

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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Guadalcanal open discussion for fair representation in Draft Federal Constitution

Participants of the Guadalcanal Province Awareness on the 2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands opened up discussions for fair representation in parliament to be included in the Draft.

Women participants were given opportunity to express their thoughts on political leadership and women's participation in Parliamentary setting.

Some of the women participants noted that the Temporary Special Measures was re-introduced recently and thus asked if the Draft could accommodate such measures as well.

They gave examples of how Samoa and Bougainville have progressed by accommodating these aspects of representation in their countries' political structure.

Others noted that women account for 48% of the total population and the number of representatives in parliament is hardly the true reflection of this.

A male participant pointed out that women are also good and considerate decision-makers, which is reflected in a family life, thus it would be an advantage to give a chance for women to be fairly represented in parliament.

While these were some of the sentiments supporting the idea of fair representation in parliament, there were also mixed debates on the issues.

Former MPA Ileen Sulukonina said she is confident that women can get into political leadership through the normal process if they can educate voters on issues and aggressively contest the elections.

Some participants noted that women should work together to push for women's representation in parliament and also get endorsements from those in their rural areas.

The Guadalcanal Province Awareness on the 2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands is currently held at Kingdom Harvest Hall at Henderson, Guadalcanal.

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