

## **EDITORIAL: Shame on You Sebhat Nega!**

By Tecola Hagos

### **I. Sebhat Nega Disrespecting Seeye Abraha**

We Ethiopians respect old age, for old age represents wisdom, historical and cultural connections, and extension to the indefinite past. Thus we Ethiopians stand in utter difference in front of our elders willing to help them, honor them, and even love them. But then when one comes across an individual like Sebhat Nega, an octogenarian who seems undergoing his second childhood *marett*, who has lost his moral compass and knows not where he is trotting, one is left with a dilemma that is truly taxing. How is it possible for anyone to respect an individual who is the personification of evil, corrupt beyond measure, and immoral to his bones? An individual who is arrogant and who uses gutter language?

I could not believe my ears listening to recordings of the type of outburst of utter hate, venomous, and uncalled for response of Sebhat Nega to a legitimate query by a member of the audience about the role of Seeye Abraha in the future of Ethiopia. Sebhat insulted Seeye Abraha by calling him “የሰገራ ቤት አይጥ” “*ye segera bet aitt*” in Amharic that means “a sewer rate” in unabashed clear statement. I did not attend that meeting. Had I been there to hear such ranting of a depraved lunatic, I would have raised Hell. At any rate, it saddened me to think of a situation how could an old comrade stoop so low to insult a fellow freedom fighter in such most insulting form without provocation in a public gathering. Because Sebhat was addressing mostly sheepish ignoramus sycophantic audience, he got away with his gutter language and utterances without a scratch.

Such uncalled for and utterly vulgar statement from an old man on his last leg to his grave worried me much, for no one let alone Seeye Abraha should be analogized to “የሰገራ ቤት አይጥ” a “sewer rat” by anybody. I spent the whole week researching and asking people whether there was an incident that Seeye bad-mouthed Sebhat Nega in the past. I did not find a single instance where Seeye insulted Sebhat Nega. I could not even find any innuendo. What I found instead was numerous statements that clearly stated that Seeye was not after vengeance after anyone who hurt him in the past, that he was willing to look forward to creating an atmosphere that there need not be such animosity between political players—very noble and statesmanlike statements. Shame on you Sebhat Nega for your gutter language. You should creep into your fingernails for shame of insulting an honorable man who never insulted you with such venomous vulgarity. If you, Sebhat Nega, say Seeye is “የሰገራ ቤት አይጥ” a “sewer rat” then even worse you are the “ሰገራ” sewer itself! Shame on you!

### **II. Sebhat Nega and his Mafia Organization**

Here in Washington DC, Sebhat Nega spent a fortnight all over the place giving interviews with a couple of radio stations and holding court boasting how his political organization and the leadership became owners of mega corporations with investment all over the world and in Ethiopia. He left town back to Ethiopia abruptly last week. What is tragic and also alarming is the fact that the old man, who is way past his prime, does not even grasp the enormity of the crime he was confessing to in such interviews. Especially his interview with the VOA affirms how much economic damage Ethiopia and Ethiopians have suffered for the last eighteen years since the TPLF lead insurgency movement controlled the political and economic life of Ethiopia.

Sebhat Nega in complete turn about was claiming that it was the United States Government that gave guidance to the TPLF leadership in its insurgency and activities that lead to the independence of Eritrea and the landlocking of Ethiopia. This is coming from a man who has been boasting for years how he fought for the independence of Eritrea and how he will do the same to preserve Eritrea independent of Ethiopia. He affirmed what was public secret that TPLF controlled TDA and EFFORT own investments on behalf of the “Tygrean People” both in Ethiopia and around the World. In Ethiopia these corporate structures own most of the industries, distribution services, import and export trade, transportation, construction et cetera all mega businesses. In other words, they have taken over almost all of the parastatal corporations which used to be owned by the State of Ethiopia, during Mengistu’s Government, through the gimmick of privatization buying such assets for the fraction of their values and transferring such national wealth into the private hands of a political organization that does not in reality represent the people of Tygeai or Ethiopia but the leaders and few of the members of that organization.

For the last eighteen years, Ethiopia’s wealth had been looted, illegally transferred to private ownership of sham corporate structures and fully controlled by TPLF leaders such as Sebhat Nega and Meles Zenawi. The shortage of foreign exchange, the price hiking, the disappearance of gold bars from the national reserve worth hundreds of millions of dollars et cetera are all tied to the monumental corruption created by the economic monopoly and lack of accountability, and corruption of the leadership of TPLF of which party Sebhat Nega was for years the leading representative and executive of EFFORT that controlled mega millions in such investments. In their cardinal violation of trust and the trust of the Ethiopian people they have enlisted very many corrupt individuals among whom the most dubious and chronic enemy of the people of Ethiopia is Mohamed Alamoudi who continued to steal our Gold through a scheme where he has no accountability except to his partners in crime, the leaders of the TPLF. I am not including in this brief Editorial the numerous murders committed by the Leaders of the TPLF in the guise of liberation movement and national security.

