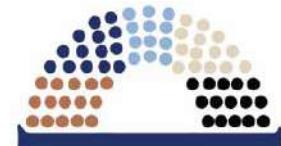




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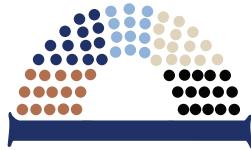


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To advance democratic governance and enhance peace through evidence-based research and innovative policy analysis.



Vision

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



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- ① Conducting evidence-based research.
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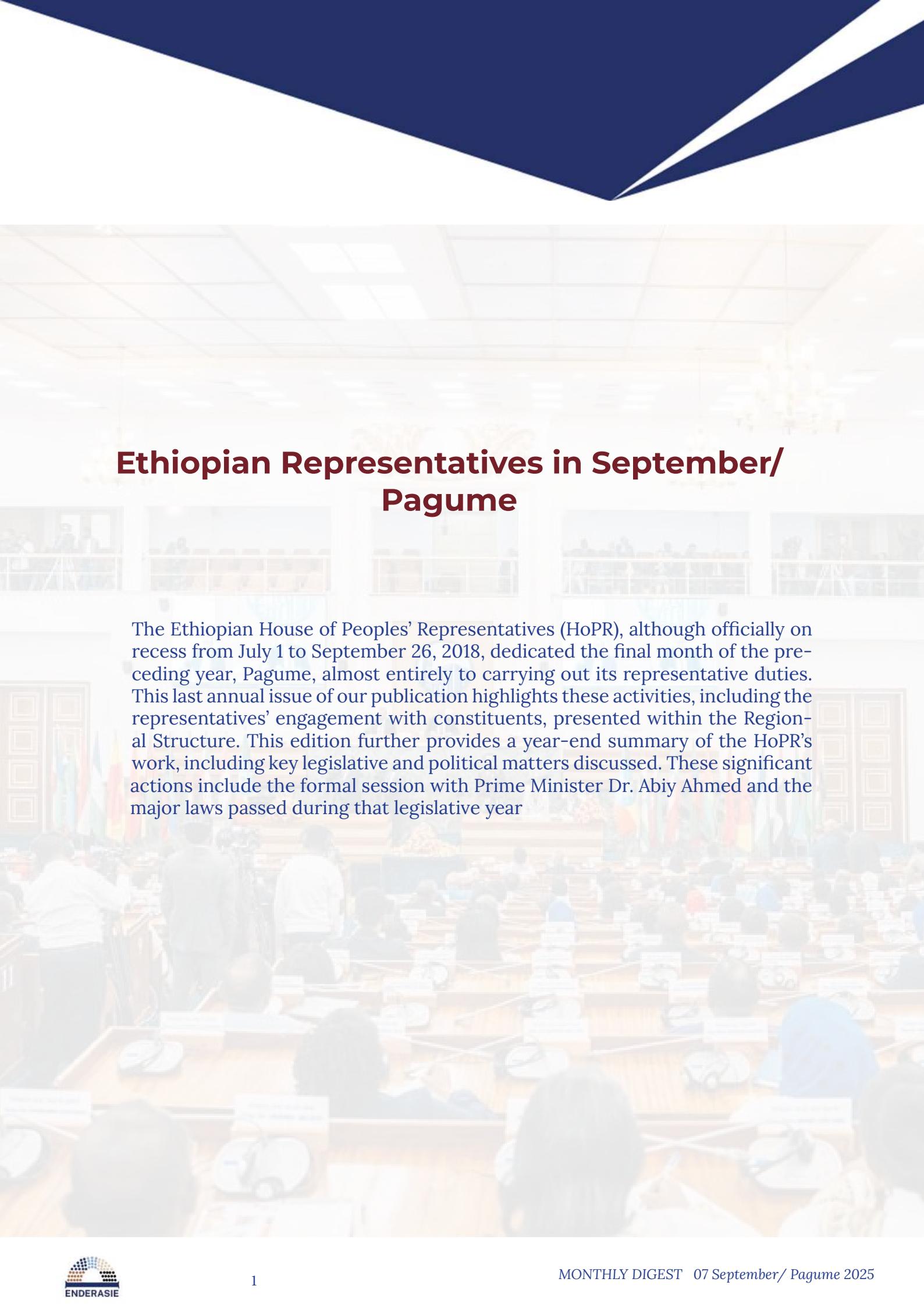
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Ethiopian Representatives in September/ Pagume

The Ethiopian House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR), although officially on recess from July 1 to September 26, 2018, dedicated the final month of the preceding year, Pagume, almost entirely to carrying out its representative duties. This last annual issue of our publication highlights these activities, including the representatives' engagement with constituents, presented within the Regional Structure. This edition further provides a year-end summary of the HoPR's work, including key legislative and political matters discussed. These significant actions include the formal session with Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed and the major laws passed during that legislative year

Representative Works of the Representatives

The primary duty of representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) from July through the last week of September is constituency-voter engagement. Accordingly, representatives have been visiting their respective districts since August to discuss issues and hear constituents' concerns.

