

The Honeymoon Is Over! Prime Minister Ahmed Must Reform Government

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This week, in my short blog 'The Hysteria and the new prime minister of Ethiopia' I put forward an idea based on facts that rushing to praise the new PM is more sentimental ridden and not associated with tangible structural reform. Yes, it is true, that senior officials are moved from one post to another and comparatively government security forces' violent crackdown, although still going on in a carefully managed way, it is not as wide spread and in the open like 3 month ago and the past 27 years. He is also credited for a large number of prisoners release by international media. But in fact such credit must be given to the hundreds of committed Ethiopians who gave their lives, while demonstrating against the atrocities of the government. Western governments that supported the regime financially, diplomatically as well as militarily, were forced to openly engage and question the Ethiopian regime's top leadership for the harsh measures taken against civilians between the 2015 and 2018 demonstrations. The new PM was pressured both by domestic and world politics and opinion and has no option but to let detainees to go home free.

Let us not forget, that he is not popularly elected. He is from the beginning a well trained cadre of the EPRDF that continues to rule the country since may 1991. He joined the movement as member of the OPDO/EPRDF at the age of 15. He was selected among others to get rigorous loyalty, military and intelligence training at the TPLF headquarter from young age. His parent figures are the senior founding members of the mentioned group and the manifesto they wrote and declared in 1978. A lot is said about his coming to the PM seat and the TPLF's opposition. Whether we like it or not, no one can be allowed to such leadership post within the EPRDF, unless the TPLF approves. I heard all the hoopla and comedy played in social media, by the diaspora based civic and political groups, the international press, etc that the OPDO and ANDM pulled a surprise against the TPLF in his appointment. I taught, Hollywood was the only place for such incredibly talented theatrical play to be made. Now, I know there are other places like the arena of Ethiopian politics as well. What a surprise? But if Mr. Ahmed stands for real and positive change as he claims, he must dismantle the 27 years of failed ethnic policies and replace them with concrete democratic measures leading towards the establishment of a transitional government. He needs to divorce the TPLF for good.

Within 100 days, of his appointment, especially in the Amhara regional state and Southern state, etc massive demonstrations were carried out in support of the PM. Has

any one questioned about the motives, financial support and coordination of the events? No! I don't think so. To begin with the mass population of Ethiopia are impoverished, with unbelievably huge unemployment due to favoritism, nepotism and ethnicity issues. Under its rule the EPRDF recognizes one particular ethnic group to have the most share of the country's spoils. That group is the TIGRAY/TIGRIGNE population. EPRDF also recognizes one particular group as the enemy of the rest of the ethnic groups. It is the Amhara people. This is clearly stated in all ethnic based parties political programs and manifesto. This was first openly spelled in by the EPLF and in 1978 by the TPLF, and the OLF. So, the others that were formed by the mentioned 3 older parties after the fall of the military regime subsequently followed suit to target and punish the Amhara by all available means.

When Amharas went out to the streets, their primary objective was not the new PM. During 27 long years Tigryan hegemony hundreds of thousands were reported missing and their families don't have a clue where they are or about what happened to them. Millions were evicted or deported by force from a number of localities throughout Ethiopia and mainly from Oromia, Benishangul and the South. Thousands of them were butchered in cold blood. The Amhara ethnic cleansing scheme is fully funded and supported by the federal government. This is the reason why the EPRDF kept silent all these years and didn't intervene to stop it or bring the perpetrators to justice. Neither the federal government nor ANDM provided humanitarian assistance to the victims. The Amhara fall victim and are used as collateral damages for the TPLF to rule with an iron fist for 27 years. Mr. Ahmed is expected to put such terrible persecution and saga to an end.

On the contrary, when non Amharas fall victim to ethnic violence, the EPRDF make a big issue out of it using its media network and collects aid money from abroad to support the affected population. For example, during the 2018 Oromo and Somali rivalry, a large population from both ethnic groups were affected. The federal regime made a big deal out of it, drew millions of dollars from governmental and aid agencies and used it to bolster its own coffers. They also at least used some of it to provide for the resettlement of the affected, mostly Oromos. This is also planned by the EPRDF. For a long time the regime wrote a bill to hand over Addis Ababa to the OLF. In this aspect the relocated Oromos are introduced to government housing in and around the capital Addis Ababa to change the population balance in favor of the Oromos. Although, helping the needy is acceptable, the sinister move to create a majority ethnic group presence in the city sooner or later will have devastating consequences. The PM must have an inclusive rather than an exclusive policy when it comes to the issue of Addis Ababa, established in the 14 hundreds by King (ATSE) Dawit as Barara and rediscovered by Emperor Menilik in the 18 hundreds as the capital of Ethiopia.

The relentless propaganda by government and others is bombarding the people

of Ethiopia as if a new system has come replacing the TPLF/EPRDF abusive, arrogant, and violent regime. The facts on the ground, however, tell a story that every able bodied person in Ethiopia has known since 1991 by his and her 5 senses. Nothing has changed. The EPRDF so called coalition government is still in power. All the seats in parliament are occupied by its loyal party operatives or cadres. Yes! New faces who over the years carried out EPRDF's rules and regulations in the military, intelligence, the local and federal bureaucracy have replaced the faces that we are accustomed to for 27 long and frustrating years. The structure and conduct of the failed system is still intact. As to Mr. Ahmed's premiership no free and fair election was held. The people are not given the right to decide who to lead their country by a ballot box. The EPRDF, simply re told Ethiopians that it is the only one who can make decisions when it comes to seat or to unseat officials to and from power politics. This means the 4 so called partners, that is, the TPLF, OPDO, ANDM and SPDM have successfully transformed themselves into what is known in religious scripts and later what political philosophers call the LEVIATHAN. In short, they have become monstrous. (May god save the people from such evilish beings.) People are waiting anxiously for PM Ahmed to defeat this monster and free the country from tyranny.

