ZIKRE HIC
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE AMHARA
NATIONAL REGIONAL STATE IN THE
FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
ETHIOPIA
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7th Year No. 2
7th Year No. 2
Bahir Dar 5th November 2001

ISUED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE AMHARA NATIONAL REGIONAL STATE

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PROCLAMATION NO. 59/2001
A PROCLAMATION ISSUED TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE 2001-REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE AMHARA NATIONAL REGIONAL STATE

WHEREAS, It has been appropriate to proclaim The Constitution of the Amhara National Regional State (as amended beforehand) which had, following the foundation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, been widely deliberated upon and adopted by the people's deputies of the Regional State for the very first time on the 22nd day of June 1995 and has, to this day, been in effect, after having thoroughly examined its specific provisions in such a way as to make it explicit and comprehensive enough to depict especially the allocation of power inherent in the regional state organs with full transparency, accountability and expeditious service delivery orientation as a natural consequence thereof;

Now, therefore, The Council of the Amhara National Regional State, in accordance with the powers vested init, under Art. 100 of the Regional Constitution in force hereby issues The 2001-Revised constitution of the Amhara National Regional State approval proclamation as follows.
This proclamation may be cited as “The Revised Amhara National Regional Constitution approval proclamation No. 59/2001”.

2. Approval of the Revised Amhara National Regional Constitution

The 2001-Revised Constitution of the Amhara National Regional State is hereby approved by this proclamation following an extensive examination of the provisions, both in content and form, of the preceding constitution of the Amhara National Regional State (as amended) after its original establishment pursuant to proclamation No. 2/1995.

3. Effective Date

Notwithstanding the provisions of Art. 2(2) of the Regional Zikre Rig Gazette establishment proclamation No. 1/1995. This approval proclamation shall come into force as of the date of its approval by the regional council along with the 2001-Revised constitution of the Amhara National Regional State.

Done at Bahir Dar
This 5th Day of November, 2001
Yosef Retta
President of the Amhara National Regional State
THE 2001-REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE AMHARA NATIONAL REGIONAL STATE

Preamble

We, the peoples of the Amhara National Regional State:

Having been desirous to do away with the negative impact hindering our overall development which the age old oppressive system had for long imposed upon us by cruelly suppressing our human and democratic rights and thereby exposing us all to the scourge of poverty and backwardness as a result unjustified economic and social policies in place;

Being dully convinced of the fact that we had for long been victims of an unbearable harm caused to us directly or indirectly to an atrocious national oppression which had to be committed in the past on and against the majority of our country's nation-nationalities and peoples, and henceforth needs to be corrected and rectified hereafter;

Cognizant of the fact that it would be beneficial to an acceleration of our mutual development, now that our country Ethiopia, stands to be a federal democratic republic, wherein human and democratic rights of individuals as well as nation-nationalities and peoples including the right to self-determination up to secession are fully respected and in general the rule of law prevails, once the formerly suppressive and backward system has been uprooted due to the heroic struggle undergone for the ages on the part of all our country's nation-nationalities and peoples;

Having firmly believed that, we, the peoples, settling in the Amhara National Regional State, would be able to attain rapid economic growth, durable peace and fullfledged democracy, only when we do manage to possess our own constitution founded on the spirit of the constitution of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia, taking into account the concrete circumstances of our regional state and thereby enabling us to exercise our constitutional rights duly respected thereto fully and unrestrictedly;

Recalling that, dependent on the above noted background, we had deliberated upon and adopted the regional constitution which has, to this day, been ineffect for the very first time on the 22nd day of June 1995 through the agency of our representatives elected from amongst us in a direct participation and democratic manner and sent to the founding congress of the regional council, and thereby the same regional constitution in force/as amended beforehand deserves to be, after a deep and thorough examination, revised and promulgated in such a way as to incorporate and exhibit an efficient governmental organization accountable to the electorate and strictly following transparent working procedures to the extent of the requirements demanded by the state of affairs which we are in at the moment;

Now, therefore, have hereby approved the whole text with an undivided vote, to day, on the 5th day of November 2001 in the third regular secession of the regional council held here in Bahir Dar, after having thoroughly delibrated upon the revised constitution and deeply examined its specific articles, whose initial draft had to be prepared and submitted to us by the body designated as such for the purpose.

CHAPTER ONE
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article-1
Nomenclature of the Regional State

This constitution provides for the democratic structure of the Amhara National Regions State. Accordingly, the state established shall be identified as the "Amhara National Regional State".

CHAPTER ONE
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article-1
Nomenclature of the Regional State
Article-2
Territorial Boundaries of The Amhara National Region

The Amhara National Regional State is bordered by The Tigray Region in the North, The Afar Region in the East, The Oromiya Region in the South and the Benshangul /Gumuz/ Region as well as the Sudan in the West.

Article-3
Flag and Emblem

The Amhara National Regional State shall have its own flag and emblem. Particulars shall be determined by law.

Article-4
Anthem of the National Region

The Amhara National Regional State shall have its own anthem. The anthem of the national regional state shall reflect the objectives of the constitution, the belief which the people of the regional state have to live together with the rest of the Ethiopian peoples in a democratic order as well as their future common destiny. Particulars shall be determined by law.

Article-5
Language

1. All languages spoken throughout the regional state shall enjoy equal recognition on the part of the state.

2. Amharic shall be the official working language of the National Regional State.
Article-6
Capital City

The capital city of the Regional State is Bahir Dar.

Article-7
Gender Reference

Provisions of this constitution set out in the masculine gender shall also apply to the feminine gender.

CHAPTER TWO
FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article-8
Decisiveness of the people

1. The supreme power of the national regional state resides in and belongs to the peoples of the Amhara Region.

2. The supremacy of the peoples of the national regional state shall be duly expressed through their elected representatives and in a democratic participation which they themselves directly undertake thereto.

Article-9
Supremacy of the constitution

Without prejudice to the supremacy of the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia:

1. This constitution is the supreme law of the national regional state. Any law, customary practice or decision of an organ of state or a public official which contravenes this constitution shall be of no effect.

2. All residents of the regional state, organs of state, political organizations, other associations as well as their officials
thereof shall have the responsibility to comply with and ensure observance of this constitution and to obey to it.

3. It is prohibited to assume state power in any manner other than that provided for under this constitution.

**Article 10**

**Human and Democratic Rights**

1. Human rights and freedoms, emanating from the nature of mankind, are inviolable and inalienable.

2. Human and democratic rights of private persons and peoples throughout the national regional state shall be respected.

**Article 11**

**Separation of state and Religion**

1. State and religion are separate in the regional state.

2. There shall be no state religion.

3. The State shall not interfere in religious matters; and religion shall not interfere in state affairs.

**Article 12**

**Conduct and Accountability of State**

1. The conduct of affairs of the regional state shall be transparent.

2. In case of loss of confidence, the people may recall an elected representative. The particulars of recall shall be determined by law.

3. Any public official or an elected representative shall be accountable for any failure in official duties.
CHAPTER THREE
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Article-13
Scope of Application and Interpretation

1. All legislative, executive and judicial organs of the national-regional state at all levels shall have the responsibility and duty to respect and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

2. The provisions of fundamental rights and freedoms specified in this chapter shall be interpreted in a manner conforming to the principles of the Universal Human Rights' bills, International Covenants on Human Rights and International Instruments adopted by Ethiopia.

PART ONE
HUMAN RIGHTS

Article-14
Rights to Life, Security of Person and Liberty

Every person has the inviolable and inalienable right to life, the security of person and liberty.

Article-15
The Right to Life

Every person has the right to life. No person may be deprived of his life except as a punishment for a serious criminal offence determined by law.
Article-16
The Right to the Security of Person

Everyone has the right to protection against bodily harm.

Article-17
The Right to Liberty

1. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedures as are established by law.

2. No person may be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or imprisoned without charge or conviction thereof.

Article-18
Prohibition Against Inhumane Treatment

1. Everyone has the right to protection against cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment.

2. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude. Trafficking in human beings for whatever purpose is prohibited.

3. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.

4. For the purpose of sub-article 3 of this Article, the phrase "forced" or "compulsory labour" shall not include the following:

   (a) Any work or service normally required of a person who is under detention in consequence of a lawful order, or of a person during conditional release from such detention;
(b) In the case of conscientious objectors, any service exacted in lieu of compulsory military service;

(c) Any service exacted in cases of emergency or calamity threatening the life or wellbeing of the community;

(d) Any economic and social development activity voluntarily performed by a community within its locality.

Article-19

Rights of Person Under Arrest

1. Any person suspected of a criminal offense and put under arrest has the right to be informed promptly and specifically, in a language he understands, of the reasons for his arrest and of any charges against him.

2. Any person under arrest has the right to remain silent. Immediately upon arrest, he has the right to be informed promptly, in a language he understands, that any statement he makes may be used as evidence against him in court.

3. Any person put under arrest has the right to be brought before a court within 48 hours of his arrest. However, this time-limit may not include the time reasonably required for the journey to produce the person from the place of arrest to the nearest court, under appropriate circumstances. Immediately on appearance before a court, he has the right to be given prompt and specific explanation of the reasons for his arrest due to the alleged crime committed.

4. A person under arrest has an inalienable right to petition the court to order his physical release where the arresting police officer or the low-enforcer to bring him before a court within the prescribed time-limit and to provide reasons for his
4. Any accused person has the right to full access to any evidence presented against him, to examine witnesses.

3. During proceedings, he has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law and not to be compelled to testify against himself.

2. Any accused person has the right to be informed, with sufficient particulars, of the charge brought against him and to be provided with the charge in writing.

1. Any person accused of a criminal offense has the right to a public trial by an ordinary court of law within a reasonable period of time after having been charged. The court may, however, hear cases in a closed session only with a view to protecting the right to privacy of the parties concerned, public moral and national security.

5. No person under arrest may be compelled to make confessions or admissions which could be used in evidence against him. Accordingly, any form of evidence obtained under coercion shall not be admissible.

