

Constitutional Reform Unit

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MINISTER AND CABINET**



SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

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Federal system receives full support from all nine Provinces

The proposed Federal system for Solomon Islands has received an overwhelming support from the all nine provinces through the Constitutional Reform Program's Awareness programs held for 11 weeks from June till September 2015.

Western Province Awareness meeting last week marks the end of Provincial Awareness Program of the 2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands.

The first consultation on the awareness of the 2nd 2014 Draft was held for Honiara City from 1st to 5th June, followed by Guadalcanal Province from 8th to 12th June, Malaita Province from 18th to 23rd June; Isabel Province following from 29th June to 3rd July; Rennell Bellona Province held from 13th to 17th July, followed by the Malaita Outer-Islands in Honiara from 20th to 24th July.

Central Province held the seventh Provincial Awareness consultation from 27th to 31st July 2015; with Makira/Ulawa Province following from 10th to 14th August; Temotu Province from 24th to 28th August; Choiseul Province from 7th to 11th September and; the final consultation in Western Province from 21st to 25th September.

Those that attended these meetings indicated that they were fully convinced that the proposed Federal arrangement is the way forward for Solomon Islands.

If all goes according to plan, CRU is anticipating the final process involving the Constitutional Congress and Eminent Persons Advisory Council (EPAC) to draw to a close sometime next year.

The activities left in this process are the amendment of Section 61 of the current Constitution, which is pending Parliament's approval and a final meeting for Congress and EPAC to put together contents and final professional drafting.

The final phase of the process is the ratification of the proposed Federal Constitution. Amendment of Section 61 in the current Constitution will pave the way for a "Constituent Assembly" to ratify the proposed Draft Federal Constitution.

The ratification will declare the Federal Constitution to become Solomon Islands' national constitution, changing the nation's governing status to Federalism.

The Constituent Assembly will include all 50 Members of Parliament, Provincial Assembly Representatives from all nine provinces and Honiara City Council and; representatives from the civil society.

This is for the Federal Constitution to have a wider consensus in its ratification.

DCC Government's Fundamental Reform has been actively pursuing the Constitutional Reform on the proposed Federal government system, with Policy Secretary Mr. Warren Paia following the team to do the awareness on the Draft Federal Constitution.

Mr. Paia has reiterated throughout the provinces the proposed Federal Constitution is very much a policy agenda, which the DCC Government is seriously pursuing to implement.

Around 500 people have participated in all provincial consultations.

Each province and Honiara City had 50 participants each, which included Provincial Assembly Members (MPAs), Provincial Executive Governments, representatives of community leaders, chiefs, women, and youths and, the professional and public workforce.

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