1/ The federal government and its satellite states civilian and security officials broke and violated all the obligations and principles designated by the 1948 declaration of human rights. Despite the fact that Ethiopia is one of the original signatory member states. The PM must bring the officials responsible for torture and persecution to face justice.

2/They wrote a constitution that does not uphold 'Territorial Integrity' and 'Unity', rather legalized the right to separation and declaration of independence by any regional state. This action is responsible for the multitude of brutal atrocities of the past 27 TPLF dominated years. MR. Ahmed needs to set up a committee to re write the constitution.

3/In order to fulfill secession as manifested in the party objective of the founders OLF, TPLF and EPLF, they established; a/ The Federation Council, b/ The Federation affairs Ministry, c/ The Federal Support Board.(Eritrea became a separate independent state.) These institutions as instruments of advancing TPLF agendas exacerbated all attempts to bring peace, stability and unity. He must dismantle this coercive institutions.

4/ TPLF funded, trained and organized Ethnic based parties all over the country and allocated territories to be administered by each one of them with the aim of widening differences between Ethiopians until they get to an irreconcilable stage. This failed domestic administrative system must be erased.

Therefore, if there is any hope left, the new PM needs to find a different rout to navigate outside the established EPRDF highway. So far, due the unconditional backing

from the public, the media, and the west, the powerful TPLF machinery left him alone with minor propaganda ploy and causing inter ethnic flare ups here and there. Now the TPLF chose to play behind closed doors. For example, they secretly orchestrated the Ethiopia Eritrea rapprochement. This helped to relieve the security burden from the TPLF, which will also let Tigray regional state to have an outlet to the sea if the worst fear of Ethiopians come true, that is, disintegration. The TPLF wants to destroy Ethiopia. The PM is now very busy with travels abroad. It seems instead of resolving the serious inter ethnic conflicts at home, he is more preoccupied with foreign affairs and diaspora issues. His openness is liked by the public no doubt. But, before such a unique chance evaporates, he must address critical problems in order to avoid a devastating civil war that TPLF advances as a policy.

He is already challenged in the South, when the Sidama ethnic hardliners, funded and agitated by the TPLF attacked and evicted the Welaita ethnic community who were living in the Sidama zone for generations. In the Gurage zone the Kebena community attacked the Gurage ethnic group who call the town of Welqite their capital. The Oromo in the Bale zone, Goba town; in Buno bedele, Qelem Gimbi and West shewa, attacked, killed, displaced and evicted thousands of Amhara farmers and their families. In the Benishangul regional state, the atrocities against Amharas is even horrifying to express in words because the attacks involved genital and whole body mutilations. This barbaric atrocity is exemplified by what happened to Abeter Worku, a ten year old Amhara boy in may, 2018 in Metekel zone, formerly an Amhara land, that TPLF included it within the administrative boundary of Benishangul, is a testimony to the barbaric nature of ethnic cleansing and hatred. The PM visited this child victim in hospital.

Inside the Amhara state, TPLF operatives continue to spray their poison to fire up religious conflicts as seen in South Wollo's capital, Dessie. There, their cronies caused havoc by infiltrating a mosque on 07/24/2018 that caused the murder of close to 40 people during prayers. In Ataye or Efeson town of Simien Shewa, the TPLF armed a few mercenaries to kill Amharas with the purpose of flaring up ethnic conflict within Amhara state. They already managed to further widen and separate the Amhara and the Oromo in the special Oromo zone in Amhara state by using the youth to attack Amhara families and businesses. On 07/26/2018 engineer Semegnew Bekele an Amhara from Gondar and project manager of the huge hydro power Dam being built on Blue Nile or Abay river was found dead in his SUV. The killing is the work of TPLF security personnel with the purpose of demonizing the new PM in the eyes of the Amhara population. Tigray regional state special or 'liyu' force illegally enter Amhara districts and towns time and again committing abductions and assassination to make things worse. The attempt by the TPLF to create anarchy is a challenge to the new PM. He must over see that law and order prevails by acting appropriately against the TPLF activities.

The PM must convince his supporters and moves fast within the ruling EPRDF

to enact a legal framework outlawing all forms of ethnic based violence. Since almost all of the atrocities are perpetrated by known local EPRDF officials who have close ties with the TPLF, there must be a prime directive or a mandate to implement punishment based on due process of law. Stopping the hideous crime of ethnic cleansing helps to weaken and given time to severely cripple TPLF's resurrection plans. TPLF is nothing without the politics of ethnic card. That is why ethnic violence must be resolved by the PM above all others as soon as possible and before it is too late. Now the majority of the public demanding the arrest of TPLF officials involved in the killing of the renaissance dam chief engineer Simegnaw openly all over the country. Therefore, the new PM must quickly address to this public demands when he returns from the US. For PM Ahmed the honeymoon is over, now he must advance to practically reform government and meet the populations' demands to achieve lasting peace and stability in Ethiopia.

NOTE: PM (Prime Minister), TPLF (Tigray People Liberation Movement), EPLF (Eritrean People Liberation Movement), OLF (Oromo Liberation Movement), EPRDF (Ethiopian peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front), ANDM (Amhara National Democratic Movement), SPDM (Southern Peoples Democratic Movement), OPDO (Oromo People Democratic Organization).