

Draft Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt

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Arab Republic of Egypt

The Fifty-Member Committee to Prepare the Final Draft of the Constitutional Amendments

Opinion of the State and Basic Components Committee and the Drafting Committee

On Thursday, 31 October 2013

Section on the State and its Essential Components

The articles that the State and Basic Components Committee and the Drafting Committee have reached a consensus on.

The Committee of Preparing the Final Draft of the Constitutional Amendments

The Opinion Reached by the State and Basic Components Committee and the Drafting Committee

Article 1 Nature of the Republic¹

The Arab Republic of Egypt is a modern constitutional sovereign state, united and indivisible, where nothing is dispensable, and its system is democratic and based on citizenship.

Egypt is part of the Arab nation and enhances its integration and unity. It is part of the Muslim world, belongs to the African and Asian continents, and contributes to building human civilization.

Article 2 Islam, Principles of Islamic Sharia

Islam is the religion of the state and Arabic is its official language. The principles of Islamic Sharia are the principle source of legislation.

Article 3 Christian and Jewish religious affairs

The principles of the laws of Egyptian Christians and Jews are the main source of laws regulating personal status, religious affairs, and nomination of spiritual leaders.

¹ Titles for each article have been included by International IDEA in this translation solely for ease of reference. The article titles are not to be attributed to the drafters and should not be used to inform interpretation. Chapter and section titles were translated from the original text.

Article 4 Sovereignty

Sovereignty belongs to the people only, who are the source of power.

The people exercise and protect this sovereignty, and safeguard their national unity as provided in this constitution.

Article 5 Political system

The political system is based on the separation and balance of powers, authority going with responsibility, peaceful transfer of power, political and partisan multiplicity, rule of law, and respect of human rights and freedoms.

New Article International law

The state is committed to the rights and freedoms listed in the international agreements, covenants, and instruments of human rights ratified by Egypt.

Article 6 Citizenship²

Citizenship is a right to anyone born to an Egyptian father or an Egyptian mother in the manner regulated by law.

Article 7 Al-Azhar

Al-Azhar is an encompassing independent Islamic institution, with exclusive competence over its own affairs. It is the main reference for theology, and Islamic affairs. It is responsible for preaching Islam, theology, and the Arabic language.

The state provides enough financial allocations to achieve its purposes.

Al-Azhar's Grand Sheikh is independent and cannot be dismissed. The method of appointing the Grand Sheikh from among the members of the Council of Senior Scholars is to be determined by law.

Article 8 Social solidarity

Society is based on social solidarity. The state commits to providing the means to achieve social justice, and social solidarity to ensure a decent life for all citizens.

Article 9 Equal opportunity

The state ensures equal opportunity for all citizens without discrimination.

² Moved from the Section Rights and Freedoms.

Article 10 Family as the basis of society

Family is the basis of society and is based on religion, morality, and patriotism.

The state protects the genuine character of the Egyptian family, its cohesion and stability, and the consolidation of its moral values.

Article 11 The place of women, motherhood and childhood

The state commits to achieving equality between women and men in all of the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights mentioned in this constitution.

The state commits to taking the necessary measures to ensure a fair and balanced representation of women in parliamentary and local councils. This foregoing shall be regulated by law.

The state works on achieving women empowerment, the reconciliation between the duties of a woman toward her family and her work in the society, and her protection against all forms of violence.

The state ensures special care and protection and care for motherhood and childhood, and for breadwinning and divorced women as well as widows.

New Article Balanced relationship between business owners and labour

The state commits to maintaining the balance in the negotiation relationship between the parties of work with no discrimination or allowing one party to oppress the other. The relationship between them is regulated by law in accordance with international standards.

New Article Persons with special needs

The state commits to care for the rights of and to provide means of living to persons with special needs including the allocation of a percentage of job opportunities as per the law.

Article 12 Right to work, forced labour

Work is a right, a duty, and an honor guaranteed by the state.

There can be no forced labor except in accordance with the law and for the purpose of performing a public service for a defined period of time and against a fair wage.

Article 13 State employment

Public posts are a right to citizens based on efficiency with no favoritism or mediation, and an assignment in service of the people. The state ensures the protection of the rights of civil servants, and undertaking their duties with impartiality, discipline, and efficiency. They may not be dismissed unless by a disciplinary method and except in those situations set out by law.

