

# BOUNDARY TALKS

## CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS STARTS MOMENTUM ON TALKS ABOUT STATE BOUNDARIES



CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM UNIT

# REFORM NEWS



Director/CRU Mr. Faluaburu (Front Left) briefing participants on the Maritime Boundaries Meeting during Orientation session at St. John School Hall, 12 July 2010, looking on Chairlady CC Mrs. Tuhaika. Photo: Marilyn Maeta'a, CRU

Serious boundary issues were discussed during a weeklong meeting that Constitutional Congress held with Provincial representatives.

For five-days from 12th to 16th July 2010, Provincial Representatives

discussed boundary issues in parts of various provinces, in relation to Boundaries drawn up in the Technical Report by expert Mr. Patt R. Loe.

Each province was represented by Congress' Provincial Nominees,

Premiers, Provincial Executive members, community leaders, land-owners and representatives.

In addition to these, representatives from the Attorney General's Chamber, Arnavon Community Conserva-

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The Eminent Persons Advisory Council (EPAC) of the Constitutional Reform Programme has elected Mr. Tapualiki Samasoni as its new Vice Chairman.

Mr. Samasoni replaces Mr. Henry Manuhea as Vice Chairman, due to a serious medical condition which Mr. Manuhea is under-going treatment for since 2009.

## CONGRESS HOLDS BOUNDARY TALKS

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tion Area, and the Surveyor General of the Ministry of Lands attended the meeting.

Discussions started with an orientation session for participants to familiarize themselves to the meeting and to other provincial counterparts.

Each province also had sessions to discuss their respective agendas, followed by meetings between provinces with boundary interests. Separate meetings were held simultaneously for provinces discussing 'Special Areas', also known as 'Hot-spots'.

Such boundaries discussed were between; Choiseul and Isabel; Isabel and Malaita; Isabel and Central Islands; Central Islands and Western; Central Islands and Malaita; Central Islands and Guadalcanal; Guadalcanal and Malaita; Guadalcanal and Honiara City Council; Western and Choiseul.

These discussions generated general awareness and understanding of issues that lie within certain boundaries. The meeting started a momentum for provinces to discuss relevant boundary issues. It was advised by provincial representatives for provinces to hold proper meetings with landowners and community members concerned from both sides.

Provinces such as Rennell Bellona, Makira/Ulawa and Temotu attended with minimal representation to agree on their own boundaries. 

## Workplan changes to accommodate Feedback

**Provincial feedback delays in early 2010 is a factor that has brought the Joint Executive of Congress & Eminent Persons Advisory Council (EPAC) to readjust plans for upcoming events of Constitutional Reform.**

After successive meetings, the Joint CC & EPAC Executive decided to push the Provincial Feedback and Reporting phase to late 2010. In addition, the State Maritime Boundaries and Special Areas meeting was included to accommodate further discussions on Boundary issues.


Though feedback of the 1st 2009 Draft Constitution is the main focus this year, it is anti-

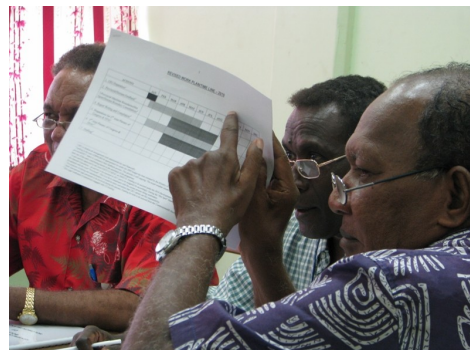
### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### FOUR MORE PROVINCIAL FEEDBACK TO GO

**Guadalcanal, Central Islands, Rennell Bellona provinces & Honiara City are the four left to complete their feedback.**


Though plans were made early in the year to hold feedback meetings, the delay was due to certain factors including bad weather earlier on this year & the Government's cash-flow problems.

These short-comings were reported in March to the Joint CC & EPAC (Eminent Persons Advisory Council) Executive which allowed readjustment of the Workplan/Timeline 2010/2011 to suit the feedback. 



**Members of the Joint CC/EPAC Executive discuss the Work plan.**


**Photo: Marilyn Maeta'a, CRU 2010**

ipated that the second Joint CC & EPAC Plenary will be held in 2011. By this time provincial teams would have completed their feedback, & reports will be submitted to this Plenary before Constitutional Drafting phase takes place in accordance with the adjusted Workplan/Timeline 2010-2011. 

