

VC expresses gratitude to all SINU staff

The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Vice Chancellor (VC) Professor Transform Aqorau has expressed his gratitude to all SINU staff for their hard work throughout the academic year 2023.

As we bid farewell to the academic year 2023, SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau shares his reflections and heartfelt appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the entire SINU staff.

In his reflective interview with Univois, following a successful first year in office, Prof. Aqorau acknowledged the challenges of 2023 and expressed gratitude to all SINU staff for their tireless efforts. Despite facing numerous hurdles, he commended SINU staff for overcoming difficulties and giving their best to the institution, which is truly encouraging.

"I understand it hasn't been easy; there have been complaints, issues confronting staff, and challenging welfare matters at an individual level. However, they have worked exceptionally hard, and I've observed everyone's dedication despite these acknowledged challenges. Relatively speaking, the campuses, classrooms, buildings, and grounds are well maintained, a testament to the commitments of our staff."

Prof. Aqorau said this year 2024, SINU is looking at helping its staff with more marketing skill so that when staff retired from their jobs they have other skills to sustain them.

"So, you not only have the skills you came in with but also acquire additional skills before leaving the university, ensuring a diversified skill set to make ends meet."

"For me 2023 is a year of reflection and learning and I do intend that 2024 will be a year of implementation."

"While expressing gratitude to the SINU staff, Prof. Aqorau also emphasizes to them that he is committed to doing his best for the institution and working tirelessly for the well-being of both staff and students."

"As we conclude the year 2023, I want to reiterate the same message I shared at the beginning of the year. I assumed this position with a singular goal—to give my best for the institution and work diligently for the benefit of the staff and students."

"While I may not have been able to fulfill every commitment I made, I sincerely hope that I have effectively communicated with everyone about the university's affairs, excluding personal matters and disciplinary issues.

Transparency has been a priority for me."

"I've maintained transparency to the best of my ability because I want all my staff to be well-informed about the university's happenings. This openness in communication is crucial."

"One thing I've learned about leadership is communicating and open and transparent communication with all staff members is vital. In my absence, even if I'm not physically present, someone like the secretary or a phone attendant may have seen an email and be able to assist that person."

"I'm pleased to let everyone know that we've got some very good support coming from the British government, the Australia government that help us in this endeavour that is why I'm confident that SINU will grow from strength to strength with the support from key donors such as DFAT, China, and the British government."



SINU VC Prof. Transform Aqorau

"Coming to the end of the year 2023, I believe it's more fitting for others to assess my performance. It's not my place to declare how well I have done; to be honest, I am uncertain about my own accomplishments."

"Each day, my focus is on dedicating 120% of my time and effort to the tasks at hand. Whether I have performed well or not is a matter I am not entirely certain of. What I do know is that there are specific goals I had hoped we would achieve in 2023."

With that, Prof. Aqorau congratulated all SINU staff for a work well-done in 2023 and wishing all staff all the best for year 2024 a year that he deemed as year of active implementation.

Prof. Aqorau is currently on holiday and is anticipated to resume duties towards the end of January.

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SINU takes ownership of multimillion dollar dormitory facility

The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) on Thursday 28 December 2023 successfully handed over dormitories worth \$180 million to the Solomon Islands National University (SINU).

Prime Minister (PM) Manasseh Sogavare handed over three dormitories, one common multi-purpose hall and one equipment and maintenance block to SINU on Thursday morning.

Speaking during the handover ceremony PM Sogavare said SINU is the single largest beneficiary of the 2023 Pacific Games.

He said apart from the \$180 million used to fund the dormitory project, SINU also received an additional \$64 million to upgrade existing facilities and classrooms adding SINU has received more than 200 million dollars' worth of project.



PM Sogavare hands over a dummy key to SINU representatives to symbolize the official hand over of the SINU dormitories from SIG to SINU.

PM Sogavare said the SINU dormitories are one of the many legacies of the successful 2023 Pacific Games.

The SINU dormitory project which was funded by the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC) can accommodate up to 924 students including 12 students with special needs.

2023 officially handed over the facility to the Solomon Islands Government and the National Hosting Authority.

The facility was built in preparation for the 2023 Pacific Games to accommodate participating athletes from Pacific who took part in the games.

Speaking on behalf of SINU Acting Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate (PVCC) Shadrach Fanega said the official handover of the dormitories to SINU represents a vote of confidence in the future of SINU and the Solomon Islands.

Mr. Fanega said the commitment also demonstrated to development partners, more particularly PRC and SIG's seriousness in investing in SINU moving forward.



SINU PVCC Shadrach Fanega presents a gift to PM Manasseh Sogavare during the official handover of the SINU dormitories from SIG to SINU.

