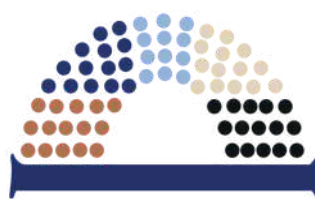


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Ethiopian Parliamentarians'
Monthly Digest



ENDERASIE

ENDERASIE IS A PARLIAMENTARY MONTHLY
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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.

CONTENTS

The Monthly Activities of Ethiopia's People's Representatives in January/February 2026	2
1. Regular Sessions of the House Conducted During the Month.....	2
2. The Prime Minister's Engagements in Parliament	3
"The New Chapter of History"	3
"Ethiopia has not secured any commercial loans"	4
"Our current challenge is the Wolkait area"	7
"The conflict started when..."	9
3: Legislative Activities of the House.....	11
3.1 Ratified Laws	11
3.2 Draft Laws	12
3.3 Explanatory Forums.....	13
4. Oversight of Executive Institutions	16
4.1 Institutional Reports.....	16
4.2 Institutional and Field Visits	20
4.2.1 Institutional Visits	20
4.2.2 Field Visits	23
5. Parliamentary Diplomacy	28
6. The Representatives About Themselves	30
7. The Representatives and Election 2018.....	32
8. Appointments	34
9. Bridge's Perspective: On Transitional Justice, the Role of the Representatives and Related Issues	35
What is Transitional Justice?	35
What Does the Policy Contain?.....	36
Is it Delayed?	39
What About Gender perspective?	40
What Do the Critical Critiques Raise?	42
Bridge's Few Recommendations	44



THE MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF ETHIOPIA'S PEOPLES' REPRESENTATIVES IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

The Members of House of People's Representatives (HoPR) have performed various constitutional and institutional responsibilities during the month of *Tir*. In the course of the month, while holding three regular sessions, they raised various questions and national issues requiring clarification following the country's Head of Government's six-month performance report of the fiscal year, and listened to the Prime Minister's responses. Beyond that, they have ratified proclamations and referred draft bills to the relevant standing committees. This final edition of Volume One of Enderasie presents the Prime Minister's key explanations, laws that were ratified as well as those held at the draft stage, while incorporating the oversight of executive institutions and institutional and field observations; it is thus presented by linking the month's selected theme of transitional justice and the role of the Representatives.

1. REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE HOUSE CONDUCTED DURING THE MONTH

Session: 6 th House of People's Representatives, 5 th Year of Tenure	Date	Agenda
9th Regular Session	Jan 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ratifying proclamations concerning the extradition of criminals between the governments of Ethiopia and the People's Republic of China, Brazil, and South Africa. * Referring a loan agreement intended to improve the service and accessibility of health institutions for detailed review. * Referring the Cooperative Societies (Amendment) draft proclamation, the proposal to improve Ethiopian Aviation Security, and the Federal Sports Development and Administration draft proclamations for detailed review.
10th Regular Session	Feb 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Listening to the responses and explanations provided by the Prime Minister of the FDRE, H.E. Abiy Ahmed (PhD), regarding questions raised by the representatives on the Federal Government's six-month performance report for the 2018 fiscal year.
11th Regular Session	Feb 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Approving the appointment of nominee board members for the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, nominee Vice Presidents for the Federal High Court and nominee judges for the Federal First Instance Court.



2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS IN PARLIAMENT

Ethiopia's representatives concluded the month of Tir not only by enacting laws or through institutional oversight and field visits; beyond that, they also attended to the country's Head of Government's semi-annual performance report for the current fiscal year and requested the Prime Minister to provide responses by raising socio-political and diplomacy-oriented questions that extended beyond the scope of the report.



During the session in which Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) presented the six-month performance report;

Among the questions raised by the representatives, the primary ones that can be mentioned range from peace and security to the current situation of displaced persons, from the cost of living to the long-standing question of sea access, and from the upcoming 7th general election to the issue of Eritrea. Enderasie has briefly compiled and

structured the key points of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) engagement at the House of Representatives as follows under sub-headings:

"THE NEW CHAPTER OF HISTORY" ENGLISH

In his engagement of that day, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) raised detailed points regarding his government's policies on education and related social sectors. Having first mentioned that work is being done to provide quality education equitably in the education sector, the Prime Minister indicated that it is necessary to focus on the younger generation to ensure sustainable education quality; to this end, he stated that approximately 34,000 kindergartens have been built and the children, who are the future successors of the country, are currently learning.

He also stated that efforts to improve the standards of schools at various levels, enhance teachers' capacity, and increase students' technological knowledge and skills will continue in a strengthened manner. Regarding the health sector, Honorable Dr. Abiy, noting that significant work has been carried out by giving special attention to increasing universal health accessibility and quality through the integration of prevention and curative activities, was heard saying that although results have been achieved through the reforms in the sector, it still requires much work. As an illustration, he mentioned that the number of mothers giving birth



in health facilities has reached 63 percent and the maternal mortality rate has decreased; he further added as an example the ability to control the Marburg virus, which occurred a few months ago, in less than three months.

The President of the governing party, heard telling the MPs' that today's preparation is crucial to win tomorrow's strong competition, was observed speaking emphatically that the government is working with focus to empower the youth for greater success. Mentioning that making technology one of the five pillars of the country's growth is a great investment made for the generation, the Prime Minister explained that Ethiopia is opening a new chapter of history, particularly regarding Artificial Intelligence. Accordingly, he stated that Ethiopia is working at high speed to build the world's second-largest Artificial Intelligence university and that this great educational institution will begin operations within the next one year. He shared his hope with the MPs' that, just as our forefathers built Ethiopian Airlines and made it world-renowned, this university will bring a better era and a bright future for the children of Ethiopia.

“ETHIOPIA HAS NOT SECURED ANY COMMERCIAL LOANS”

The primary topic among the issues on which Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) gave lengthy explanations during his Tuesday session at the

House was the economy-oriented subject, where he explained the results of the macro-economic reforms his government has followed for the past year and a half, supporting them with numerical data. Stating that the main objectives of the economic reform were to stabilize the macro-economic fracture, shift the economic direction from agriculture-led to multi-sectoral, and ease the country's debt burden, the Prime Minister said that satisfactory economic success has been recorded in Ethiopia by all standards.

In response to questions raised by the House members regarding how the cost of living and inflation, the increase in the number of unemployed, and other related problems have exerted a negative influence on economic growth; he explained that while remembering that multifaceted activities have been carried out to stabilize inflation and the cost of living in the country, it is necessary to further increase production and productivity to sustainably solve the problem. He also mentioned to the members of the House that the government will work with greater focus on food production, house construction, transport and school feeding sectors to change the cost of living and inflation.

It has been reported that during the first six months of the 2018 fiscal year, job opportunities were created for 2.6 million citizens domestically, while employment opportunities were facilitated for over 350,000 Ethiopians abroad.



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While mentioning that this is a fiscal year in which impressive results are being achieved in agriculture, industry, as well as other economic sub-sectors following a multi-actor economic sector growth, he was heard speaking emphatically that the government, through effective indicator works planned to register a 9.2 economic growth in the fiscal year, is working with focus to register a 10.2 total national growth by the end of the year. To this end, he also reminded that the indicators of the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) regarding the total national economic growth to be registered in the fiscal year are close.



As the representatives listened to the Prime Minister's explanations;

One of the issues about which Prime Minister Dr. Abiy spoke with a firm tone regarding the economy was the part of his speech where he stated that Ethiopia has not borrowed any type of commercial loan. Mentioning that Ethiopia has not borrowed any commercial loans since he came to power, the Prime Minister noted that before the reform, Ethiopia had a very high debt and there was a situation where lending countries said they would not lend because Ethiopia could not pay. He also reminded the representatives that for the past twenty years, under the pretext of projects, Ethiopia had been unable to pay after borrowing unhealthy loan agreements or commercial loans from some countries.

The Prime Minister, recalling that Ethiopia had been labeled as unable to borrow, stated that the conducted economic reform has improved this. The Prime Minister, noting that among the ten countries in the world that registered fast growth last year, five are African, was heard mentioning in his live



broadcast speech that Ethiopia is one of the leading ones.

While stating that Ethiopia is showing an amazing awakening in the economic field over the past six months, he raised the country's current foreign exchange reserves as an illustration. Mentioning that the government is providing subsidies in the billions to control price inflation, he stated that the country has obtained the highest foreign exchange income in history for the first time in the past six months. Accordingly, he stated that 4.5 billion dollars was obtained from commodity trade, 4.6 billion dollars from the service sector, 2.3 billion dollars from foreign remittances, as well as over 2 billion dollars from foreign direct investment (FDI). Consequently, he said that the country's foreign exchange reserves have reached the highest level ever seen in Ethiopia's history.

The President of the Prosperity Party was heard explaining his macro-economic clarifications by supporting them with numbers. Mentioning that Ethiopian Airlines used to transport 8 million people per year during the time of the reform and transported 10.7 million people in the past six months, he also stated that the number will reach 22 million this year. Dr. Abiy, stating that 37 million people used mobile phones during the reform period, noted that currently more than 97 million people use mobile phones. Continuing his numerical explanation, he mentioned that industries that were producing at 48 percent when the "Ethiopia Produces" movement started have

reached 66.3 percent, and stated that in the six months covered in his report, the power consumption of Ethiopian industries alone grew by 16 percent.

In explaining that his government has registered what he called high growth in the mining economic sub-sectors beyond the industry, he stated that iron production increased by 36 percent and cement production by 28 percent. The Head of Government, reminding the members of the House that the recent Middle East tension is causing fuel prices to fluctuate, stated that his government has changed fuel prices only seven times in the last year and a half and said this was not done because our people would be harmed if the price was added whenever it increased daily.

In response to the question from the House members regarding whether the entry of overseas banks into Ethiopia following the previous year and a half of macro-economic reform would harm domestic ones, he began his answer by stating that the process of banks growing to the level they ought to be has faced limitations due to a lack of competition. Noting that for the past three decades Ethiopian banks were made to operate alone without competition, he explained his government's current stance, stating that if foreign banks enter, since they bring capital and technology, they will play a role not only for general growth but also in developing our own financial sector. He was observed speaking with emphasis that the sub-sector's opening to overseas banks would not



cause national harm, saying, "Because the old sickness has not left us, we have opened it very slightly; it is not opened in a way that would destroy our own banks to that extent."

"OUR CURRENT CHALLENGE IS THE WOLKAIT AREA"

The Prime Minister, who spent a significant portion of his Tuesday morning hours on the economy, followed that explanation by giving extensive clarifications on questions raised regarding domestic politics. The Commander-in-Chief of the country, having previously mentioned that Ethiopia's problems with a lack of peace arise from three directions from ancient times until yesterday, was heard saying that the first is the practice of resolving our differences only through force, which we have inherited from the past. He cited the practice of treachery coming from ancient times as the second and for the third, he summarized the origins as the continuous anxiety of our enemies regarding "what if Ethiopia grows," before transitioning to his remaining politics-oriented explanations.

