

'GAME OVER':

'THE END OF TPLF SHENANIGANS'

- **CHRONOLOGY OF THE ETHIOPIA ERITREA PEACE PROCESS**
- **April 2018 Abiy Ahmed becomes PM of Ethiopia**
- **05 June 2018 - PM Abiyi declaration:**
 - Of the unconditional acceptance of the Ethiopia Eritrea Boundary Commission border decision ;
 - Withdrawal from Badme (the flashpoint of the 1998-2000 border war)
- **20 June 2018 –President Isaias acceptance of PM Abiyi peace offering**
- The June 2018 speech recognises that both the Eritrean and Ethiopian people have
 - *“.....lost opportunities of two generations...”*
- ***BUT there is no recognition of :***
 - Eritrean Government responsibilities in the deterioration of the Eritrea/ Ethiopia relationships (1998-2000);
 - The need for internal reform
- **The June 2018 speech by President Isaias is a continuation of an antagonistic policy towards the TPLF**



HATE SPEECH -

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President Isaias Acceptance Speech – 20 June 2018 :

- *“Needless to stress, it is the Ethiopian people – forced as they were into adversarial ties.....**were the primary victims, and who have borne the main brunt, of the destructive policies of the TPLF regime and its paymasters.**”*
- *“The second , relatively bigger loss, stemmed from **the TPLF’s ability to derail and frustrate positive bilateral and regional all-rounded growth.....**”*
- *“Twenty seven years is a long interval. The losses incurred and time waisted are thus huge in terms of this yardstick..”*
- *“But as the damage inculcated on the Ethiopian people became increasingly unbearable, it spurred the wrath and rebellion in the people who said ‘enough is enough’. **This in turn precipitated the end of the TPLF shenanigans; which was aptly described as ‘Game Over’.***
- ***But although it will require time and effort to remove the TPLF’s toxic and malignant legacy and to bring about a congenial climate, the positive direction has been set in motion is crystal clear”***

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- June 2018 – September 2018 both countries undertook normalisation activities:
 - 08 July to 09 July 2018 – PM Abiy visit to Eritrea
 - 09 July 2018 – PM Abiy and President Afewerki sign a Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship
 - 14 July to 16 July 2018 – President Isaias Afewerki visit to Ethiopia
 - 17 September 2018 – Signing of Peace Agreement (Jeddah Agreement)
 - 14 November 2018 the UN Security Council lifts sanctions on Eritrea
- The period marked by:
 - Opening of borders;
 - Resumption of flights;
 - Telecommunication;
 - Exchange of Ambassadors
- But
 - 28 December 2018 Eritrea closes common border with Tigray without notice.
 - By May 2019 Eritrea unilaterally closes all land borders with Tigray.



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- 2018 Redwan Hussein appointed Ambassador to Eritrea:
 - Eritrea did not accept his credentials
 - In 2020 he was State Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - Presently he is the Spokesperson of the State of Emergency Taskforce
- Mehretab Mulugeta appointed as the new Ambassador to Eritrea in 2020.
 - As of 02 June 2021, Ambassador Mehretab credentials were not accepted
- The Eritrean Ambassador to Ethiopia is Semere Russom
 - Also, the current Eritrean Minister for Education
- **Conclusion: the relationship between Eritrea and Ethiopia is highly personalised between President Isaias and PM Abiy**

GAME OVER THE END OF TPLF SHENANIGANS

- February 2019 to March 2021
 - at least 7 high level diplomatic exchange visits between Eritrea and Ethiopia
- But
 - No progress in the Eritrea-Ethiopia peace process
- However
 - Mutual visits to military bases in the respective countries
 - July 2020 – PM Abiy visits SAWA Military Camp
 - October 2020 – President Isaias visits
 - Ethio Engineering producer of vehicles for the defence force
 - Ethiopian Airforce



GAME OVER OF THE THE TPLF 'JUNTA'

- April 2018 Abiy Ahmed became PM with the support of :
 - Oromo Peoples Democratic Organisation(OPDO)
 - Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM)Part of the ruling Ethiopia People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)
- December 2019 – PM Abiy establishes the Progress Party (PP)
 - Ideological shift from multinational federalism to Centralised State
 - Effectively abolishing the EPRDF coalition
 - TPLF not part PP – TPLF portrayed as recalcitrant/difficult and as an obstacle to reform
- March 2020
 - Postponement of August 2020 elections – due to COVID - 19
 - TPLF view that the postponement was unconstitutional and decides to hold elections in Tigray

PM ABIY DECLARES GAME OVER TO THE TPLF JUNTA

- September 2020
 - TPLF hold regional elections (Tigray)
 - Relationship between Mekelle and Addis Ababa deteriorate
- November 2020
 - Start of war in Tigray
 - Described as a Law-and-Order operation to be over in weeks
- 30 November 2020 – PM Abiy states
 - “ The TPLF junta had made great efforts to exterminate, kidnap and intimidate the reformist leadership.....”**
 - **PM Abiy also accused the TPLF of being involved in 113 incidents of violence**
- 6 May 2021
 - **TPLF is declared a terrorist organisation by PM Abiy**



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The Government of the National State of Tigray

Press Release from the Government of Tigray

First and foremost, we would like to share the great news to the entire people and friends of Tigray that our beloved capital city, Mekelle, is now under the complete control of the Tigray Defense Forces and the legally elected Government of Tigray is back in its rightful place. This stunning victory was made possible as a result of the lightning operation named after the great African General Ras Alula Aba Nega. The people of Tigray are now beginning to assert and practice their full rights as citizens because they defeated the invading forces under a well-coordinated and heroic unity. As we now convey our congratulatory messages to all on the occasion of the resounding victories being achieved by our gallant Tigray Defense Forces, we reiterate our expressed commitment and pledge that Tigray will indeed be the graveyard (and not a free ground for atrocities) of the unjust and unholy coalition of invading forces. This being realized because our struggle is just and fought to defend the full rights of our people. The invading enemies that have inflicted unimaginable suffering on the people of Tigray are now indeed suffering stunning and embarrassing defeats in all fronts.

Government of Tigray
June 28, 2021
Tigray