Moreover, he said the dormitories signify and mark a strengthened partnership between SIG and SINU.

"SINU was established in 2013 by the Solomon Islands National University Act 2012 with the fundamental objective to create and disseminate knowledge."

"In our SINU Strategic Plan 2021-2025, one of the strategic goals is infrastructure development."

"The handover of the dormitories today

(Thursday) is therefore very timely as we prepare for the University's 2024 Academic year."

"They have indeed changed the landscape of the SINU and are landmarks at Kukum Campus."

"These dormitories signify and mark a strengthened partnership between the Solomon Islands Government and the Solomon Islands National University."

"They would indeed be a legacy and living memory of the successful Pacific Games 2023."

"The dormitories will be remembered as a symbol of the friendship between the people of the Peoples' Republic of China and Solomon Islands for many years."

"Let me say that in many ways these dormitories signify and mark a strengthened partnership between the Solomon Islands Government and the Solomon Islands National University."

"These also signify both the Solomon Islands Government and the Solomon Islands National University's commitment and mutual cooperation to bring about a greater wellbeing for the students of SINU and the people of Solomon Islands."

"It is now to us all to continue to play our parts by taking full advantage of these dormitories and ensuring their upkeep."

"SINU students, I must stress and urge that you look after and take pride and ownership of these dormitories."

"The official handover of the dormitories to SINU also represents a vote of confidence in the future of SINU and the Solomon Islands."

"It should also demonstrate to our development partners, more particularly the People's Republic of China and Solomon Islands Government's seriousness in investing in SINU."



SINU staff posed for a group photo with PM Sogavare and members of his delegation during the hand over ceremony.

The handover ceremony was witnessed by the SINU Council members, representatives from National Hosting Authority, President of

the National Olympic Committee Solomon Islands (NOC SI), the Attorney General, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representative from the PRC embassy, and staff from the Prime Minister's Office.

SINUGSA new executive pays courtesy to VC Aqorau

Following the successful formation of a new Solomon Islands National University General Staff Association (SINUGSA) executive in November, the new executive pays its first courtesy visit to the SINU Vice Chancellor Professor Transform Aqorau.

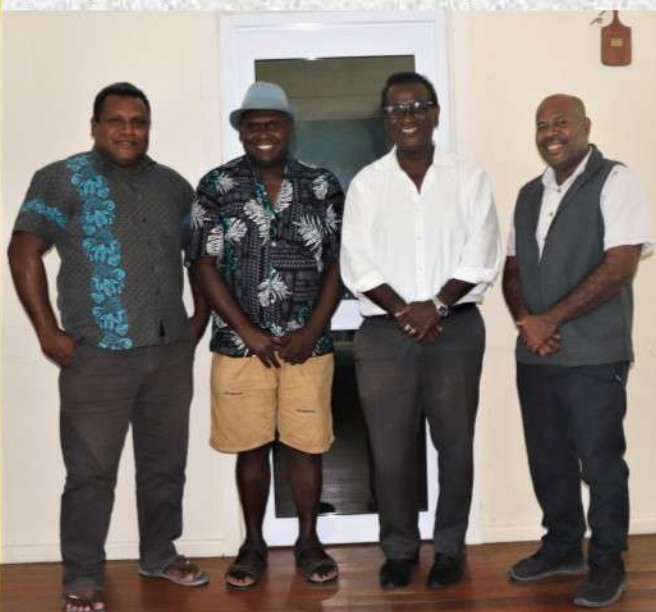
SINUGSA led by President Elliot Dora, Vice President Obed Zutu, and Assistant Secretary Cypriano Nuake pay courtesy to the Vice Chancellor on Wednesday 13 December.

During the visit, the SINUGSA discussed the following: SINUGSA introspection, SINUGSA constitution review, and objectives that the new SINUGSA executive would want to achieve in their term in office.

Speaking in response to SINUGSA first courtesy visit to his office,

association to fortify its role within SINU, prioritizing staff welfare and innovative engagement strategies to contribute actively to national discussions, nurturing a more engaged and supportive university community in the country.

Speaking during the courtesy visit SINUGSA President Mr.Dora thanked the Vice Chancellor for his overwhelming support and sug-



SINUGSA new executive meets with the SINU VC Prof.Transform Aqorau.

Professor Aqorau thanked the new executive for their timely visit following the revitalization of the staff association which has been inactive for some time.

While acknowledging the proactive stance taken by the new executive in addressing issues faced by SINU staff, Professor Aqorau challenged the executive to broaden their focus beyond traditional paradigms where he suggested that the new executive should ventured into establishing a credit union.