Article 14 Right to strike

Striking peacefully is a right which is organized by law.

Article 15 Martyrs and wounded of the revolution

The state commits to honoring the martyrs, caring for elderly war veterans, the missing, and the wounded of the revolution, as well as their parents, marital partners and children. In cases where they are equal to others, they are prioritized in employment opportunities as per the law.

Article 16 Social security services

The state provides social security services.

All citizens who have no access to the health insurance system have the right to social security, if they are unable to support themselves and their families in case of incapacity to work, unemployment or old age, such that they are guaranteed a decent standard of living.

The state ensures funds for security and pension.

The state works to provide appropriate pensions to junior farmers, agricultural workers and informal labor in accordance with the law.

The state guarantees funds for insurance and pensions.

The funds of insurance and pensions are private and are, together with their returns a right to their beneficiaries. They shall be invested in a safe manner and managed by an independent entity.

Article 17 Health care

Every citizen is entitled to comprehensive health care with quality criteria. The state ensures the maintenance of public institutions that provide health services to citizens, and working on enhancing their efficiency and their fair geographical reachout.

The state commits to allocate a percentage of government expenditure that is no less than 3% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to health.

The state commits to the establishment of a comprehensive community health care system to all Egyptians covering all diseases. The contribution of citizens in its subscriptions or their exemption thereof based on their income rates is organized by law.

The state commits to provide health care to every citizen and allocates a sufficient percentage of the state budget for such.

The state guarantees the provision of health care services to all citizens and for free for the unable.

In cases of emergency or danger to the life of a person, no human may be denied any form of medical treatment.

The state commits to improving the status of physicians, nursing staff, and health sector workers, and achieving equity for them.

All health facilities and health related products, materials, and means of advertisement are subject to the supervision and monitoring of the state as per the law.

Article 18 Education

Every citizen has the right to education with the aim of building the Egyptian character, maintaining national identity, establishing civilizational and spiritual values, and planting the roots of scientific thinking. It is free in state institutions in all stages. The state commits to providing education in accordance with quality criteria. The state supervises all types of education to ensure that all educational institutions, public and private, local and otherwise abide by its educational policies.

New Article Education

Education is obligatory until the end of the secondary stage or its equivalent.

The state commits to allocating a percentage of the state budget that is no less than 4% of the GDP for education.

New Article Technical education and vocational training

The state commits to encouraging and developing technical education and vocational training as well as expansion in all of their types in accordance with quality criteria and in line with the needs of the labor market.

Article 19 Academic independence

The state guarantees the independence of universities, scientific and linguistic academies. It commits to the development of free university education in state institutions in accordance with global quality criteria. The state allocates a percentage of the government expenditure that is no less than 2% of the Gross National Product (GNP).

The state works on encouraging the establishment of non-profit public universities and the development of private universities to contribute to increasing the standard of university education and encouraging scientific research.

New Article Scientific research

Scientific research is a means to achieving national sovereignty, and knowledge economy is a key component of development and progress. The state ensures freedom of scientific research, and encourages its institutions. The state sponsors researchers professionally, morally, and financially. It allocates a percentage of government expenditures that is no less than 1% of the Gross National Product to scientific research. The state commits to provide the necessary mechanisms to ensure the effective contribution of the private and public sectors in the development of scientific research.

It encourages the participation of Egyptian scientists and researchers abroad.

New Article Teachers and teaching staff

Teachers and members of the teaching staff and their assistants constitute the main pillar of the success of education and improving its level. The state is committed to developing their scientific efficiency and professional skills and caring for their financial and moral rights to guarantee the quality of their work.

Article 20 Arabic language, religious education and national history

The Arabic language, religious education, and national history are core subjects of pre-university education. Universities are committed to teaching morals and ethics relating to various disciplines.

Article 21 Illiteracy

The state commits to developing a comprehensive plan to eradicate illiteracy for all citizens from all age groups. It commits to developing implementation mechanisms with the participation of civil society institutions.

Article 22 Civil titles

The institution of civil titles is prohibited.

Article 23 Economic system

The economic system aims at achieving prosperity in the country, raising the standard of living, and eliminating poverty through sustainable development and social justice.

