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"We and effect"

Radio and TV presenters and anchors and constitution making

Knowing previous experience will lead to reading the present and the future

Within efforts to engage the media people in constitution making process, SICM held a workshop titled: Energizing participation of radio and TV programs producers and presenters from 22-23 January. The workshop was attended by 31 people from the National Radio and TV Corporation, and state radios of Kassala, North Kordufan, Blue Nile, White Nile, West and Central Darfur states. The workshop was aimed at engaging radio and TV programs producers in preparing the public for participation in constitution making by providing them with basic information on related topics, and debating with them on how allocate time for such programs and prepare creative messages attractive to listeners and viewers to actively engage them. Continuous creativity affects people's behaviors and lifestyle. The workshop debated work papers on historical background about Sudanese constitution making, federalism and systems of governance, key constitutional principles, declaration of principles and the roadmap, in addition the situation of state-controlled media whose policies determined by government departments according to political line.

Concern for development
The deputy chairman of SICM said the radio and TV acceptance is an incentive for working with the group, but demanded accuracy when preparing message to avert negative feedbacks, which involves employing partnerships to create message capable of influencing and shaping public opinion about involving all in constitution making process. she also cited stages SICM has gone by before coming to wording documents regarding declaration of constitutional principles and the roadmap, and adopting an approach of advocacy by sitting with all parties – political parties and civil society organizations to build vertical partnership dubbed "Focal Points"



across Sudan's states, and horizontal partnerships with Sudanese actors union as well as other institution sharing SICM the idea of need for developing the citizens and enabling them to get their rights and perform their duties. Amina stressed significance of concerting efforts collective work by all parties concerned in this connection.

Maha Azain, information officer on SICM coordination committee, speaker for the Initiative called for employing whatever at disposal in radio and TV broadcasting in favor of getting principles of constitution making across and ownership of the constitution by the people across, stressing agreement is the only guarantee for reaching a constitution representing the people. Ms Azain explained achievements that SICM made regarding awareness campaign among citizens, workshops aimed at partners and different media organs.

Lessons learnt from predecessors

Dr Ali Suleiman cited historical experiences in constitution making in Sudan, stressing that reading of the past leads to what is happening now and what will come tomorrow, adding that previous disadvantages need to avoid and advantages should be taken, adding that when SICM announced principles for constitution making many thought that the Initiative was proposing a new constitution until it reassured those parties that SICM was solely concerned with procedural aspect not the content of the matter. Thanks to legal advisor Atahir Badawi who was able to bread down complex concepts regarding systems of governance, federalism and centralism to help read experiences of other nations (South Africa, Kenya and Iraq) compared with Sudanese experience. How can we make maximum use of such experience? Asked Mr Awadel Karim Fadl Al-mawla.

Hot air

As expected of media people controlled by policies of organization they are working for, many let out hot air and acknowledged neglect by these organs, but they said that have no way out as even regional radio and TV stations are under the control concerned offices toeing the line of the ruling party irrespective of local culture and dreams of the locals.

