



## **VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH**

### **SINU RUGBY SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS FUNDRAISING DINNER TO SUPPORT TEAMS**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with immense pride and a sense of great responsibility that I stand before you today at this inaugural fundraising event for our University Rugby Club. As Vice Chancellor, I am honoured to address our esteemed team manager, coaches, dedicated players, and the supportive members of our university community, including staff, students, and fervent supporters.

Our gathering tonight marks a pivotal moment for the Solomon Islands National University as we commit ourselves not only to academic excellence but to fostering a robust sports culture that mirrors the vitality and spirit of our people. We have always believed that our duty extends beyond the classroom walls—it reaches into the community and touches the lives of our students and staff in profound and enduring ways.

Sport, and particularly rugby, has the power to transform lives, to instil discipline, and to forge character. As famously said by Rugby World Cup winner Jonny Wilkinson, "Greatness is a decision you make, not a place you find. Just do what you can to do your best, and you may find that you have achieved greatness." These words encapsulate our journey towards not just participating in sports, but excelling in them, nurturing leadership, teamwork, and resilience among our students.

The establishment of the University Rugby Club is a testament to our commitment to enhancing campus life and contributing significantly to our community's well-being. It's heartening to see how a casual conversation with William has blossomed

into a vibrant club that stands as a beacon of our university's spirit and determination.

As we venture into this new chapter, let us remember the words of another rugby legend, Richie McCaw, who said, "Leadership is about being a role model and making those around you better." Every player, coach, and supporter is a leader in their own right, shaping a legacy of strength and spirit that will resonate throughout our halls.

To the players and management team, I extend my deepest admiration and encouragement. The road ahead will challenge you, it will test your mettle, but remember that it is in the face of challenges that true champions are born. You are not only players in a field but ambassadors of our university's values and aspirations.

Additionally, I want to underscore the steadfast support that both I and the entire University Administration pledge to the University Rugby Club and all our athletic teams. This commitment is not merely in words but in actionable steps that we are taking to ensure the growth and success of our sports programs. We recognize the integral role that sports play in developing well-rounded individuals who excel not only academically but also in their personal lives and future careers. Thus, we are dedicated to providing the necessary resources, facilities, and opportunities to see our teams thrive and excel on both national and international stages.

It is with this vision in mind that we have decided to reactivate the Department of Campus Life. This strategic move is designed to institutionalize sports administration and recreation within the formal structure of the university, ensuring that these critical areas receive the attention and management they deserve. The Department of Campus Life will serve as a central hub for organizing, developing, and promoting sports and recreational activities, ensuring that they are aligned with our educational goals and contribute effectively to the holistic development of our students. By doing so, we not only enhance the vibrancy of our campus life

but also elevate the standard of sportsmanship and physical education within our academic community.

These initiatives reflect our overarching commitment to fostering a dynamic and supportive environment where every student can pursue excellence in all facets of their university experience. By integrating sports into our core educational framework, we empower our students to build resilience, teamwork, and leadership skills that are invaluable beyond the playing field. Let us together embrace this journey of growth and achievement, making SINU a landmark institution where sports and academics go hand in hand in shaping the future leaders of the Solomon Islands and beyond.

Tonight, as we seek the support of our community and beyond, let us be inspired by the legacy of the Pacific Games, leveraging the facilities and the spirit of excellence they represent. It is our mission to not only participate but to set new standards in sports administration and to innovate sports education right here at SINU.

Let us rally together to support our University Rugby Club, to fund and facilitate their journey to the top. As Vince Lombardi, one of the greatest American football coaches, once stated, "The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary." There is much work ahead, but I am confident that together, we will achieve success.

Thank you all for your unwavering support and commitment to this noble cause. Let us move forward, together, and make the Solomon Islands National University a beacon of sports, education, and community spirit.

Thank you.