The economic system is committed to the mechanisms of the disciplined market and the criteria of transparency and governance, supporting competitiveness, encouraging investment, preventing monopoly practices, achieving balanced growth geography-wise and sector-wise, guaranteeing different types of property, and achieving balance between the interests of different parties to maintain the rights of workers and protect consumers.

The economic system is socially committed to ensuring equal opportunities and a fair distribution of development returns to bridging the gaps between incomes by setting a minimum wage and pension to ensure a decent life, and setting a maximum wage in state agencies.

Article 24 Production and service based economy activity

Production and service-based economic activities are key components of the national economy. The state commits to protecting them, increasing their competitiveness, providing the environment that attracts investment, and works on increasing production, encouraging export, and regulating import.

The state gives special attention to the sectors of agriculture, industry, commerce, tourism, communications, and all means of transport, as well as small and medium enterprises. It works on regulating and training the informal sector.

New Article Agriculture

Agriculture is a basic component of the national economy. The state commits to protecting and increasing the agricultural space. It works on developing and protecting crops, plant varieties, animal breeds, and fisheries. The state commits to providing the requirements of agricultural production and marketing it at an appropriate price, and supporting agricultural industries.

The law regulates the use of state lands to achieve social justice, protects farmers and agricultural workers against abuse. A percentage of the reclaimed or reclaimable lands is allocated to youth, junior farmers and agricultural workers. The state must regulate the agricultural ownership of the reclaimed and reclaimable lands to develop them, provide enough economic space for agricultural production, and affirm the fairness of distribution.

Article 25 Natural resources

Natural resources belong to the people. The state commits to preserving such resources, to their sound exploitation, and to take into consideration the rights of future generations.

It is prohibited to exploit them by exportation as primitive materials, and it works on encouraging their manufacture.

It is prohibited to dispose of state property, or to grant the right to privilege to exploit such property, or to grant a concession to a public utility, except as permitted by law and for a specified period.

The law sets the provisions of disposing of state property, and the rules and procedures regulating that.

New Section - Natural Components of Life

New Article Environment

Every person is entitled to a healthy balanced environment that is in line with international instruments. The state is committed to disseminating environmental culture, protecting the environment, not harming it, maintaining the sustainability of natural resources to protecting the rights of next generations in them, and using scientific research and innovation to protect the environment.

Article 26 The Nile

The state commits to protecting the Nile River, maintaining Egypt's relevant historic rights in it, regulating and maximizing its benefits, adopting methods appropriate to achieve water safety, and achieving cooperation with Nile Basin countries.

Every citizen has the right to enjoy the Nile River. It is prohibited to encroach upon it or to harm the river environment as regulated by law.

New Article Seas, Beaches, lakes, waterways, mineral water and natural reserves

The state commits to protecting its seas, beaches, lakes, waterways, mineral water, and natural reserves. It is prohibited to encroach upon, pollute, or use them in a manner that contradicts its nature. Every citizen has the right to enjoy them as regulated by law.

New Article Energy resources

The state commits to making the best use of renewable energy resources, motivating investment, and encouraging relevant scientific research.

Article 27 Monuments

The state commits to protecting and maintaining monuments, and to working to retrieve the ones taken.

It is prohibited to give away any of them as gifts or exchange them. Encroaching upon and trafficking in them is a crime for which there is no statute of limitation.

Article 28 Property rights

The state protects ownership, which is three types:

Public ownership, private ownership, and cooperative ownership.

Article 29 Public property

Public property is inviolable and may not be touched. It is the duty of every citizen to protect it in accordance with the law.

Article 30 Private property

Private property is protected and performs a social function in service of the national economy without deviation or abuse. The right to inherit property is guaranteed. Private property may not be sequestered except in cases specified by law, and with a final court order. Ownership of property may not be confiscated except for the public good, within the frame of a law, and with just compensation that is paid in advance.

Article 31 Cooperative property

The state cares for cooperative property, and the law guarantees its protection and support, and ensures its independence.

The State and Basic Components Committee has two propositions for Article (32)

Article 32 Social justice; First Proposition (7 members)

Social justice is the foundation of taxation and other public costs. It aims at achieving economic development and income redistribution. Tax payment is a duty as per the law.