What Did Dire Dawa Raise?

On the first day of the 13thmonth, a consultative forum was held in the kebeles under the Asliso cluster in Dire Dawa. Speaking at the event, Dire Dawa's representative in the HoPR, Honorable Abduljuhad Mohammed, acknowledged that the community's questions about administrative challenges in the cluster were valid. He emphasized that national development efforts not only address current problems but also benefit future generations. His Honorable assured participants that the issues raised would be discussed with relevant executive bodies and stakeholders to ensure proper responses. Dire Dawa's other representative, Honorable Dr. Biftu Mohammed, noted that some of the cluster's concerns had already been addressed; particularly employment opportunities for educated youth, who have secured positions in government and private institutions within the administration. The forum, attended

by both representatives, was described as productive, with meaningful discussions held with community leaders at various levels of the city administration. It was also highlighted that efforts are underway to enhance educational quality through the "Education for Generations Movement," aimed at cultivating a knowledge-driven society. In a related forum attended by Dr. Biftu, the Deputy Mayor of Dire Dawa Administration and Head of the Trade, Industry, and Investment Bureau, Mr. Harbi Buh, stated that the oversight and support provided by the council members to the executive cabinet are encouraging and have strengthened the administration's capacity to perform effectively, according to House reports.



At the Dire Dawa City Administration, in the kebeles under the Bio Awale cluster, the Honorable Mrs. Biftu Mohammed, a member of the House, held a concluding constituent-representative forum in the presence of cluster electives and leaders of the Dire Dawa Administration Council.

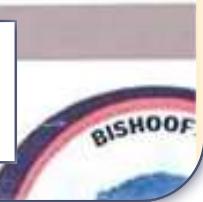
What Issues Did Oromia worry about?

On the first day of Pagume, HoPR member Honorable Juhar Mohammed visited West Hararge Zone and met with woreda leaders. In his remarks, he praised the improved service delivery at Doba City Municipality and the Woreda Health Center, urging that such progress be replicated across all urban municipalities and rural kebeles in the woreda. During the visit, the HoPR member and regional council members distributed educational materials to students from disadvantaged families. In the same Doba Woreda, Honorable Juhar Mohammed and regional council members held a wrap-up discussion with woreda leaders. Honorable Ms. Biftu Hassan, who visited the eastern part of the zone, also attended

and donated educational materials. Afterward, the HoPR member toured Deno Hospital with the regional representative, where the community highlighted the urgent need for a lasting solution to the shortage of medical professionals and medicines. Honorable Eskinder Ali, who visited the same zone, reported that participants in lowland districts affected by drought raised concerns about the rising cost of living and commodity prices, medicine shortages, road construction, electricity access, and the provision of clean drinking water.



Honorable Dr. Lemma Abera, a member of House of Peoples' Representatives and representative of Bishoftu city, along with members of the Chaffee Oromia Council, jointly held discussions with the residents of the city.



The electoral forum held in East Bale Zone of Oromia Regional State was attended by Honorable Mrs. Sadia Aman, senior woreda leaders, government officials and community members, who engaged in in-depth discussions on pressing issues requiring resolution. During constituency outreach in Bishoftu town of East Shewa Zone, Honorable Dr. Lemma Abera heard from residents that numerous promising development projects are underway in the city. Dr. Lemma addressed the community's ideas and questions, according to HoPR reports. The following day in the same zone, Honorable Shumi Ayano and Honorable Muhammad Kemal met with constituents and urged elders, Aba Gedas, Hada Sinqe, and religious leaders to play their part in peacefully pursuing political objectives in their areas. In West Shewa Zone, Honorable Mrs. Addis Assafa faced similar questions on good governance. HoPR reports indicate that discussions focused on agricultural implementation, the supply and distribution of inputs, and service delivery by government institutions; issues repeatedly rose during public engagements. While meeting con-

stituents in Adea Berga Woreda, Honorable Mrs. Mesekelem Hailu noted that the drinking water shortage in Muger town remains unresolved and despite the town's location between two factories, ongoing development efforts are insufficient. She stressed that development workers face challenges and need stronger support. Honorable Dr. Alemu Gonfa, visiting West Shewa Zone to hear current community concerns, emphasized that sustainable peace is essential for the government to effectively address education and health development. Honorable Mrs. Fanos Hailu and regional council members, during visits to Abechu and Pea districts in North Shewa, ensured that district executives responded to public questions and comments. They also committed to monitoring the implementation of solutions at both regional and federal levels.



