

# The alphabet soup continues: Timret

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Three individuals and a moderator gave presentations. Presumably it was announcing a union among three groups in which the chairman of Ginbot7 was also the chairman of the union Tamra [apparently also called ALEJE].

All speakers including the moderator alluded to their support of the formation of a so-called opposition front to the TPLF regime. Yet, they had nothing to say about Ethiopia's loss of its maritime properties or territories, nor would they dare touch the TPLF regionalization of Ethiopia ['kilil' – Bantustans], which is based on perceived languages spoken by Ethiopians. In fact they seem to support the regionalization established by the TPLF regime and as such are not in opposition to the EPLF/TPLF formulation for the destruction of Ethiopia.

After the moderator presented a list of incoherent rationale for the Timret, the OLF representative, Dr. Nure Dedefo basically said that he would agree with those opposition entities that would help push the changing OLF agenda. The audience applauded him repeatedly. I only have to say the following to the OLF, its supporters and sympathizers.

- 1) It is the TPLF that created the Oromia Killil and not the OLF.
- 2) The current Oromia kilil is in many ways hurtful to Ethiopians regardless of their speech. I will mention only a couple of reasons
  - a. A large portion of Ethiopians are said to be equivalent to a small group, and the apportionment of funds by kilil hurts Ethiopians who are kililized because the apportionment of funds is not based on population size.
  - b. The kilil capital city would be such that the people in the kilil would travel to the capital from far off regions.
  - c. The TPLF ploy of causing the Oromo to write by using the Latin script makes the Ethiopian-Oromo ill- prepared to live profitably in Ethiopia

d. It is a pipe dream and unrealizable gibberish for the OLF or any such entity to think of the session of Oromia. No OLF leader or its representative can be thanked for denouncing separation because such separation is impossible to begin with. No OLF leader or its representative should be thanked for stating that it was not the wish of the Ethiopians of any speech to write by using the Latin alphabet, for such machination is done by the EPLF/TOPLF master, and followers.

e. It is the height of stupidity for an OLF leader or representative to speak on the so-called validity of group right by reason that that the Oromo is a large group, and therefore that it should impose its will on minority-speech-groups such as the Guraghe, Hadiya, Wolayita, Tigre, etc. It is an unspeakable idiocy for any OLF leader or representative to pretend to represent the peace-loving Ethiopian-Oromo as though they are working to impose their will on their brother and sister Ethiopians. For any OLF leader or representative to state, indicate or otherwise imply that the Oromo are or should be tormentors of other Ethiopians, is an insult to the memory of the gallant Oromo who fought alongside of other Ethiopians to construct Ethiopia. Ignorance of history cannot be the cause celebre for being used to deconstruct Ethiopia, irrespective of what the speakers might say or do, or elect not to address when the proverbial elephant in the room stares at them.

The only cause for unity is to insist on individual rights regardless of their origins or speech. In a place where individual right is respected the possibilities of trampling over many individuals is impossible. Can we get this passed “former EPRP members.” Can we get the concept of individual right versus group rights past the OLF, Ginbot 7 and now Tamera or whatever group-rights-lovers call themselves.

After the OLF representative spoke it was the turn of the chatty Dr. Brehanu Nega, chairman of Ginbot 7 and chairman of Tamra. It was impossible to understand what he was saying or trying to do. He spoke as though he was in a bear-joint and chatted away about ideas which

included sharing to the audience that he is an economist, Guraghe, Ethiopian etc., and that his different identities bring conflicts in him. He spoke of citizenship, and stuff. I was interested to know if he has resolved his conflicts and would clearly share what he is not conflicted by. Dr. Brehanu was unable not discuss the regionalization issue even when he spoke of difficulties that he thought would appear in Finefine if Oromia were to separate. Brehanu was unclear on this and other issues he touch upon, and one wonders if he is mentally daft, intellectually incapable or intellectually dishonest. However, clarity of thought, or speech or sharing of ideas was totally lacking in Brehanu's delivery. He gave the impression of a young EPRP recruit who is trying to grasp the meaning of what it is that he is going to do, though he is unable to comprehend that Ethiopia is not a game for him to define or play with at will.

The next speaker was Dr. Getachew Begashaw, whom I knew when working at the ENC (Ethiopian national congress). He was collected, articulate and respectful of the audience. He cited a series of data that would show how the TPLF regime hurt Ethiopia. However, Dr. Getachew was limp when it came to group rights, OLF, and Ethiopian kililization and Ethiopia's loss of maritime territories. He is right in questioning the applicability of "beher," and rather opted to speak of ethnic groups in his Amharic speech. He recited anecdotes that would show support to the OLF. Perhaps because of the propaganda he was fed in his EPRP days, and which he is unable to shade away even when he turned into an intellectual, Dr. Getachew was incapable of underscoring the value of individual rights, and the futility of politics based on group rights or ethnic- politics. I would argue that his failure to underscore individual rights as opposed to group rights undermined the effectiveness of his otherwise excellent delivery. He needs to think harder on how to thank the Ethiopian-Oromo for opposing the TPLF when the TPLF delegates visited the USA without seeming to support the politically bankrupt OLF. Leadership does not mean succumbing to showering praises to one or the other group. It requires stating the truth straightforwardly and without malice to none.