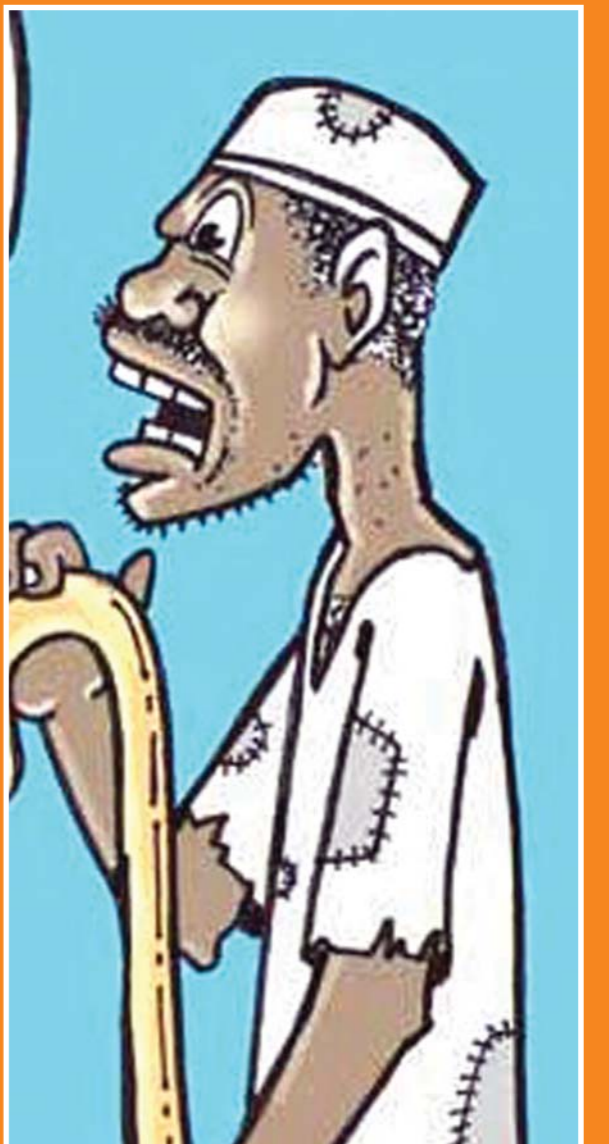
they participants added that the government's call for people's and civil society organizations' participation – despite reiteration of calls day after day – remains foggy because the words are not translated into actions at these media organs controlled by the decision making center. In next edition we will publish remarks and comments by the participants in these workshops themselves, in addition to the 4th periodical supplement on deliberations and outcomes of activities cited.

The following sayings: burry the head in the sand and flogging a dead horse are rooted in our cultural heritage. However, misinterpretation of such sayings may cripple us, considering skepticism about our activities aimed at civic education with regard to the forthcoming permanent constitution for the country.

It is surprising to hear that some still believe that efforts we have being making are but flogging a dead horse, an indication of creating doubts among ordinary people that what we are doing to prepare the people for participation in the constitution is useless. Nevertheless, I wish to stress that it is always the strong and successful message that get across to the people not signaling doubts about other party's endeavors.

In previous editions we referred to the green activists standing up for protecting giraffe and indigenous bird "Ab Taku" to draw the attention to the ceaseless efforts of such creatures to challenge hardship for survival of their offspring. What we wish point out to those attempting to distort our message is that citizens of today are not those of yesterday. As long as pressure generates explosion, it is able to produce new conviction to wipe off old one, or those promoting them.

At the SICM youth forum last September, we referred to our neglect of following up on our message through the media, which necessitated our renovation of our website dedicated to this matter. We had to follow opinions and comments and respond to some of them. In this edition, we provide evidence of that, but we would like to stress that the circle of awareness is growing, indicating ability to change people's conviction about the upcoming constitution.



Resident: in order for the coming Regeneration not go through what we have come to ...let the coming constitution tell how our resources belong to us!!

Coverage Angle

Reflex angle

Warning of excluding any party from participation

Dr Faiza Hassan: achieving justice, preserving rights for all needs impartiality, determination and practical commitment

(1)
Al-Jarida daily reported that the National Assembly reiterated accusation of the opposition of conspiracy and treachery, arguing that it received funds from Western embassies, and at the same time the assembly did not rule out its participation in preparing the forthcoming constitution. "dialogue is open to whoever is willing to say what they wish...nobody will be excluded from it," said the head of committee on work and administration Dr Al-Fateh Izadine Al-Mansour, stressing need for speedy formation of a national committee for constitution and involvement of all, warning of consequences of excluding any party. He denied reports about nomination of any party to chairmanship of the committee.



ued? He asked. Driven by our historical responsibility, we decided not to participate nominally in making the forthcoming permanent constitution for the country, the reason why we withdrew from the committee in question because our priority is sweeping reforms to form a new national government and hold early elections not the constitution, he stated. As for overcoming the constitution crisis, he said that the success of the constitution does not lie in gathering a great deal of people to debate it but lies in question as to whether the document would be conciliatory or divisive. "I think the climate is not ripe for endorsing an all-inclusive constitution as the country is in a state of war and economic crisis.

