Ethiopia's Game of Reverse Psychology

It is to be recalled that H.E. Minister Osman Saleh had briefed foreign diplomats residing in Eritrea on the ongoing political developments in our region, especially Ethiopia's unwarranted warmongering against Eritrea on March 18, 2025, at the Ministry of foreign affairs HQs.

Nonetheless, Ethiopia continued to campaign for access to the Sea by 'any means' and continues to falsely accuse Eritrea of planning to attack her. It is therefore, necessary for all our missions to use all available platforms to counter Ethiopia's concerted efforts to manipulate facts and to demonize the Government of Eritrea.

Recently, the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia has been sending out letters to his counter parts in Europe, the UN and other countries accusing the Eritrean Government of planning to invade Ethiopia in alliance with 'some factions of the TPLF'. The letter also accused the Eritrean Army of violating Ethiopia's sovereignty. All these accusations are meant to justify and cover-up Ethiopia's sinister move to attack Eritrea for an audacious expedition of owning sea-outlet along the Red-Sea and re-annex Eritrea if possible.

The following are some of the main issues constantly raised by foreign diplomats in Eritrea and our response to them so that you can use them as a reference when we engage the International Community, whether it is the host governments, the diplomatic community we are represented in, important media personalities, MPs, Political Parties in the host countries.

1. The Destabilizing Role of Ethiopia:

Ethiopia's "obsession for sea outlet" and its subsequent unilateral militaristic campaign have no legal and political merit. For the past two years, Ethiopia has been threatening its neighboring countries in general and Eritrea in particular, with its obsolete imperialistic ambition of owning a port and having a sea outlet in the Red-Sea citing some bogus historical records. For clarity, Ethiopia has never, except for during the enforced federation period of Eritrea and Ethiopia (1951-1962), legally owned a sea or had a sea outlet along the Red Sea.

Therefore, the international community, especially the AU, the US, and the EU should pressure Ethiopia to accept the facts on the ground inter alia, seek its interest in accordance with agreements and international law as well as respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its neighbors.

The main reason why the Ethiopian Government. through organizing political parties. individual social media activists. podcasters as well as main stream media personalities. is gaslighting the international community that Eritrea is preparing to initiate war on Ethiopia is, because Ethiopia is looking for an excuse to wage a war and then blame it on Eritrea. Ethiopia has been provoking Eritrea with its well planned and orchestrated campaign of destabilization but Eritrea chose not to entertain such games of reverse psychologies in order to avoid escalating the situation further.

2. **People to People Rapprochement:**

Recently, people along the Eritrea-Tigray border have taken a bold initiative of ending more than 28 years of fear and suffering and started to move freely along the shared border, graze their animals freely, trade item to each other and plow their lands without fear. This development has been blown out of proportion by the Ethiopian Government and was seen as a cause for alarm rather than a ray of hope. The truth is that lack of such people-to-people reconciliations have squandered years of shared future for both sides of the residents along the border areas. There is no reason why any entity should be panicked by these encouraging developments and make a fuss out of it.

3. **Non-Negotiability of Eritrean Sovereignty:**

Eritrea is a free, independent and sovereign country. Thus, any opinion, idea or statement by any other state, party or media groups that suggests otherwise or disregards this fact is not only offensive but it's a **Redline**. We have heard time and again that Eritrea and Ethiopia should sit down and negotiate, but Eritrea cannot and will not negotiate its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Ethiopian Government's brazen demand for access to the Sea by "diplomacy if possible, by force if necessary" is the gravest of violations of another country's sovereignty. Those who, oftentimes purposely, advise for negotiations are those who want us to be held hostage in endless cycles of meaningless talks.

4. **Eritrea's Track-Record of Abiding by International Laws:**

It should be stated that Eritrea has always abided the International Ruling. Examples include the territorial waters dispute with Yemen and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) rulings which Eritrea accepted without any precondition. And so Eritrea cannot be accused of infringing on others' sovereignty. After the imposed Tigray War on Eritrea, the Eritrea Defense Forces (EDF) have been redeployed as per to the **final and binding** EEBC decision to Eritrea's internationally recognized borders in November 2022. The ones that claim or suggest that the EDF are still in Ethiopia territory are Ethiopian politicians who have rejected and continue to reject the final and binding

Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission Decision but also who have never accepted the Independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Eritrea in the first place. It's important to mention that in the past, these groups have tried for regime change in Eritrea to no avail, and are now trying to reignite that agenda in the form of "reclaiming their lost ports".

It is also noteworthy to mention that, until few days ago, the Government of Ethiopia never claimed or said anything about Eritrean troops being inside Ethiopian territories because the FGOE knows that the EDF's are within their internationally recognized borders as per to the EEBC decision, which the Federal Governments of Ethiopia has accepted in the Eritrea-Ethiopia Friendship and Cooperation Agreement of 5 July 2018. So the timing of this claim begs a question and was simply meant to deflect the truth.

5. **The Pretoria Agreement:**

The Government of Eritrea views the Pretoria Peace Agreement as internal affairs of Ethiopia and has no desire or will to intervene with that process. Furthermore, the GOE does not have any connection nor had any role in the ongoing internal feud between some individuals in the Interim Tigray Administration and the TPLF. The Government of Eritrea categorically rejects any allegations or accusations that entails as such. Ethiopian Government is looking for a scapegoat to cover its failure to implement the main tenets of the Agreement like DDR and return of internally displaced people from 'Western Tigray'. The Pretoria agreement is being used to externalize the situation and create a false alarm intended to get the international community's attention.

Thus, Eritrean missions should call upon the diplomatic community they are represented in, International Organizations including the UN, AU, EU, members of the UNSC and other countries to condemn any action or rhetoric by Ethiopia that undermines Eritrea's National Security, Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity and to put a halt to Ethiopia's uncalled-for provocations.

It is also important to remind those countries that validating Ethiopia's unfounded and unverified accusation against Eritrea to stop doing so. It should be clear that Ethiopia is the only destabilizing agent in the HoA region.

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