The economic distortion caused by the type of very close relationship with the tax collectors, regulators, bankers, et cetera and the TPLF controlled mega industries and business conglomerates has resulted in seriously flawed economic system. All must take note of the types of corporations’ asset that could be traced back to former parastatates owned by the Ethiopian State and valued in billions of dollars, which was transferred through sham privatization buy-outs. Even the initial fund was supplied by unsecured Ethiopian Commercial Bank loans. The true history of the sham privatization is yet to be written.

Sebhat Nega was boasting how far the TPLF has succeeded in becoming through EFFORT the leading investor and owner of mega corporations and partnerships in all areas of investment in Ethiopia. He asserted also that it is on behalf of the people of Tygrei that the fabulous wealth is being held in trust by the Leaders of the TPLF. It can be easily verified that except for few of the corporations almost ninety percent of the industries, manufacturers, distributors et cetera under the control of the Leaders of the TPLF are not in Tygrei. It is common knowledge the streets of Addis Ababa are full of beggars, often whole families, from Tygrei. If there was real economic development why would people be begging on the streets of Addis Ababa or elsewhere? At any rate, it is anathema and absolutely anti-people for a nation struggling to feed itself to have some

form of exclusive wealth held in trust to benefit one particular ethnic group. It defies the idea and principle of national Sovereignty to have such a structure. It is a challenge to the cohesion and harmony sought within a diverse community.

It is absolutely ridiculous to hold bank deposits, assets and other investment interests whether in Ethiopia or outside of Ethiopia by a handful of individuals and claim such holding is on behalf of the People of Tygrei. There is no documentation that establishes the "People" of Tygrei as owners of such wealth. Even if there is a veneer of some kind of legal claim to be instituted in some distant future, the question is how could such holding in trust benefits the people of Tygrei right now? *Lam alegn besemai wetetwanim alayi*. The entire scheme is simply a smock screen to hide a well developed corrupt swindling of the wealth of Ethiopia by a handful of very clever Mafia like group of individuals. In a democratic government and state, there should be no such exclusive wealth in trust to any particular ethnic group by looting from the rest of the community. What ever is public wealth belongs to all Ethiopians. Thus the so called endowment and wealth held in trust for the "Tygrean" People belongs to all Ethiopians. Thus I demand full accounting of all monies and assets including foreign deposits and interests invested from funds of EFFORT and TDA. I demand also the return of every penny and all interests held by Sebhat Nega and Meles Zenawi, deemed to be the property of EFFORT and TDA, immediately to the Ethiopian People. Long live Ethiopia and the Great People of Ethiopia!

Tecola W. Hagos, Washington DC  
June 18, 2009

**Appendix: From Warka**

Posted: Thu Jun 18, 2009 3:55 am Post subject: ስብሀት ነጋ : እነ ስየ የሰገራ ቤት አይጥ ሆነዋል : አሉ ::



አባይ ስብሀት ነጋ በዚሁ ሳምት በሰሜን አሜሪካ ለሚገኙ የወያኔ ደጋፊዎች በ  
ዋሺንግቶን ዲሲ ባደረጉት ስብሰባ : አንዱ የስየ አብራሀ ደጋፊ ለሰንዘረው ትችት  
መልስ -- ስየ አብራሀ ካሁኑ ወድያ በኢትዮጵያ ፖለቲካ ሊጫወተው የሚችለውን  
ሚና ምንም እንደሌለ አብራርተው : ስየና መሰሎቹ "ወደ ሰገራ ቤት አይጥነት  
ተለውጠዋል " ሲሉ የስየ ደጋፊዎችን አጥላሉ ::  
በመቀጠል ስየና መሰሎች በቅንጅትና መድረክ ስም በአሮሞና በአማራ የፖለቲካ  
ጫጫቶች ክንፍ በሮ ስልጣን ላይ ለመውጣት ያቀደውን አላማ በቅርብ  
መክሸፉን ለተሰብሳቢዎቹ ገልጸዋል ::  
አባይ ስብሀት በመቀጠል በታወቀው የወያኔ ድንፋታ : "ክንፎቹ ተቆርጠዋል :  
ስየም የሰገራ ቤት አይጥ ሆኖ ቀርተዋል " አሉ ::