those battling over Islamic or secular constitution are in need of this document more than other parties as extremists on both sides are seeking to serve vested interests, a real threat to political arena. The coming phase needs wise people to achieve justice and preserve rights for all, impartiality and strong determination and commitment. We recommend that a scientific party organize dialogue between Islamists and secularists based of scientific facts, knowledge and historical backgrounds proving that not all secular advocates are "infidels or disbelievers" as some Islamists are trying to portray them and not all Islamists are extremists as some secularists may believe. Accordingly, there is a room for finding a common ground between the two extremes based on established principle of justice governing human relations anytime anywhere.

By editor

Dialogue is open to all to say what they wish remain as bright words of hopefulness and optimism, but when we read the members of the government accusations of others, with repeated arguments that it listens to nobody opposed to it, we come to convictions soft dialogue conducted by an institution satisfactory to all is key to stability and welfare of the people related to sought constitution that should come out of consent and agreement in favor of stability.

(2)
In an interview to Al-Jarida daily, 14 January, the chairman of Islamic Moderate Party, Dr Yousif Al-Koda attributed his pullout of the constitution committee to inopportune conditions the country is living due to fighting in the regions of Blue Nile and South Kordufan, adding that his espouses a reformatory approach to offer advice but unfortunately the government would not listen to anyone with opposed to it, according to him. "What is the use of our participation since our views are not val-

(3)
In an essay to Al-Sahafa daily Dr Faiza Hassan Taha argued that bill of rights should come before constitution and

From Mailbox

Message from Ismail Al-Sir, reader

Our mailbox is filling with messages in appreciation of our website (www.sicm-sd.org), which is aimed at acquainting visitors with SICM to engage as many sectors as possible in getting the message across and create additional interaction and dialogue with visitors. So far 1534 individuals have visited our website increase by 41 percent, 6,675 pages were visited from 50 countries, 55,5 percent of them male and 44,8 percent female, range between 25-34 years of age. In coming editions will supply further details.

I am chain reader of Angles in Al-Ahdath, Al-Sahafa and Al-Garar newspapers. I was impressed with the story of Habangga "the idiot", and the comparison of "Ashasha" of Rwanda to our Rakuba. I wish Dr Nasir or Al-Feelabi will continue to relate further traditional stories of those kind. I would like to stress here that we can base dialogue on constitution in such shelter "Rakuba" in the open air in keeping with SICM's call for transparency and participation of all to discuss issues of citizens' concern.



Constitution and equal opportunities

Government seeking to achieve democratic community based on citizenship, equality and potentials of all members of the community should adopt equal opportunities for education as basis for realizing their goals. Residents should be given equal opportunities for education according to their abilities, preparedness and efforts in line with their inclination and desires irrespective of their sex, or color, or race or social or economic status. Accordingly, democratic systems seek to:



1. Help all member of the community to get their rights in all aspects of life, including education and exercising their personal lives and choices.
2. School or college should be the first communal

institution through which children of poor families can access education.

3. Selecting and distributing students should be based on their levels of and types of education to specify their potentials and interest not based on socio-economic status or gender or race they belong to.

4. Schools and colleges should be transformed to social institution respecting the different component of the community rather than being a tool for serving political interests of certain group. It should also be a tool for development and welfare in various aspects of life in order to instill democracy and equal opportunities for education.

Here it occurs to the mind the question of the constitutionality of exempting students from certain regions from terms of acceptance in universities according to the constitution of 2005 deemed a blatant violation of the principle of equal opportunities for all. Such exemption was based on familial belonging or other considerations related to involvement in war operations or martyrdom while performing national duty; however, if affected equal opportunities for all applicants and was in gross violation of Articles 31 and 44 of the Interim Constitution of 2005. Therefore, the forthcoming constitution prohibit forms of discrimination provided in the aforementioned articles and other forms of segregation to ensure equal opportunities for education for all disregard of race, color, religion, social station, political affiliation or regional or tribal belonging.

Obtuse angle