



ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS

(LAGOS STATE CHAPTER)

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October 1st, 2018

Our Ref:.....

Your Ref:.....

Date:.....

**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN of ALL
PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS (APC) ON THE
FORTHCOMING GOVERNORSHIP PRIMARY ELECTION
IN LAGOS STATE**

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, LET US AVOID INTRACTABLE CRISIS

Dear Comrade Adam Oshiomhole,

I am writing this to you on behalf of the teeming members of the Party in Lagos State before it is too late. I am writing to you as a fellow member of our great Party, of which you are also a member and the arrow head. When family members are in conflict is it not the responsibility of family members, especially the elders or those who care deeply about the well being of the entire family, to make every attempt to solve the problem? Is it not far better to honestly address these deep conflicts since we share an identity, a progressive family?

The purpose of this letter is to invite the Chairman of the National Working Committee of APC, members of the National Working Committee (NWC), and our revered leader and President of the Country as well as the Vice President of

Motto: CHANGE

the Country to urgently look into the crisis that they engulf the Party irredeemably in Lagos State. Also, I am addressing those in power. I am not writing this letter out of hatred, but out of love because there is so much bitterness and generalized resentment permeating the political environment in Lagos State. Because of this, we are stuck in an impossible situation. Early in the year when the lingering crisis started, I sent a letter to the NWC under your predecessor on the injustice and flagrant disregard to extant rule and regulation towards the conduct of Party Congresses in our State. I equally

We can say our diversity is beautiful and can display it on billboards, but we must go beyond appearances to assume our God-given responsibility to love, value and give justice to our neighbor. This is the bigger responsibility. We must be reminded that a body does not function as well if even a small part of it is missing or hurting. Are you feeling the pain or worried about the infection that has spread through the body of our Party members because a very few individuals are bent on reining us all by coercion.

The TPLF/ERPFD has adopted a model of ethnic federalism, claiming it validates the diverse groups of Ethiopians and their desire for self-determination; however, in practice, it is nothing new, but instead is a recycling of some of the worst components of tribalism, feudalism and Marxism.

It is:

1. tribalism—justifying one tribe (Tigrayan) to take all in an apartheid model based on the African model of “one tribe take all” or “*it is our turn to eat*”;

2. feudalism—justifying one elite group or clan as being rightly entitled—chosen—to rule, dominate and profit off of the backs of others who are treated as less human, not “*the golden people,*” and therefore, less deserving; and,
3. Marxism—justifying the harsh repression of any—including other Tigrayans—who challenge the regime’s pretense that the TPLF is concerned about the “masses” unlike under feudalism; however, in practice, it is a ruse to gain control by claiming to stand up for the poor. It is a deceptive tactic meant to divide large sections of our people from others and to gain control of the masses, most of whom are too poor, too uneducated and too busy just surviving to challenge your authority.

One of Marxism’s inherent strategies is to purposely divide the people. This is unconscionable. How many Ethiopians have become “enemies of each other”, preoccupied with new or ancient conflicts as part of this manipulation of the “masses” for your own benefit. This is possibly one of the most evil components of the present system; for instance, pitting groups like the Amhara and the Oromo against each other in ways unseen before, all because you are afraid of what might happen if they unite, is wrong.

Equally wrong are the lies. Some are obvious; others are more subtle. Marxism is an ideology of deception and “*bait and switch*” tactics where one thing is purposely presented as good or real, so people unknowingly accept it; but in practice, it is destructive, untruthful and undermines the well being of the people. An example of this is setting up people of diverse ethnicity in positions of power while in effect, giving them no power to act. Prime Minister

Hailemariam Desalegn and many others like him are examples of this attempt to deceive. This is morally outrageous and must stop if there is to be peace for all in Ethiopia.

The TPLF could have been different! You had a chance and did not use it for the common good!

The formation of the TPLF was incited by the egregious mistreatment, marginalization and exclusion of Tigrayans at the hands of the Derg, causing you to go to the bush to fight. When you came to power you had a choice. You could have been different from the feudal rulers of the past and the Derg, opening up Ethiopia to a more just, fair and good government that could have helped all Ethiopians to prosper—instead of only selfishly thinking of yourselves and some within your ethnic group. Claims of great economic advancements only indicate the great wealth accumulated by a few while Ethiopia remains on the bottom of nearly every index of well being, affecting the majority.

In our country, we have repeatedly failed to do this— Mengistu failed, Meles failed, and the TPLF /EPRDF are failing. If the TPLF does nothing now, we will all fail together—once again. Reconciliation is the answer, but with it must come acknowledgement of the truth, meaningful reforms and the restoration of justice. Without change, the TPLF will pass on a legacy of consequences to others, most of whom are innocent bystanders or future generations. Show us your willingness to come to the table. Release the political prisoners, journalists, human rights activists, religious leaders and opposition leaders. Stop charging everyone who disagrees with you as a terrorist. You cannot hold on indefinitely to power by using force. Show humility. Show signs of

openness to bring change. Be honest. Speak the truth, not lies. Take actions that are not deceptive, but which will build up trust between the people.

