

SEPTEMBER 5 ADDIS SEMINAR--EDUCATION GONE WRONG

BY AMARE GEBREMARIAM GEBRE

“The wise man must remember that while he is a descendant of the past, he is a parent of the future” Herbert Spencer.

OVERVIEW

Many people think that the purpose of education is career development, higher pay and empowering the graduate's job search. But others say it is beyond the above that is learning to think not to follow, combining your learning with action. Educated people are not supposed to pride themselves on the work of others, but always be independent thinkers and unique achievers.

During my high school year's one of the teachers used to say “copy nature, but not a picture”. Educated people are expected to react to tantalizing questions or situations doing the right thing at the right time.

THE ROLE OF THE EDUCATED

In every corner of the world educated people are the main factors of social, economic, cultural development. Below are some of the generally accepted roles they play with their society or community:

- Educated people are pioneers of democratic values.
- Play the role to free the people from injustice.
- Expand the knowledge of equality, justice, freedom and secularism.
- Expected to bring solution to solve all the socio- economic problems.
- Transform the huge service of human resources into assets.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE INDIVIDUAL

- Higher education equips one with freedom of expression where uncompromisingly protected and where civility is affirmed.
- Develops sacredness of the person's honor and where diversity is aggressively pursued.
- Creates wholesome personality of the individual so as to shoulder obligations to the group and build well- defined governance and guiding behavioral activities for the common good.
- Develops the individual to compare, contrast and devise plan of action.
- Prepares the individual to build institutions.

HOW DO EDUCATED ERITREANS FAIR?

When I write about the activities, roles, contributions of educated Eritrean, I will limit myself to Eritreans in the Diaspora and only on the issue of contemporary Eritrean political problems. Educated Eritreans back home are under the pressure of brutal regime and are not expected to fully shoulder the obligation that higher education equipped them with. Besides I have no enough information of their activities.

Educated Eritreans in the Diaspora where ever they reside are generally doing good job in their field of expertise.

Educated Eritrean activities in relation with the contemporary political crisis of the country, they are scattered all over. Some are serving the dictatorial regime. These individuals pay 2% tax, speak in favor of the dictatorial regime at events, conduct panel discussions visit Eritrea and propagate false information about the political, economic situations of the country to Eritreans in Diaspora.

Others are carefree and do not mix with the Eritrean community. Some are active having web-sites, magazines, radio slots that play in informing empowering and enlighten the Eritrean public. Others are members of opposition organizations while others are sympathizers. So far educated Eritrean have not assumed appreciable leadership role, never seen organizing seminars panel discussions, but wait to be invited. There are very few of them who play to the satisfaction of the common Eritrean. Come on Educated Eritreans we can do better. Eritreans expect us to document the plight of Eritrean refugees where ever they are, documentation of Eritrean human right abuse by any government, group or organization, documentation of Eritrean political organizations activities, documentation of Eritrean opposition friends and their contribution to our struggle, documentation of Eritrean communities activities in relation to the opposition struggle for democratic change in Eritrea. Eritreans also expect us to devise plan of action to bring democratic change in Eritrea.

ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS

Any help, positive result, tangible action are preceded with reasonable word or speech, information and promise. But we have to remember there is an expression that says “honey in the lips, murder in the heart.”

The Eritrean political organizations, some groups of Eritrean journalists and some humanitarian organizations have been telling us and are repeating good words of the Ethiopian government especially of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. But is this good word, promises, speeches in relation to Eritreans and Eritrean struggle materializing? Let us try to look into some of these speeches and promises.

- The government of Ethiopia said sorry for its action of deporting about 80,000 Eritreans from the land of Ethiopia in 1998 and promised to return their property.

But how many got their property back? Shouldn't the government of Ethiopia pay damage caused upon the individual Eritreans, occurred by the Ethiopian government action? Where is the documentation by Eritrean journalists and human rights organizations of Eritrean origin? When I went to Addis Ababa in 2010 for the Eritrean National Conference a good number of Eritreans told me promise never fulfilled.

