

Appendix 9. **Towards forming the ENC (Ethiopian National Congress): A call for a United Front organized by the Diaspora.**

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United Front: Senate + Congress

Introduction

There has been a continued effort to create a United Front composed of all entities that wish to resurrect Ethiopia and nurture its political and economic well-being.

Attempts at forming a United Front (UF) up to now dealt with the coming together of opposition forces. Agglomerates of opposition forces have been successfully established. However, all of the opposition forces have not been brought under one umbrella. Another effort at forming a UF is being discussed on an Ethiopian Electronic Virtual Community (EVC) called the EEDN, where several individuals have signed their names in support of the effort, and where many others have expressed their interest in it without signing their names. One of the latest suggestions to bring everyone under a United Front (UF) involves creating two entities called the **Senate and the Congress**, and was proposed by Professor Habte Giorgis Churnet to the Ethiopian Electronic Virtual Community. To make the discussion proceed, a date certain, July 3, was selected as the day for holding the First National Congress of Ethiopian People's. The date, of course, can be shifted to another more appropriate one, but it sets the discussion going. We give below the content and format of that proposal

Selam UF* Supporters and all,

I present a rough draft on the formation of the UF that we should be able to polish if we agree on calling a July 3, 1966 assembly of the National Congress of Ethiopian Peoples, in Washington, D C. We have waited enough. We do not need additional lines of evidence that would show the further destruction of Ethiopia with each passing day. Moreover, we don't become wiser just because E/TPLF stays in power longer.

Prologue

When substances do not react readily chemists add catalysts to induce reactions. The forms and nature of catalysts are dependent on the reactants.

It is apparent that there is a reluctance on the part of Ethiopian political forces to come together and readily form a united front. It may be profitable if we insert catalysts to cause them to form a united front.

What Might That Catalyst Be?

Let me provide an outline of the configuration involving political forces and catalysts that might produce the desired outcome, a UNITED FRONT. The front is a community of forces who see the desirability to form a loose association with each other in an effort to resurrect Ethiopia. Catalyst: Individuals, groups, agencies, and civic components call for the formation of a United Front that inaugurates itself in a JULY 3 meeting of the First National Congress of Ethiopian Peoples that should be held in Washington, D. C. (We also ask political forces to join in the call for this

meeting.) That night the community shall elect 20 representatives. These representatives form the Congress.

Components of the United Front and the Gist of its Functions

Basically, there are two components to the UNITED FRONT. The Senate that shall be made up of representatives of political forces, and the Congress that shall be made up of non-political entities.

The Congress:

1. The coming together of Ethiopians to the First National Congress should be powerful enough to cause any political force to want to participate; i.e., be represented among Ethiopians.
2. Names of Forces represented at the First National Congress shall be announced to the Congress, and brief messages from them shared to the assembly.
3. The Congress of 20 delegates shall be elected at the First National Congress meeting. It shall be charged with the duty of telling the world.
and in particular Ethiopians that Ethiopians have a United Front. At each succeeding year, 5 members of the congress shall be replaced by new ones.
4. The Congress shall have a Central Committee of 5 individuals, and its chairman shall be elected to effect the important duties including:
 - a) Emphasizing the good aspects of Ethiopia.

- b) Forgiving Ethiopians that the Central Committee might, by a simple majority, determine to be absolved of previous infractions.
- c) Campaigning to obtain funds for projects of the Senate. Projects would include infusion of democratic processes in Ethiopia, bringing medicine and education to Ethiopians, and establishing and maintaining radio, television, electronic and other news media.
- d) The Chairman or any member of the Central Committee of the Congress shall at no time in their official capacity condemn or provide negative criticism of any Ethiopians, either individuals or groups.

The main purpose of the Congress is to make Ethiopians "feel able" by raising funds for projects, determining the allocation of funds to the Senate or such other organizations that benefit Ethiopians, absorbing Ethiopians into the larger community after forgiving them for any mistakes that they may have done, such as being former members E/TPLF.

Another duty of the Congress is to assign task forces from its members that will be charged to examine for example the effectiveness of funds expended for certain projects. Because the Central Committee cannot condemn any body, the task force should comprise of non-Central Committee members.

Another duty of the Congress is to decide on the inclusion of new political forces into the Senate that might have not been grandfathered by the First Congress.

The Senate:

The Senate is made up of representatives of political forces. The following includes what they might do:

a) Each political force sends the names of two representatives to the Chairman of the Congress within the first month after the meeting of the First National Congress of Ethiopian Peoples.

The Chairman of the Congress registers their names, brings the issue to the Central Committee of the Congress, and the Congress votes to accept the top 15 parties, top on the basis of their activities on the ground, in Ethiopia. These shall constitute the Senate. Within two months, the Chairman of the Congress calls for the assembly of the Senate, causes the Senate to elect its President of the year. There after, the Senate takes over the affairs of its business.

b) The Senate is expected to meet at least quarterly so that the political parties might develop more relations with each other. In the event that some political forces decide to merge, they shall retain the same number of representatives as before their merger.

c) The Senate shall accept new members that have been selected by the majority of the Congress.

d) The President of the Senate shall write a mandatory letter of approval of the functions of the Congress each March 1.

Basically, the Senate determines its action as it sees fit. The intention is for the political forces to work together if they must, or separately if they wish. But, they will have a forum in which they will discuss issues of common interest. The political forces individually or through a joint effort of the Senate may request for funding support from the Congress.

Respectfully,

Habte Giorgis