I have a dream...for my people coming together for the bigger cause of liberty and democracy

No society achieved liberty and a nation became democratic without dedicated and selfless elites that unite to establish independent institutions for a bigger cause of insuring the people’s rights are respected and lives and properties are protected where the rule of law is supreme and the villains are hunted down to receive the appropriate punishment they deserve for their delinquencies against the people’s interest. Any individual, political party or entity that believes otherwise or evades this truth is part-and-partial of the problem facing our people not part of the solution.

Thus, the mother-of-all questions remained: why do our compromised elites evade these facts and the rest are aloof to stand together to make them accountable for the bigger cause of our people’s liberty and democratic rights?

Answering these questions and doing what needs to be done to end impunity for good would make-or-break the fate of our people and nation for the foreseeable future to come.

_Teshome Debalke_

_March 23, 2015_

From the outset this write up was inspired by Mentwab, a member of Ethiopia Satellite Television-Radio team better known by her stage name Minti and Abebe Belew, the producer and host of Addis Dimts Radio in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Their continued efforts and encouragement of Ethiopians to come together in search of practical solutions for many facets of problems facing our people and nation is an inspiration for those of us that dream to see our people united, free from tyranny, poverty and hopelessness and our nation to become respectable democracy in her own rights. Their one-of-a-kind resolve to galvanize Ethiopians, particularly women that have been spectators while they are paying the ultimate price for the cruelty and corruption of tyrannical regimes and the impunity of our compromised elites deserve appreciation and support from one-and-all, especially from the many do-noting intellectual elites that live-off their credentials earned and paid for by the sweats of our poor people.

As a token of my appreciation and with the highest respect for their commitment, transparency and authenticity and love of people and country, I would like to contribute my share of practical things that can be done to help in their effort of finding lasting solutions. I also call on all my uncompromised compatriots to do the same in helping free our people from the shackles of dictatorship, opportunism, impunity, division, conflicts, corruption, and poverty into the glory of freedom, unity, democratic rule and prosperity.

Obviously, before entertaining any solution; understanding the problems and identifying the causes are the first step in the right direction. Otherwise, it would be endless goose chase with lots of disappointment and dead-ends with lost time and resources to nowhere -- as it has been familiar when our contemporary elites’ bicker over none issues not to come together to tackle the core problems facing our people -- leaving the door wide open for dictatorship and opportunism to strive.
No society achieved liberty and a nation became democratic without dedicated and selfless elites that unite for a bigger cause of insuring the people’s rights are respected and lives and properties are protected where the rule of law is supreme and the villains are hunted down to receive the appropriate punishments they deserve for their delinquencies against the people’s interest. Any individual, political party or entity that believes otherwise or evades this truth is part-and-part of the problem not part of the solution facing our people.

Thus, the mother-of-all questions remained: why do our compromised elites refused to accept this truth and surrender for the will of the people while the rest are aloof to stand together to make them accountable?

Answering the above questions and doing what needs to be done to end impunity for good would make-or-break the fate of our people and nation for the foreseeable future to come.

The famous British-American public intellectual, author, debater and journalist Christopher Hitchens in his book titled ‘Hitch-22: A Memoir’ best described the moving target of dictatorship that misguided many that seek for solutions, he said;

“The true essence of a dictatorship is in fact not its regularity but its unpredictability and caprice; those who live under it must never be able to relax, must never be quite sure if they have followed the rules correctly or not.”

Therefore, dwelling on or reacting to what the inherently wicked and chaotic system of dictatorship does is self-defeating. It consumes more time and resources and distracts from tending the important issue of bringing about democratic rule as our contemporary elites failed to do so over-and-over again in our modern history. In fact, it became a justification not to take responsibility of institutionalizing accountability and punishing the villains that commit crimes against the people to transform society governed by rule of laws than decrees of dictatorship. Hiding behind ethnicity, region, religion or any other distinctions isn’t helping the struggle for freedom and democracy either. After all what difference hyphenated distinctions make when it comes instituting the rule of laws and accountability for all besides frustrating the consent of the governed.

Jennifer Granholm, the Canadian-American politician, educator, author, and political commentator who served as Attorney General and 47th Governor of the State of Michigan, put it best; ‘We need, first of all, for there to be accountability, for there to be somebody who is responsible for enforcing standards and holding people's feet to the fire.’

Therefore, ‘chasing the goose’ to address the systemic problem of governance and the lack of rule of law and accountability only help the same tyranny and opportunists to escape responsibility. Thus, rejecting dictatorship entirely -- regardless what good it is perceived to do and instituting universal accountability is prerequisite to move forward and do what need to be done to speed up the democratization process and confront impunity in general and the given crime of atrocity and corruption tyranny inflicts in society in particular.