6. A person under arrest has the right to be released on bail in exceptional circumstances prescribed by law, however, the court may deny bail or demand adequate guarantees for bail including that of conditional release of the arrested person.
testifying against him, to adduce or have evidence produced in his own defence, and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf before the court.

5. Any accused person has the right to be represented by a legal counsel of his choice, and, if he does not in case have sufficient means to pay for such a service and miscarriage of justice would ensue as a consequence thereof, to be provided with legal representation at a state expense.

6. Any person has the right of appeal to the competent court against an order or a judgment rendered against him by the court which had first entertained the case.

7. He has the right to request for the assistance of an interpreter at a state expense when the court proceedings are conducted in a language he doesn't understand.

Article-21
The Rights of Person Held in Custody and Convicted Prisoner

1. Any person held in custody or one imprisoned upon conviction and sentencing has the right to be treated in conditions respecting his human dignity.

2. Such person shall have the right to obtain an opportunity to communicate with, and to be visited by, his spouse or partner, close relatives, friends, religious counselor, medical doctor and his legal counsel.

Article-22
Non-Retroactivity of Criminal Law

1. Noone shall be held guilty of any criminal offense on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offense at the time when it was committed; nor shall
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-article 1 of this Article, a law promulgated subsequent to the commission of the offense shall apply if it is advantageous to the accused or sentenced person.

Article-23
Prohibition of Double Jeopardy

No person shall be liable to be tried or punished again for an offense for which he has already been finally convicted or acquitted in accordance with the penal law, criminal procedure law or any other laws pertinent thereto.

Article-24
Right to Honour and Reputation

1. Everyone has the right to enjoy recognition everywhere as a human person due to his creation as such.

2. Everyone has the right to respect for his human dignity, reputation and honour.

3. Everyone has the right to the free development of his personality in a manner compatible with the rights of other citizens.

Article-25
The Right to Equality

All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this
Article-26
The Right to Privacy

1. Everyone has the right to privacy. This right shall include the rights not to be subjected to searches of his home, person or property, or the seizure of any property under his personal possession.

2. Everyone has the right to the inviolability of his notes and correspondence including postal, letters, and communications, made by means of telephone, telecommunications and electronic devices.

3. Public officials shall respect and protect these rights. No restrictions may be placed on the enjoyment of such rights except in compelling circumstances and in accordance with specific laws whose purposes shall be the safeguarding of national security or public peace, prevention of crimes or protection of health, public morality or the rights and freedoms of others.

Article-27
Freedom of Religion, Conscience And Belief

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include the rights of any person to hold or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and the freedom either individually or in community with others, and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.
2. Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-art.2 of Article-111 of this constitution, believers may establish institutions of religious education and administration in order to be able propagate and organize their religion.

3. None shall be subjected to coercion or other means which would otherwise restrict or prevent his freedom to hold a belief of his choice.

4. Parents and other legal guardians have the right to bring up their children ensuring their religious and moral education in conformity with their own convictions.

5. Freedom to express or manifest one's own religion and belief may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by laws and are necessary to protect public safety, peace, health, education, public morality or the fundamental rights and freedoms of other citizens and to ensure the independence of the state from religion.

Article-28

Crimes Against Humanity

Criminal liability of persons who commit "crimes against humanity" as defined and determined by international conventions ratified by Ethiopia and other laws of the country with particular reference to genocide, summary executions, forcible disappearances or tortures shall not be barred by a statute of limitation. Such offences may not even be commuted by amnesty or pardon of the legislature or any other organ of the state.
PART TWO
DEMONCRATIC RIGHTS

Article 29

The Right to Freely Holding And Expression of Opinion and Thought

1. Everyone has the right to hold opinions of his own perception without anyone's interference.

2. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression without any interference. This right shall include "freedoms to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds regardless of frontiers, at home and abroad, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any media of his choice."

3. Freedom of the press and other mass media and freedom of artistic creativity is guaranteed. Freedom of the press shall specifically include the following elements:
   (a) Prohibition of any form of censorship;
   (b) The right to have access to any information pertaining to public interest;
   (c) Any mass media in the regional state financed by and operated under the control of the government shall be carried...
out and managed in such a manner as to ensure its capacity to entertain diversity in the expression of opinions.

6. These rights may be limited only through laws which are enacted on the basis of the principle that "freedom of expression and information should not be limited on account of the content or effect of the point of view expressed therein". Legal limitations may, however, be laid down with regard to these rights in order to protect the wellbeing of the youth as well as the honour and reputation of individuals. Any form of propaganda for war as well as public expressions of opinion intended to injure human dignity shall be prohibited by law.

7. Any person who is found to have violated any of the above-stipulated legal limitations on the exercise of these rights, may be held liable under the law.

**Article-30**

**Freedom of Assembly, Peaceful Demonstration and the Right to Petition**

1. Everyone is free to assemble and demonstrate together with others peaceably and unarmed, and has the right to petition. Appropriate rules and procedures maybe provided for in the interest of public convenience relating to the location of open-air meetings and the routes of movement of demonstrators or, for the protection of democratic rights, public morality and peace during such a meeting or demonstration.

2. This right may not exonerate one from liability under laws enacted with the view to protecting the wellbeing of the youth or honour and reputation of individuals, and such other laws as are laid down to prohibit any form of propaganda for war and similar public expressions of opinion intended to injure human dignity.
Freedom of Association

Every person has the right to freedom of association for any cause or purpose. Organizations formed, in violation of appropriate laws, or to illegally subvert the constitutional order, or which promote such activities are, however, prohibited.

Freedom of Movement and the Right to Establish Residence

Without prejudice to the provisions of Art. 32 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, any resident of the regional state or person found therein in a legal way, has the rights to freedom of movement and establish place of abode in any area of his choice inside the regional state, live with gainful occupation, produce and thereby possess wealth and property as well as leave the region any time he wishes to.

The Right to Engage in Public And Governmental Occupations

Any Ethiopian who understands the working language of the regional state has the right to work in any of the region's public or governmental employment positions to be obtained either through electoral or placement procedures.

Marital, Personal and Family Rights

1. Men and women, who have attained marriageable age, have, without distinction as to race, nation-nationality, religion or any other grounds, the right to marry and found a family.
They have equal rights while entering into, during marriage and at the time of divorce. Legal provisions shall be provided with the view to ensuring the protection of rights and interests of children at the time of divorce.

2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

3. The family is the natural, fundamental unit of the society. Accordingly, it is entitled to the right of protection by society and the state.

4. In accordance with provisions to be specified by law, a law giving recognition to marriages concluded under systems of religious or customary laws may be enacted.

5. This constitution shall not preclude the adjudication of disputes relating to personal and family laws in accordance with religious or customary laws, with the consent of the parties to the dispute. Particulars shall be determined by law.

Article-35

Rights of Women

1. Women shall, in the enjoyment of rights and protections provided for by this constitution, have equal right with men.

2. Women have equal rights with men in marriage as prescribed by this constitution.

3. Taking into account the historical scar suffered by them due to their prolonged treatment with inequality and discrimination, women are, in order to have such a scar rectified in their favour, entitled to enjoy additional affirmative measures. The purpose of such measures shall of course be to provide with special attention to women so as to enable them compete and participate on the basis of equality...
with men in political, social and economic fields as well as in public and private institutions.

4. The state shall enforce the right which the women have to extricate themselves from the influences of harmful customs, laws, customs and practices that are meant to oppress or cause physical or mental harm to women are prohibited.

5. Women shall have the right to equality with regard to employment, promotion, pay and the transfer of pension entitlements.

6. Women employed by and working for public bodies or private organizations shall:

(a) Have the right to maternity leave with full pay. The duration of maternity leave shall be determined by law taking into account the nature of the work, the health of the mother as well as the wellbeing of the child and the family.

(b) Maternity leave may, in accordance with the provisions of law, include pre-natal leave with full pay.

7. With the view to preventing harm arising from pregnancy and child birth and in order to safeguard their health, women have the right of access to family-planning education, information and capacity.

8. Women have the right to acquire, administer, control, use and transfer property. In particular, they have equal rights with men, as regards the use, transfer, administration and control of land. They shall also enjoy equal treatment with respect to inheritance.

9. Women have the right to full consultation in the formulation of plans and development policies of the national regional...
Article-36
The Rights of Children

1. Every child has the following rights:

(a) To life,

(b) To a name and nationality,

(c) To know and be cared for by his parents or legal guardians,

(d) Not to be subjected to exploitative practices, neither to be required nor permitted to perform work which may be hazardous or harmful to his education, health or wellbeing,

(e) To be free from corporal punishment or cruel and inhumane treatment in schools and other institutions responsible for the care and upbringing of children.

2. In all actions concerning children undertaken by public and private welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the primary consideration shall be the best interests of the child.

3. Juvenile offenders admitted to corrective or rehabilitative institutions, and juveniles who become wards of the state or who are placed in public or private orphanages, shall be kept separately from adults.

4. Children born out of wedlock shall have the same rights as children born of wedlock.
5. The state shall accord special protection to orphans and shall encourage the establishment of institutions which ensure and promote their adoption and advance their welfare, and education thereof.

Article 37
Right of Access to Justice

1. Everyone has the right to bring a justiciable matter to, and to obtain a decision or judgement by a court of law or any other competent body with judicial power.

2. The decision or judgement referred to under sub-art. 1 of this Article hereof may also be sought by:-

(a) Any association representing the collective or individual interest of its members, or

(b) Any group or person who is a member of, or represents a group with similar interests.

Article 38
The Right to Vote and to be Elected

1. Every Ethiopian has, without any discrimination, based on colour, race, nation-nationality, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion or status, the following rights:

(a) To take part in conduct of public affairs, directly and through freely chosen representatives,

(b) To vote on the attainment of 18 years of age and to be elected on the attainment of 21 years of age, throughout
2. Elections shall be carried out on the basis of universal and equal suffrage and have to be held under secret ballot ultimately guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electorate.

3. The right of everyone to be a member of his own will in a political organization, labour-union, business organization, or employers' or professional association shall be respected if he meets the special and general requirements stipulated by such organization.

4. Elections to positions of responsibility within any of the organizations referred to under sub-art.2 of this Article hereof shall be conducted in a free and democratic manner.