Honorable Mrs. Sadia Aman, a member of the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives and representative of Buria developing town in Gololcha Wereda, East Bale Zone of the Oromia Region, along with a member of the Chaffee Oromia Council and senior woreda leaders, held discussions with the people who elected them.

In Jimma Zone, Honorable Mrs. Feyma She/Jemal noted that previous discussions with constituents have focused on development, good governance, peace, and security. During outreach led by Honorable Khalid Abamecha Hajj in the same zone, it was reported that peace and security in the zone and woredas remain stable, aligned with government directives. According to Khalid Abamecha, woreda executives will address the questions and comments raised, with HoPR monitoring those requiring resolution at regional and federal levels. Honorable Mr. Feyd Sherab, attending the same constituency event in Jimma Zone, urged relevant government bodies to prioritize solutions for drinking water, electricity, and road infrastructure and mosquito control.

In Arsie Zone, Honorable Mrs. Chaltu Werj Tuke highlighted recurring concerns about roads, electricity, clean drinking water access, and project quality monitoring by federal and regional governments. She called on district administrations and relevant bodies to collaborate closely with communities to resolve good governance issues. Honorable Issa Boru, present in Gololcha Woreda of the same zone, affirmed that the community's questions were valid and that the government should respond to the best of its ability. Honorable Mrs. Zara Biftu and members of the Chefe Oromia Council, visiting the same zone, engaged various community segments, validating the woreda's concerns and assuring timely government responses, per HoPR's reports. In Guji Zone, a constituency forum addressed infrastructure delays, including the Dilla Haro Wache asphalt road, the Haro Wache-Shakiso asphalt road and the unstarted Mie-Boko-Bule Hora road. The event, led by Honorable Dr. Fraol Udesa, included

Chefe Oromia Council members Mrs. Chaltu Tuqa and Mr. Tessema Dulo, along with stakeholders from various kebeles and the city administration. Under Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed's leadership, the resolution of longstanding bottlenecks in agricultural inputs; such as launching a fertilizer factory and the operationalization of Kalub natural gas were cited as examples of national progress. HoPR reports also indicate that the North Shewa delegation forum was attended by Honorable Dr. Kefena Ifa.

Honorable Chala Lemi, representing the people of Liben Chuqala Woreda in East Shewa Zone, Oromia Region, stated that fundamental development concerns raised by constituents must be addressed progressively. He emphasized that peace and security remain a government priority, and efforts will continue diligently to achieve lasting stability. In the same zone, Honorable Mrs. Birke Zewde and Honorable Mr. Jebesa Mulatu engaged in discussions on peace and security, delays in the Fiche City substation construction, and the unimproved road from Addis Ababa to Gojam. These topics; peace and security, the substation delay and road improvements; emerged as the primary issues from the talks. During a constituency forum in Guder Toke Kutaye Woreda of West Shewa Zone, Honorable Mrs. Tafesech Multa highlighted that sustainable peace is essential for tackling development challenges. Participants in the forum, including Honorable Mrs. Almaz Wedajo who visited East Shewa Zone, urged the government to prioritize and resolve electricity access issues to better support youth employment initiatives.

