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Controversial gvt tender suspended

Maxie Matavire

CONSTRUCTION OF THE \$96 million government Central Registry Office Block in Harare which was to commence at the end of this month, has been temporarily suspended amid controversy surrounding the bidding of the tenders, a senior government official has confirmed.

"This is a sensitive issue. The project has been temporarily suspended pending further review. The tendering of the job has to be looked

into again. It is a problem," said Public Construction and National Housing Permanent Secretary, Mr Paul Kodzwa. He, however, said the tender has not yet been withdrawn from Kuchi Builders.

Much has been said about the awarding of the tender for the job and some senior government officials are said to have been working hard to wrestle the tender away from the previous winners, Kuchi Builders to give it to another company.

Now with the temporary suspension of the project so as to review how the job was tendered, sources in the

construction industry are saying it might be true that the tender might be withdrawn from Kuchi Builders, the company that had won it.

Although nothing has been officially communicated to Kuchi Builders, a wholly indigenous company, a spokesman for the firm confirmed that there were problems now, adding that they had also heard, through the grapevine, that attempts were being made to take away the tender from them.

The company has also been instructed by the Ministry of Public Construction and National Housing not to move to the site as yet, a move which some quarters in the construction industry have viewed with suspicion and also as a confirmation that the tender might be given to somebody else.

In November last year, a tender was opened for the construction of a major government office block, and about 10 companies tendered. The lowest tender was of \$86 million by Energo Project, a Yugoslav company and the highest was \$103 million by Wade Adams. The other eight companies ranged between \$90 million and \$98 million.

The tender would have been awarded to Energo Project, the builders of the Harare Sheraton and the Harare International Conference Centre, had it not been for the new government policy of affirmative action. Kuchi Builders, which had tendered for \$95 million, got the job.

However, another Masvingo-based company, Wallen Building Construction, now owned by Mr Leo Mugabe, is also arguing why the tender was given to Kuchi Builders whose tender was higher than theirs.

SA/Zimbabwe discuss fate of jailed spies



Mr Dumiso Dabengwa

Sunday Gazette Editor

THE South African Justice and Defence Minister, Mr H J Coetzee, arrives in Harare tomorrow morning for what has been billed as a landmark meeting with his Zimbabwean counterpart, which could result in a possible release from jail of three notorious South African agents.

The chief government spokesman Mr Bonwell Chakaodza, confirmed yesterday that Mr Coetzee would meet the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa, "to discuss matters of mutual interest" between the two countries.

He said Mr Coetzee was also scheduled to hold a meeting later in the day with the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Dumiso Dabengwa. The meetings were at the request of the South Africans, he said.

Mr Coetzee, who will be accompanied by the director-general of Justice and the deputy director in the Department of Foreign Affairs, is also expected to meet the Zimbabwean Defence

Minister, Mr Moven Mahachi informally at a luncheon later during the day.

A top government official who declined to be named said initially the meetings were planned to be held in Messina in South Africa but "because of their sensitive nature" it had been decided that they should be held in Harare.

Tomorrow's meeting will, among other things, discuss the controversial issue of the release from Harare's maximum prison of Chikurubi of the notorious South African agents jailed in 1988.

The three, Kevin Woods (41), Michael Smith (39) and Phillip Conjway (38) were sentenced to death six years ago after they bombed a "safe" African National Congress house in Bulawayo. But they have since had their death sentences commuted to life in prison after an appeal.

When the South African government announced an amnesty for all prisoners of war as part of the process towards democracy and black majority rule, it was widely expected that the three South African agents would be

freed.

The ANC of Mr Nelson Mandela held behind the scenes meetings with the Zimbabwean authorities pressing for the release of Smith, Woods and Conjway. But Zimbabwe authorities refused to budge saying the three were its citizens who had been jailed under Zimbabwe laws.

The issue of releasing the three South African agents has continued to reverberate the Zimbabwe-South African diplomacy.

Lately, Zimbabwe, the arch enemy of apartheid has been softening its stance towards South Africa. Even President Mugabe, who once vowed that he would not meet South African government officials until that country had gone through a process of democracy, has since met his South African counterpart, Mr F W de Klerk.

Government sources said if Mr Mnangagwa and Mr Coetzee reach a position at tomorrow's meeting it would have to get the blessing of Messrs Mugabe and Mr de Klerk.



Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa

Mengistu plans to oust Zenawi

Regis Nyamakanga
Sunday Gazette Editor

THE deposed Ethiopian despot, Mengistu Haile Mariam, who has been in hiding in Zimbabwe for about two and half years, this week broke his silence charging that he could no longer sit by while his country was going to the dogs.

"Because of the grave political and military situation at home, I have received a call once again, from every sector of the Ethiopian society to contribute towards the realisation of peace, justice freedom and democracy," said Mengistu in a statement

released to *The Sunday Gazette* on Thursday.

"I have been challenged for the second time by people to rescue my country. Indeed, I shall rise to their expectations and help my country survive once again in spite of all political odds."

Mengistu said the incumbent Ethiopian government of Mr Meles Zenawi was unconstitutional and that it was fanning ethnic differences in the Horn of Africa.

He said the country's intellectuals, students, workers, peasants and industrialists were being falsely accused of being criminals of war and killed, imprisoned or forced to leave the country.

Many of them were now refugees in foreign countries.

"This disgusting political situation has left Ethiopian people with no choice except to fight for their democratic rights using all means available to them."

He said the situation could lead to a far greater political tragedy than experienced in that part of the world.

Mengistu said although "the great and heroic people's army" had been scattered, it was alive in the bushes in temporal hibernation and that it would soon rise to its expectations.

"The Ethiopian Salvation Movement is already under

way," he said.

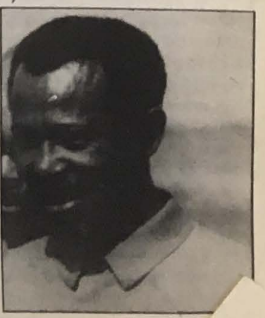
The Zimbabwean authorities could not immediately comment, saying they would do so only when the story about it was published. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Nathan Shamuyarira, said through his senior Deputy Secretary, Ambassador Goche, that although he had heard reports that Mengistu was issuing a statement, he would not comment immediately.

"The minister said he will definitely comment because we believe the same statement has also been issued to other foreign news agencies," Ambassador Goche said on Friday.

Some Western diplomats based in Harare said Mengistu's statement, if viewed to mean that he was planning to oust the Ethiopian government, could put Zimbabwe in a compromising position. The Ethiopian authorities have been pressing the Zimbabwean government to hand over Mengistu so that he can answer war "crimes" but Zimbabwe has poured a cold douche on the request.

Although officials have persistently denied it, the diplomatic relations of Zimbabwe and Ethiopia are believed to have soured over the extradition of Mengistu.

— See pages 2 & 10



Mengistu Haile Mariam

The SUNDAY GAZETTE

3rd Floor, Globe House, 51 Jason Moyo Avenue, Harare. Phone 755191-3

Show Mengistu the way home

Elsewhere in this issue we carry a story about the former Ethiopian despot, Mengistu Haile Mariam's plans to depose the government of Meles Zenawi.

This is a clear abuse of Zimbabwe's hospitality. One is tempted to conclude that Mengistu is either fed up with staying in Zimbabwe or has secured political asylum elsewhere.

If Mengistu has not been granted political asylum elsewhere, then it is high time Zimbabwe showed him the way home because keeping him will put the country in a very compromising position.

This is typical of Mengistu's cavalier attitude. The 10th anniversary of his revolution in 1984 was celebrated with much extravagance, while at the same time the death rate in that country from famine was estimated at 16 000 to 17 000 a day.

Mengistu does not appear to care about such details. What else could one say when he carelessly makes statements which he knows full well will further strain the relationship between his country and Zimbabwe. Ethiopians have made it clear to the Zimbabwean government that they want him back so that he can be tried for the countless murders which occurred in Ethiopia during his rule.

President Mugabe, a personal friend of Mengistu, said when he granted the dictator asylum, he had done so on humanitarian grounds and to facilitate a peaceful transition in that country. He promised that Mengistu would not be allowed to perform any hostile activities against the Ethiopian government while in Zimbabwe.

Mengistu, if his statement is anything to go by, has started brewing trouble from Zimbabwe. He talks about the "great and heroic people's army" being alive in the bush and as being in temporary hibernation, and that it would soon rise to its expectations. "The Ethiopian Salvation Movement is already underway," Mengistu says.

Probably Mengistu has, since his arrival in Zimbabwe been planning how best to topple the government of President Zenawi, and now that his plans are at an advanced stage, he has decided to let the cat out of the bag.

If President Mugabe was serious when he said Mengistu would not be allowed to conspire against the Ethiopian government, then we should expect Mengistu to be given his marching orders soon. If the president does not do that, then the international community will know exactly where he stands.

Zimbabwe must not be a country where dictators and murderers are given political asylum.

The eviction of Mengistu would at least grant Zimbabwe taxpayers some relief, unless Mengistu is living on funds he siphoned from state coffers before he left Ethiopia.

MAILBAG

Mukori: an incredible waffler

I had ruled out responding to Mr Wilbert Mukori's scathing letter which appeared in The Sunday Gazette of January 10 for fear of giving the impression that there was a running battle between Mr Mukori and myself as the Director of Information for the Zimbabwe Government.

For the record, I have nothing against Mr Mukori as a person. It is his obsession to settle a score with Zanu (PF) ever since the severe lashing he suffered when he lost the Chirumanzu Constituency by-election in 1990 — an event that still haunts him but one he should have expected given the overwhelming support which is there for the ruling party.

Mr Mukori has had first hand experience of the people's mandate to Zanu (PF) from the Chirumanzu by-election and is probably looking to 1995 and trying to attract the attention of an opposition party. That's entirely a matter for him. Only he will be foolish to think he can win a seat in Parliament through some hollow rhetoric against the office of the Director of Information.

It is common knowledge that during the 1990 campaign period, he did not have a public audience to address but conveyed his message to the electorate through random distribution of pamphlets critical of Zanu (PF). He is at it again and dreams he can abuse the office of the Director of Information to do his dirty campaign-

ing. In spite of everything he knows, namely that I am the Director of Information of the Government of Zimbabwe and that Zanu (PF) Information and Publicity Department is ably headed by Cde Nathan Shamuyirira and his deputy Chen Chimutengwende, Mr Mukori has decided to dub me "the Director of Zanu (PF) Propaganda".

This is a twisted and narrow perception of the role of the Government Chief Spokesperson and one that remains peculiar to him.

In the personalisation of my desk, Mr Mukori has developed a hollow and strange passion in which the performance of the Department of Information appears an obstacle in his dream of a political career or one in which a relentless attack of the Director of Information will cure his deep paranoia against the ruling party.

As everyone knows, the Director of Information is a civil servant whose duty and privilege it is to serve the Government and the country to the best of his or her ability.

It is not in anybody's interest to run one's employer down and still less, if you are working for Government to run the Government out of office. As Director of Information, I am setting out to build not only a bridge between the Government and the media and to keep that bridge in a solid state

but also clarify Government policies and programmes as well as promoting and defending Zimbabwe's national interest.

I want to inform Mr Mukori in the bluntest and most uncomplicated terms that he is one of the most incurable wafflers that I have ever come across in my life time but he is able to waffle because of the democratic, free and stable environment prevailing in Zimbabwe.

Mr Mukori describes the Government of Zimbabwe as "heartless". But what is heartless about a Government which mounted an enormous drought relief and recovery programme with tributes paid to the country by organisations both at home and abroad. Zimbabwe has never said it is a perfect society. No society is. But we should struggle to solve our country's problems in a spirit of constructive dialogue and positive criticism.

There is nothing redeeming in Mr Mukori's repetitive allegations about human rights violations, democracy, the land question and press freedom because Government has adequately responded to these already.

It would appear that history is passing by while Mr Wilbert Mukori is sleeping.

Bornwell Chakaodza Director of Information

Division marred sports award

THE Sportsperson of the Year award was marred with controversy from the beginning and it came as no surprise then, that the figure at this centre of controversy eventually collected the coveted award. It is sad that they were two camps — one supporting the inclusion of Nick Price and the other opposing his inclusion among the five finalists.

This state of affairs suggests to me that the selection of the Sportsperson of the Year award is not governed by a constitution in such selections defining the parameters to be adhered to. For someone with dual citizenship to be considered for such an award, is both unfair and unrealistic.

It is not surprising that the individuals supporting Price's inclusion are also dual citizens!! Blame must also be shouldered by those who opposed his selection for not standing firm enough for a worthy cause. You do not just succumb to such pressure and watch the pride of the nation rot just like that.

If he decides he wants to be a British citizen, then let him go ahead. If he does not need Zimbabwe, then surely Zimbabwe does not need him either. Yes, we witnessed the same case just recently of another Zimbabwean sportsman regain citizenship within a moment's notice so as to enable him to participate in some major sporting activity.

Concerned More Mack Moyo Tafara

Esap has failed to bring recovery

ESAP has failed to bring about the expected economic recovery because both the Zimbabwe government and the donors are not committed to the implementation of the reforms. The recent events in Paris and here illustrate this.

I am sure, the Zimbabwe government delegation gave the December 1993 Paris Donor Consultative Group (DCG) meeting advance details of the 17 percent devaluation of the Zimbabwe dollar and the economic liberalisation measures announced to the nation on New Year's Eve.

The information was given as "proof" as the government secured the US\$789 million aid. They then revealed that the President and his fellow politicians' salaries and allowances would be hiked by 64 percent and 30 percent respectively. They even had the increments back-dated to July 1993. This, surely, proved that Zanu (PF) is not committed to reducing public expenditure — a key Esap requirement.

Zimbabwe's public expenditure

is too large for the size of the economy but four years after adopting Esap, we still have a bloated cabinet and civil service. Parastatals and quasi-state enterprises are still as inefficient and wasteful as ever.

Last year the Minister of Public Service, Labour & Social Welfare, Mr John Nkomo, urged workers to accept 10 percent or less salary increments in order to help control inflation. He was not do the same this year — there was Mr Nkomo when cabinet voted itself the 64 percent pay vault?

Unfortunately the blue collar workers will be lucky to get a 10 percent wage rise. It is now an employers' market. Inflation, interest rates and the cost of living will no doubt soar and it is the unemployed and the rural peasants with a stagnant meagre income who suffer the most.