In other word, establishing independent institutions that set the standard of ‘holding people’s feet to the fire’ for their violation is the mother-of-all solutions. It would go a long way not only to end tyrannical rule but the culture of impunity and ambiguity of all others for good to move on building a nation ruled by rule of laws.
That is where the missing independent civic organizations and Media that supposedly come in to sort out the good, the bad and the ugly of politics and verify what was said and done by anyone in the name of the people in order to protect and defend the lives, interest and aspiration of the people are needed.

The Chairman of Ginbot 7 Dr. Berhanu Nega broke the ‘ice’ when he passionately stated his movement’s stand in line with ‘no one again will rule the people of Ethiopia without their consent’.

Such unprecedented stance neither heard of from any political movement nor practiced in the culture of our contemporary political elites was indeed liberating. It was a departure from the old guard to bring back the struggle for freedom and democracy where it belonged -- the people. The submission to the will of the people alone earned Ginbot 7 admiration and support from the public and condemnation and conviction from the ruling ethnic regime. In fact, the regime invented a new meaning for terrorism especially designed for Ginbot 7 and kidnappings and assassinations outside the territory it controls became its new profession to duck the unavoidable surrender to democratic rule.

There is no question G7 pioneered how the future of Ethiopian politics is going to be played between those that submit for the will of the people verses tyranny. It not only help sort out the good, the bad and the ugly game of contemporary politics but reinforce the struggle is between the people and tyranny unlike we are led to believe.

But, where are the independent institutions to help sort out the good, the bad and the ugly game of contemporary politics and validate what is good for people?

The legendary Human Right Advocate and the Executive Director of Solidarity Movement for New Ethiopia (SMNE) Obang Metho in his recent speech on a Forum organized by Hiberet Radio in Los Vegas, Nevada commemorating the Adwa Victory touched on the mother-of-all solution, he said,

“I call on Ethiopian journalists abroad to establish an Ethiopian media institution to work together and become the voice of the silenced Ethiopians within the country. Civil society is blocked in Ethiopia, but consider just a few of the strategic people now living abroad: the former head of the Ethiopian Press Association, the former head of the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, the former head of the Ethiopian Labor Association, the former head of the Ethiopian Teacher’s Association and the former head of the Ethiopian Lawyer’s Association, just to name a few. These organizations can do much to support the many Ethiopians who are suffering in places like Kenya or the families of Ethiopians who are in jail. However, there are even more possibilities than these if Ethiopians are wanting a more lasting victory over oppression.

All of these institutions should be re-established abroad. If it cannot be done from within Ethiopia, we can start the preparations for the development of strong institutions here and now—in every field”.

What was riveting about the speech was the call for civic organizations instead of political parties to take charge and own their responsibility of protecting the interest of our people from tyranny in particular and the impunity of our political elites and their foreign enablers in general. After all, the coming together of democratic political parties and independent civic institutions that submits for the people will than tyranny’s will is what democracy is all about.
It isn’t a mystery Ethiopians like many societies remain under dictatorship as the result of the absence of institutions to demand accountability from government, civic organizations and private entities that was resolved in many successful democracies. It wasn’t by accident democratic nations are governed by the rule of law but because of the courage of selfless and dedicated elites that sacrificed their personal and political ambitions for the bigger cause and for the good of their societies to establish independent institutions to make everyone accountable. In fact, as a result of their sacrifices their people are free and democratic and their nations became safe-haven for many people from dictatorships, including for the apologists of tyranny in their home country. Thus, the unfortunate fact more Ethiopian elites are dedicated to sustain dictatorship than advance the cause of freedom and democracy of their own people remained the main source of the problem our people are facing beyond the brazen ruling ethnic tyranny’s maneuver to stay alive.

The American statistician and professor emeritus of political science Edward Tuft put it best when he said;

“Clutter and confusion are failures of design, not attributes of information.”

Dictatorship is not an accident but, a product of the elites’ willing submission for lawlessness in exchange for the privilege tyranny provides or in pursuit of their own political and economic interest at the expenses of the people’s liberty, rights and livelihood. Likewise, lawlessness is a product of the vacuum created for the lack of enough dedicated elites to establish the necessary institutions to end the rule of tyranny and the crimes and ambiguity of their offending peers. This simple yet obvious obstruction of the struggle for freedom and democracy perpetuated by the willing elites and the indifference of the rest is the cause of all ills in many societies including ours. But, the solution is yet to be articulated and institutionalized to bring about accountability, particularly to the ruling elites that are implicated with all kinds of crimes against humanity and corruptions.