Public taxes cannot be established, modified, or cancelled except by law. There can be no exemptions except in cases prescribed by law.

It is prohibited to require anyone to pay additional taxes or fees except within the limits of the law. Taxes on the income of individuals is progressive taxes in accordance with their income.

Article 32 Taxation; Second Proposition (5 members)

The taxes imposed should be from different sources.

The taxation system and other public costs aim at developing state resources and achieving social justice without prejudice to encouraging investment.

Public taxes cannot be established, modified, or cancelled except by law. There can be no exemptions except in cases prescribed by law.

It is prohibited to require anyone to pay additional taxes or fees except within the limits of the law.

Progressive taxes will be imposed on different tiers of individuals in accordance with their income (on the income of individuals in accordance with their assignment abilities) and on economic activities in

accordance with their roles in economic and cultural development and against a fair percentage of the profits generated from acquisition processes in the money market.

The returns of all taxes, charges, and any other funds collected by virtue of sovereignty are deposited in the State Treasury as per the law.

It is a duty to pay taxed in accordance with the law. Tax collection takes place in a regulated and facilitated manner.

Punishments are imposed to prevent evasion as a crime against society and state.

Article 33 Savings

Saving is a national duty that is protected and encouraged by the state. The state safeguards savings in accordance with the law.

Article 34 Nationalisation (repealed)

Repealed

Article 35 Confiscation of property

Public confiscation of property is prohibited.

Private confiscation is prohibited except based on a court judgment.

Article 36 Workers' share in management

The state is committed to guaranteeing a share for workers in the management and profits of production and investment enterprises as regulated by law.

Workers' representatives may constitute 50 percent of the number of elected members.

The law regulates the representation of small farmers and small craftsmen that is no less than 80 per cent of the boards of directors of agricultural and industrial cooperatives.

New Article Suez Canal

The state commits to protecting and maintaining Suez Canal as an international waterway it owns. It is also committed to achieving sustainable development for the canal sector as a significant economic pillar under the supervision of the state.

Cultural Components

New Article Egyptian cultural identity

The state is committed to protecting Egyptian cultural identity with its diverse civilization origins.

New Article Right to culture

Culture is a right to every citizen that is guaranteed the state. The state gives special attention to the dissemination of cultural materials of all types among different sections of peoples without discrimination based on financial capacity, geographical location, or anything else.

The state encourages translation from and to Arabic.

New Article Material and moral civilisation and cultural heritage

Egypt's material and moral civilization and cultural heritage of all types and from all of the Pharaohnic, Coptic, Islamic, and modern periods are a national and human heritage that the state commits to protect and maintain. Any encroachment upon them is a crime punishable by law. The state gives special attention to maintain the cultural multiplicity in the areas of Nubia, Sinai, Oases, and others.

Chapter Three - Rights, Freedoms and Public Duties

Article 37 Human dignity

Dignity is a right for every person that may not be infringed upon. The state shall respect, guarantee and protect it.

Article 37 bis Torture

All forms of torture are a crime with no statute of limitations.

Article 38 Equality in public rights and duties

Citizens are equal before the law, possess equal rights and public duties, and may not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, belief, sex, origin, race, color, language, disability, geographic location, social class, political affiliation, or for any other reason.

Discrimination and incitement to hate are crimes punishable by law. The state shall take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination, and the law shall regulate the establishment of an independent commission for this purpose.

Article 39 Personal freedom

Personal freedom is a natural right which is safeguarded and cannot be infringed upon. Except in cases of *in flagrante delicto*, citizens may only be apprehended, searched, arrested, or have their freedoms restricted by a causal judicial warrant necessitated by an investigation.

All those whose freedoms have been restricted shall be immediately informed of the reasons why, notified of their rights in writing, be allowed to immediately contact their family and lawyer, and be brought before the investigating authority within twenty-four hours of their freedoms having been restricted.

Questioning of the person may only begin once his lawyer is present. If he has no lawyer, a lawyer will be appointed for him. Those with disabilities shall be provided all necessary aid, according to procedures stipulated in the law.

Those who have and have not had their freedom restricted possess the right of recourse before the judiciary. Judgment must be rendered within forty-eight hours, otherwise the petitioner shall be immediately released.

