



VC's 46th Independence anniversary message

As Solomon Islands celebrates its 46th Independence anniversary on July 7, 2024, the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Vice Chancellor (VC) Professor Transform Aqorau uttered a timely message to SINU staff to mark the country's anniversary .

bration and reflection. Today, we come together not just to commemorate the past, but to kindle the flame of hope and aspiration that will illuminate our path forward.

As we bask in the warmth of our hard-earned freedom, we are reminded of the lessons etched in the annals of our history.



In an email to all SINU staff to mark the country's 46th Independence anniversary VC Prof.Aqorau wrote, "Dear Colleagues,"

On this glorious day, as we stand on the threshold of our 46th Independence Anniversary, let us join hands in cele-

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These lessons, born out of our trials and triumphs, serve as the bedrock upon which we build our future. Yet, while the past provides wisdom, it is the future that beckons us with its promise and potential. Thus, I urge each one of us to look ahead with unwavering determination, for it is in our collective vision that the future is forged.

Let us dream of a future where our society thrives on respect and peace, where every citizen contributes to the tapestry of a vibrant and harmonious nation. At Solomon Islands National University, we envision a future where our economy is not only diverse and robust but also teeming with opportunities for our burgeoning workforce. We aspire to create a landscape where jobs are abundant, and the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship flourishes.

In this journey towards a brighter tomorrow, we must play an instrumental role in nurturing the next generation of thought leaders. Imagine a future where our engineers pave the way for state-of-the-art infrastructure, where our communication and technology specialists unlock the potential of a digital, knowledge-based economy. Let us equip our young minds to tackle the pressing health challenges posed by non-communicable diseases, steering our nation towards healthier lifestyles and smarter agricultural practices.

Visualize a nation where agro-forestry and fisheries thrive, ensuring food security and sustainability amidst the ever-looming threat of climate change. Picture our teachers, nurses, and professionals, multi-skilled and adept, navigating an interconnected world where their talents are sought after beyond our shores. Our economies, increasingly intertwined with those of Australia and New Zealand, will require a resilient and adaptable workforce, one that proudly upholds our cultural values while embracing global progress.

In this era of rapid technological advancement, let us not be mere spectators but active participants. Envision a day when artificial intelligence and machine learning enable life-saving surgeries to be performed at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, directed with precision from experts overseas. Such is the promise of our future—a future within our grasp if we dare to dream and strive.

It is imperative that we focus on nurturing the next generation of thought leaders—leaders who will not only shape the future with their intellect but with an unwavering moral compass. These leaders must embody the highest standards of ethics, and their critical thinking must be attuned to the profound social injustices that afflict the most vulnerable among us: the mentally and physically disabled, the children, the elderly, and those who find themselves marginalized and voiceless in the halls of power. Particularly, we must uplift our Polynesian and Micronesian brothers and sisters who remain underrepresented in public office.

In this regard, I am profoundly reminded of the Four-Way Test of the Rotary Movement, a timeless ethical guide that transcends partisanship and sectarian divides, providing a moral framework for Rotarians in their personal and professional lives. It is my hope that we, too, will embrace and embody these values as we strive to build a just and equitable society.

The Four-Way Test asks us to consider:

1. Is it the TRUTH?

In a world often clouded by misinformation and deceit, truth stands as a beacon of clarity and trust. Our future leaders must be unwavering in their commitment to honesty, for truth is the foundation upon which trust is built. Only through truth can we forge genuine connections and create a society where integrity prevails.

2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Fairness is the bedrock of justice. It requires us to look beyond our own interests and consider the impact of our actions on others. Our future leaders must ensure that their decisions are equitable, giving voice to those who have been silenced and creating opportunities for those who have been overlooked. Fairness fosters a community where everyone has a chance to thrive.

3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Goodwill is the glue that binds communities together. It is the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect that bridges divides and heals wounds. Our future leaders must be champions of goodwill, fostering an environment where friendships are strengthened, and unity is nurtured. In building goodwill, we create a tapestry of relationships that enrich our lives and strengthen our society.

