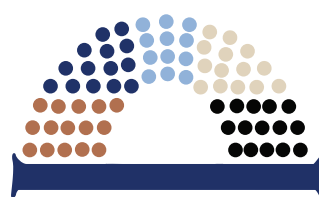




ETHIOPIAN PARLIAMENTARY DIGEST



ENDERASIE

ENDERASIE IS A PARLIAMENTARY MONTHLY
DIGEST ISSUED BY BRIDGE RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION.



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BRIDGE Profile

Bridge Research and Innovation for Democratic Governance and Enhanced Peace (BRIDGE) is an independent, non-profit think tank based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Registered under the FDRE Civil Society Organization Proclamation No. 1113/2019, which specializes in parliamentary affairs, peace, and development in the IGAD region.



Mission

To advance democratic governance and enhance peace through evidence-based research and innovative policy analysis.



Vision

To be a leading research hub and trusted source of analysis on parliamentary affairs, peace, governance, and development in the IGAD region.



Core Values

- Rigor: Delivering high-quality, evidence-driven research.
- Innovation: Pioneering creative and adaptive solutions for governance and peace challenges.
- Trust: Upholding credibility through transparent and reliable analysis



Objectives

It aims to strengthen legislative institutions in federal and local parliaments in Ethiopia and the IGAD region by:

- Conducting evidence-based research.
- Providing capacity-building support to enhance the performance of parliamentarians.
- Monitoring parliamentary activities to ensure accountability and effectiveness.



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The Ethiopian House of Peoples' Representatives was on recess from July 1 to September 26, 2018, but the first month of the New Year was spent mainly on carrying out representative works. The major parliamentary event of the month was the speech delivered by His Excellency President Taye Atseke sllassie at the joint opening ceremony of the 6th House of Peoples' Representatives and the 5th year of the House of Federation. He presented the government's main policy directions for 2018. On this day, the launch of the ETV-Parliament television channel, a new and positive start for the House, was also announced. In addition, the joint agreement with the House of People's Representatives; a major milestone for our institution, Bridge Research and Innovation, was one of the noted highlights of the month. This eighth edition of Bridge, and the first of the year, reinforces the HoPR's September 2018 agenda and the points of agreement our institution has made with the House.

**All dates are in the Ethiopian calendar.*

Regular Sessions of the House of Peoples' Representatives

→ 6th House of Peoples' Representatives Agenda for the 5th Year of Its Term

Regular Meeting

Agenda

Hearing the Motion of Support for the Opening Speech of the Joint Regular Meeting of the Houses of Peoples' Representatives and the Federation Houses (following the speech by His Excellency Taye Atsek Selassie, President of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, on September 26, 2018).

September
26

Opening Ceremony of the 5th Year of Work of the House of Peoples' Representatives of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the House of Federation;

Agenda

His Excellency Taye Atsek Selassie, President of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, announced the commencement of the annual work of the two Federal Government Houses and heard the annual plan of the Federal Government.

September
26

The President Speaks

According to Article 58 Sub-Article (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and Article 24 Sub-Article (1) of the Code of Conduct and Ethics of the House of Peoples' Representatives of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, the one-year term of the House of Peoples' Representatives of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia runs from the last Monday of September to June 30. Also, Article 71 Sub-Article 1 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia states that the President of the Republic shall open the annual joint session of the House of Peoples' Representatives and the House of the Federation.

Accordingly, at the opening ceremony of the 5th year of his term of office, the President of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, His Excellency Taye Atsek Selassie, announced that the two Houses of the federal government had commenced their annual work and presented the annual plan of the federal government on Monday, September 26, 2018. Bridge summarized the main points he made in his opening speech as follows .



The President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, His Excellency Taye Atske Selassie, alongside the Speakers of the two Federal Houses of Parliament, Honorable Tagesse Chafo (House of Peoples' Representatives) and Honorable Agegnehu Teshager (House of Federation)

A synopsis

President Taye Atsek Selassie, who began his opening speech by mentioning the country's major achievements in 2017, started his speech by saying that he has no doubt that this period will be "a new chapter in our history, as we have witnessed the inauguration of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, the extraction of natural gas (which is the beginning of Ethiopia's underground wealth), and the launch of major projects that are the anchors of our development by utilizing our natural resources".

In 2018, in his opening remarks to both houses, President Taye, who extensively discussed the country's political and geostrategic priorities, said that the government is laying a solid foundation to create independent, resilient, and democratic national institutions that are resilient to regime change. He added that the government is committed to ensuring that national security and safety institutions are resilient and impervious to regime change. Although the government is fully prepared and has modern capabilities to stop the periodic violent movements, it has chosen a path that will lead to lasting peace for tomorrow through wisdom and patience today, following the principle of 'overcoming today's conflict and not passing on resentment and bitterness to posterity'. In this regard, he called on the entire public and elite to play their part in the success of the national dialogue. He pointed out that a government that is accessible to the people and trustworthy by the law is crucial for the journey to prosperity, and to achieve this, the government has improved governance frameworks, strengthened institutional coordination, and brought together similar and related sectors to make them effective.

