



The Ethiopian World Federation Inc.  
Negusa Negast Local 3



## H.I.M. EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE 1ST

EWF Inc. 2nd of November 1930  
Coronation Report



ግርማዊ ንጉሠ ነገሥት ቀዳማዊ ኃይለ ሥላሴ  
ለምክር ቤቱ የዙፋን ንግግር ሲያደርጉ ።

# Ras Tafari International Consultants.



## ARTICLE 21

On the occasion of His Coronation, the Emperor shall take the following oath:



የጾዳግገረላብሔር፣ ንጉሠ ነገሥት ለኢትዮጵያ

"In the name of Almighty God, We.....  
Emperor of Ethiopia, swear that We will uphold and defend the Constitution of the Empire; that We will govern Our Subjects with patience and devotion to their general welfare in accordance with the Constitution and the laws; that We will faithfully defend, with all the means in our power, the integrity and territory of Our Empire; that We will faithfully see to the impartial execution of all laws approved by Parliament and proclaimed by Us; that We profess and will defend the Holy Orthodox Faith based on the doctrines of St mark of Alexandria, professed in Ethiopia since the Holy Emperors Abreha and Atsbiha; that We will ever promote the spiritual and material welfare and advancement of Our Subjects; and that, with the aid of the Almighty, We will faithfully execute the promises which We have here undertaken. So help Us God."

## ARTICLE 22





## Introduction

**W**HATEVER the task may be, man may begin it but he cannot complete it, unless God sustains and supports him. If he fails to accomplish the task on which he has set out, having worked to the best of his ability, he is not to be maligned by being called lazy. Thus We Ourselves, by virtue of Our descent from the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon, ever since We accepted in trust, in 1909 (= 1916), first the regency of the Ethiopian realm and later the Imperial dignity, right up to the present, We have set out to the best of Our ability to improve, gradually, internal administration by introducing into the country western modes of civilization through which Our people may attain a higher level; hence Our conscience does not rebuke Us.

In explanation of the notion 'gradually': unless it is through coaxing a child and getting it accustomed, it will not be pleased if one takes from it what it has seized with its hand. When one gives such a baby any sort of food, it will not wish to eat it, unless one shows it to the child and lets it taste it. Unless they give it milk or other soft food until it grows teeth, it will not be able to eat when they place bread or meat before it.

And similarly with people who have lived by custom only, without learning at school, without absorbing knowledge by the ear or observing and searching with the eye, it is necessary to accustom them, through education, to abandon habits by which they have for long been living, to make them accept new ways—yet not by hasty or cruel methods but by patience and study, gradually and over a prolonged period.

In 1901 (= 1908–9) Emperor Menelik<sup>4</sup> fell ill and had to spend his time at home; soon after this Ras Bitwaddäd Täsämma,<sup>5</sup> Ledj

<sup>4</sup> King of Shoa 1855–89; Emperor of Ethiopia 1889–1913. See esp. Gäbrä Sellasse's Amharic history of the reign of Menelik as well as de Coppet's 2 vols. of translation and annotation. Also Afevork's (Afäwaraq) *Dagmawi Mäniläk* (Rome 1909), and Marcus, *Life and Times of Menelik II*.

<sup>5</sup> Ras Bitwaddäd Täsämma Nadäw: Regent during part of Menelik's illness and guardian of Ledj Iyasu. Died 1911 and buried at Däbrä Libanos. See the bibliography in the previous footnote. Also Heruy, 30; Mérah, II, 67; JES, VII, 2, 235; Zewde, Biographies.

Iyasu's<sup>6</sup> regent, suddenly died. As a consequence, Ledj Iyasu, who had accepted the authority to guide the government, was for about six years quite incapable of shouldering his responsibility. When I myself took over this responsibility in 1909 (= 1916), it was necessary to correct the chaotic neglect of fully six years and to make a beginning with the work not yet started, i.e. of introducing the new civilization. I spent my time working to the best of my ability, while my own ideas and the people fond of the old customs (particularly as the latter had many supporters) squeezed me like wood between two pieces of iron. There was very little time that I could spend in idle conversations and doing the things that give one pleasure. What I set right in terms of internal administration, initiated already at an earlier stage, the innovations I brought about, and such aspects of foreign-inspired civilization as I introduced into the country, will be found in the following, each at its proper place.