Honorable Dr. Abiy, stating "A bed rests the body; discussion rests the heart," also said that discussion repairs many fractures. Mentioning that the National Dialogue Commission has engaged many Ethiopians in discussion and gathered agendas, he was heard saying that the dialogue is

open to all and that, based on the gathered agendas, our interests are close to one another.

Speaking with a resonant voice, the Prime Minister stated, "treachery wounds, but it does not kill," explaining that the reason sustainable peace has not prevailed in various areas within Ethiopia is the coordinated activities of the "Banda" (traitor) and the "Bada" (stranger/outsider). Moving toward a specific political subject, Dr. Abiy raised the issue of Wolkait, telling the representatives he met during his Tuesday engagement, "Neither I nor you decide the issue of Wolkait; what decides it is the people of that area." In his extensive speech on Wolkait, he added a rhetorical response to his explanation, saying, "Displaced people want to return; those who were there before also say 'let them come to us'; the issue is who is holding them."

Beyond that, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) was heard saying, "You have seen in Raya; people have returned and are living. You have seen in Tselemti; people have returned and are living. In much of Oromia, they have returned and are living. Our challenge now is the Wolkait area." He placed what he called the reason, saying, "It is not because the people do not want to return, but because there is politics in Ethiopia that has made the displaced a hostage." He also stated that just as those like me make children an instrument for begging, some parties make the displaced a means for their own survival. Explaining the stance his government has taken on the Wolkait issue, he was heard saying, "What the Federal Government is



saying is: let no person be displaced; let them return to where they were; let them administer themselves; let them decide for themselves. Rather than one person sitting here and deciding, let it be decided through a referendum, according to the law."

Honorable Dr. Abiy, turning to Tigray politics in connection with the Wolkait issue affecting Tigray, was heard saying that the people of Tigray are peace-loving people who want to emerge from their current problems and change through their own diligent work. Stating that the people of Tigray want peace and development, and want to work and grow together with other brotherly Ethiopians, Dr. Abiy said that the people of Tigray, however, have not been able to be actors but rather a stage in the political context; others play on the stage while they themselves do not play. Indicating that politicians in Tigray must transition from supporting actors to lead actors, he explained that a new political thinking is required for this.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), attending the 10th Regular Session of the House, also responded to a question raised regarding the upcoming 7th national election. The President of Prosperity, heard saying this year's election will be better than the previous ones, stated that work is being done to make this year's election peaceful, fair, and inclusive. He added, "We are working emphatically to make it better than the elections held in past years."

The Prime Minister, stating that government officials are moving and working in various regions, was heard saying, "Now I am saying there will be a better election; some of you are anxious; the answer for the Ethiopian people is 'let us see it in the results'." Stating that work will be done to make the election more participatory than the previous one, he said, "The voice of a single party does not benefit Ethiopia." He added that he believes this parliament, from the current voice of five or ten people, will grow by five or ten times.

Beyond the upcoming 2018 election, the Commander-in-Chief raised the issue of the Ethiopian Air Force in the politics-oriented part of his explanation, disclosing the level of strength he said the Ethiopian Air Force has reached in the past few years. He supported his explanation with numbers, stating that our Air Force, which had only one capable helicopter at the beginning of the reform, has today become the owner of more than 100 modern aircraft with various names and functions.

The Commander-in-Chief noted that the preparation is a manifestation of strength aimed at sustaining and fortifying Ethiopia should a force that challenges the country's pillars emerge. The Prime Minister stated that unless we generate more wealth than the Bandas, pressure will be created through media and diplomacy and he urged that the solution lies in being found strong by enhancing competence.



“THE CONFLICT STARTED WHEN...”

In his half-day engagement on that Tuesday, beyond the socio-political and economic-oriented results of his government over the six months and future plans, Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed raised firm points in his explanation regarding diplomacy and the Horn of Africa. Regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), the Prime Minister gave a strong response to the statement heard a week ago from American President Donald Trump.

The Prime Minister stated that Ethiopia did not take any loans or aid from any party during the construction of the GERD. He emphasized that the country took neither loans nor aid for the dam's construction, saying, "It is a project accomplished because of the determined stance of heroic Ethiopians, and because Ethiopians both at home and abroad stood together with resolute determination and worked."

American President Donald Trump has recently and repeatedly been saying that his country supported the construction of the Grand Renaissance Dam financially; following this, Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed's response has become an official reply given at the highest level of the country's leadership. The Prime Minister added that Ethiopia did not stop only after building the Grand Renaissance Dam, which is the leading one in

Africa, but is also working on Koysha, which is the third-largest in Africa. Telling the MPs that the work on mega projects has not stopped in Ethiopia, the Prime Minister said that the construction of the number one airport in Africa has also commenced.

Beyond the Renaissance Dam, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed also raised the issue of Eritrea and he was observed mentioning matters that had not been officially disclosed by his government until that Tuesday engagement. In this regard, the Commander-in-Chief, who detailed destructions he said were committed by Eritrean soldiers during the war in Northern Ethiopia, addressed the existence of parties who claim that the misunderstanding between Eritrea and Ethiopia began when Ethiopia raised the Red Sea issue, stating that this is an error.

The Prime Minister, stating that the misunderstanding between the two countries began during the northern war, said that various offenses were committed by Eritrean soldiers. He told the Enderasies, "Since the time Eritrea was created, there has been a problem between the governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia; after we came to power, we pleaded saying 'we do not need this, let it stay away from us'." The Prime Minister, saying "The conflict did not start when the Red Sea issue came up as many think," was heard mentioning the origin of the conflict for the first time, stating: "When the fighting in Tigray started, after we cleared Shire in the first round of fighting, the conflict began when the Eritrean army started



destroying the houses and buildings of certain individuals from behind; though we did not speak of it then."

"When we passed through holding Aksum, the conflict intensified when they entered Aksum and massacred youth in mass; when we passed through holding Adwa, the conflict heated up when they went to Adwa and dismantled and stole from factories," the Prime Minister said. He added, "When we reached Adigrat, and they uprooted what could be uprooted and destroyed what could not be uprooted at the pharmaceutical factory, the conflict reached its peak; but at that time, the Ethiopian Government did not have the capacity to fight on this side and that side."

Regarding this matter, the Prime Minister even stated that he had sent the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gedu Andargachew, as well as the then Deputy Prime Minister, Demeke Mekonnen, to Eritrea to speak with high-level Eritrean officials. He explained the process of what he called the origin of the conflict to the members of the House, stating that as this conflict intensified and the Pretoria Agreement was signed, "The conflict reached its peak over the question of 'how can a signature be placed before TPLF is eliminated and Tigray is destroyed?'"

Following his Eritrea-oriented explanation, the Prime Minister transitioned to the long-standing issue of sea access and again emphatically stated the positions of his government which he had

raised in his previous parliamentary engagements. Dr. Abiy, heard saying that the Horn of Africa is a region sewn so as not to be torn and bound so as not to be joined, mentioned that we have the same race, language, and culture so as not to be separated; but conversely, many of us are not working on our national interests so as not to be joined and work together, noting that it is an area with high intervention and high competition.

Honorable Dr. Abiy Ahmed, stating "The Red Sea and Ethiopia cannot live separated forever," said that the Ethiopian government and people did not say 'let me kill people' to use the Red Sea; we said let us solve the issue through discussion and agreement, as well as through market laws and negotiation. He stated that we must share, and they must help; it is not possible to be profitable by harming Ethiopia.

The Head of Government, stating that a person who thinks Ethiopia does not need a sea outlet has missed a natural law, noted that regarding Ethiopia's request for a sea outlet, efforts are being made to achieve it through diplomacy and give-and-take; however, he added, "As it has been said, by any means necessary, it is something that will not be left behind."



3: LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE HOUSE

During the month of Tir, the Ethiopian member of the House ratified crime-related proclamations based on agreements Ethiopia reached with various countries, while referring four draft proclamations to the standing committees they deemed relevant. Beyond that, they conducted two explanatory forums.

3.1 RATIFIED LAWS

In the month of Tir covered by this edition, the Ethiopian members of the House ratified proclamations enabling **the transfer of sentenced persons as well as the extradition of criminals between Ethiopia and various nations**. Information obtained from the Council indicates that during its 9th regular session, the agreement on the transfer of sentenced persons was made between the governments of Ethiopia and the People's Republic of China, as well as between Ethiopia and the Federative Republic of Brazil.

The agreement for the extradition of persons wanted for crimes was said to be conducted between the governments of Ethiopia and the Republic of South Africa. Regarding the draft proclamations, the resolution prepared by the House Standing Committee on Legal and Justice Affairs was presented by the Madam Chair of the Standing Committee, the Honorable Ms. Etsegenet

Mengistu. It was noted that the madam chair stated the proclamation is one that aids the effectiveness of the rehabilitation process by allowing citizens sentenced for various crimes to finish their sentences in their own country and reintegrate into their society.

The madam chair of the Standing Committee stated that the agreements help prisoners serve their sentences in close proximity to the society, language, and culture they know and finish their terms in their own country. The information cited her further stating that the agreements made between Ethiopia and these countries consider criminal procedure processes, are based on international practices, and have significant importance for conducting effective crime prevention cooperation, ensuring the rule of law, and establishing a justice system. It was reportedly explained in the presented resolution that since the relationship between Ethiopia and China, as well as Ethiopia and South Africa, is increasing in the trade and investment sectors, it expands the opportunity for suspects and criminals to use this situation to flee to either country to escape the law. The House ratified all the proclamations with a unanimous vote.





When the Madam chair, Honorable Ms. Etsegenet Mengistu, presented the resolution prepared by the House Standing Committee on Legal and Justice Affairs;

3.2 DRAFT LAWS

In their 9th regular session held in mid-January, Ethiopia's representatives referred four draft proclamations to the House Standing Committees they deemed relevant.

The first was the **Cooperative Societies Draft Proclamation**. Regarding this draft, the state minister and Government Assistant Whip in the House, Honorable Ms. Meseret Haile, explained that amending the existing proclamation was found necessary to modernize the marketing system and increase the sector's economic share by making it modern, competitive, and effective. The House unanimously referred the draft proclamation, designated as Proclamation No. 6/2018, to the Standing Committee on Agricultural Affairs for detailed review.

The second draft proclamation was a proposal to amend **the Ethiopian Aviation Security Proclamation**. Honorable Ms. Meseret Haile also provided the explanation for this draft to the House. In her explanation, she stated that amending the existing proclamation was necessary to enable an aviation system that meets contemporary standards and protects national security, while aiding the modernization of the sector through technology.