Economy and Development

The Head of State stated that in the economic sector, the government is striving to ensure a 9 percent GDP growth in the 2018 fiscal year. For the success of this plan, the government will increase production in quantity, type, and quality. He reminded those representatives that, the government has made significant efforts to reduce inflation by implementing strong fiscal and monetary policies in the past years, increasing production and productivity, and said that this will be strengthened this year and inflation will be reduced to single digits. The President, who was heard saying that the government strongly believes that the agricultural sector is crucial to ensuring overall prosperity, said that this year too, special attention will be paid to supporting agriculture beyond traditional production through technology, financial provision, and skill development, and that it will register a growth of 6.8 percent. The Head of State said that in addition to ensuring food security, it will also be a time to strengthen our food sovereignty. He added that domestic production of agricultural inputs, especially the acceleration of the construction of the fertilizer factory that has been started, will be the main areas of focus. The President said that his government will also work to implement productivity enhancing measures, strategies that increase private sector participation and strategies that enhance national savings and investment flows. In addition to this, he said that the government firmly believes that by expanding digital technology, facilitating information exchange, and providing access to services, economic structural transformation can be realized in a short time.



Foreign Policy Issues

President Taye stated that four issues will be prioritized in terms of foreign policy. The first issue is ensuring citizen-centered national security, and that national security includes not only protecting the country's borders but also protecting the safety and dignity of citizens. The President, who emphasized that Ethiopia is a country located between the Nile and the Red Sea, said that its destiny and future are closely linked to the two waters, but that Ethiopia has been isolated in a way that does not follow justice and does not involve the people. In this regard, the President of the Republic stated that the government will work diplomatically and peacefully with the countries of the region to find a fair and secure sea access. He also informed the representatives of both Houses of parliament that the government will carry out and participate in activities that will benefit the countries of the Nile River basin, in order to develop mutual cooperation and trust on the Nile River. The President, who mentioned that the government will continue to strengthen the principle of "neighborhood first" in its foreign policy, said that infrastructure development works that strengthen regional ties have been carried out, and that infrastructure development and trade that will further enhance economic cooperation will be strengthened. President Taye, who stated that the government will strive to maintain balance in the global power structures, to establish and expand cooperation and mutual benefit, said that in addition to this, it will work diligently to increase Ethiopia's participation and influence in global forums, to promote mutual benefit, and to ensure that our country has a significant role in important global issues.

In his last speech of the year, the Head of State, who mentioned the upcoming federal elections, concluded his speech by saying that the government will work responsibly to ensure that the seventh national election to be held in this year will be fair, peaceful, democratic, and credible among Ethiopians at large.

Oversights and Monitoring of Executive Institutions

The ways in which the House of representatives oversees executive institutions include hearing reports from institutions and conducting institutional and field visits. This month, in addition to hearing a report from one institution, the House also conducted a field visit.

Institutional Report



The Ethiopian National Consultation Commissioners held discussions with the Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives, Tadesse Chafo, and other relevant parties. During the discussion, the Chief Commissioner of the Ethiopian National Consultation Commission, Professor Mesfin Araya, presented a report on the implementation of agenda-setting and participatory activities carried out during the consultation process over the past years. In his report, he reviewed the preparatory phase of the national consultation process since 2016, along with the agenda-setting and participatory activities. He stated that in this process, successful agenda-setting and participatory activities have been carried out in 11 regions and the two city administrations so far. Additionally, he explained that face-to-face and online discussions were held with Ethiopians living in North America, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, according to information obtained from the house. It is reported that preliminary discussions have also been held in the Tigray region to gather an agenda and conduct a participatory process for national consultations. For his part, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tadesse Chafo, said that the activities carried out so far have proven that Ethiopians have a deep desire to resolve disputes through consultations.

Field Visits



The Standing Committee on Urban, Infrastructure and Transport Affairs of the House of Representatives, which traveled to Dire Dawa on September 28, conducted its only field visit of the month to inspect the infrastructure and service delivery facilities being implemented by the city administration. According to information obtained from the House, the committee members visited the Dire Dawa Free Trade Zone, the Dry Port and Terminal, the Dire Mesob One-Stop Service, the International Stadium, the Convention Center, and the Mereta Library, and held discussions with senior management of the administration.

The Standing Committee Chairman, Honorable Professor Mohammed Abedo, said that the infrastructure being built in Dire Dawa will help meet the development and service needs of the residents quickly and efficiently. The Professor mentioned that the development of infrastructure will make Dire Dawa a preferred location for the industrial, commercial, and conference tourism sectors, and added that the activity of the Mesob Dire One Center service, which has recently started providing services, is encouraging.

The Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee, Honorable Dr. Eshetu Temesgen, on his part, said that the work the administration is doing to collect revenue and coordinate with the public and organizations to address development questions is exemplary. Among the members of the Standing Committee, Honorable Fikadu Gashaw and Ms. Talef Fithe Aweke, said that the efforts initiated by the leadership to modernize urban services and expand infrastructure should continue at a higher level, the report indicates. For his part, Dire Dawa Deputy Mayor Harbi Buh said that the field assessment conducted by the Standing Committee in Dire Dawa is a stimulus for better work in the future.



Representative Works of the Representatives



Since the main work of the representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) from July to the last week of September is the representative work, the representatives have continued their work of going to their constituencies and listening to their questions, sequencing from July.

During the month of September covered by this edition of Enderasie, more than 50 electoral explanatory forums were held in Afar, Oromia, Amhara, Sidama, Gambella, Beni Shangul Gumuz, and Somali regions. Among the issues raised during the extensive public representation work and development monitoring activities carried out by the representatives, the main issues revolved around the lack of infrastructure, peace and security issues, cost of living, and problems of good governance. The representatives, in addition to providing explanations and responses to the questions raised, also work to urge the federal and regional executive bodies to pay attention, according to the information collected by Bridge. Among this main annual works of the representatives, this month's edition has chosen to briefly explore some of the representative works.

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In September, about 20 members of the House of Peoples' Representatives in different zones of the Oromia region, mostly with members of the Oromia region and local administrations, conducted public representation visits and discussions. While these discussions mostly focused on peace, infrastructure, and good governance issues, the representatives also received the questions of the society in detail, according to the information obtained from the House.

Honorable Amira Mohammed urged the improvement of health service gaps in West Hararge Zone and Desa, and expressed that the development works carried out in Adabultu Woreda are encouraging. Honorable Ms. Birke Bahru held discussions with the community on peace, economic, and social issues in North Shewa Zone, Debre Libanos, and Yaya Gulele; Honorable Ms. Rahel Negero, on her part, discussed the overall development of Bako City, peace and security, and service delivery. Similarly, Honorable Ms. Zewdnesh Tulu, Honorable Ms. Zeyneba Nura, Honorable Dr. Haji Kedir Abdulle, and Honorable Ms. Abubu Demise in the Arsi Zone not only raised the issues of infrastructure development, but also the cost of living and peace issues in the area, the reports indicate.

The Honorable Ustaz Kamil Shemsu, who arrived in the Metu town of Ilubabor Zone, told the residents that despite the region's abundant natural resources, there is no factory and there is a shortage of hospitals. Similarly, the representatives who held discussions in the zone, including Ms. Etegen Eshetu, are said to have asked for the resolution of the problems of electricity, network, road, hospital, medicine supply, and cost of living. During his discussion with Honorable Ato John Ahmed Abamilki in the Omo Nada constituency of Jimma Zone, the discussion was held on the issue of clean drinking water in Asendabo town and the 42 km Nada-Bonea road. It is understood that the participants raised the issue saying that the non-use of the 42 km long road is our urgent issue.

In the public discussion led by Honorable Ms. Bethlehem Melkamu in West Welega Zone, the community called for the lack of electricity, roads, medicine, and ambulances in Keltu Kara Woreda and the commencement of the Maka Nejo Asosa asphalt road. On her part, Honorable Ms. Lomi Bedo, Deputy Speaker of the HoPR, visited Dugda Woreda and Meki City in East Shewa Zone, where she expressed her happiness over national projects such as the Renaissance Dam, and called on the people to strengthen their partnership in ongoing projects. Similarly, Honorable Ms. Fantaye Legesse visited and encouraged farmers in East Bale Zone, Sewena Woreda, to grow bananas, papaya, sugarcane, and other fruits. In Sheger City, Honorable Dr. Eshetu Temesgen raised the issue of good governance and infrastructure in Sebeta, Gelan Guda, and Furi, while Honorable Ms. Addis Assefa, who was in Holeta town of West Shewa zone, on her part, requested the construction of an industrial park to address the unemployment problem.

This month, Honorable Dr. Elias Ahmed and Ms. Farida Shemseden, who were in Deder woreda and town administration of East Hararge zone, visited the development activities of farmers and encouraged them to start producing various fruits such as bananas, olives, and avocados using compost fertilizer. It is reported that during her discussion with the residents of Chelia Constituency in West Shewa Zone, Honorable Ms. Zara Mohammed urged the residents to continue the work that the government has started on peace, security, infrastructure, and good governance. In addition, they are said to have strongly requested the government to pay attention to them as a country as the problems of high cost of living and unemployment are very serious.

What did Benishangul Gumuz ask?

