



Popular Consultations, Chali

Fact Sheet

For further information, see Popular Consultations in Blue Nile State FAQ

Popular consultations in Chali (southern Kurmuk County) on 17 January were chaired by four members of the State Legislative Assembly.

Delegation spokesperson Abdala Nahim Alibeh briefed villagers about the process and its impact for the people of Blue Nile. He noted that the consultations would continue until a certain level of agreement was reached.

Mr. Alibeh added that different steps were planned for negotiating improvements in people's living conditions if the consultations showed that people were dissatisfied with CPA implementation.

Negotiations would start with the president of the republic and, if unsuccessful, then go to the Council of State. If the latter failed, a neutral body like the international community would intervene.

Another envisaged measure to improve Blue Nile living conditions, the spokesperson said, was an amendment of the constitution at the end of the interim period.

Of the approximately 700 persons attending the session, most expressed concerns about distribution of resources and called for self-governance of the state. Following are excerpts of their opinions:

Ahmed (man)

Since we returned as refugees from Ethiopia, we have seen no improvements in the area.

Ada (man)

I am not satisfied with implementation of the CPA. Chali has lots of resources, but everything goes to Damazin or Khartoum. I started my education in Chali's primary school in 1966, and until now the school has seen no significant improvement. Road access is also a big concern for the area.

Wiya Yago (woman)

I request the establishment of health centers in the area

Idris Uchari (man)

The area needs electricity and establishment of banks.

Gimma Abdel-Gadir (woman)

The situation in the area is very bad. The people need infrastructure and justice for all.

Nimeiri Talib Alfiel (man)

There is a lack of hospitals, health services and roads

Gidian Gambu Ortem, (man)

The CPA did not give us what we need. There is no school, no hospital and no electricity in the area.

Merry Durman Shagga (woman)

The situation is very bad. We expected development to take place in the area, but until now, there is nothing. We are still suffering. Since our arrival from a refugee camp in

Ethiopia, we expected to find a hospital and transport services, but there is nothing here. A lot of people died because of illnesses, and a huge number of the people are still suffering from diseases. We do not see any development.

Akki Tougi, (man)

I think that the people still suffer and don't feel better after the signing of the CPA.

Mussa Allabieb (man)

The CPA did not achieve anything. We've heard about the existence of the Development Fund, but it did not provide anything to the people in the area. There is no road, especially in the rainy season, and we carry our sick people on our shoulders for a long distance. We feel that the refugees' camps in Ethiopia, where we came from, were better than where we live now.

James Bilies (man)

I think that the CPA did not meet our expectations since the Naivasha agreement. The roads are not rehabilitated or maintained and no hospitals or any kind of health services have been provided. I think that Blue Nile State should have self-governance.

**UNITED NATIONS
MISSION IN SUDAN**

Ebeid Khatim Street
P.O. Box 69
Khartoum, 1111
Sudan

PHONE:
(249) 187-086000

FAX:
- Inside Sudan: 0 187 086200
- Outside Sudan: +1 917 3673523

E-MAIL:
ecomment-pio@un.org

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