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**Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation to launch the Inter-tertiary Moot Competition to mark International Women’s Day Monday 8th March.**

The Minister of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation the Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa will launch the Inter-tertiary Moot Competition at the Saweni Campus of the University to mark the UN International Women’s Day on Monday March 8th.

The competition will pit law students of the three Universities- Unifiji, USP and FNU in a show of legal skills in argument that will last several weeks.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shaista Shameem said that the first Moot Problem is that the Appeal Court is requested to order the Government to allocate 1.8% of the 2021/2022 national budget towards eradicating violence against women and sexual violence instead of spending on roads, bridges or infrastructural development.

She said that the University of Fiji Student Association (UFSA) had proposed the competition which the University was happy to facilitate since the topic was an important issue and of national concern and the Moot involved students from the other two Law Schools in Fiji in collaboration with Unifiji law students.

“Sexual and gender-based violence are issues of utmost concern to our society,” says Ratu Sailosi Dawai, Organising Chairperson and UniFiji Student Association President, “and we hope get the support of our peers at the USP and FNU to push these concerns as national policies and priorities.”

The Moot Competition is sponsored by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, the Fiji Women Lawyers Association and the eminent law firms of Munro Leys and Neel Shivam Lawyers.