing decentralization well before the country gained its political independence in 1978".

With that, the SINU VC said the issue of decentralization and empowerment of communities has many dimensions to it where he said as a university SINU has a responsibility and a role to play



Panellists cut a cake to mark the European Union Day symposium.

in ensuring this kind of conversation happens between government, donors, communities.

The VC then shared a view that Solomon Islands cannot possibly be governed from a centralized position given its geographical location.

The event concluded with a panel discussion featuring: Robert Kaua Deputy Secretary MPGIS, Professor Transform Aqorau SINU VC, Ms Josie-Anne Ashley, SINYC General Secretary, Ms Sharon Inone Mekupe, CEO & Founder of Greenergy Pacific, and Mr.David Lidimani.

## SINU WELCOMES DR VAENO VIGULU AS NEW DEAN OF FAFF

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Vaeno Wayne Vigulu as the new Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (FAFF), effective 14 May 2024.

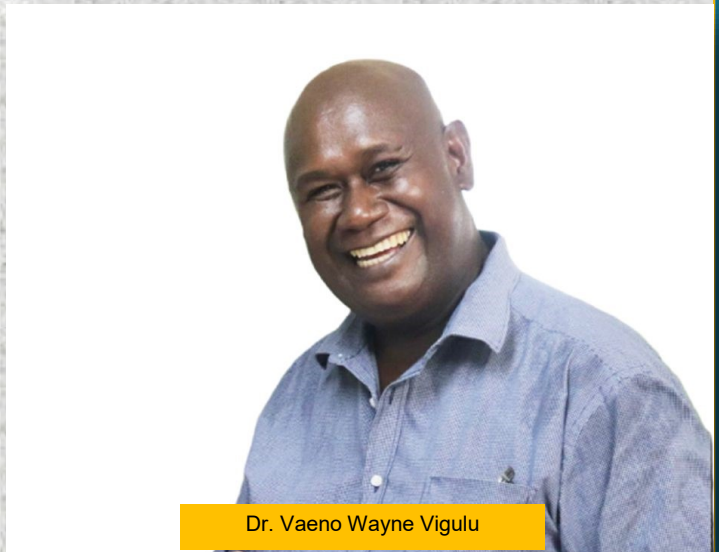
Dr. Vigulu has now succeeded the former Dean, Professor Paras Nath, who departed to India in October 2023.

Dr. Vigulu holds a PhD in Agroforestry from Griffith University, Australia, and an MBA from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji. He brings extensive experience to the role, having previously served as the Permanent Secretary for the Solomon Islands Government, where he managed the Ministry of Forestry and Research. His impressive career also includes positions as Forest Manager at Kolombangara Forest Products Limited and Assistant Managing Director at Eagon Pacific Plantation Limited.

Dr. Vigulu is no stranger to FAFF, as he has worked with the Faculty through the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Integrated Forest Management (IFM) Project during his term as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Forestry and Research. With his robust background in plantation forestry, agroforestry, biodiversity, and sustainable development, Dr. Vigulu's expertise and leadership are invaluable assets to our University's Faculty

of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Dr. Vigulu as he steps into his new role.



Dr. Vaeno Wayne Vigulu

## Solomon Islands National University Hosts European H2020 FALAH Workshop

Solomon Islands National University (SINU) recently hosted the European H2020 Project Family Farming, Lifestyle & Health (FALAH) Workshop from May 14 to 16, 2024. The event, organized by SINU and the FALAH Solomon Islands Team, brought together experts and researchers to explore the crucial connections between family farming, lifestyle, and health, focusing on the theme "Forestry, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Health—Our Livelihoods, Our Future."

FALAH, a multidisciplinary research initiative under the European H2020 programme, addresses the impacts of climate change on family farming, food, lifestyle, and health in the South Pacific islands. With participation from 14 institutions across Europe, Australia, and the Pacific islands, the project aims to integrate indigenous knowledge with scientific research for sustainable solutions.

The workshop featured distinguished guests including Professor Transform Aqorau, Vice-Chancellor of SINU, Professor Jean-Marie Fotsing, Scientific Coordinator of the FALAH Project. Participants from leading institutions such as the University of Sydney, University of the South Pacific, University of New Caledonia, Solomon Islands National University and various organizations joined discussions on health issues, traditional practices, and food preservation.

Addressing urgent concerns about climate change and environmental degradation, the workshop aimed to develop actionable solutions for health, agriculture, and fisheries in the Pacific region.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Aqorau emphasized the workshop's significance in influencing policy, reshaping practices, and driving innovation across the islands. He highlighted SINU's commitment to sustainable development through initiatives like the Centre for Islands Futures, which integrates traditional knowledge with scientific research for resilient strategies.

Expressing gratitude for SINU's hosting, Professor Fotsing noted the workshop's role in advancing knowledge in food, lifestyle, and public health amidst socioeconomic transitions and climate change.

The workshop concluded with fruitful discussions, leaving participants equipped with insights to apply in their respective fields.