The representatives, Ms. Menahel Imran, Ato Mubarak Elias, and Ms. Bahita Baude, who visited different zones in Benishangul Gumuz Region, are said to have received major development and security issues from their constituents.

During his visits to Homosha, Menge, and Asosa zones, Ato Mubarek Elias reportedly called for special attention to be paid to the high cost of living and transportation problems caused by the closure of the Addis Ababa-Oromia to Asosa road due to security concerns. In the infrastructure sector, especially the construction of the Homosha-Renaissance Dam asphalt road, the provision of electricity and telecommunications services, the resolution of the shortage of medicines, and the continuation of stalled federal projects, according to information obtained from the House.

During the discussion held in Assosa town, Honorable Ms. Manahul Imran received from residents the social and economic problems caused by the closure of the Oromia-Benishangul Gumuz road. The female participants are said to have called for the creation of educational and employment opportunities for women, for female government employees to benefit from health insurance, and for the strengthening of prevention of sexual violence. According to their leaders, Ms. Manahul and Ato Mubarek, it is reported that the lack of a referral hospital in the region is causing high costs to residents, and they have called for the construction of one. In addition, Ms. Bahita Baude, in the Metekel Zone, Mandura and Dangur Woreda, in addition to the delay in the asphalt road from Enjibara to Guba, including road and telecommunication problems, was heard to have stated that a request has been made to rebuild educational and health institutions that were destroyed due to security problems.

What Happened in Afar?



In the month of September, which we covered in this issue, members of the Federal and Regional Councils held public representation discussions in Dubti and Kori woredas in the Awsi Resu zone on different days in the Afar region.

In the discussion held in Dubti woreda, which was attended by the relevant regional administrators, including the Honorable Asia Abdulkadir and the Honorable Zahara Humedin, a member of the Federation Council, the main topics raised were the impact of the Awash River flood, the provision of clean drinking water, health facility services, lack of agricultural inputs, access to electricity, and market linkages. The information indicated that the main topics raised were the impact of the Awash River flood, the provision of clean drinking water, health facilities, lack of agricultural inputs, access to electricity, and market linkages. The representatives also encouraged the development works carried out in the woreda and urged the leadership to pay attention to unresolved problems.

In the discussion held in Kori Woreda, the presence of Honorable Aasia Abdulkadir, Member of the Regional Council, and Honorable Ato Ahmed Abdulkadir, Head of the Trade and Market Development Bureau, was mentioned, and the residents raised issues of water, education, health, and development. Ahmed Abdulkadir, Head of the Market Development Bureau, said that the long-standing public issues of electricity service and network have been resolved and that the asphalt road leading to the district center is being completed. On his part, the Chief Administrator of Kori Woreda, Ato Abbas Haro, was heard saying that the remaining infrastructure issues will be addressed step by step through discussions with the regional government and stakeholders.

What's from Amhara?

The report of the House shows that the representatives who traveled to the Amhara region in the first month of this year have carried out extensive public representation activities by going to different zones.

It is said that the Honorable Ato Habte Mariam Mekonnen, who arrived in the South Wollo Zone, requested answers to the questions of the Gimba-Tenta-Delanta road and the electricity substation that were started and stopped by the Federal Roads Administration. It is said that the Honorable Ms. Kedjaa Yasin, who arrived in the Oromo National Administration Zone of the Amhara region, stated that the network in Dewa Chefa Constituency has been opened and some electricity lines have been improved, but it is said that development projects that have not received a response for a long time, including the construction of the Misi-Dewe-Medina-Bati asphalt road, have been discontinued, and there are water and irrigation projects that have not been serviced due to design problems. The participants, who praised the many encouraging peace and development projects being carried out in the woreda and the zone, also called for an urgent response to a standard university, a referral hospital, and a road connecting Haro Gobensa to Argoba. In addition, Honorable Ato Ahmed Hassan asked for a response to the requests for new electricity, asphalt roads, network, and drinking water repairs, and urged residents to contribute their part so that the militants accept the call for peace and enter peacefully, according to the House report. Honorable Ato Ahmed Hassan, who arrived in Jile Tmuga woreda and Senbete town, on his part, is said to have presented the community's request for the construction of a hospital in addition to various infrastructure projects.

In this regard, the elected representatives of the Amhara region held a discussion on the 25-year road-map for sustainable development and growth prepared in the region, and it was stated that the plan identified problems and indicated solutions. It was mentioned that these representatives held discussions with the Speaker of the Regional Council on ways to respond to public questions raised during the public representation work they carried out in the region, and the Honorable Ato Mesfin Dagen also announced that 1,782 questions were submitted to be answered at the regional level during the public representation work, and the reports mentioned that ensuring peace and security is key to the effectiveness of projects.

