

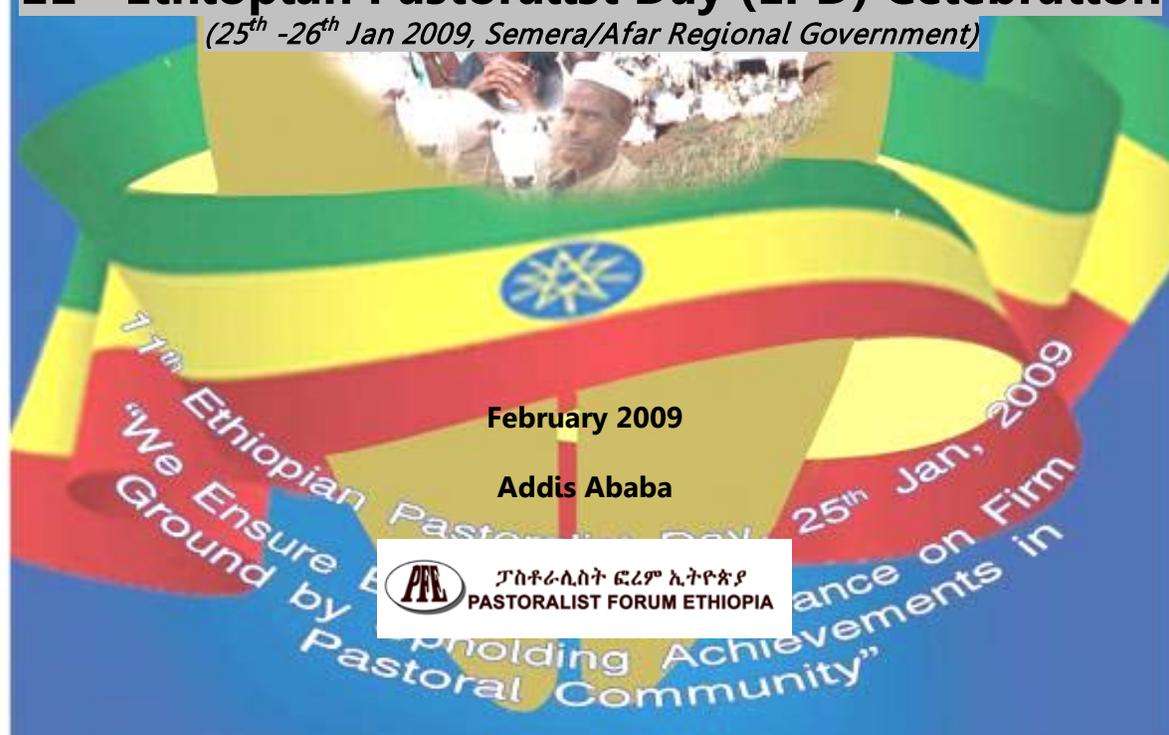
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## Report on:

# 11<sup>th</sup> Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD) Celebration

(25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009, Semera/Afar Regional Government)



February 2009

Addis Ababa



ፓስቶራሊስት ፎረም ኢትዮጵያ  
PASTORALIST FORUM ETHIOPIA



PASTORALIST FORUM ETHIOPIA



MINISTRY OF FEDERAL AFFAIRS



HOUSE OF PEOPLES' REPRESENTATIVES  
PASTORAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE



EPD INITIATED BY PASTORALIST AND  
REALIZE BY PCEA IN 1998

## TABLE OF CONTENT

### **Executive Summary 3**

#### **1. Background 6**

#### **2. Goal and Objective 7**

#### **3. The settings 8**

*1.1 Establishment of organizing committees 8*

*1.2 Celebration modality 8*

*1.3 Proposal writing and fund raising 9*

*1.4 Participant selection and invitation 9*

*1.5 Preparation and distribution of promotion materials 9*

*1.6 Media coverage 10*

#### **4. Celebration of the event 10**

*4.1 Openings 10*

*4.2 Presentation of Government report 11*

*4.3 Speech of PM 13*

*4.4 Hero pastoralists and partner award ceremony 13*

*4.5 Field visit in Aysaita and Afambo woredas 14*

*4.6 Experience sharing among regions 14*

*4.7 Event closing deliberations 16*

#### **5. Summary of expected results/outputs 16**

#### **6. Resolution of the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD 18**

#### **7. Annex 19**

## Executive Summary

The Ethiopian Pastoralists Day (EPD) is a multifaceted advocacy instrument and a common platform for pastoralist and partners. EPD serves pastoralist and partners to converge collective voice to better heard, to enhance and build pastoral solidarity, and to share cumulated experiences, cultures, living customs and environment. Since its first commemoration on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1999, EPD has been celebrated every year using different venues. The 11<sup>th</sup> EPD has been celebrated at national Afar Regional Government in Semera Town from 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009. The day was celebrated also at pastoral regions and woredas in a variety of events.

PFE jointly with the Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), and the Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives organized the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD celebration at the national level. The motto of the day was *"We Ensure Ethiopian Renaissance on Firm Ground by Upholding Achievements in Pastoralist Community"*. The overall objectives of the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD were to consolidate encouraging achievements obtained so far in pastoral development and recognition of pastoralists; to enhance pastoral solidarity and amplifying pastoralists' voice to be heard; and, to influence policy makers and all pastoral actors to renew their commitment for the overarching goal- enhancing good governance and sustainable pastoralist development in the Ethiopian Millennium. The celebrants were more than 1300 representing pastoralist communities from all pastoral regions, senior officials from federal and regional governments, donor communities, NGOs, academic and research institutions, private sector representatives, etc.

