

Justice Delayed But Cannot Be Denied.

By Hurriso D R

Congratulations to all of Sidama people and friends of Sidama in Ethiopia and around the world as Sidama declares the deserved 10th Regional National State in the country.

This is a historic time for the Sidama people as the attention of the whole world is focusing on what is happening in Sidama and what the outcome would be. This is the time when bitter struggle for Sidama people's self-administration has come to a good end and also a time to declare its Regional National State. Along the way, the Sidama people has resisted the repressive and imposed rules of different regime of Ethiopian governments without its people will and affirmation.

Sidama people fought for their freedom and self-determination by all means including opposing the regimes of the country with peaceful resistance movements as well as consistently demanding for its rights and through fierce armed struggles at different times and with challenging conditions and locations.

By doing so, the Sidama people paid heavy price to achieve these goals until the current government of Ethiopia started looking the matter more seriously as no other options left to offer and has finally approved a Referendum that guided the people of Sidama and all dwellers in Sidama land to vote in favor of statehood. Sidama people paid ultimate sacrifices such as lives lost, livelihoods destroyed, imprisonments and displacements followed.

Sidama people's resistance and struggle were simply to achieve one goal which is equality and recognition for its people among all people, nation and nationalities of Ethiopia and prosperity for the whole country and it has started to be delivered now. From the success of Sidama deliverance anyone should strongly argue that Ethiopian government has to listen to its people and accommodate their demands within the rules of law of the country. The special attention should be given to the current Southern Nation, Nationalities and people Republic where the people of the region who are oppressed and forced to merge together without their proper scrutiny and debate and the issues of their self-administration questions were there and cannot go away now or forever, no matter how big or small of its ethnic nations population or size of their land and locations until their demands meet.

People of Ethiopia deserve equality, fair representation and unreserved access to develop its culture, languages, traditions, free access to manage its resources and economy locally and at all levels. The denial of these freedoms led the country and its people into unnecessary tensions, division's formation of ethnic based group resistances to government's directions, created disorders and hindered prosperity in the country and good governance opportunities locally and nationally has lost as seen now and in the past.

Sidama people must always remember the history of its nations struggle, movements, heroes of the front leaders, all fallen martyrs, life time activists, human right campaigners the youth who confronted every danger of attacks and all the people who supported the struggle unseen from unjust ruling regimes for the stake of Sidama people freedom and equality with other Ethiopian nations that a simple acts of the people bravery have defined the nation and Sidama people today.

It is the time now to reflect on all unaccounted injustices perpetrated by ruling regimes of Ethiopia on oppressed nations of the country and take note from the past history and engage to deliver and resolve any outstanding failed governance issues within the nation. There is also no time to waste on blame games and rather create a platform for people of all walk of life to be educated to accept and abide the principles of equality, freedom and justice for all Ethiopian people.

Everyone must be glade and confidently agree that we are in civilized and better position to realize that the history of the past Ethiopian empires were bad or controversial and unhelpful today and therefore they should be kept safely in museums and the new generation must move forward and only advocate full democracy exercised with the rules of law to lead the country to its deserved prosperity and mark equality for all. We do not have to edit our past history and legends as that were the views of the past but today we may only adopt and transform those valued heritages and good practices of all nations and use them for future advancements and build a capable nation and next generation. If we still want to keep going with the same views of the past, may be for personal or political gain means we continue and cause the same or even the worth damages to the country further, create more disorders, misunderstanding and suspicions within the nations of Ethiopia that lead the people and the country to live without peace, togetherness, harmony. The consequence of these acts were unimaginable fear within people and power vacuums that caused weak administration and mismanagement and only inherited us our worst enemy, poverty as always have been.

Social inequalities created within the nations of Ethiopia by previous regimes in the country can be healed by developing mutual understandings and tolerance between peoples of Ethiopia of all ethnicities, cultures and traditions by creating equality of opportunities to all to access education, information, employment, trade and freedom of movement and peace everywhere in the country for individual or the group entrepreneurs to invest freely, create convenient environment for people to choose where they want to live, work and stay. Freedom of movement and security are very essential elements that government must consider for the people of the country and beyond to invest and generate sustainable income, wealth and infrastructure that lead the country to move its focus on building industries, advances in technologies, mining, tourism, modern hospitality sectors and work on how to explore the full potential and proper use of its abundant natural and man-made resources to boost desperately needed national economy and employment.

Historic social inequalities and exploitations imposed on majority people of the Ethiopian nations by the few the so called upper class elite structures and those were very close to the ruling empires and those were never addressed and answered correctly in the past are the main causes and concerns for current uprisings, conflicts and rising ethnic based political institutions that never helped to create unity, cooperation and tolerance within the Ethiopian society both locally and nationally today. The current reforms and democratization efforts in the country ignited for them to erupt and when people have a little window of opportunity to speak out their concerns at any available stages and platforms now and more and more questions kept asked for the government with few capability or no answers to offer at moment. It could be really important time now for the government to work on national reconciliation agendas between people of all ethnic groups, political parties, religious institutions and all involved to reconcile and bring much needed peace and stability to the country.

