

The Honourable Chief Justice, Anthony Gates,
Pro-Chancellor, Mr. Anil Tikaram,
Members of the University Council,
Distinguished members of the legal fraternity,
Members of the diplomatic corps, members of the Parliament
Staff, students from Fiji National University (FNU) and University of the South Pacific (USP),
Staff, students and UniFiji Alumni, and Friends of the University-

Good Evening, Ni Sa Bula, Namaste and Greetings to all.

On behalf of the management, staff and students of the University of Fiji, I welcome you to the 5th Sir Moti Tikaram Memorial Lecture. This lecture series is an annual UniFiji event which has generated much interest and one that the staff, students and general public looks forward to.

Sir Moti Tikaram Memorial lecture is held mainly to honour the distinguished life and legal career of Late Sir Moti Tikaram, one of Fiji's longest serving judges.

This is the second Sir Moti Tikaram Memorial Lecture held in Suva and the first to be held at the newly opened lecture theatre at The University of Fiji, Samabula Campus. Last year, the lecture was hosted at the Grand Pacific Hotel. Our Samabula Campus is now well established to host events of such prominence with the expansion of facilities and two state of the art lecture theatres.

Why do we host such lectures?

As enshrined in the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan of the University, an event like this achieves two of the four strategic priorities to realize the institutional objectives.

These are:

1. Investing in the University's academic portfolio
2. Being an international University for the global sharing of knowledge

Hosting the Sir Moti Tikaram Memorial Lecture is a means of investing in the University's academic portfolio where the focus is on excellence in learning, teaching, research, enterprise, and interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary themes and perspectives; and being an international University for the global sharing of knowledge where the focal point is on international collaborations and securing partnerships.

Previous Sir Moti Tikaram Memorial Lectures

Professor Julian Moti delivered the first Sir Moti Tikaram Memorial Lecture on November 6, 2013 on the topic "Making Our Constitution Our Own: A Genealogy of Fijian Constituent Power."

Sir Michael Kirby gave the keynote address at the second lecture on the topic "Human Rights, Race & Sexuality in the Pacific- Regarding Others as Ourselves" on October 31, 2014. Judge Ajit Swaran Singh addressed on "Family Violence" on September 30, 2016.

Sir Anand Satyanand addressed on "Sir Moti Tikaram – Champion of Civil Society" on September 29, 2018.

Once again, I would like to welcome you all to this prestigious event and I hope that you will enjoy your evening tonight.