

South Yemen Update

Dream no small dreams for they do not have the power to move the hearts of men

Newsletter of the Friends of South Yemen

South Yemen Update Issue - 39

Jan - 2024

A significant moment in the history of South Yemen, STC president inaugurates a House of Commons in Aden

Yesterday, in Aden, South Yemen, Major General Aidaroos Al-Zubaidi, President of the Southern Transitional Council and Vice President of the Leadership Council in Yemen, inaugurated the STC House of Commons. A momentous event that marks a significant turning point in the region's tumultuous history.



President Aidaroos AlZubaidi Addresses the Assembly

This development is not just a political milestone; it is a historic moment that encapsulates the aspirations and struggles of the people's history of South Yemen. The STC, established in 2017, has its roots in the legacy of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, which governed South Yemen from 1967 to 1990. The dissolution of that state and the subsequent unification with North Yemen in 1990, although a landmark event, sowed the seeds of conflict that erupted in the invasion of Aden in 1994, proceeded by North Yemen's full occupation of the South to implement unity by force.

The STC House of Commons inauguration represents a critical juncture in the South's history. It symbolizes a reassertion of Southern Yemen's distinct identity and socio-political ambitions. This

new chamber unites the Presidency of the STC, its National Assembly, and the Council of Advisors, positioning itself as a pivotal body to address pressing issues and make crucial decisions for South Yemen (South Arabia).

The significance of this event extends beyond the borders of Yemen. It underscores the complexities of national unity and the challenges of political integration. The growing movement in South Yemen advocating for a return to their pre-1990 independent state reflects deep-seated grievances and highlights the flaws in the initial unification process.

What is the Southern House of Commons?

The Southern House of Commons established by the President of the Southern Transitional Council (STC), General Aidaroos Al-Zubaidi, inaugurated today, January 2, 2024, in Aden, is a significant political assembly within the structure of the STC. This council embodies a comprehensive representation of the Transitional Council's various entities and plays a pivotal role in the governance and future decision-making for South Yemen. Its composition includes:

1.The Presidency of the Transitional Council: This body represents the STC's executive leadership, including the president and vice presidents.

2.The Supreme Executive Leadership of the Transitional Council: This branch oversees the executive functions and ensures that the council's decisions are implemented effectively.

3.The General National Assembly of the Transitional Council (Parliament): This assembly represents a broader membership of the STC, functioning as the legislative body, discussing, and creating policy.

4.The Council of Advisors of the Transitional Council: This group comprises experts and advisors who provide guidance and recommendations on various issues, ensuring informed decision-making.

The House of Commons' primary responsibility is to deliberate and make crucial decisions concerning the South, particularly those involving sovereign jurisdiction. This responsibility positions it as the most significant and expansive political body within the STC, reflecting its central role in

shaping the political landscape of South Yemen.



Delegates Attending the Inauguration of the STC House of Commons

Moreover, the House of Commons is integral to reinforcing national partnerships in the South, bringing representatives from all various provinces and cities in the South. It is tasked with critical future responsibilities, such as approving vital decisions regarding the state of the South. Significantly, it is responsible for the approval of the formation of the National Committee for Drafting the Constitution and the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum in South Yemen. These roles underscore its critical function in shaping the constitutional and democratic framework of the South.

The Southern House of Commons is a central and comprehensive body within the STC tasked with making significant decisions that will shape the future political and social landscape of South Yemen. Its establishment marks a crucial step in the South's pursuit of self-governance and underscores the ongoing efforts to establish a distinct and sovereign identity for South Yemen.

The House of Commons stood before the topics on its agenda, and at the end of its convention, it approved the following:

1. The HC approved the espousing of the political and directive speech delivered by President Aidarous Al-Zoubaidi as a basic document of the meeting and a guiding framework for the HC's work. It assigns all the commissions and central and local bodies of the STC to work on translating its contents into their working plans and embodying them in the reality of their dealings in a way that serves the supreme national interest of the people of the South.

2. The HC asserts its full commitment to the contents of the historic Aden Statement issued on May 4, 2017, and renews the national mandate of President Aidarous Al-Zoubaidi to lead and represent the people of the South and their national cause towards achieving their great national goals.

3. The HC gives its full commitment to preserving, strengthening, and directing the political, diplomatic, military, and security achievements fulfilled to preserve the unity of the South and its identity as land and people, defend it, and liberate what remains of it to achieve the aspirations of the people of the South.

4. The right of the people of the South to independence and sovereignty over their land and national resources is fixed—inalienable—and owned by the people of the South, and only they can decide on them as being inherited from successive generations over time. Therefore, it will never be eliminated by obsolescence or annulled by political errors, it derives its stability from the fixed truth on which human existence and survival depend. Thus, the HC confirms its compliance and adherence to the right of the people of the South to sovereignty over their land and resources, their right to independence, and to restore and build their independent federal state on its internationally recognized borders. The HC authorizes President Aidarous Al-Zoubaidi to take appropriate decisions to ensure the implementation of the will of the people of the South, embody their hopes and aspirations, and preserve and protect their sovereign rights.

5. The HC affirms the STC's full commitment to the contents of the Southern National Charter and works to achieve the foundations, principles, and orientations contained therein, to strengthen the southern national alignment based on the deeply-rooted principle of the South for and by all its people.



6. The HC confirms the openness of the STC to all the southern political and social spectrum, its continued approach to constructive dialogue with all southern forces, personalities, and formations, and its belief in the partnership of all in drawing the features of the new federal state of the South, achieving national balance, justice in the distribution of power and wealth, and reparation for all victims of conflicts over the past six decades.

7- The HC reaffirms its support for all regional and international peace efforts, stressing the priority of developing a special negotiating framework for the cause of the people of the South in the negotiations of the political process to ensure the achievement of the desired peace, noting that any neglect or postponing of the issue of the people of the South will not lead to peace, as our people will not accept identification with any neglect of their cause and will not overdo their gains, ultimate sacrifices, and great national goals.

8. The HC salutes the courage and valor of our southern armed and security forces in defending the security, stability, and integrity of the homeland. The HC underscores that the southern armed forces will remain an impenetrable fence to protect the South and its people, secure national gains, combat terrorism and extremism, and underline their drilling, qualifying, and armament, strengthening their role in securing territorial waters and protecting international maritime navigation. It calls on all our people to coalesce around the southern armed forces and strengthen them, as they are the shield and impregnable fortress of the South, whose steadfastness, firmness, and greatness nullify the hatched plans and conspiracies of the enemies.

9. The HC highlights the completion of building state institutions, empowering qualified southern leaders and competencies, and working to combat corruption in all state institutions.

10. The HC appreciates the support of the official brothers in the Arab coalition for our people, their resistance, and their armed forces in the face of the hordes of Houthi invaders and affirms that the South and its aspired state will only be a factor of stability, integration, and integration with its Gulf and Arab extension and its regional and international surroundings, and the exchange of interests and benefits.

11. The HC affirms the openness of the STC and its full readiness for dialogue with the political forces opposed to the Houthi militia in the North, to reach approaches and understandings that enhance cooperation and joint work within the framework of mutual interests, responsibilities, and common concerns.

12. The HC calls for an immediate ceasefire and genocidal war on the civilian population of the Gaza Strip, and calls for action to implement the two-state solution on the basis of the Arab Initiative and the Abraham Accord.



FRIENDS OF SOUTH YEMEN (FOSY)

2 Firshill Road, Sheffield S4 7BB , United kingdom

Tel: +44 7802 763711

Email: info@friendsofyemen.org

Website: www.friendsofyemen.org

facebook: fb.me/fosy2020



Design: Yusef Alabbadi