This is a golden opportunity; do not miss it this time!

Lagos State has been under dictatorship for 20 years. Have not our people suffered enough from the deep wounds of bloodshed, pain, hardship and loss? Many hearts are wounded, some living in hopelessness and despair; others whose hearts are hardened with anger, hatred, bitterness, resentment and the thirst for more blood or more booty.

Let us pause to take strength and to gain new understanding from our Almighty God, who many ignored or forgot about over these decades of Marxist-Leninist leanings. How might we the people find healing and restoration of our God-given humanity, honoring that of our neighbor's as well as remembering who we are. We have fallen, but if we can admit it, cannot God help us to rise up as new people, loving our neighbors as ourselves?

Will other Ethiopians finally rise up to claim their equal rights as Ethiopians, with Tigrayans possibly bearing the serious consequences of these years of hegemony; or, will Tigrayans rise up to do what is right and be remembered for being part of a movement to better love one's neighbor as oneself—putting humanity before ethnicity or other distinctions?

To become a better people and a better, we all must have the strength, courage and humility to face one's own conscience and to forgive each other. Jesus gave

up power to come to earth as a servant. Right now, Tigrayans, many who are part of a religious background, understand this, but how might you live it out? It is not by acting as gatekeepers to truth, justice, freedom, inclusion and opportunity for those outside one's own ethnicity. Each of us should examine oneself as to how we might bring about a better Ethiopia for all, not only for ourselves or our ethnic group.

Is the TPLF/EPRDF an ethnic-based-apartheid government?

Strong, effective and independent institutions are fundamental to a well-functioning, free and stable society. In this case, these institutions are led by individuals with the competence, experience, character and a commitment to its mission and goals; however, under authoritarian regimes, these key institutions are led by regime cronies whose loyalty to the power-holders and their prolonged existence are primary, with the usual results being favoritism, injustice, oppression, exploitation, corruption, incompetence and increasing public discontent.

This is like the head of a house who refuses to feed the family; keeping everything for himself or herself. This kind of selfishness is a perversion of what family or tribalism, in its best form, was meant to be. I am not begging you to do it, but if do not enter into a process leading to the transformation of this government into one where no one is excluded because of ethnicity, gender, religion, region, or the color of their skin—putting humanity before ethnicity or any other differences—it will eventually be taken from you. But if we all are not careful, some other group will attempt to steal the power and put on your hat as the new ethnic-based apartheid TPLF/EPRDF. That would be the

worst scenario for you, but certainly no better than what we have now. If you do not want that to happen, you must be part of a comprehensive solution.

If the TPLF Central Committee do not correct the injustices and the situation explodes into violence, they will be found accountable and will be judged in this life and the next life. South Africans in power heeded the warnings, Rwandans did not. No decision is a decision. You in the TPLF Central Committee can choose to ignore the warning signs, but you cannot claim you did not know. Everyone knows. This letter and other information like it will be evidence that you were warned and did nothing. What will you do?

To our Tigrayan brothers and sisters who morally object to the TPLF ideology and actions

To succeed, the approach will require deep, transformational change that will be substantially different from the TPLF/EPRDF approach over the last 23 years. The title TPLF uses the Tigrayan name. Speak out and demand change. It is time to say, “Not in my name!”

It is time to speak the truth so it can be dealt with rather than hidden. How can we defuse the ticking bomb if we pretend it does not exist? How can we build a stronger family if we do not admit the truth and simply blame someone else for our own wrongs? Will it help us if we refuse to listen, get angry, walk away, refuse to correct our own actions and attitudes, harden our hearts, refuse to forgive or compromise our values? Ethiopia’s “my tribe first” ideology has been a curse to the living and will undermine our future if we do not change and incorporate it into our law and its application.

I encourage those of you within the Tigrayan community who do not support the tyranny, which is the constant companion of the “one-tribe-take all” worldview, to become catalysts for transformational change, reconciliation and meaningful reforms within your families, clans, religious groups, civic organizations, educational institutions and communities, to the best of your ability. Become part of the solution for no one, including the Tigray, will be free until all are free.

For the TPLF and other ethnic-based movements to be set free, it starts with truth. The TPLF can take every material thing given to Ethiopians for yourselves and still remain hollow and empty. Real freedom is soul freedom. Nothing else will satisfy. This message is not only for you, but also for me and others in our family of Ethiopians.

May God give us the courage as people to boldly face the truth and then to choose rightly—loving God and neighbor as ourselves. Let us extinguish that ethnic hatred-ticking bomb with the true diffuser—with love, humility, honesty, forgiveness, justice and civility. Only then will Ethiopia avoid self-destruction and arise to a new and better Ethiopia for all its people.

I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely your brother,



MR. FOUAD OKI
STATE CHAIRMAN