Instead, power struggle among political elites and economic extraction and poverty pimping of opportunists continued to dominate the public space -- further confusing the public and diverting the main issue that matters to our people. In the process, the relatively few and courageous Ethiopians that labor to do the right things for their people became collateral damage of the lawless ruling ethnic tyranny and opportunists.

The fact the relatively few elites dedicated to protect the people’s interest are outnumbered by their compromised peers that submit for dictatorship and opportunists that take advantage of the chaos dictatorship created is where the mother-of-all problems began. Moreover, the fact the majority of our contemporary elites are silent either because they are scared-to-death to speak up or indifferent to plights of our people to come together and do something about it is where the mother-of-all solutions remained. Acknowledging these realities alone goes a long way in working towards instituting accountability that would end the crimes of tyranny in particular and impunity in general sooner than later.

It doesn’t require a PhD (real or fake) to institutionalize accountability to one-and-all parties involved in Ethiopian affair. But, it is unspoken truth most Ethiopian elites are bogged down on petty issues or choose gossips instead of helping build democratic institutions. Some do it because they are surrogates of the ruling depot or foreign entities. Others are ideologues that couldn’t shakedown their outdated ideology that inflected so much pain and sufferings in our society for far too long. Few feel their ethnic or religious affiliation gave them automatic ownership of their respective groups’ freedom and rights to hide behind. Many are opportunists that take
advantage of the chaos created to get ahead. Many more feel barrage of written opinions for-or-against tyranny
give them to lead the struggle or a right to seat on the table, and so on and on.

The lack of transparency and the conflicting messages our political elites send to our people illiterates their disdain
to the important issues our people are facing. The fact most political parties or civic organizations lack the basic
transparency required for an entity alone shows it is an open season on our people. The fact the rest are not doing
much about to make them responsible and accountable is even worst—leaving the door wide open for
opportunists to hijack the public space.

The number of ‘registered’ parties at TPLF run Election Board and their lack of transparency testifies no
independent institutions exist inside or outside the country to identify, document and make the ‘leaders’ as well as
the Election Board members responsible and accountable. Most political movements, civic organizations and
‘Medias’ in the Diaspora aren’t much different either. Again, it shows how far behind our contemporary elites are
to join the civilized world by failing to institute a system of accountability and transparency on behalf of our
people.

The facts hundreds of political parties’ declare the same democracy slogan starting with the ruling ethnic party’s
bogus Revolutionary Democracy says more about our contemporary intellectual elites’ collective insanity to allow
DEMOCRACY to be used and abused for failure to sort out the good from the bad and the ugly of each and every
party or organization that made a mockery of the democratic struggle than what the ruling depot does to stay
alive. That is why not long ago I wrote; ‘Professionals bowing for despotism is the primary cause of
lawlessness in Ethiopia’ as we are witnessing in dismay when the elites throw away their ‘professional’
responsibility and ethics out the window to sleep with tyranny and obstruct the struggle for freedom and
democracy.

The barrage of articles from our intellectual elites and Press Releases from organizations against the brazen ethnic
tyranny cannot substitute for the failure to institutionalize accountability either. Our people’s rights and freedoms
are not an academic exercise or popularity contest nor political adventure of dysfunctional elites that feel our
people’s rights and freedom goes around their unrestrained fantasies and corruption as we experienced them for
half a century to nowhere.

Though it is not too late to demand basic transparency from each and every political party, civic organization and
private enterprises involved in Ethiopian affairs and the individuals responsible, it is the sole responsibility of the
uncompromised elites with no personal ambition to come together and establish the institutions necessary to
challenge their compromised and criminal peers and the entities they run than slating it out on ‘paper’.

Regardless, no one can argue noting come close to guarantee the rights and liberties of the people of Ethiopia than
implementing accountability and demanding transparency from one-and-all parties involved in Ethiopian affairs,
noting. At the same time, no one but the uncompromised elites can establish the necessary institutions to make
sure the offending parties are accountable for their crimes, no one.

Therefore, the collective decisions dedicated, uncompromised and selfless elites take to make everyone
institutionally accountable will make-or-break the fate of millions of our people’s lives and liberties for the
foreseeable future to come. Then, why it took so long and what are we waiting for would be the logical question to ask.

The Chinese proverb tells us “If you want 1 year of prosperity, grow grain. If you want 10 years of prosperity, grow trees. If you want 100 years of prosperity, grow people”.

Thus, the first step to emancipate our people is to do one thing and one thing only; establish independent institutions to free first the legal system from the jaw of tyranny and opportunist to institute accountability for one-and-all. After all, it is investing on our people’s liberty protected by the legal system that would bring about civilized governance and bury tyranny and impunity once and for all and clean up the mess created by our compromised elites.