5. The provisions of sub-arts. 3 and 4 of this Article hereof shall apply to civic organizations which may significantly affect the public interest.

Article-39
The Rights of the Peoples of the Amhara National Regional State

The unconditional right of the peoples of the Amhara National Regional State to self-determination including secession as has been enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is, in any way, guaranteed and protected without any form of restriction. Accordingly, the people of the National Regional State:

1. Has the right to preserve its own National identity and strive towards its due respect, maintain, enrich and care for its legacy and history as well as utilize and enhance its own language, assert its own culture, develop and promote same.
2. It also has, within the geographical limit of its territory, the right to the final determination of its own affairs, exercise self-government as well as enjoy an effective participation in the system of the federal government in a freer, nondiscriminatory, appropriate, fair and equitable means of representation.

3. The right of the peoples of the Amhara National Regional State to exercise self-government shall include those rights to establish governmental institutions of administrative purposes within the geographical area of its inhabitation as well as obtain an equitable representation in the administrative arrangement of the federal government.

4. Where it is of the opinion that the rights mentioned under sub-arts. 1-3 of this Article hereof have been suspended, abrogated or abridged and hence could no longer be rectified under the circumstances, while in unity, it shall exercise its right of self-determination up to secession in accordance with the provisions of Article 39 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

5. The right of Nation-Nationalities and peoples to self-determination up to secession as contained under sub-art, 4 of this Article hereof, may only come into effect:

(a) Where it is ascertained that the demand for secession under consideration has been accepted by an approval of the supporting vote of the two-thirds majority of the council belonging to the nation-nationality or people concerned,

(b) When the federal government organizes a referendum which must take place within three years from the time it received the decision for secession of the council of the nation-nationality or people concerned,
(c) When the demand for secession is supported by a majority vote in the said referendum,

(d) When the Federal Government will have transferred its powers to the council of the nation-nationality or people opting to secede, and

(e) When the division of assets is effected in a manner prescribed by law.

6. The National rights stipulated under sub-art. 1-5 of this Article hereof shall apply with respect to the peoples of Himra, Awi and Oromia as well.

7. "Nation-Nationality" or "people", for the purpose of this constitution, is a group of people who have or share a large measure of a common culture or similar customs, mutual intelligibility of language, belief in a common or related identities, a common psychological make-up, and who inhabit an identifiable, pre-dominantly contiguous territory.

Article-40
The Right to Property

1. Any Ethiopian residing inside or outside the regional state has the right to the ownership of private property. Unless otherwise prescribed by law on account of public interest, this right shall include the right to acquire, to use and, in a manner compatible with the rights of other citizens, to dispose of such property by sale or bequest or to transfer it otherwise.

2. "Private property" for the purpose of this Article, shall mean any tangible or intangible product which has value and is produced by the labour, creativity, enterprise or capital of
any Ethiopian individual residing inside or outside the regional state, nation-wide or regional associations which enjoy juridical personality under the law, or in appropriate circumstances, by communities specifically empowered by law to own property in common.

3. The right to ownership of rural and urban land, as well as of all natural resources, is exclusively vested in the state and the people as a whole. Land is a common property of the peoples of the regional state and hence shall not be subject to sale or to other means of exchange.

4. The peasants of the regional state have the right to obtain land without payment and the protection against eviction from their possessions thereof. Its implementation shall be determined by law.

5. The cattle-raisers or pastoralists residing in the regional state have the right to obtain, free of charge, land for grazing and cultivation as well as the right to use and not to be displaced from their own land-holdings. Its implementation shall be determined by law.

6. Without prejudice to the people's right to the ownership of land, the regional state shall ensure the right of private proprietors to the use of land on the basis of payment arrangements established by law. Particulars shall be determined by law.

7. Any Ethiopian residing inside or outside the regional state shall have the full right to the immovable property he builds and to the permanent improvements he brings about on the land by his labour or capital. This right shall include the rights to alienate, to bequeath, and, where the right of use expires, to remove his property, transfer his title, or claim compensation for it. Particulars shall be determined by law.
8. Without prejudice to the right to private property, the regional state may expropriate private property for public purposes subject to payment in advance of compensation commensurate to the value of the property in question.

Article 41

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

1. Any Ethiopian who resides or desires to reside in the regional state has the right to freely engage in any economic activity and to pursue a livelihood of his choice anywhere within the regional territory.

2. Every resident of the regional state has the right to choose his means of livelihood, occupation and profession thereon.

3. All residents of the regional state have the right to equal access to and hence use the publicly founded and undertaken social services.

4. The regional state has the obligation to allocate ever-increasing resources to provide for public health, education and other social services.

5. The regional state shall, within the available capacity of the regional economy, allocate resources to provide rehabilitation and assistance to the physically and mentally disabled, the aged and to children who are left without parents or guardians.

6. The regional state shall pursue policies which aim at creating job opportunities for the unemployed and the poor and shall accordingly undertake programmes and public works' projects.

7. The regional state shall take all measures necessary to increase opportunities for the residents of the region to find gainful employment thereto.
8. Farmers and pastoralists or cattle-raisers have the right to obtain fair prices for their products, that would lead to improvement in their conditions of life and to enable them to gain an equitable share of the national wealth commensurate with their contribution in the realization of the output thereof.

- The regional state shall be guided by this objective while formulating economic and social development policies.

9. The regional state has the responsibility to protect and preserve historical and cultural legacies, and to contribute to the promotion of the arts and sports.

Artic1e-42
Rights of Labour

1. Factory and service workers, farmers, farm-labourers, other rural workers and government employees whose work compatibility allows for it and who are below a certain level of responsibility:

(a) Have the right to form associations to improve their conditions of employment and economic well-being. This right includes the rights to form trade unions and other associations to bargain collectively with employers or other organizations that affect their interests.

(b) The categories of workers referred to under this preceeding sub-article hereof, have the right to expresss grievances, including the right to strike.

(c) Government employees who may be able to enjoy the rights provided for under the stipulations of (a) and (b) of this sub-article hereof, Shall be detminded by law.
Article-43
The Right to Development

1. The residents of the regional state have the right to improve their conditions of life and enjoy sustainable development.

2. The residents of the regional state have the right to participate in the national development and, in particular, to be consulted with respect to policies and projects affecting their community.

3. The basic aim of development activities shall be to enhance the capacity of the inhabitants of the regional state for development and to meet their basic needs.

Article-44
Environmental Rights

1. The residents of the regional state have the right to a clean and healthy environment.

(d) Women workers have the right to equal pay for equal work.

2. Workers have the right to reasonably determined working hours, rest, leisure, and periodic leaves with pay, remuneration for public holidays as well as healthy and safe working environment.

3. Without prejudice to the rights recognized under sub-article 1 of this article, laws enacted for the implementation of such rights shall establish procedures for the formation of trade unions and the regulation of the collective bargaining process thereof.
2. All persons who may have been displaced or whose livelihoods have been adversely affected as a result of the programmes undertaken by the regional state have the right to obtain commensurate monetary or other alternative means of compensation, including relocation with adequate state assistance.

CHAPTER FOUR
ORGANIZATION OF THE REGIONAL STATE AND ITS ALLOCATION OF POWERS

Article 45
Administrative Hierarchies of the Regional State

1. The Regional State is hierarchically structured in such a way as to comprise the Regional, Woreda and Kebele administrative units. The Regional Council may, however, establish other administrative hierarchies and thereby determine by law their respective power and duties, as may find it necessary.

2. The peoples of Himra, Awi and Oromia inhabiting the regional state shall have their own councils.

3. Without prejudice to the provisions laid down under sub-art. 2 of this Article hereof, the representation of other nation-nationalities and peoples settling in the regional state shall be taken care of with special considerations. Particulars shall be determined by law.

4. Without prejudice to the stipulations laid down under sub-art. 1 of this Article, with regard to the administrative hierarchies of the regional state hereof, urban centers within the regional state may have their own councils with the view to enhancing their development. Particulars shall be determined by law.
Article 46
Organs of Power of the Regional State

1. The Regional Council, being the legislative organ of the regional state, shall be the supreme organ of state powers and thus be accountable to the people it represents thereof.

2. The highest executive organ of the regional state is the council of the regional government and shall be accountable to the regional council.

3. The judicial power of the regional state resides solely and exclusively in the regional judiciary.

Article 47
Powers and Duties of The Regional State

1. All powers and duties outside those duly and explicitly reserved to the federal state or otherwise to the federal and regional states in common within the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall henceforth be the powers and duties of the regional state.

2. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions stipulated under sub-art. 1 of this Article hereof, the regional state:

2.1 Sets out the economic and social development policy, strategy and plan of the regional state and works towards their implementation thereof;

2.2 Enacts and executes the constitution and other laws of the regional state;

2.3 Administers land and natural resources, in accordance with laws enacted by the federal state;
2.4 Constitutes a regional government on the basis of the objective of self-administration, establishes and builds up a democratic order, wherein the rule of law prevails, safeguards and defends the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia as well as this constitution;

2.5 Enacts laws regarding working conditions of civil servants of the regional government and strives towards their implementation thereof, provided, however, that it shall take into account the standard criteria of the country in relation to education, training and working experience, while executing such laws;

2.6 Organizes and directs the regional police force and thereby protects peace and security of the regional state;

2.7 Without prejudice to the provisions of art. 2.8 sub-art. 1 of the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Art. 28 of this constitution, grants amnesty or pardon in accordance with law;

2.8 Levies and collects taxes and other duties on any source of revenue reserved to the jurisdiction of the regional state as well as prepares and issues its own budget and implements thereof;

2.9 Levies and collects income tax on and from the employees of the regional government and private enterprises;

2.10 Determines and collects rural land user fees;

2.11 Levies and collects agricultural income tax;
2.12 Levies and collects tax on and from the revenue generated from houses and properties under private ownership situated in the regional state, and collects rental payments from houses and other forms of property under public ownership of the regional government;

2.13 Levies and collects business profit, personal income, sales and excise taxes on and from development enterprises operated under the ownership of the regional government;

2.14 Together with the federal state:

(a) Shares, in accordance with law, business profit, personal income, sales and excise taxes generated from development enterprises jointly established thereto;

(b) Shares, in accordance with law, sales and other taxes derived from business profits of companies and dividends due to share-holders;

(c) Shares, in accordance with law, income tax derived from large-scale mining and all petroleum and gas operations and royalties on such operations.

