

Press Release

Respect The Constitution

Zone 9 is an informal group of collective bloggers and activists who are working to promote free and independent discourse on the sociopolitical issues of Ethiopia. Our aim is to contribute our share to cultivate and develop a culture of civil discussion for the emergence of ideas and citizens who care to proactively engage for the betterment of the country.

Organizing consecutive online campaigns on the current and crucial sociopolitical issues of the country is among the mechanisms we envisioned to achieve our objective. Accordingly the first online campaign will be held under the motto of Respect the Constitution starting from December 2-4, 2012.

The coming Wednesday, December 2, 2012, it will be exactly 18 years since Ethiopia enacted a new constitution. The new constitution is the fourth constitution in modern history of Ethiopia. Compared to its three predecessors, this Constitution is believed to have comprehensive legal provisions, governing ideals and principles for the democratization process of the country. However, we believe that their enforcement is still at its infant stage.

Although we recognize the fact that there are still few contentious articles in the constitution, the generic consensus on many of its provisions seem to be the one that we can all start working on many of the articles that we agreed with.

Cognizant of this fact, the aim of this campaign is to create public awareness on the content of the Constitution and thereby, call all relevant government bodies of the government and citizens to respect and help for the respect of the constitution as the sovereign law of the land.

Facebook and twitter will be the main medium for the campaign. All residents of Zone 9 are kindly encouraged to use the hashtag #RespectTheConstitution. Exclusive articles related to the current Ethiopian Constitution will be published on our Blog and Facebook page by the bloggers and guest writers. Moreover, all campaigners are kindly requested to change their profile and cover pictures with the banners prepared for the campaign.

Thus, we would like to seize this opportunity to invite all concerned Ethiopians to actively participate on the campaign and share their thoughts and opinions about the constitution and its current implementation in Ethiopia.