



CENTRAL BANK of SOLOMON ISLANDS

P.O. BOX 634, Honiara, Solomon Islands

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Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015

## **Women Business owners to be recognized in first National Women Micro Entrepreneur Awards**

**(Honiara 28.05.15)** - Local business women in the country will soon be formally recognized by the National Financial Inclusion Taskforce (NFIT) for their contributions to businesses and financial services in the country.

The Women Micro Entrepreneur Awards was announced after the NFITs 16<sup>th</sup> meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May.

During the meeting members of the taskforce endorsed the first ever “National Women Micro Entrepreneur Awards”, the first of which is set to take place in September when the nation hosts the up-coming regional Pacific Microfinance Week in Honiara.

NFIT also endorsed that to support the financial inclusion agenda to include rural women participation in financial services, two of the awards will be given to rural based businesses and those operating outside of Honiara.

The awards will focus mainly on women of Solomon Islands nationality including women based in all the provinces around the country. The age criterion for nomination is 18 years and above and that the business must be fully owned and operated by the women applicant. The business should also be in operation for a minimum of 3 years, use local raw materials and have the potential to grow.

In addition to the above criteria, the business must be profitable, is generating income and supports the owner and her family. Additional points will be awarded if the business employs other women, has links with financial service providers through a bank savings account, or have existing loans from a financial service provider and whether they service their loans regularly.

Women who wish to be considered for this award are required to fill an application form and submit the application to an NFIT appointed committee for consideration.

In endorsing the proposal, Central Bank Governor and NFIT Chairman, Mr. Denton Rarawa stated this Award is the first of its kind aimed at recognizing the contribution of women in micro business activities.

*“This award from NFIT, the first to be staged in September this year, will become an annual event to recognize the contributions of women entrepreneurs involved in small businesses in our country.”*

Detailed information on the National Women Micro Entrepreneur Award will be available soon in the CBSI Website, Money Matters Radio Program and local media.

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For more information, please contact:

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