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CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM UNIT

PRESS RELEASE

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Economic groups end awareness on Draft Federal Constitution

The participation of economic groups that went through the awareness of the *2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands* was dubbed an important consultation as it dealt with the fiscal capability of the proposed federal arrangement.

Reginald Teutao, Consultant Lawyer of the Constitutional Reform Unit (CRU) reiterated this during the groups' awareness program, which concluded on Wednesday 11th May 2016.

A three days extension was given to the groups due to extensive discussions on the fiscal aspect of the Draft. This was from the 5-day awareness that started on Monday 25th April and was supposed to end on Friday 29th April 2016.

The purpose of this consultation was to get the economic and fiscal perspective of the proposed Constitution, aside from giving awareness to participants.

Discussions centered on the economic viability of the current State when it transitions to the federal arrangement; additional bureaucratic manpower that will translate to the fiscal responsibility of the federal, state and community governments; revenue sharing ideals and issues of the proposed system; and financial institutions.

These groups that participated included the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SICCI), Economic Association of Solomon Islands (EASI), Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) and Solomon Islands Institute of Accountants.

Around 30 members representing these groups on the awareness consultations held at the Heritage Park hotel and ended at Monarch IBS.

CRU is a division established within the Prime Minister's Office to oversee the completion of the Solomon Islands' Constitutional Reform program.

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