

**Constitutional Reform Unit**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **MP urges Makira/Ulawa to strive for Federalism**

**Member of Parliament for East Makira Hon. Alfred Ghiro has urged the people and leaders of Makira/Ulawa to strive for Federalism in order to fulfil their development and political aspirations as a people.**

He made this remarks in front of participants during the official closing of the Awareness on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands in Kirakira, Makira/Ulawa Province (MUP).

“We must strive for federalism, we must not be quiet about this,” Hon. Ghiro said, “I would like to assure you that East Makira’s ballot paper will go for this system.”

This makes Hon. Ghiro the second MP to publically announce his support for the proposed Federalism, which was again welcomed and highly regarded by Makira/Ulawa representatives on the occasion.

He assured them that he will talk to his other two colleague MPs that didn’t manage to attend this meeting, that they must all stand together to support this.

“It’s a good governance system for us as the State and Community governments are not Acts anymore but they are mentioned in this law [the constitution],” Hon. Ghiro said, “so this will make governance, resources benefits, law and order go down to our people.”

He thanked MUP Constitutional Congress (CC) team for the invitation to their MPs to participate in this important constitution making.

“In fact I was interested to attend this because as you all know, this bill will go through the Constituent Assembly, which we Members of Parliament and others will look through the proposed Draft to ratify,” Hon. Ghiro said.

He said that throughout this final process, he will put his full support behind the proposed Federal system because they (MPs) have witnessed in this meeting that Makira/Ulawa fully supports Federalism.

He urged Reginald Teutao, Consultant Lawyer of Constitutional Reform Unit (CRU) to inform the Prime Minister that the people of Makira/Ulawa are eager for this Federal system.

“As soon as possible they want this amendment bill to go through,” he said, “This is to amend the constitution to make way for Federal Parliament.”

“We heard our Premier say that the life and future of our children is what we should think seriously about,” said Hon. Ghiro, “so it’s important that we leaders and academics of Makira Ulawa, we must come together to see how we can drive our children’s future and destination forward.”

He stated that he is confident that Federalism will be achieved very soon and Makira/Ulawa will transition into it.

Hon. Ghiro and Hon. Derrick Manu’ari were the only two MPs present throughout this meeting.

Both were part of the fifty (50) participants that took part in the meeting. Others included chiefs, community, church, women, business representatives, government officials and professionals, veteran and current politicians, and Provincial Assembly Members.

An official closing was accorded to all participants on the eve of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August to which the Honourable Member gave his closing remarks.

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