

Constitutional Reform Unit

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SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

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Temotu fully supports shift to Federal System

Temotu participants of the Awareness on the 2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands passed three resolutions after completing their awareness of the Draft on Friday 28th August in full support of the shift to Federalism for Solomon Islands.

Fifty participants, which included Provincial Assembly Members (MPAs), church, chiefs, women and youth representatives, officers and professionals of the Province, and interested observers unanimously gave their support at the Mebilude Recreation House in Lata.

Speaker of Temotu's Provincial Assembly and chairman of the Awareness meeting Hon. Johnson Levela said that passing the three resolutions certifies the seriousness of Temotu Province in adopting the Federal system.

He said that the participants have made the right decision in choosing the Federal system. According to Speaker Hon. Levela, Temotu province has had a long-held view of being a separate State from Solomon Islands, and this acceptance of being part of a Federal Solomon Islands is the right move.

"If we remain in the current system, irrespective of the types of resources we have or how determined we are, we are not moving anywhere," he said.

He said that while the central government gives shares to the provinces, the provinces' hands are tied to what the central government believes is right and equitable for each to receive.

He said this is besides the fact that much of the revenue comes out from the provinces, which the government then redistributes to the provinces but in smaller shares.

Deputy Premier Hon. Nelson Omar Menale, in his closing remarks, also reiterated that it is time Solomon Islands adopts this change to Federalism.

He said that this is only right because the current system is no longer suitable for Solomon Islands, which is diverse in its cultures and locations.

The resolutions included adopting the 2nd 2014 Draft Federal Constitution together with their suggested amendments, and agreeing to the process of ratification for the Constituent Assembly to adopt the Federal Constitution.

For the Constituent Assembly, Parliament would have to amend Section 61 of the current Constitution to allow for the process of ratification through the Constituent Assembly.

The draft bill for this amendment is currently before the Attorney General's office.

The awareness in Lata, Temotu Province officially closed on the eve of Friday 28th August 2015.

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