



Press Release

Constitution Drafting Committee Constitution Drafting Assembly

Issue No 3 Wednesday January 31 2007

The Constitution Drafting Commission (CDC) met for the fourth time in the Budget Meeting Room on the 3rd floor of Parliament Building 3 at 9:30am on Wednesday January 31 2007. The main issues covered were: (1) rights, liberties, participation of the people [in the administration and inspection of the exercise of state power], and distribution of powers, which are under the jurisdiction of Subcommittee 1; and (2) CDC's policy on its members speaking to the mass media. The main points may be summarized as follows:

1. Rights, liberties, public participation, and distribution of powers
 - (1) Rights and liberties should be clearly specified and expanded in the new Constitution. Limitations of such rights and liberties should be clearly stated and explained.
 - (2) The people should be encouraged to exercise the rights and liberties provided in the Constitution to the fullest extent, short of infringing on others' in the process. Specific mechanisms should be set up to promote the exercise of such rights and liberties.
 - (3) Human dignity, rights, liberties, and equality should be protected in line with any commitments made to the international community.
 - (4) Provision should be made in the Constitution for participation by the people in various aspects.
 - (5) Distribution of powers to local governments should increase.

The CDC members debated a wide range of issues, including: freedom of the mass media; empowerment of the people to directly initiate impeachment action against corrupt individuals in political office; more emphasis on and increase of civic duties (e.g. refusal to sell votes); and how to make sure that rights provided in the Constitution get translated into laws that are actually enforceable. In providing rights and civic duties, consideration should be given to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to the international practice of civil rights.

2. CDC's policy on its members speaking to the mass media

In speaking to the mass media, CDC members are at liberty to express their personal opinions but must, to avoid confusion, declare them as such. Having expressed such views, the speakers must stand ready to go by the majority rule if the consensus subsequently reached is different from what they earlier expressed.

The next meeting will take place at 9:30am on Wednesday February 1 in the Budget Meeting Room on the third floor of Parliament Building 3.