Socrates, the ancient Greek Philosopher, (470 BC-399 BC) put it best; “Nothing is to be preferred before justice”

In the 21st century, our contemporary elites are still struggling to figure out the importance of the justice system to the people to come together and make sure no one get away using it as a tool of tyranny or as political football. Instead, the compromised elites are using it as a tool to extend the life of their beloved tyranny while others squabble over the crimes of the ruling ethnic tyranny as if justice is expected from lawless regime or as if its officials have the mandate to do right making a jackass out of themselves.

The legendary Chinese author of Red Scarf Girl Ji Li Jiang who survived the Cultural Revolution put it in more practical terms;

“Without a sound legal system, a small group or even a single person can take control of an entire country.”

Indeed; as we witnessed in the last four decades when the atrociously brut military junta of the Derg and the equally deadly and corrupt ethnic tyranny of Woyane made a mockery of justices -- infesting the legal system with mindless cadres that feel wearing black robs gave them licenses to ruin lives, rights and livelihood of our people at will on behalf of tyranny.

If truth must be told as it always should, these black robe wearing pseudo legal professional hit men are worse than the ruling regimes’ assassins -- reducing the institutions of laws as political weapon of tyranny just because there are no independent institutions to stop them on their tracks.

From left right are some of TPLF appointed Justice Minsters) Getachew Ambaye, the present Justice Minister, Brehan Hailu, The former Justice Minister, Shiferaw Michael former Justice Minister
Therefore, our people’s fate first and for most rests not in cadres’ infested seating duck fake Parliament or on the executive branch of government crowded by self-declared Tigray warlords and their ethnic hired hands but, the legal system that is taken hostage by TPLF’s operatives where individual liberties are trampled, innocent Ethiopians thrown in the dungeons of the regime and justices reduced as a tool of assassins. Thus, the absence of justice opened the floodgate for TPLF, mini ethnic dictators and opportunists of all kinds-and-shapes to cause havoc in our society and kept our people hostages, in prison or refugees as we are witnessing in dismay.

Simply recognizing such historical blunder as the mother-of-all-mistakes brought by our contemporary elites’ willing criminality or indifference not to institute accountability is where the problem began and the first step in the right direction to address the problems for lasting solutions. The question is where are the institutions and the legal professionals that would free the legal system from the bondage of the agents of tyranny and make sure the former and the present front Minister of Justice Getachew Ambaye and the present and former judges and prosecutors appointed to thwart justice personally responsible and accountable for surrendering the justice system for the ruling tyranny?

Here are some of TPLF operatives that hijacked the justice system to the benefit of the ruling ethnic tyranny

(From left to tight are some of TPLF appointed cadres) 1. Tegene Getaneh Kifle, President of Federal Supreme Court 2. Medhin Kiros, Vice President of the Federal Supreme Court and former commander of TPLF 3. Desalegn Berhe, President of Federal First Instance Court 4. Dr. Menebretsehay Tadesse, Director of Legal and Justice System Research Institute and the former President of the Supreme Court and Federal Judges Hagos Weldu, Berhane Woldekerkos, Tsege Hawaz

Pictures are courtcy of Justice Center

Sadly, that is where our contemporary elites in general failed to identify the institutions and the responsible individuals that torment our people in the legal system. The same is true with institutions of public information and the Media, the economy, human development, safety and security... that are infested with TPLF appointed hit men. In fact, TPLF level of control on public and private institutions and the impunity the operatives’ conduct their criminal activities are unprecedented in recorded history.

Just looking at the Ethiopian Minister of Justice and the Federal Supreme Court’s websites is enough to tell the story of the lack of transparency in the justice systems infested by clandestine TPLF’s operatives waiting to be cleaned up. The same is true with every ministry and agencies.

Whatever may be their motivation to do what they do against their people is not the important thing to dwell on. In fact, they themselves don’t deny their criminality hiding behind the regime not to face the public. What matter the most is what to do about breaking the cycle of criminality and impunity once-and-for-all regardless of who occupied public office and institutions. Ethiopians can no longer afford to ignore the need to establish institutions
and identify TPLF’s operatives and document their activities in every public and private institution for the judgment day.

Establishing the Foundation for justice and democracy: A case for independent Institutes on Ethiopian Affairs

Ethiopians are fortunate people to trace our history and independence for the millenniums. At the meantime, we are unfortunate not to capitalize on our rich history and tradition to bring about a sound legal system and democratic rule to guide our future into endless possibilities and protect our people from modern day autocracy and opportunist. Instead, we surrender the public institutions for the ruling ethnic ‘elites that have neither the capacity nor decency to do right beyond sustaining their illegitimate power and corruption.

