

Ethiopia's Female President

Bringing women to the political forefront is essential in many ways. Their motherhood instinct makes them naturally prepared for any leadership role. The present Ethiopian prime minister's outlook to widen women participation in his administration is a commendable effort. Every Ethiopian should be proud to have a new unaccustomed force and voice in the divisive political scene. The arrogance of male only domination needs to soften and lesson down the boiling politics of ethnic hatred. This is why the role and participation of women is much needed.

However, the regime's top operatives still reflect their pro ethnic political opinion in a public ceremonial gatherings. We all understand how the leadership of the country distributes power among the coalition partners. The Oromo group did not introduce its candidate for the presidency simply because the out going one is one of them. The artificial 'Amhara group' also backed away from seeking the position. The Southern part of the coalition chose Professor Petros and the Tigryan group that ruthlessly dominated the helm of power chose Ambassador Sahlework. Her diplomatic experience finally weighed more and won her the spot.

It is revealed during the fake Parliament's gathering that it took a solid six month arguments among the four groups that make up the regime to decide who the next president should be. But already pro Tigryan web sites and face book pages are chit chatting in favor of Sahlework's selection praising her education and experience in foreign affairs. Since Dr. Ahmed became prime minister, this is the only and first time the tigryan media and propaganda machine showed some sense and support to the prime minister. This fact shows how polarized and highly pro ethnic Ethiopian politics has been since 1991. That is why the critics of the regime propose that the very culprit of this polarization, that is, the constitution should be amended or rewritten. They also continue to suggest the need of a transitional caretaker government to replace the present regime until a national election takes place in order to calm down the pro ethnic violence and stabilize the country towards normalcy.

The regime and the prime minister himself staunchly oppose both ideas of a constitutional amendment and the establishment of a transitional government. During the swearing in ceremony of the new president, the speaker of the fake and

100% EPRDF(Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front) controlled parliament said, “. . . we can mention from history that the country had women leaders like the Queen of Sheba and Queen yodit. . . “ he did not even tried to mention Empress Zewditu who ruled Ethiopia between 1916 and 1930. Why should he? In the first place Zewditu is the daughter of Emperor Menilik and an Amhara by ethnicity. The speaker from Southern Ethiopia and his coalition officially look down on the contributions of Menilik and the Amhara people to the country. That is why Amharas were and are exposed to genocide and treated as second class citizens since 1991.

It is very surprising when the speaker mentioned the name of the 10th century brutal and ruthless queen that massacred christians and burnt or destroyed their churches and monasteries as a good example of a women at the top of power. This reminds us that during the past 27 years churches and monasteries were burnt and exposed to disrespect in Jimma, Silte, Waldeba, Addis Ababa, Jigjiga and scores of Amhara youth were gunned down by government security forces in Weldiya town during St. Mikael's holiday celebration just last year, etc. There are very striking similarities between the present regime and Queen Yodit that can be expressed in terms of arrogant abuse of power, the use of brute and ruthless force to silence decent and spread anarchy. It is not therefore, surprising to hear the speaker talk about Queen Yodit as an exemplary women in leadership.

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