

**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**

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## **With autonomy comes responsibility: Premier Ramohia**

**Premier for Malaita Province Hon. Peter Chanel Ramohia told participants during the closing of Malaita's Awareness on the 2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands that everyone must be prepared to take on the great responsibility that comes with autonomy.**

He said that this federal system they have been made aware of will come with aspects that are positive for the nation.

"Two things that come with this system is financial autonomy and governance autonomy," he said, "And one area which also has been addressed clearly [in this Draft] is Community governments, something we've always wanted. We talk about empowering our chiefs, our traditional leaders. This is what we will get when we adopt this constitution."

Premier Ramohia made this statement before they passed the resolution for Malaita accepting Federalism as the future governing system of Solomon Islands.

"As part of the leadership of this group, I would like to remind us that when accepting the [Federal system], it comes with a big responsibility," said the Premier, "We have to bear this in mind, whether we are government or community leaders."

He said there are things the province has to work on when preparing for this, which includes internal arrangements and strengthening governance ability.

"When we adopt this, what we are saying is that Malaitans come back and build this province," said Premier Ramohia, "Let's build this province, to develop and improve."

He said such a call means in order to accommodate the thousands that will come back, it means that Malaita must be prepared to build infrastructure such as, houses, roads, wharves, clinics, hospitals and its water supply in urban areas.

"The choice we make for federalism comes with responsibility," he said, "But the good thing about this is, the autonomy is ours, sovereignty is ours. So we should happily accept the responsibility and work that comes with it."

About 50 participants were in attendance during the closing session of the awareness, which included Malaita's Provincial Assembly Members (MPAs), chiefs, women and youth representatives.

Malaita's Awareness on the 2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution was held at Rarasu in Auki, Malaita Province from 18th to 23rd June 2015.

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