



ኢትዮጵያዊነት :- የዜጎች መብት ማስከበሪያ ጉባኤ

Ethiopiawinnet:

Council for the Defense of Citizens' Rights

Symposium 3: Transition and Development for a Democratic Ethiopia

This is the third symposium organized by *Ethiopiawinnet* as a part of its civic education program on evidence-based understanding of the challenges faced by Ethiopia in building a modern, inclusive political and economic system. This symposium focuses on fundamental policy issues (education and land) as well as political culture (Ethiopian and global).

Ethiopia is often referred to as a land of contrasts. On the one hand, it is believed to have achieved a double-digit economic growth, expanded education and health services and improved the poverty level of the country. On the other, it is known as one of the poorest countries in Africa with a wide range of economic, political and social problems

These features beg several questions: why does Ethiopia, with rich resources and great potential, have over 10 percent of its 100 million citizens chronically on the verge of starvation, and millions of the country's youth unable to find employment? Why is the country on the brink of descending into a dreadful civil war as millions of its citizens defy yet another oppressive government?

Ethiopiawinnet believes that the roots of these structural problems and the latent opportunities to overcome them are not well understood. In the absence of a think tank to investigate these issues, we have taken upon ourselves to invite scholars and notable civil servants to offer answers to the most perplexing social, economic and political problems the country faces. To that end, this year, the organization will focus on the following four major areas:

- Education
- Democratic values
- Land rights
- Human Rights

Date: August 12 - 13, 2017

Venue: Sheraton Silver Spring Hotel
8777 Georgia Av. Silver Spring, MD

PROGRAM

Saturday, August 12, 2017

Registration [8:00 – 9:00 am]

Introduction and welcome [9:00 – 9:30]

Session I. THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA [9:30 – 10:30]

Chair: Dr. Almaz Zewde

Dr. Akililu Habte: Education Policy under Haile Selassie and the Derg
Dr. Adane Gebyaw Kassa : The adverse role of the political environment in achieving quality education in Ethiopia

Session II. POLITICAL CULTURE, DEMOCRATIC DISCOURSE AND ETHIOPIAN VALUES [11:30 – 1:00]

Chair: Dr. Berhanu Abegaz

Dr. Abadir Ibrahim: Exploring the role of political culture and dynamic discourse in Ethiopia’s march toward democracy
Dr. Gedion Timotewos Hessebon: Politics without moral foundations: The tyranny of “identity” in politics

Lunch Break

Session III. LAND DEVELOPMENT AND LAND POLICY [2:30 – 4:00 pm]

Chair: Prof. Alemante Gebre Selassie

Dr. Achamyeleh Gashu: The pitfall of land acquisition for urban expansion from peri-urban areas of Ethiopia
Dr. Mulatu Wubneh: Policies and praxis of land acquisition and development in Ethiopia (comment)

Sunday: August 13, 2017

Session IV. CIVIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS [11:00 -12:30 pm]

Chair: Dr. Erku Yimer

Ato Yared Haiale Mariam: የሲቢክ ማኅበራት ሚና በኢትዮጵያ ለሕግ የበላይነት መረግማገጥ፣ ለሰባዊነት መብቶች መከበር፣ ለዲሞክራሲያዊ ለውጥና ለሃገር ህልውና

Dr. Abadir (Comment) - The legal implications of HR

Prof. Alemante (Comment) - HR and the law

**Session V. REIMAGINING A NON-ETHNOCENTRIC ETHIOPIAN STATE –
ROUNDTABLE [1:00 – 2:30 pm]**

Chair: To be announced

Ethiopiawinnet

Gonder Hibret

Gojam Hibret

Wollo Heritage

Session VI. SUMMARY - highlights and what next? [2:30-3:00 pm]

Dr. Mulatu Wubneh

Dr. Berhanu Abegaz

=====