



CENTRAL BANK of SOLOMON ISLANDS

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Saving Clubs Empowered

The Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) in partnership with the Pacific Financial Inclusion Program (PFIP) has successfully hosted a major workshop for saving groups practitioners around the Solomon Islands.

The 2 days' workshop on Consumer Protection and Saving Group Members Rights was held on the 7th- 8th of November at the CBSI training room.

CBSI National Financial Inclusion Manager Linda Folia, said this workshop is the first of its kind and it focuses on empowering saving groups practitioners and their members.

"We've received concerns raised by savings groups' members on matters related to accountability and transparency of their money. This prompts the need to organize a workshop to educate representatives of saving groups of what consumer protection and member's rights is all about."

"Thus the objective of this workshop is to provide a platform for participants to discuss ways in which we can empower members of our saving groups in terms of developing the rights of members and agreed on a terms of reference for Community of Practitioners (CoP) she said."

The two days' workshop provide the opportunity for participants to learn from each other about the different approaches and models of savings group operations and how consumer protection for members is incorporated and delivered to members.

Participants developed Solomon Islands Members Rights for saving groups and agreed on a terms of reference (TOR) for savings groups Community of Practitioners.

PFIP Coordinator Isaac Holly commented on how this workshop could be a start of something bigger.

“This is a very good beginning where we are designing a document that binds us together. It could be the start of something much bigger.”

Holly also emphasize on the importance of embracing other innovations for change.

“While this is moving ahead, we also need to look at some of the new innovations to help our saving groups move ahead, he said.”

West Are'are Rokotanikeni Association (WARA) savings club Project Manager Janet Fangata, said this workshop provides her the opportunity to enhance her knowledge on the member's rights.

“The workshop is an eye opener, especially in areas of consumer rights with regards to my saving group. I learned and helped to develop the rights of members in saving groups and I want to make sure after this workshop that my members are fully aware of their rights,” she said.

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