Nothing was small to the Relief Society of Tigray

Gebre-Haweria Berhane (REST PR)

Mr. Teklewoini Assefa, the Executive Director of Relief Society of Tigray (REST), told journalists more about the role of Diasporas during the arm struggle. In his session of press conference with media people organized by the Bureau of Public Relations concerning the contribution of Tigrayan Diasporas for the establishment of REST, Mr. Teklewoini Assefa appreciated the then all round Diaspora provisions which were shared for REST and was very critical for its existence as humanitarian wing.

According to him, their contributions were provided in different forms. Some of them were involved in project preparation in order to have strategic projects for future resource. Still some of them were engaged in fund raising activities in order to have strong financial ground. Having strong national feeling almost all contributed their lion share to the Relief Society of Tigray by mobilization, knowledge transfer, money contribution, committed struggle support and even some of them paid their lime being part of the humanitarian institution, REST.

Teklewoini stressed that, the relationship was muscular around United States of America, Europe, Middle East, Australia based as core centers having cells in different corner of the globe helped REST to do more concrete foundations with the Tigrayan Diasporas. He told that, they had influential slogan quoted as "nothing is small to the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) even the single coin". The establishment of REST with in Tigray, as a strategy they followed, some prominent foreigners voluntarily joined REST to serve for free.
REST was born almost out of the ashes during the civil war in 1978 to serve the needs of people. Since then, the organization remained to be a dynamic organization, taking a learning approach it continued to grow and evolve with the changing environmental and social contexts.

REST’s grass root origins and commitment to the poorest and most vulnerable laid the foundations for its activities today. Today, REST is one of the largest and highly successful grass roots organizations in Ethiopia with more than 1200 permanent employees and operating a wide range of development and emergency programs in all rural areas of Tigray Regional State.