

Canada Egypt Business Council NEWSLETTER



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The Egyptian 25 January Revolution marked a turning point in the history of Egypt and the region, with over 846 martyrs, Egypt paid a dear price for its freedom from corruption and poverty. A transitional period ensued, which was not a celebration of the freedom won, but a battle to make the revolution a reality for a country that has not known democracy for its 7000-year history. With 'anti-revolutionary' elements, 'former regime remnants', and the most powerful of all, economic crisis, fighting against a democracy in the making, the past 15 months, Egypt has suffered turmoil to say the least.

For the first time, the streets are filled with eager anticipation for the next president, I feel enthusiastic seeing regular Egyptian men and women now fully engaged in the process of deciding the fate of their country; all restless to start building their new Egypt, an Egypt they can have a true sense of ownership over.

During this time, which was mainly characterized by confusion and uncertainty, the Canada Egypt Business Council has worked tirelessly to bring on its podium the key players in the scene to address the Council's members and to give them a firsthand relay of the ongoing events and the coming period. Presidential candidates were hosted in CEBC events alongside prominent thinkers, politicians and journalists.

As the international community holds its breath until the revealing of Egypt's new president, we are full of hope and enthusiasm to start building a new Egypt. Mahatma Gandhi once asked, "Freedom is never dear at any price. It is the breath of life. What would a man not pay for living?" And indeed Egyptians have paid a dear price to live dignified, and I pray that now is the time for reaping the fruit of all their hard work and sacrifice.

Motaz Raslan
Chairman



CEBC

Tribute to Pope Shenouda III

The 117th Pope and Patriarch of the Church of Alexandria



Nazeer Gayed born on 3 August 1923, he became a monk in 1954 under the name Father Antonios the Syrian after joining the Syrian Monastery of the Ever-Virgin Mary . In 1958, he was elevated to the priesthood. In 1962, Pope Cyril VI summoned Fr. Antonios and consecrated him General Bishop for Christian Education and as Dean of the Coptic Orthodox Theological Seminary, whereupon he assumed the name Shenouda, which was the name of the Coptic saint, Shenoute the Archimandrite (lived 347/348–465/466), as well as two previous popes: Shenouda I (Episcopate 859–880) and Shenouda II (Episcopate 1047–1077). Saint Shenoute the Archimandrite was instrumental in flourishing the Monastic Movement, active in Ecumenical issues, a noted Church teacher and writer, and an Egyptian Leader. Pope Shenouda III maintained the legacy of the name he carried.

Following the death of Pope Cyril VI on 9 March 1971, the selection process resulted in Bishop Shenouda's becoming the new Pope. He was consecrated on 14 November 1971, presiding over a worldwide expansion of the Coptic Orthodox Church. During his papacy, he appointed the first-ever bishops to preside over North American dioceses, which now contain over two hundred parishes (200 in the United States, 23 in Canada and one in Mexico), up from four in 1971. He also appointed the first Coptic bishops in Europe, Australia and South America. Within Egypt, he struggled for the welfare of his people and the Church. Pope Shenouda III was known for his commitment to ecumenism and had, since the 1970s, advocated inter-denominational Christian dialogue. He devoted his writings, teachings and actions to spreading and propagating guidelines for understanding, peace, dialogue and forgiveness.

In 2000, Pope Shenouda III was awarded the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence by UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura on the recommendation of an international jury. The award was "for promoting exchange and understanding between Christianity and Islam in today's Middle East and his deep concern to pursue dialogue with all the great religious faiths and his major role in forging ecumenical links with all other members of the Christian family throughout the planet".

Political and religious reactions to his death came from across the Egyptian spectrum and internationally. The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces issued a statement expressing his wish of "preserving the unity of Egypt and the unity of its social fabric" should be achieved. It added that with the loss the country should "consolidate with each other in order to pass with Egypt towards security and stability." Its leader, Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, decreed three days of mourning for Christians working for state institutions. The Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party speaker of parliament, Saad Katatni, said of the Pope's death that Egypt had lost "one of its national icons, a man who left a void in the political arena at a critical time".

Prime Minister Kamal el-Ganzouri's statement read: "I give my sincere condolences to the Coptic brothers home and abroad. He was a national character and a symbol for patriotism and he gained wide respect and appreciation from the Egyptian people."

General Ahmed Shafik said that his death was a loss to Egypt because he was a “unique religious leader and a distinguished character in the national history. Coptic church will pass this hard moment because of the great legacy of Pope Shenouda”. Amre Moussa added that Shenouda was “a great man who was working for the interests of the country. He was working for Egypt to stand as a unified front against the challenges facing the nation”.

Sheikh Ahmed El-Tayeb, the grand imam of al-Azhar University, said that “Egypt has lost one of its rare men at a sensitive moment when it most needs the wisest of its wise – their expertise and their purity of minds” he also added that he “greatly remembers his vision towards Jerusalem and its history.”

Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian praised Pope Shenouda for “constructive and lasting efforts to achieve peace and justice” and offered his condolences to the Coptic Orthodox Church and Copts.

President Barack Obama said of Pope Shenouda that “we will remember Pope Shenouda III as a man of deep faith, a leader of a great faith, and an advocate for unity and reconciliation...a beloved leader of Egypt’s Coptic Christians and an advocate for tolerance and religious dialogue. We stand alongside Coptic Christians and Egyptians as they honor his contributions in support of peace and cooperation. His commitment to Egypt’s national unity is also a testament to what can be accomplished when people of all religions and creeds work together.”

Pope Shenouda III was viewed as one of the Great Patriarchs of the ancient Church of Alexandria, a well-known church father and teacher, a chief defender of the faith, and a noted Egyptian leader of the 20th and 21st centuries.

“My God, the deepest love is to love You

My God, I desire to see You.....in beauty, in splendid glory, in majesty, in the midst of Your heavenly powers

You are the Fullness of both mind and heart....no one have I in life’s estrangement but You

I love You, O Lord, in my solitude

You call to my heart by the depth of Your words

I love You, O Lord, in my tribulations

And in my time of need, and in the time of pain

I love You, O Lord, in my repentance

and in the time of tears, and the time of regret

I love You, O Lord, in the time of prosperity

I love You, O Lord, in the time of destitution” by Pope Shenouda...



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Egypt...The Way Forward

H.E. Amre Moussa



The Canada Egypt Business Council (CEBC) hosted a special event and panel discussion featuring H.E. Amre Moussa, former Secretary General of the League of Arab States and former minister of foreign affairs, together with distinguished presenter and media guru, Mr. Hafez Al Mirazi. The event was held to discuss the future of Egypt in light of the heated debate and political confusion that is currently dominating Egypt's political scene. The discussion also covered Moussa's presidential candidacy and his vision for Egypt.

The event is the seventh in a series of events addressing economic and political issues pertaining to Egypt after the revolution. Over 260 notable attendees were present at the event from ministers, ambassadors, CEBC members and guests and numerous public figures and renowned businessmen. Also present were ambassadors of Canada, Lebanon, Morocco, Turkey, Spain, Cuba and Greece.

