

**Constitutional Reform Unit**

**OFFICE OF THE PRIME  
MINISTER AND CABINET**



**SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT**

**P.O. BOX G1, HONIARA  
SOLOMON ISLANDS**

**TEL: 21209 FAX: 28649**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Date: 14 June 2012**

## **Malaita Convention impressed with 2011 Draft Federal Constitution**

**Malaita Provincial Convention was impressed with proposed amendments in the 2011 Draft Federal Constitution towards the end of the Convention, unanimously agreeing to changes that are viewed crucial for the future development of Solomon Islands as a nation.**

Participants attending the Convention highlighted that this is the way forward for Solomon Islands, after seeing merits in the revenue and power sharing aspect of the Federal Constitution.

In his closing remarks, Premier of Malaita Province Hon. Edwin Suibaea applauded the team of Constitutional Congress for the good effort put into contributing Malaita's views towards the 2011 Draft Federal Constitution.

Other well-known leaders participating in the Convention such as Mr. David Oeta and Mr. Alfred Maetia also echoed the same approval during their closing statements.

Some of the areas that took interesting discussions were power sharing, Revenue sharing and the Federal, State and Community governments.

In a big turn of event, the convention struck out Clause 69 (the Participation of women in Parliament) of the 2011 Draft, which was a great disappointment to Malaitan women attending the Convention; however, it endorsed the Right to Secede to be included once again in the 2011 Draft.

On another note, it passed a resolution for work to begin on urgent resettlement needs of the Malaita Outer Island (MOI) people to mainland Malaita.

On the whole, the Convention went through the 2011 Draft Federal Constitution, systematically endorsing each Chapter and Schedule with the technical assistance of Constitutional Reform Unit's (CRU) Consultant Lawyer of Mr. Reginald Teutao.

The Convention, which began Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012, successfully reviewed the entire 2011 Draft by the second week and concluded its meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June with a total of about 90 people in attendance at Rarasu Restaurant in Auki, Malaita Province.

Members of the Malaita Congress team Mr. Hudson Kwalea (team leader) and Fr. John Gereia, Eminent Persons Advisory Council (EPAC) members Mr. Collin Gauwane, Mr. Abraham Baeanisia and Mr. Abraham Kapei were in Auki for this undertaking. Director of CRU Mr. Philip Houlia attended the latter part of the Convention on behalf of PS of CRU.

End//////////