#### CRU TO PRODUCE FIRST FILM DOCUMENTARY

**The production of a film documentary on Constitutional Reform is currently undertaken by the Constitutional Reform Unit.**

The film documentary investigates the process and thoughts of reforming the country's Unitary Constitution to that of Federalism.

Interviews of important political figures in the history of Solomon Islands is currently been done as part of the documentary. This production is drawing to completion with few more interviews to be held, before the editing and promotion of this film documentary takes place. 

## Regional identity and Resources

Reform News is pleased to publish stories on State Boundaries in this Issue to give readers a sense of what the topic of State Boundary is all about.


Initially State Boundaries was debated during discussions on the Draft Federal Constitution's Schedule 5 by the First Joint Plenary of CC & EPAC on June 2009.

The topic was later discussed in the Maritime Boundaries and Special Areas Meeting held from 12-16 July 2010.

So why is this topic of significance? Firstly as work progresses with Constitutional Reform, Regional identity in light of belonging to a certain province is evident. Thus to keep the current Regional distinctions, geographical boundaries have to be sorted out.

Secondly, the view is that States-to-be should be able to generate their own revenue when federalism comes into effect.

These two factors give significance to the exercise of demarcating State Boundaries for the planned federal arrangement.

As this topic comes into provinces and resource-owners attention, it is only appropriate that people are aware of regional autonomy and fiscal decentralization, through discussions on State Boundaries. 

## Special Areas still in Talk Process



Premiers of Central Islands Hon. Vasuni & Isabel Hon. Dotho chat informally after a fruitful discussion on the Special Area "Ruadika Rock" between both provinces. Photo: Marilyn Maeta'a, CRU 2010

By Marilyn Maeta'a

*Staff Writer, Constitutional Reform Unit*

**To some, "Special Areas" might be an odd concept but to others who live at either side of the "tug-of-war", this part of provincial boundary has become a proper concept.**

During a week-long meeting, representatives of various provinces discussed the topic of Special Areas in the recent Maritime Boundaries meeting held by Constitutional Congress.

It was initially called "Hot-spots" by technical experts, however due to concerns that the term might pose misunderstandings on the concept, it was changed to "Special Areas".

### Concept of Special Areas

A "Special Area" is an area within the jurisdiction of a provincial boundary that is of some significance to another province as well.

To name a few, examples of

Special Areas are Ruadika Rock between Central Islands and Isabel provinces; Ramos Isles between Malaita and Isabel provinces; and Mborokua or Mary Island between Western and Central Islands provinces.

According to Hydrography expert Mr. Patt Loe, these areas may have traditional significance to peoples of two provinces, who reside close by the area.

"If there are consultations...it's always important to involve the people, who will be directly affected in the areas [of] common interest," said Mr. Loe, "It would be good [for] chiefs & communities to sit down together, listen to their wisdom, their tradition & history."

### Special Areas in discussion

During the Maritime Boundaries meeting held from 12-16 July 2010, representatives of various provinces endeavored to reach agreements on which jurisdictions should these areas come

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# Reform in Pictures

Photos by Marilyn Maeta'a, Media Officer/CRU



Full delegation of the Maritime Boundaries and Special Areas meeting at St. John Hall during Orientation session on Day 1, 12 July 2010.



Top: An Isabel representative during Boundary meeting between Isabel & Malaita.

2nd Top: Patt Loe & Vainga Tione (facing camera) chat during tea break of Boundaries Meeting.

Below: CIP Premier Hon. Vasuni listening to team leader George Saemane during Boundary discussions.

Left Below: Choiseul Rep for Arnavon Island presents case of Arnavon people living in Choiseul during Boundary meeting between Isabel & Choiseul.



Members of Provincial teams of the Constitutional Congress meeting on 12 May 2010 to discuss budgetary, logistical and programme requirements of the then proposed Maritime Boundaries and Special Areas meeting.



Isabel and Central Islands Provincial representatives after a successful discussion on Special Area "Ruadika Rock" on Day 2 of the Boundaries meeting.



## PHOTOS OF PROVINCES' DISCUSSING DURING MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND SPECIAL AREAS MEETING



Honiara City team members discussing their boundary on Day 5.