CEBC Chairman, Mr. Motaz Raslan, in his remarks, highlighted that as the nation celebrates the first anniversary of the Egyptian January 25 revolution, it is in a difficult juncture. Concerning strong disagreements among political factions around the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF), Raslan quoted Omar Ibn El Khatab, a leading companion and adviser to prophet Muhammad (PBUH), in his famous saying that if God wants to punish a group of people, He would let them delve into unending debate, pointing out the gravity of the situation. He also expressed his concern at the deeply entrenched divisions within the different political factions and its negative impact on economy criticizing and blaming the old regime for the challenges the country is facing now. He sees that as SCAF hands over power to the elected president in June, not much will change, as change should be prompted from within the people. Raslan addressed the presidential elections race and said that it will be a tough competition although there will not be much prestige in the post as much as heavy and enormous responsibilities. He then welcomed the event's speaker, Mr. Amre Moussa praising his prominent career, which even though was mostly under the old regime, was full of achievements and stands on issues that set him apart from his counterparts such as Moussa's stand on the Arab – Israeli conflict and his campaign against a Nuclear Israel.

Mr. Hafez Al Mirazi, Director of the Adham Center for TV and Digital Journalism, also served as Washington Bureau Chief for Al-Jazeera, and hosted the channel's weekly show from Washington, currently hosts the popular Egyptian show, Studio Cairo, started his word speaking of the time he spent in Washington and of his experience with the American presidential elections, which he worked very closely on. He noted that, in the U.S., it was not much the platform of a candidate that the voters assessed a candidate based on, as much as his political attitudes and achievements in past careers, and that a candidate's previous achievements foretell his or her future performance, while a platform can be engineered to appeal to people, without guarantees that it will in fact be implemented. He also highlighted the importance of naming the presidential candidate's vice president, calling it "a presidential candidate's first test".

Al Mirazi stated the great advantage of the media coverage the potential presidential candidates are currently receiving, "it is quintessential for voters to get well acquainted with the different candidates".

In relation to the question of "the Constitution or the president first", Al Mirazi sees that it is absurd to believe in the possibility of re-writing a constitution within a few months. He referred to the American experience, where controversy was the key player in the process, in which much time was invested, in order to reach a consensus between the different factions of society. In conclusion to this, "making mistakes is a mandatory part of the process and that the entire nation should not suffer a destructive pause until the drafting of a constitution" Al Mirazi noted.



Eng. Motaz Raslan



Mr. Hafez Al Mirazi

Mr. Amre Moussa, then assumed the floor starting his speech by going back to a statement he made in 2010, which Raslan referred to in his opening remarks, mentioning that Moussa had predicted that the Arab world will witness immense changes and his prophecy came true. He expressed his confidence that if this same crowd would meet in a year from now, another prophecy would again be true and Egypt would be by then on the right track towards progress. Explaining his point further, he resembled the current situation of the country to ingredients boiling to soon produce tasty healthy food, expressing his faith in Egypt emerging into its 'second republic', to become one that is radically different from the first dictatorship one.



Eng. Motaz Raslan, H.E. Amre Moussa



Eng. Motaz Raslan, H.E. Amre Moussa,
Mr. Hafez Al Mirazi

Moussa sees that Egypt in the shadow of the past regime was locked in a stalemate, and that now it is time to focus on progress “when a state fails, it is not merely its institutions that fail, but also the people” he noted, adding that when one looks forward to progress, one should not seek it in a new parliament or president, but also in genuine change in the society in its more general sense, “the president is no longer the sole person responsible for the advancement of a nation, individual members of the society should have a vision for the country as the future of Egypt lies in the hands of the people of Egypt,” Moussa said.

In consensus with Raslan’s point on the negative impact the constant division and debate is leaving on Egypt, Moussa commented that it is best to abide by the plan which was laid earlier and that stipulates the complete handing over of power to civilian authority by the end of June of this year. He also said that calls to hand over power to the parliament or to an interim president were not realistic and will only result in prolonging the transitional period and that if this happens, it would in turn halt any economic progress. “The world is ready to fund massive developmental projects in Egypt and other Arab Spring nations, where democracies are emerging and where peoples were able to rid themselves of deeply rooted dictatorships, the funds are ready, but they will not start flowing until there is a long-standing legitimate authority in place,” Moussa added.

Moussa then highlighted the importance of planning for the period that will follow the handing over of power to a civilian authority, seeing that despite having numerous fields of development that are in urgent need for serious action, many would find education to be the most pressing issue of all. Another issue that should receive the same attention as education is “the Egyptian character”, from Moussa’s point of view, “values such as perseverance and hard work have been shaken in the Egyptian character, and this is the real problem that Egypt is facing, we cannot build this country, unless there is an infrastructure of values and principles. People have to believe in hard work and in their country”.

“Rebuilding Egypt is not a slogan, it is a responsibility and an agenda” Moussa said, emphasizing that rebuilding Egypt is based on three pillars, democracy, which he defined to be not merely the majority voting for president or parliament assuming power, but also the separation of powers, independence of the judiciary, respecting human rights, basic freedoms, as well as implementing and enforcing the provisions of the law. The second pillar is reform, which is at the moment a matter of life or death and that if Egypt is not progressing, it would definitely be deteriorating. The third pillar in rebuilding Egypt is eliminating corruption which is currently rooted in rules and regulations, especially those that were legislated in the last few years, tailored to serve certain individual’s interests. He added that in legal reform, the constitution, which is the father of all laws, should be the first to undergo such reforms. In disagreement to Al Mirazi’s views on the subject, he sees that drafting a constitution should not take up a long period of time. He affirmed his confidence that it is not as difficult as some believe for a group of seasoned intellectuals from the different factions of society to reach consensus about a constitution.

Moussa then addressed several challenges that would face the process of drafting the constitution. The first he mentioned was concerning the role of the president and the type of government where he favors the presidential system in Egypt adding that it is not a dictatorship, but rather puts the responsibility and accountability where it should be. The second is concerning the identity of the nation. The third and final point is in relation to the Armed Forces, where he sees that it will require some concessions on the part of the different parties involved, but will not prove too difficult to resolve for those assigned with writing the constitution. Thus, Moussa sees that it would be in the greater benefit of Egypt to start drafting the constitution now, so that by the end of the presidential race, it would be ready.



Mr. Sameh Makram Ebeid



H.E. Dr. Ahmed Darwish

The potential presidential candidate then spoke briefly about his vision for education and health. On education, he sees that Egyptian education today does not produce a labor force that fits the Egyptian job market, nor the international one. He added that the government should not be spending millions of pounds on educational institutions, which are not producing a demanded product. On health, he mentioned a policy that was previously instated but not implemented, which stipulated the presence of health care centers in all counties, he also highlighted other challenges concerning weak management, corruption, poor choice of polices, and lack of timeliness. Moussa also mentioned administrative decentralization and developing different governorates as two processes he intends to carry out, if he becomes the president. Moussa concluded his word by expressing his confidence in Egypt's ability to regain its former glory.



H.E. Dr. Yehia El Gamal



Mr. Mina Morcos

The floor was then opened for questions which discussed and highlighted important issues such as subsidies, which comprise around 135 billion Egyptian pounds and are largely funded by Egypt's debts, another was Moussa's stand on the Muslim Brotherhood and the possible disputes that are likely to erupt also the issue of imported food and the dramatic increase in the population that builds up each year, Moussa commented about that saying "poverty is not Egypt's destiny, but it is the result of bad management and because citizens are not working hard enough, we are the reason behind the poverty but can still fight it". Other questions addressed the role of the Arab League, transparency, the performance of SCAF during the transitional period.

This year Egypt will see its first elected president and presidential candidates similar to Amre Moussa make that, even more than it already is, something that the world looks forward to. Despite the many turbulences and unfortunate events that are dominating the news and the political scene, they are indeed ingredients cooking in a pot and would eventually take Egypt to the democracy its people demanded and died for in their January 25 revolution that inspired millions around the world.



