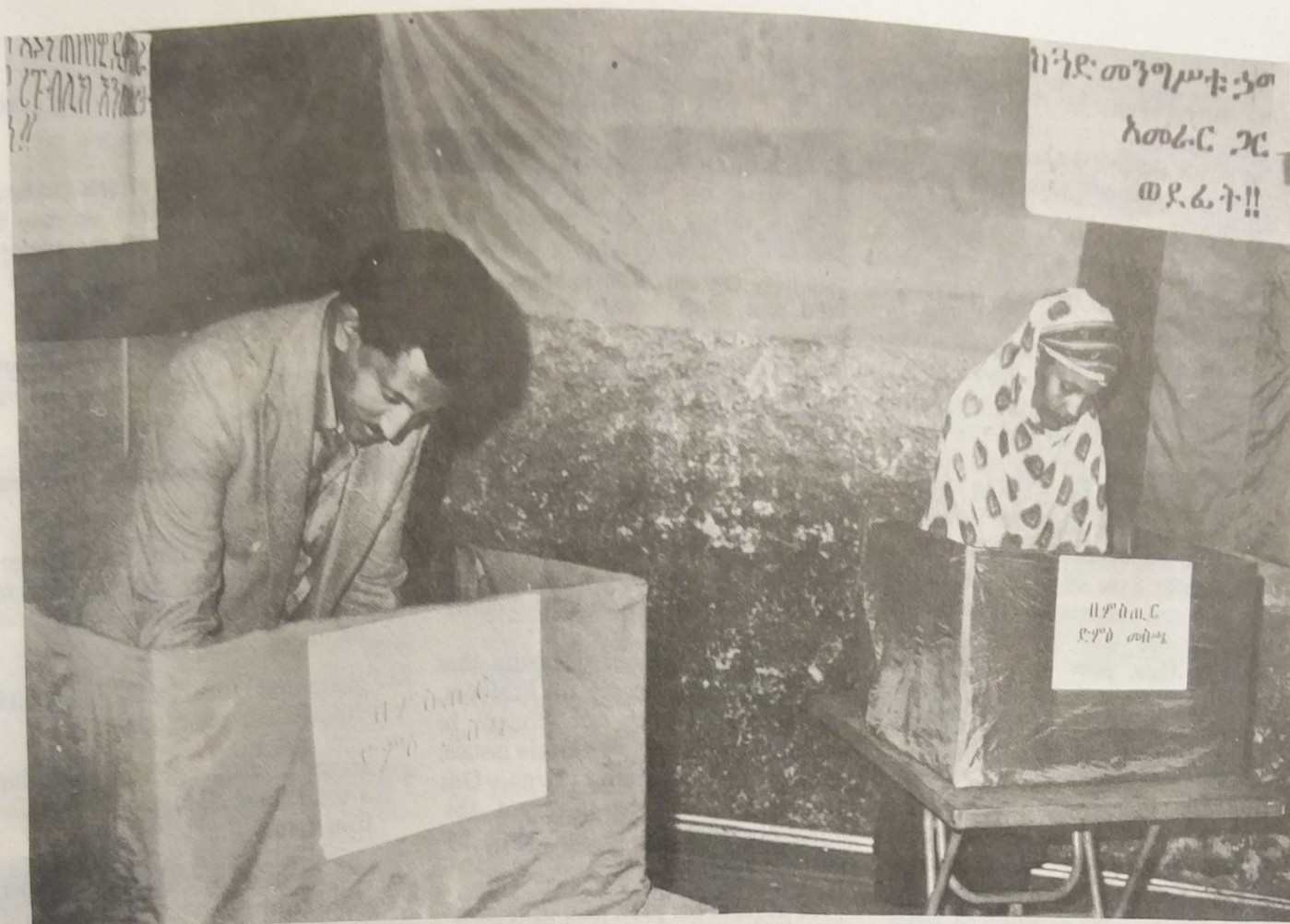




Voting on the revised draft constitution

Constitution of the PDRE

PREAMBLE

We, the working people of Ethiopia, with a glorious history as our basis, are engaged in a great revolutionary struggle to extricate ourselves from a backwardness that gripped us for centuries, and to transform Ethiopia into a society with a high level of development where justice and equality are guaranteed, and prosperity abounds.

Ethiopia, the home of a brilliant ancient civilization, has been an independent state that has existed in continuity for many thousands of years.

The Ethiopian state has, from the beginning, been a multinational state. The various nationalities and communities embraced by the state have

interacted in times of war and peace, engaged in commercial and cultural exchanges, intermingled through internal migration, and co-existed for centuries. These interactions have served to weld these nationalities and various other communities into one people. Indeed, Ethiopia's long history of freedom has been a history of joint struggle by its nationalities and other communities for a united existence.

Ethiopia, besides being located in the vicinity of the strategical cross-road that links the continents of Africa, Europe and Asia, is the source of many of the major rivers in Africa. Its plateau and lowlands possess rich soil and a variety of other natural

resources. These favourable conditions, with which it has been endowed by nature have been the source of covetousness for foreign enemies who repeatedly tried to invade and appropriate it among themselves.

