

## Idiocy: in the Ethiopian Politics

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Ethiopian political phenomenon is characterized by full of idiocies. The Ethiopian political population has more idiots (politically) than people of wisdom. Some Ethiopian political scenarios that depict the idiocy of their makers are given below.

**Scenario 1:** At the aftermath of the Revolution, the *Derg* ordered the high-ranking officials of the Monarchy to surrender to *Arateyna*. Those were the people who were running the country for years. They were also aware of the various protests all over the country against the Monarchical system. As we all know, with the exception of two or so, all of them put themselves in the trap without suspicion. And they pay the price tragically. This was the first manifestation of the political idiocy in Ethiopia. At least they could have learned from what has happened to their compatriots at *Sidist Kilo* during the unsuccessful *coup de tat* of General Mengistou Neway.

**Scenario 2:** At the beginning of the Revolution, the military people who organized themselves under the banner of the *Derg* had little readiness and desire to take over political power. They have neither the clue nor the plan to run the government. Some politicians (AESM) of the time guided the military to secure the political power. This move by AESM had two grand purposes. First, ascend to the political power by the support of the military, and get rid of it later. Second, get rid of their potent political rivals (the EPRP) out of the political scene. Wise manipulation of the situation at hand at that time could have led to the beginning of favorable political development. The political rivals of the time (EPRP, AESM) turned the situation into lethal political atmosphere. This idiocy cost us lives, time and resource.

**Scenario 3:** The counter that was devised by the EPRP, as we all know, was the *White Terror*. They turned the full-fledged popular revolution into the acts of *Fedayeen*. To their dismay, their opponents in the *Derg* did not take them much time to devise the same method of counteraction, the *Red Terror*, except for its color. This grand idiocy of EPRP cost them their base in the capital and towns and end up at *Assimba* and *Belessa*. The most damaging outcome of this political idiocy to the Ethiopian populace was the birth of Military Dictatorship.

**Scenario 4:** As EPRPs get burned in the fire they set; they left the capital and major towns to *Assimba*. It would have been wise to learn from mistakes and make major corrections for a successful comeback. But over there they refuse to consider the peasantry as a major and legitimate ally in their struggle. They refuse to organize the peasantry. They ridicule the peasantry in their infamous slogan. **ገበሬ አሰልፎ አብዮት ከማካሄድ ተራራ መግፋት ይቀላል።** This political idiocy cost us all so much.

**Scenario 5:** As EPRDF moves to central Ethiopia organizing the potent and legitimate allies: the peasantry and all other sectors of society, it would have been a big lesson for EPRP. It would have been a big lesson to wake them up from their idiocy. After they get dwarfed by the success of EPRDF, they still failed to reconcile themselves with it. They are still looking for some sort of miraculous loophole to acquire political power. A never-ending idiocy!

**Scenario 6:** EPRP failed in Addis and other towns. They failed in *Assimba* and *Belessa*. They failed in Ethiopia. They are still being driven by their never-ending idiocy to acquire political power from Europe and North America: through AFD, EPPF, KIL, etc. And the only consistency they have throughout their existence is their spiraling failure. **ወጣና ወጣና እንደ ሸንቦቆ፣ ተንከባለለ እንደ ሙቀጫ። መቼ ይሆን ይኸ ሙቀጫ የሚቆመው?**

**Scenario 7:** The most ignored, belittled and/or distorted issue in the Ethiopian political history is the history of TPLF/EPRDF. This is the manifestation of another grand idiocy of Ethiopian politics. First of all, the history of TPLF and/or EPRDF is part and parcel of the history of Ethiopia. Secondly, it is the source of extensive experience for other political parties and would-be politicians. Successful people and organizations learn from the successes and failures of others. When people are governed by idiocy and stubbornness, this won't happen. And, it rarely happens in Ethiopia.

**Scenario 8:** In 1991 many people in the capital and some other towns all over the country thought that EPRDF would go back to Tigray after toppling *Mengistu*—like what the Ethiopian Defense Force is doing right now in Somalia. Many even went far to thank EPRDF for ousting the *Derg* and promised to take the responsibility of administration the Nation (as usual). **ትግሬ መታኮስ እንጂ ድሮስ ማስተዳደር መች ያውቅበታል።** It is mystifying to imagine how such kinds of misconception appeared among Ethiopians. It would be argued that this is the resultant of the political idiocy among Ethiopian political population.

**Scenario 9:** The other manifestations of political idiocies right after *Ginbot Haya* (1991) were the attitude of OLF and the attempt of Amhara elite and quasi-elite. The OLF took no time to dream for the ‘independence’ of the *Oromos*. We heard their supporters arguing: If TPLF with three some million supporters got into Addis Ababa in 17 years, we (OLF) with thirty some million supporters would not take us more than 2 years to ‘liberate’ Oromia and secure *Finfine*. And they started implementing their ambitious plan at *Arsi*. Nonetheless, their idiocy is taking them downhill till now.