*Mr. Rimon Iskander, Mr. Mahfouz Nasralla,
Prima Elios for Electrical Industries*



*H.E. Dr. Nadia Zakhary, H.E. Dr. Hany Helal,
H.E. Dr. Ahmed Shafik, Dr. Mona Makram
Ebeid*



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Egyptian Media between Accountability and Credibility



Mr. Emad Adib



Dr. Abdel Halim Kandil



Mr. Magdy El-Gallad

The Canada Egypt Business Council (CEBC) hosted a special event and panel discussion featuring some of Egypt's most celebrated media gurus Emad Adib, Abdel Halim Kandil and Magdy El Gallad. The event was held to discuss the role of Egyptian media and the challenges it is facing in this critical period.

The event is the eighth in a series of events addressing economic and political issues pertaining to Egypt after the revolution. Over 270 notable attendees were present at the event from ministers, ambassadors, CEBC members and guests, among whom was Minister of Scientific Research Dr. Nadia Zakhary, Head of the National Council for Sports, Mr. Emad El Banany, Counselor Yehia El Gamal, Dr. Ibrahim Fawzy, Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama, Ambassador Moshira Khatab, Dr. Sameh Farid, Ambassador Mohamad Oraby, H.E. Mohamed El Sawy, Dr. Ali Mosselhy, Dr. Zahi Hawass and Counselor Adly Hussein. Also present were ambassadors of Tunisia, Jordan, and the United Kingdom among numerous other public figures and renowned businessmen.



CEBC Chairman, Mr. Motaz Raslan, delivered the opening remarks for the discussion expressing his sincere condolences to Egypt for the passing away of Pope Shenouda III, who was the Coptic Orthodox Church head for over four decades with unforgettable patriotic stands to fight sectarian strife among the Egyptian community and was revered and respected by Egypt's Christians and Muslims alike.

In his remarks, he highlighted that one of the most pressing issues that are at the center of every Egyptian's attention is the credibility of the media pinpointing the wave of commercial news media that many satellite channels are part of, where "the most important element is the size of viewership and readership"

Citing outrageous examples of when the media played a detrimental role in the country, Raslan criticized the increased yellow journalism particularly the polarization of Christians and Muslims and media reports that aimed at inciting one faction of society against the other. "Media created two teams: one fearing for the security of his nations and the other greedy and rabid and both teams are not fit to lead the country into revival". Raslan quoted prominent thinker Ahmed Kamal Aboulmagd, saying that media is the soft power, which can lead the development of society or contribute to sinking it in unending turmoil. Raslan concluded his word highlighting the urgency of improving the media apparatuses and working towards making them a catalyst of Egypt's development.

Abdel Halim Kandil, Editor-in-Chief of Sout El Omma daily newspaper (The Voice of the Nation) was a strong opponent of the former regime criticizing it openly in his writings, and subsequently suffered much, he is also one of the founders of Kefaya movement, the first movement that called for a change in power in Egypt long before the revolution. He held the position of its General Coordinator and is currently the movement's spokesperson. Kandil spoke of the historical significance of the time that Egypt is going through, speaking of the Pope, he pointed out that the sorrow the country is witnessing testifies to the unity of its factions as Muslims and Christians.

Speaking about media, Kandil sees that a neutral media is mythical and that it is impossible to isolate the media practitioner from the subject on whom he or she is reporting, thus, it is more correct to speak of the objectivity of the media and the accuracy of the information it provides. He added that the media is the closest work field to politics, and is consequently a reflection of all its characteristics and that the struggle is inevitably part of human living. "The objective of a society is to go through the struggle and the continuous jostling with the least amount of damage," Kandil said.

Kandil noted that efforts towards discussing the objectivity of the media were pointless under the former regime, "There was no politics and consequently no media", he explained. He said that the majority of media outlets had a single viewer, listener and reader, which was the ruler, with two types of media remaining still, one that is state-owned and the other owned by business tycoons, and that both naturally defended the interests of the bankroller before anything. He noted that media outlets which were dissident to this majority, contributed to reviving the nation through the revolution, "They raised the censorship ceiling to the sky, and not to the sole of his excellence, the president's shoe," said Kandil.



Speaking of the present, Kandil said that the battle for freedom of press is ongoing and that there are efforts to downsize the freedom, the media already obtained and to constrain it to the former regime's boundaries. He said that, Sout El Omma, was confiscated three times in a period of nine months, shortly before the revolution and once more after the revolution, through the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF). He said that the tactic, which the former regime used in such practices, is similar to murder using a firearm equipped with a sound silencer. He explained saying that it is a tactic unique to Egypt, where confiscation takes place without the legal procedures required to confiscate a publication, which requires a judicial decision. He said that this reoccurred for several TV shows recently, as well.

Kandil pointed to three indispensable guarantors of freedom of press: freedom of publishing a newspaper, a penal code that does not include imprisonment as one of the possible sentences in publishing crimes and a law that guaranteed the transparency of information. He said that Egypt currently has 25 articles that allow imprisonment in publishing

crimes. He also said that journalists still do not have access to public documents and their sources are usually based on a word of mouth, or through leaked documents from an institution or the other.

After his eloquent analysis, Kandil left the floor to Magdy El Gallad who is currently heading El Watan newspaper, he is also a lecturer at El Sharqia University and hosts a TV show dubbed "Lazem Nefham". El Gallad sees that the Egyptian media is the product of numerous factors, which did not affect the media alone, but also other walks of life. He said that there is a process of "leveling" the Egyptian mind with an attempt to unify people's thoughts on issues and keep them always surface deep. In explanation of the factors, El Gallad spoke of the origins of Egyptian media saying that it was never an entity independent from the former regime, but an inseparable part of it. He added that Egypt only had, what was then called 'formal media' – meaning state-owned media, until early or mid-nineties.



He sees that just as the political system was a nominal democracy, so was the freedom of press nominal, it was an amount of freedom, set by the ruler, for cosmetic purposes, before the international community and those who would surpass that ceiling, stipulated by the regime, such as Abdel Halim Kandil, were subject to its punishment. He said that since the media is a reflection of the political system in place, the problem naturally remains as we still suffer from an unbalanced political regime at the current time.

Another problem that El Gallad sees is the unbalanced relationship between the capital and content, in the case of privately owned media. He said that this is a result of lacking in the laws that regulate this issue. In addition to that, El Galad attributed the problem to the deformed capitalism experience, which Egypt had. He sees that Egypt has not experienced national capitalism, which served the welfare of the country therefore, when businessmen launched media outlets, they did not hold the welfare of the country as their priority, but their own. The final problem is the lack of professionalism among media practitioners, which is a direct consequence of the failure of education apparatuses in the country and as a result, instead of the media affecting and forming public awareness, the media is using the language of the street and is brought down to its level.

El Gallad concluded his word proposing the following solutions to the problem, saying that, firstly, there has to be recalibrating of the forms of proprietary of privately and state-owned media. Secondly, there has to be a number of set causes, which would be the focus of the media's attention where these causes are to be stipulated by the elite of Egypt's thinkers. "Reforming education, which is prerequisite to any form of development, is the third arm of the solution", fourthly and finally, he said that a legislation reform is mandatory for the improvement of the state of the media.