Especially, ever since the beginning of the sixteenth century, when capitalism was beginning to emerge in Western Europe, colonialists have repeatedly tried to bring Ethiopia under their control.

However, the people of Ethiopia have heroically repulsed all the aggressive attempts of invaders and colonialists to violate their sovereignty and to occupy their motherland.

When capitalism evolved into imperialism and imperialists had set out to divide the world among themselves, Ethiopia remained undaunted and impregnable. Especially, the decisive victory scored at Adowa in 1896 over a colonialist nation that, by the then standard, had a modern army, has earned Ethiopia a special place of honour in the history of anti-imperialist struggle. By achieving victory over the forces of fascist aggression through the sacrifices made by her patriots during the five-year struggle she, once again, proved that no power could prevent her from holding aloft the banner of her historic independence. The Ethiopian people have courageously repelled repeated aggressive attempts of their enemies and scored successive victories, thus, proving their indomitability, zealously guarding their independence and ensuring the inviolability of their sovereignty.

On the other hand, the working people of Ethiopia in the course of their long history, have passed through different socio-economic systems and in the process have experienced bitter class oppression and exploitation. It is known that, especially, the relationship that was prevalent in the feudal system had thrown the peasants under the vicious yoke of oppression. Moreover, the people, not only have they been used as gun fodder in the incessant clashes and wars carried out by the feudals among themselves but also have been robbed of the fruits of their labour by all kinds of devious means while they themselves have been exposed to endless hunger, disease and mass death.

Finally, with the emergence of capitalism and the consequent sharpening of class antagonism there came a stage where the people could no longer tolerate the oppression. Thereupon, due to the supreme sacrifice paid by the progressive forces in the society, the feudal order was toppled. Thus, our popular revolution that erupted in 1974 paved the way for the establishment of the sovereignty of the people.

Because there was no vanguard leadership when the revolution erupted, the provisional Military Administrative Council, whose members are part of

the working people and constitute an integral part of the armed forces, began to coordinate and lead the struggle. This leadership abolished the monarchic rule and successively took a variety of revolutionary steps and laid the foundation for a new and popular system. Rural land, urban land, and extra houses, major enterprises of production, distribution and services became the property of the people.

Favourable conditions were created for guaranteeing equality of nationalities, of the sexes and of religions. The working people, organized in various sectors, have acquired the right to decide on the affairs of their country.

It was not without difficulty that we, the working people of Ethiopia, were able to launch our struggle in earnest to build a society wherein justice, equality and prosperity reign. Our primary task was to surmount the trying obstacles set in our path by our class enemies.

We have, in the past, paid dear sacrifices to preserve our freedom and unity. Likewise, we are today engaged in a struggle to achieve our first goal under the motto "Revolutionary motherland or Death!" Consequently, we have reached the present condition which is favourable for rapid social progress.

Whereas at present our primary concern is development, we seek to accomplish the National Democratic Revolution and to lay the material and technical basis necessary for the building of socialism. However, since the anti-revolution and anti-socialism forces of reaction and imperialism have not refrained from obstructing our progress towards our legitimate goal of development, frustrating these machinations will be another front of our struggle.

Because we, the working people of Ethiopia, have now attained the leadership of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, we are in a position whereby we can develop our political tradition and pursue our goal with confidence. Thus, we are engaged, on the one hand, in preserving with honour the legacy entrusted to us by our forefathers while, on the other hand, we have set ourselves

to the historic task of building a new social system.

In order that our efforts continue to bear fruit and so that we may be able to achieve our goal, the completion of the new political system is a prerequisite!

Therefore, we, the Working People of Ethiopia, convinced that this Constitution:

- expresses that sovereign power resides in us,
- recognizing our right to self determination, guarantees the unity of our country and the equality of nationalities,
- guarantees that basic rights and duties shall be respected,
- serves as an instrument for laying a solid foundation on which socialism is to be built,
- enables us to contribute our proper share to the enhancement of world peace, democracy, and social development,

have by our referendum of Feb. 1, 1987 approved and declared it to be the supreme law of our land on the basis of which the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is to be formed and administered.

PART ONE THE SOCIAL ORDER CHAPTER ONE THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

Article 1

1. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a state of the working people founded on the alliance of workers and peasants in which the intelligentsia, the revolutionary army, artisans and other democratic sections of the society participate.
2. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a sovereign state whose territory comprising the land, air space and territorial waters, including the islands, is indivisible and inviolable.
3. The People's Democratic Republic

of Ethiopia shall, while accomplishing the national democratic revolution, lay the foundation for the construction of socialism.

Article 2

1. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a unitary state in which all nationalities live in equality.
2. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall ensure the equality of nationalities, combat chauvinism and narrow nationalism and strengthen the unity of the working people of all nationalities.

3. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall ensure the common advancement of the nationalities, paying attention particularly to those in the lower stage of development, and by progressively eliminating the disparity in their economic development.

4. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall ensure the realization of regional autonomy.

5. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall ensure the equality, development and respectability of the languages of nationalities.

Article 3

1. In the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia power belongs to the working people.

2. The working people exercise their power through the National Shengo and local shengos they establish by election. The authority of other organs of state shall derive from these organs of state power.

3. The working people exercise their power also through referendum.

Article 4

1. In the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia the organization and functioning of the organs of state is based on the principle of democratic centralism.

2. All organs of state power, from the lowest to the highest, shall be established by election. The organs of state power shall adhere to the principle of centralism and exercise local initiative. Decisions of higher organs shall be executed by lower organs. Lower organs are accountable to higher organs.

Article 5

Organs of state, mass organizations, other associations, officials thereof and every individual shall observe socialist legality.

Article 6

1. The Workers' Party of Ethiopia, which is guided by Marxism-Leninism is a vanguard political party that is dedicated to serve the working people and protect their interests.

2. The Workers' Party of Ethiopia determines the perspective for the development of the country and is the guiding force of the state and the entire society.

3. All Party organs shall observe the Constitution of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Article 7

Mass organizations are forums for the participation of the people in the country's political, economic, social and cultural life. They shall participate in the formulation and implementation of state policy.

Article 8

The objective of the development of the Ethiopian political system is to accelerate the process of laying the foundation for the construction of the socialist system by augmenting the participation of the working people in state and key societal activities, by improving the organization and functioning of state organs, by consolidating the working people's control, by enhancing the role of mass organizations and by strengthening the legal basis of the activities of the state and society.

CHAPTER TWO THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Article 9

1. The state shall enhance the material and cultural development of the working people, which is the primary objective of the economic construction.

2. The state shall transform the backward economy of the country by progressively advancing and strengthening socialist relations of production and by accelerating the development of the productive forces through the application of science and technology.

3. The state shall build a highly interdependent and integrated national economy; it shall strengthen the economic relationship between rural and urban areas as well as between the periphery and the centre.

Article 10

1. The state shall ensure that the ecological balance is maintained; it shall conserve and develop the natural resources, particularly land, water, forest and wild life, and shall guarantee their utilization for the benefit of the working people.

2. In order to create favourable conditions for development, the state shall ensure that human settlement patterns correspond to the distribution of natural resources.

3. The state shall encourage the scattered rural population to aggregate in order to change their backward living condition and to enable them lead a better social life.

Article 11

The state shall guide the economic and social activities of the country through a central plan.

Article 12

In the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia the ownership of the means of production are socialist, that is, state and cooperative ownership,

private ownership and other forms of ownership as determined by law.

Article 13

1. State ownership is public ownership.
2. The state shall, by securing ownership of key production, distribution and service enterprises, play the leading role in the economy. Natural resources, in particular land, minerals, water and forest, are state property. The development and utilization of natural resources shall be determined by law.

Article 14

The state shall provide the necessary support and encouragement for the expansion of cooperative ownership.

Article 15

Private ownership, guided by state policy, shall carry out activities beneficial to the national economy. The right to transfer private ownership in accordance with the law is guaranteed.

Article 16

Personal property is protected by law. The right to transfer it in accordance with the law is guaranteed.

Article 17

The state may, where public interest so requires, purchase, upon payment of compensation, requisition or nationalize any property, in accordance with the law.

Article 18

1. Labour is an honourable source of wealth and well-being of the society. The social position of every person shall be determined by his work.
2. The state shall progressively ensure the realization of the principle "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work."
3. The state shall see to it that society's

skill, creativity and dedication for work are enhanced.

CHAPTER THREE THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL POLICY

Article 19

1. The state shall expand education and other services for increasing knowledge in order to develop a new culture and lay the foundation for socialism by enhancing citizens' intellectual and physical development as well as their capability for work.
2. The state and society shall provide the necessary support to enable citizens frequent physical training and sports.

Article 20

1. The family, as the basis of society, shall be cared for by the state and society through the provision of various social services and other forms of assistance.
2. The state and society shall take special care in the upbringing of children in order that they grow up developing scientific outlook, become citizens who are morally, intellectually and physically strong and love their country and uphold socialism.

Article 21

The state and society shall progressively expand health, pension, insurance and other forms of social security services in order to improve the well-being of the people.

Article 22

The state and society shall provide special care for those disabled in the course of defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia and safeguarding the Revolution, as well as for families of martyrs.

Article 23

The state and society shall ensure that historical and cultural heritages are preserved, harmful practices are

eradicated, the working people are imbued with socialist morality and proletarian culture is progressively fostered.

CHAPTER FOUR DEFENCE OF THE COUNTRY, PROTECTION OF THE PEOPLE AND THE REVOLUTION

Article 24

1. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and safeguard the revolution.
2. It is the historic responsibility of the entire working people to defend the sovereignty of the country and safeguard the revolution.