One has to understand that Zanu (PF) can not carry out Esap reforms and dismiss the incompetent boards and managers now

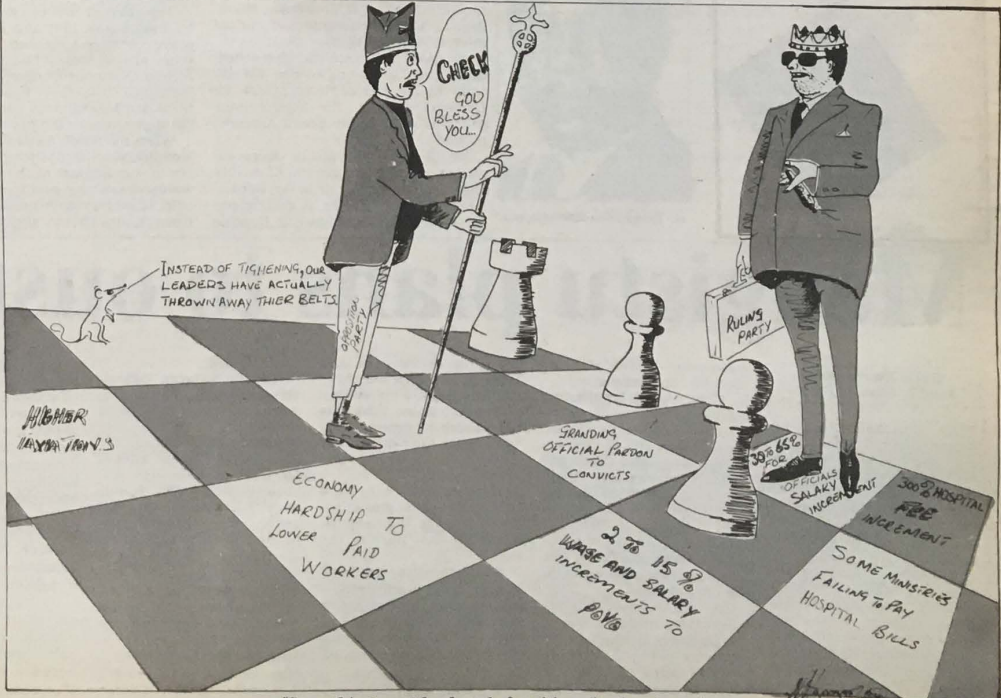
running parastatals, sack the useless bureaucrats in the civil service without destroying the party itself.

Zanu (PF) is founded on a complex system of personal entitlement and each party cadre in these positions is entitled to that job no matter how incompetent and corrupt they have turned out to be.

And so the party in turn is not overtly concerned about Esap falling as long as donor money is there to meet their avaricious appetites for travelling, big cars and other worldly attractions.

It is neither Zanu (PF) nor the donors but the ordinary Zimbabwean, with no political nor economic muscle, who is suffering because of the deepening debt crisis and the sinking national economy. This is what makes Africa's problems so untenable and so tragic!

Wilbert Mukori Harare



"Something must be done before it's a checkmate..."

NATIONAL NEWS



Marimba Primary School football pitch has been turned into a maize field. A councillor, it is alleged, took it upon himself to plant maize on the pitch. Marimba Primary is a council school.

Mpilo general workers allege gross abuse

THE Zimbabwe Government Employees Union (ZIGEU) has requested the Public Service Commission (PSC) to investigate allegations of gross abuse of general workers at Mpilo Hospital in Bulawayo.

ZIGEU president, Mr Witness Socks, said that on Friday last month he held a "very emotional and explosive" meeting with 60 general workers at Mpilo who told him of exploitation, nepotism, tribalism and sexual harassment that they alleged were being practised by their supervisors.

Mr Socks said he prematurely called off the meeting when the workers threatened to manhandle a member of management who was present whom they accused of being the prime culprit.

He said efforts to investigate the issues further were thwarted by some hospital administrators who became hostile to him.

Mpilo's Medical Superintendent, Mr Naboth Chabva, acknowledged receiving a letter from Mr Socks detailing the allegations.

But he said he would only act if the affected workers approached him through the "laid down channels".

Mr Socks added that the workers complained of working without protective clothing, risking contracting diseases from patients' clothes and bedding, floors and walls they cleaned with bare hands.

Most complained that they were not graded and therefore, got the same monthly wage for different duties, some of which required some form of skills like operating laundry machines and cooking for the sick," said Mr Socks.

Women, especially those who work night shifts, alleged that they were being sexually abused by some supervisors who said they would only recommend them for promotion if they first accede to their sexual advances," he said.

Mr Socks the workers also alleged that the hospital's two administrators, who happen to be husband and wife, were employing and promoting their relatives while they also harassed Shona-speaking workers because they were Ndebele.

When contacted for comment, the administrator confirmed participating in the meeting during which the allegations were made.

He, however, refused to comment and referred all questions to Mr Chabva.

One serious case is of a woman cleaner in the maternity wing who said she was pricked by a blood-stained surgical needle negligently left among some linen by a doctor.

This woman says she was not allowed to fill injury forms and was told that she would not get compensation because her injury was treated free of charge by the hospital.

Mr Socks said some women in the laundry department approached him this week alleging that they had been suspended for complaining most during the meeting.

However, a letter to one of the women, signed by the laundry manager and dated January 12, 1994, threatened disciplinary action against her for not doing her work properly.

You have been warned several times to improve your work and to obey your supervisors. It seems you do not want to listen to orders given to you about your work by the management," read the letter.

Mr Socks said he went to Mpilo last Tuesday to talk to the administrators alleged to have suspended the women.

He said at Mpilo he was threatened with a law suit if he kept going to the hospital.

— Ziana

Many opt to retire early

THE Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Mr John Nkomo has said his ministry had received an encouraging "response" from civil servants wishing to take up the government early retirement package.

He said the ministry had received a number of applications from civil servants including key people who wanted to retire early.

"We have had quite a number of applications and there are currently 400 outstanding cases still being looked at, some of these people who have applied are key persons.

"If we are not satisfied and we feel their going will incapacitate the ministry, we try to dissuade the person or just turn down the application," he said.

Forum claims heavy CIO infiltration

Sunday Gazette Reporters

THE Forum Party of Zimbabwe claims it has been heavily infiltrated by agents of the Central Intelligence Organisation and of late, the net has been closing in to weed out such elements, according to a senior Forum Party official.

In an interview with *The Sunday Gazette*, the party's Mashonaland Province chairman, Mr James Dzvoza, agreed that there were problems in the party, but said these would be solved amicably.

He, however, lashed out at Mr Joshua Cohen, who had said was a "Johnny" into politics. Mr Cohen last week called Mr Dzvoza a "dictator".

The two men are accusing one another of political immaturity.

"The meeting which was held last week must have been the work of a few disgruntled individuals, some of whom are well known Zimbabwean political

prostitutes or political prodigals, with well known records of political dissension or disunity and who had wormed their way into the Forum Party of Zimbabwe while having their own hidden agenda," said Mr Dzvoza.

He referred to Mr Cohen as a political nonentity or "political Lilliputian without any following".

"The few who are said to have attended the meeting last week, could have been CIO operatives, who have been haunting Forum since its inception last year. In recent weeks, Forum's net has been closing in on some infiltrators and so many of them were unable to escape Forum's counter intelligence drag-net resulting in their mission becoming mission impossible," he said.

Mr Dzvoza said he was still popular with his supporters adding that there were vicious enemies within the Forum Party bent on destroying the Party.

"To that end, to defend the interests of the party against such vicious enemies as I and the rest of the Mashonaland Provincial

committee members have been doing, is not at all dictatorship, and to give in to such fifth columnists, would have been a betrayal of the party," he said.

He appealed to Mashonaland Province members to remain vigilant and to work hard for the party.

Meanwhile, Forum Party presidential spokesman and secretary for information and publicity, Mr Isaac Manyemba, has described the party's national organising secretary, Mr Patrick Kombayi as a man whose loyalty was not questionable.

Mr Manyemba was reacting to a statement allegedly made last week by the party's secretary for property and transport, Mr Joshua Cohen, that Mr Kombayi's loyalty to the party was questionable. Mr Cohen made the statement following the presence of Mr Kombayi at a meeting where the merger of the United African National Council and the Zimbabwe Unity Movement was announced.

Anti-abortion campaign hots up

THE Pro-Life Association has organised 17 000 signatories from Zimbabweans opposed to legalising abortions or widening the current laws relating to abortion, as part of a petition to the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare.

Mr Rowan Phillip of the Pro-Life Association, said yesterday that the 60 000 to 80 000 illegal backstreet abortions which took place in Zimbabwe indicated the magnitude of the problem of abortion.

Young women who have unwanted pregnancies feel that they have committed an unforgivable crime by getting pregnant. They feel that the only way out is by having an abortion. Society has to make

women feel that they can be looked after should they become pregnant and not encourage the taking of life," said Mr Phillips.

He said abortion was seen as a quick-fix solution but it had its dangers which had to be highlighted.

Studies have shown that 100 percent of the women who have abortions suffer from post-abortion syndrome, and this can be in the form of belated grief, anger, resentment or guilt.

Abortion has to be highlighted that it can lead to sterility.

He said the Termination of Pregnancy Act was already in place to allow for abortions in cases outlined in the act.

A woman can have an abortion, according to the Act, where there is pregnancy resulting from unlawful sex such as rape, incest and in cases where there is a serious risk that the child could be born with mental or physical defects rendering it seriously handicapped.

Permission for an abortion can also be granted where there is a serious risk to the life of the mother.

There is need to widen the present law that we have to make abortion more accessible. There is an infrastructure already to deal with women who have unwanted pregnancies. There are associations which have been set up to deal with women in crisis situa-

tions. Society should be actively involved in these associations," said Mr Phillips.

He said the association was not happy with some of the material on abortion which was supposed to be taught in schools.

He said some of the material that the association has come across treated the issue of abortion as a health issue and not as a moral issue.

The association together with some religious organisations and other interested parties will hold a march in the city on February 26, to highlight the dangers of abortion and then have an address on abortion at Harare Gardens.



THANKS USHEWOKUNZE CHRISTOPHER MACHINGURA

Mrs Juliet Ushewokunze and the Ushewokunze family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to His Excellency The President Cde R.G.Mugabe, the Government, and Zanu (PF) for according our dear Christopher the highest honour in recognition for the role he played in the development of Zimbabwe. The family also extends their sincere thanks to the religious community, business sector diplomatic corps, relatives, friends & society at large, for the emotional and material support which continues to be rendered as well as for sharing our bereavement.

As a family we are grateful to the almighty for having provided us an opportunity to be part of Christophers wholesome life. May his dear soul rest in eternal peace.

NATIONAL NEWS

Zanu (Ndonga) suspicious over ZUM/UANC merger

Sunday Gazette Reporter

THE Zanu (Ndonga) leadership views with "suspicion", the recent merger of the Zimbabwe Unity Movement led by Edgar Tekere, and Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Congress, and believes their unity would not last until the next general elections.

In an interview last week, the Zanu (Ndonga) leader told *The Sunday Gazette* that his part would only agree to a merger with other opposition parties if guiding principles were constitutionally agreed upon and a well defined manifesto and legal basis for the alliance is put into place.

"If I were approached by the two leaders to join the alliance, I would not do so at the moment. Judging by what the people say and by my own opinion, the alliance will not last because they

(the two parties) are not guided by any basic principles. They are just guided by how much money they are going to raise by use of the people," he said.

He went on to say that such a merger could be a repetition of the pre-independence days when one party used to take advantage of the others in a multi-party alliance: "For example, we had a very bad alliance with Bishop Abel Muzorewa and Ian Smith in 1978. Once on the power forefront, Muzorewa went ahead to order some Rhodesian Forces to kill innocent civilians at Nyadzonia and Chimo in 1979 without consulting us, and to me that is not acceptable."

Meanwhile, there have been reports that Zanu (Ndonga) and several other opposition parties have had secret meetings with Ian Smith's United Front party and it is believed the subject had been

that of forming an alliance of all opposition parties against Zanu (PF) before the 1995 elections.

Asked to confirm this statement from his Harare home, Mr Smith told *The Sunday Gazette* that there was a meeting which had recently been convened at "some venue" where all opposition parties were represented.

"Even Ndabaningi Sithole attended the meeting and we all agreed that the only way to topple Zanu (PF) from power is to unite and form a strong alliance against the present government, irrespective of our differences," he said.

Mr Smith went further to say that no one opposed the idea of forming a united alliance. When asked whether the United Front would join the new ZUM or not, he said, this would require further discussion but he would prefer a new name for the alliance.



Bishop Abel Muzorewa



Mr Edgar Tekere

Bulawayo slaps DTZ in the face

SG 6-2-94

Sunday Gazette Reporter

THE Bulawayo City Council has thwarted efforts by the Development Trust of Zimbabwe (DTZ) to regain access to the Nkulumane District Commercial Centre stand by rejecting the conglomerate's application for a 50 year lease.

Last April, the city council withdrew its offer to sell commercial and industrial stands to DTZ after it failed to pay \$13.4 million before the February 28 deadline of that year.

The conglomerate through its chairman, Vice-President Joshua Nkomo recently unsuccessfully applied to council for a 50 year lease of the centre.

Dismissing the application, council authorities said DTZ had failed to pay the 25 percent deposit fee when it acquired the stand through a tender in 1992. Council said it was not its policy to lease land for commercial purposes and added that there were no indications that DTZ's financial circumstances had

changed to enable them to develop the centre.

The local authority also said even if council now decided to lease the stand, it would be put on tender in terms of the urban councils act and DTZ would have to compete with other tenderers.

According to documents at hand, Vice-President Nkomo through his deputy secretary, Mr Cain Mathema, wrote to the council seeking a 50 year lease for the Nkulumane District Commercial Centre stand.

The letter read in part: "As you are aware, the DTZ is interested in a piece of land in Nkulumane high density suburb which the Bulawayo City Council has designated for the development of a commercial centre. The Development Trust of Zimbabwe would like to construct a shopping complex. The purpose of this letter is to apply for a fifty year lease for this site."

Rejecting the application, the local authority said since DTZ was allocated the

stand in question through tender in 1992, it had failed to develop it or even pay the 25 percent deposit.