Emad Adib then assumed the floor. Adib has a celebrated career in the media; his career started as a journalist and culminated in his ownership of a renowned publishing house. He now hosts a show called "Behodoo" (literally calmly). In contradiction with his predecessors, he pointed out to the audience, that it is the decision-maker after 30 June of the current year, which should be the focus of attention. 30 June of this year is when a civil president assumes power in Egypt, as SCAF hands over power to him or her, after the presidential elections have taken their course. He added that both media and advertisements will be a factor in forming the outcome of the presidential race. "The amount of money that is projected to be spent on the presidential elections, from within and without Egypt, exceeds 1.5 billion Egyptian pounds in some estimates," Adib said. He deduced from his eye-opening statistic that whoever owns the funds will be the true decision-maker in the process. He also mentioned, in witty sarcasm, the undignifying bribes, with which votes and notarizations are purchased from people. "Therefore,

I would like to tell you the good news. The people will not choose the coming president. You will not choose the coming president," he said. He added that for the future president, to have to collect fund that amount to over a billion Egyptian pound, will have to pledge his allegiance to his generous funders.

He continued to say that one of the problems the media is facing now is that it is being dragged in battles peripheral to the main issue at hand. He added that there is confusion among many now between an opinion and a piece of news; between an impression and a fact. He moved on to talk about a phenomenon, which he dubbed "the activist media person", saying that such cadre should not be found except in media outlets that are explicitly affiliated to a specific faction of the political spectrum and he cited Fox Channel as one example. He added that in agreement with both previous speakers, there cannot be complete neutrality in journalism, while there should be professionalism that stipulates objectivity. In the absence of both aspects, Adib deduced "we are living a phase in which news media...is forging the will of the people."

Before the floor was open for questions, Loula Zaklama, a PR guru and a prominent businesswoman in the region, said a few words on news media. Zaklama pointed out the absence of mechanisms that hold different media outlets accountable for the information they provide and she asked the speakers on what they thought should be done to create such mechanisms. Kandil said that the law is the answer, a law that conforms to international standards on the subject, and the rule of that law, Kandil added. In regards to the same question, Adib said that as long as there has not been a judicial verdict deeming a person guilty of a specific crime, one should not accuse him or her of it in the papers. He added that this is a moral code, which one does not just learn in college, but should be instilled in him well before that.

In conclusion to the discussion, Kandil said that the right to vote, is one of few rights Egyptians earned themselves through the revolution. He added that whatever the outcome of they Egyptian vote is, it is theirs to own. He said that the experience of choosing their ruler is in itself a great gain. Indeed, whether they will renew their vote to that candidate or not, is secondary to the bigger picture, which says that the Egyptian people have found their way to the path towards democracy, and have started to tread on it, even if for the time being not as steadily, as one would hope for.



Mr. Magdy El-Gallad, Editor-in-Chief, Al Watan Newspaper, Eng. Motaz Raslan



Eng. Motaz Raslan, Mr. Emad Adib



Mr. Mohamed Eweiss, Mr. Aziz Madkour,
Mr. Eloui Farid, Ms. Loula Zaklama



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Egypt... The Way Forward

Dr. Abdel Moneim Abolfotoh



Eng. Motaz Raslan



Dr. Abdel Moneim Abolfotoh



Mr. Amr El Leithy



Eng. Motaz Raslan

Dr. Abdel Moneim Abolfotoh

Mr. Amr El Leithy

The Canada Egypt Business Council (CEBC) hosted its third event in series of meetings with Egypt's presidential candidates, featuring one of the presidential race's top contenders, Dr. Abdel Moneim Abolfotoh, who shed light on his presidential electoral program and Egypt's future agenda. Over 270 distinguished attendees were present at the event representing governmental ministers, ambassadors, CEBC members and guests.

Abolfotoh is famous for confronting former president, Anwar El Sadat, during a debate as the President of Cairo University Student Union. He became part of the Muslim Brotherhood in his youth and was a member of the Guidance Bureau from 1987 and until 2009. He also had a celebrated political career and was the General Secretary of the Doctors Syndicate and General Secretary of the Union of Arab Doctors. He was arrested a number of times for his political activities under the former regimes, in 1981 under Anwar El Sadat's and again under Mubarak's, during which he attained a law degree. Worthy to mention is that he is endorsed by moderate and conservative Islamist groups alike, yet not by the mainstream and dominant Islamist group, the Muslim Brotherhood (of which he was part until he quit after choosing to disobey the group's decision not to field a presidential candidate).

CEBC Chairman, Mr. Motaz Raslan, started his opening remarks for the discussion by criticizing the state of bewilderment and confusion that the Egyptian political scene is delved in the meantime, pointing out the grave problem of trust between the different factions of society, within parties and between the authorities and people. Raslan also spoke of the ambiguity and pessimism that is prevalent in this atmosphere, expressing his deep concern over the reflection of this chaos on the media and how it is playing the role of a catalyst to the confusion. On a brighter note, Raslan drew attention to some key positive events that took place in the previous stage, namely the Supreme Council of Armed Forces' commitment to hand over power to civil authorities by the end of June 2012 and the ruling

unconstitutionality of the formation of the constituent assembly, which was unrepresentative of the all factions of Egyptian society.

Amr El Leithy, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the weekly newspaper “El Khamees” and who is also a professor at the High Institute for Artistic Criticism, the High Institute for Cinema and the International Academy for Mass Communication Sciences, and the winner of the “Best Presenter of a Political Show” award by the Cairo Festival for Radio and Television as well as the “UNESCO” award for developmental mass communication, was sharing the panel with Dr. Abolfotoh. Dr. Abolfotoh started his word in disagreement with what he described as the pessimistic vibe in the title of discussion ‘Where is Egypt Heading?’. He expressed his faith in the Egyptian youth, going back to the first 18 days of the revolution, when in his capacity as a doctor; he was in the morgues, which were overflowing with the dead bodies of the martyrs, “those people, who believed in Egypt and chose to give up their lives for, did not die in vain, the people of Egypt are just great, and will not relent until they see Egypt great”, said Abolfotoh.



Dr. Abdel Moneim Abolfotoh

“Democracy is the only solution,” Abolfotoh said. He said that all parties are obliged to accept its outcome, even if it does not conform to their will or aspirations, “the Pharaohs era is over and the Egyptians will not give anyone license to rule them as he wishes anymore”, Abolfotoh said. He criticized the current dominant party for wanting to hijack political life and to play all the roles possible in the political arena. He said that while it is their right, as democracy is what brought them the power they possess, however they still should give space for other parties to contribute to the political process taking place.

Abolfotoh criticized dubbing anyone who had a political career in Mubarak’s era to be labeled as ‘feloul’; a word commonly used to describe the remnants of the former president’s corrupt entourage. He stressed on the importance of the legislative body and the necessity of its carrying out of its legislative functions without guardianship from any party, other than the Supreme Constitutional Court’s. He also criticized calls by some to create some Islamic historic bodies, namely, “The Releasing and Binding group” which some political figures proposed. He sees that such bodies have no place in the institutional structure of the modern state and that Muslim and Christian clergy are to be respected. He sees that their role should be to solely guide and disseminate the teachings of both religions.

The presidential candidate then gave an overview of his presidential electoral program in various fields. He spoke of projects in the renewable energy, using sun and wind resources. He mentioned the great potential that lays on the banks the Suez Canal, through which 10% of the world’s trade passes. He also announced that his campaign has prepared extensive

reform plans for the ministry of interior and for the fields of education and health care, pinpointing that they are seeking the establishment of high quality educational institutes as well as terminating free higher education.

Answering a question about if becoming the president of Egypt, Abolfotoh announced that he will not advocate progressive taxes, which he thinks repels investors, from his point of view, investment, whether local or foreign, is the economy's way out of the bottleneck and needs to shift towards adding value.