It was reported that the state minister noted that the draft proclamation would help prevent current air security threats and ensure that air transport security is maintained at an international level, in accordance with the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The House unanimously referred this draft proclamation to the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs, with the Standing Committee on Urban, Infrastructure, and Transport Affairs serving as a collaborator for detailed review.

The third draft proclamation of the month was titled **Federal Sports Development and Administration**. Providing the explanation to the MPs for this draft as well, Honorable Ms. Meseret explained that, given the social and economic significance of the sports sector and its administrative complexity, there is a need for proper management and oversight. She further noted that the draft proclamation would play a significant role in establishing a legal framework and administrative operating system involving various stakeholders. The House reportedly



examined the draft proclamation and referred it to the Standing Committee on Health, Social Development, Culture, and Sport Affairs for detailed review.

The final draft proclamation considered by the House during the month concerned **a Loan Agreement**. Regarding the loan agreement intended to improve the service and accessibility of health institutions, the Government Whip, Ms. Meseret, told the House that the loan would assist the Ethiopian government in executing various strategic activities to ensure the quality and accessibility of health services.



***As the Honorable Ms. Meseret Haile,
Government Assistant Whip in the House,
provided the explanations for the draft
proclamations;***

The state minister explained that since the demand for health services is increasing significantly, equipping new health facilities with medical equipment is a priority; however, because medical equipment costs require high foreign currency, the

shortage of spare parts and the limited capacity of maintenance professionals have remained challenges in the sector. The House reportedly referred this draft proclamation unanimously to the Standing Committee on Plan, Budget, and Finance Affairs for detailed review.

3.3 EXPLANATORY FORUMS

One of the explanatory forums held during the month concerned the draft proclamation presented to amend **the Ethiopian Aviation Security Proclamation** No. 432/1997, according to information from the House. The forum was led by the House Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs; the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Dr. Dima Nogo, stated that Ethiopian Airlines is an institution that has gained acceptance within the international community. He indicated that to sustain this acceptance, it is necessary to review national and international aviation security legal frameworks so they are contemporary and provide long-term service.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Dr. Fetih Mahdi, on his part, stated that when the proclamation is enacted, it will play a significant role in ensuring the airline meets the legal provisions set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and protects passenger safety at a higher level.





Mr. Erstu Yirdaw, Deputy Director General of the National Intelligence and Security Service;

Mr. Erstu Yirdaw, Deputy Director General of the National Intelligence and Security Service, in turn explained that Ethiopian Airlines serves more than 20 million travelers annually. He noted that to ensure the safety of these customers; especially as security issues are changing and becoming more complex at an international level; it became necessary to amend the proclamation. The Director added that the draft proclamation would allow legal frameworks currently being implemented internationally in the aviation security sector to be supported by law in our country.

The second explanatory forum held in the month of Tir focused on a draft **loan agreement proclamation Ethiopia signed with the Republic of South Korea**, according to information obtained from the House. Regarding this draft proclamation, the House Standing Committee on Plan, Budget, and Finance Affairs conducted the explanatory forum with the Ministry of Finance.

At the forum, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Desalegn Wedaje, stated that according to the Constitution, the Ministry of Finance is granted the power to conduct foreign loan agreements in light of the country's economic interests; he noted that the presented loan agreement is necessary. The Chairperson added that although various hospitals have been built in the country, there is a lack of sufficient medical equipment and this loan agreement will alleviate the shortage of medical equipment in the health sector.



When the Honorable Ahmed Shide, Minister of Finance, provided his explanation at the explanatory forum;

Honorable Ahmed Shide, Minister of Finance, on his part, explained that since this loan agreement helps make health services accessible in health institutions located throughout the country, it will be used to fulfill medical equipment needs as well as to provide capacity building training for health professionals on the handling and use of the equipment. Beyond that, the Minister stated that the

government has carried out numerous activities by implementing significant macro-economic reforms over the past seven years and noted that the presented loan agreement is both timely and appropriate.



4. OVERSIGHT OF EXECUTIVE INSTITUTIONS

During this month, Ethiopia's House of representatives evaluated the six-month performance reports of five institutions through their respective standing committees and listened to the current report of one federal institution.

4.1 INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

The first to present its six-month performance report of the month was the **Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure**, and the report was heard by the House Standing Committee on Urban, Infrastructure, and Transport Affairs.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Prof. Mohammed Abdo, noted that although it is impossible to fully solve the housing problem, one of the methods used in other countries to address the issue is a mortgage banking service; he stated that the government should reorganize the former Construction Bank rather than establishing a new structure.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Dr. Eshetu Temesgen, on his part, recalled that a mortgage bank existed in Ethiopia in previous eras and was merged with the Commercial Bank for unknown reasons; he urged that the Ministry must take responsibility and work with focus to reorganize this bank. It was noted that

the Minister of Urban and Infrastructure, Her Excellency Ms. Chaltu Sani, stated that the support of the House and the Standing Committee is required to establish a mortgage banking system to solve the housing development finance problem.



Honorable Prof. Mohammed Abdo, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Urban, Infrastructure, and Transport Affairs, during the report session;

The second executive oversight activity of the House for the month was the session where it was stated that the **Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE)** is properly fulfilling its mission. The House Standing Committee on Government Development Organizations evaluated the institution's six-month plan for this fiscal year. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Melesse Mena, stated that the work performed by the bank in areas of the country with development gaps; by allocating 67.8 million Birr to fulfill its social responsibility alongside its regular banking work; is encouraging. The Chairperson added that the bank should focus on expanding its services in consideration of the



ever-increasing public demand, harmonizing profit with customer satisfaction.

Members of the Standing Committee, on their part, pointed out that the bank must work with focus to provide fast and efficient service to citizens by filling gaps related to accessibility and credit supply. The Vice President of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Mr. Ephrem Mekuria, noted that the bank is working with focus to increase its income from digital banking, profitability, and remittances during the half-year; he further explained that the bank is working to lead the digital economy by increasing the number of CBE and mobile banking users.



Ephrem Mekuria, Vice President of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, while presenting his report;

One of this month's executive oversight activities of the House was also the forum where the Governor of **the National Bank of Ethiopia**, Dr. Eyob Tekalign, appeared before the House to present his institution's six-month performance report for this fiscal year.

The report for the half-year was heard by the House Standing Committee on Plan, Budget, and Finance Affairs; it was reported that the Committee noted the bank has registered encouraging results through the multifaceted policy and directive reform works it carried out over the past years. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Desalegn Wedajo, stated that the ability to bring down the inflation rate, which was over 17 percent, to 9.7 percent within the six months of 2018 is encouraging.

The Chairperson added that it is necessary to continue working with focus to make the achieved results sustainable and to reduce the cost-of-living pressure on the community. He further noted that since the 5 billion dollars obtained within the six months represents a 13 percent increase from last year, it was the result of the reform works that were carried out.

Honorable Desalegn, mentioning that it is necessary to work on other products in addition to coffee and gold, from which high income was obtained, stated that focus should be placed on benefiting the community by increasing credit accessibility, particularly through loans provided against movable properties.

The Governor of the National Bank, Dr. Eyob Tekalign, on his part, stated that the reform works carried out in the finance sector over the past years have brought successful results. Mentioning in his report that the credit service provided to banks over



the past 6 months exceeded 600 billion Birr, Dr. Eyob indicated that banks are currently mobilizing over 4.2 trillion Birr. He also told the Standing Committee members that they will work with focus in the future to sustain the results recorded regarding reducing the cost of living, increasing foreign exchange earnings, and increasing the credit supply.



National Bank of Ethiopia Governor Dr. Eyob Tekalign presenting his institution's six-month report;

The fourth in line to present a performance report in the month of Tir was the **Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Services**, and the six-month performance of this institution for the budget year was heard by the House Standing Committee on Government Development Organizations Affairs.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Melesse Mena, stated that the institution is performing works that take the country's growth into account, noting specifically that its healthy financial system and foreign exchange earnings performance serve as an exemplary model for other government development organizations. The Chairperson further pointed out that the

organization's operations are growing from time to time and noted it is encouraging that 99 percent of the property transported by sea and land reached its destination without any damage.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Dr. Engineer Sileshi Kore, on his part, stated that although the success seen in terms of income performance is encouraging, the institution must work while maintaining quality and time-based metrics to remain competitive in the sector. The CEO of Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Services, Engineer Abdulber Shemsu, in the report he presented to the Standing Committee, noted that while the plan was to obtain 65.5 billion Birr in the half-budget year, 74.43 billion Birr was actually obtained, explaining that this shows a 59 percent growth compared to the same period last year. In the same report, the Engineer explained that while the organization covered a 40 percent share in transporting the over 4.7 million metric tons of dry cargo that entered the country via the Djibouti port, the transport of fertilizer specifically showed a 19-wave growth of 191 percent compared to last year.





Members of the Standing Committee on Government Development Organizations Affairs listening to the institution's report;

In the final week of this same month of Tir, **the Federal Housing Corporation** was called to present its six-month performance report of the budget year, similar to the aforementioned institutions; the report of the institution was heard by the House Standing Committee on Government Development Organizations Affairs.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Melesse Mena, in his concluding remarks following the discussion on the plan performance report, highlighted as a strength that the Corporation followed a procedure that enables it to efficiently fulfill its national trust. He noted that its revenue collection has doubled compared to the same period last year and stated that this should continue strongly. The Chairperson added, highlighting as strengths the institution's collaborative working methods, the correction of

flawed procedures, and the distance they have traveled to be free from audit findings, and cautioned that focus must be given so that these good performances do not regress.

The CEO of the Federal Housing Corporation, Dr. Reshad Kemal, on his part, presented to the Standing Committee the activities carried out regarding institutional building, the works done to answer citizens' housing questions, to increase the institution's revenue capacity, as well as to modernize the construction industry and increase competitiveness. The House report noted that the CEO stated they would take the points raised by the Standing Committee as input and work with focus to effectively fulfill the national responsibility entrusted to them.



Honorable Melesse Mena, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Government Development Organizations Affairs;

Beyond these mid-year institutional reports, the House Standing Committee on Democratic Affairs conducted a similar session. **The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission** presented its



report to this Standing Committee; the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Ewunetu Alene, stated that since the national dialogue is a golden opportunity for the country, every citizen should strive together for its success.

It was mentioned that the Commission presented a report to the Standing Committee regarding its agenda identification work; on that day, the Chairperson pointed out that bringing matters to the National Dialogue Commission; a golden opportunity; rather than attempting to resolve differences through force, has great significance.

