



## *Press Release*

### *Constitution Drafting Committee Constitution Drafting Assembly*

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**Issue No 4** Thursday February 1 2007

CDC had its fifth meeting at 09:30 on Thursday February 1 in the Budget Meeting Room on the third floor of Parliament Building 3. Focusing on a guideline for Subcommittee on Political Institutions, the main points or more specifically motions may be summarized as follows:

1. There should be two Houses with the Senate having higher qualifications.
2. The way Members of both Houses coming into office should be changed.
3. The election system should be changed to ensure honest, just, and more effective election.
4. MPs should be independent of political parties, free from political control and conflicts of interest in carrying out their legislative duties.
5. Prime Minister should be from the ranks of the Lower House, prohibited from having any conflict of interest during and after leaving office.
6. The Executive should be answerable to the Parliament and subjected to vigorous scrutiny by it and independent agencies; the related procedure should be easy to apply. The role of the minority political parties in scrutinizing the Executive should be enhanced and strengthened.
7. Political parties should be *bona fide* political institutions with proper rules regarding financial support and contributions they receive, which should be transparent and not excessive in amounts.
8. There should be legislation relating to the morality and ethics of politicians and bureaucrats, along with suitable penal codes.
9. There should be legislation governing the relations between politicians and bureaucrats.

The CDC members had earlier debated comprehensively on Frame 1 with regard to distribution of power. It was unanimously agreed that in the administration of the local governments the role of the people should be enhanced.

On Frame 2, a parliamentary system with the King as Head of State was proposed and unanimously accepted. However, there were diverse views about the form the Parliament should take, specifically with regard to the coming into office of senators. While everyone agreed that MPs should be elected, there was no such consensus about the senators. Questions were also raised about whether the party-list system should stay and also whether or not the numbers in both Houses should be reduced. The CDC secretaries are putting all the points together and will pass them to the Subcommittees concerned for detailed discussion in the afternoon.

Following are the time and venues for the afternoon meetings:

- (1) Subcommittee on Rights, Liberties, People's Participation, and Distribution of Power will meet at 15:30 in Room 3701 on the third floor of Parliament Building 3. It is chaired by Mr Choochai Supawong.
- (2) Subcommittee on Political Institutions, chaired by Mr Charan Pakdithanakul, will meet at 17:00 in Room 3502 on the third floor of Parliament Building 3.
- (3) Subcommittee on Independent Agencies and Courts, chaired by Prof Vicha Mahakhun, will meet at 14:00 in Room 3601 on the sixth floor of Parliament Building 3. The next CDC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 6 at 14:00 in the Budget Meeting Room on the third floor of Parliament Building 3.

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Produced by CDC Spokesmen Team  
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