With the Head of regional State

The Sidama representatives of the FDRE House of People's Representatives held a discussion with the Head of the Sidama National Regional State, Ato Desta Ledamo. According to the representatives, they have previously submitted the questions submitted to them by the public to federal institutions and have explained the responses they have received.

Somali's Regional Forum



Honorable Ato Kemal Hashi Mahmud and members of the regional council met for discussion with local scholars, civil servants and business people in Jigjiga city

Honorable Kemal Hashi Mahmud, a member of the House of Peoples' Representatives and the Advisory Committee of the House, is reported to have discussed development-oriented issues with the voters in his constituency, City Zone, Dembel Woreda. It is said that the residents have requested that the roads leading to the city be repaired, a bridge be built over the floodplain, the electricity line carriers be changed from wooden to solid carriers, and the water supply shortage be resolved. In addition, when they raised the long-standing demand that a commercial bank be opened in the city, as there is no banking service despite the existence of commercial activities, Ato kemal promised to submit his requests to the relevant bodies, according to the information from the House.

To Gambella...

In this month of September, Ato Ashne Astin, who arrived in Godre constituency of Majang Nationality Zone of Gambella Region, where he was elected, was reportedly presented with a number of development and good governance issues that required immediate responses during an electoral explanatory forum dialogue held in the same zone. Among them, the reports indicated that the main ones were the completion of the Abebo-Meti-Kobito bypass road, which was started and interrupted by the Federal Roads Administration, the construction of internal roads in the zone, the repair of power outages, and network access deficiencies. In addition, the community was asked to upgrade the Meti Health Center to a hospital, the uninitiated corridor development in Meti town, the removal of checkpoints in various places, and the urgent removal of expired herbicides in Godre woreda. Honorable Ashne, for his part, said that he wants to coordinate the leadership and the community in the development of the zone's capital, Metin, and stressed the need to work diligently to solve the quality problem that has prevented the zone from earning the income it deserves despite its high coffee production.

Charitable Activities of the representatives

In addition to the representative activities they carried out in the constituencies where they were elected in September, the representatives' also provided material and financial support to the communities they reached. To quote; In the East Dembia Woreda of the Amhara Region, the Honorable Ms. Debitu Tadege provided educational materials to students, while the Honorable Ms. Rahmet Awelm provided educational materials and clothing worth 9 million birr to helpless students, the disabled, and the displaced in the South Wollo Zone,

according to information we gathered from the House. On his part, the Honorable Ato Shumi Ayano, the other House representative who went to the East Shewa Zone of the Oromia Region, Boset, Fentale Woreda, and Metahara City, in addition to providing notebooks, pens, and clothing to more than 700 students from the disabled and militia families, he also provided office supplies including chairs, tables, computers, and printers to the offices of the two Woredas and the city administration. In Bora Woreda, East Shewa Zone, it has been reported that more than 150 children from disadvantaged and militia families have been provided with educational materials under the coordination of Honorable Ato Chala Limi. It has been reported that the Honorable Dr. Nejat Girma, who arrived in Halaba Zone, Central Ethiopia Region, has provided nutritional support worth more than 100 thousand birr to 30 children living with Autism through the Freedom Children's Home Charity Organization.



Parliamentary Diplomacy

The House of Representatives, in the new year of the first month, held three parliamentary diplomatic missions.



The first diplomatic activity was the meeting between the members of the Ethio-Cuba Friendship Group and the President of the Cuban People's Friendship Institute and a member of the Cuban Parliament, Mr. Fernando Gonzalez Loret, during which the members of the Ethio-Cuba Friendship Group agreed to further strengthen the cooperation and common goals between the two countries. The Chairman of the Ethio-Cuba Friendship Group at the House of Representatives, His Excellency Dr. Abdulkadir Gelgelo, recalled that Ethiopia is a country with a long-standing historical friendship with the Government of the Republic of Cuba, and said that it will continue to work hard to create new partnerships in line with its determination to strengthen bilateral relations. The President of the Cuban Public Friendship Institute, Honorable Mr. Fernando Gonzalez Loret, recalled that Ethiopia and Cuba have completed 50 years of diplomatic relations, and that the two countries are currently working on major areas of interest, especially science and technology, education, agricultural technology, culture, economic ties, sports, and tourism, and other areas, the report said.

In September, the Second Parliamentary Diplomacy of the representatives was held, where the standing Committee of the House of Representatives on Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs held discussions with members of the Ethiopia-West Asia Friendship Group and members of the Public Diplomacy of Saudi Arabia. The Chairperson of the Ethiopia-West Asia Friendship Group, Honorable Muhammad Al-Arusi, noted that Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia have a long-standing historical relationship and shared culture, and noted that the two countries are working together on issues that can strengthen multilateral cooperation in addition to bilateral relations. Another member of the group, Honorable Mesekerem Hailu, noted that the relationship between Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia is encouraging; noting that the public diplomacy members came to Ethiopia on the day after the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam was completed and inaugurated by the Ethiopian people and government through joint efforts. The Saudi public diplomacy members, on the other hand, said that "what we have heard about Ethiopia and what we have seen in practice are different";



When the Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs Standing Committee of the HoPR received and held discussions with the Ethio-Sweden Parliamentary Friendship Group.

