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# Angles Zawaya

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## (Zawyat Shoof) Focus Angle

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### The idiot

Back in the day when we were at primary school I recall reading a story about an idiot person in the comprehension section. The story goes: there was an idiot man. The man was on his way the market place to sell a deer, which he was pulling a long by a rope fasten around its neck. On the way, another man asked him. "How much is the deer," said the man. The idiot put up his ten fingers and stuck out his tongue to indicate that the deer cost eleven pounds. At that moment the deer had a chance to run away!!

I got a message from my mobile company telling that one pound had been deducted from my account as a tax on telecommunication!! Earlier people learned that they had to pay their water bills via the same electricity bills outlets. Some wondered about how to pay areas, while others said how about those who buy electricity from locations far away from their places of residence? How about those who are not having access to water services or having any faucets at their homes? What about those who access water but not electricity? Few people protested the constitutionality of consumer protection law until it was repealed.

Nobody will deny the role of political elites in making decisions regarding the state's structure, which requires mechanisms for a broad-based participation in the process to avoid crafting a constitution that would lead distributing spoils among beneficiary rulers and their opponents so that it becomes legitimate and respected

by all. Unfortunately the opposition's role tends to be confined to voting or nominating representatives to referendum about constitution. Contrarily, the whole process should come out of efforts to civic education, awareness raising, public consultation and information about how to embark on constitution as well as the content of such document.

Advocates of federalism hold that it is best for enabling local institutions to gather and distribute revenues to meet their local obligations without the meddling by the center to create a vertical balance (sharing revenues between the center and states) and horizontal balance (distributing the states share among them). We will never put up our fingers and stick out our tongues like that idiot, rather will struggle to advocate our rights to managing our resources. We will never let our rights slip out of our hands as long as we are conscious. Our coming constitution will be nothing less than being up to our expectations. We will fight for it like the way we fight for our survival, our rights and gains.



**Citizen: if the people who want to write the next constitution do not know anything about us, they should ask us, right?**

## With actors on the path of forthcoming constitution

### The media managed to shift people's concern to what is happening and change that they can make

Thirty-three actors and dramatists representing the union of actors – following a workshop – gathered at Omdurman Folklore Theatre. They came from different states of Gadarif, Kassala, North Kordufan, Khartoum, Port Sudan, West Darfur, Blue Nile, White Nile, Gezira and East Darfur, to debate energizing the role of actors in constitution making including a historical background about Sudanese constitutions, federalism, systems of governance, key constitutional principles, declaration of principles and roadmap.

In his speech Dr Abdul Mutaal Garshab stressed the importance of the media in education and entertainment and getting the message across to the audience in different ways, attracting people's attention to what is going on around them – in the past and present as well as the change that they can effect in their future through artistic works addressing their conscious in order to shape convictions, "isn't that so," he wondered.

The spokeswoman for Maha Azain SICM said that the initiative was still at the stage of formation and developing tools and visions, but is faced with enormous obstacles such as disrespecting other's opinion and underestimating some civil organizations. Tariq Al-Bahar, the chairman of actors union and Mr Abdel Rahman Al-Shibly, the secretary general of the union stressed the importance of drama in inculcating concepts smoothly in citizens in addition to need for partnership between the bodies to find ways of promoting the idea among people. "In this context, we are more important than politicians," he said.



Dr Ali Suleiman cited exclusion of thinkers starting since the revolution of 1924 when the colonizer relied on leaders of clans to strengthen its rule in objection to convictions opposed to the idea of separating South Sudan, Juba conference in 1947, agreeing a legislative council for

all helped by an executive council, in addition to issues that remained unquestioned such as nationality and repeated calls for writing a pure Sudanese constitution that has remained marking time to up the moment. "The purpose of a constituent assembly is to establish a new system for drafting a constitution for a country, which has never happened whether due short life of such assemblies or dissolving them or their being preoccupied with dual legislative and constituent functions," explained Mr Ali.

**Necessity for celebrating diversity**  
Coordinator of training and promoting

the initiative Atahir Badawi Atahir acquainted the participants with concepts of legitimacy of constitution, decentralization, systems of governance, administrative decentralization and political decentralization (federalism) and differences between these concepts, besides Sudan's experiences in trying different systems of governance and challenges faced these systems.

He stressed principles that should be taken into account, most importantly separating between powers, rule of law, enhancing and protecting human rights and independence of judiciary.

For his part, Mr Awad Al-Kareem Fadl-Almawla cited regional experiments regarding constitution making in South Africa, Iraq and Kenya.

Participants underscored the importance of celebrating and recognizing diversity, eliminating ethnic-based polarization and disrespecting others' views, and finding ways of cultivating the feeling of belongingness; in addition to discouraging some negative stereotypes and views in the media to arrive at required

Coverage Angle

## Al-Mirghani sensed the danger and warned of loss

### Dr. Haj Attiya: the main problem that threatens social peace is the absence of a culture of democracy.

(1)

In an interview to Akhir Lahza dialy on 14 January, the chairman of Democratic Unionist Party Al-Sayyid Mohamed Osman Al-Merghani called for speedy implementation of agreed upon program, whose priority is preparing the upcoming constitution. Al-Merghani called on all national forces and civil society organizations and factions to agree an approach for them to run their affairs in their course for agreed upon constitution involving all and not excluding any. "We reiterate again that the citizen is in a real danger and we are duty bound to defend them, else all will be lost," he warned.



nors and the governed and sitting at the table to agree a constitution accommodating the reality of diversity and difference.