The Commission stated that it has been traveling through many parts of the country conducting agenda identification and that the process thus far has been successful. The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Azmera Andemo, on her part, pointed out that the activities carried out in the digital sphere to build a system of operation and transfer it to the next generation are encouraging and should be taken as an experience by others. The House report cited the Chief Commissioner of the Commission, Professor Mesfin Araya, stating that works are being carried out based on digital systems to make the activities legacy-transmitting. Members of the Standing Committee, on their part, stated that the performed activities were successful and urged everyone to play their part to complete the remaining tasks in a short time.



Professor Mesfin Araya, Commissioner of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission;

4.2 INSTITUTIONAL AND FIELD VISITS

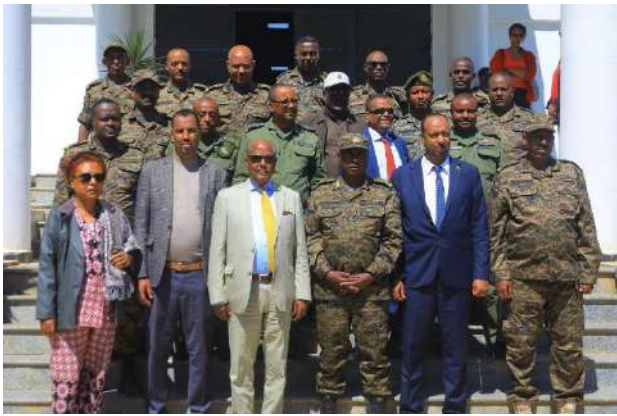
In the month covered by this edition of Enderasie, the Ethiopian Representatives physically visited no fewer than ten institutions through their representatives and carried out field observations in no fewer than five regions through delegated members of the relevant standing committees.

4.2.1 INSTITUTIONAL VISITS

Among the institutions the MPs decided to visit this month, a primary example is the **Eastern Command under the FDRE Defense**; the military institution was visited by the House Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Dr. Dima Nogo, urged the Command to continue its effective activities by fulfilling the national mission entrusted to it; protecting the



country's borders and ensuring peace; at an outstanding level.



When the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs toured and observed the operations of the Eastern Command;

The Chairperson added that, beyond its assigned responsibility, the activities the Command is carrying out in various development works to improve the livelihood of the surrounding area and the military should continue strongly. The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Dr. Fetih Mahdi, on his part, noted that the results recorded in the reform works being carried out by the Command should be taken as a shared experience.

The Deputy Commander of the Eastern Command, Major General Fekadu Tsegaye, on his part, stated that the Command is fulfilling its duty by guarding the country's borders, obstructing the movement of terrorist groups, and preventing contraband trade.

Information obtained from the House also indicates that the representatives visited a higher education

institution during this month. The showcase for this was **Ambo University**; the university was visited by the House Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, Employment, and Technology Affairs. It was reported that the Chairperson, Honorable Dr. Negeri Lencho, stated while observing the university's 2018 teaching-learning activities that work must be done to increase students' exit exam pass rates. The Chairperson added that efforts to benefit the community through study and research work conducted at the university should continue strongly. The report cited the President of the University, Dr. Bayissa Leta, stating that the university is working to maintain education quality and ensure good governance.

Another illustrative visit of the month was the institutional observation of the **Ethiopian Agricultural Works Corporation**, where the House Standing Committee on Government Development Organizations Affairs urged that work to modernize agriculture in Ethiopia must continue strongly.

The CEO of the Ethiopian Agricultural Works Corporation, Ms. Yeshimebet Negash, presented a report regarding the institution's performance to the members of the Standing Committee. The information noted that she explained works are being done to evaluate the general status of the corporation and enable the institution to continue as a competent, productive, and profitable competitor in the market.



The Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Melesse Mena, urged that the efforts of the corporation's new leadership to understand the institution's general status in a short time and ensure it remains competitive, productive, and profitable in the market should continue strongly. Not stopping with this comment, the Chairperson emphasized that the corporation must establish a research based and technology-aided procurement and sales system, and provide fertilizer, tractors, combines and other agricultural inputs to users with quality and on time.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Dr. Engineer Sileshi Kore, on his part, noted that the corporation is a crucial institution for agricultural transformation and pointed out that it must efficiently fulfill its mission of profitability and public service.

Information gathered from the House indicates that among the standing committees in the Ethiopian House of Peoples' Representatives, the aforementioned Standing Committee on Government Development Organizations Affairs conducted a higher number of institutional visits this January compared to other committees. Specifically, its visit to the massive **sugar factories under the Ethiopian Sugar Industry Group** is noteworthy. The Standing Committee, which conducted a field observation at the Omo Kuraz Sugar Factory, reportedly held an introductory discussion with Omo Kuraz officials before discussing with the sugar factory workers.

In the discussion with the factory workers, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Melesse Mena, pointed out that the role of workers is paramount for the factory to be profitable and effective; he stated that responsibility must be accepted to work on producing sufficient sugarcane and ensure effectiveness regarding factory productivity through study. The official, Mr. Habtamu Ayele, who presented the six-month performance report for Omo Kuraz Number Three, mentioned that by expanding infrastructure, work is being done with a plan to cover 2,600 hectares in sugarcane planting activities.

Traveling to another of the country's sugar factories, Metahara, the Deputy Chairperson of the same Standing Committee, Honorable Dr. Engineer Sileshi Kore, noted that modern agriculture has a superior contribution to ensuring the country's industrialization and enabling sugar factories to produce better output. The Deputy Chairperson added that since the sector is one of the institutions where institutional reform was carried out with great focus, it was deemed necessary to tangibly examine that the factory's overall progress is being carried out in harmony with the journey toward prosperity.

Traveling to a third factory, Wonji Sugar Factory, for an institutional field observation, members of the same Standing Committee; through the Deputy Chairperson, Honorable Sileshi Kore; emphasized that implementing contract farming works to increase the factory's production volume and



continuing machine maintenance work through internal capacity is encouraging.

The Manager of Wonji Shoa Sugar Factory, Mr. Solomon Bekele, on his part, stated that a decline in production had occurred at Wonji Shoa Sugar Factory, particularly from 2021 to 2024, due to various gaps. To solve this, he explained to the Standing Committee members that tangible results have begun to be recorded by conducting institutional reform and by restarting and coordinating contract farming with sugarcane producing farmers' cooperatives to increase the factory's production capacity.



A partial view of the discussion at Wonji Sugar Factory;

4.2.2 FIELD VISITS

In the month of Tir, the Ethiopian representatives carried out field observations across various regions of the country through their standing committees. These representatives personally assessed regional activities from the capital, Addis Ababa, to Oromia, Benishangul/Gumuz to Afar and from Southwest Ethiopia to Sidama.

In terms of timing, the first region visited during this fifth month of the fiscal year was **Benishangul/Gumuz**. The House Standing Committee on Health, Social Development, Culture, and Sport Affairs reported that the efforts made to empower youth in all sports sectors within the region are encouraging. While conducting field observations at sports facilities and youth centers in Bambasi and Abrahamo Woredas of the Assosa Zone, the Committee praised the commitment of the leadership and professionals in empowering youth and securing land for sports venues. To further strengthen these efforts and manage collected resources properly, they recommended that Sports Council meetings be held in all woredas across the region.

This region was visited not only by the aforementioned committee but also by the Standing Committee on Trade and Tourism Affairs. This committee conducted its field observation based on reports regarding whether the activities performed in the investment, trade, and tourism sectors during the half-year were being executed on schedule to ensure community benefit. The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Yohannes Mesfin, noted that the work being done to make the region an investment destination contributes significantly to the national economy, though he urged that more should be done given the region's natural and human resources. Mr. Amente Gashi, Head of the Regional Investment Bureau, mentioned to the committee members that investment flow to the region is showing a revival in



connection with the completion of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

The **Amhara Region** was also among the regions visited this month. The House Standing Committee on Urban Infrastructure and Transport Affairs traveled to the regional capital, Bahir Dar, to tour infrastructure networks under construction in and around the city and held discussions with senior regional officials.

Standing Committee Member Honorable Zelalem Melak stated that the corridor development projects in the city must ensure the inclusion of sufficient sports facilities and reading spaces to enable the youth and children; who will take over the country in the future; to be strong in both body and mind. Honorable Zelalem added that the infrastructure being built in the city should integrate modern technological inputs so that the community can move freely and safely during their daily activities. The city's Mayor, Mr. Goshu Endalamaw, explained to the committee members that more than 17.5 km of concrete asphalt roads, meeting corridor development standards, are currently nearing completion. Furthermore, he noted that the construction of the Bahir Dar Abattoir, which had been interrupted for many years, has resumed and is nearing completion following a special directive from the Regional Council.

Information from the House indicates that the Standing Committee on Industrial and Mineral Affairs also traveled to the Amhara regional capital.

Honorable Begashaw Teklu, a member of this committee and the group coordinator who observed manufacturing industries in Bahir Dar and its surroundings, explained that since manufacturing industries play a key role in increasing national production and balancing foreign trade, investment should be attracted by supporting the sector.

Another committee member, Honorable Tesfahun Sisay, noted that following the ratification of the Manufacturing Industries and Universities Linkage Proclamation, manufacturing industries and higher education institutions must work in coordination to bring about a sustainable economic transition.

Among the city administrations visited for field observations in this fifth month of the budget year, the **capital city** serves as a primary example. Members of the House Standing Committee on Health, Social Development, Culture, and Sport Affairs went to the Gullele Sub-city of Addis Ababa, where they observed the urban farming activities of women organized in an association at Shenkora Number Two in Woreda 7.

Honorable Ms. Etaferahu Mota, a member of the Standing Committee and the group coordinator, urged that Houses at all levels must support and empower women to ensure their holistic benefit. The coordinator added that mothers should move past the mindset of "there are no jobs" and that their efforts to expand urban agriculture and benefit from the sector should continue strongly. Other members of the Standing Committee pointed out



that leadership at all levels must provide lasting solutions to challenges related to land ownership and mapping.



Members of the Standing Committee on Health, Social Development, Culture, and Sport Affairs during their visit to Addis Ababa;

One of the illustrative activities of the month was the field observation in **Oromia**, where the House Standing Committee on Urban Infrastructure and Transport Affairs emphasized that the Road Safety and Insurance Fund Service must strengthen its efforts to reduce traffic accidents. It was noted that the Standing Committee confirmed through field observation the activities being carried out by the Oromia Transport Agency to modernize the sector and reduce traffic accidents under the Road Safety and Insurance Fund Service.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Professor Mohammed Abdo, stated that although the institution is working to solve problems observed in the transport sector, the fact that traffic accidents have not decreased as desired; despite

the awareness created among drivers and the community; is a matter that requires further study. Other members of the Standing Committee noted that the activities carried out by the Oromia Regional Transport Agency to provide modern transport services and reduce traffic accidents are viewed positively. The CEO of the Oromia Regional Transport Agency, Daniel Chernet, explained to the committee members that there are currently over 1.7 million vehicles in the country and noted that research has confirmed that 68 percent of traffic accidents are caused by the incompetence of drivers.