"The DTZ has failed to make meaningful progress towards the purchase or development of this stand. In fact it appears that the Trust owns land throughout the country but no development has yet taken place on any of the stands offered to it," said the documents.

"The Trust should therefore be asked to purchase the land like other developers."

The documents said if council had not bent over backwards to accommodate DTZ in the first instance, the Nkulumane district commercial centre would have been completed by now and the council and community reaping benefits from "more serious" developments.

"The old mutual had tendered \$12 million which council could have invested yielding approximately \$3 million a year for utilisation in other services needed by the community."



Dr Joshua Nkomo

Rugare residents up in arms over inflated water bills

RESIDENTS of Rugare, a National Railways of Zimbabwe owned suburb, are having to pay up to about \$80 in water charges, nearly 500 percent more than their counterparts in Kambuzuma, Warren Park and other suburbs administered by the Harare City Council.

A pensioner, Mr David Njera, showed *The Sunday Gazette* his water bills for the

months of November, December and January which were \$79.20, \$70.39 and \$59.30 respectively. Normally, residents in other municipal areas pay sums of about \$15.00 for their monthly water consumption.

Explaining the charges, a spokesman of the NRZ accounts department said the railways charged more for water and electricity in

Rugare because NRZ maintains the water and electricity systems in the suburb.

However, residents who were interviewed expressed concern over the high charges which were beyond the means of most of them. They also questioned how the authorities came up with these astronomical figures as most of the water-meters in Rugare were out of order. Some

meters have not been repaired for several months but still the NRZ keeps on charging, it is alleged.

In some cases four families have to share a single water main and they wonder how the railways verified the figures for different individuals.

Meanwhile, Rugare suburb is to be bought by the Harare City Council for an undis-

closed amount, but before this is done, the NRZ authorities have been asked to improve their road and drainage systems, an exercise which is taking longer than expected.

Due to its financial problems, the NRZ has not been able to undertake some of its obligations — only the roads have been tarred so far in the suburb.

Briefs

Small businesses offer opportunity

SMALL businesses offer offers Zimbabwe its greatest opportunity for growth and for that reason is being afforded full support by the banking sector. Mr Isaac Takawira, managing director of Barclays Bank, has said.

Speaking at a function for business personalities in Harare on Thursday he said Barclays' small business unit had trained over 4 000 people from this sector in the past six years, equipping them with the skills to develop entrepreneurial enterprises.

Mr Takawira, who is also president of the Association of Bankers, spent Thursday visiting small business clients in Harare's high density areas, culminating in an evening reception for small business operators at the Mushandira Panwe Hotel.

"This was a valuable opportunity for me to see entrepreneurs and their operations and for me to reassure them of Barclays' and the banking sector's support for them," he said.

Among the enterprises visited were First Pharmacy, Mvamuka Motors (both Machipisa Shopping Centre), Rufaro Bakery (Western Triangle-Gazaland), Gurajena Mini Market and Denenga Mini Market (both Glen View Shopping Centre).

The reception was attended by over 200 people, including Barclays clients, local leaders and IBC directors.

Dysentery reported in Manicaland

MUTARE — Some 8 925 cases of dysentery, an acute diarrhoeal disease caused by the schigella bacteria, have been reported in Manicaland province from June last year, health officials said here on Friday.

Statistics released by the provincial medical directorate quoted by the *Manica Post* said Chipinge, a district on the border with Mozambique, had the highest figure of 3 657.

The provincial environmental health officer, Andrew Ruwende, said the figures for the few weeks of this year were still being compiled, but added that no deaths from the disease had been recorded so far.

Poor sanitation and lack of personal hygiene contributed to people being infected by the bacteria.

Symptoms of the disease included the passing of bloody diarrhoea, accompanied by fever, nausea, vomiting and cramps.

Over 1,65 million Africans have HIV

OVER 1,65 million people in Africa were infected with the HIV virus last year alone, figures released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) have revealed.

The epidemic is now estimated to have topped 15 million worldwide, 10 million of the sufferers being purported to be in Africa.

The statistics revealed that central and east Africa were the most affected regions. Ethiopia reported that it had close to 500 000 people infected with the HIV virus which causes Aids.

In Nigeria, 22 percent of men attending sexually transmitted diseases clinics are HIV positive. In the southern region of the continent which includes Zimbabwe, it is estimated that one in every three women seeking antenatal care are infected.

Migration, population displacement due to civil wars and other movements of people were some of the factors attributed to the spread of the virus in Africa. The increase of Aids cases among the teenage population was also reported to be of concern to the WHO.

Sixty percent of the new infections on the continent are in the 15-24 age group. This, the WHO said, demonstrated the vulnerability of the continent's youth.

NATIONAL NEWS

Farmers to get \$111 million to restock herd

THE Zimbabwe Farmers' Union (ZFU) is to receive about \$111 million from government to finance the re-stocking of the communal herd, ZFU president, Gary Magadzire, has said.

Mr Magadzire told *The Sunday Gazette* in Bulawayo that the funds would be released shortly. This follows the signing of an agreement in Rome, Italy, two weeks ago by the Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Water Development, Mr Kumbirai Kangai.

"We have been made aware of the availability of the money and we are yet to go over the modalities with the permanent secretary for agriculture, Dr Boniface Ndimande," Mr Magadzire said.

He said the money would be distributed to all the provinces. "This money should cover the total re-stocking cost which also includes dosing and dipping materials and paddocking."

The funding is a re-injection of more capital for the re-stocking exercise in communal areas following \$8 million provided to communal farmers by the government through Agritex, ZFU and Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) last year.



Mr Magadzire being presented with trucks from Save the Children Fund, one of the many developments in the smallholder sector

Trained retrenchees fail to secure loans

Sunday Gazette Reporter

SOME retrenched workers who have undergone training on establishing income-generating projects are unable to raise the 10 percent project contributions therefore cannot get government loans.

The training programmes under the Social Dimensions Fund (SDF) are sponsored by the Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Social Welfare. They were introduced to cushion retrenchees from economic hardships.

A project officer with the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC), one of the business organisations involved in the programme, Mr Danford Moyo, said last week that the programme had been welcomed by victims of retrenchment because it gave them a new lease of life.

"Some of the people who have attended the programmes have been able to set up viable projects, but others have particularly faced difficulties in making a 10 percent contribution towards the projects for which they need loans," said Mr Moyo.

Under the programme, only retrenchees qualify for the training which equips them with skills for running projects and are then required to draw up a project appraisal they would discuss with the ZNCC officers.

"Each person is entitled to a maximum of 880 000 and is required to contribute 10 percent of the value of their projects either in cash or in assets relevant to their projects," said Mr Moyo.

The 10 percent contribution was imposed as a way of encouraging the people to take their projects seriously, he said.

He said more than 300 people had benefited from the programmes held last year.

Call to involve blacks in economy

SF 6-2-94

Sunday Gazette Reporter

ZIMBABWE's economic reform programme will not succeed unless blacks are brought into the mainstream of the economy, a former cabinet minister has said.

Former Industry and Technology Minister, Dr Callistus Ndllovu, said on Friday if blacks were not given charge of the economy, they would not support the current Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (Esap) whose negative effects were seriously affecting them.

"Esap cannot succeed unless blacks are given a

share of the economy. They are the people who are badly affected by this programme and will oppose it," he said.

"There might be need to implement some of the things which have been called for by the IBDC though I am not sure whether some of them might be easy to implement."

He said government should ask itself who was going to benefit from the economic reforms as there were indications that the programme was for the benefit of foreigners.

Dr Ndllovu said there was no appreciable evidence that Esap would yield its results by the end of its five-year term and called for its gradual

implementation. He said instead of creating the much needed jobs, Esap had caused massive retrenchments and no investment.

"This particular Esap that we have in this country is not suitable for the economy's ailments. The programme's technical designs will not cure Zimbabwe's economic ills because they are not structured to deal with our problem of stagflation," said the former minister who fell from grace following his involvement in the Willowvale Motor Car scandal.

He said the devaluation of the dollar to promote exports was going to push some firms

out of business as most of them used imported raw materials for product manufacturing.

"Government should consider removing import tariffs and protect domestic industries. In fact the combination of the devaluation of the dollar and high interest rates have scared away investors and Zimbabwe will remain a credit driven economy," said Dr Ndllovu.

"The country's debt service ratio is currently 70 percent of the gross domestic product and the situation is likely to deteriorate."

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NOT A LAUGHING MATTER

The day I rubbed shoulders with death

AFTER graduating from university in the early 80s I went to teach in the Midlands. That was about the time arms caches were discovered on PF-Zapu properties resulting in members of that party being sacked from government. The disturbances in Matebeleland escalated. It was a very touchy issue because memories of Entumbane were still fresh in the minds of everyone. Everything that suggested tribalism was bound to cause a lot of sensitivity.

I was very idealistic — like a typical student or young graduate. The Midlands happens to be the meeting point of people from all tribes... the melting pot so to speak. As a young 'socialist' I was above tribal politics, hence I had very close friends across the board. The situation was tense; battle lines were there simmering under the surface.

No wonder then that when it was reported in the Press

that a senior Zanu (PF) official had been killed by dissidents, the Midlands erupted into an 'ethnic cleansing'. Anyone who was remotely related to PF-Zapu became an enemy. And that means anyone who was Ndebele-speaking was enemy — they had killed a Shona and they had to bear the consequences of their sacrilege.

The people got made. The Ndebeles were accused of having weapons in their houses; of wearing Father Zimbabwe T-shirt to spite 'us'; of holding night meetings to plot armed attacks on the Shona. And to fuel it all, there were always ambitious political upstarts bent on getting the best out of the ugly situation. They declared war on the Ndebele.

One mid-afternoon, I was having a class, teaching literature. The subject, very interestingly, was the Salem witchhunts as portrayed by Arthur Miller in *The Crucible*. I had people singing coming towards the school from the direction of the location. Such singing did not worry me then because it had become

pretty common in those days. I continued my lessons. The crowd was singing revolutionary songs of the sinister type. The wielded whips. They asked the headmaster to shut the school and let the children join them for most of them were members of the Youth Brigade. The headmaster complied.

When he came to my class to deliver the news I asked the rationals behind the whole thing. It was school time and the children had to be taught; I refused to release my class. Then the youth leader came and ordered me to release the children. I asked him why and he said he wanted them to help him smoke out 'dissidents'.

'All Ndebeles are dissidents don't you know that?' he said.

Naive as I was I went on to give him a lecture on democracy. 'Our constitution is democratic. This is a multiparty state, PF-Zapu like any other party has the right to live in this town. They can wear their Father Zimbabwe T-shirts and hold their night meetings. That is how democracy works.'

The youth leader

stood there incredulous. Had it not been for the respect the community bestowed on me because of contribution to youth development in the town he would have unleashed the youth on me there and then. The headmaster came to his rescue... and mine. He ordered the class dismissed and the children file out. I went to the staff room very defiantly to join other members of staff.

I went with my lecture on democracy and all of them... all the educated cowards... in the staffroom ignored me. They did not want to make a stand.

We had not noticed that the crowd had in its captivity a young man named Luke, who was Ndebele speaking. Soon enough they started beating him up, 'the Zanu way'... and that means badly. Luke was a friend of ours. I mean most of us in the staffroom. I was helpless. The teachers would not come out with me to stop this murderous outrage. In fact, our headmaster went on to join the beating. He went on to lead the

crowd to the next victim, a local hotel owner who was not Ndebele but belonged to PF-Zapu. They left him with him with a broken back and looted his hotel.

We remained in the staffroom. When the headmaster returned he explained with great enthusiasm the kind of damage they had done to the property of the 'dissidents.'

'What do you understand by democracy?' I asked him.

Early that evening as I walked home to rest, everyone just stared at me not wanting to talk to me. All my friends looked aside when I approached them. They don't understand, I said to myself.

I got home just after sunset and began to prepare my evening meal. A cousin of mine who was very senior in the party burst into my house soon afterwards

and told me to follow him quietly. He pulled me into the bush nearby where he had left his car. He opened the boot and literally threw me into it, and drove off at high speed. I could hear bloodthirsty singing as we sped through the location. Because of his seniority in the party, we were never stopped. He only stopped the car some hundred km out and opened the boot for me. I sat in the passenger's seat and we drove quietly to Harare but not before I asked him what the fuss was all about and at least we should have told my girlfriend that we were away. My cousin was too angry with me to say a thing. He left me in the safe hands of my brother and made the long and risky journey back to the Midlands.

I can never begin to say how near I was that day to being killed.

The ethnic cleansing went on for three weeks. In the fourth week it was safe for me to go back to the Midlands town. They had broken into my house. They had destroyed my fridge with axes. My bed had been shredded. The windows, which ironically belonged to the municipality had been broken. I stood amidst the damage contemplating where to begin. While I was there, a young girl came in. I recognised her. She was one of my clever pupils. In the first form. Yes Thokozile Ndebele was her name.

'It's the Youth Brigade,' she said rather unnecessarily. 'They looked for you all over the place. They wanted to kill you.'

I remained quiet... She continued: 'They killed my father and my mother.' I felt bad. I didn't know what to do. I knelt down and embraced her.