All planned activities of the event were delivered effectively and efficiently. The celebration of the day was accompanied by a field visit in two selected woredas of Afar region (Aysaita and Afambo). The contributions of various stakeholders in organizing the celebration, especially NGOs and private sector working in the region were immense. PFE has supported the celebration both technically and financially. PFE contributed USD 25,000 and USD 40,000 from PACT Ethiopia for celebrating the day at national level.

The following points summarize the key outcomes of the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD:

### **OUTCOME ONE: Momentum of pastoral advocacy on realizing right for development ensured in our Constitution Kept on and pastoralists' integration in national socio-economy ensured**

- ✓ *H.E Prime Minister Meles Zenawi officiated the opening ceremony while members of his cabinet were accompanying him. In his opening speech the PM called for all pastoral actors to explore and scale up best pastoral development practices through convincing and mobilizing pastoral communities at large. The PM emphasized the need for committed leadership and technical support for successful pastoral development.*
- ✓ *Elder pastoralist from Afar, Oromia, SNNP, and Somali regions made blessings and forwarded a key message of the day. The elders have emphasized the pastoral actors should renew their commitment to work with the pastoralist in the new millennium*
- ✓ *The PM awarded more than 208 hero pastoralists and partners with medals and certificates (128 pastoralist, 12 model kebele workers, 12 model kebele leaders, 12 model kebeles, 12 model woredas, 20 model civil society and cooperatives and 12 investors)*

- ✓ *Pastoralist and partners held panel discussion on key pastoral issues with the PM and passed an eleven - point resolution.*
- ✓ *Accommodation and food were offered for all the days whereby the pastoralist got an opportunity to discuss and share their practices and culture.*

**✚ OUTCOME TWO: The status of pastoral development in the country known and gaps discussed**

- ✓ *The Minister of MoFA, Dr. Shiferaw Tekelemariam, presented the achievements the Government attained so far on pastoral development referring to the resolutions passed during the 10<sup>th</sup> EPD and before*
- ✓ *Representatives from each pastoral regions has presented regional development best practice and lessens*

**✚ OUTCOME THREE: Pastoral solidarity through promotion of multiculturalism/ cultural pluralism under the pastoral context enhanced**

- ✓ *Pastoralists coming from different areas have showed their cultural songs, costumes, their living environment, etc. This can be taken as an ideal stage that the pastoralists strengthen their solidarity to voice together*

**✚ OUTCOME FOUR: The Public Domain reached out and the profile of pastoralists and pastoralism raised**

- ✓ *H.E Dr Shiferaw Teklemariam, Minster of MoFA, has delivered press conference for journalists of different media in the country*
- ✓ *The federal and regional senior Officials and Director of Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia gave statements on the celebration through media ahead, during, and after the event*
- ✓ *Ethiopian Radio has transmitted the ceremony of the event live in different languages, while the print media gave good coverage*
- ✓ *Promotional materials reflecting the key message of the event prepared and distributed: Four big Digital Billboards and ten big banners were posted in Addis Ababa, Awash, Mille, and Semera; 45 regional government flags prepared and posted in different places of Semera town; 1300 hand flag, 2000 copies of magazine, 2000 copies posters, 1300 T-Shirts, and 1500 Capes depicting key issues of 11<sup>th</sup> EPD prepared and distributed to GOs and NGOs, regions, donors and other pastoral friends*
- ✓ *A program on the process and activities achieved during the event was prepared and transmitted by ETV and Ethiopian Radio using different languages. These include discussion of the PM with the pastoralists, the field visit in Afambo and Aysaita woredas of Afar. Various interviews with pastoralists and government officials, interviews with awardees and experience sharing program of pastoral regions.*
- ✓ *Representatives' of Civil Society Organizations and other non-state actors mobilized to participate in the event*

 **OUTCOME FIVE: The whole process and outcomes of the 11th EPD documented and disseminated: Video, photographs, and a magazine on the event prepared and reached users**

- ✓ *The whole process of celebrating the event was photographed and documented through video cassette.*
- ✓ *The report on the whole process and achievements prepared circulated*
- ✓ *All organizers accompanied by the Minister and State Minister of MoFA gathered together to evaluate the event and discuss the way forward.*
- ✓ *The resolutions of the 11th EPD were compiled and ready to be circulated by MoFA*

The resolution of the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD<sup>1</sup> is as follow:

- (1) *We strongly request the commitment and attention of the Federal and Regional governments to scale up and disseminate best practices/experiences of land use and administration policy of the Afar region to other pastoral regions.*
- (2) *We ask for urgent completion of the ongoing peace building and conflict Early Warning system study and immediately implement the same for sustainably solving conflicts among different pastoral groups in different parts of the country*
- (3) *We ask for continued implementation and expansion of infrastructure development, social service delivery and activities promoting for sustainable development and benefit of pastoral communities.*
- (4) *We ask for continuation and wider implementation of the existing and promising livestock resource centered pastoral food security effort; and, also for wider implementation of crop and livestock extension packages through supporting with research*
- (5) *As the natural resources of the pastoral areas are degrading from time to time due to natural and human made calamities, we strongly ask the greater attention of our government for promoting natural resources conservation/protection measures through integrating the traditional and modern natural resource management conservation practices*
- (6) *We highly appreciate and acknowledge the efforts made so far with regard to expanding education in pastoral areas. However, we are highly concerned on quality and access of mobile community. Therefore, for improving the quality and coverage of education in pastoral areas, we ask for the development and implementation of new education curriculum which go in line with peculiarities of the pastoral way life*
- (7) *We ask for strengthening and continued implementation of the existing effort of establishing micro finance institution so as to link local communities with national and international market networks*
- (8) *We strongly ask the continued commitment and special effort of the federal governments, pastoral regional governments and other partners in supporting pastoral development so as to achieve MDGs*
- (9) *Improving budget allocation for pastoral areas taking in to account the age old marginalization, wider area coverage, backwardness, exiting huge livestock resource potential, and complexity of pastoral problems*
- (10) *We appreciate the efforts of the government in establishing various institutions to support pastoral development. However we believe that establishing autonomous pastoral ministry would be highly beneficial for pastoral development. Therefore we strongly ask the government to restructure pastoral institution through sharing experience of other countries*
- (11) *We Ethiopian pastoralists are committed and willing to stand with our government and other pastoral development partners and contribute to ensure Ethiopian renaissance on firm ground by upholding our achievements or best practices in pastoral areas*

