



REFORM NEWS

BOUNDARIES REACH FINAL TALKS



Final Round: Chairlady Congress Mrs. Jenny Tuhaika briefs delegations on program at St. Nicholas School from April 4—8, 2011. Photo: Marilyn Maeta'a, CRU

A second round of meeting was held this year to finalize discussions on the Proposed State Boundaries.

Some of the Provincial Representatives that attended this meeting


had attended the previous meeting held on July 12-16, 2010 were aware that discussions were based on issues from last year's meeting; however this year was finality on the matter.

Newer representatives were briefed on the purpose of the exercise and the technical notes on it.

Although this was the final meeting, provinces such as Isabel requested to hold final

consultations with traditional leaders of Special Areas.

It is understood that although this was the final consultation on the Proposed State Boundaries, Provinces and landowning groups of Special Areas will continue to hold meetings until issues regarding those areas are settled.

The final-round meeting was held at St. Nicholas School hall, and was facilitated by the Constitutional Reform Unit. 

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NEW ISABEL PREMIER ENDORSES CURRENT PROVINCE'S TEAM IN CONGRESS

Aside pledging Isabel's support for Constitutional Reform towards Federalism, incoming Premier Hon. Amos Gigini gave his approval for Isabel's current Constitutional Congress team to continue with the Reform.

This endorsement came during a meeting between the team, Premier Hon. Gigini, Assembly Speaker Mr. Reuben Dotho, and Provincial Secretary on 3 February 2011, which carries on the support rendered by the last Provincial Government led by former Premier Reuben Dotho.

"The Provincial Secretary will prepare a paper for the [Provincial] Executive to bless this reaffirmation," Hon. Gigini said during the meeting. He said that formal correspondences regarding this will be sent to the Congress Provincial Nominees. He added that Isabel Province can't think of anyone suitable to represent them in Congress and have put their total confidence in the current nominees to carry out Constitutional



In-coming Premier Isabel Province Hon. Amos Gigini and Provincial delegation during a meeting with Isabel Congress nominees.

Reform for the Province.


"My Government is prepared to work closely with the team." Hon. Gigini reiterated.

Team leader of Isabel Congress team Chief Dennis C. Lulei thanked the Premier on behalf of the team. He said that they had wanted to get assurance from the Government, of Isabel's support for Federalism and their participation in the Constitutional Reform.

Both agendas were discussed alongside others, which were completion of the Maritime Boundaries talks between Isabel,

Malaita and Choiseul provinces; Provincial & National conventions; and future plans of the Constitutional Reform.

"I have already briefed all members of the Provincial Assembly on the progress of the Maritime Boundaries meeting," Chief Lulei said during an interview with CRU Media, "so members are aware of current progress."


The team briefed the Premier, Speaker and Provincial Secretary of the work to be carried out with regards to the Constitutional Reform Work plan/Timeline which will continue into 2013. 

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dr. Galo rejoins Congress

This year Constitutional Reform has the privilege of the presence of Dr. Glynn Galo who was with the Congress since its inception in 2007.


Dr. Galo replaces former Congress member and current Member of Parliament Hon. Connelly Sandakabatu.

CRU and Congress & EPAC officials have been notified. 

New members in Reform


New members have been recently introduced to Constitutional Reform this year.

They are Sir Nathaniel Waena (EPAC), Abraham Kapei (EPAC), Johnson Lavela & Ellen Salopuka (Temotu Nominee replacements)

Formalities for new members have been done and notified to CRU. 

PS Post finally filled

Dr. Fred Isom Rohorua has once again filled the Permanent Secretary Special Duties post after CRU looked for a potential candidate without success.

Dr. Rohorua was requested after CRU was without a PS since his departure early 2009. He humbly accepted the request and rejoined the Unit early 2011. 

MOVING FORWARD

As Constitutional Reform Project finalizes discussions on the Proposed State Maritime Boundaries, it strives towards completion in 2013.

Since its inception in 2007 the Constitutional Reform was faced with several turn of events, mainly in 2009 and 2010. Most of it was due to financial delays caused by the global economic downturn that also affected the country at the time. However this year, coordination of the Project as impelled by CRU, is one of moving forward.

During the process, CRU has lost its Director; however with Dr. Fred Rohorua rejoining the management team as Permanent Secretary; the finalization of consultations on the Proposed State Boundaries exercise and; approaching completion of the Provincial Feedback activity on the 2009 Draft Federal Constitution, the Reform Project is set to move ahead.

CRU envisages final Provincial & National Conventions after the first professional drafting to gain a national consensus on the Constitution, as Solomon Islanders' vision for a Federal Solomon Islands.

As this moves a step closer to what Solomon Islanders voiced since 1978, let us not forget the many commendable work men & women of Solomon Islands have since carried out regarding genuine change for this nation. 🇸🇻

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM LOSSES ONE OF ITS PIONEERING OFFICERS



By Marilyn Maeta'a

Staff Writer, Constitutional Reform Unit

“Today, Solomon Islands has lost one of its great sons,” were words uttered by PS Ministry of Women and Youth Mrs. Ethel Sigimanu during respects paid by Public Officers to the late Sam Faluaburu in his family home at Lengakiki.

Samuel Faluaburu, best known to his colleagues as Sam, was Director of the Constitutional Reform Unit (CRU), a hard-working man with a sense of humor and keen knowledge of Government processes and systems. The words uttered by Mrs. Sigimanu, two days after his passing was of the knowledge of Late Sam's long service to Solomon Islands Government.

Sam came from Ngella, Central Province and Langalanga, Malaita Province. He was former a King George VI student, then known to his teachers and schoolmates as Samuel Kuri. He took keen interest in sports, particularly soccer and rugby, and

his natural leadership skills landed him captaincy for KGVI Rugby School Team in his final year. He later graduated in 1975 and ventured into Teaching.