4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

True progress is measured by the benefits it brings to all members of society. Our future leaders must strive to create policies and initiatives that uplift everyone, particularly the most vulnerable. When actions are beneficial to all, we move closer to a society where prosperity and well-being are shared, and no one is left behind.

By embodying these values, I sincerely hope that our future thought leaders will be able to contribute to the betterment of society. They will stand as pillars of integrity, fairness, goodwill, and collective benefit, guiding us towards a future where justice and compassion prevail.

Let us commit ourselves to this vision. Let us nurture and support the leaders of tomorrow, ensuring that they are equipped not only with knowledge and skills but with an unwavering dedication to ethical leadership. Together, we can create a legacy of hope, justice, and equality—a legacy that will be cherished by generations to come.

As we revel in the joy of this anniversary, let us commit ourselves to shaping a future that reflects our highest aspirations. Together, we can build a society where every citizen prospers, where peace and respect reign, and where the light of our independence continues to shine brightly for generations to come.

In the words of Robert Kennedy, "It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope." Let us be the ripples that together form a mighty wave of change, carrying our nation toward a brighter future.

Reflecting on our journey, we are reminded of the words of Nelson Mandela: "It always seems impossible until it's done." Indeed, the challenges we face may seem insurmountable, but with unity, determination, and unwavering hope, we can overcome any obstacle. Our history is testament to our resilience and our capacity for greatness.

As we look to the future, let us draw inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi, who said, "The future depends on what you do today." Our actions today will shape the destiny of our nation. Let us pledge to act with integrity, to uplift those around us, and to build a society that embodies the values we hold dear.

In this spirit of commitment and hope, let us remember the powerful words of John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." Each of us has a role to play in the continued growth and prosperity of our beloved Solomon Islands. Let us dedicate ourselves to the service of our nation, striving to make it a better place for all.

As we celebrate this Independence Anniversary, let us carry these words of encouragement in our hearts. Let us move forward with a sense of purpose and unity, knowing that our collective efforts will pave the way for a future filled with promise and possibility. Together, we can create a legacy of peace, respect, and prosperity—a legacy that will shine brightly for generations to come.

Thank you, and happy Independence Anniversary.

SINU DFL and East Central Guadalcanal Constituency signed MOU

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and East Central Guadalcanal Constituency (ECGC) on 03-07-2024 signed a historical Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) allowing ECGC to host a Distance Flexible Learning Centre at Aola.

The significant MOU signing took place at the Kukum Lecture Theatre at 10:30am between the SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau and Member of Parliament (MP) for ECGC Lazarus Alfred Rimah.

Speaking at the signing ceremony ECGC MP Hon. Rimah assured SINU that his constituency fully welcomed the educational initiative where he said his office will always

With that, he said bringing down tertiary education to ECGC is a milestone development for his people where he said his constituency is ready to continue to support the development.

In the meantime, the SINU VC Prof. Aqorau congratulates Hon. Rimah for taking up the important step in signing the MOU with SINU DFL Centre paving the way for education development in East Central Guadalcanal.

The SINU VC said the partnership between Solomon Islands National University and the East Central Guadalcanal Constituency embodies our commitment to educational equity and innovation.

“By leveraging modern technology and pedagogical strategies, we can create a robust and resilient education system that caters to all.”



From left to right: Acting Manager of DFL Obed Zutu, SINU VC Prof. Transform Aqorau, MP for ECGC Hon. Lazarus Alfred Rimah and Chief Education Officer (CEO) Guadalcanal Province Education Provider Rickson Saokoroa posed for a photo with copy of the signed MOU

support the DFL Centre in the Aola Ward.

Hon. Rimah then thanked SINU DFL Centre for reaching out to ECGC with its education development initiative which will greatly benefit the people of ECGC.

The ECGC MP said the DFL Centre will benefit four Wards in total namely; Aola Ward, Logu Ward, Kolo Karako Ward and Valasi Ward.

He said bringing the SINU DFL to ECGC will make life easier for his people where he said with the newly introduced educational initiative those who completed their secondary school will definitely grasp the opportunity to further their studies.

He further stated that in the absence of the DFL Centre at Aola in the past, the people of ECGC have spent a lot of money trying to access tertiary education in Honiara where he said the struggle is now a thing of the past.

