

## **GUINBOT 20 Colorfully Celebrated in Melbourne/Australia**

On 24 May, 2014, the big turnout of the Ethiopian community in Melbourne colorfully celebrated Guinbot 20 in Melbourne-Victoria state of the Commonwealth of Australia in the presence of H.E. Arega Hailu Teffera, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Australia and New Zealand, the State's Multicultural Minister and invited guests.



The Ambassador of Ethiopia to the commonwealth of Australia and support Groups from each community and the Eritrean opposition have made speeches during this colorful event. The Ambassador during this event has extended word of welcome to everyone to celebrate the 23rd Anniversary of 'Guinbot 20' or 28 May, and praised their presences which proves their commitment and esteem they feel for Ethiopia.

He has also mentioned that

" twenty three years ago, exactly on 28 May , the protracted political and military struggle of the heroic people of Ethiopia led by the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) dismantled one of the most cruel tyrant regimes of our era, a regime that unleashed a senseless war against the Ethiopian people and committed war crimes, crime against humanity and genocide and the victory brought in an end to tyrannies perpetrated by successive predatory regimes."

He added that " the victory of 28 May 1991 ushered in a New Ethiopia, the constitutionally enshrined Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the basis of unity in diversity. The New Ethiopia is constituted on the basis of equality, mutual respect, common desire and interest of all nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia as well as of religions and faiths in the country.

Ethiopia has established a solid constitutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. The country has made major strides in the promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The Government has integrated good governance, rule of law and human rights in the ongoing five-year Growth and Transformation Plan.



Freedom of expression continues to thrive in Ethiopia. Ethiopians freely advocate their views either in supporting or criticizing Government policies and measures. Media organizations are easily created catering for the diversity and pluralism of opinions in the country.

The Government has taken various measures to improve the welfare of children through the implementation of the rights of children as per the constitution and international conventions on the rights of children. Ethiopia has already achieved the MDG target of reducing child mortality by two thirds well before the target period 2015.

Ethiopia has also taken various policy, legislative, administrative and judicial measures to promote and protect the rights of women and ensure equal participation of women in political affairs, economic and social empowerment, ownership of property, inheritance and rights over resources including land.

The country the EPRDF inherited was one that was a bankrupt; there was no economy to speak of and all the physical and social infrastructures were ruined. The new government recognized the challenge of reviving the country from its terminal decline would need herculean effort and due to that effort in the past 23 years ,Ethiopia's economy now is among the top 10 fastest growing economies in the world. Its GDP has been growing at an average growth rate of 11.5% annually for the last 12 consecutive years. By sustaining this growth rate as a baseline, Ethiopia's Gross National Income, GNI currently which is the fourth largest economy in Sub-Sahara Africa is expected to double in the coming five years.



The rapid economic growth has also enabled Ethiopia to undertake massive public investments in social and infrastructure sectors, which have a direct bearing on the well being of citizens. For example in 1992, we had 74 Hospitals and 154 health posts, in 2013 this number has increased to 229 hospitals and 19,148 health posts. Primary health care coverage has increased from 41% in 1992 to 93.4% in 2013.

Likewise, the number of primary and middle schools has increased from 8830 in 1992 to 30,495 in 2013 as result of which primary gross enrolment has increased to 95.4% with over 17.3million children enrolling all over the country.

On the infrastructure front, there are positive developments in road, railway, power generation, telecom and water and sanitation. The road network has increased from 19000kms in 1992 to 85,961kms in 2013; power generation has increased from less than 400MW in 1992 to 2177 in 2013 which will increase to 10,000MW in the very near future due to the construction of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance dam, telephone subscribers have increased from 56,557 in 1992 to over 25million and now in the process of expansion to over 55million.

Keeping in mind the maintenance of peace and stability and development in the country, a Diaspora policy had been issued that can effectively respond to the need to ensure active Diaspora participation in political, economic and social activities of the country so that it benefits from its engagement and contribute to the well being of the country."





A gift presented by the Embassy to the M 1

He also noted that the positive Diaspora originating from Ethiopia has been contributing to the achievements in Ethiopia and encouraged the community to constructively engage with all institutions in Australia so as to enhance the bilateral relations between Ethiopia and Australia and play its respective role in trade and tourism, investment, transfer of technology, institutional linkage



Dancing with a Somali song 1

e and image building and multicultural affairs and continue supporting the construction of the GERD which is a litmus test of nationalism and hatred.

After the speeches by the Ambassador and support groups, the community had their evening party till mid night.