

Constitutional Reform Unit

**OFFICE OF THE PRIME
MINISTER AND CABINET**



SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

**P.O. BOX G1, HONIARA
SOLOMON ISLANDS**

TEL: 21209 FAX: 28649

PRESS RELEASE

Date: March 04, 2014

Experts guide Joint Plenary on audit and drafting

Since Tuesday 25th February 2014, the external auditors and draftsman of the Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands have been guiding the Joint Plenary of Constitutional Congress and Eminent Persons Advisory Council (EPAC) on the audit and drafting process of the proposed Draft Federal Constitution.

Professor Yash Ghai (Constitutional Law expert), Dr. Philip Knight (Legal/Constitution Professional drafter) and Professor Ronald Watts (Philosopher Economist & a founder of Forum of Federations) arrived mid February to join the 4th Joint Congress and EPAC Plenary to complete the task of auditing and drafting the proposed federal constitution for Solomon Islands.

They were present during the Joint Plenary to give insight into crucial areas of federalism in light of the audit reports from both Prof. Ghai and Prof. Watts on the 2011 and 2013 Drafts; and to give detailed information on the drafting process.

Dr. Philip Knight made a detailed presentation on the drafting process, highlighting how various Federal Constitutions from other countries was drafted and how the proposed Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands can be drafted to accommodate the ideas and inputs of the people during the Constitutional Reform Program.

The Joint Plenary requested Dr. Knight to present the sample of the Preamble of the Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands in a professionally drafting language. The Plenary members were thoroughly satisfied with the professionally drafted Preamble when it was done.

According to plenary members, the presence of the three experts was a boost in the work of the Constitutional Congress and EPAC as they were well acquainted and knowledgeable in their respective fields of profession, in relation to federalism.

It is anticipated that the audit of the Draft Federal Constitution is fully considered and taken into account before the proposed Draft is professionally drafted in time for the National Convention later this year. This is said to be the final Plenary of CC and EPAC, and it will be meeting from 17th February to 14th March 2014 at the Monarch Conference room in Honiara.

END/////