

FIRST PRELIMINARY PROGRESS REPORT ON FOREINGEN ETHIOPIENS BOERN

I went to the orphanage center in Makale on 8 February and returned to Addis Ababa on the 14 February 2007 after assessing the progress made since the remittance of the 65000 DKK (95882.25 BIRR).

To assist me Gebremedhin Siyum from Aarhus who happened to be in Addis presently also gone with me to observe, witness, and participate with me on how all activities at the orphanage center are progressing.

Fikre, the head of Human Beings Association and Brother Hood (HAB), who had already arranged welcome reception for us at the orphanage center took us there to where the children are living and the personnel staff is working. The children and the staff were very happy to see us and all were applauding and warmly smiling. We shook hands with each one of them. They made very nice food and soft drinks. We were very impressed when from among the children stood up, sang and made speeches and jokes, attributed to their gratitude to the donors of “Foreningen Ethiopiens Boern” in Denmark.

I took pictures of each child of all the 60 children and the personnel staff by my digital camera from which I will transfer to my computer, develop and send them to www.ethiopiensboern.dk by e-mail as attachment for the donors to see how the children and personnel staff look like. I also took video film of the general area of the orphanage center and the rooms where the children are living, eating, sleeping, go to toilet, study and do their school home works, and where their food staff supplies are stored. All the structures in the area are poorly built with metal sheets. They are cold at night and hot during the day. They are uncomfortable.

The next thing we did was to go together with Fikre to the office of the regional governor of Tigray and we briefed the policy advisor of the governor on our project. The advisor’s name is Nigisti W/Rufael. I knew her when the first time I was in Makale to establish the project. She was very helpful then and more helpful now. She promised to brief the governor upon his return from Addis and assured us that the governor will be pleased and that he will help the orphanage center.

Then we went to the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BOLSA) head office which is directly under the governor and with which we have signed the letter of agreement when we established “Foreningen Ethiopiens Boern.” We briefed the deputy administrator of BOLSA, Sister Belaynesh, on the progress made and on the first remittance of 65000 DKK from the acc.nr.of “Foreningen Ethiopiens Boern in Denmark to the acc.nr. Of HAB in Makale in accordance with the letter of agreement signed by HAB, BOLSA, Bestyrelsen Foreningen Ethiopiens Boern, and myself as a coordinator. Sister Belaynesh was very grateful to the donors in Denmark and said that she will brief the Head of BOLSA, Kefyalew Kinfemichael upon his return from Addis where he was attending seminar course. She promised that BOLSA will do it’s best to help Fikre whenever he needs help. BOLSA have already given Fikre 50000 Birr to construct 3 rooms building where the children will sleep.

Upon my recommendation she asked Fikre that he should keep BOLSA up to date by sending copies of the periodical progress reports he sends to “Bestyrelsen Ethiopiens Boern” and to me as a coordinator for evaluation and control to which he has agreed.

The next in line to be visited was the Mayor’s (Borgmester’s) office of Makale. His name is Mengistu Yitbarek. The Mayor received us warmly and he was very pleased with our briefing and was grateful for the establishment of our project in Makale. We requested him to help Fikre if he needs extra land in the future in addition to the 4500 square meters he already has for the children for the purpose of self generating income activities such as establishing places for rearing hens, goats,sheep, and cows for producing and selling eggs, milk, butter, meat, and other associated products, such as planting various vegetables, fruits, flours for selling and getting income and consumption in the orphanage center itself. The Major promised to help Fikre with the required extension of land when the time comes. In addition the Major suggested that it is his wish to have close relationship between Copenhagen and Makale to be sister cities in the future.

Following these briefings to the regional governor’s advisor, BOLSA, and the city Major we also briefed Roman G/Selassie, the wife of the former Ambassador to Scandinavia, Tewolde Gebru. Roman is now the Head of Social and Economic Affairs of the women in Tigray and she is also a member of the regional parliament of Tigray. She was very pleased with our project and promised to tell her husband when he returns to Makale. I have

asked her to visit the orphanage center now and then and give moral support to the children especially to the girls there. She agreed to do that. Afterwards she took us home and we had lunch with her. Ambassador Towlde was attending conference in Bahrdar during the time of our visit in Makale. He is now the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tigray Development Association (TDA) with his head office in Makale and second office in Addis. I intend to also brief him in Addis upon my return.

At last but not least Fikre suggested to us that we should make interviews with two journalists stationed in Makale representing the Voice of Woyane, Tsegay, broadcasting from Makale and the Voice Of America, Girmay Gebru, (VOA) broadcasting from Washington DC both in Tigrigna language in order to have wider audience all over the world who can listen to these broadcasts by radio or internet media can contribute help in addition to what the donors in Denmark are doing.

We thought this was a good idea and we did make the interviews with the two journalists who submitted their interviews with us and have them broadcasted by the two broadcasting stations the day after our interviews. Surprisingly we got feed back from many people living here in Ethiopia and other countries around the world including Ethiopians living in Denmark who listened to the broadcasts.

At the end of our tour in Makale we had a meeting with Fikre and his personnel staff at HAB office and we asked them to do the following points.

1. Open a new acc.nr. in one of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopian branches in Makale to which "Bestyrelsen of Foreningen Ethiopiens Boern will be able to remit from Foreningen's Acc.Nr. In Denmark. This is because Den Danske Bank have direct link with the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia. Not knowing this direct link Fikre had transferred the remaining balance of the 65000 DKK to another bank called Wegagen Bank and got Acc.Nr. C01001109 HAB. That Bank does not have direct link with Commercial Bank of Ethiopia. Now Fikre has agreed to transfer the balance again from Wegagen Bank to another Commercial Bank branch situated close to his office and get a new Acc.Nr. to which Bstyrelsen will remit in the future. When I get this Acc. Nr. I will let you know. The reason why we are doing this is to have a separate Acc. Nr. In order to make it easy to manage and

control the statements of account that will be reported in the future from the orphanage center.

2. We told Fikre and his staff to send the originals of progress reports and statements of account to Bestyrelsen Foreingen Ethiopiens Boern for evaluation and control, with copies to BOLSA and myself as a coordinator. Fikre has agreed to do that.
3. We asked Fikre to prepare a list of the present orphans with their names, date of birth, when and how they joined the orphanage center. I have already taken their pictures and I will send them later as attachments.
4. we also asked Fikre to prepare a list of the personnel staff currently employed and working in the orphanage center, specifying their functions and their pay. He has agreed to do that.
5. Finally Fikre has promised to give us the Rules and Regulations (vedtegt) for running the orphanage center when it is ready.

When all the above points are in my hands I will send them to the Besyrelsen Foreningen Ethiopiens Boern. Abraham Alemayehu. Coordinator.