2.15 Determines and collects, fees generated from licensing and delivery of other services rendered by the organs of the regional government;

2.16 Fixes and collects royalty to be derived from forest resources;

2.17 Where natural calamity is faced or any disease menacing public health, declares and implements
Article 49
Powers and Duties of The Regional Council

1. The Regional Council is, in accordance with this constitution, the legislative organ of the regional state.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions of the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the council enjoys supreme political power in all internal affairs of the National Regional State.

3. Without prejudice to the generality of the jurisdiction indicated under the provisions of sub-arts. 1 and 2 of this Article hereof, the council shall have the following specific powers and responsibilities:

3.1 Issues various laws, in accordance with this constitution and other laws thereto;

3.2 Establishes additional administrative hierarchies, or self-administrative areas within the limit of the Regional state, taking into account the density of the inhabiting population, territorial extent of the region as well as the socio-economic activity of its inhabitants;

3.3 Without prejudice to the jurisdiction of the federal state, ratifies agreements concluded with the neighbouring national regional states adjoining thereto;

3.4 Elects its own Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the council and designates permanent and ad-hoc committees essential to conduct its business;
3.5 Designates the Head of Government by election of him from among the members of the council and approves the proposed appointment of members of the Council of the Regional Government submitted to it by the Head of Government;

3.6 Appoints the president and vice-president of the regional supreme court as well as the auditor general and deputy auditor general of the regional state, upon their presentation by the head of government;

3.7 Establishes the regional supreme, high and first instance courts and thereby appoints their respective judges;

3.8 Establishes audit and other inspection bodies of its own;

3.9 Grants amnesty in accordance with law, issues directives necessary for the protection of peace and security of the regional state and thereby establishes its own security and police force;

3.10 Approves the social and economic development programs of the national regional government;

3.11 Enacts laws with regard to the sources of revenue of the national regional state as well as examines and approves its own budget;

3.12 Establishes such institutions as are of paramount importance for the expansion of social services, acceleration of economic development and building up of democratic order;

3.13 Levies taxes and duties, throughout the region, on those sources of revenue reserved to the regional state;
3.14 Enacts laws concerning the administration of civil employees of the regional government and their conditions of service;

3.15 Declares a state of emergency decree, in accordance with the power bestowed upon the regional state under art. 47 sub-art. 2/17/ of this constitution hereof;

3.16 Issues detailed regulations of execution which shall be enabling to implement both the national and regional constitutions, proclamations and other laws, throughout the regional state;

3.17 Calls for questioning the head of the regional government and other officials of the regional state and thereby examines the workings of the executive organ thereof.

**Article-50**

**Secretariat of The Regional Council**

1. The Regional Council shall have its own secretariat.

2. The powers and duties of the secretariat shall be determined by law.

**Article-51**

**Desigantion and Term of Office of The Speaker of The Council**

1. The speaker of the regional council is, upon being designated as such through his election from among the members of the council pursuant to Art. 49 Sub-art. 3/4/ of this constitution hereof, accountable to the regional council.

2. the term of office of the Speaker shall be that of the regional council.
Article-52
Powers and Duties of the Speaker

The speaker of the Regional council shall, in accordance with this constitution, have the following power and duties:

1. Calls and presides over ordinary and extra-ordinary sessions of the council;
2. Represents the council in its relation with third parties;
3. Organizes the secretariat of the council and directs or superintends over all its general administrative activities thereof;
4. Enforces disciplinary actions which the council takes against its members;
5. Performs such other functions as may be assigned to him by the regional council.

Article-53
Powers and Duties of The Deputy Speaker

The Deputy Speaker, with his accountability being to the Speaker and the regional council respectively, shall:

1. Undertakes such duties as may specifically be rendered to him by the speaker;
2. Performs, in the capacity of the Speaker, in case of absence or inability of the latter to discharge his duties.
Article-54
Meeting Time and Term of Office of the Council

1. The Regional Council shall convene for its ordinary sessions at least twice a year.

2. A two-thirds majority of all the members of the council present in a meeting shall constitute a quorum at any session, provided, however, that any decision of the council shall be passed by a simple majority of those members of the council present at a meeting.

3. Members of the regional council shall be elected for a term of 5 years. New election shall take place one month before the expiry of the term of office hereof. The new council shall commence its duties within one month from the expiry of the term of office of the preceding council.

4. The Speaker may call for emergency sessions any time whenever the council is not used to holding ordinary or regular meetings. The speaker shall, however, be dutybound to call for such an emergency session either by the head of the regional government or more than one-third of the members of the council.

5. Any proceeding of the council shall be conducted publicly. The council may, however, hold a closed meeting at the request of its members or the regional executive organ if such a request has been supported by a decision of more than one half of the members of the council.

Article-55
Decisions and Internal Working Procedures of The Council

1. Unless otherwise expressly provided for in this constitution hereof, all decisions of the council shall be passed by a majority vote of its members present and voting at a meeting.
The council may adopt specific rules and regulations governing its internal operations and legislative processes and implement same thereof.

CHAPTER SIX
THE EXECUTIVE ORGAN OF THE REGIONAL STATE

Article-56
Powers of Execution

1. The highest executive power of the Amhara National Regional State is vested in the Head and the Council of the Regional Government.

2. Accordingly, the head and the Council of the Regional Government are accountable to the National-Regional Council.

3. Members of the council of The Regional Government shall have collective responsibility for any decision they pass or any duty they perform in common with regard to their official state functions.

Article-57
Council of the Regional Government

1. The Council of the Regional Government is an organ consisting of the Head of Government, Deputy head of Government, Heads of Executive Bureaux as well as such other members as may be determined by law.

2. The chair-person of the Council of the Regional Government is the head of Government.

3. Accordingly, the Council of the Regional Government is accountable to the Head of Government.
4. In all its decisions, however, the Council of the Regional Government shall be responsible to the regional council.

**Article-58**

**Powers and Duties of The Council of The Regional Government**

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Council of the Regional Government shall have the following powers and duties hereunder:

1. Ensures, throughout the region, the implementation of laws enacted and decisions passed by the Federal State and the Regional Council respectively, and renders directives thereto;

2. Decides on the organization of executive organs and other institutions of the Regional Government, oversees their activities and thereby provides them with leadership;

3. Without prejudice to the powers conferred upon the Regional Council under the provisions of Art. 45 Sub-art. 1 and Art. 49 Sub art. 3/2/ of this constitution hereof, looks into and decides on those questions of territorial allotment or rectification submitted to it by the woredas and kebeles with in the regional state;

4. Prepares the annual budget of the Regional State, submits it to the Regional Council and thereby gets same implemented upon approval;

5. Formulates the economic and social development polices and strategies of the Regional State, submits draft bills to and have them approved by the Regional Council and executes same upon decision;
6. Ensures the maintenance of law and order throughout the Regional State and grants pardon, in accordance with law;

7. Issues laws and regulations pursuant to the powers which shall have been rendered to it by the regional council;

8. Prepares and submits draft state of emergency decree to the regional council;

9. Without prejudice to the powers bestowed upon the Regional Council under Art. 49 sub art. 3/15/ of this constitution hereof, issues and implements state of emergency decree where it finds itself in an adverse situation, in which the regional council has been unable to convene, in the wake of health jeopardy or sudden Natural calamity occurring in the regional state;

10. Carries out such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Regional Council.

Article-59
Designation and Term of Office of The Head of Government

1. The Head of Government shall be designated as such through his election from among members of the council, upon his prior presentation on the part of the political patry or parties having won the majority seats in the Regional Council.

2. Unless otherwise determined anywhere in this constitution, the term of office of the Head of Government shall be that of the National Regional Council.
Article-60
Powers and Duties of the Head of Government

1. The Head of Government is the managing head of the Regional Government, chair-person of the Governing Council as well as the president of the National Regional State.

2. The accountability of the Head of Government is to the Regional Council.

3. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions stipulated under sub-art. 1 of this Article hereof, the Head of Government shall:

(a) Provided leadership to, coordinate and represent the council of the regional government;

(b) Sign and convey, within 15 days of their deliberation and approval by both the legislative and Executive Councils of the Regional State, those proclamations and regulations so that they would be promulgated through the Zikre Hig Gazzette of the regional state;

(c) Oversee the implementation of policies, regulations, directives and decisions issued by the council of the regional government;

(d) Nominate or propose the President and Vice President of the Regional Supreme Court as well as the Auditor-General and Deputy Auditor-General of the Regional State and thereby secure their respective appointments by the Regional Council;

(e) Put forward the proposed appointment of those Bureau Heads wished to become members of the Council of the Regional Government, including the Deputy Head of Government, and get their final approval by the regional council;
Without prejudice to what has been stipulated under the provisions of (D) and (E) of sub-art. 3 of this Article hereof, provisionally assign and employ the above-mentioned office heads, with the exception of the Deputy Head of Government, when and wherever faced with the situation in which the Regional Council has been unable to convene for its normal duties;

Select and appoint Bureau heads, deputy Bureau Heads, commissioners and other officials thereof outside those members of the council of the regional government;

With details to be outlined and determined in a regulation which shall have been issued by the Council of the Regional Government, establish official agencies of administrative areas as well as appoint administrators and other branch office heads empowered to represent the regional government and render an all-out support to the woredas, in places selected having regard to their needs and requirements, outside the territorial limit of the Nationality Administrations;

Direct and supervise over the region-wide security and police forces established with the view to protecting the safety of the national-regional state and enforcement of law and order therein;

Provide leadership to, coordinate and supervise over the activities of subordinate administrative hierarchies within the Regional State;

Perform such other functions as may be entrusted to him by the council of the regional government and the regional state council respectively.
Article-61
Powers and Duties of
The Deputy Head of Government

1. The Deputy Head of Government, whose appointment is to be approved by the Regional Council upon prior presentation by the head of government, shall have the following powers and duties:

   (a) Carry out such functions as may specifically be referred to him by the Head and the Council of the Regional Government;

   (b) Formally represent the Head of Government in the absence of the latter or is unable to perform his normal duties.