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<sup>1</sup> Translated from the Amharic version of the resolution

## 1. Background

Ethiopia is considered one of a pastoral populous country in the globe. There are about 9.8 million pastoralists residing in more than 136 Woredas in the country. Since recent years, pastoralists and pastoralism have received the attention of many in development processes and culmination of age-old marginalization. The Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD), which is marked on Tir 17 (25<sup>th</sup> /26<sup>th</sup> January) and commemorated annually, is an important event and process that brings together almost all pastoral actors in the country for common goal- sustainable pastoral development and promoting good governance.

EPD is a unique and a multifaceted advocacy instrument for the pastoralists and partners. It raises the pastoral profile and enhances their solidarity to influence decision makers for better attention. Since its establishment in 1999 in Somali region in Filtu area<sup>2</sup>, EPD has been celebrated consecutively for ten years. The change in perception towards pastoralism and the space created as a result of the EPD has an incremental value in recognition of pastoralists and pastoralism, and enhancing sustainable pastoral development.

The pastoral issues have been flagged up at the national development arena. In the 8<sup>th</sup> EPD celebrated in Addis Ababa in 2006, the Prime Minister H.E Meles Zenawi has assured that the Government would continue supporting pastoral livelihood. In addition, he officially endorsed the EPD as a national day, which witnesses the political will of the Government to support pastoral development. Moreover, the Premier statement during the 10<sup>th</sup> EPD celebrated in Jan 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Adam in Oromia region assured further that the Renaissance of Ethiopia cannot be effective without the participation of pastoralist. In order the government own the process and secure budget for the celebration the pastoralist delegated the Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA) to facilitate the 10<sup>th</sup> EPD and onward.

The growing attention towards pastoralism and pastoral development have faced sever challenges emanating from complexity and depth of pastoral problems and the consequence of the denied rights of the pastoralists for more than half a century. The knowledge gaps and myths towards pastoralism and pastoral development have not been faded away rather they are still part of the inherited pastoral problems that slowing down the multi-actors efforts. That means although the outcomes of the subsequent deliberations are encouraging, there is still an up hill struggle ahead of the pastoralists and partners/stakeholders to address the age-old pastoral issues. For instance, infant stage in the development of land use policy in the context of pastoral livelihoods, mechanism to use livestock as collateral to get loan from bank, and lack of micro-finance institution are among the few.

Therefore, it is imperative to commemorate the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD to leverage the renewal of all pastoral actors' commitment, and converge efforts taking extra-steps to support the pastoral livelihood to build the renaissance of Ethiopia in the strong base. Accordingly, Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA) jointly with Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) and the Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives, with full support and involvement of the Afar regional government, organized the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD from 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009 in Semera town of ANRS. The motto of the day was "*We Ensure Ethiopian Renaissance on Firm Ground by Upholding Achievements in Pastoralist Community*"

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<sup>2</sup> Following to the Somali and Borena elder pastoralists' recommendation of the EPD, Pastoralist Concern Association Ethiopia (PCAEE), a local NGO, organized the first EPD in 1999 in Filtu Town in Liben Zone of the Somali Regional State.

The primary objectives of the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD were to consolidate encouraging achievements obtained so far in pastoral development and recognition of pastoralists; to enhance pastoral solidarity and amplifying pastoralists' voice to be heard; and, to influence policy makers and all pastoral actors to maximize their commitment and continue supporting pastoralists and pastoral development. The event was attended by more than 1300 celebrants drawn from representatives of pastoralist from all pastoral regions, various levels government institutions, donor community, NGOs/ CSOs, researchers and academics, private sector, journalists, and guests from Neighbouring countries.

This report describes the overall processes, contents, and outcomes of the celebration. The report is organized in to seven parts. The first three parts deal with the background and objectives as well s the setting of the event. The fourth part describes the celebration of the event. Part five summarizes expected outputs/results. Parts six and seven present resolution of the day and annexes respectively.

## **2. Goal and Objective**

The overall objectives of the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD are to consolidate encouraging achievements obtained so far in pastoral development and recognition of pastoralists; to enhance pastoral solidarity and amplifying pastoralists' voice to be heard; and, to influence policy makers and all pastoral actors to renew their commitment for the overarching goal- enhancing good governance and sustainable pastoralist development in the Ethiopian Millennium.

The specific objectives are to:

- Create a stage for the decision makers and other actors to present/reflect on what have been done so far vis-à-vis the resolutions passed during the 11th EPD and before;
- Discuss and debate on selected pastoral related policy/strategy/programs developed and implemented so far in the country to narrow development gaps between the nation and the pastoral regions;
- Enhance pastoral solidarity through promotion of *multiculturalism/cultural pluralism* under the pastoral context;
- Keep momentum of realization of *right for development* enshrined in our Constitution and ensure pastoralists' integration into the national socio-economy
- Ensuring sustainability of pastoralism through provision of special awards to successful hero pastoralists and partners;
- Leverage direction of pastoral development in the new Ethiopian Millennium; and,
- Document and disseminate the process and resolutions of the Day.

