

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment (Shehri-CBE)

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment was formed in 1988 (based in Karachi City), as a non-political, non-commercial, non-governmental organization (under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860) by a group of concerned citizens to provide the citizens with a platform to effectively voice their concerns in determining their future and taking action in arresting the deterioration in their living environment and propose reform with a view to improve the same. Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment is now fighting at the forefront of various issues of public concern related to the environment. The organization is actively engaged in areas of work like public advocacy and public interest litigation, land use management, right to information, good governance, community policing, police reforms, urban mobility, climate change and last but not the least institutional reforms.

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF):

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) has been working for a peaceful and progressive Pakistan since 1986. FNF promotes a social and political environment where **every individual** can become the pilot of their lives!

The Foundation was established in Germany in 1958. It aims to promote the goal of making the principle of freedom valid for the dignity of all people and in all areas of society, both in Germany and abroad

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment

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Workshop

“Bridging the Gap Between elected representatives and their constituents”

(Citizens and Elected Representatives Face to Face)

Organized by

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment

with the support of

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Pakistan

Saturday, 12th August 2023 (4:00 pm)

Community Centre, Pahar Gunj
Karachi

Programme

Time	Contents
4:00 – 4:15 pm	Registration/Arrival of Guests
4:15 – 4:25 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Address & Introduction of Participants Sarwar Khalid
4:25 – 5:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of Elected Representatives and Citizens (Constituents) Citizens Expectation from elected representatives Zahid Farooque
5:00 – 5:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tea Break
5:30 – 6:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dil Muhammad Khan, Chairman UC, Pahar Gunj, North Nazimabad Town Saleem Boota Masih, Town Councilor, N.Nazimabad Town
6:15 – 7:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges for Elected Representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Jugnu, Ward Councilor Sunil Basharat Bhatti, Minority Councilor
7:00 – 8:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues facing by citizens (constituents) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Himayun Waqas, Social Worker Dilshan Seth former UC Councilor (General Discussion)
8:00 – 8:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation Vote of thanks Conclude
Dinner	

Moderator: Zahid Farooque

Co-Moderator: Sarwar Khalid

Bridging the Gap Between elected representatives and their constituents

The relation between elected representatives and constituents (voters) in a democratic society are of paramount importance.

Face-to-face interaction plays a crucial role in fostering a strong connection, promoting transparency, and bridging the gap between the two. One such platform that facilitates this essential interaction is the Open Court - an innovative approach to bringing citizens and elected representatives together.

Elected representative whose work is to make policies, and ensure that the policies and actions are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people. For the elected representatives to work effectively it is essential that they actively engage with constituents. Pro active engagements help them understand the constituents needs and current conditions of the constituency. Lawmakers can also take on constituents' opinion on the bills or the policy that they aim to introduce in the council. This will help them gather support and once the bill becomes a law it gets greater trust & ownership from the citizens.

In a healthy democracy, the roles of both elected representatives and citizens are crucial. By working together, they can ensure effective governance, representation, and the advancement of the collective interests of the community.

It is widely accepted at national and international level that local authorities are responsible for delivering a broad range of services in relation to roads and traffic; planning; housing; economic and community development; environment; recreation and amenity services; fire services and for maintaining the register of electors. Moreover, because of its proximity to the people, the local governments are in a better position to ensure that government policies translate into services that will automatically meet the needs of the people.

Communication between the elected representative and their constituents play a key role in making the local government effective. In this regard, Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment has organized an 'open court' (Khuli Katchery) on Saturday, 12th August 2023 (4:00 pm) at Community Centre, Pahar Gunj, Karachi. The constituents will narrate their issues and set forth the problems which they face concurrently to their elected representatives.