Abolfotoh commented openly on some key contentious points regarding the constitution. In regards to the army, he sees that 1971 constitution treats the army fairly and that they served Egypt faithfully, while abiding to it and that there is no need to change it. He also said that he believes that Article 2 of the constitution, which stipulates that Sharia law is the main source of legislation, should not be changed. Some are calling for the rulings of Sharia to be the main source of legislation, which prescribes a more rigid application of Sharia. He also called for the inclusion of an article stipulating that Christian religious teachings apply to Christians. He said that while this is implied in the current text, including such an article would reassure the population's Copts.

After Abolfotoh's overview of his electoral program, the floor was opened for questions, which covered issues among which were energy and food subsidies, the role of women in society and in Islam, international relations, the Middle East Peace Process, the performance of the Supreme Presidential Elections Commission, media and the role of the ministry of mass communication.



Eng. Motaz Raslan, Dr. Abdel Moneim Abolfotoh,
Mr. Amr El Leithy



Mr. Hany Seif El Nasr, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Zaki Badr



Ms. Jasmine Taha Zaki, Ms. Lamise Negm, Eng. Amr
Aboualam



Mr. Hany Seif El Nasr, Dr. Hassan El Hayawan, Mr.
Omar El Derini.



Dr. Effat El Sadat, H.E. Dr. Aly Al- Moselhy, H.E. Eng. Alaa Fahmy, H.E. Mohamed Elorabi



Questions posted by the audience



Ms. Sherine Fahmy, Mrs. Mrs. Negad Shaarawi, Mr. Negad Shaarawi, Mr. Fathallah Fawz, Mr. Essam Roushdy, Eng. Samir El-Alaily



Part of the attendance



Citibank Guests



MZ Investments Guests



Part of the attendance



Maba Guests

The Future of the Egyptian Economy

"The Renaissance Project"



Mr. Saad Hagra, Eng. Motaz Raslan, Eng. Khairat El Shater, Eng. Omar Hussein Sabbour

The Canada Egypt Business Council (CEBC) hosted a special event and panel discussion featuring one of the key players in the Egyptian political and economic scenes, the Deputy Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, the mother organization of the majority party in parliament, the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), Eng. Khairat El Shater. Moderating the discussion was Saad Hagra, the prominent journalist and the Managing Editor of El Alam Al Youm newspaper. The event was focused on the Renaissance Project, which is led by Eng. Khairat El Shater and its propositions to develop Egypt's economy and which is also at the core of the FJP's electoral program.

The event is the tenth in a series of events addressing economic and political issues pertaining to Egypt after the revolution. Over 270 distinguished attendees were present at the event from ministers, ambassadors, CEBC members and guests.

CEBC Chairman, Mr. Motaz Raslan, delivered the opening remarks for the discussion. He spoke of the people's legitimate goals, for which they took to the streets in the 25th of January Revolution: Bread, Freedom and Social Justice. He said that these are indeed the people's basic rights, explaining that corruption is one of the main reasons



behind the deteriorated economic conditions that Egypt is living at the moment and that the political confusion that is dominating the country is one of the factors to be blamed for the economic crisis Egypt is going through. He also spoke of the Turkish experience and quoted President Erdogan answering a question on how he was able to develop Turkey's economy, saying that he did it through fighting corruption.

Hagras then took the floor and pinpointed that Egypt's politics is dominated by a number of schools of thought; political Islam, to which El Shater belongs, the liberal school of thought, which is deeply entrenched in Egypt since the 1919 revolution and before, a leftist socialist school and a nationalist Nasserist school. He said that Egyptians are indeed living worse conditions after the revolution and that

Mubarak's regime is the sole reason behind that, but the political elite is to be blamed for these conditions as well. He sees that the Muslim Brotherhood deserves the lion's portion of this blame, as the leading and largest political player on the scene, since they should have been a factor in reaching national consensus, but instead they attempted to exclude other schools of thought.

Khairat El Shater is the engineer of the Renaissance Project that is adopted by both the Muslim Brotherhood and the Freedom and Justice Party, the brotherhood's political arm. El Shater has a celebrated career in the Muslim Brotherhood and is currently the Deputy Supreme Guide and has been a member of the Guidance Bureau of the Muslim Brotherhood since 1995. He has a master's degree in Engineering, a bachelor degree in Sociology and diplomas in Management, Civil Society, Islamic Studies and more. He is also a businessman. El Shater started his word by giving examples on economic revivals in many countries mentioning some success stories from the east to the west around the world such as Malaysia, Japan, Brazil, Vietnam among many others, and lamented that Egypt is not in the same state as those countries, despite its massive resources and history.

El Shater sees that it is of critical importance that the Egyptian people live in an acceptable standard of living, "they may not all live in similar conditions, but should be given equal opportunities and treated justly", he said. He said that this stance may not appeal to socialists, but regardless of differences in ideologies, it is all Egyptians' dream for Egypt to be a powerful country, able to provide its people with an acceptable standard of living. He asserted his faith in the individual's freedom to adhere to one school of thought or the other, as long as that person does not use violence or crime to further his goals. El





Shater said that it is wishful thinking to expect parties to reach a perfect consensus and that this rarely takes place in countries however the country will democratically choose the school of thought it finds best, and that its choice will be respected.

He then moved to explain the necessary factors for an economic revival, saying that the most important factor is political will and another is vision. He said that it does not have to be a certain political group's vision, but one that is widely accepted by the rest of the players in the political scene. El Shater further explained his group's vision; the Renaissance Project, which was initiated as the FJP started to take the lead in the parliamentary elections and eventually won 47.2% of seats in both parliamentary houses, and thus was expected to take part in the coalition

government, which was supposed to be formed. Upon that his group met with veterans in various related fields in order to build a vision for the country's future, delegations from the party visited several countries to study their success stories and to find out what could be applicable in Egypt. Of the experiences that El Shater found particularly relevant, is the South African 'transitional justice' after the end of apartheid, restructuring of security agencies in Holland and the Spanish experience after Franco, among others. In this context, he spoke of the importance of partnerships with different countries in various fields, in order to benefit from these countries successes, which is something ongoing for the Muslim Brotherhood at the moment.

Upon implementation, El Shater said that the Renaissance Project would be presented for discussions in popular conferences and feedback from specialized professionals would be sought. He said that a prerequisite to proceeding with Egypt's Renaissance Project is for the formation of a proper political regime with proper state institutions. He said that now the institutions remaining are the presidency, the cabinet, the constitution and a truly independent judiciary but that there are obstacles hindering the formation of these institutions, the main is that the ruling authorities have not demonstrated a genuine willingness to hand over power to the proper institutions. El Shater criticized their reluctance to allow for the formation of an active coalition government, thus the need for different political powers to reach a consensus on trying strenuously to get through the transitional period. He highlighted that Egypt's legacy of dictatorship has crippled the current political players' ability to form alliances, make compromises and untie for a common goal. "The Muslim Brotherhood is no exception; on the contrary, it has suffered discrimination



and harassment from the former regime, which has caused to isolate itself from the other players in the arena”, he said. He sees that the Muslim Brotherhood, need some time to adapt to the new political atmosphere.

El Shater concluded his word asking all parties to unite their efforts for a project that puts Egypt back on the map and that provides its people with the proper living standards.

The floor was then opened to questions, which covered a range of subjects.

Egypt indeed needs a project the people can rally around, because the heightened sense of frustration among Egyptians is reaching its peak, especially that people are impatient to see the fruits of the revolution. Will the Muslim Brotherhood and its most prominent leader, after the Supreme Guide, be given a chance to implement its project of renaissance? this is something for the presidential elections that are taking place this month – the first democratic elections the country will witness - to decide.



