

Constitutional Reform Unit

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SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

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Congress holds final Joint Plenary

Members of the Constitutional Congress (CC) and Eminent Persons Advisory Council (EPAC) of the Constitutional Reform Program have commenced the final Joint Plenary to finalize the 2013 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands on Monday 17 February 2014.

This final Joint CC & EPAC Plenary will be looking into the audit reports of the external auditors specialized in the area of the Federalism, who were Honiara in October 2013 to meet the 3rd Joint CC & EPAC Plenary and start the audit of the 2011 Draft and later the 2013 Draft's version.

Professor Yash Ghai and Professor Ronald Watts met with the Joint Plenary on the first two days' session to discuss various aspects of the proposed Federal Constitution and the audit process.

They submitted their audit report to Constitutional Reform Unit (CRU) on the 2011 Draft in November and later submitted the audit report of the 2013 Draft Constitution in December after the 3rd Joint CC & EPAC Plenary concluded.

This year's final Plenary will look into the suggestions and comments made by the auditors regarding the proposed Federal Constitution in order to finalize the Draft for professional/legal drafting after February.

The professionally drafted proposed Federal Constitution will be handed to the National Convention later this year for both provincial and national stakeholders to bargain the new regime before endorsing it for the final phase of ratification to become the Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands.

The current Joint Plenary starting 17th February– 14th March, will be meeting for the next three weeks and were given this week to read through the audit reports before discussions start proper next week. They will also be meeting with the auditors and professional/legal draftsman during the Plenary's deliberation sessions.

The final Joint Plenary is held at Monarch Conference room in Honiara, and will end later this month.

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