In Oromia Regional State, residents of Dale Wabera and Sedi Chenka woredas in the Qake Constituency of Qelem Welega Zone urged Honorable Dr. Negeri Lencho, during his visit, to address long-delayed projects and unresolved infrastructure issues. At a constituency forum in Mojo City Administration, discussions extensively covered service delivery, economic and social concerns, and good governance, with Honorable Mrs. Addis Alemayehu in attendance. Honorable Dr. Abdessemed Hussein, while in Jimma, personally distributed notebooks and learning materials to over 70 students and encouraged them to study diligently to achieve their future visions; he also visited Gumay Woreda, where he pledged to work tirelessly on resolving the community's infrastructure, good governance and development challenges in both the short and long term. Honorable Ustaz Kamil Aliye traveled to Robe Town in Bale Zone in February 2017 and, during the public engagement discussion, provided participants with detailed explanations of concrete responses to community raised questions and the progress achieved so far by the HoPR, according to HoPR reports. In East Sasga Woreda, residents expressed gratitude to the government for addressing their previously raised infrastructure concerns, with the voter-elect forum attended by Honorable Mrs. Elisabeth Ejigu, per HoPR reports; another HoPR report indicates that fellow HoPR

member, Honorable Mrs. Tsige Danboba emphasized that sustainable peace is the government's sole pathway to resolving development issues, and society must actively support peace efforts.

A grand ceremony was held in West Harrage Zone at the Bedessa polling station in Odabultum district and Bedessa town to celebrate the inauguration of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, attended by Honorable Amira Mohammed. Honorable Mr. Wege Qufana, for his part, hosted voter engagement discussions on economic, social, and political issues in Shashemene town. Honorable Mrs. Martha Lemma, engaging with community groups in Munesa district of Arsie Zone, reported that responses had been provided to some previously raised public questions and affirmed that the government would continue its role in ensuring peace and security. In Oromia Region, women from Knole Kaba No. 2 Constituency in Seyo Nole Woreda, West Welega Zone, participated in this month's voter preference forum, discussing various topics with Honorable Mrs. Desta Bekadu. During the event, participants emphasized that women's involvement is crucial for nation-building, peace, and development, underscoring that progress cannot be achieved without their participation.



Honorable Mrs. Desta Befekadu, a member of the House of Peoples' Representatives, and members of the Chaffee Oromia Council jointly held discussions with women drawn from the Nole Kaba No. 2 electoral district in Seyo Nole Woreda, West Welega Zone of the Oromia Region.

To Beni Shangul Gumuz...

In this final edition of the year, Ethiopian HoPR members traveled to the border region of Beni Shangul Gumuz to conduct their representative work. Honorable Mrs. Tshdale Abera, visiting Buldglu Woreda, stressed that the peace achieved there must be reinforced and the region's natural resources harnessed to maximize benefits for local communities. Honorable Mrs. Manahil Imran, who went to Aburam Woreda, consoled residents whose homes and crops were devastated by heavy rains and hailstorms in four kebeles, while calling on government and non-governmental organizations to deliver immediate humanitarian aid to those affected. Honorable Mr. Mubarak Elias, Deputy Chairman of the HoPR Standing Committee on Agricultural Affairs and a visitor to the regional capital, highlighted high transportation costs and medicine access challenges for health insurance beneficiaries in the woreda as key obstacles, per HoPR reports; he noted that the government is prioritizing these community raised issues through electoral platforms. Honorable Dr. Abdessemed Hussein led a delegation in Didessa Woreda, where he affirmed that the ongoing development trajectory must persist and the concerns raised be tackled progressively.



In Buldglu Woreda of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, the Honorable Mrs. Tsedale Abera, a member of the House of Peoples' Representatives, conducted a constituent-representative forum with the community she represents.

