



TURABO DEDICATES ACHIEVEMENTS TO LATE DAD



Vilimoni Turabo with his mother Ms. Elenoa Limalevu during his graduation.

different backgrounds while in Navuso, we became brothers with a sole interest in farming," said Turabo.

"We learnt to be grateful and appreciative of what we have and to be ambitious to achieve greater results through farming, be it livestock or crop."

Growing up in the upper Sigatoka valley, Vilimoni is not a stranger to farming as his parents were both reputable farmers in their own right. His farming experience was a labor of love, as he reminisced on the times he would spend with his parents on their farm. He was particularly fond of market days as he would help his parents prepare to transport their produce to either the Nadi or Lautoka market.

"My parents were both into farming, my experience of farming is through manual labor before mechanization was introduced, I still enjoy getting my hands dirty though," he said.

With maternal links to the village of Bemana in Navusa, the Vasu ni Bakajura recalls all the experiences from his maternal side.

"My mother's village is further inland and farming is also a source of income for my maternal side and market preparations are harder as it involves carting of goods by bullocks to the river where the carrier awaits and sometimes they'd have to sleep along the river bank when there is heavy downpour resulting in a flooded river," said Vilimoni.

"So from farming to harvesting to marketing, this is not a new thing for me, but my knowledge has been broadened with ideas from farm management to commercialization, that is what Navuso has taught me," he said.

"All those years were just me helping my parents with the needs of the family and our farm, but now after graduating, I have made it my career," he said.

During the three year stint, the soft-spoken lad hopes to start his beef farming when he returns and plans on leasing his own Mataqali land to start his farming venture. "Some of the things I learnt on livestock include castration, fencing, proper management, hygiene, and disease control to name a few," he said.

"We are also taught and go on attachment in various enterprises that run in the institute like piggery, poultry, aquaculture, root crops, vegetables, the cottage industry, farm machinery, carpentry, and dairy," he said.

"Muainase has taught me a lot of things in regards to agriculture and I thank the school for this opportunity as I embark on this farming journey," he said.

"We cannot all become doctors or lawyers or engineers but we can all hustle and put food on the table and invest and earn and I found my profession in farming," said Turabo.

"Youths think that money is only found in offices but rest assured what I have learnt here in NATI is through farming, we can also become millionaires."

"If you still have both your parents, I advise you to cherish them and listen to them, you talk to them about your ambitions and if you are struggling there are places and institutes that can empower and broaden your minds to what is available," he advised.

His mother, Elenoa Limalevu shared in his emotion for the duration of the graduation ceremony and thanked her son for persevering during the three years, and acknowledged NATI for grooming him.

"This is an achievement we were looking forward to, Vilimoni at home is someone who is always willing to help and is always an obedient son," she said.

"When his father passed on, I was amazed at how he didn't give up but kept pushing forward and what he has already planned for the future is something I anticipate with much pride," she shared.

"I have always advised him to be reverent in all he does and most importantly to always remember the Lord during these experimenting years of being a youth."

Vilimoni Turabo apart from the Certificate in Agriculture award was also awarded the Leadership Award and the Best Livestock student award.

"Today is both a joyous and sad day for me as I graduate from here, I thought I would make both my parents proud but sadly my father is resting in a better place."

Those were the words of an emotional Vilimoni Turabo who hails from Koronisagana Village in the district of Naqalimare, Navosa who was part of the 21 graduating students from the Navuso Agricultural Technical Institute on 16 December, 2020.

The young man laments the heartbreaking sight of only his mother being present during the graduation, as he dedicated his success to his late father. "I was introduced to this institute by the late Reverend Orisi Terei, he came to the village and consulted us on

the benefits of the programmes offered by the school and I was keen to enroll," he said.

With tears rolling down the sides of his cheeks, he recalls his first day at Navuso; "On my first year, both my parents came to drop me off at the school and when they left for the village, as I was looking at the carrier that dropped me off at the school, I made a promise to myself that I will make them proud."

"My beloved father passed on last year, right around about the same time of this graduation and it drove me to never give up, reaffirming within me the promise that I silently made to both of them, that I will make them proud," he said.

The Navuso Agricultural Technical Institute was established in 1923 after the land was bought by the Methodist Church in Fiji from two landowners, specifically to establish an agriculture school.

The institute recruits Fijian youth from villages for specific agriculture training, the curriculum is tailored to fully prepare young men and women to become future abled replacement farmers and later commercial farmers for Fiji.

"The most enjoyable time you will ever have while growing up is during your formative years and in particular at a boarding school," he said.

"We've made a wide circle of friends and acquaintances from all over Fiji with

MEAT INSPECTION AND MEAT SURVEILLANCE



Slaughter House in Nakasi.

Objective

To inspect and pass meat that is free from disease and safe for human consumption.

Illegal Slaughter

No person should sell any meat unless slaughtered and processed from the registered slaughterhouse.

Casual Slaughter

Refers to the slaughter of animals for Magiti purposes such as weddings, funerals, and other ceremonies. Encourage your community members to request the Ministry of Agriculture officers to inspect the meat before human consumption.

Registered Slaughterhouse

".....means a slaughterhouse registered under the provisions of the Meat Industry Act Cap.237 Rev.1985 or any regulations made under."

Meat passed for human consumption is stamped and meat certificates are issued.

Process for having a Registered Slaughterhouse or Rural

Slaughterhouse

Site selection

- Concrete building not within heavily populated areas.
- Proper drainage.
- Accessible in all weather.
- Not near swamps or rivers.
- Separation of various processing departments.
- Proper waste disposal – passed and approved by the Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Approval by the Ministry of Agriculture with all conditions to be met.

Meat Surveillance

- Monitoring programs are conducted to control the sale of illegally slaughtered meat.
- Inspectors are empowered to enter any premises to carry out the provisions made under the Meat Industry Act.
- During the surveillance, the team inspects the quality of meat, storage of meat, processing area(s), hygiene of its butcher/meat areas, personal protective equipment (PPE), and the handling of meat packaging and labels.

Legislation

- Any person who fails to comply with the provisions shall be guilty of an offense under the Act.
- The guilty person shall be liable on conviction to penalties determined by the Court.