



Citizens' opinions at try out popular consultation hearings in Blue Nile State

Fact Sheet

Following are excerpts of opinions expressed in Blue Nile State at try out popular consultation hearings in Ed Damazin on 12 December and Roseires on 13 December. For a description of the process, see "Try out popular consultation hearings in Blue Nile State" fact sheet.

Ed Damazin

Popular Congress Party member (man)

Blue Nile State needs autonomous governance, based on a horizontal relationship. It should have representation at the highest level in Khartoum, in the Council of Presidency.

The most important things for the state are development and preserving the environment. There should be a distribution of power at three levels of governance -- national, state and local -- to strengthen the state government in administering their affairs and managing the economy.

The issue of demobilizing and reintegrating the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) needs to be addressed and a solution offered to them.

Area resident (man)

There are shortcomings in human resources, participation in national governance and CPA implementation. The interruption between different levels of governance might affect implementation of the CPA.

Area resident (woman)

There are houses outside the residential plan. These ghettos should be developed into residential blocks with basic services.

The positive aspect of the CPA is that it has stopped the war and brought peace, but it is not liable for all unresolved issues. The state government should take responsibility for establishing schools and hospitals in areas where those facilities do not exist and are needed.

The CPA has positively changed the ambitions of Blue Nile people and raised some expectations in terms of economic, social and political aspects. We demand autonomy so that we can map out our policy and reject vertical governance. We have received funds, but there has not been accountability for their usage.

Area resident (woman)

The CPA does not comply with the ambitions of Blue Nile people. It stopped the war, but no development has taken place. Nothing has been done for university graduates. How can they continue their life without employment?

Area resident (man)

Water provision and sanitation in Damazin is in a poor state.

Tadamon resident (man)

There are acute shortages of potable water, electricity in houses and lack of development.

Upper Nile resident (woman)

There are some positive changes in the development of Ed Damazin and Blue Nile State. These are peace and numerous improved services, compared to the time before the CPA. The process of development is gradual. Everything does not happen at once.

Railway area resident (woman)

Many agricultural lands have been allocated to people from outside Blue Nile State. The people of the state do not get adequate agricultural lands.

There is no adequate vocational training to help people acquire a profession or obtain new skills to make a living. The CPA stopped the war, but women suffer because they have to carry heavy loads of firewood and water on a daily basis.

Sudan Communist Party member (man)

Mismanagement of the multiparty system has led Sudan to a crossroads. Articles in the CPA exist, but to a great extent they have not been implemented.

The public parliamentary government provides citizens with the reality of governance, but the presidential government represents only the president. This type of public parliamentary governance provides for regional autonomous governance that reflects the government of the people.

Regarding wealth sharing, the state requires a preferential share, as it is considered marginalized and badly affected by war. The reintegration and demobilization of the SPLA is essential for security, stability and sustainable peace.

Roseires (13 December)

Area resident (man)

We need autonomy and representatives at all levels of governance as well as to strengthen the authority of the *wali* (governor).

Concerning development, some projects for the construction of schools have been implemented, but no equipment and furniture has been provided for them.

More attention and care should be given to rural areas. Potable water tankers should be provided and roads and bridges constructed to link towns and villages. We want to be relieved from central control.

Area resident (woman)

The agreement did not meet our expectations. There are no schools and no education and we are exhausted by the *arboos* (carrying two balanced water containers on their shoulders). We have found nothing. What can we do? Leave the country?

NCP Chairperson in Roseires (man)

Blue Nile State university graduates are oppressed and the fate of those who fought in the war – 30,000 soldiers -- is ambiguous. There are no clear security arrangements for “our sons”.

Area resident (man)

The CPA did not meet our ambitions. An independent,

planned economy did not emerge and no services have been provided. The authority of the State Minister of Finance is only on paper. He travels to Khartoum 19 times to get anything and the lowest ministry of finance official can stop Blue Nile salaries.

Mining, agriculture and forestry are controlled by the national government. I call for self-determination for the state.

Area resident (man)

The CPA stopped the bullets but the national government is bringing in arms in a show of force. If there was a law, none of this would have happened.

Graduates will not find employment in the state. Injustice is evident and no two persons can dispute it. The CPA did not at all satisfy our expectations and “the coming storm will blow up everything”.

Area resident (woman)

The CPA did not satisfy our demands. Since the 1960s, our lands have been taken from us. Moreover, women are suffering from firewood collection, water and *arboos*.

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