Meanwhile, a symposium on building peace, constitution and election system, throw the ball on politicians, legislators and political and tribal dogmatism that yielded entities and groups hostile to others and have begun to pose a threat to Sudan's unity, peace, security and future.

**By the editor**

It good that (elders) began to feel looming danger, and warn of loss of the country in case all components are not involved in the forthcoming constitution despite outstanding differences. Linking the issue to building peace and elections systems to mobilize polarized political arena, necessitates finding common ground, and translating words into actions on the part of politicians in the power to allow the opposition exercise democracy to avert the nation threats to peace and security in order to build confidence among all parties, especially with regard to the question of constitution. They should also refrain from accusing those opposed to their viewpoints and doubting their patriotism.

come difficulties for the sake of writing a constitution to insure Sudan's political and security future satisfactory to all," he added.

The lacking culture of democracy poses threat to social peace, said Mr Nouredine Madani, in Al-Sudani daily, stressing need for spreading culture of democracy to build social peace and acceptance of the other's right to citizenship. "Disagreement is a natural characteristic in communities but problems arises when violence is resorted to as a means for settlement of disputes," Madani added.

(3)

Dr Al-Tayyeb underscored the significance of peaceful contract, which requires understanding between gover-

Reflex angle

(2)

The committee on constitution confirmed to continue efforts to expanding participation in the constitution to solve Sudan's issues, reported Al-Garar Arabic daily, 14 January 2013. The committee met the chairman of Umma Party Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi and the leader of Democratic Unionist Party Mr Osman Al-Merghani to stressed importance of drafting a constitution involving all political forces, said Abdel Rahman Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi, Assistant to the President, in press statements. "We are determined to exert efforts to over-

## Right angle

Despite all ongoing political wrangling, SICM has been dedicating its efforts to preparing people for participation amid blessing its efforts by some and opposing them by others. In collaboration with other sister organizations, the initiative is solely focused on educating and informing the grassroots; in addition to forging partnerships to energize the role of artists in pave the way for a broad-based dialogue between citizens -- on one hand, and decision makers and advocate of change -- where they are -- on the other. Therefore, SICM calls on all to look at the positive side of the matter because it is merely a matter of acknowledging rights and justice to create a climate suitable for every individual, group or an institution to deliver duties necessitated by this crucial juncture in Sudan's history.

## If citizens don't hear of their constitution ...why craft it?

Dr Nasir Al-Sheikh, of Omdurman Islamic University, experienced translator in constitutions, hailed the efforts of SICM to constitution making and involving other activists and artists in the process. he said that constitution is a bedrock upon which a building rests and a pillar of windows and doors, and that even it is related to vegetable basket and saucepan as the case with documenting history and laws organizing people's life.



bringing joy for them." He said that the verb to constitute means: To be the elements or parts of; compose, to set up or establish according to law or provision, and to enact a (law or regulation), adding that Sudanese experience in constitution making has neglected involving people in the process the reason why previous constitutions were doomed to failure. Therefore, SICM came to ensure that all stakeholders, experts, activists and the media are involved in the process of enlightening the citizens to take into account their visions for their life and future of their country.

Yearnings of the generation  
In the past children used to say: you are Abdallah Khalil and I am Azhari, a reference to national heroes

who struggled for the independence of the nation. On the contrary, struggle for constitution has been caught up in serving vested interests and regionalism or tribalism, instead of seriously thinking about what this nation has in common to draw a constitution that will their expectations. Sudan has a history of competition between the military and politicians over power, each excluding the other once it assumes power, while ordinary citizens got lost in between. Why not unite for common good?

As advocates of change we have sit with one another to build strong conviction about necessity for making a constitution according to the calls of SICM and in line with international principles. What is needed is to brush aside personal interests for the sake of this country and its inhabitants. It is a great pleasure when actors agree to employ their talents in favor of getting the message across; in addition to revisiting established heritage such as collective work "na-feer", settlement of disputes "judiyah", Sufi sense and popular games to carry through efforts aimed at

popular participation. According to experiences, it is difficult to reach reconciliation, which was acknowledged by the UN; for instance, Hutu and Tutsi in Rwanda and now in Iraq, Yemen and Egypt, where some are calling for taking up arms despite long peaceful struggle. Eventually, after loss of million lives, Rwandese came up with sitting under a shelter erected in a public place "Ashasha" bringing together opponents parties, a woman comes carrying food to meet the slayer of her husband and gives it to him in front of all. It the man eats from the food, they will be asked to get married, then the women consents and therein reconciliation starts.

We have that kind of shelter serving same purposes, but unfortunately we have abandoned it to replace it by hotels halls abroad, where all participants speak on behalf of all and the outcome is nothing in favor of real stakeholders, the residents. Aren't we right in hoping for the return of involving citizens in their affairs, specially the forthcoming constitution?

Obtuse angle