In the month of January covered by this edition of Enderasie, another region where field observations were conducted was the new federation member, **Southwest Ethiopia**; members of the House Standing Committee on Water, Irrigation, Lowland, and Environmental Development Affairs arrived in that region. During the introductory discussion held at the regional bureau, relevant bureau heads, including the Regional President, Dr. Eng. Negash Wagesho, were present. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Ms. Fetiya Ahmed, indicated that the explanation obtained from the regional leadership would enable them to conduct the field observation by identifying priority sectors and that feedback would ultimately be provided to leadership at all levels.

The Regional President, on his part, stated that there is clean drinking water, irrigation, lowland infrastructure, and environmental protection



projects carried out by the region's own capacity; however, he noted that projects started with federal government budgets that have been delayed; specifically, the Bonga Town Clean Drinking Water and the Sharma Irrigation Development projects; have caused significant public grievance and require the House's attention.



Honorable Ms. Fetiya Ahmed, Madam chair of the Standing Committee on Water, Irrigation, Lowland and Environmental Development Affairs;

Among the regions visited by the representatives in the month of Tir was the distant **Afar Region**. Members of the House Standing Committee on Democratic Affairs traveled to the region, and it was reported that the Standing Committee held a discussion regarding the field observation in the presence of the Speaker of the Regional Council, Ms. Asia Kemal, and other officials.

The Standing Committee's field team coordinator, Honorable Ms. Abune Alem, was cited in the House report stating that after the Committee confirms the implementation of plans and goals set for the budget year by the democratic institutions it oversees, it will set the necessary corrective

directions. The Speaker of the Regional Council, Ms. Asia Kemal, on her part, noted that the support and oversight work the Standing Committee performs on these institutions will be significant for the region's future collaborative working relationship with the institutions greatly significant and stated that by working closely, they would continue to strengthen activities that ensure the region's benefit.



Members of the Standing Committee on Democratic Affairs during their field visit in Afar;

Among the regions visited by the Ethiopian MPs was **Sidama**, and it was noted that members of the House Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, Employment, and Technology Affairs traveled to the regional town of Aleta Wendo. After visiting the Bio and Emerging Technology Institute located in the town, the Standing Committee member and group leader, Honorable Ms. Yeshihasab Tsegaw, gave her observation remarks. She pointed out that traditional false banana preparation requires immense labor from mothers and women, and stated that the institute's



support in creating and implementing a modern kocho scraping technology would solve this problem.

The group leader, stating that our country is rich in natural resources, indicated that the works started by the institute to identify natural resources used for food and medicine through research must continue strongly to benefit the community. The Director General of the Bio and Emerging Technology Institute, Prof. Kasahun Tesfaye, on his part, noted that over 25 million people use false banana for food; however, he reported that sufficient study and research work had not been conducted on false banana in past years.



A partial view of the discussion in Aleta Wendo;



5. PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

The Ethiopian representatives carried out three parliamentary diplomacy activities during the month of Tir. Primarily, it was reported that the House Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs held a discussion **with the Iranian Ambassador residing in Ethiopia.**

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Dr. Dima Nogo, pointed out that there has been a strong diplomatic relationship between the two countries for over 75 years and stated that this will continue to be strengthened. The Chairperson added that since both countries follow a parliamentary system, they will work together by enhancing this bilateral relationship in various fields.

The Iranian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Ali Akbar Rezaei, on his part, explained in detail to the committee members the current situation in Iran and its surroundings, specifically what the situation in Iran has looked like over the past few weeks. The Ambassador also stated that they would work in cooperation in the fields of education, health, and technology by further strengthening the relationship between Ethiopia and Iran.

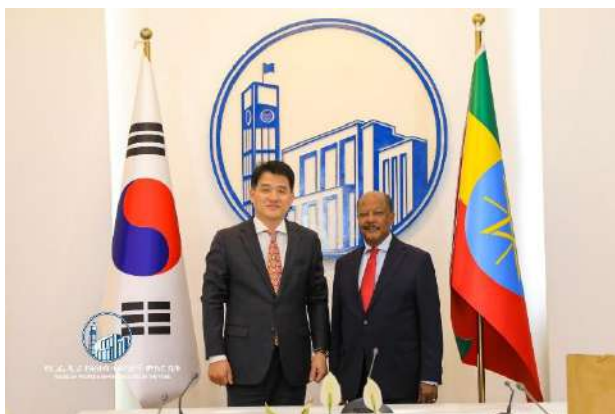


Members of the Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs Standing Committee with the Iranian Ambassador;

The second parliamentary diplomacy of the month was also conducted through the same Standing Committee, which reportedly held discussions **with the Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea** to Ethiopia, Jung Kang.

It was noted that the two countries discussed continuing to strengthen their economic, political, and diplomatic relations. The Ambassador reportedly requested that Ethiopia show its support for South Korea in the competition to lead the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which comprises 183 member countries, in its presidency. The Committee Chairperson, Honorable Dr. Dima, gave a positive response to the Ambassador's request, stating that Ethiopia would show the necessary support for South Korea in the presidential election.





The Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea to Ethiopia, Jung Kang and the Chairperson of the Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs Standing Committee, Honorable Dr. Dima Nogo;

The third parliamentary diplomacy of the month was also carried out through the House Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs; the committee reportedly received and spoke with a **German parliamentary delegation** at the House.

During the discussion, it was stated that the long-standing diplomatic relationship between the two countries would continue to be strengthened. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Dr. Dima Nogo, said that the relationship between the parliaments of the two countries will continue to be strengthened as it enhances the people-to-people ties of the nations.

He further explained to the delegation that Ethiopia is playing its part in ensuring that neighboring countries in the region are peaceful and stable, noting that it has sheltered over 1 million refugees displaced from neighboring countries due to various conflicts and reasons. The House report cited the

leader of the delegation, Honorable Derya Türk-Nachbaur, stating that Germany wishes to grow and strengthen its diplomatic ties with Ethiopia.



When the Committee and the delegation held their discussion;



6. THE REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT THEMSELVES

The FDRE representatives concluded the month of Tir not only by enacting laws and overseeing executive institutions but also by holding discussions **between the Women's Caucus and similar regional and city administration caucuses**, as well as evaluating the six-month performance reports of the Caucus and the House Secretariat for the 2018 fiscal year.

The House Women's Caucus held a joint meeting with women's caucuses from regional and city administration councils. The patron of the Caucus, Honorable Ms. Lomi Bedo, emphasized that councils at all levels play a vital role in ensuring women are full beneficiaries in political, social, and economic spheres.



Honorable Ms. Lomi Bedo, Patron of the Caucus and Deputy Speaker;

Honorable Lomi recalled that the Caucus has been expanding its reach to ensure women's benefits in all sectors, though she noted that full discussions were hindered in recent years due to security challenges in some parts of the country. During this joint discussion, the topic of the upcoming national election and women's participation was raised; the Patron mentioned that the Caucus of Elected Women will work with focus to increase women's involvement in the election. She added that active participation by women in the next election; both as voters and candidates; is crucial for national democratic building.

Another activity of the Women's Caucus this month was the evaluation of its own **six-month performance report**. The Deputy Madam chair of the Caucus, Honorable Ms. Alemitu Abebe, stated that since 2022, the Caucus has provided support valued at 115 million Birr to citizens affected by natural and man-made disasters. She further explained that over the past six months, life-skills training was provided at 11 universities, and capacity-building training was conducted for Caucus leadership and male associate members. Additionally, she noted that the Caucus shared experiences with regions and various countries, working in coordination with governmental and non-governmental entities to enhance the holistic benefit of women.

Another major event regarding the MPs' internal affairs was the evaluation of **the House Secretariat's six-month performance report**.



While it was reported that Kereyu Banata, representing the Secretary-General of the House Secretariat, presented the report, the Chairperson of the Reform Committee, Honorable Melesse Mena, stated that the Secretariat has carried out numerous reform activities over the past six months to meet the needs of the House. The Chairperson attributed a large share of this success to the Secretariat's staff assignments based on diversity and merit, urging that this reform be sustained.

Among the specific successes mentioned by the Chairperson were the improvements in media accessibility and the completion of preparations for the ETV Parliament Channel, which has entered broadcasting in collaboration with the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation. The Deputy Chairperson of the Reform Committee, Honorable Dr. Abraham Berta, on his part, stated that the reforms made by the Secretariat have solved previous problems. He urged everyone at all levels to fulfill their responsibilities based on mutual support to make the Secretariat even more effective.

Kereyu Banata, who presented the report, explained that tangible results were recorded in many sectors during the half-year. Information from the Secretariat indicates that Mr. Kereyu noted encouraging results in modernizing service delivery through media and communication works, draft proclamations, social support, logistics, human resource development, and institutional readiness.

The Deputy Secretary-General of the Professional Support Sector at the Secretariat, Dr. Nigussie Meshesha, on his part, stated that numerous successes were recorded to achieve the House's missions. Specifically, he explained that the launch of the television channel broadcast has created a great opportunity for the House to further amplify its role as the Voice of the People.

The Head of the Office of the Government Chief Whip at the House, Andinet Adnew, noted that many improvements are being recorded due to the oversight of the Reform Committee, adding that the works started following the reform need to work according to modern systems and principles to ensure their sustainability.



When the Secretariat of the House of the representatives evaluated its six-month performance report for the budget year;



7. THE REPRESENTATIVES AND ELECTION 2018

The outgoing 6th House of Peoples' Representatives of Ethiopia carried out various constitutional responsibilities regarding the upcoming 7th national election during the month of Tir. A primary example of this institutional responsibility was the holding of a **national consultative forum for legislators**.

The Speaker of the House, Honorable Tadesse Chafo, who attended the forum, reportedly stated that the government has made the necessary preparations to ensure the election is completed successfully. According to the House report, the forum included consultations on election preparedness, the role of councils, legal audits, and public budget and finance analysis research documents.

Regarding the upcoming election, the Deputy Chairperson of the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE), Tesfaye Neway, presented a discussion paper titled "Preparations for the 7th National Election and the Role of Councils." In his document, the Deputy Chairperson noted that recruitment of election executives has been conducted for the general national election scheduled for Ginbot 24. He explained to participants that candidate registration would take place from Tir 1 to Yekatit 1, followed by voter registration from Yekatit 7 to Megabit 7.

Mr. Tesfaye stated that there will be 50,000 polling stations across the country for the general election, with each station accommodating approximately 1,500 voters. He announced that 318,000 election executives are required for the Ginbot 24 election and that results will be officially released on Sene 4. The Deputy Chairperson also noted that 10 billion Birr has been allocated to conduct the election. Furthermore, he mentioned that the election would include the Tigray Region, stating that discussions have been held with the region's Interim Administration and active political parties regarding the matter.

