



ብሄራዊ ክልላዊ መንግስቲ ትግራይ
The Government of Regional National State of Tigray
ቢሮ ርክብ ህዝብን መንግስትን
Public and Government Relations Bureau

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Excellency,

The constitutional mandate of the current government of Ethiopia comes to an end on the first week of October, 2020. The ruling party has, however, used the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to resort to constitutional manipulation to extend its rule beyond the five year limit that the Ethiopian constitution provides for.

The government's unconstitutional maneuver has already started to provoke a deep constitutional and political crisis and has even the potential to unravel the carefully knit national unity of the country. Practically, every single major political party in the country has opposed the ruling party's decision to stay in power until the COVID-19 pandemic is under control which, in practical terms, means indefinitely. The hard fact is even the most learned scientists in the field have no clue when the COVID 19 pandemic will not be a threat to public health. It surely will remain to be a challenge to humanity for the foreseeable future.

All opposition parties including the TPLF have the position that in the absence of a constitutional provision that allows the ruling party to stay in power beyond its term limit, it cannot unilaterally and arbitrarily extend its own term in power. In the absence of a constitutionally mandated party in power, the only meaningful and practical way out of the deadlock is to undertake an inclusive and transparent political dialogue and reach an agreeable solution on how to resolve the constitutional crisis and on how to govern the country and prepare it for a free and fair democratic election. The group in power, however, did not care to listen to the cries of concern and to the voices of moderation of civic and political leaders across the country.

The government's decision has all but rendered the hard won constitution virtually irrelevant. The decision of the group in power to disregard constitutional provisions in

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ሬዲዮ ብ/ክ/መ/ትግራይ

"ዝተመሓየሽ መንብብሮ፣ ዝለገለ ብርኪ ትምህርትን ቱክኖሎጂን ዝወነነ ሕ/ሰብ ፣ ኣብ ተሳትፎ ህዝቢ ዝተመስረተ ዲሞ/ሲ፣ ሰላምን ሰናይ ምም/ርን ዝነገሰላ፣ ምዕራፍን ተዋዳዳሪይን ዝኾነ ማእኸላይ ኣቶት ዘለዎን ሃገራት ዘረጋገጸሉ ብርኪ ዕብየት ኢኮኖሚ ዝበዘሐት ትግራይ ምርኣይ።"



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favor of a political dictate is thus, tantamount to a lifelong usurpation of power. The sweeping anti-democratic measures taken by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government including but not limited to shutting down the internet, Independent TV and Radio channels has made it abundantly clear that the Prime Minister is capable of tramping on any democratically sacred system to stay in power. The decision to indefinitely postpone the election has literally put the future of Ethiopian democracy, indeed its existence as a state, into the hands of an aspirant dictator fast metamorphosing into a full-fledged tyrant. The indefinite postponement of the election has made the right of the Ethiopian people to democratically choose their leaders a hostage to the whim of and good will of an emerging despot. The Prime Minister's style of managing politics has all the trappings of an unmistakably authoritarian style of leadership.

The leaders of the political establishment in the center, including the Prime Minister, have on many occasions tried to demean, criminalize and sometimes trivialize the decision of the Tigray National Regional state to hold regional elections. We believe that it is anathema to principles of democratic politics to deny let alone to willfully conspire to sabotage people's right to choose their own leaders. It is a contradiction in terms to deem a constitutionally sanctioned election illegal. It is indeed an irony of ironies that a Prime Minister who came to office touted as a reformer has the audacity to threaten the use of force against a state that takes its constitutional responsibility seriously. No doubt, current Ethiopian politics has turned topsy-turvy.

The government of the National Regional State of Tigray has publicly stated its opposition to the decision of the group in power to unconstitutionally extend its reign in power and has on its part decided to hold its regional elections as scheduled by the federal and regional constitutions. The decision to hold the regional election is not merely a unilateral political decision on the part of the ruling organization, Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). There is a near total consensus among the general public, all opposition groups and civic organizations in the region. In this spirit, the preparation for the election is well underway with full and meaningful participation of all willing opposition political parties and civic organizations.

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The Tigray National Regional Government has earnestly resolved to hold a free and fair election that meets international democratic standards. It also believes that the presence of international partners on the ground and their observation of the election process could positively contribute to conducting a free, fair and a transparent election. In this context, the Tigray National Regional Government is pleased to inform that all partners are invited to observe the electoral process including the campaign phase that started on 12 August 2020 and the Election Day which will be held on 9 September 2020. It also appreciates any logistical and financial support from partners towards conducting a successful election.

Sincerely,



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