(Note, this paragraph is temporarily removed from the vote and will be voted upon again)

The law shall regulate preventive detention, its duration, causes, and which cases are eligible for compensation that the state shall discharge for preventative detention or for execution of a penalty that had been executed by virtue of a judgment that is overruled by a final judgment.

In all cases, the accused may be brought to criminal trial for crimes that he may be detained for only in the presence of an authorized or appointed lawyer.

Article 40 Due process

All those who are apprehended, detained or have their freedom restricted shall be treated in a way that preserves their dignity. They may not be tortured, terrorized, or coerced. They may not be physically or mentally harmed, or arrested and confined in designated locations that are appropriate according to humanitarian and health standards. The state shall provide means of access for those with disabilities. Any violation of the above is a crime and the perpetrator shall be punished under the law.

The accused possesses the right to remain silent. Any statement that is proven to have been given by the detainee under pressure of any of that which is stated above, or the threat of such, shall be considered null and void.

Article 41 Supervision of prisons

Prison is a house for reform and rehabilitation.

Prisons and detention centers shall be subject to judicial oversight. All that which violates the dignity of the person and or exposes his health to danger is forbidden.

The law shall regulate the provisions to reform and rehabilitate those who have been convicted, and to facilitate a dignified way of life once they are released.

Article 42 Private life

Private life is sacrosanct, safeguarded and may not be infringed upon.

Telegraph, postal, and electronic correspondence, telephone calls, and other forms of communication are sacrosanct, their confidentiality is guaranteed and they may only be confiscated, examined or monitored by causal judicial order, for a limited period of time, and in cases specified by the law.

Article 43 Inviolability of homes

Homes are sacrosanct. Except in cases of danger, or if a call for help is made, they may not be entered, searched, monitored or wiretapped except by causal judicial warrant specifying the place, time and purpose therefor. All of the above is to be conducted in cases specified by the law, and in the manner prescribed. Upon entering or searching homes, those inside shall be notified and informed of the warrant issued in this regard.

Article 44 Right to safety

Every person has the right to a secure life. The state shall provide security and reassurance for citizens, and all those residing within its territory.

Article 45 Inviolability of the human body

The human body is sacrosanct. Any assault, defilement or mutilation thereof is a crime punishable by law. Organ trafficking is forbidden, and no medical or scientific experiment may be performed thereon without the documented free consent of the subject, according to the established principles of the medical field as regulated by law.

It has been decided to form a committee to determine donation mechanisms.

Article 46 Freedom of movement

Freedom of movement, residence and emigration is guaranteed.

No citizen may be expelled from state territory, banned from returning to or leaving state territory, be placed under house arrest or banned from residing in a certain area except by a causal judicial warrant for a specified period of time, and in cases specified by the law.

Article 46 bis Forced migration

All forms of arbitrary forced migration against citizens are forbidden. Violations of such are a crime without a statute of limitations.

Article 47 Freedom of belief

This article is still under discussion.

Article 48 Freedom of thought

Freedom of thought and opinion is guaranteed.

All individuals have the right to express their opinion through speech, writing, imagery, or any other means of expression and publication.

Article 49 Freedom of research

Freedom of research is guaranteed. The state shall sponsor researchers and inventors and protect and work to apply their innovations.

Updated Article Artistic and literary creation

Freedom of artistic and literary creation is guaranteed. The state shall undertake to promote art and literature, sponsor creators and protect their creations, and provide the necessary means of encouragement to achieve this end.

Updated cultural components article

Egypt's civilizational, cultural, material and spiritual heritage, in all its diversity and major phases -- Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic -- is a national and human treasure which the state shall preserve and maintain. Assaults against such heritage is a crime punishable by law. The state shall grant importance to preserving the elements of cultural diversity in the regions of Nubia, the oases, and Sinai, among others.

Updated cultural components article

Culture is a right of every citizen and is guaranteed by the state, which shall support and provide all types of cultural materials to various sectors of the people, taking particular interest in remote regions and those groups most in need.

