Friends all,

**It is not an identity politics. Rather it is an identity crisis.**

[There is no doubt that the long-lasting Ethiopian tradition and the weight of modernism will crush the TPLF and all forms of ethnic-politics in Ethiopia. Therefore, it is correct for all to struggle for the respect of right of all individual irrespective of region, religion and origin in Ethiopia. Indeed, the recent BBC documentary on how the TPLF uses foreign aid to hurt Ethiopians demonstrates that modernity ways against the politically-backward TPLF.

Moreover, people have begun to liberate themselves from fear of the TPLF. The recent, September 2011, arrests of pan-Ethiopian personalities such as Ato Debebe Eshetu, Eskinder Nega and Andualem Andarge by the TPLF shows how desperate the TPLF is. If several more Ethiopians could liberate themselves from the self-imposed fear of the TPLF there would not be enough jails for the TPLF to house them in. The TPLF would vanish in the heap of garbage that it is a part of.]

1. They speak as though they believe in individual rights. However, their belief of individual rights does not include the right of all Ethiopians. Rather what they emphasize is the individual right of a section of Ethiopians of a region or the language-group to which they belong. The TPLF believes in the right of Tigre individual to pillage Ethiopia. The TPLF has established a series of companies, which are run under EFFORT, a firm blatantly organized as an endowment for Tigrey province. The TPLF, which is the unconditional leader of he EPRDF government, contracts nearly all commercial-activities through the various firms under EFFORT. The TPLF is a ruthless, ethnic-based party, which has become a very rich enterprise. Ato Seye Abraha served for a long time as defense minister of the TPLF government and as chairman of EFFORT, while Ato Meles Zenawe was the overseer. Currently, Ato Meles and his wife are the uncontested overlords of EFFORT, while different individuals may be appointed chairpersons. The TPLF uses foreign aid to help its supporters and to impoverish its opponents as the recent document of the BBC records. However, I write this note because Dr. Beyene and Merera had appeared in the BBC document.

The pillage of Ethiopia by the TPLF is made possible through a unique combination of internal and external political circumstances. Internally, the services of unthinking and selfish individuals were purchased to preach communism in ways that politically backward-forms of governance is preferable for Ethiopia. Accordingly, the system that Ethiopia had created and allowed it to maintain its independent for thousands of years was thrown out as a whole. A people that had lived together and intermarried were divided into language-based groups, and regions were arbitrarily assigned for the language-groups.

In their traditional Ethiopian governance, Ethiopians had established a common language, Amharic, and the people who speak Amharic only are called Amhara. However internal and external forces, which wished to dismantle Ethiopia, have purchased the services of “leaders’ who have wrongly made the Amhara an oppressor of all people who speak other vernaculars in Ethiopia. It is perhaps not surprising how other ethnic politicians permit the pillage and destruction of Ethiopia by the TPLF as each participates in ethnic-based politics.

The idea of ethnic politics is intoxicating and it clouds the reasoning-power of ethnic-politicians and disables them from submitting to simple and solid reason.

 a) An ethnic-political leader wants to appear important. In Ethiopia where more than eighty different languages are spoken, ethnic-politics that is based on the spoken-language is a cheap way of appearing important. There is room for several individuals to appear important. However, he has to demonstrate subservience to the ruling TPLF before an ethnic politician is allowed to assume a sense of importance as an ethnic politician. It must be underscored that these ethnic politician do not base their power from decedent of tribal lords. For example, neither Ato Meles, nor Dr. Beyene, nor Dr. Merera are decedents of traditional families of overlords. Instead they are opportunists who cherish a sense of importance by claiming to represent their respective language-group(s).

 b) An ethnic-political leader is essentially purchased by internal and external forces, that have made him/her believe that the politically backward ethnic-based organization and regionalization is good for his/her people.

 c) An ethnic-political leader essentially believes in the invention of the Amhara as an oppressor nation.

Let me give specific examples from a resent posting.

Dr. Beyene Petros refused to understand the fundamental flow of his fervent belief of region-based [ethnic] politics. He should struggle for the right of the individual in every region of Ethiopia. However, he has elected not to do so. He does not speak on behalf of all Ethiopians. By so doing, he has elected to make himself irrelevant to all Ethiopians with the possible exception of those from his favorite region.

Dr. Beyene Petros struggles for the right of the individual of his selected region. He is a region-based politician. He is an ethnic politician.

Dr. Beyene Petros loves ethnic-based politics. He feels that ethnic-politics has brought more rights and freedoms to the people of his region. He struggles to keep alive ethnic-division and ethnic politics.

The inability to comprehend the plight of all Ethiopians except those of his selected region handicaps him and blinds him from understanding how the TPLF has enriched itself through the companies of EFFORT [chaired for many years by Ato Seye Abrha], an endowment designed to help the people of Tigrey region. Dr. Beyene is disallowed by the TPLF from ever creating such an endowment. Instead he will be an employee in an organization, where he is permitted to work at the pleasure of the TPLF.

Such myopic vision of an ethnic-politician incapacitates Dr. Beyene from understanding his environment. It is a trait shared by other ethnic-based politicians. They have elected not to speak of the plight of the Ethiopian irrespective of origin or region. They do not speak for all. They speak only for their favorite people. Dr. Merera Gudina is another opportunist belongs to such folks, who are afflicted by political myopia. He too is an employee of an organization and is allowed to work at the pleasure of the TPLF, even as the TPLF continues to be enriched through EFFORT.

HG: 9/16/2011