From Afar

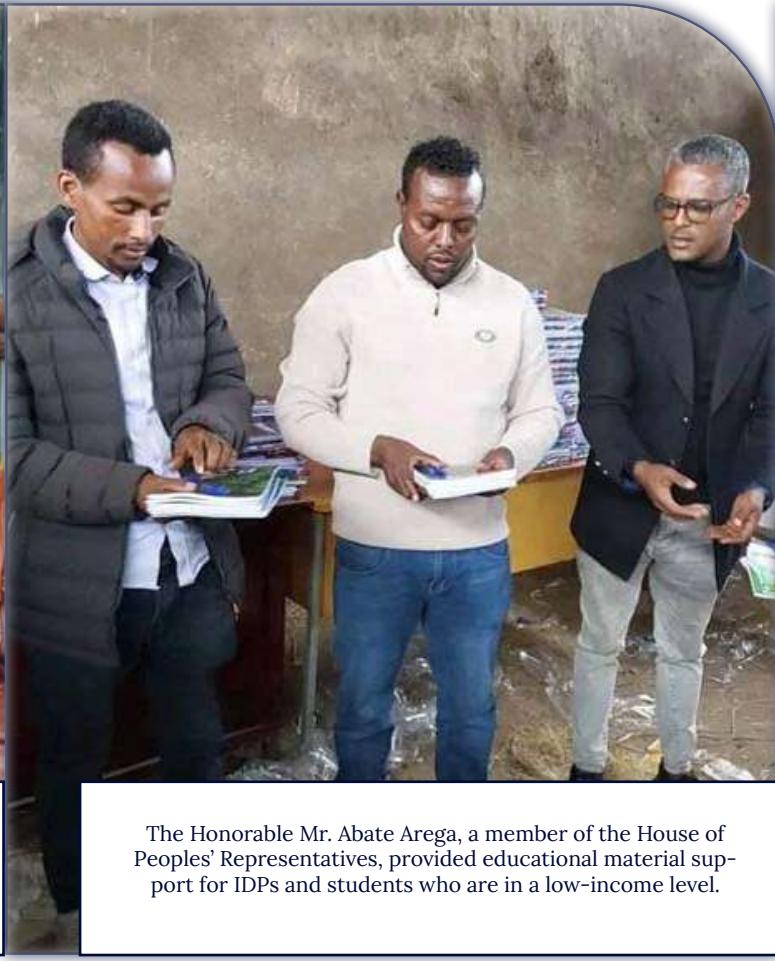
A few months ago, the Kessem Square Factory which struck by an earthquake in the region was among the sites inspected by the HoPR member in this 13th month. Honorable Mrs. Fatuma Ali, during her visit to the factory, confirmed that most of its buildings and the electricity substation had sustained significant damage from the quake. Honorable Mrs. Asia Abdulkadir, arriving in Elidaar District, assured participants that she would relay their concerns to executive bodies at every level to fulfill demands for development, good governance, social services, and economic opportunities, according to HoPR reports.

What was said in the Amhara Region?

Regarding the Amhara Region, it has been understood by Enderasie that, only one representation work was carried out in the Amhara Region during the month of Pagume and that was performed by the Honorable Abate Arega. It has been stated that during his representation work in this South Wollo Zone, he provided educational material support for displaced citizens and students who are in a low-income level. The Representative confirmed that the support is not limited, but will continue in a strengthened manner.



Honorable Mrs. Fatuma Ali, a member of the House of Peoples' Representatives, and the Honorable Mrs. Asiya Kemal, Speaker of the Afar Regional Council, jointly held a constituent-representative discussion forum in Dulesa Woreda.



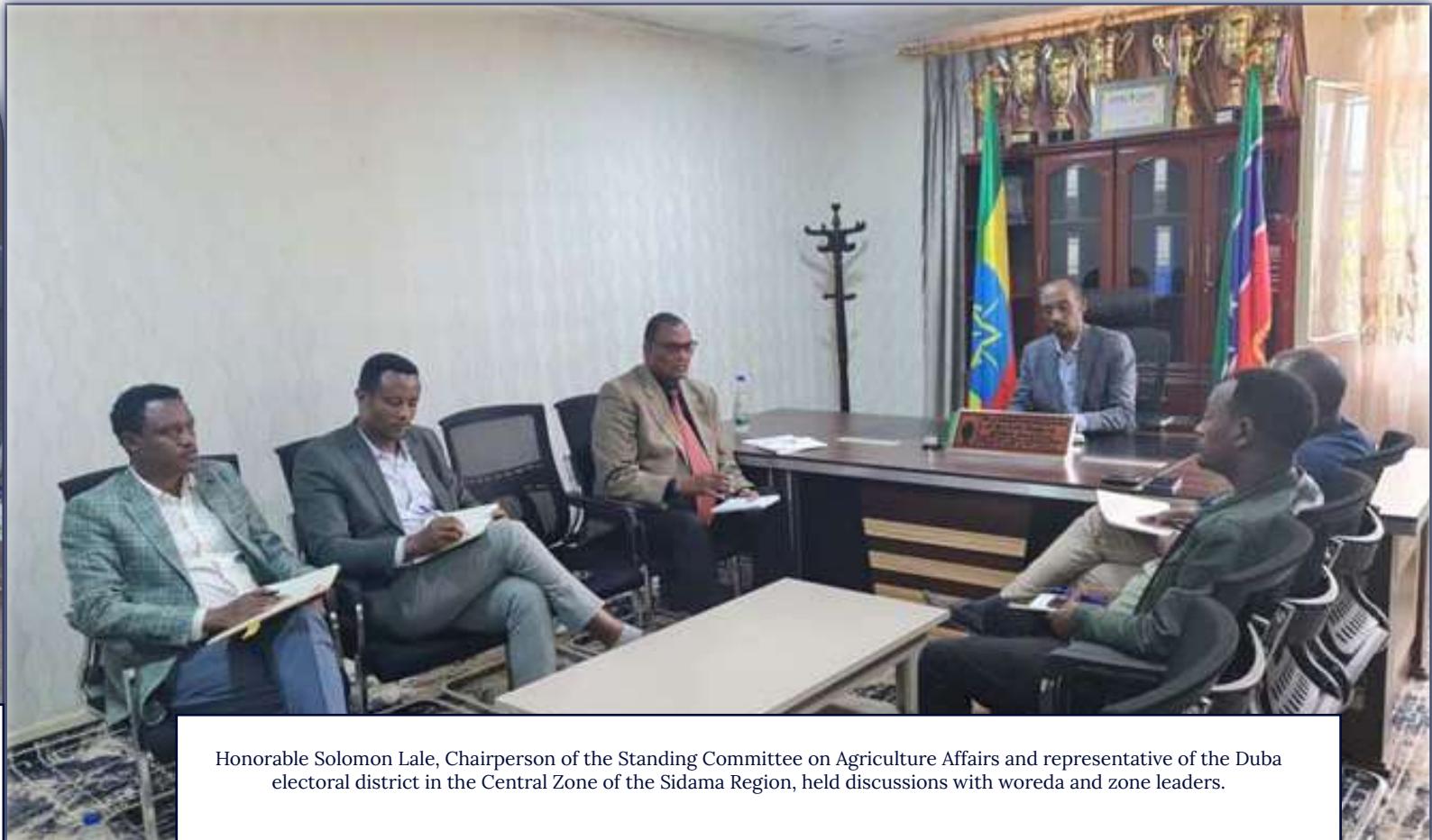
The Honorable Mr. Abate Arega, a member of the House of Peoples' Representatives, provided educational material support for IDPs and students who are in a low-income level.

