

## **In response to Mr. Tedla's comment**

Yemane Abraham, Denmark

I read a very shallow article written by Mr. Tedla Asfaw. I disagree with some of the points he raised in his article. Let me start from the last paragraph of his short article, that was about Dr. Mitiku Haile.

Dr. Mitiku, used to teach at the Haromaya University, is leading the university of Mekelle for good. It is a good and novel idea that people like him has brought to that position as they have a tremendous experience in teaching and managing other administrative activities including research undertakings. The writer, Mr. Tedla, lacking a reliable information that Dr. Mitiku is still lecturing in the post graduate programmes and also doing research. He is like any ordinary instructors that handling courses and advising senior students at the university. Unless Mr. Asfaw wants to stress that why he left Alemaya, Dr. Mitku is instructing classes and handling the management also. It is also true that Prof. Belay (Alemaya) and Prof. Zinabu (Hawasa) university are leading their respective universities but at the same time handling courses. What is wrong with it? The management of the university systems in all universities, i can say is highly decentralised and not any more a burden for any one working in the leadership position.

If things are wanted to politicised that would be a simple bussiness one can do it for his own right, but the situation at the ground is totaly different from my friend Mr. Asfaws that he wanted to show us.

As an instructor from one of the Ethiopian universiteties, myself, i could share the worry what the PM has in the quality aspect. As all of the universities are public funded, some of them don't have enough laboratories so that the students are forced to focus on theories and definitely lacks the practical orentation. But this stuation is also true to most of the African Universitites not novel to Ethiopia. I think we should recognize this without attaching to TPLF or pro TPLF as Mr. Asfaw put it. I couldn't see the role of TPLF's supporters on the university quality issue, i am not really clear with his comments and its relevance at all. It is totally wrong!

After all, the quality issues (not up to the standard) of the Ethiopian universities is not new, it was there right from the inception. For example, the Alemay university, one of the oldest agricultural university was established before 55 years. Many hundreds of students have been graduated from this university. But if you see their contribution to the country and to the farming community at large, you will end up with a zero balance. The life of the farmers are not changing, the local varieties of the farmers are not improved, etc. Farmers in that country are living as they were before 300 or so years. Was that a policy problem or incapability of the scholars?

For your surprise, the Senior Kenyan agri. Scientists were Alemaya graduates. They did their first degree from Alemaya as Kenya didn't have agr. university at that time. Can you imagine how they managed to change the life of many Kenyan farmers, can't you see that?

I am arguing that Ethiopia's higher learning/teaching system has went wrong right from the inception, not a new phenomenon. What we should do is to investigate the real problems that we have in the learning/teaching system and work hard on improving the system up to the world standard.

Don't politicise everything without understanding the real situation on the ground.

Yemane Abraham