Article 25

1. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall maintain a strong defence force.
2. The defence force of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is the army of the working people that stands and struggles for the unity of the country, the supremacy of the working people, peace and socialism.

Article 26

1. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall strengthen the country's defence capability.
2. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall promote the working people's spirit of patriotism and revolutionary valour, and when necessary, mobilize the entire working people in the defence of the country and the protection of the people and the revolution.
3. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall foster the spirit of socialist patriotism of the youth and implement the national military service.
4. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall organize civil defence to withstand natural and man-made calamities.

CHAPTER FIVE FOREIGN POLICY

Article 27

The foreign policy of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is based on the principles of proletarian internationalism, peaceful co-existence and non-alignment.

Article 28

1. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, while safeguarding the interests of the country, promotes relations and cooperation with all states on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. It respects the right of states to pursue the social and economic system of their choice.
2. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia promotes all-round relationship and cooperation with socialist states. It strengthens its relations with the international working class movement, revolutionary democratic forces, national liberation movements and other democratic and peace-loving forces.
3. The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia staunchly struggles against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and other forms of oppression and exploitation.

Article 29

The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, strives to strengthen co-operation amongst peoples, to promote mutual development and to foster good-neighbourly relationship with adjoining states on the basis of the principles of respect for the inviolability of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, non-interference in their internal affairs, peaceful resolution of conflicts and, in general, on the basis of the principles of non-alignment.

Article 30

The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall actively participate in international and regional organizations that stand for peace, security and progress of mankind.

PART TWO CITIZENSHIP, FREEDOMS, RIGHTS AND DUTIES

CHAPTER SIX CITIZENSHIP

Article 31

1. Any person with both or one parent of Ethiopian citizenship is an Ethiopian.
2. Particulars relating to citizenship shall be determined by law.
3. The conditions and procedures for the acquisition of Ethiopian citizenship by citizens of other countries and stateless persons shall be determined by law.

Article 32

1. The state shall protect the rights and interests of Ethiopians abroad.
2. No Ethiopian may be extradited.

Article 33

The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia grants asylum to foreigners persecuted for their struggle in national liberation and anti-racist movements and for the cause of peace and democracy.

Article 34

1. Citizens of other countries and stateless persons in the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall have such freedoms, rights, and duties as may be determined by law.
2. The state may not extradite a citizen of another country or a stateless person except as stipulated by international agreement.

CHAPTER SEVEN FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF CITIZENS

Article 35

1. Ethiopians are, irrespective of nationality, sex, religion, occupation, social or other status, equal before the law.
2. Equality among Ethiopians is realized through equal participation in

political, economic, social and cultural fields.

Article 36

1. In the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia women and men have equal rights.
2. The state shall provide women with special support, particularly in education, training and employment so that they may participate on an equal basis with men in political, economic, social and cultural fields.
3. The state shall see to it that appropriate measures are progressively taken to ensure that women, during pregnancy and maternity, are provided with health services, suitable working conditions and adequate rest period.

Article 37

1. Marriage is based on the consent of a man and a woman who have attained majority. Spouses have equal rights in their family relations. Marriage shall enjoy the protection of the state.
2. Children have the same rights regardless of their being born in or out of wedlock.

Article 38

1. Ethiopians have the right to work.
2. The state shall, as the development of the national economy permits, progressively ensure that employment opportunities are created and working conditions improved.

Article 39

1. The right of the working people to rest is guaranteed.
2. The state shall determine working hours and leisure time and ensure that social services necessary for the leisure of the working people are progressively expanded.

Article 40

1. Ethiopians have the right to free education.
2. The state progressively implements compulsory education for school-age children and expands schools and vocational institutions of various types and levels.

Article 41

1. Ethiopians have the freedom to conduct research and engage in creative activities in science, technology and the arts.
2. The state shall encourage research and creative activities of citizens. It shall provide special support for research and creative activities that contribute to the improvement of the living standard of the working people and the acceleration of socialist construction.

Article 42

1. Ethiopians have the right to health care.
2. The state provides health services by progressively expanding health institutions.

Article 43

1. Ethiopians are guaranteed inviolability of the person.
2. Ethiopians are guaranteed inviolability of the home. No one may enter the home of another against his will, except in cases prescribed by law.

Article 44

1. No person may be arrested except in flagrante delicto, or by the order of a procurator or by a court decision, or as may be prescribed by law.
2. Any one arrested shall be produced in court within 48 hours. This period shall, however, not include the time required to travel to the nearest court.

Article 45

1. No person accused of violating the criminal law shall be considered guilty unless so determined by court.
2. Criminal law does not apply retroactively unless it benefits the accused.
3. Any one accused of crime has the right to defend himself or appoint a defence counsel. Where a person is charged with a serious offence and

it is established that he is unable to appoint his own defence, the state shall, in accordance with the law, appoint for him a defence counsel free of charge.

4. Every one has the duty to give testimony except against himself or in such cases as may be prescribed by law. However, no violence or pressure may be applied to compel a person to testify. Any testimony obtained by violence or pressure shall be null and void.