Beyond these activities, the MPs conducted field observations through their standing committees to assess the preparations made by various regions. The **Afar Region** was the first to be visited by members of the Standing Committee on Democratic Affairs, who observed the region's election readiness.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Honorable Ewunetu Alene, stated that the NEBE branch in the region currently holds a significant national responsibility. He emphasized that extensive work should be done on raising citizen awareness, as well as expanding the reach of civic and voter education.

The House report added that the Chairperson stressed the need to fulfill human resource and material requirements to ensure a peaceful, fair, and democratic election. He also urged that efforts



to engage youth as neutral volunteers and ensure inclusivity must be strengthened. Taha Ali, Head of the NEBE Afar Branch Office, stated that the regional board has completed the necessary preparations, starting with awareness creation.

The official indicated that the election would be conducted at 1,690 polling stations in the region, with election executives deployed across 32 woredas. After hearing this, the Standing Committee urged the branch office officials to use various media options to ensure transparency and ensure the community receives awareness in their own languages before collecting their voting cards.



Honorable Ewunetu Alene, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Democratic Affairs, during the discussion;

In addition to Afar, field observations regarding the election were conducted in the **Amhara Region** during this month of Tir by the same committee.

The field team coordinator, Honorable Ms. Abune Alem, highlighted the effectiveness of the

organizational structure following legal framework reforms. She stated that beyond ensuring citizens' constitutional right to vote, necessary preparations must be made to ensure the election is inclusive. Furthermore, she noted that political parties should work alongside the government to create enabling conditions for a peaceful, fair and democratic election.

Mr. Getasew Belachew, Head of the Amhara Region Branch Office of the National Election Board of Ethiopia, explained to the committee members that the Board is currently carrying out preparatory works to enable the election to be held in the region. He further noted that the Board is working as a free and independent entity to ensure the election is peaceful, fair and democratic.



Honorable Ms. Abune Alem, Field Team Coordinator of the Standing Committee;



8. APPOINTMENTS

The Ethiopian representatives also approved various appointments during the month of Tir. During the 11th Regular Session of the House's 5th year, board members for the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC), Vice Presidents for the Federal High Court and judges for the Federal First Instance Court were appointed.

The state minister for Government Whip at the House, Dr. Mihretu Shanko, presented the biographies of the nominee board members for the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation. He requested the House to approve their appointments, noting that the nominees' educational backgrounds and work experiences have significantly contributed to Ethiopia's holistic transformation.

Accordingly, after deliberating on the nine nominees, the House approved the following candidates for the Board Chairmanship and membership of the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation by a majority vote with two oppositions: -Honorable Deacon Daniel Kibret as Board Chairperson; Dr. Mekdes Daba, Dr. Endegen Abebe, Dr. Abdulwasa Abdulahi, Dr. Worku Gachana, Mr. Cherugeta Genene, Mr. Jafar Bedru, Mr. Getachew Dinku and Mr. Yesuf Ibrahim as Board Members.

In addition to the broadcasting appointments, the House approved the appointments of Federal High Court Vice Presidents and Federal First Instance

Court judges during the same regular session. The state minister also presented these judicial appointments. After deliberating on the candidates, the House approved the appointments of **Mr. Leul Kahsay and Mr. Mitiku Mada** as Resolution No. 6/2026 (2018 E.C.) by a majority vote with one abstention.

Similarly, after discussing the 50 nominees for Federal First Instance Court judges, the House approved the proposed appointments as Resolution No. 7/2026 (2018 E.C.) by a majority vote with one abstention.



State Minister for Government Whip, Dr. Mihretu Shanko, while presenting the nominees;



9. BRIDGE'S PERSPECTIVE: ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, THE ROLE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES AND RELATED ISSUES

Two years ago, the Council of Ministers of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia approved a monumental policy. This policy, known as Transitional Justice, carries profound socio-political and institutional implications. However, although the Council of Ministers; led by the Prime Minister; approved it some time ago, and despite the Ministry of Justice launching the Transitional Justice Implementation Roadmap in Nehasse 2016 E.C. the implementation process appears to have encountered delays.

Furthermore, as stipulated in the implementation roadmap, various proclamations necessary to execute the policy were expected to be ratified by the Ethiopian representatives. Yet, up until the preparation of this edition of Enderasie, these documents have not reached the representatives' desks.

This Tir edition of our Enderasie aims to explore these issues, focusing on the constitutional responsibilities the House is expected to fulfill regarding this policy and its roadmap. It also covers the critiques raised by various concerned

stakeholders regarding the implementation and offers key recommendations from our institution.

WHAT IS TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE?

While human history is filled with noble achievements, it has also been marred by centuries of cruelty and injustice. It is common to observe that the trauma and grief experienced by victims can incite a cycle of revenge, leading to further destruction. Conversely, people have long sought justice as a means to unburden themselves from past atrocities. There is a deep-seated belief that tears are only wiped away and wounds only healed when victims receive justice that compensates for their suffering.

Many countries have utilized transitional justice as an alternative to address historical fractures. A primary example is the process implemented in Eastern Europe and South America in the early 1970s, which provided a pathway for victims of war and tyrannical regimes to find justice. Since then, transitional justice has been adopted as a "wound-healing" mechanism; incorporating accountability, truth-telling, reconciliation, and reparations; to resolve issues that the regular legal system struggles to address.

Scholars explain that transitional justice is an approach specifically designed to respond to systemic or widespread human rights violations within a society. To make this process peaceful,



inclusive, and accessible, the primary starting point must be the collective effort and partnership of all stakeholders. It is not an overnight event; it is a time-intensive process that can span several years, involving the provision of justice, payment of reparations, and the rebuilding of destroyed property.

The experiences of various nations show that transitional justice plays an irreplaceable role in helping countries escape the cycles of civil war, conflict, and deep-rooted hatred. The African Union Transitional Justice Policy Framework, adopted seven years ago in Addis Ababa, is frequently cited as a vital process. It utilizes formal, traditional, or informal policy measures and institutional mechanisms to eliminate past violations and inequalities, thereby creating favorable conditions for security, democracy, and socio-economic transformation.

The Ministry of Justice has identified four primary reasons why transitional justice is essential for Ethiopia;

- **National Context:** Ethiopia has faced human rights violations, instability, and civil wars, exposing citizens to death, injury, and displacement. Past responses were incomplete, leading to a multiplication of both victims and perpetrators. The systemic nature of these grievances made it impossible for the regular justice system to provide adequate closure or reconciliation.

- **State-Building:** A successful process is crucial for nation-building; facilitating mutual forgiveness, reconciliation, bringing people together, ensuring accountability, and providing official recognition of past wrongs.
- **Democratic Transition:** It is argued that neither a democratic transition nor lasting peace can be achieved without a functional transitional justice process.
- **Rule of Law:** Transitional justice is vital for the protection of human rights and the firm establishment of the rule of law.

Ethiopia's commitment to establishing transitional justice for these reasons is viewed positively by many. If implemented effectively by drawing on the experiences of other nations, it could serve as a definitive solution. In Africa, countries like South Africa, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and most recently The Gambia, serve as reminders of those who turned to transitional justice to resolve their complex national challenges.

WHAT DOES THE POLICY CONTAIN?

Transitional justice has long been utilized in countries where significant rights violations have occurred to establish accountability and compensate victims. In our country, it is well known that a policy has been under preparation following the recognition of the necessity for transitional



justice. Now that this policy has been finalized and approved by the Council of Ministers, highlighting its core elements will make our analysis complete; thus, we shall extract a few key points from the policy.

The preamble of the policy explains the various attempts made to resolve overlapping and widespread human rights violations, internal conflicts, unclarified narratives, and grievances that have occurred and persisted across different eras in our country, as well as providing an explanation as to why a comprehensive transitional justice policy is required now. The policy consists of three main parts: the first part outlines general policy matters, the second part analyzes policy issues and directions, and the final part clarifies the roles of the government and stakeholders, as well as the monitoring and support system.

Under Part One of the policy, the objective is clearly explained; to create a foundation for ensuring lasting peace, reconciliation, the rule of law, justice, and democracy by establishing a system for leading and implementing a coordinated and harmonized transitional justice process based on Ethiopia's political, social, and economic context. The guiding principles of the policy are also explained in depth and detail; the main principles include a human rights-centered implementation process, protection from harm, national ownership, a context-specific implementation system, accountability, universality, inclusivity and participation, gender-sensitive

implementation, the participation of social groups requiring special attention, and the utilization of indigenous conflict resolution values.

Under Part Two, titled 'Policy Issues and Directions', the manner in which the policy will be implemented regarding the five pillars of transitional justice is explained. Accordingly, under the first pillar; Criminal Accountability; four main issues are addressed, which are crimes subject to investigation and prosecution, perpetrators subject to investigation and prosecution, the institutional system for criminal investigation and prosecution, and the institutional system for the judicial process. Regarding matters related to criminal investigation and prosecution, it is stated that a prosecution process focusing on significant crimes will be conducted by establishing clear criteria to identify significant human rights violations and serious crimes within the transitional justice implementation process.

Regarding perpetrators subject to criminal investigation and prosecution in the transitional justice process, it is stated that implementation will focus on those with a high level of criminal participation in significant human rights violations. It is further explained that a system will be established to review and provide solutions for perpetrators who participated in significant human rights violations but do not have a high level of criminal participation, using other transitional justice strategies as appropriate.



Regarding the institutional system for prosecution, the policy stipulates that it will be carried out by a new Special Prosecutor's Office that is independent, autonomous from existing criminal investigation and prosecution institutions, and possesses public trust. Regarding the institutional system for the judicial process, it is stated that a Special Bench dedicated solely to transitional justice matters will be established within the existing court system.

The second pillar of the transitional justice system is Truth-Seeking, Disclosure, and Reconciliation. The policy states that truth-seeking, disclosure, and reconciliation work will be implemented by focusing on all significant human rights violations and identifying their root causes, patterns, systematic nature, scale, types, and the extent of the damage. It is explicitly stated in the policy that truth-seeking, disclosure, and reconciliation activities will be carried out by a newly established Truth-Seeking Commission, which shall be independent of influence and political interference.

Conditional Amnesty is the third pillar. Regarding the conditions that qualify one for amnesty, the policy details and explains circumstances for granting conditional amnesty in a manner that facilitates transitional justice without bypassing the rule of law and accountability. The policy also stipulates that the institutional system for amnesty will be integrated and complementary with truth-seeking, disclosure, and reconciliation activities,

with the Truth-Seeking Commission performing the task of granting amnesty as an additional duty.