In addition to this, from time to time We encountered some difficulties, internal as well as external, which were spread about by natives or by foreigners and which constituted obstacles to Our work of innovation. It was thus essential to carry out everything patiently, in order to prevent upheavals, bloodshed, and tribal divisions. I was aware, even before I took over the affairs of government, that internal upheaval constituted a useful contribution to the designs of our enemies.

We were particularly convinced, by the policies directed against Us, that the enemy's heart was stricken with envy at Our setting up a constitution to strengthen and to consolidate Ethiopia's unity, at Our opening schools for boys and girls, at Our building hospitals in which Our people's health was to be safeguarded, as well as at all sorts of other initiatives of Ours by which Ethiopia's independence would be affirmed, not only in terms of history but in actual fact. For this reason, while We took great care to prevent any divisions among Our people, We did not wish to take any coercive measures that might appear oppressive to Our people.

While We were engaged upon all this careful work and were beginning to lead Our people on the road to civilization, Our

<sup>6</sup> Emperor Menelik's grandson and successor (1913-16). Born 1896, the son of Menelik's daughter Shoarägga and Negus Mika'el. Ledj Iyasu died in 1935. For bibliography see note (4) above; also Budge, 542 ff.; Luca dei Sabelh IV, 48; Heruy, 57-8.



enemy rose up with violence sending to Our country many troops with modern equipment as well as numerous war-planes and tanks, breaking the covenant of the nations and fighting us with machine-guns and artillery and with modern weapons many times superior in quality and quantity to our equipment. We addressed an appeal to the League of Nations and, with Our heart free of panic, We encouraged Our armies. While we resisted firmly and defended ourselves, they poured all sorts of poison and smoke gases upon us which were capable of causing serious damage and which are prohibited by international law. They dropped many bombs on us and even bombarded the International Red Cross doctors together with their medical equipment, thus preventing those injured by bombs and machine-guns or suffocating with poison gas from receiving medical attention or cure. We Ourselves fought for our liberty in battles like any ordinary soldier and mustered the troops like any other officer. On account of Our inability to obtain even a loan for the purchase of arms, We did not have any adequate equipment for defence—except for a few modern weapons. After we had resisted to the best of our ability with weapons forty years old,<sup>7</sup> we were defeated for the time being in no shameful manner. The reason why We returned to Addis Ababa and why We departed from Addis Ababa to go abroad and all other such matters are to be found in the following at their appropriate place.

We would, therefore, remind, confidently and earnestly, all those who are Ethiopian subjects to persist unceasingly, by striving to the best of their ability, in the study of Ethiopia's past from the earliest phases of history lest her freedom be extinguished altogether in the future, particularly as our country of Ethiopia has now been overwhelmed by perils which give rise to anxiety for her independence; and We would equally urge all those who are not Ethiopians, but who hate aggression and love truth and justice, not to withhold their support for the cause of Ethiopia's liberty, the people at large by their counsel and the priests by their prayer.



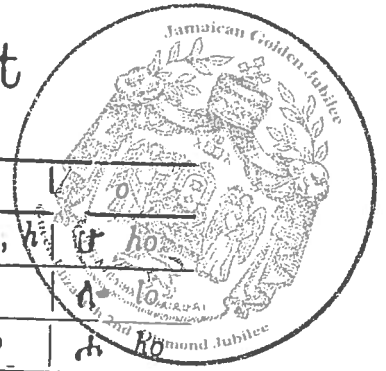
*Bath, England, Written Yäkatit  
1929 (February 1937).*

The reference is, of course, to the battle of Adwa in 1896.