Article 46

1. Ethiopians are guaranteed freedom of conscience and religion.
2. Freedom of religion may not be exercised in a manner contrary to the interest of the state and the revolution, public morality or freedom of other citizens.
3. State and religion are separate. The legal status of religious institutions shall be determined by law.

Article 47

1. Ethiopians are guaranteed freedom of speech, press, assembly, peaceful demonstration and association.
2. The state shall provide the necessary material and moral support for the exercise of these freedoms.

Article 48

1. Ethiopians are guaranteed freedom of movement.
2. Every Ethiopian has the freedom to change his place of residence within the territory of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Article 49

Ethiopians are guaranteed secrecy of correspondence.

Article 50

1. Ethiopians have the right to elect and be elected.
2. Except for insane persons and persons deprived by law, of the right to elect and stand for election, all Ethiopians who have attained the age of twenty-one have the right to stand for election to organs of state power, irrespective of national-

ity, sex, religion, occupation, social or other status. Particulars shall be determined by law.

Article 51

1. Ethiopians have the right to submit proposals and criticisms supported by evidence concerning the activities of state and mass organizations.
2. Concerned officials and institutions shall examine and respond to proposals and criticisms submitted to them and shall take appropriate action thereon. Taking retaliatory measures against a citizen for his proposal or criticism shall be punishable by law.

Article 52

Ethiopians have the right to submit complaints against organs of state and mass organizations or officials thereof. Such complaints must be examined and responded to.

Article 53

1. Safeguarding the security of the Motherland, the revolution and the gains of the working people is a great honour, supreme duty and obligation of every Ethiopian.
2. Treason against the Motherland is the gravest crime committed against the people and shall entail severe punishment.
3. National military service is the right and duty of every Ethiopian. Its implementation shall be regulated by law.

Article 54

Recognizing that work has a social benefit and that it is the basis of man's life and cognizant that he who works benefits therefrom, Ethiopians are duty-bound to discharge their responsibilities conscientiously, respect work discipline, protect property and raise productivity in their respective fields of endeavour.

Article 55

1. Ethiopians have the duty to care

for and safeguard socialist property.

2. Ethiopians have the duty to participate in state and societal endeavour to safeguard, care for, collect and utilize historical relics and cultural heritage.

3. Ethiopians have the duty to protect and conserve nature and natural resources, especially by afforestation and conservation of soil and water resources.

Article 56

Ethiopians are duty-bound to assist in the effort to ensure equality between the different sexes and occupations, to promote friendship and mutual respect among the working people of the various nationalities and to enhance the spirit of collective effort in the building of a socialist system.

Article 57

Every Ethiopian has the duty to observe the Constitution and laws of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and to uphold the honour and dignity of Ethiopian citizenship.

Article 58

The exercise of freedoms, rights and duties by citizens shall be regulated by law. The exercise of freedoms and rights of citizens may only be limited by law in order to protect the interests of the state and society as well as the freedoms and rights of others.

PART THREE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE STATE

CHAPTER EIGHT FORM OF THE STATE

Article 59

The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a unitary state comprising administrative and autonomous regions.

Article 60

1. Administrative regions are units of administration hierarchically established from the highest to the lowest level.

2. The boundary, status and accountability of administrative regions shall be determined by law.

Article 61

1. Autonomous regions shall have as many units of administration as may be necessary.

2. The boundary, status and accountability of autonomous regions shall be determined by law.

CHAPTER NINE THE NATIONAL SHENGO

Article 62

The supreme organ of state power in the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is the National Shengo.

Article 63

The National Shengo of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall have the power to decide on any national issue. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the National Shengo shall have the following powers and duties.

1. a) Adopt, amend and supervise the observance of the Constitution and proclamations,
- b) Determine the domestic and foreign policy,
- c) Determine the defence and security policy
- d) Determine the conditions of peace and war,
- e) Approve the long- and short-term social and economic plans,
- f) Approve the annual budget,
- g) Determine the fiscal and monetary policy, of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

2. With regard to administrative and autonomous regions:

- a) Establish them and determine their boundary, status, and accountability,
- b) Enact proclamations by which they are governed,
- c) Determine their sources of revenue.

3. Establish

- a) The Council of State,
- b) The Council of Ministers, ministries, state committees, commissions and authorities,
- c) The Supreme Court,
- d) The Office of the Procurator General
- e) The National Workers' Control Committees, and
- f) The Office of the Auditor General, of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

4. Elect

- a) The President,
 - b) The Vice-President,
 - c) The Vice-Presidents of the Council of State, Secretary and members thereof,
 - d) Upon presentation in accordance with Article 86 (1) (b), the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers and other members of the Council of Ministers,
 - e) Upon presentation in accordance with Article 86 (1) (d), the President, Vice-Presidents and judges of the Supreme Court, the Procurator General, the Chairman of the National Workers' Control Committee, and the Auditor General, of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
5. Cause referenda to be conducted on major national issues when it deems it necessary.
6. Ascertain the validity of the election of its members.