Article 50 Access to information

Information, data, statistics and official documents are owned by the people. Disclosure of their various sources is a right guaranteed by the state to all citizens. The state shall provide and make them available to citizens with transparency. State institutions shall deposit official documents with the National Library and Archives once they are no longer in use. They shall also protect them, secure them from loss and damage, and restore and digitize them using all modern means and instruments. The law shall organize the rules for depositing and preserving public documents, in addition to the rules for obtaining information and lodging complaints against refusals to grant access thereto. The law shall specify penalties for withholding information or deliberately providing false information.

Article 50 bis Public means of communication

The state shall protect the rights of citizens to use all forms of public means of communication, which may not be arbitrarily disrupted, stopped or withheld from citizens, as regulated by the law.

Article 51 Freedom of the press

Freedom of press and printing, along with paper, visual, audio and digital distribution is guaranteed. Egyptians -- whether natural or legal persons, public or private -- have the right to own and issue newspapers and establish visual, audio and digital media outlets.

Newspapers may be issued once notification is given as regulated by law. The law shall regulate ownership and establishment procedures for visual and radio broadcast stations in addition to online newspapers.

Article 52 Freedom of publication

Egyptian newspapers and media outlets may not be censored, confiscated, suspended or shut down in any way. Exception may be made for limited censorship in time of war or general mobilization. No custodial sanction shall be imposed for crimes committed by way of publication or openly, and which have no connection with incitement to violence or discrimination amongst citizens, or impugning the honor of individuals.

Updated article

The state shall ensure the independence of all press institutions and owned media outlets, in a way that ensures their neutrality and guarantees equality and equal opportunity to address public opinion.

Article 53 Freedom of assembly

Citizens have the right to organize public meetings, marches, demonstrations and all forms of peaceful protest, while not carrying weapons of any type, upon providing notification as regulated by law.

The right to peaceful, private assembly is guaranteed, without the need for prior notification. Security forces may not attend, monitor or eavesdrop on such gatherings.

Article 54 Freedom to form political parties

Citizens have the right to form political parties by notification as regulated by the law. No political activity may be exercised or political parties formed on the basis of religion, or discrimination based on sex, origin, sect or geographic location, nor may any activity be practiced that is hostile to democracy, secretive, or which possesses a military or quasi-military nature.

Parties may only be dissolved by a judicial ruling.

Article 55 Right to establish associations

Citizens have the right to form non-governmental organizations and institutions on a democratic basis, which shall acquire legal personality and be allowed to engage in activities freely upon notification. Administrative agencies shall not interfere in the affairs of such organizations, dissolve them, their board of directors, or their board of trustees except by a judicial ruling.

The establishment or continuation of non-governmental organizations and institutions whose structure and activities are operated and conducted in secret, or which possess a military or quasi-military character are forbidden, as regulated by law.

Article 56 Right to form syndicates

The establishment of federations and syndicates on a democratic basis is a right guaranteed by law. Such federations and syndicates will possess legal personality, be able to practice their activities freely, contribute to improving the skills of its members, defend their rights and protect their interests. The state guarantees the independence of all federations and syndicates. The boards of directors thereof may only dissolved by a judicial ruling. Syndicates may not be established within governmental bodies.

Article 57 Trade unions

The law shall regulate the establishment and administration of professional syndicates on a democratic basis, guarantee their independence, and specify their resources and the way members are held accountable for their behavior while performing their professional activities, according to ethical codes of moral and professional conduct. No profession may establish more than one syndicate.

Receivership may not be imposed or for administrative bodies to intervene in the affairs of such syndicates, and their boards of directors may only be dissolved by a judicial ruling. All legislation pertaining to a given profession shall be submitted to the relevant syndicate for consultation.

Article 58 Environment

Every individual has the right to live in a healthy, sound environment. The state shall take measures to preserve and avoid harming the environment and employ a non-consumptive use of natural resources, so as to ensure the achievement of sustainable growth, and guarantee the rights of future generations. Protecting the environment is a national duty.

Article 59 Housing

The state guarantees citizens the right to decent, safe and healthy housing, in a way that preserves human dignity and achieves social justice.

The state shall draft a national housing plan that upholds environmental particularity, and guarantees the contribution of personal and collaborative initiatives in its implementation. The state shall also regulate the use of state lands and provide them with basic facilities, as part of a comprehensive urban planning framework for cities and villages **and a population distribution strategy**. This must be done in a way that serves the public interest, improves the quality of life for citizens and preserves the rights of future generations.