From Southwestern Ethiopia . . .

HoPR reports indicate that Southwestern Ethiopia, like regions mentioned above, conducted only one delegation exercise during the thirteenth month of the year. The event in Darrow Zone was attended by Honorable Mrs. Aster Kefetaw, who urged relevant stakeholders to collaborate in enhancing women's participation and empowerment. Forum participants, in turn, called for focused efforts to address the rising cost of living, growing unemployment and the strengthening of good governance and decision making processes, while ensuring continued benefits for women.

What Do the Voters of Sidama Region Say?

In the past month, as in all other regions, single member constituency forums in Sidama Region focused on development and good governance issues. The meeting, chaired by HoPR Standing Committee on Agricultural Affairs Chairman Honorable Solomon Lale, provided feedback to woreda and zonal leaders to ensure the executive body addresses the people's concerns on development and good governance.



Honorable Solomon Lale, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Agriculture Affairs and representative of the Duba electoral district in the Central Zone of the Sidama Region, held discussions with woreda and zone leaders.

The Representatives in their own words

The Ethiopian House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR) spent the last month of the year fulfilling its constitutional duties while also delivering training to its House office's leaders and staffs.

At the conclusion, the Team building Communication and Interpersonal skill training, HoPR Secretary General Representative Mr. Keryu Banata emphasized that, such sessions are essential for self-improvement. He noted that this is the ideal moment to plan for the upcoming year; both personally and institutionally and expressed confidence that the training would facilitate effective preparation. Honorable Dr. Kebede Genete, who led the session, stressed the importance of maintaining an open mind to perform duties effectively. He explained that training enhances knowledge, fosters deeper understanding and when translated into action, yields significant results, according to HoPR reports.



The HoPR in Review: - Bridge Annual Brief Survey

How Did Ethiopian Parliamentarians Spend the Year?

For Ethiopian parliamentarians, 2017 was a year packed with significant events. With just one year remaining in their term, members of the sixth House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR) enacted several key laws. They summoned Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed to the chamber three times to hear the federal government's stance on pressing issues requiring clarification and response. This final edition of the year highlights the Prime Minister's platform and five major laws; along with their core provisions that were not featured in our previous six editions. (Note: Laws passed by the HoPR from March to June were covered in our earlier Enderasies' publications.)