Article 64

Candidates to the National Shengo shall be nominated by organs of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, mass organizations, military units and other bodies so entitled by law.

Article 65

1. The election of deputies to the National Shengo, shall be universal, equal, direct and by secret ballot.
2. The election of deputies to the National Shengo shall be based on

the size of population.

3. The representation of nationalities in the National Shengo shall be ensured in the electoral process.

Article 66

The electorate has the right to recall a deputy of the National Shengo where he fails to justify its confidence.

Article 67

The National Shengo shall hold one regular session per year. Extraordinary sessions may be called by decision of the Council of State or by that of the President of the Republic or when one-third of the deputies so request.

Article 68

1. The term of the National Shengo shall be five years.
2. General election for a new shengo shall be held two months prior to the expiry of the term of the shengo. Upon the expiry of the term of the shengo, the outgoing Council of State shall convene the new shengo.
3. As soon as the Shengo is convened, its first task shall be to elect the members of the organs of state as stipulated in article 63 sub-article 4 of this Constitution.
4. The incumbent Council of State and President shall remain in office until the newly elected Shengo elects a Council of State and President of the Republic.

Article 69

In the event of war or other emergency the National Shengo may prolong its terms until such time as the emergency comes to an end.

Article 70

The National Shengo shall establish standing and ad-hoc commissions as are necessary for its activities.

Article 71

The right to initiate legislation is vested in the Council of State, the President of the Republic, commissions of the National Shengo, members of the National Shengo, the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Court, the Procurator General, Shengos of higher administrative and autonomous regions and mass organizations through their national organs.

Article 72

1. Two-thirds of the membership of the National Shengo shall constitute a quorum.
2. Without prejudice to Article 119 of this Constitution, any bill or decision of the Shengo shall be deemed adopted when passed by a majority of the members present.

Article 73

The National Shengo shall hold its sessions in public unless it decides to meet in camera.

Article 74

Members of the National Shengo are plenipotentiary representatives of the working people.

Article 75

1. No people's deputy shall be arrested or prosecuted except with the permission of the National Shengo or, between sessions, with that of the Council of State, except in flagrante delicto for a serious offence.
2. No people's deputy may be questioned or prosecuted for opinion expressed at sessions of the shengo and its organs.

Article 76

1. People's deputies shall follow up the implementation of laws and decisions issued by state organs.
2. People's deputies have the right to address inquiries to state organs, mass organizations and other in-

stitutions, which are obliged to reply appropriately.

Article 77

People's deputies shall retain their regular work. Conditions that must be fulfilled to enable them perform their duties as deputies shall be determined by law.

Article 78

1. Each people's deputy has the responsibility of explaining to his electorate laws enacted and decisions adopted by the National Shengo, to receive their comments and respond appropriately to their questions.
2. Each people's deputy shall report periodically to his electorate on his activities.

Article 79

A people's deputy shall make the following pledge before assuming responsibility:

"I hereby solemnly pledge to dedicate myself to the freedom and unity of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and to socialism, to give precedence to the will and interest of the working people, to uphold this Constitution and other laws and to strive for their implementation."

Article 80

Provisions relating to the working procedure of the National Shengo, as well as the nomination, election, accountability, privileges, duties and recall mechanism of people's deputies stipulated in this Constitution shall apply mutatis mutandis to shengo established at all levels and to their deputies.

CHAPTER TEN THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Article 81

1. The Council of State, established in accordance with article 63, sub-article 3 (a) of this Constitution, is an organ of the National Shengo.

2. The Council of State shall have a president, vice-presidents, secretary and members.

3. The President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is the president of the Council of State.

4. The Vice-President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is the vice-president of the Council of State.

Article 82

The Council of State shall have the following powers and duties:

1. a) Ensure the implementation of the Constitution and other laws,

b) Interpret the Constitution and other laws,

c) Revoke regulations and directives issued by state organs answerable to the National Shengo, where such regulations and directives fail to conform to laws enacted by the National Shengo, the Council of State and the President of the Republic.

d) Ratify and revoke international treaties,

e) Grant amnesty,

f) Grant citizenship,

g) Grant political asylum,

h) Award medals, orders and prizes.

2. a) Announce the date of election for the National Shengo and regional shengos,

b) Call regular and extra-ordinary sessions of the National Shengo,

c) Coordinate the activities of the standing and ad-hoc commissions of the National Shengo,

d) Establish the National Defence Council,

e) See to it that the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Court, the Procurator General, the National Workers' Control Committee and the Auditor General carry out their responsibilities,

f) Perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the National Shengo,

g) Submit reports to the National

Shengo on its activities.

3. Where legislation is required to implement the powers and duties entrusted to it in sub-articles 1 and 2 of this article, the Council of State may issue decrees.

Article 83

1. Without prejudice to article 119 of this Constitution, the Council of State may, between sessions of the National Shengo, issue special decrees when necessary.

2. When compelling circumstances warrant it, the Council of State may, between sessions of the national Shengo, proclaim a state of emergency, war, martial law, mobilization or peace.

