

Constitutional Reform Unit

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MINISTER AND CABINET**



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PRESS RELEASE

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Central Provincial convention discusses State Constitution

Central Islands Provincial Convention has started its preliminary discussions on its State Constitution this week after successfully completing the review of the 2011 Draft Federal Constitution for seven days in Tulagi, Central Islands Province.

Premier, Deputy Premier, Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs), admin officers of the Provincial Office and legal professionals from CIP, spent a day with Constitutional Reform Unit's Consultant Lawyer Mr. Reginald Teutao and CIP Constitutional Congress team preparing an arrangement of clauses as a working document for its State Constitution.

Participants were given a day to go through the working document to put together initial contents to be included in the State Constitution by the end of this week.

The Convention, which began on Monday 14 May 2012 debated and made resolutions on four main issues of concern to CIP in the 2011 Draft Federal Constitution. The issues included the option of the Grand Government design and the Partisan Government according to Chapter 9; the idea of reserved seats for women in Clause 69; and the Special Area known as Mborokua Island between CIP and Western Province according to Schedule 4.

The convention then passed all the Chapters and Schedules in the 2011 Draft and is continuing with the task of setting the basis of CIP's State Constitution, which Central Islands Provincial government will spearhead in the initial work.

Around 50 participants attended, namely Provincial Assembly members, chiefs and community leaders, legal professionals, women and youth representatives.

Constitutional Congress members for Central Islands Province Mrs. Catherine Pule (team leader), Mr. George Saemane, Ms. Hilda Nose'e, and Eminent Persons Advisory Council member Mr. James Vaukei were in Tulagi for this undertaking, which was technically assisted by Consultant Lawyer Mr. Teutao with CRU Permanent Secretary Mr. Ronald Unusi also in attendance. The Convention ends on Friday 25 May 2012.

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