Mr. Hassan Malek, Ms. Hanaa El Hilaly, Eng. Motaz Raslan



Ms. Nadia Lamloum, Mr. Ashraf Gohar



Ms. Rasha Kamal, Mr. Omar El Derini, Mr. Eloui Farid



Mr. Mohsen Zaklama, H.E. Dr. Aly Al- Moselhy



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Comparative Overview of Egypt's Front-Runner Presidential Candidates



By: Meriam Wagdy

The Egyptian revolution started with a facebook group calling for demonstrations against police brutality and corruption and ended up ousting one of the regions – and the world's longest withstanding regimes. Now, that the Mubarak's vice president, Omar Suleiman, was unable to garner sufficient notarizations to enter the race, the same scenario will not reoccur for Egypt. The country is about to witness, for the first time, in its 7000 year-history, free and fair elections. Of all the aspirations of the Egyptian people in this new era, rising above the dreadful poverty line comes first. With national reserves drying up and eminent depreciation of the Egyptian pound looming in the horizon, the economic electoral programs of the race's front runners are of essence in this period.

After a surprise laden presidential elections registration period, the Supreme Presidential Elections Commission issued on April 26, the final list of presidential candidates. The list included 13 candidates of the 23 presidential hopefuls, who attempted to register. The final list excluded front-runner Hazem Abu Ismail, the popular Salafi preacher, who was disqualified because his mother was a dual national. It also excluded Khairat El Shater, the Deputy Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, the mother organization of Egypt's dominant party, the Freedom and Justice Party. Mubarak's formervice president Omar Suleiman and the former chief of intelligence was also disqualified. In the aftermath of these exciting exclusions, the front-runners remaining in the race according to a poll conducted by Al Ahram Center for Strategic Studies, are former Arab League Secretary General Amre Moussa, Air Marshal Ahmed Shafik from the non-religious camp and former Muslim Brotherhood Guidance Bureau member Abdel Moneim Abolfotoh and the Freedom and Justice Party president Mohamed Morsi from the Islamist camp.

Competing over the votes of around 50 million Egyptians eligible to vote out of the 83 million people population, each candidate formulated an electoral program for the rebuilding of Egypt, after corruption has corroded its wealth and sent 40% of its population under the poverty line. In a refreshing sense of awakening, all candidates are clearly aware of the social pressures that the Egyptian people are suffering as a result of their economic conditions.

Amre Moussa's economic electoral program revolves around ten main themes: 'Egypt free of poverty', 'Stopping the economic bleeding and stabilizing the state's finances', 'Achieving social justice', 'Eradicating unemployment through economic growth that generates job opportunities', 'An internationally competitive economy' and 'A new economic map for Egypt' among other scopes.

In the first theme, Moussa promises to reduce the percentage of the population under the poverty line to be 20% and 40%, by the end of the president's term, to reduce the percentage of poor by 40% by the end of five years and to raise living standards to world average by the end of the fourth decade. To achieve that, Moussa identifies the existence of political will and sufficient funding as prerequisites to achieve that.



For the second theme, he proposes a short-term, a medium-term and a long-term vision for 'stopping the economic bleeding and stabilizing the state's finances' where in the short-

term vision, he promises to improve security, and to thus regain investors' confidence in doing business in Egypt. Moussa also promises to "immediately utilize my Arab and International connections to fill the funding gap that the government is experiencing, in a manner that allows Egypt's basic needs imports to be covered." In the medium term, he plans to fight corruption and increase the efficiency of the state's finances. He plans to decrease the deficit and the public debt, in order to do so, he proposes mechanisms that include merging the planning and international cooperation ministry with the ministry of finance, as well as the formation of other bodies of government which oversee or regulate, among other mechanisms.

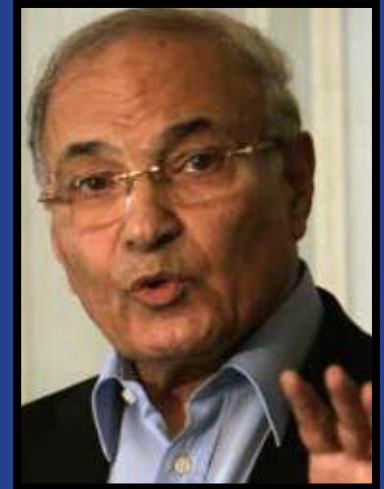
For social justice, Moussa proposes to raise standards of living for public servants, guaranteeing proper standards of living for pension recipients and redistribution of subsidies in a manner that makes sure that those in need for it are the ones receiving it. He also proposes raising the minimum taxable income to EGP 10,000 instead of EGP 5,000, where it currently stands.

In Abolfotoh's electoral program, a chapter titled Economy Building and Independent Development, he discusses the economic aspect of his program where he starts this chapter saying, "Founding a national independent economy that achieves comprehensive development and social justice requires forming a new economic layout, that is characterized with its clear alignment to the poorer ranks of Egyptians, which comprise the majority of the population".

In his program he proposes to achieve that through activating the different forms of ownership, as opposed to limiting them to Private and Public ownership, transforming the economy from a yield economy to a productive one, the participation of state, private and public sectors in planning, decreasing public debt, restructuring the existing progressive taxation system, through applying more direct taxes, increasing the categories of taxable incomes, increasing the minimum taxable income and imposing more taxes on larger incomes, while implementing mechanisms that prevent tax evasion. Other tactics to achieve the aforementioned goals are decreasing the energy subsidies for enterprises, reconsidering the prices of mineral wealth and basic materials exported, allowing for the needed legislation to found Islamic banks, and making Egypt a center for Islamic financial transactions in the context of investing in Egypt's important status and its symbolic capital that is its religious institutions. He also promises to lay down a comprehensive strategy to encourage nationalist capitalism, which contributes to actual development. His program then goes into some detail in regards to different sectors and his proposed solutions for their development.



Former Minister of Civil Aviation and Air Force Commander Ahmed Shafik has had a extensive career in aviation. Although the 71-year-old has long held public positions, Shafik became the center of attention when former President Hosni Mubarak appointed him prime minister on January 29, 2011. Shafik remained in this post for a little over a month before submitting his resignation on March 3.



Shafik has been commended for his achievements as minister of civil aviation even by members of the opposition. During his term at the ministry, Shafik introduced major developments in Egyptair and Cairo International Airport, making Egyptair the leading regional carrier and a member of Star Alliance in 2008. The airline's financials witnessed a turnaround after years of recurring losses. Under his tenure, Cairo International Airport was renovated with a number of new terminals including Terminal 3 in 2008, which brought the airport's annual capacity up to 22 million passengers. Sharm El-Sheikh and Luxor airports were also renovated, with Sharm Airport's capacity increased to eight million passengers.

Shafik announced his presidential candidacy in November 2011. His announcement came after several visits from supporters who flocked to his house calling for him to run in the upcoming presidential election. His bid, although hailed by many, also stirred opposition from those who refuse to accept any person from the military or the former regime in the race.

In addition to his master's and PhD, Shafik has received several fellowships from military colleges in Egypt and Paris. He holds a master's degree in military sciences, a PhD in the national strategy of outer space and a diploma in Islamic studies. Shafik has been awarded various military decorations, including first-class honors of the Republic Military, the Military Bravery, Military Training, Military Duty, Distinguished Service and April 25 Decorations. He was also awarded the Longevity, Army Day, Sixth of October, Anniversary of the Revolution, and Kuwait Liberation medals

On the economy level, Shafik said that he believes Egypt is a great land of opportunities waiting to be harvested and that several areas in Egypt where resources are plentiful and investing them is either deliberately suspended, as in the case of Lake Nasser, or neglected as in the case of the free zone in Port Said.

