

**Constitutional Reform Unit**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Speaker urges leaders to listen to people's will**

**Speaker for Western Provincial Assembly Hon. Richard Tekefono has urged Members of Parliament to listen to the will of the people to quickly reach the nation's ultimate goal of implementing the Federal/State Government system.**

Hon. Tekefono made these remarks when he officially opened the Awareness meeting on the *2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 Draft Federal Constitution of Solomon Islands* on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 at Chacha Building Conference Room in Gizo.

"We expect and urge them to lead in the introduction of the Federal system," he said, "don't play politics with it; approach it in a bi-partisan manner."

He also urged people not to listen to negativity of foreigners, non-citizens and some members of the private and public sectors, which is undermining the people's desire to have the Federal system of Government.

"This is our country," said the Speaker, "To have this system of government is the desire of our nation and people; people all around the country have firmly voted for it. This is a democratic or informed free choice."

He said that after decades of educating themselves on the principles of federalism and belief that the current constitution, which promotes the unitary system of government, cannot address the full expression of Solomon Islands' many diverse cultures and ethnic values.

However, he said that he is pleased to note that the Federal constitution is a major priority policy of the DCC Government, adding that ushering in this proposed constitution is the right thing to do for this country.

"Western Province, once again, fully endorses; supports and indeed salutes the DCC Government in its effort to quickly introduce the federal system in the country," he said.

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