2. The Deputy Head of Government is accountable both to the Head and the Council of the Regional Government.

Article-62
Office of The Head of Government

1. The Head of Government shall have an office of his own enabling him to discharge his responsibilities bestowed upon him by this constitution.

2. The office of the Head of Government shall also serve as an office of the Council of the Regional Government as well.

3. The specific duties and responsibilities of the office hereof shall be determined by law.
Article-63
Establishment of Higher Economic, Social and Administrative Institutions

1. There may be established different Bureaux, commissions or any other institutions with the view to carrying out, coordinating and directing the day-to-day economic, social and administrative activities of the Regional State, as are to be necessary.

2. The accountability of such Bureaux, commissions and any other higher institutions shall be to the Head and the Council of the Regional Government.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-art. 2 of this Article hereof, the accountability of the regional Bureaux, commissions and any other institutions shall be to the superior executive organs of the Regional State related to and consistent with their establishment objectives and missions to be accomplished thereof. Particulars shall be determined by law.

CHAPTER SEVEN
STRUCTURE AND POWERS OF THE JUDICIARY

Article-64
Establishment of the Independent Judiciary

1. There is hereby established an independent judicial organ of the Regional State by virtue of this constitution.

2. Special or ad-hoc courts which take judicial powers away from the regular courts or institutions legally empowered to exercise judicial functions and which do not follow legally prescribed procedures shall not be established.
Article-65
Customary and Religious Tribunals

Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-art. 5 of art. 34 of this constitution hereof, customary and religious tribunals which had been recognized by the state and utilized to that effect before the adoption of this constitution shall hereafter be recognized and organized in accordance with this constitution.

Article-66
Judicial Powers

1. The judicial powers of the Regional State are vested in the courts.

2. Courts of any level shall be free from any interference or influence of any governmental body, official or any other source.

3. Judges shall exercise their judicial functions with full independence. Accordingly, they shall be guided solely by the law.

4. No judge shall be removed from his duties before he reaches the retirement age determined by law except under the following conditions indicated herebelow:

(a) When the Judicial Administration Commission decides to remove him for violation of disciplinary rules or on the grounds of gross incompetence and inefficiency; or

(b) When the Judicial Administration Commission decides that a judge can no longer carry out his duties on account of illness and

(c) When the decision of the commission is submitted to and approved by the Regional Council having acquired the support of the majority vote of its members.
5. Details of execution of the provisions stipulated under sub-art. 4 of this Article hereof shall be determined by law.

6. The period of retirement of any judge shall not be extended.

**Article 67**

**Organization and Powers of the Judiciary**

1. The judiciary of the Regional State shall be organized in such a way as to comprise the Regional Supreme court, high courts and first-instance courts. The Woreda court is the lowest subordinate first-instance judicial organ of the regional state.

2. The regional supreme court shall have:

   (a) The highest and final jurisdiction with regard to regional matters;

   (b) The jurisdiction of the high court of the Federal State over federal matters, as well as;

   (c) The jurisdiction to review in cassation, where a final decision rendered by any level of regional court is revealed to have been affected by fundamental error of law. Particulars shall be determined by law.

3. The regional high court shall, in addition to its regional jurisdiction, adjudicate over federal matters in the capacity of the federal first-instance court.

4. An appeal arising from any decision rendered by the regional high court, while exercising the jurisdiction of the federal first-instance court, shall be heard and determined by the regional supreme court.
5. An appeal arising from the decision of the regional supreme court, while exercising the jurisdiction of the federal high court, shall be entertained and determined by the federal supreme court.

6. The regional supreme court shall get the budget, with which to finance the operation of its judicial organs, presented and decided upon by the regional council and thereby administer same upon approval.

7. The president of the regional supreme court shall be entitled to ask the federal supreme court for the recovery of the financial cost incurred upon the regional courts while discharging by delegation the federal judicial functions on behalf of the Federal State.

Article-68
Appointment of Judges

1. The president and vice president of the Regional Supreme Court shall be appointed by the Regional Council following their nomination by the Head of Government.

2. All Judges of the Regional Supreme Court, High Courts and Woreda Courts shall be appointed by the regional council upon their prior proposal by the Regional Commission of Judicial Administration.

3. The Regional Commission of Judicial Administration shall, prior to submitting the proposed appointment of the regional supreme court and high courts judges to the regional council, have the responsibility to seek for and obtain the opinion on the candidates of the federal commission of judicial administration, combine it with its own statement and present same to the regional council. Nevertheless, the
regional council shall accept the proposal and thereby approve the appointment of the candidate judges on account of failure to provide with the opinion sought hereof within three months, on the part of the federal commission of judicial administration.

**Article-69**

Establishment of the Regional Judicial Administration Commission

1. There shall be established, in the Regional State, a Commission for Judicial Administration, wherein judges are represented with a majority vote.

2. The President of the regional Supreme Court shall preside over the commission hereof.

3. Particulars of membership, composition, powers and duties of the commission shall be determined by law.

**Article-70**

Interpretation of the Constitution

1. There is hereby established and designated, by this constitution, a Constitutional Interpretation Commission, whose members are to be drawn by way of representation, from each and every Nationality and Woreda Councils found throughout the Regional State, to examine a case of constitutional dispute or an issue of its interpretation, whenever such a case arises in the region.

2. The commission shall, within 60 day, discuss and decide on any constitutional issue having been submitted to it by the regional council of Constitutional Inquiry. Particulars shall be determined by law.
3. The period of service of the commission established pursuant to sub art. 1 of this Article hereof shall be equivalent to the term of office of its members representing the nationality and Woreda councils and convenes, as it deems it necessary, in an effort to discharge its constitutional responsibilities.

4. The commission shall carry out its activities by having elected its chair-person and secretary out of its members and obtain whatever secretarial service and financial support it requires for its duties from and with the help of the regional council.

**Article-71**

*the Council of Constitutional Inquiry*

1. The Regional Council of Constitutional Inquiry is hereby established by this constitution.

2. The Regional Council of Constitutional Inquiry shall have eleven members of its own, who may be listed out as follows:

   (a) The President of the Regional Supreme Court ............... chairperson

   (b) The Vice President of the Regional Supreme Court ........ deputy chairperson

   (c) Six legal experts, appointed by the National Regional Council following their nomination by the Head of Government and widely acknowledged for having to possess professional competence and integrity ............... members

   (d) Three representatives nominated by the Speaker and thereby appointed by the Regional Council out of its own members through election ............... members
Powers and Duties of the Council of Inquiry

1. The Regional Council of Constitutional Inquiry shall have the powers to investigate constitutional disputes emanating from within the National Regional State on the ground of this constitution. Should the council, on account of the investigation undertaken hereof, find it necessary to interpret the regional constitution, it shall prepare and submit its recommendation thereon to the commission for constitutional interpretation.

2. Whenever a case arises alleging that laws, regulations and directives issued by the Regional State organs have contravened or came into conflict with this constitution and is thereby submitted to it either by the pertinent court or parties in dispute, the council of inquiry shall present such findings as may have been obtained out of its examination and investigation on to the commission for the latter's final decision.

3. When an issue involving constitutional-interpretation arises on the part of the courts, the council shall:

   (a) Immediately remand the case to the concerned court if it finds out that there is no need for interpretation of the Regional Constitution, provided, however, that any interested party, if dissatisfied with the decision of the council, may appeal to the commission in writing as regards his grievance thereof;

   (b) Prepare and submit its recommendation to the commission for a final decision should it believe that there has been an issue calling for constitutional interpretation.
Article-72
Powers and Duties of the Council of Inquiry

1. The Regional Council of Constitutional Inquiry shall have the powers to investigate constitutional disputes emanating from within the National Regional State on the ground of this constitution. Should the council, on account of the investigation undertaken hereof, find it necessary to interpret the regional constitution, it shall prepare and submit its recommendation thereon to the commission for constitutional interpretation.

2. Whenever a case arises alleging that laws, regulations and directives issued by the Regional State organs have contravened or came into conflict with this constitution and is thereby submitted to it either by the pertinent court or parties in dispute, the council of inquiry shall present such findings as may have been obtained out of its examination and investigation on to the commission for the latter's final decision.

3. When an issue involving constitutional interpretation arises on the part of the courts, the council shall:
   (a) Immediately remand the case to the concerned court if it finds out that there is no need for interpretation of the Regional Constitution, provided, however, that any interested party, if dissatisfied with the decision of the council, may appeal to the commission in writing as regards his grievance thereof;
   (b) Prepare and submit its recommendation to the commission for final decision should it believe that there has been an issue calling for constitutional interpretation.
CHAPTER EIGHT
ORGANIZATION AND POWERS OF THE
NATIONALITY ADMINISTRATIONS

Article-73
Organization of Nationality Administrations

1. There is hereby established, a nationality administration in those geographical areas of the National Regional State inhabited by the Himra, Awi, and Oromo peoples, pursuant to the provisions of Art. 39 sub-art. 6 and Art. 45 sub-art. 2 of this constitution hereof.

2. Every nationality administration shall have the following principal organs:

(a) The Nationality Council
(b) The Nationality Administrative Council and
(c) Judicial body of the Nationality Administration.

Article-74
Powers and Duties of the Nationality Council

1. Every Nationality Council shall be established in a manner that would render it to be constituted out of especially-elected members of the woreda councils within its territorial limit, in addition to those already elected for the membership of the Regional Council. Particulars shall be determined by law.