### **3. The settings**

#### **1.1 Establishment of organizing committees**

The overall management of organizing the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD (planning, preparation, coordination) was done by a supreme committee of 9 members supported by sub-committees. Under the auspicious of the main committee there were three sub-committees established having specific roles and responsibilities. Terms of Reference was developed for both supreme and sub committees to guide and monitor their day to day activities. The committee had regular meeting to monitor the progress of the preparation tasks.

The main committee is composed of 9 persons drawn from four institutions- under MOFA, State Minister (Chairperson), Heads of the Afar and the Somali Coordination Offices (members), PCDP member, Head of Public Relation (member), of Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee in the House of Peoples' Representative (member), Director of Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia/PFE, a representative from Ministry of Information (member), and a representative from Ethiopian Radio and Television Organization (member). The main committee had the following responsibilities:

- The main committee is the leading organ in designing, directing and monitoring the overall activities of the 11th EPD
- Establish sub-committees, review and approve action plans, give directions and undertake M&E
- Decide on motto and venue of the event, type and number of participants, and dispatches the letter of invitation on time
- Prepare a consolidated report based on the resolutions made in the 11th EPD
- Raise fund and decide on budgetary matters
- Facilitate for enough coverage of media
- Decide on all additional activities deem necessary for the good of the event

#### **1.2 Celebration modality**

Alike the previous EPD's, the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD was celebrated at Federal, regional and in some regions at woreda level. All pastoral regions celebrated the event some days before the national day in their respective regions while some woredas celebrated the event in same date of the national event. The decentralized mode of celebration has raised the plight of the pastoralists at the regional level and had incremental value to address voice poverty at the national level.

The celebration encompasses three major sessions. Session one was the opening session which encompasses opening speech, cultural and musical show, the Prime Minister (PM) speech, elders blessing, pastoralist award, presentation of report by Ministry of Federal Affairs. Session two was the panel discussion session where the pastoralist openly raised their issues and discussed with the PM. Session three was more of experience sharing among different pastoral groups. Under this session pastoralists and all the guests went to some selected kebeles in Afambo and Aysaia woredas and visited development activities at grassroots level and discussed with Afar pastoral communities. Research institutes of all pastoral regions have also presented their particular experiences to the participants. After all the process the pastoralists concluded their celebration through drawing resolution of the day

### **1.3 Proposal writing and fund raising**

A project proposal on celebrating the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD was prepared by Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia, and commented, enriched and approved by the Supreme organizing committee led by H. E state minister Ato Shiferaw. The total cost of celebrating the event was estimated as 1,297,000 ETB. Out of the total, ETB 250,000 was contributed by Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia, ETB 397,000 covered by PACT Ethiopia through Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia where as the rest (ETB 650,000) was covered by the government (PCDP).

### **1.4 Participant selection and invitation**

The supreme organizing committee identified/decided the list and the total number of the participants and forwarded it to the documentation and public relation sub-committee to facilitate the dissemination of letter of invitation. The invitation letter for NGOs was distributed through Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia. PFE member organizations in all pastoral regions have supported in organizing regional level celebrations, in mobilization of pastoral community representatives and facilitated invitation of other participants. The total number of invitees at federal level was more than 1300 (including facilitators, Musical bands, Awardees pastoralists and journalists) drawn from representatives of pastoralist of all pastoral regions, various levels government institutions, donor community, NGOs/ CSOs, researchers and academics, private sector, journalists, and guests from Neighbouring countries.

### **1.5 Preparation and distribution of promotion materials**

Promotional materials reflecting the existing situations of Ethiopian pastoralists and key message of the event were prepared, printed and published, and distributed to the celebrants of the day. The preparation of the promotional materials was done by *"documentation and public relation sub-committee"*.

The promotional materials were:

- Four big Digital Billboards prepared and posted in key public gathering areas in Addis Ababa and in different places in Afar region. Each one bill board was posted at *Meskel Square* in Addis Ababa, at Awash Arba, at Mille and Semera town.
- 2000 copies of magazine reflecting existing situation of Ethiopian pastoralists and key issues of EPD were prepared, printed and distributed to the participants
- Ten big Banners were prepared and posted in different places in Semera town and in the compounds of Semera Stadium where the day was celebrated
- 1300 T-Shirts and 1500 Capes prepared and distributed to the celebrants of the day
- 2000 posters depicting key issues of 11<sup>th</sup> EPD prepared and distributed to GOs and NGOs, regions, donors and other pastoral friends. Some of the posters were posted in different places in Semera town and in the compounds of Semera Stadium where the day was celebrated
- 45 regional government flags and 1000 national flag prepared and posted in different places of Semera town

## **1.6 Media coverage**

The overall process and implementation of the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD has got wider media coverage before, during and after the actual date of celebration. Media related activities were coordinated and facilitated by the documentation and public relation sub-committee. The sub committee has prepared detail action plan to guide its work. The following are the major achievements with regard to media activities:

### **Before the event**

- Ethiopian Radio and Ethiopian television (ETV) have broadcasted a program on success stories of socio economic development effort in pastoral regions (Afar, Somali, Oromia and SNNP ) and broadcasted using various languages.
- H.E Dr. Shiferaw Hailemariam, Minister of MoFA, has delivered press conference for journalists of different media
- MoFA higher officials and the PFE Executive Director delivered several interviews in Radio and on Television as well as Newspapers to address the public on the progress and objective of the EPD
- There was series of ETV NEWS Spots on ETV promoting the DAY

### **During the event (January 25, 2009)**

- More than seven different local Media participated in the event and produced various article and program in different local languages. The major media attending the day include Ethiopian radio and Television Agency ( with 20 journalists), Press Agency ( with 3 journalist), Radio Fan (four journalist), Walta Information Center (Four Journalist), Zami communication (two person), government Affair communication, Afar Information bureau and other medias.
- Ethiopian Radio and Radio Fana were transmitting the ceremony of the event live in different languages, while the print media gave good coverage