As it stands today, no independent institutions exist with the primary mission of freeing public institutions from the jaw of tyranny and making all public and private institutions and the individuals in charge personally responsible and accountable for crimes against humanity, corruption and for violating the public trust. What we have are political movements with primary mission of seeking political power and protest groups that react to the crimes of the ruling depot and its opportunist elites.

The recently established Justice Center is the first of its kind and a good beginning to bring about accountability to one-and-all offending parties against the people. It would do wonders if it focuses on liberating public institutions from the jaw of the ruling regime’s operatives that are becoming nuisance in society. All Ethiopians must encourage and support the Center anyway they can to build its capacity to help free public institutions.

Likewise, there hasn’t been a single independent Mass-Media with the primary mission of protecting the people’s interest until the Ethiopian Satellite Television-Radio was established. ESAT is indeed proven to be the best things that happened to Ethiopians. The fact it is rattling the foundation of the ruling ethnic tyranny and other interest groups with the agenda of their own alone is the sign Ethiopians finally found a Media that speaks on their behalf.

The many do-noting professionals can also help build its capacity and expand its programing to inform the public on important political, social, economic, environmental... issues in addition doing investigation on the crimes of the ruling regime’s operatives as well as the messengers of foreign interests. .

More importantly, ESAT as independent Mass-Media can play as platform for the most important role of galvanizing Ethiopians to come together to promote the establishment of independent Institutions to address the lack of transparency and accountability in many organizations including the Medias involved in Ethiopian affairs to end the culture of impunity once for all. This important undertaking is the one-and-only way all Ethiopians can be assured of their freedom, dignity and democratic rights unlike the sorry ruling regime’s apologists and many of our contemporary political elites wanted us to believe otherwise -- as they continued to thwart every opportunity our people had to come together for freedom and democracy in the last century.
The internationally influential British thinker, statistician and economist E.F. Schumacher once said, “Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius…and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction.”

Indeed; simplicity goes a long way to see the bigger cause of our people and ESAT pioneer what independent Media supposed to do on behalf of the people. Interestingly, many Media wannabes failed to follow the model reviling the lack of independent Media institutions to set the standard of behavior and to make them accountable. It says more about our contemporary elites’ collective insanity or indifference than anything else.

The power of independent Medias

Noting comes close to institute accountability of individuals and institutions in the democratization process than independent Medias. That is why the ruling ethnic depot is surrounded by cheerleaders posed as Media while it goes through nightmare to avoid scrutiny from independent Medias by shutting them down and jailing and exiling journalists.

Thomas Jefferson, the Founding Father and the third President of United States of America described it better when he said;

“If I had to choose between government without newspapers, and newspapers without government, I wouldn't hesitate to choose the latter”

In contrast, tyrannies’ detest for independent Media is exhibited by TPLF run ethnic tyranny and better described by notorious tyrant of the 20th century Joseph Stalin when he said;

“Ideas are more powerful than guns. We would not let our enemies have guns, why should we let them have ideas?”

The two opposing attitudes towards the Free Press isn’t an isolated incidence or came about by accident. It is the difference between democracy and tyranny that besiege our contemporary political elites’ mind that submitted for authoritarianism.

Unfortunately, in the 21st century the dim-witted apologists of tyranny prefer tyrannical government than independent Medias as they scramble to save the regime from the inevitable demise.

About four years ago when I wrote; “ESAT is the best thing that happened to Ethiopians since the Adwa victory” the last thing in my mind was the brazen ruling ethnic tyranny or its apologists. Though exposing the rot of any tyranny and its operatives is given as part-and-partial duty of any independent Media, there are more important things independent Medias can do besides exposing a collection of gangs causing the expected havoc in society posed as governments, Media, civic institutions etc. After all, the
ruling elites themselves admit committing countless crimes in broad light hiding behind the regime without the need to expose them any further.

What I had in mind was the role independent Medias like ESAT can play as platform to galvanize the public in support of existing and or in the formation of all kinds of independent institutions in the public interest to bring about individual accountability and end impunity for good. As I hoped; ESAT surpassed my expectations in relatively short time with the limited resources by setting up programming to address many of the problems facing our people beyond the nuisance of ethnic tyranny that stumbled in power just because there were no independent institutions including Medias to defend and protect the people’s interests.

The coming Conference on Issues Related to Ethiopia & the Horn of Africa: Prospects for a stable, democratic and prosperous future is a continuation of that effort to bring together Ethiopians for the bigger public’s agenda.