The types of compensation and focus areas to be implemented in the transitional justice process, taking into account capacity and existing realities, primarily include rehabilitation, recovery measures, healing, memorialization and remembrance activities, full truth-seeking, disclosure and recognition of violations, as well as official apologies at the government level for the wrongs committed. The policy explains that the Truth-Seeking Commission will carry out reparations work in coordination with amnesty, truth-seeking, disclosure, and reconciliation activities.

Regarding Institutional Reform, the policy explicitly states that reform work will prioritize institutions involved in human rights violations, those that failed in their responsibility to respect or protect citizens' human rights, and key national and regional justice, security, and intelligence institutions. It also targets media institutions, those that failed to protect the rights of vulnerable social groups, and laws, policies, and procedures that created enabling conditions for human rights violations. To ensure the institutional reform work is effective, efficient, accepted, and possesses public trust, it is explained that the work will be led by an independent, neutral, and competent institution established by law.

Regarding the Temporal Scope of implementation, the policy explains that for the purpose of criminal



accountability, the scope will apply from 1987 E.C., when the FDRE Constitution was adopted. For the purposes of truth-seeking, reconciliation, and reparations; to investigate violations and conflicts from their roots, to heal and repair fractures, and to bring about lasting peace; the scope of application for the transitional justice process will extend as far back as information and evidence can be found.

Regarding the Role of Regions, it is stated that regions will have roles in two main ways; first, by focusing on supporting tasks performed by national institutions; and second, by leading limited transitional justice processes themselves based on the general concepts and values of the national policy.

Regarding the Role of Traditional Justice Systems, the policy explains that by correcting the gaps within traditional justice systems, they will play a significant role within the framework of truth-seeking, reconciliation, reparations, granting amnesty, and efforts to establish community peace, in coordination with other transitional justice institutions.

The policy deeply explains that the transitional justice policy and its implementation process are multi-sectoral issues, meaning they will be carried out in a manner that gives special attention to the needs and interests of vulnerable social groups, particularly women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and internally displaced persons.

Under Part Three, matters concerning the Role of Government and Stakeholders, as well as the Monitoring and Support System, are explained. Since the institutions implementing transitional justice are numerous, this section details the duties and responsibilities of institutions that provide support from the facilitation of these institutions' establishment until they fully begin their operations. We have also understood that, in addition to government institutions, the roles of stakeholders and the policy's implementation, monitoring, and support system are extensively clarified.

IS IT DELAYED?

Critics have observed that the transitional justice process is slow. Concerns are being heard that, apart from legal draft documents, other activities have not been performed within their planned timeframe. It is recalled that the Transitional Justice Policy leading the process was approved by the Council of Ministers in Miyazia 2016 E.C. However, it is noted that the work being done by the Ministry of Justice and the manner in which the overall process is being led has not been made transparent to the public. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) extensively mentioned this issue of delay in a report released a few months ago.

In its report, the Commission stated that the political commitment to implement transitional



justice should include efforts to stop existing conflicts in the country. It also noted that the ineffectiveness of measures being taken to respond to conflicts and security problems has become a concerning challenge for transitional justice implementation. The Commission specifically stated that it is concerning that the transitional justice process has shown a tendency to slow down after moving into the implementation phase.

Voices are also heard suggesting that a renewed government commitment should pave the way for a carefully planned and sequentially organized restart of the interrupted process. In Ginbot 2017 E.C., when the Ethiopian Ministry of Justice was finalizing the main legal frameworks, there was a perception that the government might prioritize National Dialogue over transitional justice.

The dialogue process is planned to be completed this coming February; it is recalled that this is due to a one-year time extension approved by the House of Peoples' Representatives. The delay in the transitional justice process has led some observers to view transitional justice not as an independent and essential peace-building process, but as a proposal that follows the dialogue. However, when Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed spoke to the House of the representatives on Tikimt 18, 2017 E.C., his statement that Ethiopia's peace-building is also solidified through transitional justice can be considered a response to the voices claiming it is delayed.

As the Prime Minister stated, transitional justice is aimed at resolving past atrocities, whereas the national dialogue aims to reach an agreement on controversial issues of governance, state-building, and nation-building. The Prime Minister's speech provided long-awaited conceptual clarity, confirming that transitional justice is a central pillar and an independent process within Ethiopia's peacebuilding framework. We must mention that this has led our institution to also believe that earlier assumptions; which claimed transitional justice was merely a result of the dialogue; have been debunked.

WHAT ABOUT GENDER PERSPECTIVE?

In relation to this transitional justice policy document and the proposed roadmap, we cannot overlook one key issue; the effort to examine both the policy and the implementation document from a gender perspective.

Numerous studies indicate that discriminatory practices and attitudes directed at women in Ethiopia are major obstacles to their public participation and result in the violation of their rights. These studies note that while male political leaders in Ethiopia tend to have negative views regarding the effectiveness and participation of women in political leadership, female political leaders in legislative and executive positions reflect



more positive views about women's involvement in government and political leadership.

It is undeniable that these attitudes stem from a culture and social structure that encourages male dominance, particularly in political and social leadership. Ethiopian traditional thoughts and practices lean toward viewing women merely as domestic servants rather than presenting them as social or political representatives. This gender discrimination is based on the society's acceptance of men as the ultimate decision-makers; because women are often seen as dependent and submissive, their political participation and influence have remained limited.

Incorporating a gender perspective into transitional justice is considered a way of ensuring fundamental fairness and the respect of human rights. It is widely believed that any transitional justice system, by including gender and utilizing it throughout the process, as well as in designing and implementing policies, can ensure the equal participation and benefit of women.

This approach is not only constructive but also essential because women are often more affected by conflicts and lack of justice. Therefore, excluding women from the transitional justice process not only makes it impossible to adequately respond to the needs of all victims but also hinders success by failing to contribute to broader societal transformation. Recognizing the lack of fair distribution of power and rights between men and

women in society requires transitional justice to follow appropriate gender; transformative methods.

We do not believe that ensuring true justice by giving special attention to each policy formulation and implementation in Ethiopia and by including the voices, needs, and rights of those long marginalized, such as women is a task to be left for another generation. Integrating a gender perspective into transitional justice is significant for fairness and the protection of human rights.

The primary reason for this is that ensuring women have equal participation in policy making and implementation helps reduce their vulnerability to violence and the rights violations they face during conflicts. This gender sensitive approach is also believed to be a reliable method for maintaining peace and stopping repetitive cycles of violence. It requires devising methods to include voices and needs that have been suppressed, as well as paying attention to the manifest imbalance of power. It is necessary to mention that these gender focused efforts correct the exclusion of women from national transitional justice processes in Ethiopia and enable the resolution of grievances against women through reparations.

A strong gender inclusive transitional justice policy is expected to have a broad horizon by recognizing women and marginalized groups, who suffer numerous rights violations, as special focus groups. In addition to gender, it must be comprehensive, flexible, open to new approaches, and accessible



by taking other socio-economic conditions into account. These approaches must be included and developed within the policy. It should carry within its methods to monitor implementation, facilitate learning, and make improvements as necessary. Furthermore, by establishing a system where Ethiopian women participate actively at every level, focus should be placed on overcoming the exclusion they faced during policy formulation and on developing their unique experiences, needs, and capacities. This approach should not be limited to gender quotas alone but should create conducive conditions through capacity building, special training, and the assignment of experts to ensure the effective representation of women.

We believe that to establish and implement a comprehensive and gender sensitive transitional justice policy in Ethiopia, it is essential to recognize the specific impact that conflicts and violence have on women. This requires special attention to the unique vulnerabilities and rights violations women face, particularly conflict related sexual violence; We cannot pass without mentioning the necessity of recognizing this point under this sub-topic.

WHAT DO THE CRITICAL CRITIQUES RAISE?

Through a brief survey conducted by our institution, Bridge, we have observed that there are significant policy and implementation-focused debates arising from scholars, as well as various national and

international human rights advocacy organizations, regarding this Transitional Justice policy. We believe that mentioning these critiques; which provide a critical support; holds substantial value for the future implementation of the policy. Furthermore, we believe it would be highly beneficial if the Ethiopian House of representatives seek alternatives that address the points we have summarized interrogatively below. In this regard, Bridge wishes to remind stakeholders that it stands ready to fulfill its national responsibility by preparing research-based responses relevant to such critical critiques.

- * Beyond the critiques from legal professionals and scholars, competing political parties active in the country have also been heard criticizing the process. One clear indicator was in Megabit 2015 E.C., during a discussion forum on transitional justice policy options, where representatives of certain competing political parties walked out of the session. At the time, these parties held the position that national dialogue should precede the implementation of transitional justice and that active conflicts must first cease. Summarizing this critical voice, it questions the federal government's stance that Ethiopia's current overall context is conducive to executing such a massive project. For instance, considering the presence of armed forces in the Amhara and Oromia regions and the existence of some areas not under the central government's control, they ask: "Is it truly possible?"



- * Another critique suggests that the non-participation of the TPLF, or the Tigray elite in general, in the process will make the future justice process deeply flawed. Additionally, what will be the role of the Genocide Commission established by the Tigray Region in this process? Critics ask whether starting the process without resolving these issues is "putting the cart before the horse," especially since Tigray is one of the central locations for the crimes the transitional justice seeks to investigate and resolve.
- * The Transitional Justice policy states that it will begin from 1987 E.C., when the Constitution was ratified. Those who ask "Why 1987?" argue that this approach ignores human rights violations committed between 1983 and 1987. They cite a study conducted by Harvard University titled "ETHIOPIA PEACE & JUSTICE SURVEY," which reported that 54% of Ethiopians desire justice for grievances committed during those specific years, as a concrete basis for their critique.
- * Some legal professionals point out that the Ministry of Justice is drafting the policy, while the Federal Police are expected to ensure accountability. They argue it is an open secret that it is difficult to believe these institutions; which are accountable to the Prime Minister's Office; can impartially execute such a grand task.
- * Many doubt the government's political commitment and argue that the current political

landscape does not allow for the level of accountability required by transitional justice. Although the Ministry of Justice claims the process will not target only small fish, skeptics remain highly doubtful about whether the process can truly include high-ranking government officials, military officers, and political authorities.

- * It is believed that transitional justice has four objectives. One of these, beyond understanding what changes and reforms are needed to prevent recurrence, is to seek solutions through legal and/or institutional reform. From this perspective, many argue that the current language-based federal system is what triggered the destruction that made transitional justice necessary. Observers who hold this view present an interrogative critique: - "If we accept the pillar of transitional justice that demands fundamental institutional change to prevent a recurrence of crimes, does this not directly bring up the possibility of changing the current federal structure?"
- * Accusations are also occasionally heard that the transitional justice process is an escape route from international pressure and sanctions, designed to appease the international community. Critics point to the fact that Western nations began renewing their relations with Ethiopia after the policy drafting process started. As empirical evidence, they mention that the heavy pressure placed on Ethiopia during the northern war; which started in Tigray



and spread to the Amhara and Afar regions; has now softened. These observers claim the government initiated this policy primarily to neutralize international pressure.