### **After the event**

- A program on the process and activities achieved during the event was prepared and transmitted by ETV and Ethiopian Radio using different languages.
  - A program has been developed on the discussion of the Pastoralists with PM and disseminated in different languages
  - Similarly a program has been developed on the field visit the participants to two woredas of Afar region( Aysaita and Afambo) broadcasted in different languages

## **4. Celebration of the event**

### **4.1 Openings**

The program was started on January 25, 2009 at 9:00 am through brief introduction of the history and objectives of EPD in general and 11<sup>th</sup> EPD in particular; and tentative programs of the celebration by H.E Ato Mulugeta Wuletaw, State Minister, Ministry of federal Affairs. That was followed by invitation of Pastoral elders to deliver traditional blessing.

Elder pastoralist from Oromia, Afar, Somali and SNNP region made blessings one after another in their own language and forwarded a key message of the day. The elder pastoralists have called pastoral actors for more support of the pastoral areas. Right after the ceremony of traditional blessing, Ato Ismael Ali Sero, President of the Afar regional state, has delivered welcoming speech.

Cultural and traditional music teams from Somali, Afar, SNNP and Oromia regional states have showed their *cultural songs, costumes, their living environment, etc* in their own languages one after another. The music teams from all regions wear their traditional wear with some of them having painted their body with different colors (SNNP). This can be taken as an ideal stage that the pastoralists strengthen their solidarity to voice together.

#### **4.2 Presentation of Government report**

The Minister of MoFA, Dr Shiferaw Tekelemariam, has presented progress reports and lesson learnt vis-à-vis the resolutions passed in the 10<sup>th</sup> EPD. In gross, the reports revealed the slight progress in social development as compared to the previous years. During his report, the Minister has pointed out that in the past one year a remarkable progress has been achieved in socio economic development of pastoral region through coordinated effort of the pastoral regional governments, federal government and neighboring regional state. The following were the major plans and achievements made in pastoral regions since celebrating the 9<sup>th</sup> EPD:

##### Capacity building

- In all pastoral regions, through public sector capacity building program, various capacity building program focusing on training, consultancy service and material procurement have been under implementation. For this, the federal government has transferred a total of 29.1 million birr to pastoral region in addition to the previous support of 50.4 million birr.
- Through Civil Service Reform program an intensive training on change management was given for senior government officials of Afar and Somali region. In addition TOT on Basic Business Reengineering (BBR) was given for 15 participants for six months.
- 35 Zonal and Woreda level advisors, drawn from federal level government sector offices, have been assigned in Somali region
- Various Intensive on job training including agricultural extension, livestock resource development – (camel and goat milk production, forage, and fattening), cooperative management, Natural resource, Marketing, impute supply and distribution, have been given for more than 837 regional, Woreda and development center workers of Afar and Somali regions.
- In Oromia region capacity building training was given for 193, 402 pastoralists. In addition training on gender, HIV, IGS was given 1337 pastoral women. Various training on livestock development, range management, crop production, natural resource management was given for Woreda and development center workers. Full support has been give for Yabello technical and vocational college. The college is currently hosts 182 student and has finalized preparation to receive additional 250 students.

## Agriculture/pastoralism and rural development

- Various manuals on pastoral community act on its livestock during normal time and how supply its livestock to market during drought time has been developed and awareness given to the wider community
- Pastoral extension package has been developed in pastoral context and pastoralists have been provided with action oriented technical support. From Afar and Somali region 3000 pastoralists have been benefited from integrated pastoral extension demonstration which includes 14 different extension packages.
- Pastoral community participatory extension system, improved seed multiplication, input supply and distribution system has been prepared and training organized for more than 200 regional, Woreda and kebele level workers.
- Extension manuals for 16 packages has been prepared and distributed
- In Somali and Afar region, integrated basin development action plan is underdevelopment
- In SNNP region various livestock development works such as building of veterinary posy, drug supply, assigning of vet technician, forage development and development of animal watering scheme have been undertaken
- In Oromia region, vaccination was given for more than 3 million livestock and treatment for more than 2 million animals was given. In addition the standard of one animal laboratory has been upgraded and 132 borena breeds have been distributed.
- National livestock marketing information system has been established. Efforts have been made to link the regional livestock market center with national lie animal information system. In Somali region export certificate was given for 11, 700 goats and sheep; 3137 camels, for 13,900 cattle and for 11, 700 liter of milk and exported through *Togochalle*.
- With regard to the issues of pastoral land use and administration policy and strategy development, in all pastoral regions studies and preparation works has been completed. In Afar region land use and administration policy and proclamation have been developed and approved by the regional government

## Social service and infrastructure

- The provisions of social and economic services were remarkably improved in pastoral areas (Water, road, Alternative education, Irrigation development, Animal and human health, Telecommunication, electricity, post office).
- In Somali region potable water supply coverage reached 38%. There are also a number of water supply projects under implementation. Potable water supply in Afar region reached 55.4%. Potable water supply coverage in South Omo is 44%.
- With regard health service of the pastoral region, in Afar region basic health service coverage reached 50%, in Somali region it reached 60%, in SNNP 45%
- In Oromia region, design and feasibility study of Gololcha irrigation development, Wolewel and Bale gardula irrigation scheme has been completed. The construction of Fentale modern irrigation scheme is underway. In Somali region construction of irrigation infrastructure Gode irrigation project (2310 ha) has been completed. In Afar region the construction of Kesem and Tendaho irrigation projects are under implementation
- In Afar the number of towns with electric power service reached more than 30, in Somali, they are more than 60. With regard to Telephone service, in Afar there are 5810 telephone customer number while this is 11038 for Somali region.

