



## Try out popular consultation hearings in Blue Nile State

### Fact Sheet

#### The hearings

As training exercises for the popular consultation process in Blue Nile State, two days of “Try out Citizens Hearings” were held on 12 and 13 December in Ed Damazin and Roseires, respectively.

The exercises, sponsored by the non-governmental organization AECOM, were chaired by Popular Consultation Parliamentary Commission (PCPC) Chairman Siraj Attaelmanjan.

Officials attending the try out hearings included the chief of the Collection of Opinions Committee, Abboud Nasir, PCPC and political party members as well as Carter Center observers.

Some 80 citizens were present in Ed Damazin and 700 in Roseires, of which the majority were women, to express their opinions on CPA implementation. Each person was given five minutes to speak.

The exercise aimed to train PCPC secretariat members to take notes specifying issues raised, and record the participant’s statement as well as number (via tape recorder). The hearings also sought to train PCPC members who would be conducting the consultations.

AECOM manager Richard Obwaja said at the first hearing in Ed Damazin that assessment of the two trial hearings would occur to see how effective they were and what could be improved.

#### What people said

The prevalent opinion among speakers at the hearings was that CPA implementation did not meet people’s expectations and that many of their needs had remained unsatisfied.

Women speakers were more vehement in their demands and expression. They complained about the

lack of basic services, which forced them to carry heavy loads of water and firewood daily on their shoulders.

Many speakers pointed to a lack of accountability on the part of the state government. Despite talk about transparency and accountability, the legislature had failed to make the state government accountable for all funds transferred to the state.

Some speakers accused the two parties and state government of corruption and misuse of funds for development. They expected the legislative assembly to hold members of the current and previous governments as well as Governor Malik Aggar accountable and ask them to explain where the funds for development were.

For actual statements, see “Citizens’ opinions at try out hearings in Blue Nile State” fact sheet.

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