- In 1999 when ENA was formed there were very few Eritrean political organizations in Ethiopia, now there are more than forty organizations and movements getting hand outs from the Ethiopian government. The Ethiopian government says we house Eritrean organizations and are getting our help and support. Is their help hitting its target or making unintended damage? What I am hearing from most organizations is the damage, but the Ethiopian government says we never interfere in the Eritrean opposition political affairs.
- On Friday September 9 2011 Prime Minister Meles Zenawi promised the Eritrean journalists who were attending the September 5, 2011 Addis seminar organized by Ethiopia that the two Eritrean journalists snatched from Somalia in 2006 who are languishing in Ethiopian prison would be released if they did not participate in any espionage. Our light heart journalists rush to the web-sites to inform the Eritrean people as if it is a gift from heaven. Instead of asking why they are in Ethiopian prisons rather than in Somalia if they commit any crime? Why they did not see a lawyer for about five years. Is it not human rights abuse like that of PFDJ?
- The Ethiopian government summoned all political organizations in a rush with no know agenda and run a seminar. After the seminar it formed seven persons ad hock committee to over see the activities of the organizations and the preparation of the upcoming Nation Congress. The members of the committee are:

Tewode Gebresselassie Haj Abdelnur Bashir Ishaq
Qernelos Osman Mohammad Ahmed Sefer
Hageray Negash (Chair of the new youth movement)
Kefle Yohanse (chair of the new Biher Tigrigna organization)

What happened to EDA and the ENCDC? Is Ethiopia doing damage to the opposition struggle of Eritrea whether with good intention or not? We say there is a better way that is more beneficial to both countries and people of the two countries.

- On September 5 2011 Ethiopia again summoned Educated Eritreans through e-mails and phone calls. Some responded to the call with nothing in mind on what is to be done. We know they stayed in a hotel for the duration of five days of the seminar. God knows what is being said to promote Ethiopia's hidden agenda, but we know one thing that Salih Gadi or Ali Salim or Mohammad Al Jeberti (brand name) said "Godspeed to the attendees" to show his solidarity to his masters. [Open link to expose the meddler.](#)

UNIONIST WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Many Eritreans since I became aware of the Eritrean political situation in about 1955 were and are hard critics of the Eritrean Unionist party of the 1950. I heard no one supporting the unionist party that is because their stand or political program was to unite Eritrea with Ethiopia when the protectorate government of Britain leaves the country. The activities of the unionist party helped Ethiopia to put us under its yoke. Those unionist members were educated by Eritrean standard at that time.

Some time towards the end of August 2011 the Ethiopian government summoned some Educated Eritrean in Diaspora through e-mail and phone calls. Some rejected the call for reasons like what Suleiman Adam Hussen chairman of CDRiE gave in the interview with Arkokbay.com, others responded to the summons and rushed to Addis Ababa.

Did they know the agenda of the seminar before they rushed to Addis? No. Did they know how they are picked by a foreign government? No. Did they know who else is attending the seminar? No. Did they inform the Eritrean public that they are going to talk with Ethiopian representatives on their behave? No.

A citizen of certain country is accountable to the country of citizenship; the country is also accountable to its citizens. If a citizen did not become accountable to his country that is did not fulfill his or her obligation he or she might be deprived of certain rights. Are these who responded to the summons of the Ethiopian government educated of Eritrean origin citizens of Ethiopia? I don't think so. Are they accountable to Ethiopian government? No. The only relationship we should have with Ethiopia even as opposition should be based on mutual respect, partnership. No one should discuss Eritrean political issues under the agenda and being chaired by a foreign country. Are these educated Eritreans responding to the Ethiopian summons in accordance to the tenets they learned in higher education? To answer the question read the above given points. To fool the fools they told us Mehret Gebreysus is chairing the seminar. First of all the Ethiopians who chaired the seminar of our political organizations were sitting in the hall. Besides Ethiopia is the owner of the agenda, Bereket Simon was also sitting with Mehret. Also worth mentioning Mehret Gebreyesus is managing her own business in Ethiopia that is she has her own business which means she has conflict of interest.

Fellow seminar attendees, what do you say to those who say I care to my, personal pride and integrity, honor of my national sovereignty and educational independence when I deal with foreign subjects? Are not Ethiopians foreigners to you? I hope you will explain what you have been doing on behave of Eritreans in Addis when you come back and I wonder how you can do that because you did not tell them when you were leaving.

We struggle we succeed comments>> ama766@comcast.net

Glory to our martyrs