“This initiative not only provides immediate educational benefits but also builds a foundation for long-term social and economic development.”

“As we move forward, we must continue to champion the cause of distance and flexible learning, recognising it as a cornerstone of our efforts to empower individuals and transform communities.”

“This partnership is a testament to our belief that education is a powerful tool for change, capable of unlocking potential and driving progress across all facets of society.”

“Together, we are paving the way for a brighter, more equitable future, where every individual has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.”

“The objectives of this partnership are clear and ambitious, reflecting our shared commitment to enhancing educational opportunities and fostering academic success.”

“Firstly, we will utilise the facilities at Kobito CHS for virtual sessions.”

“These facilities will serve as a central hub for our distance learning initiatives, providing students with access to the technology and resources necessary for their studies.”



SINU staff members and delegation from ECGC posed for a group photo with the signed MOU

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“By leveraging the existing infrastructure at Kobito CHS, we can create an environment conducive to learning, where students feel supported and empowered to achieve their academic goals.”

“Establishing this hub will create a vital point of contact for SINU CDFL students within the Kobito communities.”

“This will not only facilitate the delivery of virtual classes but also serve as a communal space where students can collaborate, share experiences, and support each other.”

“The accessibility of this hub will be particularly beneficial for students who may not have adequate study environments at home, offering them

into the educational framework.”

“Students will have access to on-site coordinators who can provide immediate assistance and mentorship, addressing any challenges that arise in real-time.”

“This localised support is crucial in maintaining high levels of engagement and motivation among students, as they navigate the demands of distance learning.”



SINU VC Professor Transform Aqorau and East Central Guadalcanal Constituency Member of Parliament Hon. Lazarus Alfred signed the MOU.



MP for East Central Guadalcanal Constituency (ECGC) Hon. Lazarus Alfred Rimah delivers his speech during the MOU signing.

a dedicated space for learning.”

“This initiative ensures that students have a reliable and consistent place to engage with their coursework, receive guidance, and interact with peers, fostering a sense of community and belonging.”

“Moreover, the establishment of the Kobito CHS hub will enhance the overall learning experience by integrating local support structures

“By creating a supportive and resource-rich environment, we are not only facilitating academic success but also promoting the holistic development of our students, equipping them with the skills and confidence needed to thrive in their educational journeys.”

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Member of Provincial Assembly for Aola Ward Clement Kilua, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Guadalcanal Province Education Provider Rickson Saokoroa, Acting Director of DFL Obed Zutu, and staff of the Distance Flexible Learning Center.

SINU DFL over the years have signed a number of MOUs partnering with Choiseul Province, Western Province, Malaita Province, Isabel Province, Malaita Province, Makira Ulawa Province, Temotu Province, North East Guadalcanal and most recently ECGC today.



SINU VC Professor Transform Aqorau sharing his remarks.



Acting Manager of DFL Mr Obed Zutu giving welcome remarks to both parties before the signing ceremony.

Staff Profile

Name: : Nix Hudson Maekasia

Province: Makira Ulawa Province (Currently settled in the Western province)

Age: 49

Work station: SINU Kukum Campus

Department: Property, Facilities and Project Department (PFPD)

Job title: Manager Construction, Repairs and Maintenance (Current PFPD Director (Ag))

Qualification: Diploma in Carpentry and Construction Trade. Diploma in Construction Management.

How long have you been working here?

I have been working here for SINU for 3 years.

Tell us about your job: I was recruited as the **Properties, Facilities and Projects (PFP) Manager- Construction, Repairs and Maintenance**, but currently hold the responsibility of PFPD

Director (Ag).

What do you like about SINU and your job? I really enjoy working for SINU, as it is the only national university in our country. I am dedicated to serving our university, as it is where I received my training.



About Us:



Solomon Islands National University
P.O. Box R113
Honiara
Solomon Islands

www.sinu.edu.sb
www.facebook.com/SINU.edu

For Newsletter inquiries, contact our Marketing & Public Relations Office on:

Phone: 30111 Ext 252 or 42631
E-mail: pro@sinu.edu.sb

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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.