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KINE 2 A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT (18)
KINE 3 12.30, 5.30 TINA - WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT (18) 3.00, 8.30 SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE (18)
KINE 4 THERE'S A ZULU ONLY MY STOEP (PG)
RAINBOW PARK LANE 3.00, 5.30, 8.30 THE FUGITIVE (18)
VISTARAMA 2.15, 5.30, 8.30 THE FUGITIVE (18)
ELITE 100 2.15, 5.30 & 8.30 UNFATHOMED HEART (18)
7 ARTS 2.15, 5.30 & 8.30 UNDERCOVER BLUES (18)
STUDIO 1 2.15, 5.30 & 8.30 THE FIRM (18)
STUDIO 2 2.15, 5.30 & 8.30 SCENT OF A WOMAN (18)
MINI CINE 3.00, 5.30, 8.30 HARD TARGET (18)
LIBERTY 12.00, 3.00, 5.30 & 8.30 THE PACKAGE (18)

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At 2.15, 5.30 & 8.30
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RAINBOW MOVIES TODAY VISTARAMA 2.15, 5.30 & 8.30 THE FUGITIVE (18)
ELITE 400 MARTIAL LAW 2 Plus MISSION OF JUSTICE (18)
7 ARTS 2.15, 5.30 & 8.30 KICK AND FURY (18)
NITESTAR 8.15 GROUNDHOG DAY (PG)
NITESTAR 8.45 MAD DOG AND GLORY (18)
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TV & RADIO

TV1	16.22 Thats Incredible	11.00 Nhai
06.55 Station Opening	17.10 Musical	11.05 Izindaba
06.56 Programme Line-Up	18.00 Nhai/Izindaba	11.10 Kwa Muneri/Imisebenzi yama Missionary
07.00 News	18.16 Encyclopedia Britannica	11.45 Jarzin Man
07.05 European Fairy Tales	18.29 For Love Of Birds	12.00 Reggae
07.17 Encyclopedia Britannica	18.59 Stories From An African Hospital	12.30 Mhazha Mambure/Zimbiwe Ngulinda
07.31 This Is Aubrey	19.26 Feature: Decoration Day	1.00 Nhai
07.37 Bozo The Clown	21.00 News At Nine	1.10 Izindaba
07.44 C.L.Y.D.E	21.30 Golden Age Of Rock 'N Roll	1.20 Mamiriro Ekunze/Umumo Womkhathi
08.08 Sunday Papers	22.18 Epilogue/Close Down	1.25 Zviziso Zverufu/Iziziso Zemfa
08.18 Your Home		1.35 Myengengenge/Zimnandi Ziyajuluka
08.48 Sunday Sport		2.15 Wava Mufamba Nyore
09.33 Local Drama: Zimlife		2.30 Sisemoyeni Labe D.M.B.
10.00 Sunday Morning News	Radio 2	3.30 Kwaziso/Ukubingelana
10.15 This Week	5.00 Kutangisa Zuva Ranhasi/Umnako Omhule Walolusuku	5.00 Dzemuno/Ezekuleli
10.45 Track Record	6.00 Nhai	5.30 Ngatibuyasani
11.15 Encyclopedia Britannica	6.10 Izindaba	6.00 Nhai
11.47 Beakman's World	6.20 Kwazisa Kusile	6.05 Izindaba
12.09 International 700 Club	7.00 Nhai	6.10 Mamiriro Ekunze/Umumo Womkhathi
12.38 The Big Valley	7.15 Kwazisa Kusile	6.15 Chikristu neTsika
13.27 Neighbours	7.30 Money and Life	6.45 Dzandakusarudzi-rai/Engikhethele Zona
13.49 Feature: Iron Eagle II	7.45 Kwazisa Kusile	7.00 Amasiko Ethu
15.25 Musical	8.00 Hutsanana	7.20 Zviziso Zverufu/Iziziso Zemfa
16.13 Kapatoo	8.15 Ngatidzizisani nezeAids	8.00 Nhai
16.38 Ebony Jet Show Case	8.35 Nziyo Dzechitendero/Ingoma Zokholo	8.10 Izindaba
17.00 Nhai/Izindaba	9.00 Nhai	8.20 Zvakatikombedredza
17.15 Programme Line-Up	9.05 Izindaba	8.45 Marungula
17.16 UN In Action	9.10 Mhosva Hairovi	9.15 Chinokura Chinkotama/Guga Mzimba
17.21 Families	9.15 Ngano Dzeb haiberi/Inganekwane Zebaiberi	9.45 Mishandira Pamwe/Amakhopha
17.50 English Premier League Soccer	9.30 Nziyo Dzechitendero/Ingoma Zokholo	10.00 Nhai
18.50 The Jeffersons	9.45 Nziyo Dzechitendero/Ingoma Zokholo	10.05 Izindaba
19.20 Insight	10.00 Sunday Church Services	10.10 Mazwi Akaurungama/Amaphimbo Amnandi
19.50 Programme Line-Up	10.15 Buda Pachena nema ocer Stars	10.45 Yorire Ngoma (Kunze Kuyedze) Kayikhale Ingoma
20.00 News At Eight	10.30 ZMC Hot 5	11.00 Nhai
20.35 Weather Report	10.45 Nziyo Dzechitendero/Ingoma Zokholo	11.05 Izindaba
20.40 Programme Line-Up	10.55 Nharoondoo neBarclays/Inoxo Labe Barclays	11.10 Yorire Ngoma (Kunze Kuyedze) Kayikhale Ingoma
20.45 Consumer Report		
20.50 Knots Landing		
21.48 Golden Girls		
22.17 Rules Of Engagement		
23.19 Night Music		
00.15 Epilogue/Close Down		
TV2	16.00 Programme Line-Up	16.01 Dog City

RELIGION & EDUCATION

Sunday Meditation

"Today if you hear HIS voice do not grow stubborn." Heb: 3: 15

GOD has many different ways in which He speaks to you. A chance, by reading of the Bible may strike a cord that challenges, perhaps even causing discomfort. The passing remark made by someone may persist in your mind, until you feel compelled to respond. The possibility is that you may have become adept at stifling God's Voice. You quickly close your ears to God's word when it challenges you and try to forget what was said to you.

The circumstances in which you find yourself may demand from you more than you possess, and you instantly call upon God and when He responds, events happen that can only be interpreted in terms of Divine intervention in your life. Yet so often you call answered prayer a coincidence, and never give thanks to God for the way events have worked out in your life. Every day, people are turning a deaf ear to God's Voice, and are therefore struggling with a form of religion that is inadequate because they refuse to hear God or see Him at work in their affairs.

When God makes Himself known to you, and speaks to you in a particular way, be wise and listen and understand. As you give Him an attentive ear, and when you are eager to do His will, His Way will become clearer with the passing days, and His Presence will illuminate your path.

Pope institutes academy for social sciences

WITH the "Motu Proprio" entitled "Socialium Scientiarum", of January 1, 1994, Pope John Paul II has instituted the Pontifical Academy for Social Sciences. He has nominated Prof Edmond Mallinvaud (France) as President of the Academy.

Among the 31 first members of the Academy is Justice Nicholas McNally of Zimbabwe. He is one of three members from the African continent, South Africa and Ivory Coast being the other two nations represented.

The main aim of the new Pontifical Academy is, in the words of Article 1 of its Statutes "to promote the study and progress of the social, economic, political and juridical sciences in the light of the social doctrine of the Church". The Catholic Church believes that, from the proclamation of the Gospel, there arise light and strength for the ordering of social life. Light to guide, reason to uphold and promote the dignity of the human person; and strength of a spiritual nature which effectively assists those involved in applying the Gospel to the social sphere.

Since the collapse of the real socialist system, the Church and humanity are facing enormous challenges. Although the Church does not consider herself competent to other adequate technical responses to these challenges, She does believe that She is more than ever obliged to contribute to the preservation of peace and to the construction of a society worthy of the human person. In order to be able to do so, the Church requires constant and profound dialogue with modern sciences, with their investigations and with their results. This new Pontifical Academy is intended to help meet that requirement.

The Academy, although autonomous, is to work closely with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace with which it will co-ordinate and to which it will refer in the planning of its initiatives.

To achieve its aims, the Academy will organise congresses and days of study on specific themes as well as promoting scientific research.

Sisters celebrate final commitment

ON NEW YEAR'S day there was a joyful celebration in the grounds of St Dominic's Secondary School in Chishawasha. There was drumming, singing and dancing, with 250 people sitting down for a festive lunch in the school hall. What was the occasion? A wedding reception for an old pupil of the school, perhaps.

Actually, it was nearly the exact opposite of a wedding, though at least as happy and exuberant. Five young women celebrated their final and irreversible commitment of a life of prayer and service as Dominican Sisters, taking the vows of (celibate) chastity, poverty and obedience.

A few days later another five young Sisters, having spent a year in prayer and study, after busy years in nurses' training colleges, did the same during a jubilant celebration at Regina Mundi Convent in Highfield. They declared solemnly before Archbishop Chakaipa of

Harare that they wish to serve God and his people in the religious community of the Little Children of Our Blessed Lady (LCBL). One of them is Sister Angela, a teacher in Martindale. Foregoing a family and children of her own, she devotes herself to the care of other people's children. Teaching Sisters like her are the backbone of Catholic schools.

Sister Ethel, a state registered nurse, left shortly after the big feast for Marymount Mission, Rushinga, where she is nursing the people of this remote area which still has not recovered from the war and years of harassment by Renamo rebels.

Johane Ngulube, tall and broadshouldered, is the son of a railway worker. His father, a Zambian, used to teach candidates for baptism in and around Chinhoyi in his spare time. Just before Christmas, Johane was ordained as a priest by the bishop of Chinhoyi

in the parish of St Peter's where he had grown-up. In the meantime, he has taken up his duties as a priest for miners' families along the Great Dyke. He is one of seven Zimbabweans ordained between December and January, having completed many years of training, both at Chishawasha Seminary and at the University of Zimbabwe.

Both the Sisters and as the newly ordained priests remember companions who began the long journey of religious training with them, but decided one day (or were told by their superiors) that this way of life was not for them. It takes maturity, strength and independence of character to choose this way of life at a time when few contemporaries understand it and many question it. But the children and the sick need Sister Angela and Sister Ethel, and the scattered Christians in remote mining settlements are happy that father Ngulube has come, like a gift from heaven.



Dr Pelagia expresses her happiness as she is committed to a life of service

Sunday Prayer

Give unto us, O Lord, the spirit of courage. Let no shadow oppress our spirit lest our gloom should darken the light by which others have to live. Remove from our inner most souls every root of bitterness, and fill us daily more completely with thy love; through him by whom thou has promised to supply all our need, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Reading: Ps 27: 1-6 The Lord is my light and salvation, whom shall I fear?



Fr Ngulube (far right) with his fellow students who were ordained recently.



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LOCAL POLITICAL FEATURE

Democracy triumphs in Zanu (PF) polls

LIKE a cool refreshing breeze, democracy triumphed at the recent Zanu (PF) Matabeleland South provincial polls, shocking many party supporters who had grown accustomed to elections fraught with irregularities.

Zanu (PF) has previously been accused of being undemocratic by some of its supporters, most of whom complained of being forced to vote for imposed candidates in the on-going restructuring exercise which is now at provincial level.

Six party provinces have already held elections and members there complained of imposition of candidates, intimidation of aspirants not favoured by the party leadership, vote rigging and shortages of transport and food.

Last weekend, it was Matabeleland South province's turn to hold its congress.

Observers interviewed during accreditation of delegates viewed the congress with caution as the usual Zanu (PF) "anomalies" were expected.

However, after the Sunday elections, the same observers were the first to admit that democracy had prevailed at the congress presided over by former army commander, General Solomon Mujuru.

Though there were small administrative

hitches here and there, almost all candidates, delegates, presiding officers and Zanu (PF) Politburo and Central Committee members hailed it as the most successful restructuring exercise ever held within the party.

Delegates said that from the beginning, Mr Johnson Ndllovu's executive and other local Central Committee members had done a sterling job in organising adequate transport, accommodation and food for all who attended the three-day convention.

Conducting the elections were Gen Mujuru assisted by deputy secretary for publicity and information, Mr Chen Chimutengwende and Member of Parliament for Makokoba, Mr Sydney Malunga.

Gen Mujuru's first democratic move before the elections was his preference to work within the guidelines set by the delegates themselves.

He asked whether they wanted to vote by show of hands or queue behind each candidate. People unanimously agreed to vote by show of hands.

"I suggest that a candidate who comes second in each contest be declared the winners' deputy for that particular post, what do the people say?" Asked Gen Mujuru.

Because of disagreement among the people,

Gen Mujuru called for a vote and an overwhelming majority voted in favour of his suggestion which was then used throughout the process.

This province has six districts and Zanu (PF)'s main wing has 26 posts. "I suggest that each district produces four members of the incoming executive with only two others getting five each, what do you say?" he asked.

His suggestion was adopted unanimously. Gen Mujuru also said it was the delegates' prerogative to elect a leadership of their choice.

But he advised that they choose people they had knowledge about and also include a cross-section of society such as traditional leaders, professionals, women and other interested groups.

After registering these democratic agreements, cheering delegates, some of whom had expressed fears that candidates would be imposed and that some districts would have more representatives in the new executive than others, welcomed Gen Mujuru's system.

Aspirants were also allowed to contest posts without fear of intimidation.

Although most previous executive members were re-elected, posts changed hands and there was a considerable number of newcomers while some previous leaders

who expected a smooth re-election were voted out.

Afterwards, most agreed that the congress was the most successful to date and hoped that Masvingo, Bulawayo and Matabeleland North learn from such an example of democracy at work.

Said Gen Mujuru: "The exercise has been as successful as I hoped it would be." Fellow presiding officer, Mr Malunga, said: "This has been an exciting exercise, people have learnt a thing or two."

Bulilima-Mangwe South MP, Mr Simon Moyo, said: "I saw true democracy at work, what more could I wish for?"

Matabeleland South provincial governor, Mr Steven Nkomo, said: "I am happy."

Minister of State for Women's Affairs and MP for Umzingwane, Ms Tenzwe Lesabe said: "The equal distribution of posts was really needed. I am also happy that this exercise was very fair, there was no pressure on anybody and there was no rigging which most people feared."

Mr Ndllovu, the re-elected chairman, said: "Everything moved well and I believe the equal distribution of posts will tighten the unity among people of this province." — Ziama



Gen Mujuru



Mrs Lesabe



Mr Malunga

Stars

AQUARIUS

'The Water Bearer' (Jan 20 — Feb 19)

Your time now to make that little bit of extra money which would come in the right moment! You achieve this through decisiveness and being very quick to see an opportunity when it presents itself. If you feel something is wrong with work, best speak out!

PISCES

'The Fishes' (Feb 20 — March 20)

You tend to do a lot of 'growing up' now in one way or another! Perhaps you suddenly find yourself on your own while the support of others no longer there, or, maybe, certain lessons you learn have the effect of maturing you and therefore giving you new and different views.

ARIES

'The Ram' (March 21 — April 20)

A travelling time for many of you when the urge comes on strongly to take flight and suddenly go somewhere. Try not to do this in too much haste and impatience, however, as this brings risks with it on the roads plus your, possibly, leaving unfinished tasks behind.

TAURUS

'The Bull' (April 21 — May 20)

If matters have got a bit cool or distant with friends who formerly were very close to you this week could bring you together again through some force of circumstances or events. You should feel better for this. Some of you singles could decide, at last, to commit yourselves.