The Vice Chancellor is of the view that creating a credit union will be beneficial for SINUGSA members where he encouraged the executive to take the idea on-board.

Underlining the pivotal role of the association in public discourse, Professor Aqorau encouraged active participation in articulating issues resonating with their membership and the broader community, fostering representation in national conversations.

The landmark meeting underscores the commitment of the staff



SINUGSA new executive

gestion to broaden SINU General Staff Association's scope.

The new SINUGSA executive under the leadership of Mr.Dora welcomed the forthcoming communication process, reinforcing the col-



DFL staff Freda Tuita Orelly casts her vote during the SINUGSA election last year.

laborative efforts between the staff association and the university's management for effective dialogue and shared goals moving forward.

The SINUGSA for that matter represents the collective interests of staff members, fostering an engaged and supportive environment within the university community.

SINU thank and farewell temporary staff

On Friday, December 8, 2023, The Solomon Islands National University (SINU) Business Investment and Commercial Services (BICS) held a culinary excellence gala to thank 105 temporary workers who were employed on a short-term basis to assist SINU in delivering the catering needs for the Pacific Games.

The event, held at the Local Fusion Café on Friday afternoon last week, was hosted under the theme 'Savouring Success: A symphony of culinary appreciation'.

During the gala event, Pro Vice-chancellor Corporate (PVCC) Shadrach Fanega expressed his congratulations and gratitude to the members of the SINU team and the organizing committee led by Michael Bwekuli for their successful delivery of catering services for the Pacific Games.

Fanega remarked, "You are all reliable employees, and you are the best gift a leader can ask for. Thank you for being someone we can rely on. Your excellent and exemplary performance are an inspiration to all; keep up the good work. Your hard work and dedication set an example for everyone on our team. It is a great relief for any leader to have a team who manages themselves; your effort is deeply appreciated. I'm so grateful for all of your hard work; it definitely hasn't gone unnoticed. Our project wouldn't have been the same without your invaluable insight and creativity. I'm so happy that your dedication has paid off in a big way. Keep up the great work; if you could do it at SINU, you could do it anywhere."



Cutting of cake to mark the culinary gala

During the event, Chairman of the taskforce, Michael Bwekuli, expressed gratitude to the 105 temporary employees for their substantial contribution, which played a pivotal role in the successful provision of catering services for the Pacific Games 2023.

Mr. Bwekuli extended his appreciation to Human Resource Director Noelyn Biliki for her guidance in recruiting the temporary staff and acknowledged PVCC for his leadership and approval of overtime payment to all kitchen staff. Additionally, he thanked the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) staff and volunteers for their valuable assistance to the SINU team throughout the three-week period.



Pro Vice-Chancellor Corporate Mr. Shadrach Fanega presents a certificate to one of the temporary workers.

BICS Manager Laban Honimae expressed his deepest appreciation to the senior management for their profound support and those who contributed towards the successful delivery of the amazing catering service to regional athletes who were accommodated at SINU in the course of the Pacific Games.



Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic (Acting) Dr. Eric Katovai presents a certificate of attendance to Melisa Pitakesa.

Mr. Honimae then thanked the taskforce for a job well done as the SINU team delivered the catering service without any complaints, failure or customer care issues.

During the gala, 105 temporary employees were formally bid farewell and acknowledged with certificates. Notably, SINU hosted the majority of Pacific Games athletes at Kukum and Panatina campus, recognizing and celebrating their achievements.



BICS Manager Laban Trevor Honimae presents a certificate to attendance to Sunilla Rano.



On the left PVCC and PVCA enjoying the food while on the right Michael Bwekuli presents his speech.

SINU staff profile

Name: Firmina Oranabae Iyabora

Province: Malaita and Guadalcanal

Age: 35

Work station: Kukum Campus **Department:** Faculty of Business and Tourism - School of Business and Management

Job title: Assistant Lecturer

Qualification: Master of Arts in Governance

How long have you been working here? 3 years

Tell us about your job: I usually do lecturing and tutoring for accounting, management and entrepreneurship units. I also do academic counselling during enrolment sessions for students. In terms of administrative responsibility, I previously held the Acting HOD position for Management, Public Administration and Entrepreneurship (MPAE) in 2022.

Why SINU? SINU is our nation's fully-owned premium tertiary institution. I want to give back to our nation by assisting our human resources in their academic journey and professional development as they gain their qualifications.

What do you like about SINU and your job? My job enables me to interact face-to-face with students and build professional networks. While I impart knowledge to students, I like that there is also a conducive learning environment and opportunities to build myself professionally, intellectually and academically.



Team Tahiti



U n i v e r s i t y

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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.