The House of Peoples' Representatives, the federal government's highest legislative authority, had an intensive fiscal year. According to HoPR data, it did not convene all scheduled biweekly regular sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays but still held 43 regular meetings and three emergency sessions. A total of 56 draft proclamations were tabled; 34 were referred to Standing Committees, debated publicly and ultimately approved. Fifteen draft proclamations advanced to second reading. Additionally, the HoPR ratified nine proclamations carried over from 2016. Heading into 2018, several drafts remain pending; including two transferred from 2016 to 2017, as noted by Deputy Speaker Honorable Loomi Bedo in her July report to the House. Among the proclamations slated for review and approval in the New Year is one concerning civil society organizations, as the report gathered from the house affirmed.

Prime Minister's October Address

Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed appeared before the House of Peoples' Representatives three times in 2017, the first was on October 21. He stated that Ethiopia's foreign policy is rooted in cooperation with all nations and that sovereignty is best safeguarded through partnership rather than force. Speaking at the HoPR's third regular session, Dr. Abiy emphasized Ethiopia's commitment to accelerating development through mutual benefit and collaboration with neighboring and Middle Eastern countries. Addressing concerns that Ethiopia might go to war with neighbors; some linking this to Eritrea, others fearing invasion from elsewhere; the Prime Minister highlighted the peaceful relations Ethiopia enjoys with Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, and Kenya. He issued a firm warning to unnamed countries: attempts to exploit Ethiopia will not be tolerated. "We are not mercenaries," he declared.

"We are not hired by any group, bought by its name, or advancing any agenda but Ethiopia's. We are patriots. We will work with any nation that respects this principle." On Somalia, Dr. Abiy said: "We have given time for Somalia to establish peace, stability, and prioritize national interests. We will remain patient but Ethiopia's national interests are non-negotiable. The world should hear this today: Ethiopia seeks peace-

ful resolution to the Red Sea issue." He affirmed that this national interest will be realized by the current generation or by posterity, but stressed that Ethiopia harbors no desire for war. Regarding Eritrea, he assured HoPR members: "We want peace. Nothing will happen to our Eritrean brothers unless provoked. We will not disturb Djibouti and we will not sit idle if touched any one."

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's President, His Excellency Ambassador Taye Atske-Selassie, delivered his opening address to the joint session of the HoPR and the House of Federation on September 27, 2017. Along with His Excellency's speech, while responding to members' questions, the premier addressed the country's political situation too; noting that armed struggle is built on division and hatred. He reiterated the government's repeated call for militants to choose peaceful dialogue over violence. Citing the role of armed conflict in Ethiopia's economic stagnation over the past six to seven decades, Dr. Abiy reaffirmed that the door remains open to any armed group willing to pursue peace and close this chapter. (See Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed's other two addresses to the HoPR this year in the March and July editions of Enderasie.)



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, on the day he provided explanations to the House.

The Main Laws of the year

Among the laws passed in 2017, the urban land tenure proclamation sparked intense debate in parliament. The original law, in force since February 2006 and plagued by implementation challenges, was repealed. Its successor, titled Urban Land Tenure and Land-Related Property Registration Proclamation, applies nationwide to all cities. According to the Attorney General's explanation, a city is defined as any locality with a population of 2,000 or more, where over half the workforce is engaged in non-agricultural activities. As the reform extends to every city in the country, it raises critical concerns; most notably the delineation of city administrative boundaries, potentially the greatest hurdle to effective implementation. The proclamation mandates that a linear map of each city's administrative boundaries be prepared and officially approved in advance. It further requires a legally binding urban plan that aligns with these boundaries. Additionally, the government will bear the one-time cost of verifying property rights in designated land tenure areas and developing the strategic framework. During HoPR discussions, members of the House raised pointed questions, including landowners' concerns that the law must clearly define the extent of an owner's rights over their land.

Among the proclamations enacted by the House of Peoples' Representatives in 2017 were those tied directly to the economic reforms under Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed led government. A prime example is the Banking Proclamation passed in December 2017. This law repealed earlier banking proclamations from 2000 and 2011 and was first tabled in the HoPR in June 2016. Drafted in line with the government's Macro Economic Policy, introduced in August 2014 to open banking services to foreign investors; the proclamation faced scrutiny over whether it adequately prioritized Ethiopians. This concern was raised by the HoPR's Legal Affairs Research Directorate during dedicated discussion forums, per HoPR records. The proclamation's interpretation sec-

tion defines a foreign citizen of Ethiopian origin as an individual holding legal documentation confirming such status. On the day of passage, it was clarified that Ethiopians of origin opting for foreign citizen treatment would fully benefit from provisions applicable to foreigners. Regarding foreign participation in banking, the proclamation caps total foreign shareholding at 49% of a bank's subscribed capital. Foreigners may invest only through direct foreign investment, and profits earned from share ownership at the end of each fiscal year, denominated in Ethiopian Birr, may be reinvested within the country.