Political movements Verse independent institutions

Often people confuse the role of political parties and independent institutions including the Media because our contemporary intellectual elites are either compromised or indifferent to draw a clear line to the public. The failure to distinguish the two is not by accident but deliberate to avoid accountability to remain relevant. The lack of transparency in most political parties and civic organizations and Medias testify to that reality.

Quite frankly the collection of Medias and civic organizations apologizing for the brazen ruling ethnic tyranny are the main problem that created the confusion to sustain the regime in power. But, others posed as opposition to the ruling tyranny are not far behind obstructing the struggle for freedom.

Regardless, the primary goal of political party is to seek power by all means and will never replicate what independent institutions including the Media do. Similarly, the primary interest of independent institutions is to protect the larger public interests and can’t and will never replicate what political parties do. The failure to distinguish the two is the crises that besiege our society and almost always to the benefit of tyranny and opportunists.

At the same time, political parties or civic organizations that fear or undermine independent institutions including the Free Media are menaces to society and enemies of the people as much as the ruling tyranny. In fact, the survival of tyranny and opportunists depends on them. In contrast, true political parties that seek power through the will of the people and civic organization that are true to their creeds are transparent to the public and embrace each other as partners to the bigger cause. Likewise, their survival and democracy itself depends on each other.
Therefore, the unbearable noises that comes out of many pseudo political parties, civic organizations and Medias is all about sustaining the chaos tyranny created as opportunity to be gained without the consent of and accountability to the people. The ‘us-against-them’ crowds are the worst offenders of all in evading accountability. In fact, they are the primary reason why ethnic tyranny is sustained for as long as it did on the back of the people’s rights and freedom.

Institutional transparency and accountability: the Mother-of all Solutions

It is given institutions that are not transparent and accountable to the people are willing tools of tyranny or foreign interest. It is also clear; no institution can be trusted when it comes to the public interest until independent body vow for it. Therefore, ‘professionals’ that run pseudo institutions must reduce themselves as conman to stay alive as we witness when they made a mockery of their profession and the institutions they run in the name of the people.

But, noting comes close to the ruling ethnic elites that took institutional transparency and accountability to a new low by setting up pseudo civic organization and Medias to make sure there would be none ever.

What makes them potent is they covered their bases by integrating their crimes in government, civic and private institutions to evade responsibility and avoid accountability, and surprisingly without much challenge. The one-in-all ethnic tyranny is classic case of what is referred as ‘vertically integrated’ depot that gave a new meaning to transparency and accountability.

Therefore, an average entity in Ethiopia today is a subsidiary of TPLF ethnic tyranny with representative in Diaspora and an average CEO of an entity is an employee or a subcontractor of TPLF. It gets worst; TPLF’s elaborate Mass-Media control is part and partial of evading accountability and rebranding ethnic tyranny into something acceptable. Therefore, the vast majority of news (propaganda) that feed the world comes out of TPLF’s subsidiaries without much challenge until ESAT showed up.

The leading propaganda subsidiary of TPLF is Walta Information Center. The newly formed Walfa Promotion, (a partnership between Walta Information Center and another TPLF owned Fana Radio posed as ‘private Medias) is subsidiary that rebranded TPLF’s atrocities and economic extortion as fighting terrorism and development respectively. There are several TPLF’s Media subsidiaries in-and-out of the country that pushes the same propaganda over-and-over again for targeted group with no institutions to counter them or make them accountable. The infamous online Awramba Time that targeted Ethiopian Diaspora posed as independent Media comes in mind. Several more that pretend to be independent pushes the same propaganda in disguise.

Bruce Coville, the American author of children's and young adult novels wrote;
“Withholding information is the essence of tyranny. Control of the flow of information is the tool of the dictatorship.

The question remained; who is responsible to make the regime controlled public institutions, TPLF’s subsidiaries and the individual that run them accountable on behalf of the people and how and when? How about all other political parties, civic organizations Medias and business enterprises that are involved in Ethiopian affairs?

In my humble opinion, Ethiopians’ problem can’t be solved just being against the ruling ethnic tyranny and its opportunist elites that live on the misery of Ethiopians. Nor it could be addressed with the promises of liberations and democracy of many other political parties.

Thus, being against tyranny IS NOT sufficient reason to unite or it would address the burning issues of instituting accountability and transparency for one and to bring about a ‘sound legal system’ to make the rule of law supreme. It requires uncompromising and accountable elites that voluntarily submit for bigger cause and to the will of the people by establishing the necessary institutions to make all parties (domestic or foreign) involved in Ethiopian Affairs accountable. Every political party, civic organization, private businesses and Media must also be required to be transparent and accountable to the public without exceptions.