3. Special decrees issued in accordance with sub-articles 1 and 2 of this article are subject to submission to and approval by the National Shengo at its next session.

CHAPTER ELEVEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Article 84

1. The President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall be elected by the National Shengo in accordance with Article 63, sub-article 4 (a) of this Constitution, and shall be accountable to the National Shengo.

2. The term of office of the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall be the same as that of the National Shengo.

Article 85

The President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia:

1. Is the Head of State,

2. Represents the Republic at home and abroad,

3. Is the Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Article 86

The President of the People's

Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall exercise the following powers and duties in accordance with this Constitution and other laws:

1. a) Ensure the implementation of the domestic and foreign policy of the country,

b) Present the Prime Minister, and through him, Deputy Prime Ministers and other members of the Council of Ministers to the National Shengo for election,

c) Ensure that the Council of Ministers carries out its responsibilities and convenes the Council as necessary,

d) Present the President, Vice-Presidents and judges of the Supreme Court, the Procurator General, the Chairman of the National Workers' Control Committee and the Auditor General to the National Shengo for election,

e) Ensure that the Supreme Court, the Office of the Procurator General, the National Workers' Control Committee and the Office of the Auditor General carry out their responsibilities.

2. a) Conclude international treaties,
b) Establish diplomatic missions and appoint diplomatic representatives,

c) Receive letters of credence and recall of foreign diplomatic representatives.

3. a) Appoint members of the Defence Council and preside over its meetings,

b) Confer high civil and military ranks,

c) Announce the appointment of high state officials,

d) Grant pardon.

4. Where legislation is required to implement the powers and duties entrusted to him in this article, the president of the Republic may issue presidential decrees.

5. a) Proclaim in the Negarit Gazette laws enacted by the National Shengo, the Council of State and the President of the Repu-

blic,

- b) Perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the National Shengo,
- c) Submit reports to the National Shengo on his activities.

Article 87

1. When compelling circumstances warrant it, the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, between sessions of the National Shengo, appoints and relieves:
 - a) the Prime Minister and upon presentation by the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers and other members of the Council of Ministers.
 - b) the President, Vice - President and Judges of the Supreme Court, the Procurator General, the Chairman of the National Workers' Control Committee and the Auditor General.
2. Measures taken in accordance with sub-article 1 of this article shall be issued as special presidential decree subject to submission to and approval by the National Shengo at its next session.

Article 88

The President of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, upon assuming his responsibilities, shall make the following pledge before the National Shengo:

"Upon assuming this historic responsibility before this Shengo and the Ethiopian people, I solemnly pledge: to resolutely defend the sovereignty, freedom and unity of Ethiopia; to faithfully and arduously strive for socialist construction, for the protection of the wellbeing, aspiration and interest of the working people and for the realization of the equality of nationalities: to honour this Constitution and other laws of the country: to always work with dedication for the honour, progress and prosperity of Ethiopia."

CHAPTER TWELVE

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Article 89

1. The Council of Ministers, that is, the Government, is the highest executive and administrative organ of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
2. The Council of Ministers consists of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and other members as may be determined by law.

Article 90

1. Members of the Council of Ministers shall be elected by the National Shengo in accordance with Article 63 sub-article 4 (d) and Article 86 sub-article 1 (b) of this Constitution.
2. The term of office of the Council of Ministers shall be the same as that of the National Shengo. The incumbent Council of Ministers shall remain in office until a new Council of Ministers is elected.
3. The Council of Ministers is accountable to the National Shengo. Between sessions of the Shengo, it shall be accountable to the Council of State and to the President of the Republic.

Article 91

The Council of Ministers shall have a standing committee consisting of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers and other members as shall be determined by law.

Article 92

The Council of Ministers shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Ensure the implementation of laws enacted and decisions made by the National Shengo, the Council of State and the President of the Republic and issue regulations and directives,
2. Direct and coordinate the activities

of ministries, state committees, commissions and other administrative organs directly accountable to it,

3. Supervise the activities of the executive committees of the Shengos of administrative and autonomous regions,
4. Revoke decisions contrary to law issued by the organs enumerated in sub-articles 2 and 3 of this article and give directives for their rectification as necessary,
5. Prepare social and economic development plans, submit same to the National Shengo and ensure their implementation when approved,
6. Prepare and submit the annual budget to the National Shengo and ensure its implementation when approved,
7. Ensure the implementation of the fiscal and monetary policy,
8. Submit proposals regarding foreign relations of the Republic to the National Shengo, the Council of State and the President of the Republic, and when approved ensure their implementation,
9. Organize and direct state arbitration,
10. Take all necessary legal measures to protect and ensure the interests of the country, the well-being of the people and the rights of citizens,
11. Ensure respect for law and order,
12. Perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the National Shengo, the Council of State and the President of the Republic,
13. Submit periodical reports on its activities to the National Shengo and, between sessions, to the Council of State and to the President of the Republic.