They reportedly told their Ethiopian counterparts that they had witnessed firsthand, during their visits to various parts of the country, that Ethiopia is on a path of rapid growth and change, is a tourist-friendly country, and that its people are hospitable, respectful, and tolerant.

The third parliamentary diplomacy event of the month was the reception of the Ethiopia-Sweden Parliamentary Friendship Group by the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs of the House of People's Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. During the parliamentary diplomacy event, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs, Honorable Dr. Dima Nogo, noted that Ethiopia has a strong and historic relationship with Sweden, and that this cooperation has lasted for decades in the fields of defense, agriculture, and education. However, the report states that Dr. Dima are concerned that the recent visa restrictions imposed by the European Union on Ethiopian citizens could harm the bilateral relations between the two countries, and have asked Sweden to do its part to lift these restrictions. The Head of the Ethiopia-Sweden Parliamentary Friendship Group, Honorable Magnus Oskerso, said that the meeting aimed to further strengthen the long-standing partnership between the two countries and to discuss ways to enhance their cooperation. The delegation also praised Ethiopia's achievements in increasing wheat and food production, and noted that it was an opportunity to understand the country's current security situation.

Representatives about themselves by their own

The House of Representatives of Ethiopia spent the month of September not only fulfilling the constitutional responsibilities discussed above, but also carrying out activities such as reviewing the reform committee of the House, reviewing the performance of the winter parliamentary work, and reviewing the report submitted by the leadership members of the House Secretariat regarding the preparations for the opening of the House, and launching the House of Representatives television.



The Chairman of the Reform Committee, Honorable Ato Melese Mena

The House of Representatives Reform Committee, together with the senior leaders, reviewed the two-month plan implementation report prepared by the House Secretariat for the opening of the House for the current year. In his report, the representative of the Secretary-General of the Office Kereyu Banata stated that the Office has done an excellent job, especially in the areas of human resource management and information technology. The head added that employees have started working under the new organization, that work is being done to fill the vacancies created through advertisements, and that training has been provided to increase the capacity of employees. He also explained that procurement, protocol and technology infrastructure works have been carried out well, and that the delay in the construction projects of the institution has been highlighted as a gap, the report of the House states.

The Reform Committee, for its part, after examining the report submitted by the Office, commended its performance and stated that the Office has become an institution that plans and executes tasks by calculating tasks, and that the problems that existed before regarding human resources are being resolved.

The Chairman of the Committee, Honorable Ato Melese Mena, for his part, mentioned that the work done in training and assigning the staff to the right positions, the improved procurement performance, and the technology-supported representation system are encouraging. The Chairman also said that the media coverage of the House has reached a good level.

Another 'self-reflection' event of the 6th House of People's Representatives was the review of the 2017 winter public representation work of the House of People's Representatives; what works were done in the winter representation work, the results obtained in the work process, the problems encountered and the solutions taken were the topics of discussion, explained the Minister of State for the House of People's Representatives, Ms. Mesekerm Haile.



The Speaker of the House of Representatives, its Deputy Speaker and the Government Representative in the House, when they inaugurated the House of Representatives Television Channel

The most important event of the first year of the month was the inauguration of the long-awaited Parliament TV channel. The channel, called EBC Parliament TV, was officially inaugurated on September 26, 2018. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives, Honorable Ato Tagesse Chafo, Deputy Speaker of the House, Ms. Loomi Bedo, the Chief Minister of the Government, Honorable Dr. Tesfaye Beljge, the chairmen of the standing committees, and other invited guests, according to the inauguration report.



The Speaker of the House, honorable Tagesse Chafo, who stated that the House of Peoples' Representatives has been preparing for the launch of ETV Parliament for the past years with the relevant parties, said that the broadcasting of the ETV Parliament channel will enhance public participation and democratic culture. The Speaker added that the broadcast will allow us to directly convey the people's questions and complaints while reviewing projects and various plans in the country and to work on solutions. The television channel will allow the people and the parliament to exchange information and play their part in building a strong government, said Honorable Dr. Tesfaye Beljige, adding that the channel will play a helpful role in presenting the parliament's legislative process, decisions made by the parliament, and the implementation of public representation activities to the public. Deputy Speaker Loomi Bedo, for her part, said that the official launch of the ETV Parliament Channel is a significant step in establishing and strengthening the democratic system, and that the parliament's own channel will contribute in many ways to making the parliament's missions accessible to the public.