GEMINI

'The Twins' (Sep 23 — Oct 23)

Jill Darke

(May 21 — June 21)

You make a good breakthrough with those working associates who formerly may have been very difficult — refusing to co-operate with you or to lend assistance. Perhaps it is your new friendliness or a hand extended to do something for them which helps to bring this about!

CANCER

'The Crab' (June 22 — July 22)

There are some wise and good people to be met now, who give you a boost and a lift, and who could also be the means of your being able to widen your social life and not be stuck at home so much in the same old routines and ruts. You also depend less of close family now.

LEO

'The Lion' (July 23 — Aug 23)

Some people tend to be envious (compared to their own) although they are not likely to come right out and show this. Fortunately, you tend to be getting ahead with what you know needs to be done and thus are not aware or mindful of this.

VIRGO

'The Virgin' (Aug 24 — Sep 22)

You probably will need the help of your family but, as probably applies in many cases, if some of them live far away, you will need to try and re-arrange your activities so as to be able to make a trip to see them and sort this out. You clear up many small problems now.

LIBRA

'The Scales' (Sep 23 — Oct 23)

Although you have formerly been the one to tell your very confidential secrets to others before, you now can become the recipient of private news from others — perhaps even the very people whom you trusted before with your information. You are happy to help them now.

SCORPIO

'The Scorpion' (Oct 24 — Nov 21)

If you want some help this will, surprisingly, tend to come from people in the 'not so high' positions whereas you had been thinking of approaching those at the top. The latter could be very difficult to get hold of or pin down whilst the others lend assistance willingly.

SAGITTARIUS

'The Archer' (Nov 22 — Dec 21)

What you have to write or communicate in an official capacity is most important now to your future plans and welfare, so anything important should be well-planned and thought about before you actually formulate the words. Impulsiveness in general should be avoided now.

CAPRICORN

'The Goat' (Dec 22 — Jan 19)

There may come to your mind now the realisation of it being necessary to cut out certain people and elements out of your life if these are just a dead weight and not doing you any good. Once you do decide you can be very determined. Romantic influences look better.

How To Attract Girls

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 - "Women are attracted to the smell" Daily Telegraph
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 - "The stuff attracts women like you would not believe." Colorado Telegraph
- Successfully tested on BBC TV's "Tomorrows World". CONTACT 18 contains ANDROSTENONE and Super ANROSTENOL PHEROMONE and is the best quality, most effective pheromone attractant available. Don't be misled by cheaper (or more expensive) imitations. Comes in a discreet 15ml atomiser (lasts 3 months). It really works! User reports confirm success:



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POLITICS

MENGISTU BREAKS SILENCE

Mengistu Haile Mariam, the former Ethiopian president, who has been in hiding for more than 2 years in Zimbabwe, this week broke his silence, saying grave political developments in his country had forced him to do so. Below is his full statement.

FROM the first day of my exile upto now, I never uttered or said a word, particularly on political issues related to myself and my beloved country — Ethiopia in particular. My enemies who are in power in Ethiopia have been having a field day all these years. They have been attacking me publicly in the media and in private by telling lies about me and my previous government.

The regime in Addis Ababa has been engaged in hearsay, rumour-mongering, baseless and malicious propaganda and above all, by insulting and mud-slinging my personality and character.

I strongly believe and I am confident that sooner or later, only history and Ethiopian people have the right to judge me and my political leadership. In fact, my enemies have no stature nor the credibility to pass any judgement on me or my government.

However, the time has come now for me to tell the truth about the events that transpired leading to the grave situation of that unfortunate, revolutionary president. The facts are that, it was a peoples revolution dictated by political principles and ideals. It was not the issue of being a dictator nor a power hungry person. It was a revolutionary democrat that strongly opposes political hegemony of both the indigenous and international dictators. I was not at all a Soviet satellite in Africa as my enemies boisterously articulated in the international media. I was not at any time obeying nor taking any orders from international powerful dictators nor being a subservient puppet of anybody. We believed in national independence with friendly relations with all the countries of the world whether powerful or weak or small or big. My absolute loyalty was to the people of a united Ethiopia and its constitution. No more, no less. As claimed by my enemies, I was not overthrown by coup d'etat, nor was I the architect of power by the Ethiopian people. The truth is, there

was an international conspiracy that was both an imperialist conspiracy as well as a reformist collaboration against myself, the Ethiopian people and our democratic revolution.

It is a public knowledge that I was elected to lead a popular democratic revolution. Without dwelling much on the achievements of the revolution, it is true that the Ethiopian people have greatly achieved enormous economic and social gains.

For example, the Ethiopian people have been liberated from an archaic feudal rule that was in power for over three thousand years. Our revolution managed to implement successful programmes of rural and urban radical reforms. We carried out literacy campaigns targeting the 97 percent of our illiterate population.

We introduced widely free education and free health services for all the Ethiopians. New radical labour laws and social security measures were implemented and carried out effectively. Many citizens were able to find relevant jobs with guaranteed salaries, especial attention to social security and care for the elderly, the children, war veterans and the disabled were given adequate priority by the revolution. Justice and equality irrespective of sex, ethnicity, religion or race was also one of the pillars of our national programmes.

It is important to know that during my youth and manhood I had equally suffered in the battle fields fighting side by side with many comrades and colleagues for about fifteen years. During this time I played my role as a responsible patriotic citizen and a professional soldier. This was in defence of my beloved country. Then, when I became the head of state for seventeen years, I was a leader of a country that I found engaged in a vicious civil war and a land which was a hotbed of international conspiracy and foreign aggression. As a young officer and a revolutionary democrat and at the helm of leadership at the time, Ethiopia was not flowing with milk and honey nor was it a sugar-candy mountain to quote George Orwell of the animal farm. In spite of these difficult circumstances, I tried my best with the help of my colleagues and with the encouragement, support and stamina of Ethiopian masses with the help of its vanguard the revolutionary armed forces; we all combined our efforts to serve our country, to

assure unity, territorial integrity, national security, justice, freedom and rapid social and economic progress for all the people. This was a duty as well as a commitment to the nation.

However, during my short tour of duty for a few hours in Nairobi Kenya; it was when I received a message from my ambassador in Kenya informing me of my removal from power. This was my first top ranking comrades. These colleagues and comrades were infiltrated to subvert the Ethiopian revolution. It was the "fifth column" in our revolutionary ranks. Some of the comrades were paid by the imperialist circles. It was no doubt to some of the comrades the virus of revolutionary fatigue and they tried to cure it with pieces of silver. In addition to all these intrigues, there was clear collaboration between the imperialist and the so called Soviet reformists, a political plot that was nothing other than anarchy and betrayal with self-destruction and who loyally agreed to the colonialists theme and ambition of destroying the young Ethiopian revolution. It was a real field day for international traitors of all kinds that had nothing in common other than to destroy Mengistu as head of revolutionary Ethiopia.

The message which was delivered to me by the Ethiopian ambassador in Kenya and together with their announcement in Addis Ababa to the Ethiopian nation as a whole was as follows: "Due to heavy problems and heavy pressure imposed on him, our first and beloved president, comrade Mengistu has left the country on his own free will for the sake of peace and appoint his deputy Lt General Tesfaye as acting president."

This was indeed a great shock for the entire nation and so for me. When I contacted them through the telephone to know the exact situation, they responded by telling me that they have been obliged to reach this kind of decision because of the precondition imposed on them by mediator country together with our opponents. According to the telephone conversation the precondition and promise is in fact, to abolish the government of Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and to form a transitional government so that Eritrean bandits will not advance on Asmara and at the same time the Tigraï bandits will not move on Addis Ababa. In this way, peace will be achieved. This was indeed a raw deal for my colleagues and comrades to believe it to be gospel truth from our enemies and the imperialists with reformists included.

This resulted in unexpected great shock to the nation as a whole. It was suddenly announced by my colleagues to the nation without ever contemplating what political repercussions that could follow such a sudden change. They were indeed naive in their judgement.

In response to the announcement, the loyal revolutionary armed forces were not at all impressed with the announcements to the evil doom. Instead, the regular loyal forces marched to the capital city of Addis Ababa, thus abandoning their strategic military positions around the city.

During this very critical moment, the same comrades in confusion and with utter folly and stupidity reversed their first announced statement about my removal from power which they had announced a day earlier. Instead, they said that "President Mengistu left his responsibility as head of state without their prior knowledge. This resulted in further confusion and anarchy. As a result, the entire rebel armies walked into Addis Ababa and occupied the whole city without any resistance whatsoever. Of course, my comrades who were persuaded by the enemy to hand over the country to rebels believing that they might fulfil their own sinister ends and foolish mooves. It was a real disaster for the culprits who betrayed the Ethiopian peoples revolution. In fact, they were deceived, then later condemned by the rebels. The rest were imprisoned and are now languishing in jails in their thousands. All these innocent citizens are living under very bad human conditions and are exposed to worse conditions of human abuses.

Today Ethiopian people have no government nor even advocacy in the international arena. The so called Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front (EPLF) who have succeeded to separate Eritrea and the same rebel organisation. Both the TPLF and EPLF fought their own country Ethiopia for the last thirty years and are confusing the world by calling themselves with different names. The fact is, they are both one and single guerrilla organisation which emanates from one minority ethnic group — the Tigray tribe.



I have received a call to rescue my country... Mengistu.

In the history of Ethiopia there is not a village, province or region inhabited by a single tribe or ethnic group speaking one language known by the name of Eritrea. The word Eritrea was a name given for the Northern part of the country by the Italians. This was during the time of their short period of occupation. It has been always Tigraï and appropriately so and not the Italian created colonial name of Eritrea which was simply a colonial and imperialist strategy and political necessity.

After all our long struggle and suffering; all of my fellow Ethiopians included, have lost almost everything regarding our country. The great popular peoples revolution has been reversed. This has been to due designs and intrigues of both the imperialist and reformists particularly with the help of some of their collaborators who were planted in our midst. Our beloved motherland is occupied and divided. It is a sinister political reality, but still can be corrected through determination. The great and heroic Ethiopian people's Army has been scattered. The first political party in Ethiopian history that was the vanguard of Ethiopian People, its unity and its democratic principles and revolution has been disbanded. Yet it will rise to its expectations in not a distant future.

Most of the country's intellectuals, students, workers, professionals, peasants, industrialists and millions of patriotic citizens and the general public who have firmly and resolutely stood in defence of Ethiopian people, its unity and its democratic principles of war and instead killed, imprisoned, retrenched or forced to leave the country. Many Ethiopians are now refugees and aliens in foreign countries. Is that the meaning of democracy? We were all told that "Democracy is government by the people, for the people and of the people" I thought that was what President Abraham Lincoln said.

The gallant soldiers of 2nd Ethiopian army vigorously fought in the name of Ethiopian unity and the TPLF and EPLF were ordered to lay down their arms in the name of peace, and are now abandoned in their suffering in Eritrean jails. Nearly over one hundred thousand soldiers and officers have been massacred, imprisoned and many of them are in forced labour camps under inhuman

conditions. Where are the human rights organisations? During our time we used to hear of Amnesty International, Africa Watch, Geneva Convention on the rights of the prisoners of war etc. Why are these human rights organisations burying the heads in the sand not taking note of the human rights abuses in Ethiopia? This is just a brief note of the agony and misery that the Ethiopian people are facing today in the year 1994. I have not even talked much about the painful disastrous economic and social situation in the country as a whole.

Fellow country me, as you are aware of our previous policies, Ethiopia was committed to preservation of world peace and the respect for human historical civilisations. Ethiopia from days immemorial has resolutely struggled for the continuity of its statehood and the preservation of its historical heritage. We have strived for the total liberation of African people others in the third world.

Noting that Ethiopia having been a unitary state during its long history of independence; it has always remained a target of external aggression with the intention of our enemies to advance their evil intentions, using agents in the form of their offsprings brought about by the internal contradictions and developments.

These internal hostile forces organised from within our revolution to destabilise the internal situation.

The external forces through desecutive international agents at night and day for the disintegration of Ethiopia and its peoples. They are forcing our people to break up into religions and ethnic lines. The country is being isolated and has been denied its access to the Red sea. This has been achieved by the enemies of Ethiopia through the creation of the so called independent state of Eritrea.

Fellow countrymen, comrades and friends, to avoid this undesirable and very dangerous political trend, I and my colleagues tried to rescue the country and the nation while leaving any stone unturned.

Before the Eritrean Separation and Tigraï occupation, we had tried to solve the problem peacefully and constructively. We held genuine peace talks in the former East Berlin, Moscow, South Yemen, Sudan, Italy, United States of America, Nairobi and at last in the City of London. All these peace attempts were completely frustrated by the intransigence of the rebels and their international allies.

Recently in 1993 over forty political parties, representatives of all mass organisations, professional associations, several patriotic citizens, various ethnic and religious groups, held a nationwide political meeting and they appealed to the so called interim government in order to give a positive response to the resolutions of the conference.

On the contrary, the rebel Government in Addis Ababa declined to give any positive political gestures to the conference. The regime was completely arrogant and negative

to say the least.

Similar peace conferences once in Paris and previously in Addis Ababa was suggesting the formation of a democratic transitional government which should be representative of the whole of plural Ethiopia. It has also recommended a democratic constitution drafting commission which was to comprise of all political forces and various ethnic groups. This would accommodate Ethiopian people participation and help towards the realisation of a just fair and democratic elections.

Unfortunately, this arrogant, anti-unity, anti-peace, anti-democratic guerrilla organisation EPRDF, openly declared its unwillingness to join the peace conference and the transitional democratic process. Instead, the regime in Addis Ababa decided to pursue its policies leading to further destruction of our country. The regime in Addis Ababa which is dominated by a minority single Tigraï ethnic group dreams to rule on its own in a country of fifty three million people which is a concoction of eighty eight ethnic groups. This is democracy in reverse the EPRDF way.

This disgusting political situation in Ethiopia today has left no choice for the people of Ethiopia except to fight for their democratic rights using all the means available in their hands. This will definitely lead Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa and far beyond in the Region into a far greater political tragedy that the world had never witnessed in that part of Africa.

Because of this grave political and military situation at home, I have received a call once again, from every sector of Ethiopian society to continue towards the realisation of peace, justice, freedom and democracy. I have been challenged for the second time by the people to rescue my country. Indeed, I shall arise to their expectations and help my country survive on its feet in spite of all political odds.

