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PRESS RELEASE

FSC's Apprentice Program: Nurturing Female Talent in the Sugar Industry

Lautoka, Fiji. – The Fiji Sugar Corporation Ltd (FSC) is proud to showcase the success of its Apprentice Program, which is paving the way for women like Siobahn Bogidrau to thrive in engineering roles traditionally dominated by men. As a 20-year-old Electrical Fitter apprentice at the FSC Lautoka Mill, Siobahn's journey is a beacon of hope, exemplifying the spirit of determination and resilience that the program seeks to cultivate.

"I believe that if you set your goals, work hard, and stay focused, you can achieve anything you set your mind to," Siobahn states.

Her journey, marked by hard work and self-belief, sends a powerful message to women across Fiji: the engineering field is not just for men.

Despite growing up without female mentors in engineering, the former Natabua High School student's interest was sparked during her high school career classes. Inspired by the possibilities within the field and encouraged by her fellow apprentices, she joined the FSC Apprentice Program in 2024. Through this initiative, she has gained invaluable hands-on experience and technical training that are crucial for her development.

The FSC Apprentice Program is designed to equip young individuals with the skills necessary for successful careers in engineering and technical fields. Participants engage in comprehensive training that includes both theoretical knowledge and practical application, covering vital areas such as electrical maintenance, mechanical repairs, and process optimisation within the sugar industry. This multifaceted approach not only enhances technical proficiency but also fosters a sense of community and collaboration among apprentices.

"FSC has provided me with both on-the-job training and technical skills, making me feel confident in my work every day. Their support has been instrumental in my journey," Siobahn shares, highlighting the inclusive and supportive culture of the corporation.

As part of the Apprentice Program, Siobahn has not only honed her skills but also discovered the profound importance of representation, making her feel acknowledged and understood, a sentiment we aim to instil in all our apprentices.

"I've never felt limited as a woman in this field. The corporation treats all of us equally, and I'm constantly encouraged to keep learning and improving," she affirms.

Siobahn's role goes beyond her individual aspirations; she contributes significantly to the growth and sustainability of Fiji's sugar industry.

"My work as an apprentice will help the sugar industry grow stronger, and that's a goal I'm proud to be working towards," she adds.

Looking ahead, Siobahn is eager to continue her journey at FSC and further her studies in engineering.

"The skills I'm learning now are just the beginning," she says, highlighting her ambition for ongoing growth and education.

To young women hesitant to enter male-dominated fields, Siobahn offers empowering advice: "Work towards your goal and don't give up. Women can achieve just as much as men in any field, including engineering. Believe in yourself and go for it."

At FSC, we recognise the critical importance of fostering diversity and inclusion within our workforce. The Apprentice Program is a key initiative in creating a supportive environment for women like Siobahn. As the number of women in engineering roles continues to rise, Siobahn is optimistic about the future.

"It's good to see women represented in the sugar industry, but I believe even more will join in the future. It's up to those of us already here to encourage others to take that step," she says.

The FSC Apprentice Program is committed to building the next generation of engineers, technicians, and skilled workers. We invite all young women who are passionate about engineering or technical careers to join us and be part of the transformation happening within the sugar industry. Our program not only nurtures talent but also actively works to create a diverse and innovative workforce that can drive the future of the industry.

Applications for the 2025 FSC Apprentice Program will open in November.

Bhan Pratap Singh
Chief Executive Officer

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