Article 93

The Prime Minister shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Convene the Council of Ministers, and direct and co-ordinate its activities,
2. Represent the Council of Ministers,
3. Ensure the implementation of regulations and decisions issued by the Council of Ministers,
4. Present Deputy Prime Ministers and other members of the Council of Ministers to the President of the Republic for election in accordance with Article 86 sub-article 1 (b),
5. Perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Council of State and the President of the Republic.
2. Issue directives to lower shengos, coordinate and supervise their activities,
3. Determine social and economic plans and budget for the region and implement them when approved by the National Shengo,
4. Issue directives regarding activities within its jurisdiction,
5. Elect judges of the courts of the region,
6. Elect the chairman of the Workers' Control Committee of the region,
7. Elect an executive committee from among its members and supervise its activities,
8. Establish standing and ad-hoc commissions,
9. Submit reports to the next higher shengo regarding activities of the region.
7. Submit periodical reports to the shengo of the region and to the higher executive organ.

Article 94

Members of the Council of Ministers have collective responsibility for measures taken collectively and individual responsibility for measures taken individually.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

ORGANS OF POWER AND ADMINISTRATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

Article 95

The highest organ of state power of an administrative or autonomous region shall be the shengo of the region.

Article 96

1. The term of office of regional shengos shall be determined by law,
2. The time shengos hold their sessions shall be prescribed by law.

Article 97

A shengo of an administrative or autonomous region shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Ensure the implementation of laws, decisions and directives of the state,

Article 98

The executive Committee of the shengo of administrative or autonomous region shall:

1. Take all necessary measures to ensure the implementation of laws, decisions and directives of higher organs,
2. Follow up the activities of higher state organs in the region,
3. Direct, coordinate and supervise the activities of executive committees of lower shengos,
4. Direct, coordinate and supervise the activities of administrative, economic, social and cultural organizations within the jurisdiction of the region,
5. Prepare plans and budget for the economic and social development of the region and implement them when approved,
6. Perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by higher organs,

Article 99

Autonomous regions may be granted special powers and duties by the National Shengo in addition to the powers and duties enumerated in article 97 of this Constitution.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

THE JUDICIARY

Article 100

1. In the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, judicial authority shall be vested only in one Supreme Court, courts of administrative and autonomous regions and other courts, established by law.
2. Courts of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall safeguard legally protected rights, interests and freedoms of the state, mass organizations, other associations and individuals.

Article 101

1. Judges of the Supreme Court shall be elected by the National Shengo, and those of regional courts shall be elected by the respective regional shengos.
2. The term of office of judges shall be the same as that of the shengo that elected them.
3. Judges may be recalled by the shengo that elected them.
4. The nomination, election and administration of the judiciary shall be determined by law.

Article 102

1. In the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia the highest judicial organ is the Supreme Court.
2. The Supreme Court is vested with the authority to supervise the Judiciary.

cial functions of all courts in the country.

Article 103

People's assessors, elected from among the people, shall adjudicate cases in courts. Particulars shall be determined by law.

Article 104

Judges and people's assessors shall be completely independent in the exercise of their judicial function. They shall submit to no other authority than that of the law.

Article 105

Courts shall provide interpreter's service to any party who does not understand the language in which the judicial proceeding is conducted.

Article 106

All cases shall be heard in public except where in camera hearing may be justified for reasons specified by law.

Article 107

Courts shall periodically report on their activities to the shengos that elected them.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

THE PROCURACY

Article 108

1. The Procuracy shall ensure the observance and uniform application of the law by all organs of state, mass organizations, other associations, officials thereof and any individual.

2. The Procuracy shall be headed by the Procurator General.

Article 109

1. The Procurator General shall be elected by the National Shengo. He shall be accountable to the National Shengo and, between sessions, to the Council of State and the President of the Republic.

2. The term of office of the Procurator General shall be the same as that of the National Shengo.

Article 110

Procurators at all levels shall be appointed by and are accountable to the Procurator General.

Article 111

In carrying out their responsibilities, procurators shall be independent of local state organs and shall be subordinate only to the Procurator General.

Article 112

The organization, functioning and administration of the Procuracy shall be determined by law.

PART FOUR

GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

THE FLAG, EMBLEM, NATIONAL ANTHEM,

LANGUAGE AND CAPITAL CITY

Article 113

The flag of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall have a

rectangular shape with the colours: green above, yellow in the middle and red below. Particulars shall be determined by law.

Article 114

The emblem of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall be determined by law.

Article 115

The People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall have a national anthem. Particulars shall be determined by law.

Article 116

Without prejudice to Article 2 sub-article 5 of this Constitution, in the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia state activities shall be conducted in the Amharic language.

Article 117

The capital city of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is Addis Ababa.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN LEGAL FORCE AND AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article 118

The Constitution of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is the supreme law of the country. Any law or decision not consistent with this Constitution shall have no effect.

Article 119

The Constitution of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia may be amended only by a three-fourth majority decision of the members of the National Shengo.