2. Without prejudice to the powers and duties vested in the Federal Houses of the People's Representatives and the federation as well as the Regional Council pursuant to both the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and this constitution hereof, the nationality councils are the bearers of supreme political authority on behalf of their respective nationalities.
3. Without prejudice to the generality of the powers referred to under sub-art. 2 of this Article hereof, each and every nationality council shall, being accountable to the regional council, have the following specific powers and duties to:

(a) Determine the working language to be used by the nationality concerned;

(b) Ensure the protection of the rights which the nationality has with respect to speak and write in its own tongue, develop, preserve, express, enhance and promote its own language as well as maintain and extend due care to its own history;

(c) Without prejudice to the legislative powers vested in the regional council by virtue of this constitution hereof, issue and implement its own specific guidelines of execution to be applied within the area of its organization in a manner that they should not be in contradiction with the regionwide laws, regulations and directives thereof;

(d) Having recourse to the National Regional plan and budget approved in advance by the regional council, issue, examine and approve the plan and budget of the area concerned;

(e) Designate the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Chief Administrator of the nationality administration by their election from among the members of the nationality council;

(f) Consider and approve the proposed appointment of the Deputy chief Administrator and other members of the Administrative Council of the Nationality Administration submitted to it by the chief administrator;

(g) Avail its prior opinion to the Regional Council as regards the proposed appointment of high and first instance courts' judges of the Nationality Administration;
(h) Call for questioning the Chief Administrator and other officials of the Nationality Administration as well as investigate into the workings of its executive body thereof.

Article-75
Leadership of the Nationality Council

1. The nationality council shall, having its own office, be led by its own speaker and Deputy Speaker to be elected out of the council members thereof. Particulars shall be determined by law.

2. The relevant provisions of this constitution prescribed hereof to govern the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Regional Council shall, mutatis-mutandis, apply to the powers and responsibilities of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker hereto.

3. The council shall organize itself into various sub-committees, as it deems it necessary, to conduct its business.

Article-76
Meeting Time and Term of Office of The Nationality Council

1. The term of office of the nationality council shall be five years. New election shall take place one month prior to the expiry of the term of office hereof. The new council shall commence its duties within one month from the winding up of the term of office of the preceding council.

2. The Nationality Council convenes at least three times a year.

3. There shall be a quorum when and if more than two-thirds of the members of the council are present at any meeting of the
same. Any decision of the council shall be passed on with a majority vote of those members present at a meeting.

4. Meetings of the Nationality Council shall take place in public. The Speaker may call for an emergency meeting in a situation where the council is not due to undertake its ordinary sessions. The Speaker shall have the duty to call for an emergency session of the council whenever so required either by the Chief Administrator of the Nationality Administration or more than one-third of the members of the Nationality Council thereof.

Article-77
Administrative Council of the Nationality

1. The administrative council of the nationality is the highest executive body of the Nationality Administration and thus accountable to the chief administrator and the council of the nationality concerned.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-art 1 of this Article hereof, the administrative council of the nationality shall also have additional accountabilities to the Council and Head of the Regional Government.

3. The administrative council of the nationality shall be established in such a manner as to comprise the chief administrator, deputy chief administrator as well as those executive departments residing in the nationality administration concerned.

Article-78
Powers and Duties of the Nationality Administrative Council

1. The administrative council of the nationality shall have the following powers and duties:-
(a) Ensures the implementation of laws enacted and decisions rendered by the Council of the Nationality concerned, the Regional Council as well as the Federal State organs, within the limit of the administration;

(b) Decides on the organization of departments qualified to be members of the administrative council and other executive bodies, follows up their activities and directs them thereof;

(c) Prepares the annual budget proposal of the administration, submits to the council of the nationality and gets same implemented upon approval;

(d) Formulates the specific economic and social development policies and strategies of the administration, submits same to the council of the nationality and thereby executes the decisions thereon;

(e) Ensures the maintenance of law and order as well as the protection of the public peace and security, within the limit of the administration;

(f) Carries out such other activities as may be assigned to it by the council of the Nationality and that of the Regional Government respectively.

2. Members of the Nationality Administrative Council shall have collective responsibility for all the decisions they render and activities they perform as a body in the wake of their governmental functions.

**Article-79**

**Designation and Tenure of the Chief Administrator of the Nationality Administration**

1. The Chief Administrator of the nationality Administration shall, having been primarily proposed by the political party-
or parties with a majority set in the council of the nationality, be designated through an election from among the members of the council thereof.

2. Unless otherwise provided for in this constitution, the term of office of the Chief Administrator shall be equal to that of the Nationality Council thereof.

Article-80

Powers and Duties of the Chief Administrator

1. The Chief Administrator of the Nationality Administration is the managing head of the Administration, Chair-person of the Administrative Council as well as the Representative of the Nationality area.

2. The accountability of the Chief Administrator shall be to the Nationality Council and Head of the Regional Government.

3. The relevant provisions of this constitution prescribed to specify the powers and duties of the Head of the Regional Government hereof, shall apply, as regards other powers and duties of the chief administrator, as the case may be appropriate.

Article-81

Deputy Administrator of the Nationality Administration

1. The Deputy Administrator of the Nationality Administration, whose appointment proposal may be submitted by the Chief Administrator to and approved by the Nationality Council, shall have the following power and duties:

(a) Carries out such functions as may specifically be assigned to him both by the chief administrator and the Nationality Administrative Council;

(b) Formally represents and replaces the Chief Administrator whenever the latter is absent from office or unable to carry out his official functions.
CHAPTER NINE
ORGANIZATION AND POWERS OF THE WOREDA ADMINISTRATION

Article-82
The Office of the Chief Administrator

1. The Chief Administrator of the Nationality Administration shall an office of his own.

2. The office of the Chief Administrator may also serve as the office of the Nationality Administrative Council. Particulars shall be determined by law.

Organization

The woreda administration shall comprise the following principal organs of power:

1. The Woreda Council to be established by the combination of popularly elected representatives of the Kebeles organized under it;

2. The Woreda Administrative Council to be set up by the Woreda Chief Administrator, himself designated by election from among members of the council hereof; and

3. Firstinstance judicial body established pursuant to this constitution.
Article-84

Powers and Duties of the Woreda Administration

1. The Woreda Administration shall, within the territorial area of its organization, have all the powers enabling it to prepare and decide on the economic development and social service plans as well as to implement policies, laws, regulations and directives issued by the regional state organs.

2. Without prejudice to its rights and powers to exercise self-administration, facilitate local development and render decisions with regard to its own internal affairs, each and every woreda is a body hierarchically subordinate to the regional government.

Article-85

Election and Accountability of Members of the Woreda Council

1. Members of the Woreda Council shall directly be elected from among the inhabitants of the kebeles embraced in the territorial area in which the woreda has been organized.

2. Members of the Woreda Council shall be accountable to the electorate thereto.

Article-86

Powers and Duties of the Woreda Council

1. The Woreda council is, within the Woreda of its establishment, the highest body of state authority. Accordingly, its accountability shall be either to the nationality or the regional council, as the case may be appropriate.
2. Without prejudice to the generality of the powers stipulated under sub-art. 1 of this Article hereof, the council shall have the following specific powers and duties:

(a) Examines and approves the draft economic development, social services, along with administrative working plans and programs of the Woreda concerned;

(b) Follows up that basic agricultural development activities are undertaken consistent with the appropriate season and the task of development, conservation and care of natural resources is carried out with special attention given to it thereof;

(c) Creates a suitable condition in which the resident public is massively inspired and mobilized to engage in development efforts;

(d) With details to be determined by law designates, by election from among the members of the council, its Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Chief Administrator as well as considers and approves the appointment proposal of the Deputy Administrator and other members of the Woreda Administrative Council to be submitted to it by the chief Administrator thereof;

(e) Issues guidelines to govern its own internal working procedures;

(f) With details to be outlined by law, ensures that rural land user-fee, agricultural income tax and other revenues are collected in due time and even imposes other service charges;

(g) Considers and approves its own budget, and utilizes any source of revenue of the Woreda concerned which may have been outside the sum allocated and administered by the regional state thereof;
Without prejudice to the federal and Regional Constitutions and other laws, issues and implements specific guidelines enabling to ensure peace and security pertaining to the Woreda concerned;

(i) Calls the woreda's officials including the chief administrator for questioning and thereby inquires into the workings of the executive body.

Article-87
Leadership of the Council

1. The Woreda Council shall have its own office and be led by a speaker and Deputy speaker to be elected and designated as such from among its members. Details shall be determined by law.

2. The Speaker shall be accountable to the Woreda Council and have the responsibility to convene the council in accordance with its prescribed schedules and preside over its proceedings.

3. The preceding provisions of this constitution prescribed with respect to the Speaker of the Regional Council hereof, shall equally apply to the rest of duties and responsibilities of the Speaker to the extent of their conformity with the same.

Article-88
Deputy Speaker of the Woreda Council

The Deputy Speaker, with his accountability being to the Speaker and the Woreda Council, shall:

1. Perform such duties as are specified and rendered to him by the Speaker;

2. Officially represent and replace the speaker whenever the latter is absent from office or unable to perform his duties thereof.
Article 89

Meeting Time and Term of Office of the Council

1. The Woreda Council shall convene once every three months.

2. There shall be a quorum where more than two-thirds of the members of the council are present at any meeting due. Any decision of the council shall be passed by a majority vote of those members of the same present at a meeting.

3. The term of office of the Woreda Council shall be five years. New election shall take place one month prior to the expiry of the term of office of the council stipulated hereof. The new council shall commence its duties within one month from the expiry of the term of office of the preceding council.

4. Meetings of the Woreda Council shall be held in public. The Speaker may call for an extraordinary session any time when the council is not due to undertake its regular meetings. The Speaker shall be duty-bound to convene extraordinary sessions whenever such a meeting is demanded for either by the Chief Administrator of the woreda or more than half the members of the council thereof.

Article 90

The Woreda Administrative Council

1. The Woreda Administrative Council is the highest executive body in the woreda of its establishment and shall be accountable to the Chief Administrator and the Woreda Council respectively.