### 4.3 Speech of PM

The Minister of Federal Affairs Ministry, Dr Shiferaw Tekelemariam has invited H.E Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to deliver speech for the participants. The prime minister started his speech through voicing the motto of the day and welcoming the participants. He mentioned that the result of this coordinated effort has illuminated the socio economic development status of the pastoral communities from time to time. The PM has added that the efforts of pastoral communities in improving livestock production and their orientation towards market are encouraging. The pastoral communities have also started to diversify their livelihood including small scale agriculture. This is also another encouraging efforts made by the pastoral communities. The PM added that the presence of hero pastoralists waiting for the award the other day were the indicator of our achievement in pastoral development and congratulated the awardees pastoralists. In the course of his speech, he delivered the following key message to the hero pastoralists: *"You hero pastoralist who are awarded today, have done exemplary job and the whole pastoral community need to be proud of your effort and results. However, the sustainability of your today's result is only ensured if and only if other community members followed your foot and achieved the same. Therefore I strongly insist you to train and help others to accompany your effort"*.

In his speech the PM called for all pastoral actors to explore and scale up best pastoral development practice through convincing and mobilizing pastoral communities at large. The PM added that these require committed leadership and technical support. Finally the PM concluded his speech by saying "The federal government is committed to support regional government and the communities at large in the process of improving the life of the community through exploring and scaling up best achievements and practices".

### 4.4 Hero pastoralists and partner award ceremony

The PM awarded 208 people with medals and certificates (128 hero pastoralists, 12 model kebel workers, 12 Model Kebele leaders, 12 model Kebels, 12 model woredas, 20 civic Associations and pastoral cooperatives, and 12 developmental investors. According to the briefing of head of Oromia Millennium Office, the awardees were selected from their community based on their remarkable achievement in improving their life and livelihood through own individual efforts and government extension support. The following were the major criteria are used to select the awardees:

- Those pastoralists who were able to accumulate higher number of livestock wealth through their own individual effort and which can be taken as exemplary pastoralist for others.
- Those who easily adopt, apply and transfer to others modern livestock production extension methods, livestock market information, and best practices
- Those who used to sell their livestock a head of drought and change in to money before they lose their asset because of drought
- Those pastoralists who earn additional income from crop cultivation and scored tangible improvement their living
- Those who started settling around river banks, practice small scale irrigation (produce crop, vegetables and fruits) and transformed to permanent settler

## **Memorial Gift**

With the prime objective of strengthening friendship and culture of supporting each other, Ato Esmael alisero, President of Afar Region, presented memorial gifts to the PM, Ministry of Federal Affairs and all regional governments participated the event (Somali, Oromia, SNNP, Gambella, Benshangul, Amhara, Tigray regional governments). The Somali regional government president has also presented gift for the PM, Amhara, and Afar presidents. The gift by Ato Ismael Ali Sero, the president of Afar Regional State to the Pm was a photograph showing Afar Heroism.

## **4.5 Field visit in Aysaita and Afambo woredas**

The participants have conducted field visit in two selected woredas (Aysaita and Afambo woredas) for half day on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. The participants divided in to three groups and each group visited one Kebele. The participants visited crop land, forage land, palm plantation and shared farming system experiences. The participants also meet with Afar pastoralists and learned their culture, custom and environment. The participants have been surprised by the hospitality and friendship welcoming of the Afar community. All the participants have been invited corn, milk and other traditional food of Afar.

## **4.6 Experience sharing among regions**

The government representatives of the four pastoral regions ( Afar, Somali, SNNP and oromia ) have shared their experiences and best practices to celebrants of 11th EPD. The major issues raised are summarized below region by region.

### **Afar region**

There is a pastoral & agro pastoral research institute which was established recently in Afar region, and opened its head office in Semara town. The institute is working in close collaboration with Melkassa & Werer Agricultural Research Institutes. The institute is working on selecting relevant technologies, improving livestock production, oil crops & vegetables, forage development and improvement, Pastoral mobility pattern forage condition, and selection highly productive crop variety. Afar research institute has presented the experience of its work on improving income of the pastoralists and at the same time improving forage supply. The delegates of the institute mentioned that the productivity of livestock in the region is very low due to lack of pasture, livestock disease, lack of water, poor genetic performance, backward production system and less support to livestock sector.

The institute has taken the pasture issue and supported the community to engage on pasture seed reproduction. After the production, the communities will sell the seed to the government in reasonable price. In this process the institute learned that the community believed that the source of pasture is natural only, there was no culture of pasture seed supply, poor livestock husbandry, invasion of Prosopis and degradation of rangelands. The institute has organized intensive training to solve some of the problem. To sum up the experience from Afar will show that in pastoral areas it is possible to reproduce pasture seed through involving the pastoralists and at the same creating additional income for the pastoral household, particularly, women.

### **Somali region**

The experience presented by Somali region is related with promotion of the participation of investors in Agricultural sector and its benefit. They have taken Harawa family cooperative as a case. This cooperative has started to produce various crops in 400 ha with initial cost of 100, 000 birr. In addition the cooperative started dairy farm with 4 cows. The cooperative increased the

number of cows to 15 and earn daily 500 birr from milk sale. The annual net profit of the cooperative is 300, 000 birr and its capital reached 1,000,000 birr. From this case it is possible to learn the following:

- It is possible to earn better benefit through investing on the local resources.
- Diversification and integration is the best solution to with stand the effect of climate change and drought
- The region has good resource for investor and if investor decide to come they will be profitable

### **SNNP Region**

The best experiences presented from SNNP region is related to harmful traditional practices eradication. The following were the major step they followed to eradicate some of harmful traditional practices in their region.

