

**Constitutional Reform Unit**

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SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Makira/Ulawa strongly supports Federalism**

**A full-house support was given to the proposed Federal system after participants of Makira/Ulawa Awareness stood up to show their support after going through the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands in Kirakira on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August.**

Participants speaking during the end of the meeting said that this proposed system is what the people of the province have been waiting for.

Most were in favour of the fact that Community governance will be visible in the new arrangement and that State Governments will have both autonomous and sovereignty powers.

They also noted that with the proposed revenue sharing arrangement, Makira/Ulawa will be able to run its affairs without fear of interference from a Central Government.

One notable participant Jackson Sunaone said that lot of prominent former politicians who have since passed on came from Makira/Ulawa, including veteran politician the Late Solomon Mamaloni. They were all heavily involved in creating the proposed Federal system after independence.

On this note he reflected on a comment that the Late Mamaloni quoted in the past that Solomon Islands is a nation yet to be conceived.

He related that statement to the creation of this Federal system, whereby Solomon Islands is now conceived and ready to be born.

Other participants noted that the proposed Federal system truly recognizes the diversity of the nation thus realizing Solomon Islands' political aspirations.

MUP Premier Hon. Thomas Weape said that the people of Makira/Ulawa are pleased to be part of making this proposed Federal constitution as it defines the future of their next generations.

"I would like to thank Makira Ulawa's Congress team and those of Constitutional Reform Unit for including the people of Makira/Ulawa province on this very important task," Premier Weape said.

Throughout the awareness meeting, CRU Consultant Lawyer Reginald Teutao led legal discussions on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 Draft and the meeting was chaired by Premier Weape.

Fifty participants in attendance included chiefs, community, church, women, business representatives, government officials and professionals, veteran and current politicians, and Provincial Assembly Members.

The Awareness was held at the Assembly Chambers in Kirakira from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

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