

PROGRESS OF ETHIOPIA IS GENUINE

by A. Hagos Woldu. (May, 2010)

Administrative regional and federal divided Ethiopia is gaining an economic, social and political development. I am sure that there will be no killing famine will come again in Ethiopia. But we need to continue in this way to achieve more opportunities, which has gained from the period of last 18 years under EPRDF devoted policy for CHANGES! My recommendation is not only the society but also for the Government that the need of transparency in the lower level, like what they did in higher level diplomacy. Thank you for patience to read and let us walk together for the future achievement and fulfilment of the given chance by the intelligent leaders, through assimilating the opened gate for the human and natural development in Ethiopia.

The constitution assigns extensive power to regional states that can establish their own government and democracy according to the federal government's constitution. Each region has its apex regional council where members are directly elected to represent the districts and the council has legislative and executive power to direct internal affairs of the regions. Article 39 of the Ethiopian Constitution further gives every regional state the right to secede from Ethiopia. There is debate, however, as to how much of the power guaranteed in the constitution is actually given to the states. The councils implement their mandate through an executive committee and regional sectoral bureaus. Such elaborate structure of council, executive, and sectoral public institutions is replicated to the next level (woreda).

Since the creation of the Ethiopian current federal government, political, economic, social and defence power has been progressed significantly. The majority of the peoples in Ethiopia have been subjected to the autonomous administration and democracy, economic progress (improving already existed agricultural advancement and new investment creation for the country, including energy creation and so on) and freely each and individual ethnic tribes to make develop their cultural, without any discriminations and racism. As a result, the

contemporary Ethiopia is becoming question for many individuals (inside or abroad) and some very few countries and individuals are concerning of this fast development of Ethiopia. This outcomes are not just playing with Computer and current technology supported efforts but by working and giving life day and night for the success of common good of Ethiopian by overcoming all difficulties of oppression hated struggle and liberation against dictatorial regime violation of human rights, poverty, famine and misery in massive magnitude.

Following the failure of the structural adjustment programs in the 80s, a growing body of development literature re-discovered the role of institutions and particularly of the state for sustained economic growth and the correct functioning of the economy, with the goal of moving “towards the post-Washington consensus. The turning point has been sealed with World Development Report 1997 by the World Bank, where, following the approach of the new institutional economy, government effectiveness and other dimensions of good governance are recognised as premises for better development outcomes: *the state is essential for putting in place the appropriate institutional foundations for markets.*

The attention is therefore on state capacity, namely, the ability to undertake and promote collective actions efficiently—such as law and order, public health, and basic infrastructure, as necessary prerequisites to ensure development and peace. In this perspective, the low level of development, recurrent crisis and civil wars affecting the African continent are automatically attributed to “the crisis of statehood –a crisis of capability that many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are suffering from. At the origins of this crisis, according to the mainstream literature, lays the unfamiliarity of the model of the modern state to the African context: a model imported by the European colonial powers⁵, without social and cultural foundations in the African context, artificially designed at the Berlin conference without taking in due consideration the ethnic maps of the continent.

In this respect the Ethiopian case appears as a troubling paradox. Ethiopia is one of the few African countries with a long and autochthon tradition of modern centralised state dating back to the middle of nineteenth century and it was the only one to resist colonial domination. But despite the fact that Ethiopian state institutions are genuinely rooted in social and cultural contexts, the country scores one of the highest record in term of human and economic development in the year 2009. This fairly progressing and developing based on good governance of the

position on institutional capacity. This paradox is partly explained by the approach itself of mainstream donors' literature, that in discussing the role and prerogatives of the state remains highly normative and considers the sphere of politics merely as another technical variable to promote market efficiency and economic growth.

The focus of this type of literature is on institutions' *building*, neglecting state *formation*, namely the historical process, mainly unconscious and contradictory of conflicts, negotiation and *compromises between different groups*, according to the distinction introduced by Bermann and Lonsdale. Thus, the present paper discusses current initiatives of capacity building for the delivery of basic services in Ethiopia, analyzing them in the perspective of the historical trajectory of the Ethiopian statehood, not to conduct an evaluation of their effectiveness, but rather to analyse their instrumental effects on the process of state formation and reproduction. The first part identifies similarities and continuity in the strategies of accumulation and consolidation of central power adopted by the different regimes that succeeded one another in ruling Ethiopia since its creation and a modern Empire-state. In the light of this historical perspective, current initiatives of capacity buildings for decentralised service delivery are discussed in the second part.