2. The Woreda Administrative Council is a body constituted out of principal heads of various executive sectoral offices with specific objectives throughout the Woreda concerned,
Article 91
Powers and Duties of the Woreda Administrative Council

1. The Woreda Administrative Council shall have the following specific powers and duties:

(a) Cause the implementation of polices, laws, regulations, directives, plans and programs initiated and formulated by both the Federal and Regional states throughout the Woreda of its establishment;

(b) Superintend over the executive bodies found in the Woreda, follow up and direct their activities;

(c) Collect, in accordance with law, rural land user-fee, agricultural income tax and other revenues, study the possibility of finding additional sources of revenues and thereby submit recommendation material for the Woreda Council;

(d) Prepare the annual budget of the woreda, submit same to the Woreda Council as well as facilitate its implementation upon approval thereof;

(e) Safeguard peace and security of the inhabitants of the Woreda, direct its security and police organs as well as follow up and supervise over their activities;

(f) Prepare its social, economic and administrative plans, submit same to the Woreda Council for approval and thereby effectuate upon prior authorization;
(g) Awaken the masses for development efforts, facilitate rural development, as well as protect, develop and provide care for natural resources;

(h) Closely follow up that any form of legacy or heritage traced in the Woreda is provided with the necessary care and protection thereof;

(i) Perform such other functions as may be delivered both by the Woreda Council and that of the Regional Government.

2. Members of the Woreda Administrative Council shall have collective responsibility with respect to the duties performed and decisions passed in common due to their official state powers.

### Article-92
Designation and Tenure of the Woreda’s Chief Administrator

1. The Chief Administrator of the Woreda shall be designated as such by an election from among members of the council, having primarily been nominated by the political party or parties winning the majority seat of the Woreda Council in an election held for the same.

2. Unless otherwise provided for in this constitution, the tenure of the Woreda Chief Administrator shall be equal to the term of office of the Woreda Council hereof.

### Article-93
Powers and Duties of the Woreda Chief Administrator

1. The Woreda Chief Administrator, with his accountability being both to the Woreda Council and the Regional Head of
2. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions stipulated under sub-art. 1 of this Article hereof, the Chief Administrator shall:-

(a) Represent the Woreda Administration;

(b) Convene and preside over meetings of the Woreda's Administrative Council;

(c) Ensure that the policies, laws, regulations, directives and programs of both the Federal and Regional States are properly implemented throughout the Woreda;

(d) Submit the proposed members of the Woreda's Administrative Council including the Deputy Administrator and get their respective appointments approved by the Woreda Council;

(e) Coordinate, direct and supervise over the activities of various institutions of the Woreda Administration as well as those Kebeles subordinate thereto;

(f) See to it that the woreda's social services, economic development plans and programs are prepared in due time and follow up their implementation;

(g) Lead and supervise over the security and police forces established with the view to maintaining law and order so that peace and well-being of the inhabitants of the woreda concerned would be safeguarded, as a result;

Government, is the representative of the Woreda concerned, managing head of its administration as well as chairperson of the Administrative Council.
Article 94
Powers and Duties of the Woreda's Deputy Administrator

The Deputy Administrator of the Woreda, whose appointment is to be approved by the Woreda Council upon prior nomination by the Woreda's Chief Administrator as well as the Administrative Council of the same, shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Perform such duties as may be specified and rendered to him by the Chief Administrator and the Woreda's Administrative Council thereof.

2. Officially represent the Chief Administrator any time the latter is absent from duty or unable to conduct his business.

3. The Deputy Administrator is accountable to the Woreda's Chief Administrator as well as the Administrative Council of the same.

Article 95
The Office of the Chief Administrator

1. The Chief Administrator of the Woreda shall have an office of his own.

2. The Office of the Chief Administrator may also serve and be utilized as the office of the Woreda's Administrative Council. Details shall be determined by law.

3. Save the provisions of this constitution pertaining to the Nationality Administrations hereof, carry out such other functions as may be delivered to him by the Woreda Council and the Regional Head of Government. Council and the Regional Head of Government.
CHAPTER TEN
ORGANIZATION AND POWERS OF THE KEBELE ADMINISTRATION

Article-96
Organization and Accountability

1. The Kebele Administration, while being the lowest Administrative hierarchy of the Regional State, is accountable to its embracing urban and or Woreda Administration, as the case may require.

2. The Kebele Administration shall have the following principal organs:

(a) The Kebele Council,

(b) The Kebele Administrative Council and

(c) The Social Court.

Article-97
The Kebele Council

1. The Kebele Council is hereby established, in accordance with this constitution, as the highest organ of powers of the Kebele inhabitants concerned.

2. Members of the Kebele Council shall be elected directly by the Kebele inhabitants.

3. Members of the council shall be accountable to the electorate.

4. The accountability of the Kebele Council shall be to its embracing Urban Council and or the Woreda Council, as the case may require.
Powers and Duties of the Kebele Council

Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions stipulated under Art. 97 sub-art. 1 of this constitution hereof, the Kebele Council shall have the following specific powers and duties:

1. Causes the implementation of guidelines and plans which are issued time after time by the Woreda Council and its Administrative Council throughout the Kebele concerned;

2. Issues locally-operational guidelines in the nature of social affairs in a manner that such should not be inconsistent with those policies, laws, regulations and directives enacted by its superior Administrative Organs and thereby strives for their implementation in the Kebele concerned;

3. Designates, through election, from amongst the members of the Council, the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Chief Administrator of the Kebele and thereby organizes the Administrative Council of the same;

4. Appoints social court judges who have to be selected and nominated to it in advance by the Kebele's Administrator, having due regard to the evaluation and critical opinion of the resident public;

5. Determines the distribution of work and possible assignment of the Kebele's Administrative Council and other subordinate committees thereof;

6. Receives the socio-economic development and administrative plans and programs handed over to it by superior Administrative organs, sets out detailed implementation schemes with which to realize same in the kebele concerned and oversees the execution thereof;
7. Introduces such other additional plans as might be of interest to the inhabitants of the kebele concerned and closely follows up their implementation;

8. Awakens the resident population of the kebele to engage in development efforts and closely monitors the activities aimed at the development and care of natural resources thereof;

9. Ensures the protection of peace and security of the resident public and maintenance of law and order throughout the kebele;

10. Calls for Questioning the kebele’s Chief and Deputy Administrators and inquires into the workings of the executive body thereto.

Article 99
Leadership of the Kebele Council

1. The Kebele Council shall, having its own secretariat, be led by the Speaker and Deputy Speaker to be elected from among its members. Particulars shall be determined by law.

2. The Speaker shall, with his accountability being to the Kebele Council, convene the council on due time and preside over its proceedings, cause preparation of the Agenda as well as follow up and supervise over the taking down of minutes and preservation of documents.

3. The Deputy Speaker, with his accountability being both to the Speaker and the Kebele Council, shall:

   (a) Perform such duties as may be specifically delivered to him by the Speaker;

   (b) Officially represent the Speaker whenever the latter is absent from or unable to perform his duties.
Meeting Time and Term of Office of the Council

1. The Kebele Council shall hold its ordinary meetings once every month.

2. There shall be a quorum if and when more than two-thirds of the members of the council are present at a meeting. Decisions of the council shall be passed by a majority vote of those members of the council present at a meeting.

3. The term of office of the council shall be five years. New election shall take place one month before the expiry of the term of office prescribed hereof. The new council shall commence its duties within fifteen days from the expiry of the term of office of the preceding council.

4. Meetings of the Kebele Council shall be conducted in public. The Speaker may call for an emergency session any time the council is not due to hold its ordinary meetings. The Speaker shall have the duty to call for an emergency meeting any time when so demanded by either the Kebele's Administrator or more than half the members of the council.

Administrative Council of the Kebele

1. The Kebele Administrative Council is the lowest executive body, whose members are constituted from the Kebele's Chief and Deputy Administrators as well as public employees of social service-rendering institutions established therein and entrusted with the implementation of laws, regulations and directives issued by its superior Administrative Organs.
2. The Kebele Administrative Council shall be accountable to the Kebele Administrator and its electing Kebele Council as well as to the Urban Administration and/or Woreda Administration in which such Kebele is embraced, as the case may require.

3. Members of the Kebele Administrative Council shall individually and collectively direct and co-ordinate the activities of the Kebele Administration.

4. Members of the Kebele Administrative Council shall be collectively responsible for any decision they pass and activities they perform in common while exercising their collective powers.

Article 102

Powers and Duties of the Kebele Administrative Council

1. Without prejudice to the general provisions stipulated under Art. 101 sub-art. 1 of this constitution hereof, the Kebele Administrative Council shall have the following specific powers and duties:-

(a) Implements, throughout the Kebele, development plans and programs initiated and formulated by the Kebele Council, drafts its own detailed development plans and submits same to the Kebele Council for approval thereof;

(b) Follows up and supervises over the implementation of social service plans underway within the limit of the Kebele;

(c) Accelerates rural development, strives for the undertaking of protection, care and development of natural resources as well as agitates and co-ordinates the masses to engage in development efforts;

(d) Sees to it that the Kebele's peace and security is maintained or safeguarded;
(e) Causes proper preservation and care of heritages traced in the locality and thereby notifies to its superiors as to the ways of their possible utilization thereof;

(f) Submits periodic reports to the Kebele Council with regard to its activities;

(g) Carries out such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Kebele Council.

2. The Kebele Administrative Council shall formulate its specific work-plans as well as monitor and evaluate executions thereof by meeting on prescribed schedules, as may be necessary.

**Article-103**

**Designation and Tenure of the Kebele Administrator**

1. The Kebele Administrator shall be elected and designated as such from among members of the Kebele Council having been primarily nominated by the political party or parties declared to have won the majority seat of the council in an election to that end.

2. Unless otherwise provided for in this constitution, the tenure of the Kebele Administrator shall be equal to the term of office of the Kebele Council hereof.