BRIDGE'S FEW RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the points mentioned above, our institution, Bridge, wishes to present recommendations that we believe will provide institutional grounding and practical viability to ensure the Transitional Justice policy yields its intended national benefits.

First, we outline the legal and institutional duties that the House of Peoples' Representatives should perform regarding this Transitional Justice policy and related matters. The relationship between the House and the transitional justice process is inseparable and critical. Although the policy was drafted by the Council of Ministers, it is believed that the House has the following four primary roles to make the process legal and credible; -

* **Crafting Laws and Legal Frameworks**

The Transitional Justice Implementation Roadmap, released by the Ministry of Justice two years ago, lists various new laws that must be enacted for the policy to enter into force. To recap, these include: -

- * Proclamations to establish Transitional Justice institutions;

- * A Proclamation to establish a Special Bench;
- * A Proclamation to establish the Transitional Justice Special Prosecutor's Office;
- * A Proclamation to establish Special Benches within the Federal High Court and Federal Supreme Court to hear cases and pass decisions;
- * A Proclamation to establish a Commission for Legal and Institutional Reform;
- * A Proclamation defining the organization, power, and duties of the Special Prosecutor's Office;
- * A Proclamation to establish the Truth-Seeking, Reconciliation, Amnesty, and Reparations Commission;
- * As well as a Proclamation defining the Commission's powers, duties, and related matters.

Our observation on this matter is that, although we understand some of these proclamations existed in draft form, the fact that they have not been enacted to date has opened a wide door for critics who claim that transitional justice is delayed or, worse, will not happen at all. Therefore, we recommend that the House seek a solution to approve these proclamations before the remaining months of the year conclude. This would effectively address the critiques we summarized earlier.

- * **Oversight of Inter-Institutional Coordination:**
The roadmap stipulates the establishment of a Transitional Justice Institutional Coordination



Forum. This platform is designed to monitor and coordinate implementation activities during the transitional period until the new institutions are legally established, and to sustain this oversight once they are fully operational. The structure dictates that, among other entities, two representatives from the House of Peoples' Representatives will sit on this forum. Consequently, Bridge urges the House to ensure that the selection of these two representatives is highly meticulous; ideally, they should be individuals agreed upon and supported by a full consensus of all members of the House.

- * **Ensuring Institutional Viability and Public Trust:** Another recommendation from Bridge focuses on the institutions to be established under the policy. The success and public credibility of transitional justice rely heavily on the integrity of these bodies. It is recalled that the Administrative Boundaries and Identity Issues Commission and the Reconciliation Commission, established shortly after Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed came to power, completed their legal terms without achieving significant results on the ground.
- * Therefore, Bridge issues a national call to the Representatives to exercise extreme caution so that the forthcoming institutions do not meet a similar fate. Theoretically, the repeated establishment of ineffective commissions can erode the legitimacy of any future transitional processes.

- * **Addressing Constitutional Concerns Regarding Special Benches:** While the reasons cited in the roadmap for establishing a Special Bench are persuasive, we believe its constitutionality must be examined carefully. A concern may arise based on Article 78(4) of the FDRE Constitution, which states: "Special or ad hoc courts which take judicial power away from the regular courts or institutions legally empowered to exercise judicial functions and which do not follow legally prescribed procedures shall not be established."

There is a risk of arguments claiming that a Special Bench would be unconstitutional under this article. In our institution's understanding, this constitutional provision should be viewed in light of its original intent and the context in which it was drafted. Nevertheless, we believe that if the House, while approving the proclamation, includes a clear explanatory memorandum or a specific provision in the law that directly addresses such arguments, the process can be protected from unproductive legal disputes.

- * Another core recommendation from Bridge focuses on the institutional independence of the bodies expected to lead and execute the transitional justice process; those the House is anticipated to establish by proclamation. It is a given that the institutions leading the process (such as the Truth-Seeking Commission or the Special Courts) must be free from the influence



of the executive branch or any political groups. The House of Peoples' Representatives has a constitutional responsibility to prevent the process from being hijacked by any political forces by appointing the leaders of these institutions and overseeing their operations. Therefore, Bridge wishes to remind the House to proactively strengthen its internal democratic mechanisms, both in terms of professional expertise and logistics.

- * It goes without saying that these institutions, for which we urge extreme caution, will be led by appointees selected by the House. In this regard, we wish to state our institutional plea that the Ethiopian Representatives ensure the neutrality of these appointees with the utmost care. If the leaders of these institutions are appointed based on the will of a single entity, the entire endeavor may be perceived as "Victors' Justice." This plea from Bridge applies not only to the commissioners but also to the judges who will sit on the Special Benches.
- * As the transitional justice process is a project that may require an unpredictable number of years, it is a high-cost national undertaking. It is clear that the House of Peoples' Representatives is the body that approves the budget for victim compensation, investigative processes, and institutional building. From this perspective, we wish to remind the House that it must perform rigorous institutional oversight to ensure that the funds allocated from the national treasury for this highly significant

process are used entirely for their intended purpose without any embezzlement.

- * Staying within the House's constitutional responsibility for institutional oversight, a related recommendation is the legal responsibility of the Representatives to oversee the entire transitional justice process. This means the representatives, through their respective standing committees, must maintain strong follow-up by receiving regular reports to ensure the process is moving as planned, human rights are being respected, and justice is being served to victims. We specifically wish to sound a civic call for them to strictly ensure that the justice process remains victim-centered.
- * Another pillar of our recommendation focuses on constitutional compatibility. The power to prevent the transitional justice process from conflicting with the country's Constitution (for example, handling a criminal case solely within the transitional justice framework without a regular court, or the matter of lifting a representative's immunity if they are to be held accountable through the process) rests primarily with this House. Thus, we urge that this constitutional point be given prior attention.

Beyond these recommendations focused on the Ethiopian Representatives, we wish to add two points regarding the Transitional Justice Policy and its implementation roadmap; to wit; -

- * The Transitional Justice Policy states that it will be implemented throughout the country.



However, it is remembered that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, during his report on his government's six-month performance for 2018 E.C. budget year to the House this month, noted that Eritrean soldiers committed human rights violations and war crimes against the people of Tigray during the northern war. In addition to the Prime Minister, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have confirmed this. Therefore, we argue that the cases of Eritrean soldiers involved in serious human rights violations should be seen by the established Special Court, even in absentia, and their accountability ensured. Furthermore, we believe the newly established Truth-Seeking Commission should disclose and document the grave crimes committed by these foreign forces.

- * We view the inclusion of indigenous conflict resolution values in the Transitional Justice Policy and roadmap very positively. Nevertheless, we wish to remind stakeholders that when implementation occurs at the regional and woreda levels, special attention and monitoring are required to ensure these methods are human rights centered and respect the constitutional protections of victims, particularly women, children, and persons with disabilities. In this regard, we suggest that creating a framework for the participation of civil society organizations like Bridge would be highly beneficial.



The Denotation of “Enderasie” (እንደራሴ)

The term “Enderasie” is a conceptual expression that holds significant weight in Ethiopia’s ancient and modern political discourse and constitutional history. The etymology and denotation of the word, in a general sense, had/have the following meanings:-

The expression is derived from the combination of two words: “Ende” (እንደ) and “Rasse” (ራሴ). “Ende” signifies likeness, stead, or substitute; “Rasse” reflects the self-calling identity or the owner and when denoted, it reflects the authority. In its connotation, it is said to mean “as me” or “being me.” When referencing its title in Ethiopian constitutional history, the term “Enderasie” had different socio-political interpretations across various eras; to wit:-

A. The Representative of the Emperor (Regent): During the monarchical era, if the emperor was unable to lead the state for any reason (not coming of age, illness, or other reasons), the person granted full authority to administer the country was called “Bitwoded-Enderasie.”

B. Regional or Provincial Governor: Since the Emperor could not be present in every province personally at all times, the representatives who judged and administered in his name were called “Enderasie”; this grants the full representation of the King.

C. Representation of the People: Since the advent of the first Ethiopian Constitution, however, the word took on a new denotation. The people began to call the persons they elected to deliberate and make decisions in their stead in the council “People’s Enderasies” (Rep- resentatives). The denotation of this gave it the meaning of “one who works as the people,” “image of the people,” or “representative of the people.”

Today, it is used interchangeably with the word “Representative” (as in the beginning of Western parliamentary history). However, the word “Enderasie” holds a political and socio-cultural denotation of gravity that goes beyond representation, carrying the full honor and identity-based association of the body it represents.

The Bridge Denotation

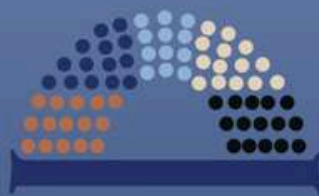
Our institution, Bridge, has utilized this word by denoting it from the past to the present era while maintaining the rules of Amharic grammar. Let us first cite what the noted scholars have established: Desta Tekle Wold defined “Enderasie” as “being me, one who works holding my authority”; Kidane Wold Kifle described it as “standing in the stead, in the substitute”; Tesemma Habte Michael Gitsew, in turn, gave it the definitions of “alternate, representative, plenipotentiary.” Even Mahteme Selassie Wolde Meskel raised that when a person appears not in their own name but in the name of another to perform legal acts, they are called “Enderasie.” As these references show, while the word was initially used only for the representatives of kings, its later application to representatives of the people served to express the supremacy of the people; furthermore, it provides the denotation that the representative appears as the people and is called as the people.

In this context, when we say “Enderasie”: on one hand, we have denoted it in alignment with the constitutional principle of ‘self-determination’ upon which the Ethiopian Federation stands, regarding the word “Ras” (Self). This means we have used a denotative translation to solve the “Rasie” within “Enderasie” through the nations, nationalities and peoples encompassed by the meaning of “Ras” in this principle. Beyond that, just as the elector in the former era was the emperor, in this era of ours, it is the people; therefore, note that when we say “Enderasie,” we use the definition:- one who becomes like the electing people, nation, or nationality. When we align it with the modern electoral system, the individual elector sends the Enderasie to the council to decide on the affairs of their life, saying, ‘speak with my lips, sit on my throne.’ It asserts that if the elected is not as the self to the elector, the elector can strip away their likeness of me (aka the representation).

The expression “Enderasie”:- although Amharic, the national language of the time, was the only working language of the council when the first Ethiopian Council of Enderasies was established; note that the expression is found within the other languages of the nations and nationalities of our country; for example: in Sidama—amaalete mina, in Afaan Oromo—Bakka bu’aa, in Tigrinya—kemay, in Wolaytta—Kal Atiya/Taga ton.

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