First of all, the voice of the Ethiopian people has been internationally jammed media-wise. This explosive political situation with all the information regarding the political tragedy in our country has been completely denied to the outside world. The freedom of movement locally and externally has been restricted by the ruthless rulers of Addis Ababa. In some countries, Ethiopian refugees are being treated like prisoners.

This must indeed be a trying moment for all the patriots and democrats in our motherland "we shall overcome by all means". Through out the history of Ethiopia, our people have always stood against forces of doom, slavery, apartheid, racism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism and exploitation of man by man. We are firm in our resolve and known for our long standing principles on justice, equality and freedom to all making Ethiopia has always been a pioneer in the helm of Pan Africanist struggle. The Ethiopian people have always made their meagre finances and resources available for Pan African Movements.

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I Had to Break Silence...

By Mengistu Hailemariam

Fellow country-men, ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters, comrades and friends:

From the first day of my exile upto now, I have never uttered or said a word for the last two and half years, particularly on political issues related to myself and my beloved country, Ethiopia. My enemies who are in power in Ethiopia have been having a field day all these time. They have been attacking me publicly in the media and in private by telling lies about me and my previous government.

The regime in Addis Abeba has been engaged in hearsay, rumor-mongering, baseless and malicious propaganda and above all, by insulting and mud-slinging my personality and as if it was not enough, degraded my personality and character.

I strongly believe and I am confident that sooner or latter only history and the Ethiopian people have the right to judge me and my political leadership. In fact, my enemies have neither the stature nor the credibility to pass any judgement on me or my government.

However, the time has come now for me to tell the truth about the events that transpired leading to the grave situation that unfortunate, helpless, occupied and divided motherland of mine, Ethiopia.

First of all, I did not come to power simply through the use of force of arms. I was not even a self-proclaimed president. The facts are that it was a peoples' revolution dictated by political principles and ideals. It was not the issue of being a dictator nor a

power hungry person. It was principles dictated by the tragic political realities of feudal Ethiopia of the time. It was a people's revolution for justice, freedom, equality and democracy.

I was and still am a revolutionary democrat who strongly opposes political hegemony of both the indigenuous and international dictators. I was not at all a Soviet satellite in Africa as my enemies boisterously articulate in the international media. I was not at any time obeying nor taking any orders from international powerful dictators nor being a subservient puppet of anybody. We believed in national independence with friendly relations with all the countries of the world whether powerful or weak or small or big. My absolute loyalty was to the people of a united Ethiopia and its constitution. No more, no less. As claimed by my enemies, I was not overthrown by military *coup d'etat*, nor was I thrown out of power by the Ethiopian people. The truth is, there was an international conspiracy that was both an imperialist conspiracy as well as a reformist collaboration against myself, the Ethiopian people and our democratic revolution.

It is a public knowledge that I was elected to lead a popular democratic revolution. Without dwelling much on the achievements of the revolution, it is true that the Ethiopian people have greatly achieved enormous economic and social gains.

For example, the Ethiopian people have been liberated from an

archaic feudal rule that was in power for over three thousand years. Our revolution managed to implement successful programs of rural and urban radical reforms. We carried out literacy campaigns targeting the 97% of our illiterate population.

We introduced widely free education and free health services for all Ethiopians. New radical labor laws and social security measures were implemented and carried out effectively. Many citizens were able to find relevant jobs with guaranteed salaries. Especial attention with social security and care for the elderly, the children, war veterans and the disabled were given adequate priority by the revolution. Justice and equality irrespective of sex, ethnicity, religion or race was also one of the pillars of our national programs. However, without exaggerating, it is difficult for many nations in this corrupt and rotten world to achieve these kinds of reforms both economic or social.

Comrades and friends, perhaps it is important to know that during my youth and manhood I had equally suffered in the battle fields fighting side by side with many comrades and colleagues for about fifteen years. During this time I played my role as a responsible patriotic citizen and a professional soldier. This was in defence of my beloved country. Then when I became the head of state for seventeen years, I was a leader of a country that I found engaged in a vicious civil war and a land which was a victim of international conspiracy and foreign aggression. I was

a young officer and a revolutionary democrat at the helm of leadership at the time. Ethiopia was not flowing with milk and honey nor was it a sugar-candy mountain, to quote George Orwell of *The Animal Farm*. In spite of these difficult circumstances, I tried my best with the help of my colleagues, with the encouragement, support and stamina of Ethiopian masses and with the help of its vanguard the revolutionary armed forces, we all combined our efforts to serve our country, to assure unity, territorial integrity, national security, justice, freedom and rapid social and economic progress for all our people. This was a duty as well as a commitment to the nation.

However, during my short tour of duty for a few hours in Nairobi Kenya, I received a message from my Ambassador in Kenya informing me of my removal from power. This was done by my few top ranking comrades. These colleagues and comrades were infiltrated to subvert the Ethiopian revolution. It was the "fifth column" in our revolutionary ranks. Some of the comrades were paid by the imperialist circles. It was no doubt to some of the comrades the virus of revolutionary fatigue and they tried to cure it with ten pieces of silver. In addition to all these intrigues, there was clear collaboration between the imperialist and the so called Soviet reformists, a political scenario that was nothing other than anarchy and betrayal with self-destruction and who loyally agreed to the colonialists theme and ambition of destroying the young Ethiopian revolution. It was a real field day for international traitors of all kinds that had nothing in common other than to destroy Mengistu as head of revolutionary Ethiopia.

The message which was delivered to me by the Ethiopian Ambassador in Kenya and together with their announcement in Addis Abeba to the

Ethiopian nation as a whole was as follows: "Due to heavy problems and heavy pressure imposed on him, our first and beloved president, Comrade Mengistu has left the country on his own free will for the sake of peace and appoint his deputy, Lt. General Tesfaye, as acting president."

This was indeed a great shock for the entire nation and so for me. When I contacted them through the telephone to know the exact situation, they responded by telling me that they have been obliged to reach this kind of decision because of the pre-condition imposed on them by mediator country together with our opponents. According to the telephone conversation, the precondition and promise is, in fact, to abolish the government of Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and to form a transitional government so that Eritrean bandits will not advance on Asmera and at the same time the Tigray bandits will not move on Addis Abeba. In this way, peace will be achieved. This was indeed a raw deal for my colleagues and comrades to believe it to be gospel truth from our enemies and the imperialists with reformists included.

This resulted in unexpected great shock to the nation as a whole. It was suddenly announced by my colleagues to the nation without ever contemplating what political repercussions that could follow such a sudden change. They were indeed naive in their judgement. In response to the announcement, the loyal revolutionary armed forces were not at all impressed with the announcers of the evil doom. Instead, the regular loyal forces marched to the capital city of Addis Abeba, thus abandoning their strategic military positions around the city.

During this very critical moment, the same comrades in confusion and with utter folly and stupidity, reversed their first announced statement about my removal from

power which they had announced a day earlier. Instead, they said that "President Mengistu left his responsibility as head of state without their prior knowledge." This resulted in further confusion and anarchy. As a result, the entire rebel armies walked into Addis Abeba and occupied the whole city without any resistance what so ever. Of course, my comrades who were persuaded by the enemy to hand over the country to the rebels believing that they might fulfill their own selfish ends and foolish motives. It was a real disaster for the culprits who betrayed the Ethiopian peoples' revolution. In fact, they were deceived, then latter condemned by the rebels. The rest were imprisoned and are now languishing in jails. All these innocent citizens are living under very bad conditions and are exposed to worse conditions of human abuses.

Fellow country men, comrades and friends, today Ethiopian people have no government, not even advocacy in the international arena. The so called Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) which have succeeded in separating Eritrea and the so called Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) and who are now occupying the rest of Ethiopia in the name of an interim government of Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). Both, in fact, are one and the same rebel organization. Both the TPLF and EPLF fought their own country Ethiopia for the last thirty years and are confusing the world by calling themselves different names. The fact is, they are both one single guerrilla organization which emanates from one minority ethnic group -- the Tigray tribe.

It would be worthwhile for the entire world to know this unique Ethiopian situation and its political dilemma. "One Tigrayan ruling the so called independent state of Eritrea while the other one is ruling Ethiopia

as EPRDF and at the same time legalizing internationally the independence of Eritrea which is the northern province of Ethiopia." This is indeed political treachery at its height.

The present Eritrean government's budget, social and administrative costs, salaries and even political expenditures are all paid and financed by the so called Ethiopian interim government and this is being done against the will of the Ethiopian people.

It is equally important to see the geographical, political and demographic realities of Ethiopia.

In the history of Ethiopia there is not a village, province or region inhabited by a single tribe or ethnic group speaking one language known by the name of Eritrea. The word Eritrea was a name given for the northern part of our country by the Italians. This was the time of their short period of occupation for the brief period of their colonial rule. It has been always Tigray and appropriately so and not the Italian created colonial name of Eritrea which was simply a colonial and imperialist strategy and political necessity.

Comrades and Friends, after all our long struggle and suffering, all of us, my fellow Ethiopians included, have lost almost everything regarding our country. The great popular peoples' revolution has been reversed. This has been due to designs and intrigues of both the imperialists and reformists particularly with the help of some of their collaborators who were planted in our midst. Our beloved motherland is occupied and divided. It is a sinister political reality, but still can be corrected through determination. The great and heroic Ethiopian peoples' army has been scattered. Yet our army is staunch and alive in their bushes and temporary hibernation. The first political party in Ethiopian history that was the vanguard of Ethiopian people, its unity

and its democratic principles and revolution has been disbanded. Yet it will rise to its expectations in not a distant future.

Most of the country's intellectuals, students, workers, professionals, peasants, industrialists and millions of patriotic citizens and the general public who have firmly and resolutely stood in defense of Ethiopian unity are all now falsely accused of being criminals of war and instead killed, imprisoned, retrenched or forced to leave the country. Many Ethiopians are now refugees and aliens in foreign countries. Is that the meaning of democracy? We were all told that, "Democracy is government by the people, for the people and of the people." I thought that was what President Abraham Lincoln said.

The gallant soldiers of 2nd Ethiopian army vigorously fought in the name of Ethiopian unity in the province of Eritrea and were ordered to lay down their arms in the name of peace. They are now abandoned and suffering in Eritrean jails. Nearly over one hundred thousand soldiers and officers have been massacred, imprisoned and many of them are in forced labor camps under inhuman conditions. Where are the human rights organizations? During our time we use to hear of Amnesty International, Africa Watch, Geneva Convention on the rights of the prisoners of war, etc. Why are these human rights organizations burying their heads in the sand not taking note of the human rights abuses in Ethiopia? This is just a brief mention of the agony and misery that the Ethiopian people are facing today in the year 1994. I have not even talked much about the painful disastrous economic and social situation in the country as a whole.

Fellow country men, as you are aware of our previous policies, Ethiopia was committed to the preservation of world peace and the respect for human historical civilizations. Ethio-

pia from days immemorial has resolutely struggled for the continuity of its statehood and the preservation of its historical heritage. We have strived for the total liberation of African people and others in the third world.

After the League of Nations was formed and Ethiopia having been among founding members of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of African Unity, and having played a leading role towards their realization, has been contributing effectively to some of the successes in all these political international forums.

Noting that Ethiopia, having been a unitary state during its long history of independence, has always remained a target of external aggression with the intention of our enemies to advance their evil intentions, using agents in the form of their offsprings brought about by the internal contradictions and developments. These internal hostile forces organized from within our revolution to destabilize the internal situation.

The external forces through destructive internal elements are busy night and day for the disintegration of Ethiopia and its peoples. They are forcing our people to break up into religious and ethnic lines. The country is being isolated and has been denied its access to the Red Sea. This has been achieved by the enemies of Ethiopia through the creation of the so called independent state of Eritrea.

Fellow country men, comrades and friends, to avoid this undesirable and very dangerous political trend, my colleagues and I tried to rescue the country and the nation without leaving any stone unturned.

Before the Eritrean separation and Tigray occupation, we had tried to solve the problem peacefully and constructively. We held genuine peace talks in the former East Berlin, Moscow, South Yemen, Sudan, Italy, United States of America, Nairobi and

at last in London. All these peace attempts were completely frustrated by the intransigence of the rebels and their international allies.

Recently, in December 1993, over forty political parties, representatives of all mass organizations, professional associations, several patriotic citizens, various ethnic and religious groups held a nationwide political meeting and they appealed to the so called interim government in order to give a positive response to the resolutions of the conference. On the contrary, the rebel government in Addis Abeba declined to give any positive political gestures to the conference. The regime was completely arrogant and negative to say the least.

Similar peace conference once in Paris and previously in Addis Abeba was suggesting the formation of a democratic transitional government which should be representative of the whole of plural Ethiopia. It has also recommended a democratic constitution drafting commission which was to be comprised of all political forces and various ethnic groups. This would accommodate for Ethiopian people participation and help towards the realizations of a just, fair and democratic elections.

Unfortunately, this arrogant, anti-unity, anti-peace, anti-democracy guerrilla organization, the EPRDF, openly declared its unwillingness to join the peace conference and the transitional democratic process. Instead, the regime in Addis Abeba decided to pursue hostile policies leading to further destruction of our country. The regime in Addis Abeba, which is dominated by a minority single Tigray ethnic group, dreams to rule on its own in a country of fifty three million people which is a concoction of eighty eight ethnic groups. This is democracy in reverse the EPRDF way.

This disgusting political situation in Ethiopia today has left no

choice for the people of Ethiopia except to fight for their democratic rights using all the means available in their hands. This will definitely lead Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa and far beyond in the region, into a far greater political tragedy that the world had never witnessed in that part of Africa.

Because of this grave political and military situation at home, I have received a call once again from every sector of Ethiopian society to contribute towards the realization of peace, justice, freedom and democracy. I have been challenged for the second time by the people to rescue my country.

Indeed, I shall arise to their expectations and help my country survive once again in spite of all political odds.

Brothers and sisters, comrades and friends, as you well know and you must equally realize that these puppets and mercenaries in power are not alone. First of all, the voice of the Ethiopian people has been internationally jammed media wise. This explosive political situation with all the information regarding the political tragedy in our country has been completely denied to the outside world. The freedom of movement locally and externally has been restricted by the ruthless rulers of Addis Abeba. In some countries, Ethiopian refugees are being treated like prisoners.

