

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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## Premier Kiloe urges full participation

**Choiseul Province's Premier Hon. Jackson Kiloe urged participants of the Awareness on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands to actively participate in discussions on the 2014 Draft Federal Constitution as it is the last consultation for the provinces.**

He made these remarks while officially opening the Awareness program at the Provincial Assembly hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in Taro, Choiseul Province. The Premier said that this is their opportunity to tell out their views during this consultation.

"I know prior to independence there was a call to come up with a system that is home-grown to make everyone feel a part of driving our country forward politically," he said.

Premier Kiloe acknowledged the former leaders that were involved in the making of the current Independence Constitution, some who have passed on. He said that the current Solomon Islands constitution is one that was made in England, reiterating that the opportunity to come to this level and take part in making this Constitution for Solomon Islands, it's one that should not be taken lightly.

"This is something that our forefathers went to do in England before, it's what we are doing in Taro now," he said, "So we have a big responsibility as representatives, whether you're a ward representative, a chief, a church representative, a women's representative, you must speak your bit in this consultation." He said that for this awareness, it would ideal to be a bit informal to allow all participants to speak their thoughts.

"Whatever titles we have, let's put it down and see ourselves as equal," said Premier Kiloe, "Sometimes when people see that the Premier or a church leader is here, they are afraid to speak up out of respect; but this is a time that people participation in these sorts of consultations is very crucial."

The fifty participants of the Awareness included Provincial Assembly Members (MPAs), church, chiefs, women representatives, officers and professionals of the Province. The awareness in Taro, Choiseul Province will officially close this Friday.

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