**Article-104**

**Powers and Duties of the Kebele Administrator**

1. The Kebele Administrator is, with his accountability being to the Kebele Council as well as to the Urban Administration and or the Woreda Administration embracing such kebele, as the cause may be, the representative of the kebele, managing head of its administration and chair-person of the Administrative Council.
2. Without prejudice to the general provisions stipulated under sub-art. 1 of this Article hereof, the Kebele Administrator shall have the following specific powers and duties:

(a) Convenes the Kebele Administrative Council and thereby presides over its proceedings;

(b) Receives those policies, laws, regulations, directives and plans issued and forwarded to him by his superior Administrative organs as well as follows up and supervizes over there implementation through-out the kebele concerned;

(c) Nominates and gets the approval by the Kebele Council of proposed appointments of members of the Kebele Administrative Council including the Deputy Administrator;

(d) Submits the list of proposed Kebele Social Court judges and thereby secures their appointment by the Kebele Council after having them scrutinized and screened by the Kebele Administrative Council with due regard to the opinion of the resident public concerned;

(e) Avails periodic activity reports to the Kebele Council, the resident public as well as to the urban and or Woreda Administration embracing such kebele, as the cause may be appropriate;

(f) Carries out such other functions as may be referred to him by the Kebele Administrative Council, the Kebele Council as well as the Urban and or Woreda Administration concerned.
Article-105
Powers and Duties of the Kebele's Deputy Administrator

The Kebele Deputy Administrator, whose selection is facilitated by the Kebele Administrator and whose appointment approved by the Kebele Council, shall:

1. Perform such duties as may be specified and delivered to him by the Kebele Administrator and the Administrative Council;

2. Officially represent the Kebele Administrator whenever the latter is absent from or unable to perform his duties.

3. The Kebele Deputy Administrator is accountable to the Kebele Administrator and the Administrative Council thereto.

Article-106
The Office of the Kebele Administration

The Kebele Administration shall have an office of its own. Particulars shall be determined by law.

Article-107
Social Court of the Kebele

1. The Kebele Social Court is hereby established, pursuant to this constitution, having the status of the kebele's judicial organ of social nature. Particulars shall be determined by law.

2. Judges of the social court shall be selected and appointed by the Kebele Council pursuant to the provisions of Art. 98 sub-art. 4 of this constitution hereof.

3. The term of office of social court judges shall be that of the Kebele council concerned. Particulars shall be determined by law.
CHAPTER ELEVEN
REGIONAL POLICY OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

Article-108
Objectives

1. Any state organ shall, in the implementation of the Federal and Regional Constitutions, other laws and public policies, be guided by the objectives and principles specified under this chapter.

2. The term "state" in this chapter shall mean the Amhara National Regional State.

Article-109
Political Objectives

1. Guided by democratic principles, the state shall promote and support the people's self-rule at all levels.

2. The state shall respect the identity of nation-nationalities and peoples and shall accordingly have the duty to strengthen unity, equality and fraternity among them. Especially, it shall pay particular attention to those underprivileged nationalities with the view to ensuring their equality.

Article-110
Economic Objectives

1. The state shall have the duty to devise policies which ensure that all the inhabitants of the Regional State can benefit from the region's legacy of intellectual and material wealth.

2. The state has the duty to ensure that all the inhabitants of the regional state get equal opportunity to improve their...
economic conditions and to promote or facilitate equitable distribution of wealth among them.

3. The state shall provide special assistance to those nationalities and peoples left behind in terms of development.

4. The state shall take measures to avert any natural and man-made calamities, and in the event of disasters, to provide timely assistance to the population victimized thereof.

5. The state has the duty to hold, on behalf of the people, land and other natural resources and to deploy them for their common benefit and development.

6. The state shall, at all times, promote the participation of the people in the formulation of the regional development policies and programs. It shall also have the duty to support the initiatives of people in their development endeavours.

7. The state has the duty to devise the way in which rapid development shall be ensured by combining or co-ordinating the manual, intelectual and financial resources of the people. It shall as well encourage the people to have a splendid role in the economic activity of the regional state. Accordingly, the people shall participate, not only in support, but also in execution and evaluation of plans and policies.

8. The state shall have the responsibility to create favourable conditions for the participation of women in equality with men in economic and social development endeavours.

9. The state shall endeavour to protect and promote the health, welfare and living-standards of the working population of the Regional State.
Article-111
Social Objectives

1. To the extent permitted by the nationwide and regional capacity of resources, it shall be aimed at providing all the inhabitants of the Regional State with access to education, health care service, clean water, housing, food and social security.

2. Education shall, in any perspective, be provided in a manner that is free from any religious influence, political outlook or cultural prejudices.

Article-112
Cultural Objectives

1. The Regional State shall have the duty to assist, on the basis of equality, growth and empowerment of cultures and traditions that are not incompatible with fundamental rights, human dignity, democracy and the constitution.

2. Protection of natural endowment as well as preservation of historical sites and objects traceable in the region is the duty of the state and all the inhabitants therein.

3. The Regional State shall have the duty, to the extent its resources permit, to promote the development of the arts, science and technology.

4. The Regional State shall have the responsibility to maintain the young generation, nurture same with complete ethical values, and make unreserved effort with the view to transforming the youth into a responsible, efficient, nation loving, compatriot-caring and self-reliant citizen, having been strengthened both physically and intellectually.
Environmental Safety Protection Objectives

1. The state shall endeavour to ensure that all the inhabitants of the region live in a clean and healthy environment.

2. Any contemplated measure of economic development shall take place in such a way as not to jeopardize environmental wellbeing.

3. The people concerned have the right to full consultation and to the expression of views in the planning and implementation of environmental policies and projects that affect them directly.

4. The state and the inhabitants of the region shall have the duty to protect the environment.

CHAPTER TWELVE
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Declaration of State of Emergency

1. Whenever any kind of natural disaster sets in, or epidemic disease endangering public health occurs as has been laid down under the provisions of Art. 93 sub. Art. 1/B of the Federal Constitution and Art. 47 sub art. 2/17 of this constitution and the regional Council is not in session, the Council of the Regional Government shall, in accordance with the powers vested in it under the provisions of Art. 58 sub-art. 8 of this constitution hereof, declare a state of emergency decree and implement therepof.

2. The Council of the Regional Government shall notify to the Speaker of the need to call for an extraordinary session of the
Regional Council and have approved the state of emergency decree within 15 days of its enactment and implementation.

3. The state of emergency decree issued by the Council of the Regional Government shall remain in force throughout the regional state only for 6 months, once it was accepted by the Regional Council, provided, however, that such decree may be renewed every four months upon the decision of the Regional Council with a two-third majority vote.

4. The regulations issued and measures taken both by the Council of the Regional Government and that of the regional state in relation to the state of emergency decree may, in no way, suspend or infringe upon those rights enshrined under the provisions of Arts. 1, 15, 16, 18 sub-arts. 1 and 2, 21 sub-art. 1, 24 sub-art. 1, 25, 27 sub-art. 1 and 39 sub-arts. 1 and 2 of this constitution.

Article-115

State of Emergency Decree Implementation Inquiry Board

1. The Regional Council may, upon Declaration of a State of Emergency Decree in the Regional State, establish a board of inquiry of such a State of Emergency Decree Implementation to be constituted of seven members from within the council itself and the legal profession. The board shall be established simultaneously with the approval of the State of Emergency Decree by the Regional Council.

2. The Board of Inquiry of the Implementation of State of Emergency Decree shall have the following powers and responsibilities:-

(a) To publicize those private persons who may have been detained as a result of the State of Emergency Decree operation, if any, and thereby disclose the reasons of their detention in one month;
(b) To follow up and supervise that whatever actions might be taken in the course and exercise of a state of emergency decree are, in no way, inhumane and contrary to human rights;

(c) To see to it that all perpetrators of inhumane acts in the wake of a state of emergency decree implementation are brought to justice;

(d) To avail its opinion to the Regional Council upon request submitted to same for the possible extension of the State of Emergency Decree Implementation.

3. The State of Emergency Decree Implementation Inquiry Board shall be dissolved as soon as it has accomplished its mission hereof in accordance with this constitution.

Article-116
Auditor-General and Deputy Auditor-General of the Regional State

1. The Auditor-General and Deputy Auditor-General of the Regional State shall be appointed by the Regional Council upon prior nomination by the Head of Government. Accordingly, they shall be accountable to the Regional Council.

2. The office of the Auditor General of the Regional State shall, by auditing and inspecting the accounts of the regional state institutions and other agencies, submit a report to the regional council with the view to ensuring that the annual budget appropriated by the council has been duly utilized for those undertakings planned and approved to be executed during the outgoing fiscal year.

3. The Auditor-General of the Regional State shall draw up the annual budget of his office and directly submit it for the due approval of the Regional Council.
4. The particular powers and duties of the office of the Auditor General shall be specified and determined by law.

**Article-117**

**Initiation of Constitutional Amendment Proposals**

Any proposed amendment of this constitution may be submitted for possible discussion and consequent decision thereof to those sections, whom the issue of constitutional amendment concerns, if supported by:

(a) Upon demand by one-third of the members of the Regional Council, or

(b) Upon decision by a majority vote of the members of the Council of the Regional Government, or

(c) Upon decision by a majority vote of the members of one of the Nationality Councils found in the Regional State, or

(d) Upon demand by one-third of all the Woreda Councils found in the Regional State, or

(e) Upon demand by one-third of all the Kebele Councils found throughout the Regional State.

**Article-118**

**Amendment of the constitution**

1. The provisions incorporated in chapters two and three of this constitution may only be amended pursuant to the provisions of Art. 105 of the Federal Constitution.

2. The provisions of the constitution outside those indicated under sub-art. 1 of this Article hereof may be amended as follows:

- [Page 82]
(a) Upon approval of the proposed amendment by more than half of all the Woreda Councils found in the Regional State;

(b) Upon approval of the proposed amendment by two-thirds of the members of one of the Nationality Councils in the Regional State; and

(c) Approval of the same by the three-fourths of the members of the Regional Council.

3. This sub-article and the provisions of sub-art. 2 of this Article hereof may be amended only when the proposed amendment is approved by:

(a) A two-third majority vote of the members of the two-thirds of all the Woreda Councils found in the Regional State;

(b) A two-third majority vote of the members of the two-thirds of the Nationality Councils in the Regional State; and

(c) A three-fourth majority vote of the members of the Regional Council.

Article-119
Effect of Previous Laws

All previous laws, regulations and directives which are, to this day, in force throughout the National Regional State shall continue their operation so long as they have not been inconsistent with this revised constitution.

Article-120
The Version with Final Legal Authority

The Amharic version of this constitution shall have the final legal authority.