This must indeed be a trying moment for all the patriots and democrats in our motherland "We shall overcome by all means." Throughout the history of Ethiopia, our people have always stood against forces of doom, slavery, apartheid, racism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism and exploitation of man by man. We are firm in our resolve and known for our long standing principles on justice, equality and freedom to all making. Ethiopia has always been a pioneer in the helm of Pan Africanist struggle. The Ethiopian people have

always made their meagre finances and resources available for Pan African Movements. Ethiopia was the first to volunteer to advocate and sponsor those who were under colonial bondage both during the League of Nations and the emergence of United Nations.

Therefore, taking note of the surrounding geographical and political situation and cognizant of the present world political imbalances of power, it is therefore imperative for all patriots to realize that our old enemies have planned and maliciously conspired for severe revenge against us. They are after our blood, take no bones about it. Thus, I strongly believe and rightly so and equally confident beyond reasonable doubt that this victim country of ours, Ethiopia, deserves solemn support from all her old and present friends. Our list of Ethiopia's good friends and well-wishers is long. For example, we still have friends in the Non-Aligned Movement, African friends, Pan Africanists everywhere and above all friends from peace loving nations, organizations and individuals throughout the world. But more important, we Ethiopians must first unite and help ourselves before our friends come to our aid in struggle. Mark my words and I sincerely mean it.

Fellow country men, brothers and sisters, comrades and friends, the Ethiopian Unity Salvation Movement is already underway. Please help us so that we help Ethiopian unity forces. In this way you are helping Ethiopia before it is too late. No way our beloved country can go to the dogs.

Col. Mengistu Hailemariam is the former President of Ethiopia. Currently he is Chairman of the Ethiopian Unity Salvation Democratic Party and Commander-in-Chief of Ethiopian Unity Salvation Black Lion Army (EUSDP and EUSBLA).

Airline Hijacking

Over the past few years, several types of aircraft that belong to Ethiopian Airlines (EAL) have been commandeered to various parts of the world by individuals who carry guns. In a few years, there won't be an EAL to suffer such a fate because the whole airline is being "hijacked" by the Eritrean government whose greatest assets are its well-armed fighters and well-placed agents who are in power in Ethiopia under the guise of EPRDF.

President Meles Zenawi and Minister of Defense, Seye Abraha, are at the right positions and at the right time to deliver the whole airline to the waiting hands of the Eritrean government. If anyone has been wondering as to who runs today's "Ethiopian government," there can be no better evidence than the recent moves to transfer ownership of EAL to Eritrea in the name of a structural change.

It took EAL over 40 years to get to the position it enjoys today. The Eritrean government does not want to wait that long. In fact, Eritrea has learned from its futile attempt in the past year how difficult it is to create an airline.

The first step was to put Ato Seye Abraha in control of the board that runs EAL. Then Ato Seye was to present EAL as a

failure and belittle its achievements to create a feeling of apathy in the minds of the people. While this was being accomplished, the tried and true method of the EPRDF, divide and conquer, was unleashed to bring about hatred between the labor union and airline management. As carefully planned as these steps were, they did not take into account the well established culture within the airline that most of the employees truly love EAL as a baby they raised from infancy.

Finally, the newest game plan was unfurled to bring Eritrea, Djibouti and Sudan to be "partners" with EAL and create an Eastern African Airline with a major hub in Asmera. Once enough Eritreans have been trained and vital assets transferred to Eritrea, the Eritrean Government will opt out of the "partnership" keeping all assets at hand and leaving the other "partners" high and dry.

*Embibel Ayele
Washington, D.C.*

Foreign Aid

I read Ejigou Demissie's article "The Need for Minimizing or Eliminating Foreign Aid in Ethiopia" (ER, February 1994) with a great deal of interest. Much as I am sympathetic to some of the points

he raises, I am concerned by his untimely "blueprint" aiming at denying any role to external aid in Ethiopia's development.

The central thesis of Ejigou's article is: "say no to foreign aid." While I share his sense of frustration about the effectiveness of external aid and the misuses so far witnessed, including its being instrumental in maintaining in power unpopular regimes, I believe there is still a need for sometime to come for a carefully selected and well targeted aid. To put credit where it is due, one may look back at the contributions of external aid to the enrichment of Ethiopia's manpower base both in terms of number and quality. In the days long gone by, Ethiopia used to be known in Africa for its well educated and efficient civil service. That distinct achievement is mostly because of those early opportunities afforded our brightest by foreign aid. The fact that the political leadership of the time was fully conscious of its deficiencies and thus the need for change — "modernization" — opened up possibilities for the educated to produce more trained cadres and institutions of learning. Admittedly, in terms of the overall, I join Ejigou in my hesitancy to vouch for the contribu-

tions of aid outside the education sector.

In elaborating a "blueprint" of his, Ejigou seems to have turned a blind eye to the enormous needs of Ethiopia, a country so dispirited and deprived in every sense. Furthermore, his argument seems unaware of the subtle objectives of the ongoing debate in the development community regarding external aid. It is possible that such a proposition may be used against the very forces in the developed countries who are determined to assist the efforts of developing countries. I am concerned that Ejigou's argument may serve politically motivated groups to influence public opinion against external aid.

I would have liked his article to give emphasis to the importance of selected and well monitored aid in an environment where the accountability of "elected officials" cannot escape scrutiny by the general public, the media and public institutions created for oversight purposes.

*Nesreddin Mohammed
Yale, Connecticut*

Mengistu Hailemariam

In the concluding remarks of his article (ER, March 1994), Colonel Mengistu wrote, "No way our beloved country can go to the dogs." It was a

courageous gesture coming from a man of his political past. However, the Colonel's attempt to reflect the sentiment and fear of Ethiopians does not eliminate the fact that it was him and his cronies who helped nurture these "dogs." While I share the Colonel's grave concern about his country's future, I do not think the current political situation is in favor of the Ethiopian people to have him back as a "savior." His return, if anything, will provide the current ethnocentric government the opportunity to manipulate the situation to create more chaos and bloodshed.

If the Colonel is so eager to do something noble for his country and people, let him start by admitting his guilt and by at least showing some remorse towards the thousand of innocent lives that perished under his Marxist regime.

What surprised and angered me the most from the Colonel's article was his portrayal of himself as one who always stood for peace, democracy, and justice. May be his taking a time-out from being an iron-fist dictator has reformed and miraculously turned him into a democratic thinker. Nevertheless, it is tragic that he did not uphold and implement the venerated words of Abraham Lincoln,

which he threw in casually, while he had the chance, the power, and the duty to do so.

*Theodros Abeba
Alexandria, VA*

Wasn't Col. Mengistu the same Mengistu who told the whole world that he never killed a fly let alone his country men?

I have nothing honorable to say about a murderer who came to power in my native country by an accident of history. Mengistu never lead an army unit before he came to power in Ethiopia.

Mengistu was and still a coward and his legacy of 17 years will always be remembered as Ethiopia's shame.

*Amare Gobeze
Alberta, Canada*

It was with a great interest and enthusiasm that I read Col. Mengistu's article (ER March, 1994). I can see that he was trying to explain to the people of Ethiopia that he did not betray his country on his own will. I wondered what a difference his presence at that very last moment could have made to reverse the situation. His presence could have changed nothing but his own feelings.

I know that many Ethiopians, including myself, understand and

appreciate the patriotism of Col. Mengistu. At all times he associated himself with Ethiopia and not with any specific ethnic group. Most Ethiopians understand that his period in power was a difficult time filled with civil war and external aggression. We all know that his government successfully defended the country from external forces with the help of patriotic Ethiopians who sacrificed their treasure, energy and life. Internal conflicts, however, seemed to have required a different strategy. As a patriotic leader Col. Mengistu had done what he thought was best to maintain the territorial integrity of Ethiopia. There are several questions, however, that myself and many Ethiopians find difficult to answer about Col. Mengistu and his government. Why has his government failed to learn from the grave mistakes made at the early stages of the "popular" revolution? How was it possible for him to think that he would stay in power forever? How was it possible to continue to suppress the freedom of expression of citizens for nearly two decade and murder those who could not remain silent? Why was it necessary to snatch farm lands, tractors, hotels, rental houses, etc... owned by hard working citizens?

Looking back through the course of time it won't be surprising to imagine why such mistakes could happen in the early stages of the revolution. Obviously, there was an illusion in the practical application of socialist and communist ideas to the unique realities of Ethiopia. What is hard to imagine is that there had been an ample time to correct the mistakes and Col. Mengistu's government did nothing until it became too late to win back the lost faith and confidence of the people.

There is much the current government could learn from its predecessor. However, today's realities look as if history is on its way to repeating itself.

*Amanuel Karlo
Denver, Colorado*

Mengistu is a genocidal criminal. And yet, by some incredible flaw in his ego, through some absurd logic, he fancies himself a great warrior and leader. A Theodore perhaps. By some profane ritual of ideology, he has absolved himself of his unpardonable crimes. And so, he presents himself as a savior to the very people he tried to destroy.

I don't doubt that he has a contingent of yes-men, who follow him around and tell him what a great man he is, who write for him speeches

bloated with lies, who sustain his murderous self-assurance.

Had Hitler returned to "save" the German people after their devastation, it could not have been more bizarre than Mengistu's insolence. Hitler, after all, was elected. Who elected Mengistu? Did he not elect and anoint himself? Did he not then force himself on a weary nation for two decades? Were not hundreds of thousands of innocent souls murdered by him? What about those tortured, "resettled," humiliated, driven out, bombed...?

Mengistu is tired of the quiet life in Zimbabwe. He misses the heady days, when his word was law; when he could take lives with less thought than it takes to kill a fly; when he could satisfy his Stalinist thirst for revenge. He has received "a call once again," he says. He has received no call. The only "call" he hears is inside his head. He has gone mad.

No matter how desperate we may be to remedy Ethiopia's deep problems, let us never forget what Mengistu is, what he did and what he can do. Ethiopia doesn't need him. Ethiopia never needed him. He forced himself on her, and tormented her viciously for two decades. Then at her most desperate hour, he left her, paving the way for yet another self-appointed regime.

Our response to Mengistu's patriotic offer must be a unanimous No!

*Ewnetu Ashenafi
San Diego, CA*

About two years ago we were bombarded by a series of Mengistu's tapes in which he tries to extenuate the diabolic atrocities of the 17 years of his rule. Now he has the audacity of writing in ER to tell us that he and his "comrades" are better than the detested Meles and company to lead Ethiopia. Surely, this angel of death realizes that there are no such things as "dirty dirt" and "clean dirt." Dirt by any other name still remains DIRT.

*Samuel Ferenji
Toronto, Canada*

The Hard Place...

I found Efreem Alemu's article entitled "The Hard Place Between Nihilism and Disintegration" (ER, March 1994) very interesting and enlightening. Like Efreem, I despise the extremism of both Getinet and Dereje.

*Seyoum Gebeyehu
Baltimore*

A Visit to Addis Abeba

Please permit me to use your distinguished magazine to express briefly my gratitude to the hundreds of people, mostly from the artistic community, who enthusiastically

gave me a hearty welcome during my recent visit of Addis Abeba. At the forefront are the administration, faculty and students of the Yared School of Music (the school which I founded some 26 years ago) who formally received me on February 22. On the evening of March 1, an impressive concert was held in my honor, attended by a full house audience of dignitaries.

The concert at the Yared School of Music demonstrated the achievements of the faculty and students in cultural promotion and artistic performance made in the last 25 years.

Then came the big surprise. Ethiopia has highly talented, and what I would call, Third Stream Composers, who use Ethiopian musical themes to write very serious, "classical," music using European orchestral and choral traditions. Ethiopians, specially those abroad, may be pleasantly surprised how beautiful Ato Ezra Abate's composition for voices *Hassab* (Thought) is! He is the new director of the School.

Space will not allow me to mention by name all the institutions and individuals who made my visit of Ethiopia after twenty-four years most gratifying. I hope to God that my tour and discussion with Dr. Bahru Zewde, Director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, will lead to the

creation of an International Linkage Program which will benefit both American and Ethiopian students/faculty. I am touched by the warmth and welcome given to me at the Fine Arts School — a school started by my friend and colleague Ato Ale Felege Selam in the early 1950 which has since graduated internationally renowned painters/artists including the late Gebre Kirstos Desta, Wosene Work and many others.

I look forward to the day when I shall not witness on the streets of Ethiopia dusty faces pinched by poverty, unemployment, and endless economic and political turmoil.

*Ashenafi Kebede
Florida State University*

For the record

Last month in the News section (p.10) the name of EAL General Manager incorrectly stated as Captain Zeleke Beyene. His correct name is Captain Zeleke Demissie.

In the same page it should be corrected that Ato Teha Hussein is not Secretary General of the CAFPDE.

-Ed. note

Send your letters to Ethiopian Review, P.O. Box 91332, Los Angeles, CA 90009, USA. Fax at (310) 670-8324. Letters may be edited for space or clarity.