With regards to education, Shafik sees that we have been largely messing around lately without any real change or development. "For several years now, every time we say we will develop our education system, we simply add or remove a year from school stages. We remove one year from primary stage and add it to preparatory, and then put it back into primary, and this year has been going back and forth between different stages of the education system. And we think we are developing our education".

Shafik sees the proof is evident in the university graduates in Egypt who can't even read or write, comparing this to the university education quality Egypt had in the 1940s or 1950s. "We have been flocking to universities, not to get real education, but to get certificates."

"This is because we don't have the courage to implement change from the roots. If I am treating a tree, I shouldn't be focusing on the trunk when the roots are diseased. You should tackle the issues from the very roots and have the boldness to change, especially when you have role models to follow from other countries with strong education. See what other people are doing, go to those who have stronger education systems, take what suits you from them, bring those experiences and implement them here." Shafik believes in increasing the funding and prioritizing the expenditure sections need to be done as well. "The increase of funds will come when we succeed in attracting investments. I am not saying that we have to wait until the industry and the overall economy gets back on track, but as soon as we restore credibility, we will certainly be able to secure the funding for such projects"

About the issue of dealing with the demands of workers, Shafik sees that If we can't come up with the right terms for relations between workers and employers, we can always reach out to other countries that have experience in this field, review different models and choose what is best for the Egyptian culture and nature. Workers' rights are primarily human rights, justice and obtaining your rights without struggling to get them. "In previous times, maybe we were not serious enough in handling such issues, but the government must undertake its role as a regulator of all relations and of all activities."

Mohamed Morsi's Renaissance Project electoral program sets out his economic vision's goals to be: building a base for sustainable development according to Islamic Sharia, enhancing comprehensive development in all service and productive sectors, achieving, social justice and fighting poverty. Morsi's economic vision aims at increasing the gross domestic product by multiplying national and foreign investment, modernizing the Egyptian economy, in order for it to be able to meet the needs of the people and provide them with convenient standards of living.



Morsi's program clearly states that a rising GDP does not necessarily eradicate poverty, unemployment and corruption. In his program he intends to raise the GDP, while avoiding the problems of the past that did not allow the growth to trickle down to all levels of society. To do so, he would shift the economy from being one that is based on complete depletion of resources, to one that is based on know-how and added value. He added two more strategies to achieve this goal, namely 'wise administration' of the Egyptian economy, which increases competitiveness and attracts investors, the integration of economic, social and human development for developing the country and achieving its renaissance and decreasing the uninhabited areas in Egypt.

In the renaissance project, Morsi lays down ten economic goals, among which is raising the GDP from 1.8% to 7%, multiplying the per capita income, decreasing inflation among other goals. The project then goes into detail regarding the accomplishment of the set goals. It discusses the role of the state in the economy being fighting corruption, laying economic policies (financial, monetary and commercial), achieving the optimum responsible usage of resources and handling the informal economy. Of the highlights in the program is Morsi's proposal to develop necessary Islamic financial tools to fund developmental projects.

Most candidates are somewhat centrist in their ideologies, with some ideas leaning further right or left. However, what is clear is that they are the product of an emerging democracy, taking the very first steps towards bettering its people's lives. While a brief overview of the electoral programs of the race's front-runners does not do them justice, we thought of portraying some of the essence of what they intend to offer the Egyptian people if they come into power.

Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere. Albert Einstein.

SAVOR CANADA



Multiculturalism in Canada

By: Meriam Wagdy

Imagine a heated debate in a parliamentary session taking place....now imagine that the host country of the debate is one that has a population of 34,796,000 million; add to the picture that those millions come from English, French, Scottish, Irish, German, Italian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Dutch and Arab roots. One final detail, the session takes place in two languages, French and English. What a quite a diverse and culturally rich sight to behold indeed.

Truly expressive of the harmony that is in a country, which fully embraces multiculturalism, is the Parliament of Canadian. The institutionalism of multiculturalism in Canada took place, when under Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, Canada became the first country in the world to adopt multiculturalism as an official policy, by enacting the Canadian Multiculturalism Act.

The Canadian Multiculturalism Act laid a genius legal framework that guarantees an environment conducive of multiculturalism and tolerable coexisting with those of different cultures. One of its articles stipulates that it is the policy of the government of Canada to "promote the full and equitable participation of individuals and communities of all origins in the continuing evolution and shaping of all aspects of Canadian society and assist them in the elimination of any barrier to that participation". In enacting this law, Canada was officially affirming the equal rights all Canadian citizens enjoy regardless of their racial or ethnic origins.

Trudeau's Multiculturalism Act is not the birthplace of this exceptional example of multiculturalism, it is a value that arguably has its roots in strategies laid by the political leaders of pre-Confederation Canada, John A. Macdonald and George Etienne Cartier, who were warned by the political and social divisions in the United States, which eventuated in civil war. Thus, determined to avoid political deadlock and civil strife, created a system of government that was aimed at safeguarding the country's unity, despite the diversity of its composing population.

In the current century, roughly 200,000 immigrants go to Canada each year, all of whom bring a wealth of heritage with their own language, culture, and religion and add it to the constantly evolving identity of Canada. As a result, Canadian culture is a mosaic of diverse elements. While immigrants maintain their identity and heritage, the acceptance and tolerance of their differences and the differences of others, which they see in Canada, makes the egalitarianism of multicultural Canada their new identity. Canada's commitment to multiculturalism keeps its elements cohesive and strongly united. This, among other values of Canadian society, makes Canada a destination that is much desired by immigrants.

But is this a historical inheritance, which Canadians do not relate to anymore, with all the xenophobia that is becoming prevalent elsewhere?, the answer is no, according to a recent poll run by Mosaic Institute and the Association for Canadian Studies, 82% of Canadians aged 18 to 24 say that they believe multiculturalism in Canada is a model that other countries can learn from in trying to overcome their ethnic, religious or linguistic conflicts. On the other hand, older people are not as ardent about the Canadian model of multiculturalism, yet, all in all 64% of Canadians surveyed said they believe that Canada's brand of multiculturalism is a model for other countries.

In a world where differences are becoming increasingly grounds for wars, terrorism and oppression, a model of successful multiculturalism, which operates seamlessly, is of quintessential importance. While according to some Canadians, who took the survey, it is no a model to be exported, it is a necessary deterrent to war and divisions in other places of the world, and a rare success to pride on.





A Spotlight on News





Egypt's Nasr Petroleum Company is in the midst of restarting its 146,300 barrels-per-day refinery in Suez after a fire, an official source from the company said.

"The refinery remains shut. We are in the process of preparing to restart it," he said but declined to be named.

"We hope that we will be able to restart the refinery within the next 24 hours."

According to a second official, the fire started at a warehouse at the refinery, which is operated by Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation's (EGPC) subsidiary El Nasr Petroleum since 1913.

The accident has prompted EGPC to delay two naphtha shipments to be lifted in May and June from Suez port, two officials from EGPC said.

These cargoes were originally scheduled for second-half April lifting from Suez.

A third April naphtha cargo that was due to be shipped out last weekend when the fire broke was slightly delayed.

Diesel and gasoline imports, however, will not be affected and the company does not yet have any additional spot requirements, the EGPC officials added.

It is due to issue a term tender to seek oil products for July-December next month, and could probably seek higher volumes, a trader said.

The delay in naphtha shipments is likely to have an impact on the Asian market, a North Asian trader said.