Abebe Belew of Addis Dimits Radio that spent most of his adult life for the cause of our people and known to advocate for transparency and accountability raised the mother-of-all question on his February 21 2015 program http://www.addisdimts.com/radio-show-for-february-21-2015/ during an interview he conducted with Dr. Taye, identified as Chairman of The Ethiopian People’s Congress for United Struggle (SHENGO), a coalition of 7 political parties and civic organizations listed below and Mr. Seleshi, identified as Chairman of Ethiopian National Transitional Council (ENTC), both established a few years ago.

Abebe asked: why are so many organizations listed on the joint Press Release dated February 15, 2015 and posted on EthioMedia http://www.ethiomediacom/10parts/eyekefa_bemetaw.pdf each with chairpersons, treasurers, secretaries … duplicating the same work not coming together as one for the same cause? He went on; is talking the same unity again-and-again for the last 20 plus years make a difference?

What the two organizations’ representatives said in response to the mother-of-all-questions speaks volumes to the crisis that besiege our contemporary elites and illiterates Ethiopian elites haven’t sort out the difference between the public interest and the elites interest -- more reason to establish independent institutions to bring about accountability for one-and-all parties sooner than later.

Such mother-of-all questions the ruling tyranny fears most to hide and avoid accountability should apply for one-and-all organizations’ that profess to promote democracy, liberation, human right, Free Press
and justices for our people. The question is; who is responsible to make all organizations and the individual that run them accountable and how and when? Is opposing the ruling tyranny alone make a political party or civic organizations viable to come together for the people’s cause? If not, how does one evaluate the viability of an organization and the transparency of its activities on behalf of the public?

Here are the organizations listed on the joint Press Release consisting of political parties, civic organizations and support groups:

1. የሴቶች የሰብዓዊ መብት ዳርጅት
2. የኢትዮጵያሽግግር ይክር በትርክ
3. የሰማያዊ የተፋፈት ማህበር
4. የአንድነት የስዊዱን የተፋፈት ማህበር
5. የአንድነት የለንደን የተፋፈት ማህበር
6. የኢትዮጵያ ያንበር ጉዳይ ዮሚ የፌሮ ይኒስት ይክር
7. የኢትዮጵያ ቅላላ ያስፈልጊው ይህ ዳርጅት
8. የኢትዮጵያ ከጋራትኋ ሳንጋ ያስፈልጊው ይህ ዳርጅት
9. የኢትዮጵያ ከጋራትኋ ሳንጋ ያስፈልጊው ይህ ዳርጅት
10. ከሰማያዊ የተፋፈት ማህበር
11. የአንድነት የለንደን የተፋፈት ማህበር
12. የኢትዮጵያ ቅላላ ያስፈልጊው ይህ ዳርጅት
13. የኢትዮጵያ ቅላላ ያስፈልጊው ይህ ዳርጅት
14. የኢትዮጵያ ከጋራትኋ ሳንጋ ያስፈልጊው ይህ ዳርጅት
15. የኢትዮጵያ ከጋራትኋ ሳንጋ ያስፈልጊው ይህ ዳርጅት
16. የኢትዮጵያ ከጋራትኋ ሳንጋ ያስፈልጊው ይህ ዳርጅት
17. የኢትዮጵያ ከጋራትኋ ሳንጋ ያስፈልጊው ይህ ዳርጅት
18. የአንድነት የለንደን የተፋፈት ማህበር
19. የኢትዮጵያ ከጋራትኋ ሳንጋ ያስፈልጊው ይህ ዳርጅት
20. የኢትዮጵያ ከጋራትኋ ሳንጋ ያስፈልጊው ይህ ዳርጅት

Unity against tyranny Verses for the people cause

It is common for the ruling regime to lamp all opposition party as one and got away for too long. It is also a taboo to criticize ‘oppositions’ regardless of their short comings. There is also unspoken truth opposing the ruling ethnic tyranny automatically make an individual or an organization acceptable. Such mindset missed the important issues that matter to our people and served the ruling tyranny and others with sinister agenda than advance the cause of freedom and democratic right of our people. It also distracted the struggle by confusing the public and undermining the effort of those that make a difference in advancing the people’s cause.

Can Ethiopians collectively demand a standard of transparency and accountability from one-and-all political parties and organizations and make the ‘leaders’ accountable for their action-or-inaction to free up the public space from the empty propaganda of the regime and interest groups to discuss the important issues that matters to the people?

