



The vast area of the Southern Red Sea region is considered to be a desert, which could be one of the reasons for the inhabitants of the area to adopt nomadic way of life. For long period of time, these inhabitants were deprived of social services as they settlement as community was very minimal to undertake concerted action. Considering the imperative contribution of people's participation in backing up any development drive in the Southern Red Sea region, the Assembly (Baito) of the Southern Red Sea region is endeavoring to maximize their input in the ongoing development projects thereby to effectively realizing the outlined programs. Shabait conducted an interview with Chairman of the regional assembly of the Southern Red Sea Region, Mr. Ali Nur Ali regarding the assembly's activities and people's input. Excerpt follows:

Could you please introduce us with the Assembly (Baito) of the Southern Red Sea region?

The assembly of the Southern Red Sea region has 35 members out of whom 9 are women. It has one chairman and 3 elders' committee who are administrators of social service, development as well as law and customs. At least once a month reports from the people's representatives are presented to the Assembly office. The regional assembly holds extensive discussions and passes recommend solutions based on the peoples wish. It also hears, evaluates the work performed and comments on the performance reports. This region has 4 sub-zones, which are Araita, Southern Denkel, Central Denkel and Assab.

With the expanding of social service in the region, what improvement has been registered in the living standard of the inhabitants?

Before independence, the distribution of social service rendering institutions was severely limited, especially in the education sector. Majority of the population were deprived of access to education. There were a handful of schools in coastal areas of Assab, Edi and Tio while other areas were deprived of educational opportunity as well as other social services.

Active Popular Participation: Requisite For Development Endeavors

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