- The region focused in one community (Bena community) to pilot its campaign of eradicating harmful traditional practices.
  - ✓ Select and employ influential person ( both women and men) from each community and train them
  - ✓ Identify list of list of harmful traditional practices in each community at woredas level. Encourage Community health Workers to discuss with their community at grass root level
  - ✓ As the result of discussion agree on harmful practice to be avoided and enforce the local community to keep their promise of eradication through traditional beliefs
  - ✓ Once succeeded in some villages of Bena community different awards were given for traditional leaders / influential persons or social groups contributing positively for the success of the campaign
- The experience of Bena community was documented and used as key tool to sensitize and train other community

### **Oromia region**

The issues presented as the best experiences by Oromia region is related to the newly conducted land use feasibility study in pastoral areas of the region. The result of study indicated that the almost all pastoral areas of the region receive inadequate water and therefore they are not suitable for crop production other than livestock production. This resulted influenced the regional government to change its initial thinking of expanding crop production in pastoral areas. Therefore, this experience indicate that in pastoral areas it is quite important to deeply assess and study area potential and the natural resource base to bring sustainable development.

### **Pastoralist discussion on the presentation: Question and comments from the pastoralists**

- (1) The president of Afar Pastoral Council, Ato Hassen, indicated that the conflict between Afar and Somali community (Issa) is the major problem of pastoral development. Therefore, he asked the forum to come up with workable recommendations to solve the problem in sustainable manner

- (2) The Afar pastoralists also asked that *Prosopis* is highly expanding and invading pasture land and crop lands. The regional government is working on its prevention and mitigation through utilizing the plant for generating income for the pastoralist. However the problem is beyond the capacity of the region and they asked the involvement of the federal government
- (3) Other pastoralists also raised invasive plants such as *Prosopis* and *Pariteneum* are the major threats of pastoral community and called for the attention and action of the government
- (4) The need for protection and conservation of dry season and emergency grazing areas while expanding and promoting investment
- (5) Special attention should be given to issues of pastoral land use and administration

#### 4.7 Event closing deliberations

The conclusion made by H.E Dr Shiferaw Tekelemariam was:

- H.E Dr. Shiferaw Tekelemariam appreciated the commitment and willingness of pastoral community and underlined the need to continue the existing best achievements and best practice and to be more committed and exemplary for this to happen
- The Minister has also appreciated the efforts being made by the region in controlling the invasive plants. They suggested for coordinated effort
- Finally, the Somali Region representative took over the symbol of EPD depicting responsibility of organizing 12<sup>th</sup> EPD from the Afar region.

#### 5. Summary of expected results/outputs

##### **OUTCOME ONE: Momentum of pastoral advocacy on realizing right for development ensured in our Constitution Kept on and pastoralists' integration in national socio-economy ensured**

- ✓ *H.E Prime Minister Meles Zenawi officiated the opening ceremony while members of his cabinet were accompanying him. In his opening speech the PM called for all pastoral actors to explore and scale up best pastoral development practices through convincing and mobilizing pastoral communities at large. The PM emphasized the need for committed leadership and technical support for successful pastoral development.*
- ✓ *Elder pastoralist from Afar, Oromia, SNNP, and Somali regions made blessings and forwarded a key message of the day. The elders have emphasized the pastoral actors should renew their commitment to work with the pastoralist in the new millennium*
- ✓ *The PM awarded more than 208 hero pastoralists and partners with medals and certificates (128 pastoralist, 12 model kebele workers, 12 model kebele leaders, 12 model kebeles, 12 model woredas, 20 model civil society and cooperatives and 12 investors)*
- ✓ *Pastoralist and partners held panel discussion on key pastoral issues with the PM and passed an eleven - point resolution.*
- ✓ *Accommodation and food were offered for all the days whereby the pastoralist got an opportunity to discuss and share their practices and culture.*

**✚ OUTCOME TWO: The status of pastoral development in the country known and gaps discussed**

- ✓ *The Minister of MoFA, Dr. Shiferaw Tekelemariam, presented the achievements the Government attained so far on pastoral development referring to the resolutions passed during the 10<sup>th</sup> EPD and before*
- ✓ *Representatives from each pastoral regions has presented regional development best practice and lessens*

**✚ OUTCOME THREE: Pastoral solidarity through promotion of multiculturalism/ cultural pluralism under the pastoral context enhanced**

- ✓ *Pastoralists coming from different areas have showed their cultural songs, costumes, their living environment, etc. This can be taken as an ideal stage that the pastoralists strengthen their solidarity to voice together*

**✚ OUTCOME FOUR: The Public Domain reached out and the profile of pastoralists and pastoralism raised**

- ✓ *H. E Dr Shiferaw Teklemariam, Minster of MoFA, has delivered press conference for journalists of different media in the country*
- ✓ *The federal and regional senior Officials and Director of Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia gave statements on the celebration through media ahead, during, and after the event*
- ✓ *Ethiopian Radio has transmitted the ceremony of the event live in different languages, while the print media gave good coverage*
- ✓ *Promotional materials reflecting the key message of the event prepared and distributed: Four big Digital Billboards and ten big banners were posted in Addis Ababa, Awash, Mille, and Semera; 45 regional government flags prepared and posted in different places of Semera town; 1300 hand flag, 2000 copies of magazine, 2000 copies posters, 1300 T-Shirts, and 1500 Capes depicting key issues of 11<sup>th</sup> EPD prepared and distributed to GOs and NGOs, regions, donors and other pastoral friends*
- ✓ *A program on the process and activities achieved during the event was prepared and transmitted by ETV and Ethiopian Radio using different languages. These include discussion of the PM with the pastoralists, the field visit in Afambo and Aysaita woredas of Afar. Various interviews with pastoralists and government officials, interviews with awardees and experience sharing program of pastoral regions.*
- ✓ *Representatives' of Civil Society Organizations and other non-state actors mobilized to participate in the event*

