

PREPARING FOR '09 DRAFT REVIEW

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM UNIT



REFORM NEWS



Mrs. Hilda Kari during the Joint Executive Meeting in April 2011, which discussed plans for the next review of the 2009 Draft Federal Constitution. Photo: Marilyn Maeta'a, CRU

Preparations for the 2009 Draft Federal Constitution review are underway, with the Joint Constitutional Congress and Eminent Persons Advisory Executive agreeing to activities ahead of the review.

On April 27 the Joint CC & EPAC Executive suggested a series of activities that should accommodate efficiency of the re-

view exercise. One core activity discussed was the Team Leaders' meeting planned for July.

The Secretariat (Constitutional Reform Unit) expressed that as well as staff shortage to do the job, Team leaders are in a better position to interpret their reports of the Provincial/HCC Feedback thus it is only fitting that they should be the ones to summarize the reports to be used during the review exercise.

The Joint Executive have also agreed to extra Maritime Boundaries work to finalize proposed State Boundaries and Pacerplus team presentations during the plenary.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

New CRU Director

Mr. Phillip Houlia is the new Director for CRU after former Director Late Mr. Sam Faluaburu passed on due to chronic illness.

Mr. Houlia was transferred early June 2011 from Ministry of Foreign Affairs to fill in the post, which was vacant for 3 months.

Renbel feedback

This quarter it was planned that the Bellona sector feedback would be held in May 2011.

However, due to delays in finances the feedback has been put on hold until the next quarter, hopefully sometime in July.

Feedback Update

Due to financial hold ups, both the Malaita Outer Island and Temotu Vattu feedbacks were unable to be held as anticipated this quarter.

Malaita team has already done feedback in Auki, while Temotu held one at Lata. Both locations are yet to be hold feedbacks, as they are isolated parts of the provinces.

Reform in Pictures



Provincial Delegates including the Nominees in Congress during the final round of Proposed State Maritime Boundaries Meeting in April 2011.

Top Left: Choiseul Province Boundaries Team



Top Right: Isabel Province Boundaries Team



Below Left: Central Islands Province Boundaries Team



Below Right: Malaita Province Boundaries Team

Center Right: Temotu Province Boundaries Team

Far Right: Rennell Bellona Province Boundaries Team



Top Left: Guadalcanal Province Boundaries Team



Top Right: Western Province Boundaries Team



Below Left: Honiara City Council Boundaries Team



Below Right: Makira Ulawa Province Boundaries Team

Taking the people's views into the 2nd Joint Plenary

The first 2009 Draft Federal Constitution has gone through the Provincial and Honiara City feedback, where it was critically looked at from a public perspective.

The feedback exercise was done in the form of consultations, to gauge people's opinion and scrutiny of the 2009 Draft, a reviewed document of the 2004 Draft.


On the feedbacks overview, general principles of the 1st 2009 Draft Federal Constitution's content were accepted, but with further emphasis on areas such as national security; customary land ownership; Honiara City; Federal and State Revenues and sharing; Government; Public administration; Citizenship; and Federal Parliament. While some provinces took the clause by clause approach feedback, others looked at subjects within the constitution that could have bearing on their position.


There were also written comments submitted to the Constitutional Reform Unit by individuals regarding the 2009 Draft. One of which was from Peter Kenilorea Jnr., who critically commented on the Draft's contents, particularly in areas of the change in political systems; Right to self-determination vs. Right to development; the federal system as opposed to the current unitary system; Revenue Sharing; Law and Order; Federal and State Powers; and some fundamental principles that might contradict each other.

In view of this, the Constitutional Congress and Eminent Persons Advisory Council (EPAC) 2nd Joint Plenary should be a time and place where feedback from provinces, Honiara city and other individuals regarding the 2009 Draft be considered carefully.

It will be interesting to see what the 2nd Joint Plenary puts together with the findings from the feedbacks,

with some topics of interest resting on the Federal Revenue sharing, special State Boundary areas, Malaita's issue of Independence, the Federal Capital; and ten reserved seats for women politicians.

Coming closer to the drafting stage, finalizing the substance of the constitution is vital, thus all exercises geared toward the 2nd Joint Plenary should make the substance paramount. 



Constitutional Reform Unit would like to thank Mr. Paul M. Mae for giving CRU a copy of his Thesis on the Constitutional Reform in Solomon Islands.

Mr. P. Mae was studying for his Master's Degree in Law in Vanuatu when he sought research assistance from CRU for his Thesis paper in 2009-10.



Member Profiles

Constitutional Reform Project members

Name: JENNY TUHAIKA

Membership: CHAIRLADY OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS

Representation: NATIONAL NOMINEE REPRESENTING WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS (HONIARA-BASED)

Current occupation: GENERAL SECRETARY, NCW

Fields of Expertise: WOMEN | MANAGEMENT



Name: SIMMY VAZARABATU

Membership: MEMBER OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS

Representation: PROVINCIAL NOMINEE REPRESENTING CHOISEUL PROVINCE

Current occupation: BUSINESS

Fields of Expertise: LAND MANAGEMENT | POLITICS | BUSINESS




Name: HARRY ALICK WALTER

Membership: MEMBER OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS

Representation: NATIONAL NOMINEE REPRESENTING YOUTHS (HONIARA-BASED)

Current occupation: STUDENT, S.I.C.H.E

Fields of Expertise: YOUTH ISSUES & POLICIES



Name: ASHLEY WICKHAM

Membership: MEMBER OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS

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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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WORKING GROUPS, ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS & EMINENT PERSONS ADVISORY COUNCIL, 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.

Frequently Asked Questions

- *What is the Constitutional Reform Process?*
⇒ Constitutional Reform Process is the approach used to change the Constitution of Solomon Islands. In this process, various activities/programs take place to tackle issues, define and legitimize the change. In this case, the 2002-03 Consultations, 2008 Political Community identification, 2010 Provincial/Honiara Feedback, creation of various documents and reports from 2002 till present are all part of the process to Constitutional Reform in Solomon Islands.
- *Is Constitutional Reform also the Law Reform?*
⇒ No. Both Reform's operate separately, however these are both part of the Government's Reform Programs currently taking place in the country.