



**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND TREASURY
MEDIA RELEASE**

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Key Stakeholder Consultation Meetings on draft Customs and Excise Act

The Customs and Excise Division of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury will conduct stakeholder consultations on a draft bill proposed to replace the Customs and Excise Act.

The proposed bill has been drafted taking into account the views of stakeholders communicated during the substantial consultations held in 2011 and 2012. The consultations will be held at the Customs and Excise Division Building in Honiara [Point Cruz Dowling Drive] between 4th June to the 7th June 2013. Written submissions are welcomed from now until 5th July.

The current Customs and Excise Act which was enacted in 1960, is out of date and has significant deficiencies. In 2011, the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) requested an Asian Development Bank (ADB) Review Team to conduct a review and prepare the report with the assistance of the Solomon Islands Customs and Excise Division Steering Committee. The Committee consists of representatives from both private and public sectors.

The Government recognises the importance of putting import, export and excise duties on a sound footing. The focus of the review has been updating the Act to secure improved revenue collections, improved border protection and trade facilitation.

These consultations will bring together representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, business, households (both importers and exporters) and other key stakeholders. The Customs and Excise Division values the views and concerns of stakeholders and would like to ensure these are considered in the formulation of the new Act.

The consultation is being organized by the Customs and Excise Division of the Ministry of Finance & Treasury with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

To make submissions or for more information on this press release contact Nathan Kama, Comptroller of Customs & Excise Division (CED), Ministry of Finance & Treasury (by email at legislation.review@customs.gov.sb).