The struggle to rid tyranny and end impunity is nothing more than building independent institutions and making all parties involved in Ethiopian affair submit for the people will and accountable for violation the public trust. By no means; it is to accommodate the interest or entertain the imagination of the political elites what the people’s interest ought to be.

The sooner the new generation adapt this universal truth that has been ignored over by their senior contemporary elites the better the future of our people and nation would be. Anything less is an excuse to sustain tyranny or impunity to deprive our people their freedom and rights to endlessly exploit them as we are witnessing the ruling ethnic elites and their counterparts make a mockery of governance.
It should remind us the Watergate Scandal that brought down the most powerful nation’s presidency of Richard Nixon on its knees. His only crime (not to take it lightly) was conspiring in the breaking of the Democratic Party Headquarter to take political advantage of election. But, the outrage that followed not only forced Nixon to resign in shame but he became the symbol of disgrace of the highest office in the longest democracy in the world.

In contrast, we have the most atrocious and corrupt ethnic tyranny for over two decades that not only broke records in violating every rule of governance but, implicated committing genocides, ethnic cleansings, murders and all kinds of political, social and economic crimes, but yet; there are people with the audacity to defend it tooth-and-nail in public to sustain its rule because there are no institutions to make them accountable. If that is not a disgrace on their part to reduce themselves in the gutter against the people of Ethiopia and shame on all of us to let them get away for failing to establish the institutions to make them accountable we don’t know what could be worse.

What is more disheartening is; the regime operatives and apologist are living in peace in the free world while they deprive peace to our people at home. But yet, there is no a single institution to make these gutless and shameless elites accountable for what they did and continue to do to our people in service of the ruling ethnic tyranny.

That my compatriots can only be address not by competing political parties but by building viable and independent institutions like ESAT not only to make the villains accountable for their crimes but the rest responsible for failure to establish the necessary institutions to make sure crimes against our people can’t be tolerated and will never be repeated ever again. That is the true essences of the struggle for freedom and democracy.

Thus, the crisis is beyond the ruling ethnic elites labouring to stay alive like in every tyranny around the world but, the willing participants and the indifference of the rest that sees, hears and speaks no evil of Apartheid imported by TPLF to subjugate and rob the people and deprive rights, freedom and livelihood. With that kind of impunity to commit crimes and the false confession of pseudo professionals no wonder Woyane rebranded its atrocities into fighting terrorism and its highway robbery into development and got away with it for so long.

There is no if-and-but about it Woyane will surrender in shame one way or another. The sooner its compromised elites pay for being accessories to its crimes the sooner it will surrender and the better our people will be. But, like many compromised elites before them that slept with tyranny they are erratically scrambling to sustain its rule to keep what is not theirs because there are no institutions to make them accountable. Confronting such wicked human behaviour and the justification that comes with it institutionally is what distinguishes the civilized from uncivilized governance.

Therefore, the challenge to bring about civilized governance is not the responsibility of the uncivilized elites that submitted for the Apartheid tyranny with practically no redemption value. After all, they wouldn’t go to bed with the tyrannical regime if they were civilized enough to understand the consequences of their actions on the lives and liberties of our people. Somehow, they must take responsibility of the crimes propitiated by the regime on the people of Ethiopia with their full participation from their hidings. The million dollar question is; can the rest of the elites civilize them from their primordial and corrupt existence by making them institutionally accountable?
In conclusion, we Ethiopians have two choices to bring about freedom and democracy for our people. Either the uncompromised elites establish the necessary independent institutions that would make every one transparent and accountable to our people regardless of what they promise or accept the compromised and corrupt elites make a mockery of the liberty and the democratic rights of our people.

As I said before, there is no us-against-them as we are led to believe but us against compromised elites that submitted for tyranny. If we don’t understand that reality by now to change course we might as well accept the status qua and live with it as we have been doing for too long. But, wishing civilized behaviour out of compromised elites that couldn’t to tell the difference between private and public interest is like pouring water on lime stone. Never in modern human experience one asks from a willing criminal; why he committed the crime instead of why society allowed him to roam the street free.

In that note, the ball is on the side of the uncompromised elites that failed to establish the institutions to punish their offending peers of tyranny not the offenders that escape punishments. That failure is costing liberty, rights, lives and properties of the defenceless people of Ethiopia. One crime against the people is enough to reject the ruling tyranny but, talking about it endlessly amount as an excuse not to do anything about it.

The article is dedicated to Minti and ESAT family and Abebe Belew of Addis Demis that are doing their level best to bring about civilized governance. They are an inspiration for those of us that see better times beyond the brazen ethnic tyranny and its apologists that still live in Stone Age. Those that undermine their effort might as well come out of the closet and declare tyranny is a better alternative.