The Commissioner of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Honorable Berhanu Adelo, who was present at the inauguration ceremony, said that the launch of the ETV channel is a great success that will bring the parliament closer to the society in light of its great responsibility. The Chief Ombudsman of the Ethiopian People's Ombudsman Institution, Honorable Ms. Samegn Wube, said that by making democratic institutions easily accessible to the society, it will help resolve problems of good governance in various institutions.

| Satellite | NSS 12 at 57.0°E |
|--------------|------------------|
| Frequency | 11545 |
| symbol | 44999 |
| Polarization | Horizontal |



Bridge's Observation Regarding the MOU

The main subject of the Bridge research observation of this month's edition has been chosen to be the signing of the agreement document that allows our institution, Bridge Research and Innovation, to work collaboratively with the Office of the House of Representatives (HoPR).

The signatories of the agreement document between the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives Office and Bridge Research were Ato Kereyo Banata, Deputy Secretary-General of the HoPR Office, and Dr. Kaleab Tadesse, Director of Bridge Research and Innovation, as understood by our newsletter. Among the topics included in the agreement, the main contents are:- providing research support to the HoPR, offering capacity building training, and carrying out activities that enable the House's work to be presented to the public. Honorable Lomi Bedo, Deputy Speaker of the HoPR, who was present at the signing, stated that the cooperation areas and their detailed implementation included in the agreement document were reviewed in light of the House's mission, and the document gained acceptance after being thoroughly reviewed for three months. The Deputy Speaker added that, issues related to budget and administration were given strong emphasis. Beyond the Deputy Speaker, Ato Kereyo Banata, the representative of the Secretary-General of the HoPR Office, was understood by our newsletter to have stated that, the Office will work jointly with Bridge on research, capacity building, and related issues.

On her part, Dr. Merçy Fikadu, Madam Chair of the Board of Bridge Research and Innovation and Director of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies at Addis Ababa University, indicated that the agreement has gone through many discussions, signifies continuity, and was prepared with a long-term perspective. She also stated that in addition to the works specified in the contract, there are other planned works that will be implemented in the process. Dr. Merçy added that Bridge is prepared to provide uninterrupted service and will go into action in a short period, as she was heard saying that day. Dr. Kaleab Tadesse, Director of Bridge, underscored that the memorandum of understanding is a major milestone in Bridge's institutional mission.

The Director stated that this agreement is not just a common institutional partnership but a shared vision aimed at establishing robust research and study institutions that contribute to Ethiopia's comprehensive democracy and developmental progress.

On that day, we noted the presence of Dr. Nigussie Meshesha, Deputy Secretary-General for the Professional Sector of the HoPR Office and Ato Andinet Adnew, Head of the Government Representative Office at the HoPR.

The Core Tenets of Bridge

The consensus agreement reached between our institution, Bridge, and the HoPR Office, as Bridge News Magazine was able to understand, will set a long-term cooperation framework that directly supports the institutional capacity and democratic effectiveness of the House of Peoples' Representatives, and focuses on research, training, and enhancing public participation. The agreement covers broad cooperation frameworks, the main ones of which are the following:-

- Supporting evidence-based policies and legislative processes with concrete and timely research;
- Providing capacity building training to the representatives and the House staff on selected topics;
- Supporting and facilitating information sharing activities that enhance the transparency of the House's work system and improve the way the House communicates its various constitutional functions to the public and;
- Implementing the shared vision for strong democratic institutions building.



Honorable Deputy Speaker Ms. Loomi Beto in conversation with the leaders of Deebdabe Letters and Bridge Research



When the Deputy Chief Administrator of the House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR) and Deputy Chief Administrator of the Administration Sector, Ato Kenyu Banata and the Director General of Bridge Research and Innovation, Dr. Kaleab Tadesse, signed the MoU

Bridge Research and Innovation is a domestic organization that focuses on conducting studies and research primarily on parliamentary affairs. In other countries, institutions that provide citizens with awareness regarding the functions of public representative houses or organizations that focus solely on research and study on parliaments or provide professional support to the HoPRs' based on their research findings, are widely known. Bridge Research and Innovation, in this regard, was established with the main focus of its framework being to monitor the routine constitutional activities and functions of the federal and regional Houses and the standing committees within the House in our country, to ensure the community has a proper understanding of the House's current functions. To achieve this goal, it primarily carries out timely and sustainable research that is deep and supported by concrete data, providing input to

The House of Peoples' Representatives, its standing committees, and the secretariats of the Houses. Aided by its research results, it provides training-focused support to enable the institutions to better carry out their constitutional responsibilities.