Isabel team members discussing their boundary on Day 2.



Choiseul team members discussing their boundary on Day 2.



Malaita team members discussing their boundary on Day 2.



Guadalcanal team members discussing their boundary on Day 5.



Central team members discussing their boundary on Day 2.



Western team members discussing their boundary on Day 2.



Rennell Bellona team discussing their boundary on Day 5.



Temotu team members discussing their boundary on Day 5.



MakiraUlawa team members discussing their boundary on Day 5.



# BRIEF PROFILES OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS MEMBERS

**Name:** ROSELYN LEMOBA

**Membership:** MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**Representation:** NOMINEE FOR TEMOTU PROVINCE

**Current work:** TEACHER, LATA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

**Fields of Expertise:** EDUCATION



**Name:** WALTON NAEZON

**Membership:** MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**Representation:** NOMINEE REPRESENTING BUSINESS COMMUNITY

**Current work:** ADVISOR / MINING

**Fields of Expertise:** POLITICS | MANAGEMENT



**Name:** CHARLES LEVO

**Membership:** MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**Representation:** NOMINEE REPRESENTING LEGAL COMMUNITY

**Current work:** PRIVATE LAW PRACTITIONER

**Fields of Expertise:** LAW



**Name:** HILDA NOSE'E

**Membership:** MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**Representation:** NOMINEE REPRESENTING CENTRAL ISLANDS PROVINCE

**Current work:** LAWE REGIONAL LEADER, MOTHERS' UNION (COM)

**Fields of Expertise:** EDUCATION | WOMEN



**Name:** PATT R. LOE

**Membership:** MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**Representation:** : NOMINEE REPRESENTING WESTERN PROVINCE

**Current work:** HYDROGRAPHER [PRIVATE CONSULTANT]

**Fields of Expertise:** HYDROGRAPHY | LAND MANAGEMENT



**Name:** WARREN PAIA

**Membership:** MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**Representation:** NOMINEE & TEAM LEADER FOR WESTERN PROVINCE

**Current work:** PRIVATE ENTREPRENEUR

**Fields of Expertise:** POLITICS | MANAGEMENT | BUSINESS



**Name:** DENNIS CARLOS LULEI

**Membership:** MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**Representation:** : NOMINEE & TEAM LEADER FOR ISABEL PROVINCE

**Current work:** ISABEL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

**Fields of Expertise:** EDUCATION | POLITICS | PUBLIC SERVICE | CONSTITUTION REVIEWS



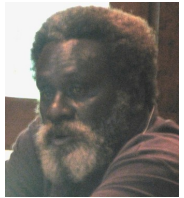
**Name:** JACKSON PIASI

**Membership:** MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**Representation:** NOMINEE FOR WESTERN PROVINCE

**Current work:** SPEAKER, WESTERN PROVINCE ASSEMBLY

**Fields of Expertise:** LAW | POLITICS | CONSTITUTION REVIEWS



**Name:** VIOLA MALASA

**Membership:** MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**Representation:** NOMINEE REPRESENTING CHOISEUL PROVINCE