 **OUTCOME FIVE: The whole process and outcomes of the 11th EPD documented and disseminated: Video, photographs, and a magazine on the event prepared and reached users**

- ✓ *The whole process of celebrating the event was photographed and documented through video cassette.*
- ✓ *The report on the whole process and achievements prepared circulated*
- ✓ *All organizers accompanied by the Minister and State Minister of MoFA gathered together to evaluate the event and discuss the way forward.*
- ✓ *The resolutions of the 11th EPD were compiled and ready to be circulated by MoFA*

## **6. Resolution of the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD**

Pastoralists and decision-makers and stakeholders came together, discussed and debated on key pastoral issues. The resolution of the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD is therefore as follow:

1. We strongly request the commitment and attention of the Federal and Regional governments to scale up and disseminate best practices/experiences of land use and administration policy of the Afar region to other pastoral regions.
2. We ask for urgent completion of the ongoing peace building and conflict Early Warning system study and immediately implement the same for sustainably solving conflicts among different pastoral groups in different parts of the country
3. We ask for continued implementation and expansion of infrastructure development, social service delivery and activities promoting for sustainable development and benefit of pastoral communities.
4. We ask for continuation and wider implementation of the existing and promising livestock resource centered pastoral food security effort; and, also for wider implementation of crop and livestock extension packages through supporting with research
5. As the natural resources of the pastoral areas are degrading from time to time due to natural and human made calamities, we strongly ask the greater attention of our government for promoting natural resources conservation/protection measures through integrating the traditional and modern natural resource management conservation practices
6. We highly appreciate and acknowledge the efforts made so far with regard to expanding education in pastoral areas. However, we are highly concerned on quality and access of mobile community. Therefore, for improving the quality and coverage of education in pastoral areas, we ask for the development and implementation of new education curriculum which go in line with peculiarities of the pastoral way life
7. We ask for strengthening and continued implementation of the existing effort of establishing micro finance institution so as to link local communities with national and international market networks
8. We strongly ask the continued commitment and special effort of the federal governments, pastoral regional governments and other partners in supporting pastoral development so as to achieve MDGs
9. Improving budget allocation for pastoral areas taking in to account the age old marginalization, wider area coverage, backwardness, exiting huge livestock resource potential, and complexity of pastoral problems
10. We appreciate the efforts of the government in establishing various institutions to support pastoral development. However we believe that establishing autonomous pastoral ministry would be highly beneficial for pastoral development. Therefore we strongly ask the government to restructure pastoral institution through sharing experience of other countries
11. We Ethiopian pastoralists are committed and willing to stand with our government and other pastoral development partners and contribute to ensure Ethiopian renaissance on firm ground by upholding our achievements or best practices in pastoral areas

## 7. Annex

7.1 Letter of invitation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Ref.No: \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_

### **Sub.: Invitation to participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD) celebration**

**Dear Madam/Sir,**

The Ethiopian Pastoralist day (EPD), which is marked on Tir 17<sup>th</sup> (Jan 25<sup>th</sup> /26<sup>th</sup>), has been commemorated annually since 1999 in different Venues. EPD is a multifaceted advocacy instrument and a platform that begins almost all pastoral actors together in the country for overarching goal-sustainable pastoral development. During the last few years, this historic event has raised immensely the profile of the pastoralist and enhanced the pastoral solidarity to better heard by the decision makers and the public. As a result, the pastoral issues have been flagged up at the national development arena. In the 8<sup>th</sup> EPD, the Federal Government has recognized and endorsed officially EPD as a national day to be commemorated every year on Tir 17<sup>th</sup>.

In response to the resolution passed by the pastoralists in the 10<sup>th</sup> EPD, the Ministry of Federal Affairs (MOFA) has taken the responsibility to organize the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD. Pastoralist forum Ethiopia (PFE) and Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in the FDRE House of Peoples' Representative are key partners in this endeavor.

The 11<sup>th</sup> EPD will be celebrated at the national level in Semera (Afar Regional government) under the theme ***We ensure Ethiopian renaissance on firm ground by upholding achievements in pastoral community.*** The celebration modalities include a panel discussion and press conference to be held ahead of the actual celebration; ceremonial events comprising key note addresses by senior Government official and messages form representatives of the pastoralists; special awards ceremony of development hero pastoralists and partners; paper presentations by various actors signifying the theme of the day; and, special platform for the pastoralists to debate on key issues and pass resolution of the day.

A senior government representative is expected to officiate the celebration. Representatives of pastoralists from all pastoral regions; federal and regional government organizations; CSO/NGOs; embassies; donor communities; religious institutions; private sectors; celebrities and public figures, academic and research institutes; and gusts from neighboring countries are expected as celebrants of the event.

❖ **Date : Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

❖ **Place : Semera town, Afar National Regional State**

❖ **Venue : Semera Stadium**

❖ **Time : Starting from 8:00**

Therefore, I'm glad to invite you or your esteemed organization to participate in this historic event by sending a relevant participant. Please note that the detailed timetable will reach you soon

**For further information please contact:**

→ **Pastoralist forum Ethiopia (PFE) tel.: +251 11 662 83 43/44 or + 251 911 60 48 43 (mob)**

→ **Ministry of federal Affairs (MoFA) tel.: +251 11 553 73 76 or + 251 911 69 89 95 (mob)**

Please kindly bring this invitation letter with you just to ease the entrance process at the event place.

With best regards,

Tezera Getahun

Executive Director and member of the 11<sup>th</sup> EPD Main Comm.