4) የወንጌል ጽሑፎች በብዙ ሺ የሚቆጠሩ እየታተሙ ነው

5) ገና በሚሊዮን የሚቆጠሩ ኢትዮጵያውያን በእየሱስ ያምናሉ

6) ባለፉት 17 ዓመታት ውስጥ የወንጌላውያን ቁጥር በ500% አድጓል

7) የጌታችን እየሱስ ክርስቶስ መልእክት እንደ ሰደድ እሳት እየተቀጣጠለ ነው

8) ወንጌላውያን በእሳት ውስጥ እንደ ወርቅ ነጥረዋል፤ ከመቼውም የበለጠ እየተደራጁ ነው

9) እግዚአብሔር ይረዳቸዋል ይህን አክሽን ስለሚሰጡ መነሳት ጊዜ ማጥፋት፣ መባከን ነው።

እርሶ በእነርሱ ላይ መራራ ጥላቻ ለምን እንዳበቀሉ ግራ ቢገባቸውም በእርሶ ላይ ምንም አይነት ጥላቻ ወይም ቅሬታ እንደሌላቸው ግልጽ ይሁን።

ቢንያም ላቀው ካልገሪ፣ ካናዳ

ፈሪ ከሩቅ ቆሞ ይፎክራል

በMarch 1994 እትም ከመንግሥቱ ኃ/ማርያም የተፃፈውን ደብዳቤ ተመልክቼዋለሁ።

የቀድሞ አምባገነኑ መሪ «ተከታዩ የአገሪ ሰው፣ ክቡራትና ክቡራን፣ ወንድሞችና እህቶች፣ ጓዶችና ጓደኞች፣ የሥራ ጓዶች» በማለት ባረጀውና ባፈጀው የመደላያና የመለማመጫ ቃላት የኢትዮጵያን ሕዝብ አንጎል ለማደንዘዝም ሆነ ለማጠብ ጥረዋል። ነገር ግን እንደ አገራችን አባባል «የወጋ ቢረሳ የተወጋ አይረሳም» ነውና የኢትዮጵያ ሕዝብ ቁስሉ ያልሻረለትና ሰቆቃው በህልሙም ሆነ በእውኑ ህሊናው ውስጥ እየተመላለሰ የመንግሥቱ ኃ/ማርያም አስተዳደር ያስከተለበትን በደል ሳይረሳ «እህህ» በማለት ላይ ነው።

«የኢትዮጵያን ሕዝብ እንድመራ ተመርጫ ነበር በዝነኛው ዲሞክራቲክ

አብዮት» አሉ ምን ይሉኛልን የማይፈሩት ኮሎኔል መንግሥቱ። የደርግ አባላትን በመግደል፣ በማሰርና በመበታተን ሥልጣን ላይ ኮፍ አሉ። ሕዝባዊ የሆነ መንግሥት እንዳይመሰረትም እነ ኢሕአፓ፣ መኢሶንንና ሌሎችንም ፓርቲዎችና ድርጅቶችን አስመትተው ያለአንዳች ተቀናቃኝና ተወዳዳሪ በጉልበታቸው እንዲመረጡ አስደርገው የነበረው ዲሞክራቲካዊ ባልሆነና በመላው የኢትዮጵያ ሕዝብ ተሳትፎ አለመሆኑ እየታወቀ እንደዚህ ዓይነት ውሸት መሸርከቱ አይምርቢስነት ነው።

«ተወዳጅዎ እናት አገራችን ተወረረችና ተከፋፈለች» ይሉናል ተቆርቋሪ መሳዩ። ወያኔ ትግራይን ሲይዝ የት ነበሩ? ጎንደር ሲታሰስ የት ነበሩ? ጎጃም ሲደገም ምን ይሰሩ ነበር? መልሱ፣ በመጀመሪያ ሚስታቸውንና ልጆቻቸውን ለማሸሽ ይጣደፉ ነበር። ቀጥሎ ግን ጠላት ሊይዛቸው ጥቂት ኪሎ ሜትር ሲቀረው «እናት አገር ወይም ሞት» እያሉ ያነበንቡላት ለነበረችው እናት አገር ሳይደሙላት፣ ሳይቆሰሉ፣ ሳይዋጉና ሳይሞቱላት ሹልክ ብለው አመለጡ። ሰንበት ብለው ቆዩና ዛሬ ደግሞ ተገልብጬ ነው የሚለውን ተረት ይተርኩልናል።

በኤርትራ ወህኒ ቤት ውስጥ ተጥለውና በመሰቃየት ላይ ስላሉት ወታደሮችና መኮንኖች መሰቃየትና መጨፍጨፍ ብዙዎቹም በጦር ሠፈር ውስጥ ከሰብዓዊ ውጪ በሆነ ሁኔታ ተገደው እንዲሰሩ መደረግ አንስተው «የት አሉ የሰብዓዊ መብቶች ጠባቂ ድርጅቶች?» ባሉት እስማማለሁ። ግን በሳቸውም ጊዜ ሠራዊቱንና የሚመራውን ምርጥ መኮንኖች «አሻጥር ሰሩ» በሚል ሰብብ በማስረሽን የጦሩ ሞራል ተሰልቦና ሠራዊቱም እዲከፋ ያደረጉት ኮ/ል መንግሥቱ ራሳቸው ናቸው። ዛሬ ለሚታየው ሁኔታ አጋልጠው ሸሽተው በእርቀት ሌሎቹን አጥፊ በማድረግና በመናቅ «በበረት ውስጥ እንደ ከብት የታጎሩና፣ የመንገድ ላይ ለማኞች» እያሉ ይሳደባሉ። እውነት

የሰብዓዊ መብቶች ጠባቂዎች በዓለም ላይ ካሉ መንግሥቱ ኃ/ማርያም ስላደረሷቸው ኢ-ሰብአዊ ድርጊት በኢንተርናሽናል ህግ መጠየቅ አለባቸው።

ጌታቸው ተሰማ ሎስ አንጀለስ

ባረነትን እመርጣለሁ

ባለፈው ወር ኢትዮጵያን ሪቪው ላይ የወጣውን የመንግሥቱ ኃ/ማርያምን ጽሁፍ አነበብኩት።

ወንድሞችና ጓዶች እያለ ከሚጀምረው አዲስ መስመር ስደርስ የማደርገው ቅጡ ይጠፋኝ ነበር። የሚቀጥለውን ለመዝለል ከወሰንኩ በኋላ ዓይኔ ከአዕምሮዬ በፊት ቀድሞ እየደረሰ ሁሉንም እርግፍ አድርጌ ብተወውስ ከሚል ውሳኔ ብዙ ጊዜ ደርሻለሁ። ከአንድ ቁና ገለባ አንድ ፍሬ አይጠፋም ብዬ ሳይሆን አይቀርም፣ ሁሉንም አየሁለት ግን ፍሬ የሚባል ነገር አላጋጠመኝም።

መንግሥቱ ኃ/ማርያም የዕውቀትን ስፋትና ጥልቀት ማየትም መገመትም ስለማይቻላቸው እራሳቸውን አዋቂ አድርገው ለመቁጠር የተቸገሩ አይመስልም። ምናልባት የምሁር መለኪያቸው እነ ዶ/ር ዓለሙ አበበ ስለሆኑ ይሆናል።

ጀግና ነው፣ ደፋር ናቸው ሲባልም ሰምተናል። የጀግንነታቸውን ባላውቅም ስለደፋርነታቸው መናገር ይቻላል። ድፍረታቸው ከምን እንደመነጨ ፍርዱን ለአንባቢ እተዋለሁ። ደፋር ባይሆኑ ፍር ግን ስለሰብዓዊ መብትና ስለዲሞክራሲ መጥፋት አያውቁም ነበር።

በመጨረሻም አገራቸውን ለማዳንና ሕዝቡን ነፃ ለማውጣት እንደተነሱ ሊያበስሩን ሞክረዋል። መንግሥቱ ኃ/ማርያም ነፃ ከሚያወጡኝ ባረነትን እመርጣለሁ።

መሃመድ አሊ ካናዳ

ከሜዳ ፈልሰፈው ለጻፉት ሁሉ መልስ መስጠት ጊዜ ማባከን ስለሚሆንብኝ አንዳንድ ነጥቦች ብቻ አሳጥሬ ለመጻፍ እሞክራለሁ።

አፍሪካውያንንና እስያውያንን ለማግባባትና ለማታለል ሕክምናና መድኃኒት በነፃ እየሰጡ ጥቂቶቹን ደግሞ እናስተምራችኋለን ብለው ግዛታቸውን ያስፋፉ ቅኝ ገዢዎች በእርግጥ ነበሩ። በጣም ጥቂቶቹ ደግሞ ሃይማኖትን መሠረት በማድረግ የተስፋፋ አሉ። በተረፈ ግን በኃይልና በጠመንጃ ነው አገሮቹን የያዙት። ወንጌል ያላመኑላቸውን ግን ቤታቸውን እቃጥልው ገደለዋቸዋል ብለው አቶ በየነ የጻፉት እውነት አይደለም።

የዓለም ታሪክ እንደሚያረጋግጠው በ15ኛው ክፍለ ዘመን ምዕራባውያን ነጋዴዎች አብዛኛው ከምዕራብ አፍሪካ አፍሪካውያንን አፍነው ወይም በሰንሰለት አስረው ወደ አሜሪካ (ሰሜንና ደቡብ) ወስደው ይሸጡዋቸው ነበረ ነው እንጂ የወንጌል ትምህርት ፈጽሞ አልሰጧቸውም ነበር።

በ2ኛው የዓለም ጦርነት ቀዳማዊ ኃይለ ሥላሴ ከስደት ተመልሰው አገራቸውን ማስተዳደር ሲጀምሩ ከሁሉ ሥራዎች በይበልጥ ከፍተኛ ቅድሚያ የሰጡት ለ«ትምህርት» ነበር። የዚያን ጊዜ ከውጭ አገር አስተማሪዎችና የት/ልት ሥራ አስኪያጆች ተቀጥረው ወደ ኢትዮጵያ ይመጡ የነበሩ የውጭ ዜጎች በተቻለ ያህል ሃይማኖታቸው ወንጌላውያን መሆናቸውን አረጋግጠው እንዲልኩ ለአምባሳደሮቻቸው በምሲጢር መምሪያ ሰጥተው ነበር። ወንጌላውያንም ስለመጡ ፍሬአቸው አሁን ባሉት የኢትዮጵያ ምሁራን ብዛት ታይቷል። በ1952 ዓ.ም. ኤርትራ በፌዴሬሽን ከኢትዮጵያ ጋር በተቀላቀለች ጊዜ ቀዳማዊ ኃይለ ሥላሴ ሁሉንም የአሥመራ ቤተ ክርስቲያኖችና መስጊዶች ኅብኝተው ወደ አሥመራ ወንጌላዊት ቤተ ክርስቲያን በደረሱ ጊዜ ከሌሎቹ ለየት ባለ አገላለጽ «... ከዚች

ወንጌላዊት ቤተክርስቲያን ብዙ ሰዎች ስለ አገራቸው ኢትዮጵያ ተቆርቋረው ግፍና እስራት ግድያም እንደ ደረሰባቸው እናውቃለን...» ብለው ነበር። ጃንሆይ ይኸንን ያሉት ኤርትራ የጣሊያን ቅኝ ግዛት በነበረች ጊዜ የዚያ ቤተክርስቲያን ምእመናን ሁሉ ትልቁም ትንሹም «ሃገርና ኢትዮጵያ ንፈትዋ ኢና...» እያሉ በጋለ ስሜት በትግርኛ ይዘምሩ ነበር። ትርጉሙም አገራችን ኢትዮጵያን እንወዳታለን ማለት ነው።

ስለ ወንጌላውያን ታሪክ በሩቅና በቅርብ ግምገማታት የተፈጸሙትን ባጭሩ ጽፈክለሁ። አቶ ቢንያም ላቀው ግን ዛሬ ወንጌላውያን በትላልቅ ሙያ ተሰማርተው ሆስፒታሎች፣ የጤና ጣቢያዎች፣ ትምህርት ቤቶች ወዘተ... አቋቁመው ለኢትዮጵያ ሕዝብ በማበርከት ላይ መሆናቸውን በ«ኢትዮጵያን ሪቪው» የሚያዚያ 1994 እትም ላይ ገልጸውታል።

ወንጌላውያን ለኢትዮጵያ በፖለቲካ ይሁን በኢኮኖሚ፣ በማኅበራዊ ኑሮም ጠቀሙዋት እንጂ አቶ በየነ ጉዳት አደረሱ ብለው የጻፉት የሐሰት ሐሰት ነው። ያልሆነ ነገር ለሚያወራ መጨረሻ ላሳስብ የምፈልገው ነገር ቢኖር አንድ ሰው አእምሮውን ቢስት እራሱ አያውቀውም ወገኖቹ እንጂ። ስለዚህ «የወገን ያለሁ...!» የሚባልበት ጊዜ ለርስዎ አሁን ነው።

ኤፍሬም ታሪኩ ፊላደልፊያ

የመከፋፈል ስጋት

ይድረስ ለኢትዮጵያ ሪቪው አዘጋጆች በሙሉ ሰላምና ጤና ለእናንተ እየተመኘሁ የመጽሔታችሁ የረጅም ጊዜ ተከታታይ ነኝ። የምታቀርቧቸው ጽሁፎችና ስእሎች በተለይ በኢትዮጵያ አንድነት ለሚያምን ሁሉ ወገኖች እጅግ በጣም አርኪዎች ናቸው።

በሐምሌ ወር እትማችሁ ላይ በምሥራቅ ኢትዮጵያ ሌላ ኤርትራ እንዳይፈጠር ያሰጋል ብለው የጻፉት አገር ወዳድ ኢትዮጵያዊ አቶ የውልሰው ኅሞራው በመጀመሪያ ሊመሰገኑ ይገባዎታል።

ለ3ሺ ዘመናት አንድነቷን ጠብቃ የኖረችው ሀገራችን አሁን በሥልጣን ላይ ያለው የሽግግር መንግሥት በትረሥልጣኑን ከያዘ ከሁለት ዓመት በኋላ እንደ ቅርጫ ሥጋ በጎሣ በመከፋፈል ላይ ትገኛለች። ስለዚህ ኢትዮጵያ ሀገራችን ከወደቀችበት ማጥ ውስጥ ለማውጣት ኢትዮጵያዊና በኢትዮጵያ አንድነት ላይ የሚያምን ሁሉ ሃላፊነት ነው።

ራሔል አስፋው ናዝሬት

ኮ/ል መንግሥቱ

በማርች 1994 በወጣውን የኮ/ል መንግሥቱ መልዕክት ተመልክቼዋለሁኝ። በእኔ አስተያየት በአሁኑ ወቅት በመንቀሳቀስ ላይ የሚገኙት የፖለቲካ ድርጅቶች ከሞላ ጎደል የወረቀት ነብር ናቸው። ይህንንም ለማለት ያስደፈረኝ በዓለም አቀፍ ደረጃ ተሰሚነት ለማግኘት የተሳናቸውና እንዲሁም በአገር ቤት ሕዝብን ለማንቀሳቀስ ያልቻሉ ሆነው በመገኘታቸው ነው። በሌላ አንጻር ኮ/ል መንግሥቱ ከመሸጉበት ቦታ ድምጻቸውን በማሰማታቸው ብቻ መላውን የኢሕአዴግ ጀሌዎች አንቀጥቅጠዋል።

ስለሆነም በውጪ ከመንግሥቱ ጋር በማበር ኢሕአዴግን የመበታተን ኃላፊነት አለብን። ከዚያ በኋላ በሕዝብ የተመረጠ መንግሥት ለማቋቋም ይቻላል። አለበለዚያ ኢሕአዴግ በያዘው ጥፋት አገር ነገ አትገኝም።

ታፈሰ ያኔሣ ከባሌትሞር *****