Participants pose for a group photo with the Vice-Chancellor of SINU at the FALAH Workshop on 14 May 2024

## New Zealand hands over Post-Entry Quarantine facility to SINU and MFMR

On May 14, 2024, Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and the Ministry of Fishery and Marine Resources (MFMR) officially assumed ownership of a Post-Entry Quarantine facility for Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT). We extend our immense gratitude to the New Zealand Government for generously funding the establishment of this facility, situated within the SINU Department of Fisheries.

New Zealand High Commissioner to Solomon Islands His Excellency Jonathan Schwass successfully handed over the facility to SINU and MFMR on Wednesday this week. Speaking during the handover ceremony His Excellency Jonathan Schwass thanked and congratulated all parties involved resulting in the successful implementation of the pro-



**His Excellency Jonathan Schwass hands over the key to Dr. Kofi, Hon. Ghiro during the handover ceremony.**

ject where he said New Zealand is proud to support the project.

He said the facility will allow the ministry to increase the support to local farmers, particularly those inland who do not have access to sea fish. He said GIFT will be imported from Malaysia and kept in the newly handed over facility before moving them to the new Aquaculture facility at Araligo.

In the meantime, the MFMR Minister Hon. Nestor Ghiro said the official



**MFMR Permanent Secretary Christian Ramofafia giving the welcome remarks.**

handover of the facility marks a milestone achievement for the Freshwater Hatchery Project implemented by the ministry.

“We gather here to mark one of the milestone achievements for the Ministry of Fishery and Marine Resources Freshwater Hatchery Project implemented by the MFMR.”

“Part of this project includes the MFMR signing a MOU with the Solomon Islands National University Department of Fisheries.”



**MFMR Minister Hon. Nestor Ghiro presents his speech.**

“This MOU gives way for MFMR to have access to the site and to do minor renovation fit for purpose which will allow MFMR to comply with protocols and regulations of importing the GIFT into Solomon Islands.”



**New Zealand High Commissioner to Solomon Islands Jonathan Schwass delivers his speech.**

developing the aquaculture is the introduction of GIFT Tilapia.”

“It is with great pleasure that we gather today to mark a significant milestone GIFT importation project official handover ceremony of the refurbished Post-Entry Quarantine facility.”

“This occasion not only celebrates the successful completion of the renovation works but also signifies the strong partnership between the New Zealand Government through MSSIF and Solomon Islands Government through MFMR.”

“This facility is part of the Aruligo aquaculture facility currently in the process of being completed.” “It is called the Post Entry Quarantine Facility (PEQF).”

“When we order GIFT Tilapia this is where they will have to be held for quarantine purposes for several weeks.” “After we are sure that they do not contain any disease and are healthy, then we transfer them to the Aruligo aquaculture facility.”

Speaking on behalf of SINU on the occasion, Head of SINU Department of Fisheries Studies Dr. Kofi Otumawu-Apreku express the University’s most sincere gratitude for the significant contribution that will avail the University, through the Department of Fisheries Studies, the opportunity to work alongside the ministry, to develop this important sub-sector of the nation’s economy.

Dr Kofi said, the University is appreciative of the great endeavour to ensure that SINU works alongside the ministry to contribute to the development of this vital sub-sector.



**Head of SINU Department of Fisheries Studies Dr. Kofi Otumawu-Apreku, MFMR Minister Hon. Nestor Ghiro and His Excellency Jonathan Schwass cut the ribbon to officially mark the handover of the facility.**

“MFMR has been working with donors and other government institutions to develop aquaculture in Solomon Islands.”

“Today marks another important collaboration in this effort as we gathered to open a facility where the New Zealand Government, MFMR and SINU come together in this joint effort, one of the indications that MFMR has been working on in

# Staff Profile

**Name:** : Allan Alulu

**Province:** Malaita

**Age:** 39

**Work station:** Kukum, Ranadi, and Panatina.

**Department:** Properties, Facilities & Projects (PFP)

**Job title:** Construction Supervisor Project

**Qualification:** Study Civil Engineering at Papua New Guinea University of Technology.

**How long have you been working here?** Three years

**Tell us about your job:** My job is to ensure workers work according to plan and design. I also do site management to ensure workers abide by safety measures. Not only that but I also do daily and monthly reports to the PFPD Director and organize weekly meetings with workers. I also support procurement to procure materials on time to complete tasks at hand.

**What do you like about SINU and your job?**

Working with a leading institution in the country like SINU is always good because it provides many learning opportunities and experience. Working at SINU gives me the opportunity to help students who will be the future leaders of the country.

I like my job because it plays a crucial role in maintaining and improving SINU properties.



## About Us:



U n i V o i s

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Solomon Islands National University (SINU) is the Prime and ONLY National University of Solomon Islands.

Founded in 2013, SINU is striving to be one of the Best Education and Research Institute in the Region.

Our VISION: "A quality National University, raising Standards of education and applied research in the Pacific Region."

Our Mission: "Championing the pursuit of knowledge, skills, academic inquiry and applied research to transform lives through higher education and training, inclusive of diverse communities, while providing relevant solutions for the Solomon Islands.