

Newly appointed president for south Ethiopia regional State is authorised to bribe, intimidate and suppress entire Sidamas.

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I. An inexperienced lad of late 20s appointed to deceive Sidama People

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's regime did cheat and is cheating the Sidama people in a number of ways in particular, Southern Ethiopian nations and nationalities in general. The worst case scenario from all Meles's deception is that the appointment of Mr **Shiferaw Shuguxee**; who is inexperienced young boy of late twenties, who doesn't have any exposure of and to international issues and does view the world in his own terms, as a president for south Ethiopia regional state.

Otherwise, Mr Shuguxee doesn't know what the world is about and respect for basic human rights let alone to have deep knowledge and formidable politico-economic and socio-cultural issues to administer 17-18 million populated southern Ethiopia regional State. He is appointed simply to deceive Sidamas by doing so to diffuse an ongoing Sidamas democratic quest for regional autonomy. His politico-cultural, socio-economy and other working knowledge and maturity are very limited or non-existent according to the sources from Sidama region.

On other hand, his immaturity and emotionality expressed on various occasions on the meetings substantiate this argument. It will be ridiculously inconceivable to trust that PM Meles Zenawi appointed this boy for the benefit of south Ethiopia nationalities, and Sidamas. If this is the case, it's like laughing at the game of children while they are building and destroying their mud-built houses all at the same times. And, this further reveals Meles's disregard for the basic and constitutional rights of the Sidama people and wider south Ethiopia nationalities.

Mr Shuguxee emotionally reacts on various occasions against the Sidamas who raise regional autonomy issues and emphasises that he is for the ruling party's agendas; not for the Sidamas regional quest. He doesn't have any know-how about how to do things right, and to do right things based on internationally accepted ways and even how and why he is appointed for. His level of consciousness and maturity is pretty limited, merely around his surroundings and implementing the order of Meles's regime without questioning why.

II. A new form of Corruption being introduced in Sidama

While Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's regime is claiming to be democratic that promotes anti-corruption policy; his cadres are continuing their hidden game of bribing Sidama people's elders and community representatives to make them abandon their quest for regional autonomy. The claimed anti-corruption governance is a part and parcel of country's constitution. Contrarily to this law, at

the moment cadres led by Shiferaw Shuguxee, are pouring money in Sidama region that is ordered from federal Safe-Box by Mr Zenawi to stifle Sidamas regional quest. They are working against their own Constitution. Mr Shuguxee is given a power of authorising the money for this specific purpose.

The irony is that, Mr Shuguxee, who on various occasions with other cadres intimidates, harasses, arrests and orders the killings of peaceful and armless Sidama people who raise the issues of regional autonomy since he was appointed regional Finance bureau head 5 years ago, and then deputy regional president for his staunch anti-Sidama stance; is leading government's corruption squad established to silence Sidama democratic movement. At present time, the plan of corruption is widening its scope. The cadres are reaching all segments of society to neutralise Sidamas regional quest by this method after they failed via all measures including the killings, torture and arrest. They are bribing all Sidamas under the pretext 'the need for Unity is better than Sidamas' regional quest', without justifying why other nationalities with half a million population are enjoying regional autonomy.

The said bribe does not only impact on Sidamas accepted ways of lives and violates their constitution, but also directly affects development activities in the region. Many millions of ETB that are poured for this unnecessary purpose from parts of Sidamas annual budget. Therefore, it will not be difficult to envisage how inappropriately the nation is losing its resources and deprived of its basic and constitutional rights. Instead of pouring scarce resources illegally to suppress Sidamas; it will be worthwhile to think about sustainable peace, development and restoring law and order by adhering to the constitutional rights of the citizens. Otherwise, trying to temporarily silence people's democratic movement does not bring about lasting solution even though Meles and his cadres think that is the only way forward.

III. Meles's regime is working against its Constitution and trying to diminish Sidamas genuineness

Another paradox again is, that, while Meles Zenawi's regime is preaching anti-corruption policy to bring about progress and democracy in the country; by doing so to bring the country out of lingering poverty; his cadres are working on the very opposite his regime is claiming to do. Mr Zenawi's cadres are not only violating the Constitutional laws, but their system is trying to diminish many century old Sidamas way of life. In Sidama culture, the people have their own ways of beliefs that values truth and true ways of life 'halaale'. The said truth implies 'GOD' almighty that is creator and true judge. Based on these accepted ways of lives and values, Sidama nation doesn't promote direct or direct bribery contrary to its moral codes and stands for this truth. At the moment, however, the cadres are violating, Sidama values, moral codes and their own constitutional laws respectively.

IV. Ideas to bring about sensible democracy and development in Sidama.

Meles's regime needs to know that what it is saying and practically implementing. In particular, respect of law and order based on Ethiopian constitution and adhering to its essence will bring about lasting solution for this country's ongoing unrest. People need to be free from any form of intimidation and abuses of all kinds that hinders creativity of the nationalities' intellectuals by stifling their basic freedom of expression and the power of decision making. Peoples of Ethiopia need to have rights of vote and have to decide by who they would like to be administered. They need to be empowered if democracy to flourish. Whether the decision of the wider Ethiopians is plausible or not for the incumbent regime, peoples have to have the rights of decision making on any issues that affect their lives.

Ironically, these all philosophical justifications on freedom of expression and democracy are day to day rhetoric of Meles's speeches that failed to materialise. Implementing the constitutional rights of citizens saves the country from looming catastrophe. Sidamas are not different from other Ethiopian nationalities who are sharing similar injustice. Thus, the Sidama people need to be allowed to freely exercise their constitutional right without restriction and being patronised. The need to have a good leadership based on merits of individuals with efficient and effective managerial, administrative and basic human rights knowledge to avoid relentless suffering of the Sidamas; and by doing so, to harness development instead of wasting scarce resources on military and security forces to stifle democratic movements; will be justifiably essential.

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