But this is the start of the beginning to exercise democracy now and Sidama people should be able and given chances to elect its leaders and adopt their local policies without any influences from central government and/or acting local officials at State level. There should be still cases for concern but better hope that history may not be repeated again as old habits and chains of maladministration are still out there within all institutions. The leadership in Sidama must keep its rich cultural and traditional heritages centered by its modest and respected elders, religious institutions, empowered by women and youth participation, positive and equal contributions and representation of all political parties and all people from different ethnic backgrounds

who live in the State and aided by the Sidama people's rich traditional administrative and reconciliation methodology, new technologies and scientific advices.

Sidama people and its history may forgive the foes and enemies of its people struggle to succeed and fruitful with its intended goals and mission and those helped the delay of its people freedom for self-administration. The foes are those who have tried to hijack, sabotage, divert and slow the progresses of people's resistance movements for their selfish personal or political gain and advancements. Some of these enemies are those individuals and/or in groups are still alive and out in large there inside Sidama or elsewhere as a snakes in the grass awaiting if any other opportunities to arrive to deceive, destroy and divide the unity of the people again and steel the successes of hard fought struggle and take their usual advantages by selling out the interests of Sidama to lead their wealthiest lifestyles at Sidama people expenses. Sidama people must keep an eyes on any wrong doings and mismanagements in the State and preserve its abundant resources to be used fairly by all people in Sidama and that contribute more for its stronger economy and development.

At the same time from now and forever Sidama deserve its fair share from the central government based on its contribution to country's national economy which allow the new State to plan and develop its social and economic policies, to build sustainable infrastructures and invest on issues relevant to interests and demands at local level which help to enable the lives of people changed for better.

Sidama people were, are and will welcome anyone who wants to come and willing to make positive changes in Sidama land and they should aim to live, work and stay there, integrate fully within the society and invest there for bright future for themselves and Sidama people and the country in particular to the reverse/opposite of that were happened in the past.

Sidama people should mark 11/11/11, EC as its freedom, equality and independence day, and this should be open for debate and will be agreed, as the day that has changed politics, image and status of Sidama people and earned the newest 10th Regional National State of Sidama within Ethiopia. This was the day and month in which the brave faces and determination of the people shown to put maximum pressures on Ethiopian government to change its mind and approved the long fought referendum for independent State of Sidama. This was the day where people came out to declare and celebrate its self-declared State as the government failed to respond or arrange a referendum day within 12 months from when the SNNPR has approved the request of

Sidama people for self-administration as stated in county's constitution. This was the day where people of Sidama were randomly killed by live ammunitions on a broad day light, mass attack and arrests by federal armed forces and displacements for many for their simple quest, the justice. This was the day Sidama people hope that changed the fate of Sidama history forever and seen the light at the end of tunnel when the news came for new date set for referendum. From this day Sidama people looked forward and keep praying for no more sacrifices, murders and bloodshed in Sidama land for similar demands. This was the day where the government of Ethiopia came in to terms and conceded that this was a time for country to come out from the odds and granted some sense of freedom to the people and forced to hand in the right for Sidama to manage its people, resources and diversity. Year 2001¹ec was the most tense, very long and the last but not the least 12 months of the year for Sidama people and the whole world to wait the most anticipated outcomes of its people freedom struggle and finally justice prevailed.

Many people argue and suggest that it is long way to go for the government to restore the long lost rules of law and democratization process in the country, while the other say even the worth to come as this is the time for "The Oromo

Turn/የኦሮሞ ተረኝነት" and the Oromo politics moving toward to repeat the same failed history of the past and replaced with and follows the policies of revenge, ethnic based state sponsored terrorism, corruption and looting of resources for the benefits of the few elites couldn't be baseless. Nepotism, cronyism and totalitarian regime with brutal suppression of oppositions are part of the programs to be implemented according to the few opinions could mean it is dangerous and bad move for the relatively new and unstable democracy and peace offering government for peace seeking people and country as ever and the move will be harsh and lead the country back to square one. Despite the fact that more people are optimistic and think that Prime Minister Dr Abey Ahmed and the Prosperity Party may keep its promises and all the trust the country and the people have put on him, his contributions and recognitions he has so far nationally, in the region and at international stage will challenge him and the government to do good for his country and beyond. The test and support of the people of Ethiopia for prosperity party and the government will depend on how far the party push its reforms and addresses the issues of building strong ethnic federalism, economic and political policies and creating jobs and employment opportunities or he may incline to sympathize the demands of Unionists and how fair and free the upcoming highly disputed by many opposition parties and their supporters the next national general election will be implemented.

Above all the government must adhere to implement its peoples constitutional rights and give complete attention on the issues that justice delayed so far and shouldn't be denied as there should be no bigger priority for the government than preserving and insuring that justice, equality and recognition for its people, nation and nationalities of Ethiopia before any other interests for the country. People live in peace, harmony and respect with each other when represented and recognized equally and then contribute and build the most for the better country.

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Please note that this is not political statement or views of any other organization rather It is the personal opinion and work of the mine. The comment written solely based on the fact that the views and points raised here were shared with friends and family while celebrating the formation of the new Sidama State and been encouraged by to spread the good news beyond the family circles. It has also been thought further that it will be helpful reminder, an invite or to inspire others to drop a line of advice, information, their findings or even a compliment to praise someone who has worked hard, above and beyond their lines of duty to promote people of Sidama can share their stories and these may benefit to build lasting legacy for Sidama people back home at grassroots level and for all of us here in Diaspora.