

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

Date: June 30, 2015

Isabel holds Federal Constitution awareness at historic venue

Isabel Province has begun its awareness program on the *2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands*, at the historic venue where the renewed call to introduce the State Government system was sounded during the Buala Premiers' Conference in June 2000.

The awareness program is currently proceeding at the Diocese of Isabel Conference room in Jejevo, Isabel Province, which is dubbed 'the official birthplace of Federalism'.

Team leader for the Isabel Constitutional Congress Chief Dennis Carlos Lulei said the venue's significance was the reasoning to hold the final awareness program on the 2014 Draft Federal Constitution for Isabel there.

Historically, this was where the Premiers of all nine provinces in 2000 met to find amicable solutions to peace for Solomon Islands during its darkest times of ethnic unrest.

As Chief Lulei highlighted the call for State Government system to be introduced was one of main resolutions of that Premiers' Conference, which successive Governments have implemented and taken on to develop.

That resolution has developed into the Federal Government system, which is now formulated in the Draft Federal Constitution to be the future governing system of Solomon Islands. It is said to give more power for States-to-be to govern their own affairs, generate and share revenue.

On Day One of the awareness program, Head of the Fundamental Reform Sector Mr. Warren Paia made a presentation that explained the origins and the features of Federalism, which the current 2014 Draft adopts.

The presentation included the desire for self-government since Ma'asina Ruru; origins of Constitutional Reform; State boundaries; Fiscal Federalism, the system's economic features; and cooperative Federalism, which is the main feature of operating Federal, States and Community Governments in this system.

Both the Fundamental Reform Sector of DCC Government and the Constitutional Reform Unit (CRU) have been working together this year for the final awareness programs for all the provinces, Honiara City and national parliamentarians.

Meeting on the contents of the 2014 Draft Federal Constitution will start proper on Tuesday 30th June 2015 in which CRU Consultant Lawyer Mr. Reginald Teutao will lead discussions.

Isabel's awareness program will be held from Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July 2015.

Participants in attendance included Premier Hon. James Habu, Deputy Premier Hon. Peter Tugunau, Isabel's Provincial Assembly Members (MPAs) and officials, former Premiers, representatives from the church, chiefs, community, women, business, public office and Isabel's boundary special areas.

End////