Updated article on transitional provisions

The state shall draft a comprehensive, national plan to address the problem of informal areas that includes providing infrastructure and facilities and improving quality of life and public health. The state shall also guarantee the provision of necessary resources to implement the plan within a specified time frame.

Updated article

Each citizen has the right to healthy, sufficient amounts of food and clean water. The state shall provide food resources to all citizens.

Article 60 Rights of the child

A child is considered to be anyone who has not reached 18 years of age. Children have the right to be named and possess identification papers, have access to free and compulsory vaccinations, health and family care or an alternative, basic nutrition, safe shelter, religious education, and emotional and cognitive development.

The state guarantees the rights of children who have disabilities, and ensures their rehabilitation and incorporation into society. The state shall care for children and protect them from all forms of violence, abuse, mistreatment and commercial and sexual exploitation.

It is prohibited to employ children before they reach the age of having completed their primary education, and it is prohibited to employ them in jobs that expose them to risk.

The state shall establish a judicial system for child victims and witnesses. No child may be held criminally responsible or detained except in accordance with the law and the time frame specified therein. Legal aid shall be provided to children, and they shall be detained in appropriate locations separate from adult detention centers.

The state shall work to achieve children's best interest in all measures taken with regards to them.

Article 61 Rights of the disabled

The state shall guarantee the health, economic, social, cultural, entertainment and sporting rights of dwarves and people with disabilities, and arrange for them to be dealt with equally within the education sector as other citizens. The state shall provide work opportunities for such individuals, in addition to equipping public utilities and their surrounding environment in accordance with ratified international agreements. The state guarantees their right to exercise political rights in accordance with the law.

Updated Article 61 bis (a)

The state guarantees the care of youth and young children, in addition to developing their cultural, scientific, psychological, creative and physical abilities, encouraging them to engage in group and volunteer activity and enabling them to take part in public life.

Updated Article 61 bis (b)

The state guarantees the right of citizens to practice physical sports, and shall sponsor the bodies designated to perform this mission, take necessary measures to encourage the practice of sport, sponsor gifted athletes and champions, and support the sporting community. The law shall regulate the affairs of civil sports bodies, and how to settle sporting disputes.

Article 62 Right to address public authorities

Each individual has the right to file complaints and address public authorities in writing and in signature. No such address shall be made in the name of a legal person except by its representative.

Article 63 Duty to safeguard national security

Preservation of national security is a duty, commitment and national responsibility that shall be upheld by for all. Defense of the nation and protecting its land is an honor and sacred duty. Military service is mandatory according to the law.

Article 64 Citizen participation in public life

The participation of citizens in public life is a national duty. Every citizen has the right to vote, run in elections, and express their opinion in referendums. The law shall regulate the exercise of these rights. Performance of these duties may be exempted in cases specified by the law.

The state shall enter the name of every citizen in the voter registration database without request from the citizen himself, once the citizen meets voting requirements. The state shall also purge this database periodically in accordance with the law. The state guarantees the safety, neutrality and fairness of referendum and election procedures. The use of public funds, government agencies, public facilities, places of worship, business sector establishments and non-governmental organizations and institutions for political purposes and electioneering is forbidden.

Article 65 Egyptians living abroad

The state shall protect the interests of Egyptians living abroad, protect them, guarantee their rights and freedoms, enable them to perform their public duties towards the state and society, and engage them in the nation's development.

The law shall regulate their participation in elections and referendums in a way consistent with their particular circumstances, without being restricted by the provisions on voting, counting of ballots and announcing of results set forth in this constitution. This shall be done with the granting of guarantees that ensure the fairness and neutrality of the election and referendum process.

Article 66 Slavery, oppression, trafficking

Slavery and all forms of oppression and forced exploitation against humans is forbidden, as is sex trafficking and other forms of human trafficking, all of which are punishable by law.

Article 67 Asylum

The state shall grant political asylum to any foreigner who has been persecuted for defending the interests of peoples, human rights, peace or justice.

Extradition of political refugees is forbidden. All of the above is according to the law.

Article 68 Limitations clause

Rights and freedoms of individual citizens may not be suspended or reduced. No law that regulates the exercise of rights and freedoms may restrict them in such a way as infringes upon their essence and foundation.

