

Constitutional Reform Unit

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PRESS RELEASE

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Malaita Premier urges cooperation for Draft Federal Constitution

Premier Hon. Peter Chanel Ramohia has urged participants and officials of Malaita's Constitution Awareness program to work together to complete work on the 2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands in this final process.

He made these remarks during his opening address at the start of the awareness meeting on Thursday 18th June 2015.

About 50 participants were in attendance during the opening, later deliberating on and contributing to contents within the 2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution.

He thanked the team of Malaita Constitutional Congress and Constitutional Reform Unit (CRU) for progressing work on the Federal Constitution, which Malaita's participants now have the opportunity to comment on.

"I know a lot of work has been done already from the team and I would like to thank them for a job well done," the Premier said, "This Federal Constitution, I know is a very important one and a big area that governments of the past and also the current one have been working on."

He said it is very important that Provincial leaders, chiefs and other representatives in Malaita present in this 5-day meeting see this as an opportunity where their voice can be captured so that it improves the Draft that the country is committed to completing.

"Let's work together, let's come together and commit to this process," said Premier Ramohia, "so that at the end of the 5 days we will walk out satisfied that we have contributed to this important document."

CRU Consultant Lawyer Reginald Teutao also expressed his appreciation to see more MPAs in this meeting, as they need to understand the current Reform work and Draft as most of them are new.

He said that Provincial MPAs will play an important role during the ratification process of the Draft in the planned Constituent Assembly, which will pass the anticipated Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands.

After all the awareness programs in the provinces and Honiara City, the Constitutional Congress will put together the Draft through the Joint CC and EPAC Plenary.

The Joint Plenary will produce the final contents with the help of professional Constitution Drafter Dr Philip Knight before handing the final product to the Prime Minister by the end of this year.

The Malaita Awareness program on the 2014 Draft Federal Constitution is currently held in Rarasu, Auki and will end Tuesday 23 June 2015.

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