"Suez exports about 60,000 to 90,000 tonnes of naphtha to Asia, so there will be an impact if we lose those cargoes for April," the trader said. "The loss of cargoes is coming when May supplies are tight due to limited European cargoes coming in next month."

Traders added that the tightly supplied naphtha market is likely to ease only from June.

The refinery has three crude distillation units (CDUs) as well as an accompanying asphalt production unit and power plant.



OT 4th quarter net loss narrows to \$83 million

Orascom Telecom Holding SAE (OT), the Egyptian company bought last year by Russia's Vimpelcom Ltd, said on Monday it narrowed its losses in the fourth quarter to \$83 million compared with a year earlier when it was hit by impairment charges.

Orascom was expected to report net income of \$70 million, according to the average analyst forecast in a Reuters poll.

The company reported a decline in average revenue per user (ARPU) in its Algerian unit, Djezzy — its most profitable business — and continued negative effects after the Bank of Algeria instructed banks not to process any overseas foreign currency transfers by Orascom Telecom Algeria (OTA).

“(This) is having devastating effects on OTA’s network and reputation,” the company said in a statement. “It is preventing the importation of goods which are necessary for maintenance purposes and for network capacity expansion.”

Net income in the quarter was also impacted by an increase in unrealized foreign exchange losses in OT’s Bangladesh business and in OT Holding, driven by currency devaluations versus the US dollar in relation to certain loans and payables in foreign currencies.

Revenues for the quarter, down 2 percent year-on-year to \$896 million, were also hit by the depreciation of local currencies in its main operating markets, including Algeria and Pakistan, which impacted the company’s US dollar revenues.

OT posted a loss of \$170 million in the fourth quarter of 2010, hit by an impairment in its assets in Namibia.

OT’s subscriber base exceeded 78 million at the end of December 2011, a rise of 13 percent over the same period last year, after the exclusion of its Alfa, Mobinil and Koryolink subscribers for comparative purposes, it said.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) were \$346 million, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier, due to an “increase in corporate contingent liability provisions at the OT Holding level, in addition to unfavorable currency movements,” it said

Is Canada becoming more unequal?

Income inequality in Canada has increased over the past 20 years.

The most commonly used measure of income inequality is the Gini index, which is measured on a scale of 0 to 1. Named after the Italian statistician Corrado Gini, the Gini index calculates the extent to which the distribution of income among individuals within a country deviates from an exactly equal distribution:

- A Gini index of 0 represents exact equality—that is, every person in the society has the same amount of income
- A Gini index of 1 represents total inequality—that is, one person has all the income and the rest of the society has none

Canada reduced inequality in the 1980s, with the Gini index reaching a low of 0.281 in 1989.¹

Income inequality rose in the 1990s, but has remained around 0.32 in the 2000s.

Canada is not alone in experiencing an increase in income inequality. Global inequality is rising and most of Canada's peer countries have also experienced rising inequality. But rising inequality among developed countries is not inevitable. Other countries with similar levels of income per capita have lower income inequality. For example, income per capita in Austria and Denmark is nearly equivalent to Canada's, yet these two countries have lower income inequality as measured by the Gini index—particularly Denmark.





Canada cutting Afghanistan presence by more than 100 soldiers

Canada is to cut its military footprint in Afghanistan by more than 100 soldiers beginning in July, with further reductions likely over the next year.

"We'll have less than we have there now. We will have less than 800," said Lt.-Gen. Peter Devlin, the head of the army, which provides most of the troops for the training mission that began in Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat last year while thousands of Canadian combat forces left Kandahar.

Those returning home from South Asia beginning this summer are part of a group of more than 900 trainers mostly drawn from a New-Brunswick-based battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment, which only arrived in Afghanistan two months ago.

Devlin returned to Canada last week after visiting the training group in Afghanistan.

Canadian Maj.-Gen. Mike Day, who runs NATO's training mission in Afghanistan, indicated when he spoke with Postmedia News in Kabul in February that he was preparing recommendations to cut the number of alliance trainers because the training program would soon be larger than what was needed for the Afghan army. The force has expanded rapidly to more than 300,000 soldiers and is now taking in fewer new soldiers.

"The numbers may go down," Defence Minister Peter MacKay acknowledged. "(The Afghans) are going to run out of recruits to train over the next 18 months. We don't want our soldiers to be there if they are only sitting on their rucksacks."



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ANYWAY...

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.
Forgive them ***anyway.***

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.
Be kind ***anyway.***

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and
some genuine enemies. Succeed ***anyway.***

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest
and sincere ***anyway.***

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.
Create ***anyway.***

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.
Be happy ***anyway.***

The good you do today, will often be forgotten.
Do good ***anyway.***

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your
best ***anyway.***

***In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and
them anyway.***

Alphabetized by company name

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**Executive Vice president planning & projects
Egyptian Petrochemicals Holding Co. (ECHEM)**



Eng. Mahmoud El Sobki

**Vice president , Marketing and business development
Egyptian Petrochemicals Holding Co. (ECHEM)**



Mr. Samy Fahim Gabriel

**Chairman
Metal Tube for light metal sections & Scaffolding & workform**



Mr. Rafik Samy Gabriel

**Vice Chairman
Metal Tube for light metal sections & Scaffolding & workform**



Mr. Ahmed Abou Doma

**Group CEO
Orascom Telecom Holding**



Ms. Roba El Guindy

**Marketing Specialist
The Egyptian Company for Mobile Services (Mobinil)**



May 2012

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Senior Advisor
Osman Group
May 03"

Dr. Omar Ahmed Barrada
Consultant
International Eye Hospital
May 05"

Mr. Pierre Forest
Group Vice Chairman
Artoc Group for Investment and Development
May 05"

Mr. Tarek Mohamed
Commercial Manager
Domiatec Group
May 06"

Mr. Shahin Serageldin
Chairman
Industrial Development & Workers Bank of Egypt
May 08"

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Vice President, Board and Media Affairs
Egyptian Petrochemicals Holding Co. (ECHEM)
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General Manager
Conrad Cairo Hotel
May 10"

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Petzed Investment and Project Management
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Chairman
Said Co. for Trading and Industry
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Telecom and Technology Company ""TeleTech""
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Eng. Hussein Abdel Aziz Khattab
CEO
The Egyptian Methanex Methanol Company S.A.E
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Hassan Allam Properties (Subsidiary Hassan Allam Holding)
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Managing Director
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Tam Oilfield Services
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Shalakany Law Office
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"The golden rule for every business man is this: "Put yourself in your customer's place" – Orison Swett Marden

Arab Investment Bank

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For further queries please contact Ms. Gihan Sarwat, Thawra Branch Manager on 002-02-24565347.

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6. Jaz Belvedere
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8. Sol Y Mar Shams Suites

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Iberotel Dahabeya

Marsa Alam:

1. Iberotel Lamaya
2. Iberotel Coraya
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4. Iberotel Samaya
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Safaga:

1. Solymar Paradise Beach

Madenet Makadi:

1. Iberotel Makadi Beach
2. Iberotel Makadi Oasis & Family
3. Iberotel Makadi Saraya
4. Solymar Club Makadi
5. Solymar Makadi Sun
6. Jaz Makadi Star & Spa
7. Jaz Makadi Golf

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Restaurants

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Address: 66, Omar Ibn El-Khatib St., Heliopolis

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Address: 49 Masr Helwan El Zera'ay St., Maadi

For further information on any of our benefits please contact:

from CEBC: Ms. Noha Essam

Tel. : 202-2 291 4975

Fax. : 202-2-291 7075

email: noha.essam@canadaegypt.org

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