

Eritrean needs, Ethiopian want and International desires

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First of all, regardless of our calendars let us say one another “Happy New Year 2015”. Next, let us predict what will be in store for year 2015 and beyond. But before we do that it is appropriate to have a back-story and pinpoint what Eritreans need, what Ethiopians want and the International Community’s desires. In later years, there would be a better understanding for trust to negotiate and compromise.

The needs of the Eritreans

Eritreans are exotic people with exotic culture and for that reason, I believe the Eritrean president, Issais Afeworki was quoted to signify culture as the guarantor and a sustainer for the Eritrean people. That says it all. The question is what is culture? Culture for both Ethiopians and for the International Communities, has many definitions and meanings. Could there be a common understanding? The impact of the digital age will reveal to humanity in due time.

According to my readings and understanding, the need of the Eritreans is expressed in the following manner.

አጆኝ, ባሕሊ ኩዳ - music
አጆኝ ናጸ ዕዳጋ - market
ሕዝቢ ኤርትራ አይፈቱን እዩ ዕዳ - finance

The circular performance dance is time tested for in it does contain hope, choice and commitment. The market is seen as a culture not as an economic factor. The third is about credit/debt. The Shakespearean motto of ‘neither a borrower nor a lender is’ indicates a classical example for Eritrean needs, perhaps wants and desires.

So the fundamental question for the Eritreans would be to dissociate with both Ethiopians and the International Community? This is a core value question to be debated and discussed in year 2015. The Eritrean outlook is not about terrorism or counter terrorism. It is not also about abuse of human rights or religious rights. It should be examined in terms of cultural values and behaviors. It may be unfair and unwise to categorize Eritrea as a pariah state or a failed state. The Eritrean government policy and practice is unconventional at best but the state of Eritrea is sound and solid even without a Head of a State. A state without a head of state is unique in many ways and such a state would deserve better attention and recognition.

The wants of the Ethiopians

The Ethiopians want nothing short of assertion of I “AM” what I AM. This means that the ports of Assab and Massawa are at the hearts and minds of all Ethiopians. Why do they want these ports? It is simply for religious beliefs and a claim of sea trade routes. Historically, Ethiopia used to trade with the outside world via Adulis and Zeila (AZ). These ports have been replaced by today’s Assab and Massawa.

As to the religious aspect, it is related to Moses who encountered God and asked him who he is and what he is. God responded by saying “I am what I am.” And so the Ethiopians (both Eritreans and Ethiopians) claim and want Assab-Massawa ports in their own way, even though their usefulness has diminished with digital age..

“We are who we are” seems to me as arrogant as it can be. These foolish assertions by both leaders of ‘EPLF’ and TPLF are unwarranted. First of all they cannot split the Red Sea as Moses had done. Secondly, behind Moses, unlike both organizations, there was God. But who is behind the Ethiopians? Of course, it is EGZIABHER, the creator and the head of all nationalities wherever they are, including the International Community.

The desires of the International Community

The physical as well as the political geography of the world is changing very fast. It is said that Eritrea is richer than Ethiopia because of the future factors of production, the Sun, the Sky and the Sea (triple S). The Sun for energy, the sky for Internet and the Sea for all types of resources. The super powers such as USA, EU, China and Russia look into the futuristic use of these triple phenomena.

For this reason, on the one hand, Eritrea is strategically useful for the Superpowers mentioned above. On the other hand, individual nations and leagues of various nationalities such as Italy, Israel, Iran, Saudis and the Arab Leagues search the waters of the Abay Water (aka Blue Nile). It is also a priori prediction that water will be more desirable than oil. For this reason, Ethiopia will be vulnerable for those who need spring water and top soil. On balance, we all need DEMOCRACIA to live and let live.

What is to be done in such a situation?

If I were an Eritrean citizen, an Ethiopian or an American citizen, though currently I am not, consulting these three countries would be as easy as **ABC** or **ሀ.ኃ.የ**.

My first proposal goes back to a decade ago when the war broke between Ethiopia and Eritrea. At that time, I proposed that the Europeans should take over, Zala Anbesa for administrative purposes; that the Americans should take the Red Sea for developing marines and that the Asians should settle in Badme (the source of the conflict) for developing agriculture. Of course, I was not proposing for colonizing neither Eritrea nor Ethiopia but it was simply a provocation to normalization. Actually, my then proposal

was almost impossible for I call for all Asians, all Americans and Europeans to come under one platoon and flag which was neither practical nor feasible.

What about now? This time, I am proposing to my fellow Eathiopians (Eritreans and Ethiopians) to come together and choose a model for a true political party. This would involve a choice among a two political party system as in the United States of America, a multi political party like those of Europe (mainly of that Germany) or a one political party like that of China. Both countries should choose only one of the threes. It is to their advantage not to mix up. If the current leaders cannot do it, then they should allow people of both countries to form their own or follow other models.

In other words, two countries and one political system will serve better than rivalries that was seen among Pakistanis vs. Indians; Israelis vs. Palestinians; Koreans vs. Koreans; Germany vs. Germany; China vs. Hong Kong; Sudanese vs. Sudanese or any other groups of nations.

It is time to move on from the **Ashes** to **Beauty** and **Change** of our world, the ABC of human progress is on once more. I wish you Happy New Year to all.

Let us give Respect to each other and Trust in EGZI-AB-BHER...እግዚአብሔር

For comments and inquiries

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