Among the laws enacted by the Ethiopian parliament in 2017, the General Education Proclamation stood out as particularly significant. Drafted by the Ministry of Education to establish a framework for ensuring educational quality, equity and core values, the proclamation mandates mother-tongue instruction for pre-primary students. It also proposes that, from grades 3 to 10, an additional local language is offered based on the student's or parent's choice of one of the federal working languages. This provision drew sharp criticism from HoPR members, who argued that including such a requirement before the five federal working languages were officially, designated left unclear which language students must select. The proclamation grants regional authorities discretion to determine the grade level at which mother-tongue instruction begins, while mandating its use as both medium and subject from pre-primary onward. Opposing members of the House contended that exclusive reliance on mother-tongue education could hinder students' proficiency in federal and international languages upon entering the workforce and they called for clearer provisions. Additionally, they requested a clause allowing 12th grade student to take university entrance exams in familiar environments to reduce stress. Members also urged amendments to enhance teacher salaries and benefits as a means to improve overall educational quality, as the House of Representatives' report shows.

Among the other proclamations adopted in 2017, the Property Tax Proclamation stands out as one approved by a majority vote; garnering four votes against and one abstention. This measure passed with minor amendments from its draft form, including adjustments to the payable property tax percentage, annual tax increase rates and exemptions for certain land and building services. A review of the draft by state officials revealed the addition of a new sub-article clarifying the definition of taxable value. Structured into six parts and 43 articles, the proclamation also repeals outdated laws, such as the 1968 Property Tax Proclamation, the 1971 Urban Land Rent and House Tax Proclamation, and its 1971 amendment. Notably, the 1986 provisions on urban land rent remain in effect, as cities continue to collect rent on existing non-lease holdings under this framework; a point explained to House members during deliberations.

The approval of the Urban Land Leasing Amendment Proclamation marked the highlight of 2017 HoPR's main legislative constitutional mandates. Presented at the first regular meeting of the House's fourth year, the proclamation justifies the amendment as essential for fully integrating cities into the leasing system and ensuring its comprehensive implementation nationwide. This measure replaces the 2004 Urban Land Leasing Proclamation and permits existing landowners displaced for public benefit to retain their sites in their original form, without conversion to leasehold. A pivotal urban focused provision addresses the

co-existence of government and private landholdings; a common scenario in cities like Addis Ababa. The proclamation requires that holdings of both government and private landowners on a single plot, as delineated by a comparative map, be incorporated into the allocation favoring the majority owner. The amendment introduces a novel legal process termed allocation, defined as a mechanism allowing an institution to lease urban land to another entity that cannot be accommodated via tender. Eligible lessees under this method include federally budgeted government institutions. For urban lands ineligible for tender or allocation; particularly those vital for national-interest services; the proclamation establishes a new framework called negotiation and specifies recipients. Eligible projects for negotiated land acquisition encompass industrial developments, star hotels and resorts, mega-mall initiatives and public-private partnership urban redevelopment efforts. The proclamation restricts urban land leasing exclusively to allocation, bidding or negotiation, barring any alternative methods. Notably, the 13-year-old predecessor proclamation had permitted leasing only through bidding or allocation. The amendment also addresses two key concerns specific to Addis Ababa. It ensures that legal tenants of kebele housing units in the city can purchase condominium units upon redevelopment. For commercial kebele buildings, a replacement space is provided; otherwise, a commercial space is offered on a leasehold basis.

In Conclusion

The House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR) concluded 2017 having faithfully discharged its constitutional duties as outlined in the Constitution. It rigorously reviewed performance reports from numerous federal budget institutions; spanning six to nine months and issued firm recommendations to remedy identified shortcomings. Mid-year, the HoPR conducted approximately 500 constituency delegations, including in February and August, while providing members with extensive capacity building training and in-depth consultations to analyze voter-engagement weaknesses and plan improvements for the year ahead. Having witnessed developments beneficial to the nation, the HoPR not only enacted key laws in 2017 but also laid the groundwork for legislation that will shape Ethiopia's political and economic landscape in 2018. With 2018 marking both an election year and the final term for current members of the House, it is poised to be a defining period of leadership and legacy.



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