

**Constitutional Reform Unit**

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SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Isabel endorses process to ratify Federal Constitution**

**Leaders and representatives of Isabel Province, who met at Buala for the weeklong awareness program on the 2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands, have endorsed the ratification process to adopt the Federal Constitution when endorsing the 2nd 2014 Draft on Friday 3rd July 2015.**

Premier Hon. James Habu, his executive and Assembly Members (MPAs), IPG officials, former Premiers, representatives from the church, chiefs, community, women, business, public office and Isabel's boundary special areas unanimously passed four resolutions concerning the proposed Federal Constitution.

In endorsing the move to Federalism, Isabel leaders and representatives also adopted the proposed ratification process of the Federal Constitution.

The ratification process will involve Parliament's amendment of Section 61 of the current Constitution, to endorse a 'Constituent Assembly' with the role to ratify a new State of a Federal Solomon Islands.

The 'Constituent Assembly' will include all Members of Parliament, MPAs of all nine Provincial Governments, and representatives of the Civil Society.

Premier Habu also moved the motion that they officially adopt the 2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution and all its amendments done during Isabel's awareness program.

All those present during the awareness were fully convinced that the proposed Federal Constitution will positively impact governance in Solomon Islands.

They were satisfied with how the current Draft Federal Constitution has developed, and noted the presentation done by Secretary of DCC Government's Fundamental Reform Sector Mr. Warren Paia, was an eye-opener in terms of giving a big picture view of the proposed Federal Government System.

Some reiterated that people around the island are also following the developments of the Constitutional Reform, and are eager to know when the Federal Constitution will take effect.

It was also noted that consecutive Isabel Provincial Governments have supported the Reform process since its official start in 2007, thus showing Isabel's political will to see this process through to the Federal Constitution's adoption.

The awareness program on the 2nd 2014 Draft successfully concluded at the Isabel Provincial Assembly venue on Friday 3rd July.

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