**Current work:** EARLY CHILDHOOD LECTURER, S.I.C.H.E

**Fields of Expertise:** EDUCATION | WOMEN



**Name:** DR. ALICE POLLARD

**Membership:** MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**Representation:** NOMINEE FOR MALAITA PROVINCE

**Current work:** PRIVATE CONSULTANT

**Fields of Expertise:** WOMEN | POLITICS | GENDER



*To be continued on Next issue*

## SPECIAL AREAS IN FOCUS


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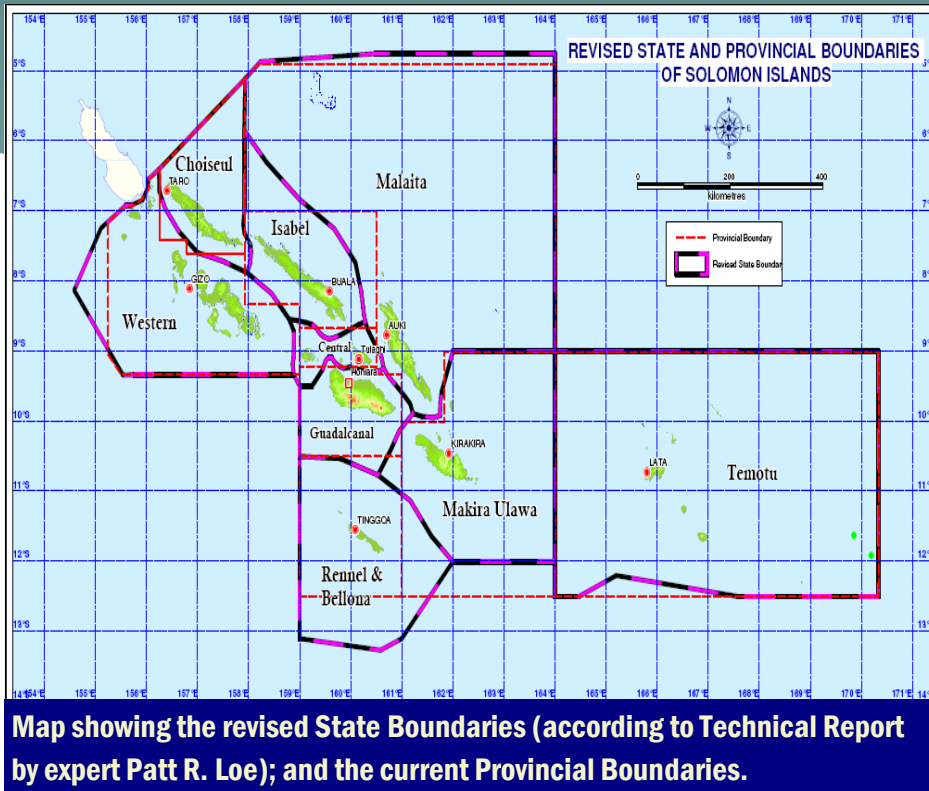
under.

Provinces kept busy during the discussions were Central Islands and Isabel provinces. Both provinces also had Special Area issues to discuss with other provinces, namely Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western Province.

One emotional highlight of the meetings was over Ruadika Rock. In their discussions, Isabel team said that because of the long traditional relationship between the peoples of Isabel and Central Islands residing around the area, Isabel decided to keep the current Provincial boundary rather than the amended one on the Technical Report by Hydrography expert Patt Loe.

CIP Delegation in turn expressed gratitude towards Isabel team, and team leader Mr. George Saemane reiterated this by saying Isabel team recognized traditional ties and CIP's small boundary that they generously agreed to bringing the Special Area boundary within CIP's jurisdiction.

Though some discussions didn't reach full agreement, there was a general understanding of further discussions on these very important localities. The areas still in the process of discussion are, Mborokua/Mary island (CIP-Western); Ramos Isles (Malaita-Isabel); Arnavon island (Choiseul-Isabel); and Honiara City boundaries (HCC-Guadalcanal). 



### *Congratulatory Message*

The Constitutional Reform Unit would like to congratulate

**Member of the Constitutional Congress**

***Mr. Connelly Sandakabatu***

&

**Member of the Eminent Persons Advisory Council**

***Mr. Danny Phillip***

for becoming Members of Parliament for North West Choiseul and South New Georgia respectively. The Unit wishes you well on your future endeavors as Politicians.



Solomon Islands Government

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## ABOUT CRU

The Constitutional Reform Unit (CRU) is the body responsible for the management and coordination of Constitutional Reform Project.

It is an established division within the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and it is the Secretariat for the Constitutional Congress.

CRU has 9 staff members that carry out administrative, media, legal and financial related undertakings for the Constitutional Reform Programme.

CRU is located at the East Wing (top floor end) of the Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, which is situated along Mendana Avenue, Honiara.

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## THIS QUARTER'S CALENDAR

**April 8** Joint CC & EPAC Executive meeting to start on planning for Boundaries Meeting anticipated for July. Meeting also looked at changing the work plan into a suitable timeline due to delays in feedback.

**May 3** Members of Congress' provincial teams met to discuss each province's budget and programme to bring in participants to Honiara. The meeting lasted 10 working days till 14 May 2010.

**July 12** State Maritime Boundaries and Special Areas meeting. It lasted 5 days, and ended on July 16, 2010.

## RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM UNIT



**REFORM NEWS**  
*Issue 2 (Volume 1)*  
*December 2009-March 2010*



**CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM BROCHURE**  
*March 2010. About the Review of the Draft Federal Constitution 2004.*

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