

Ethiopians in Germany Vowed to Support the GTP

In response to the auspicious call by the Ethiopian government to Ethiopians in the Diaspora aimed at garnering support for the Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), Ethiopians and Germans of Ethiopian origin held a successful meeting with high level Ethiopian government officials in Frankfurt, Germany, on April 16, 2011. The discussants include; Minister of Transportation Ato Driba Kuma who led the delegation, Minister of trade Ato Abdulrahman Shek Ahmed, Member of Parliament W/ro Mufiyat Ahmed, Ato Teklewoyni Assefa, and His Excellency Ambassador Fiseha Asgedom, Ethiopia's Ambassador to Germany.



The meeting was attended by more than 600 hundred people that came from as far as Hamburg, Munich, Berlin, Stuttgart, Dortmund, Koeln, Mönchengladbach, Viehl and Bodensee—ignoring the mindboggling calls by the vocal Diaspora to boycott the meeting. Therefore, the meeting organizing committee, that was comprised of diplomats and staff members from the office of the Consulate General of Ethiopia in Frankfurt, and the Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin, and other Ethiopians, cancelled the contract of the initial meeting hall-- smaller size--and rented a bigger hall after it learned that more people than previously anticipated were coming to attend the meeting.



Indeed, all of us who attended the meeting were pleasantly surprised by the big turnout of Ethiopians that were determined to eradicate poverty in Ethiopia once and for all. Conversely, many genuine Ethiopians were quite disheartened to see people who claim to be Ethiopians--albeit few in number--staging a demonstration against a noble cause such as building the Mega Millennium Dam. “**Abay bewoyanewoch Aigedebim**” (roughly translated: we will not allow the Woyannes to build a dam on the Nile River), and “**YeAbay Megedeb LeGibits Adega yametal**,” were their marching slogans. They even attempted to harass peaceful people for not heeding to their call.

However, there is nothing new here; the opposition has been defined by such worthless ideas born out of deeply-rooted hatred towards the current Federal System that granted freedom to all nations and nationalities in Ethiopia as enshrined in the country’s constitution. In fact, those of us, who lived in Germany long enough, have known the driving force behind the people in the opposition. The opposition in Germany is a conglomerate of remnants of the defunct Dergue that participated in the killing of innocent Ethiopians during the infamous ‘Red terror’, *Shaebia agents* and members of the shadow organization called EPRP who happened to have extra time to waste, while living on welfare. One thing is crystal clear; however, by doing so, they are fooling no one, but themselves. The silent majority is awakening; thereby rejecting the detractors’ call. Ethiopia, under the leadership of the EPRDF party, is winning the battle on all fronts.

Therefore, at the end of the day, the losers were the few vocal Diaspora who were demonstrating outside the meeting hall against the interest of their country. Had the vocal Diaspora attended the meeting--like the rest of us-- they would have learned that the GTP is an ambitious plan aimed at enabling Ethiopia doubling its current agricultural produce; thereby, allowing her to join the middle income countries in the near future; that in today’s Ethiopia all citizens are equal and their participation in the implementation of the GTP is paramount to the eradication of poverty in the country; that Ethiopia has the right to utilize its water resources (including the Nile River) and will not seek Egypt’s blessing to build a dam(s) on the Nile River; and that the Diaspora can play a crucial role in the development endeavors in Ethiopia, and the government is ready to work with them.

As the saying goes; “The camel marches on while the dogs bark,” the business of the Ethiopian people can’t and will not be held hostage by few vocal Diaspora masquerading as human right activists and democrats. As witnessed during the meeting, Ethiopians from all parts of the country pledged to contribute their money, and skills towards the realization of the GT. For instance, engineers and other professionals from the Harere and Ethiopian Somali communities promised to play a vital role for the success of the plan. Likewise, all meeting attendants agreed on the framework of the GTP in unison.

We believe that the recent GTP meeting of Ethiopians and Germans of Ethiopian origin was testament to their continued interest of helping Ethiopia and the Ethiopian people liberate themselves from the abject poverty that defined Ethiopia for the past many years. Though still poor, today’s Ethiopia has made great strides in the socio-economic arena under the EPRDF leadership and will continue to do so. The GTP is being discussed on the hills of the economic achievements registered in the last two decades and intends to transform Ethiopia from poor to a middle income country in the near future.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the individuals from the Ethiopian community in Frankfurt and its environs; and staff members/diplomats of the Ethiopian Consulate General in Frankfurt, and the Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin for organizing the meeting. Ato Mulugeta Zewdie, Ato Teklehaymanot Gebreyohannes and Ato Tafa Dadi must be singled out for special thanks for organizing such a successful event.