Chapter Four - Rule of Law

Article 69 Rule of law

The rule of law is the basis of governance in the state.

The state is subject to the law, while the independence, immunity and impartiality of the judiciary are essential guarantees for the protection of rights and freedoms.

Article 70 Punishment

Penalties are personal. Crimes and penalties may only be based on the law, and penalties may only be inflicted by a judicial ruling. Penalties may only be inflicted for acts committed subsequent to the date on which the law enters into effect.

Article 71 Due process

The accused is innocent until proven guilty in a fair court of law, which provides guarantees for him to defend himself.

The law shall regulate the appeal of felony sentences.

The state shall provide protection to the victims, witnesses and accused as necessary.

Article 72 Right to litigate

Litigation is a safeguarded right guaranteed to all. The state shall bring together the litigating parties, and work towards speedy judgment in cases. It is forbidden to grant any act or administrative decision immunity from judicial oversight. Individuals may only be tried before their natural judge. Extraordinary courts are forbidden.

Article 73 Right to defense

The right of defense either in person or by proxy is guaranteed. The independence of lawyers and the fortification of their rights are ensured as a guarantee for the right of defense.

For those who are financially incapable, the law guarantees the means to resort to justice and defend their rights.

Article 74 Violation of personal freedom

Any assault on the personal freedoms or sanctity of the life of citizens, along with other general rights and freedoms guaranteed by the constitution and the law, is a crime with no statute of limitations for both civil and criminal proceedings. The injured party may file a criminal suit directly.

The state guarantees just compensation for those who have been assaulted. The National Council for Human Rights shall inform the prosecutor's office of any violation of these rights, and also possesses the right to enter into an ancillary civil lawsuit on the side of the injured party at its request. This is as specified within the law.

Article 75 Implementation of court decisions

Provisions shall be issued and implemented in the name of the people. The state guarantees the means of implementing them as regulated by the law. Refraining from implementing or impeding the implementation by the competent public servants is a crime that is punishable by law. The prevailing party in such a case may file a criminal suit directly with the competent court.

Articles to be discussed in Sunday's session
11/03/2013

Updated article Intellectual property

The state shall protect intellectual property rights in all sectors and establish a competent apparatus for protecting the intellectual rights of Egyptian creators, protecting them domestically and abroad. The law shall regulate all sectors and mechanisms therefor.

Updated article Waqf system

The state shall revive the charitable Waqf system, and encourage it to sponsor the country's scientific, cultural, health, social and other institutions. Its affairs shall be conducted according to the conditions of the donor and shall be regulated by law.

Updated article Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes

Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes possess no statute of limitations. Any procedural immunities granted to the perpetrators which would prevent questioning them or referral to the law shall not be considered.

Updated article Border regions

The state shall develop the border regions, particularly Sinai, Nubia and Matruh, and engage citizens in drafting development plans for their region, who shall enjoy priority in benefitting from such projects. The state shall also restore the Nubians to their ancestral regions as regulated by the law.

Article 45 Supplement Tissue and organ donation

Tissue and organ donation is a gift of life. Every individual has the right to donate the organs of his body during his lifetime or after his death in accordance with documented consent. The state shall establish mechanisms to regulate the rules of organ donation and harvesting according to the law.

Updated article Citizenship

Citizenship is a right for those born to an Egyptian father and mother. Legal recognition thereof and the issuance of identification papers is a right guaranteed and regulated by the law.

Updated article Food sovereignty

The state shall guarantee food sovereignty, in a way that achieves sustainable self-sufficiency for healthy and suitable foods. The state shall also protect direct food producers, provide small producers with the

necessary tools for production, appropriate means of irrigation, and encourage and improve local production.

The state guarantees to preserve biodiversity and local seeds and protect them from extinction, benefitting from inherited agricultural experience while making use of scientific progress over the long term.

Updated article Workers' protection

The state guarantees protection for workers against work risks, and provides conditions for security, safety and occupational health in the workplace according to the law.

Workers may not be arbitrarily dismissed. Employees may not suffer losses as a result of activity within a syndicate. The state must adhere to agreements, announcements, and international charters previously ratified, particularly with regards to the rights of workers and business owners. The state ensures mechanisms for collective bargaining and work agreements, both of which enjoy legal protection.

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