Preliminary findings seem to indicate that, in spite of the rhetoric on ethnic self-determination, decentralisation and democratization, the contemporary Ethiopian state updates the strategies of its predecessors, to control the territory, extract surplus from the population and extravert external resources, in a version coherent with the international development discourse. While designing projects to build the capacity of the state to promote democratic governance and development, international and local actors are instrumental in reinforcing and legitimating these practices, in the name of the fight against poverty.

Ethiopia's governments have achieved, throughout the history a good level of capacity to control its territory, to use local resources¹ and harmonizing with external aid resources, returning to different legitimizing ideologies. This strong

¹ The experiences of Sub-Saharan Africa on *water development* in the last three decades have sparked a lively debate on the subject. The African experience is now being seriously re-examined both by specialists on the subject as well as the donors that were heavily involved in the financing of many of the projects. Interestingly enough, the debate has led to a new consensus over some of the important issues of the African experience. It is now commonly accepted that Africa's water development program, which began in the early 1960s and which was heavily financed by such donors as the World Bank and USAID, has by and large been a failure. The EPRDF government has got a real gate to make legitimize and use such resources. Ye-ish!

and capable state did not automatically lead in the past -is getting its foot to future integral progress and - to better performance in terms of economic development, poverty reduction and security promotion.

In other words, agricultural or electricity water policy is the main measurement of development that can give greater importance to the problems of food security and poverty alleviation. It follows therefore that in the formulation of water development strategy, priority should be given to areas with frequent drought history and areas that are vulnerable to recurrent food shortages. Thus World bank and IMF should not get confusion through individual anti development and anti democracy of Ethiopia.

Therefore, the important issue of the egalitarianism that is respecting democratic rights of others even if you were play maker of the last terrible fighting and paying a lot of sacrifices, it is important case that EPRDF created an opportunity for all making every civilians as a participants of were enshrined in the strategic institutional arrangements of federal state building is a very plausible success. This was done long before the armed struggle was declared 33 years ago on Lekatit 11 at Dedit and continued with flourishing integral development . The unique social values, norms and tradition, and history that characterize the Tigrayan culture were essential building blocks of the social, economic and political development which is supported by democracy. If not see Ethiopian infrastructural progress from year to year changes and developments! It is witness by itself.

Some of all wonderful achievements are: Airports, dams to create irrigations and energy, schools and universities, clinics and hospitals, building defense forces fort eh security of the country , the main issue as a third world nation, to open diplomacy with the more development nations and sharing their cultures and ours also with them, creating investment opportunities, 80% agricultural based people of Ethiopian nation, agricultural production improvement and sharing world trade system, making legitimate all local producing resources like coffee and flowers, and to be able to increase income and outcome all local resource...finally keeping and protecting natural resources and arts of the country -even bring back the looted beauty of the country. 'Ye-ish' these are very few of many objectives achieved since 1994 written and ratified constitution.

Poverty reduction and equality of all ethnicity is attaining in the current Ethiopia. Today the struggle is against the friends who feel nostalgia of poverty to come back in Ethiopia and this country to remain always a famine devastation known nation- we have right to say to say NO! we do not need more famine striving and rootless nationalism which was divided and made discrimination among multiethnic nation. Young generation you have to assimilate such long period progress and blood paid victory and you have to have heredity from your elders.

I WILL CLOSE BY ONE CRITICAL QUESTION: IF YOU PREPARE GOOD FOOD TO EAT FOR YOURSELF AND FOR YOUR BROTHER OR FRIEND AND WHILE YOU ARE INVITING HIM OR EVEN GIVING HIM PRIORITY TO EAT WITH YOU IN EQUAL INTENSITY AND IF HE REFUSES THIS WHAT SHOULD YOU DO? REMEMBER THOSE WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE, THEIR LIVES! WE NEED ONLY THE ONE WHO CANNOT FORGET THE SOURCE OF THIS UPSHOT TO REACH , WHERE WE ARE TODAY AND HOW WE COULD GET SUCH BIRTHRIGHT FROM YESTERDAY! THIS IS NOT TO HATE OTHER BROTHERS, IT IS NOT HATING OTHERS BUT FEELING PROUD BY OUR FATHERS , BROTHERS AND SISTERS VALUABLE HISTORICAL VICTORY! THE TIME WAS NOT LIKE TODAY'S ADDIS ABEBA! BUT THE WAR ACCOMPANIED BY FAMINE, AND DROUGHT AS WELL AS BY MANMADE BOMBARDMENT OUR CHILDREN'S WERE BURNING LIKE FIRE WOOD---!

