The 29th Annual Council meeting and 21st General Assembly of Ethiopian Teachers Association held 16 November 2016

The 29th Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA) Annual Council meeting was held from Nov. 7-9/2016 in Bahir Dar City, capital of Amhara Regional State. Mr. Yohannes Benti, President of ETA welcomed the participants and invited guest of honor to open the meeting. HE Ato Tefera Feyissa, deputy head of Amhara Regional State Education Bureau, has delivered opening speech.

Ato Tefere Feyisa, while opening the council, in his speech, said that “Ethiopia is on the right track of Education and other development activities but some illegal actions against the constitution have affected the provision of education in the country. ETA is then professionally responsible to advise its members and the education community to stand against those illegal actions which has an impact on education and rights of its members. This is in away promoting peaceful teaching-learning process in the school to enhance fast development and to ensure good governance at country level.

Next to the opening speech, annual report on the performance of Ethiopian Teachers Association’s executive committee was presented and discussed which was later approved by members of the Council. That was followed by report of activities of branch offices of each region and city administrations to the Council by the respective chairs of the Regional Teachers’ Associations. Then suggestions, questions and opinions were raised and forwarded to each region’s and city administration’s reports.

After discussion by members on reports of activities of the head office and regional branches, agenda were set for detail discussion to pass a resolution. Those agenda were the following:
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- Relief support to drought affected areas.
- Quality education
- Peaceful teaching and learning environment
- Rights and benefits of teachers-implementing the increased career ladder and scheme for provision of housing.
- Buildings at headquarters and branches of ETA
- Amendments to ETA regulation.
- Urgent action to stand against harassment of the Ethiopian Somali Teachers’ Association leadership.

A part from members of the Council, distinguished invited guests were HE Ato Yayeh Addis, Amhara Regional State president office head officer, representatives of the Ministry of Education, Federal TVET Agency.

General Assembly of the Ethiopian Teachers Association was held from Nov. 11-12/2016 in the same city but in a different hall due to the increased number of participants to the Congress. The Congress was held in a well furnished Amhara Regional State Council meeting hall which is nearby Lake Tana, the main sources of Blue Nile. In addition to regional and city administrative members of the General Assembly, Federal government’s invited guests, regional government representatives, Confederation of Ethiopian Trade unions, Education International Africa Region Committee chair person and General Secretary of Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) and some others were all together in the meeting hall.

HE Dr. Tilaye Gete, State Minister for General Education of the Federal Ministry of Education, opened the Congress.
The 29th Annual Council meeting and 21st General Assembly of Ethiopian Teachers Association held in his speech, Dr. Tilaye said that it is the exact time that Ethiopian Teachers Association is expected to show its influential power to stabilize teaching-learning process in order to ensure sustainable development in Ethiopia which also ensures quality education at all levels.

After his opening speech, Mr. Wilson Sossion, chair person of Education International Africa Region Committee and Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions deputy president have delivered their solidarity massages.

Ethiopian Teachers Association's four years performance activities-accomplishments and challenges encountered were reported to the Congress. The General Assembly has thoroughly discussed on the report and approved it with some amendments.

In the course of the congress meeting, six selected agenda which were also discussed in the Council were presented to the Congress for further discussion and endorsement.

The congress appreciated the success ETA has made in increasing the career ladder level of teachers from seven to nine making the level equal to those of other civil servants, and be able to come up with a scheme which enables provision of housing for teachers. The congress also thanked the government for it recognized teachers' questions and gave positive response.

Among the discussed agenda were that members of the Congress have reached on a historic decision, i.e., Congress participants unanimously decided to contribute their one month salary for the purpose of ETA headquarters and regional branch office buildings to be effective from July 2017. This would serve as an example to convince members to do the same since it is just walking the talk.

Finally Generally Assembly elected ETA executive and Audit committee members who will serve for the following four years at headquarters according to ETA's, election rule of procedure. The elects were:

1. Mr. Yohannes Benti President, from Oromia region
2. Mr. Shimels Abebe V/President, from Amhara region
3. Mr. Tilahun Tarekegn General Secretary, from Tigray region
4. Mr. Tarekegn Haile Education Training and Research from SNNPR
5. Mrs. Destay Taddese Gender Affairs from Oromia region
6. Mr. Shimelis Taye Audit Committee Chair person  from Dire Dawa
7. Mr. Girma Abera member of the Audit Committee from Benishangul-Gumuz region and
8. Mrs. Aster Asefa member of the Audit Committee from Harari region

The above elects sword in front of the General Assembly to serve the Association honestly and responsibly as per the regulation of the Association and constitution of the country.

At the end, the Congress has adopted a resolution for members and the leaders of ETA to act accordingly; requesting the support of stakeholders from inside and abroad.