**Scenario 10:** The attempt by some Amhara elites and *Dejazmaches* to establish AAPO was another manifestation of political idiocy. To be fair, there was nothing for these people to make them believe that EPDM (ANDM) is not capable of protecting the rights of Amhara in the current political reality. We witnessed some resentment toward Amhara in some parts of the country. The futile attempt of those under the banner of AAPO could only exacerbate the resentment. Had not been for their political idiocy, it would have been quite smart approach to support EPDM to alleviate the problem. The ‘የሰሜን ሸዋ ህዝብ ይዘምታል እንጂ አይዘመትበትም’ slogan remained to be one of the political idiocies. We hear the problems some Amhara citizens face in non-Amhara regions. But, such minor incidences are the result of political idiocy on the side of the so-called pro-Amhara politicians and the limitations of socio-political wisdom on the side of those who mistreat fellow citizens from other ethnic groups. Political idiocy exacerbates the situation.

**Scenario 11:** Other manifestations of political idiocy are the formations of Coalitions of parties and/or entities that have diametrically opposite political agendas. Each of the parties or entities in the coalitions gets into such coalition only to further its own agenda. How? By some sort of miracle. By ‘እዚያ አካባቢ ከተደረሰ የምናደርገው እናውቃለን’ strategy. Many of the coalitions established every other month have only one common goal: to get rid of the EPRDF might. Nonetheless, in the current Ethiopian reality, the most difficult assignment, if anyone is committed to pursue, is something to be done before getting rid of EPRDF. As political idiocy dictates the political population, this wouldn’t happen. And getting rid of EPRDF will remain to be a wishful thinking.

**Scenario 12:** People who decide get involved in politics have to learn politics first. They have to know the history of politics and democratic developments in some model states. They have to know that political knowledge cannot sufficiently be acquired as bystanders. They have to know that one learns politics as a participant of a long and trying political process not as a bystander. CUD’s attempt to come to political prominence to grab political power revealed

political idiocy. Many of the architects of the CUD learned politics as bystanders. And some are dropouts of the Ethiopian political process. They only have skimpy information about the pros and cons, the strengths and weakness of their opponent—the EPRDF. They knew for sure that EPRDF has some pitfalls. But, their political idiocy hindered them from getting further and learn about the strengths of EPRDF. They failed to learn that they have far more to go before jumping for political power. Deception and disinformation might, by some sort of miracle, take one to some level of political prominence. The question that must be asked beforehand is: how can one party maintains its prominence through deception and disinformation. This requires political wisdom. The attempt of CUD to deceive the populace by equating academic caliber with political capability was none but idiocy. Nigerian government has more PhDs than any other nation.

**Scenario 13:** It is argued above that the only unifying objective of the various Coalitions in the Ethiopian politics (EUDF, CUD, AFD, EDP-Medhin) is getting rid of EPRDF. The parties and their politically heterogeneous members in the CUD in the 2005 election showed us their naked political idiocy. Sane citizens believed that the CUD is getting into the political process for the better. We thought they are going to challenge the EPRDF to do the right thing. But, they didn't agree on how to participate in the political process. This was demonstrated by their refusal to get into the Parliament. To our dismay, they go down to request the consent of the electorate who vote for them to join the Parliament. **ሊበሉዋት የፈለጉት አሞራ ሻግራ ይሉዋታል።** They didn't have the plan to get into the Parliament in the first place unless they win it all. And this was nothing but political idiocy.

**Scenario 14:** Another political idiocy among the so-called Ethiopian political population is the reliance on foreign intervention. We know many courtiers have political dissents in the West attempting to bring political change in their home country: including China, Russia, N. Korea, Cuba, Iran, Egypt and many more. Foreign forces may provide meager political and logistical support to domestic forces of a nation. Nonetheless, I am not aware of a political change by of foreign intervention. Cuban dissents in Florida failed to bring political change next-door for forty some years. Ethiopian Diaspora politicians in Washington DC, thanks to their idiocy, couldn't learn from their likes in Miami.

**Scenario 15:** We also have seen one important political idiocy among the dissidents of TPLF. The secret of the survival and successes of TPLF was nothing but having unshakable guiding principle and organizational rules and regulations. That is the only might of TPLF. TPLF will only be in danger when its members go out of the guiding principles, rules and regulation of

the party. In 2001, TPLF dissidents believed that it is all right to break the guiding principle of TPLF as far as they have the support of ANDM, OPDO and SEPDO. It didn't work, but remained to be the beginning of the manifestations of more idiocies in that camp.

**Scenario 16:** Lastly, it important to show a couple of political idiocies within the EPRDF. The first one is like this. As EPRDFs believe that something (policy, law, strategy) is right for the Nation and its people and decide to implement it, they try to enforce it by force. We witness EPRDF went to great lengths to obtain the consent of the people to implement its policies, and we appreciate that noble approach. To our dismay, when the people refused to provide their consent (for whatever reason), EPRDFs try to force the people to provide their consent. In fact, *'Doing Nothing Without the Consent of the People'* seems to be the guiding principle of EPRDF. We see this guiding principle violated many times by EPRDF. And this political idiocy costs EPRDF too much.

**Scenario 17:** The second symptom of political idiocy on the side of EPRDF is that it makes more opponents every other day. The number of EPRDF opponents in 2005 is by far greater and potent than those in 1991. If we consider the situation in Addis Ababa, in the aftermath of *Ginbot Haya*, (1991) EPRDF had some opponents around the university. In 2005 EPRDF made more opponents all over the city: merchants, government civil servants, students, cab drivers/owners, and the unemployed youth. It is successful in making strong opponents. A poem in *Raya* perfectly shows this side of EPRDF's problem.

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ፀላእኝ በዓል ፅምዲ ብዕራይ፣  
ንስኝ ትቕኒስ ማርያም ማዕዶ የላይ።