Furthermore, Bridging Research and Innovation organizes public forums around topics directly concerning the Houses of Representatives, good governance, peace, and human development issues, where stakeholders engaged in these areas can discuss and exchange ideas, playing its part in the advancement of the country's democratic institutions. In addition, it organizes training forums to

Objectives

1. To work on tasks that enhance the accessibility and image of public representative institutions, especially the FDRE House of Representatives, among the community, enabling the community to have a better understanding of the institutions and the House's constitutional functions.
2. To conduct studies and research that support the constitutional functions of public representative institutions and the HoPR Standing Committees, prepare analyses, disseminate them, provide training, and suggest implementation directions based on concrete research and analysis.
3. To provide professional support for the existence of a strong House of Representatives that reflects the prosperous economy, a single political community, and the advanced democratic system that Ethiopia desires.
4. To organize discussion forums where citizens can discuss and exchange ideas on issues of peace, good governance, and development.
5. To organize public research and study forums that benefit policymakers, democratic institutions, and officials at various federal and regional administrative levels.
6. To increase the participation of women, people with disabilities, those with marginal voices, and other vulnerable segments of society in issues of peace, administration, and development.

Institutional Directions

- Performing concrete research and policy-focused analyses;
- Monitoring the constitutional work of public representatives;
- Capacity building activities carried out on various topics;
- Providing single-round training focused on specific topics;
- Creating collaboration with various international organizations, higher education institutions, and other stakeholders around a shared vision;
- Presenting professional analyses to the representatives on global, continental, and regional current affairs.
- Enhancing stakeholder participation and
- Strengthening policy-focused advocacy.

Current Activities of Bridge Research and Innovation

Regular Publications

- "Enderasie," a monthly parliamentary digest Magazine compiled in English and Amharic, summarizing the monthly constitutional activities of the FDRE House of Representatives, is the foremost. The Magazine is prepared based on the information released daily by the HoPR Office. The topics covered by the magazine include the main works of the House:- lawmaking, conducting explanatory forums, the twice-yearly voter-representative representation work, oversight of executive institutions, field and institutional visits, parliamentary diplomacy and friendship committees, and the 'self-reflection' activities carried out by the representatives themselves. Beyond these issues, the magazine presents Bridge's analytical views, based on its editorial policy, on laws enacted or crucial activities of the House during the selective month.

- Bridge annually publishes a descriptive treatise, "Parliamentary Audit/Handbook of HoPR," prepared in various languages, which chronicles the overall work status of the House of Representatives (lawmaking, executive oversight, representation work, parliamentary diplomacy, and other notable works). This annual descriptive treatise is the first of its kind in our country, prepared in collaboration with the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives and the HoPR Office. It will strengthen the democratic system construction by assessing the four main works of the House of Representatives, the Standing Committees, and the House Office, as well as other related events, against international public representative institution standards, highlighting the House's work, building the capacity of the representatives, and generally supporting the work of the House.
- "Parliament and Public Policy," a quarterly research magazine published in English, focusing on the Houses of Representatives of countries in the region, is also one of Bridge's current activities. The main goal of the magazine is to promote research and study concerning the Houses of Representatives of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) member states; namely, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda, as well as Somaliland. This magazine publishes research articles that deeply examine the role of the Houses, their working methods, legislative processes, oversight authority, and their relationship with the public and the government. Its objective is to enable a better understanding of parliamentary affairs among citizens in the region, scholars, policymakers, and other stakeholders, and to encourage discussion and policy improvements based on the Houses' work. Therefore, the magazine contributes to the accountability and transparency of the Houses in the region by expanding awareness of the construction and functions of democratic institutions. In connection with this, Bridge works in collaboration with IGAD and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of IGAD Member States; it also supports their work.

Collaborative Works

Bridge Research and Innovation, in collaboration with 'The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)', is currently undertaking a study titled "Ethiopian Parliament:- After The 2018 Reform," which broadly analyzes the institutional change shown by the FDRE House of Representatives since the political reform of 2010.

Bridge Research and Innovation is a domestic non-governmental organization founded by a few Ethiopian scholars who desire and strive for the construction of a strong federal government and a democratic system in our country. It firmly believes that to achieve its founding objective, it must work closely and in coordination with the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives and its Office.

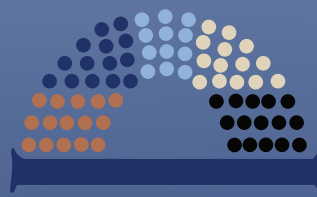
Therefore, Bridge Research and Innovation, including Enderasie monthly digest, has embarked on a new journey to genuinely document the Parliament's activities in its work, upholding the dignity and respect of the House, and delivering information to the public in a balanced manner. Furthermore, in addition to the main works and target goals mentioned above, and in consultation with the House, it has begun various capacity building, study and research, and other complementary works to strengthen our democratic institutions.



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Disclaimer note;

“All pictures whether of personalities or typographies featured in these monthly digests are sourced from the official pages of the House of Peoples’ Representatives Secretariat Office. Likewise, all data presented are drawn from this same source. BRIDGE assumes responsibility for the insightful observations, summaries and any interpretations thereof.”



ENDERASIE

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