Sam started off his career as a Teacher-trainee at Selwyn College but later joined the Public Service in the late 1970s. Since joining the Public Service, Sam worked in several government reviews including the review of Local Area Council, State Government Taskforce, and Provincial Institution Strengthening and Development.

He was part of the team that formed the Constitutional Reform Unit in mid-2007, and was instrumental in designing Project Budgets, Record-keeping of important Constitutional Reform meetings, and staff induction. Sam was a leader, who kept the workplace entertained with his sense of humor. During his last three and half years of working in CRU, he continuously instructed staff to work hard despite challenges that faced the Reform.

On 26 February 2011, sadly Sam passed after a long battle of chronic illness at the National Referral Hospital. As a member of the Solomon Islands Public Service, his professional contribution will be greatly missed.

He is survived by a wife, four children, three grandchildren and an adopted son from a defacto relationship. 🇸🇻

Reform in Pictures

Makira/Ulawa and Guadalcanal Delegates meet during the final Boundaries Meeting at St. Nicholas School, April 7. (Left)



Premier Jackson Kiloe presenting Choiseul Province's position in this year's Boundaries Meeting (Right)



Patt Loe explaining Boundaries delimitation between Malaita and Isabel provinces (2nd Below Left)



Full Delegation listening to Sir George Leping's opening speech on the final Boundaries Talks this year. (2nd Below Right)



Members of the Central Islands Delegation during their meeting Western province delegation at St. Nicholas for the Boundaries meeting. (3rd Below Right)



Mrs. Hilda Kari typing up Guadalcanal's position on its Boundary discussions with Honiara City during the April 2011 Boundaries Meeting. (3rd Below Left)



Participants of the 2011 Boundaries Meeting on Registration. (Below Left)

Congress & EPAC Executive, together with CRU Senior Officers discuss the current Work plan/Timeline 2 February 2011 at the Ombudsman Conference Room. (Below Right)

Photos by: Marilyn Maeta'a, CRU Media





CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PROJECT MEMBERS

Name: BRIAN SAOBA

Membership: MEMBER OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS

Representation: NOMINEE RENNELL BELLONA

Current work: SELF-EMPLOYED

Fields of Expertise: ADMINISTRATION




Name: ROGERS TOVOSIA

Membership: MEMBER CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS

Representation: NOMINEE FOR GUADALCANAL

Current work: PUBLIC SOLICITOR

Fields of Expertise: LAW




Name: PAUL JOSEPH TOVUA

Membership: MEMBER OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS

Representation: NOMINEE & TEAM LEADER FOR GUADALCANAL

Current work: PS RAMSI AFFAIRS

Fields of Expertise: LAND VALUATION | POLICY ADVISOR | POLITICS



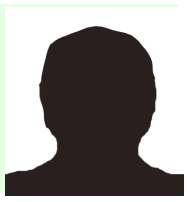
Name: JANE TOZAKA

Membership: MEMBER CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS

Representation: NOMINEE FOR ISABEL

Current work: SELF-EMPLOYED

Fields of Expertise: WOMEN | MANAGEMENT



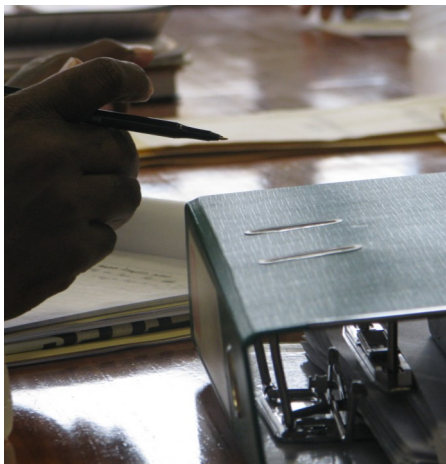
CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PURSES DRAFTING STAGE FUNDING

Anticipation for legal experts to start drafting the Federal Constitution and pursuing funding for this very important activity has become the focus of the Constitutional Reform Project.

Drafting will involve legal experts putting together contents of discussions of the Constitutional Congress done during the course of this Constitutional Reform.

In 2010, this expertise was sought abroad and two legal professionals Mr. Phillip Knight and Professor Yash Ghai were initially engaged to do this exercise.

Possibilities of funding for this




activity were discussed in the last Joint Executive Constitutional Congress and Eminent Persons Advisory Council (EPAC) on 3rd February 2011.

Permanent Secretary Dr. Frederick Isom Rohorua informed the Joint Executive that he is working on a submission to re-submit to Commonwealth Secretariat.

He has got indication from both the legal Draftsman Mr. Knight and Federal Constitutional Expert Professor Ghai of their interest.

Commonwealth Secretariat had initially turned down the first funding application from the Constitutional Reform Unit done last year. However with recent developments, it has indicated to PS/CRU to do a resubmission.

According to the current Work plan/Timeline of the project, drafting is expected to start in October 2011 and CRU will pursue logistics for this activity before its commencement. 



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 staff 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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THE SECRETARIAT: INFORMATION ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM UNIT (CRU), 2010.

For more information:

If you would like to know more about these & other documents, contact CRU EPS Ms. Stella Pitiveke on spitiveke@pmc.gov.sb.

This Quarter's Calendar



Joint CC & EPAC Executive endorses CRU to proceed with Drafting Stage arrangements and discuss update on the current work-plan.



Proposed Maritime Boundaries and Special Areas meeting held for 5 days.



Joint CC & EPAC Executive and CRU discuss and prepare to meet PM in the month of May.