የግብርና ሚኒስቴር ገዢ ሆኖ የሚሰራው

# The Amharic alphabet



	ä	u	i	a	e	ə	
ሀ	ha	ሁ hu	ሂ hi	ሃ ha	ሄ he	ህ ha, hē	ሆ ho
ለ	lä	ሉ lu	ሊ li	ላ la	ሌ le	ል la	ሎ lo
ሐ	ha	ሑ hu	ሒ hi	ሓ ha	ሔ he	ሕ ha	ሖ ho
መ	mä	ሙ mu	ሚ mi	ማ ma	ሜ me	ም mā	ሞ mo
ሠ	sä	ሡ su	ሢ si	ሣ sa	ሤ se	ሥ sə	ሦ so
ረ	rä	ሩ ru	ሪ ri	ራ ra	ራ re	ር rə	ሮ ro
ሰ	sä	ሱ su	ሲ si	ሳ sa	ሴ se	ሰ sə	ሱ so
ሸ	šä	ሹ šu	ሺ šī	ሻ ša	ሼ še	ሽ šə	ሾ šo
ቀ	qä	ቁ qu	ቂ qi	ቃ qa	ቄ qe	ቅ qə	ቆ qo
በ	bä	ቡ bu	ቢ bi	ባ ba	ቤ be	ብ bə	ቦ bo
ተ	tä	ቱ tu	ቲ ti	ታ ta	ቲ te	ት tə	ቶ to
ቸ	čä	ቹ ču	ቺ čī	ቻ ča	ቼ če	ች čə	ቸ čo
ኀ	hä	ኁ hu	ኂ hi	ኃ ha	ኄ he	ኅ ha	ኆ ho
ነ	nä	ኑ nu	ኒ ni	ና na	ኔ ne	ነ nə	ኖ no
ኘ	ñä	ኙ ñu	ኚ ñī	ኝ ña	ኞ ñe	ኟ ñə	አ ño
አ	a	ኡ u	ኢ i	አ a	ኤ e	አ ə	አ o
ከ	kä	ኩ ku	ኪ ki	ካ ka	ኬ ke	ክ kə	ኮ ko
ኸ	hā	ኹ hu	ኺ hi	ኻ ha	ኼ he	ኽ hə	ኾ ho
ወ	wä	ወ wu	ዐ wi	ዐ wa	ዐ we	ዐ wə	ዐ wo
ዐ	a	ዑ u	ዒ i	ዓ a	ዔ e	ዐ ə	ዐ o
ዘ	zä	ዘ zu	ዘ zi	ዘ za	ዘ ze	ዘ zə	ዘ zo
ዝ	žä	ዝ žu	ዝ žī	ዝ ža	ዝ že	ዝ žə	ዝ žo
የ	yä	የ yu	የ yi	የ ya	የ ye	የ yə	የ yo
ደ	dä	ደ du	ደ di	ደ da	ደ de	ደ də	ደ do
ጀ	ǰä	ጀ ǰu	ጀ ǰī	ጀ ǰa	ጀ ǰe	ጀ ǰə	ጀ ǰo
ገ	gä	ገ gu	ገ gi	ገ ga	ገ ge	ገ gə	ገ go
ጠ	tä	ጠ tu	ጠ ti	ጠ ta	ጠ te	ጠ tə	ጠ to
ጨ	čä	ጨ ču	ጨ čī	ጨ ča	ጨ če	ጨ čə	ጨ čo
ጸ	pä	ጸ pu	ጸ pi	ጸ pa	ጸ pe	ጸ pə	ጸ po
ጸ	šä	ጸ šu	ጸ šī	ጸ ša	ጸ še	ጸ šə	ጸ šo
ፀ	sä	ፀ su	ፀ si	ፀ sa	ፀ se	ፀ sə	ፀ so
ፌ	fä	ፌ fu	ፌ fi	ፌ fa	ፌ fe	ፌ fə	ፌ fo
ፐ	pä	ፐ pu	ፐ pi	ፐ pa	ፐ pe	ፐ pə	ፐ po

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

*Belatengheta Herui to Sir S. Barton.*

(Translation.)

GREETINGS!

*Addis Ababa, Magabit 25, 1922 (April 3, 1930).*

Owing to the death of Her Majesty the Empress Zauditu of Ethiopia after a short illness, I have the honour to inform you that His Majesty King Tafari Makonnen, who was Heir-Apparent to the Throne of Ethiopia and Regent Plenipotentiary, was proclaimed Emperor of Ethiopia in accordance with the laws and customs of the country and has ascended the Imperial Throne.

BELATENGHETA HERUI W.S.

(Seal of the Ethiopian Foreign Office.)

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

*Belatengheta Herui to Sir S. Barton.*

(Translation.)

GREETINGS!

*Addis Ababa, Magabit 25, 1922 (April 3, 1930).*

AS Her Majesty the Empress Zauditu of Ethiopia died after a short illness, I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's death is a great sorrow both to His Majesty the Emperor Tafari and to the whole people of Ethiopia.

His Majesty the Emperor Tafari will therefore receive in the Imperial Palace all visitors who may come to express their condolence to-morrow, Friday, the 4th instant, at 11 A.M.

BELATENGHETA HERUI W.S.

(Seal of the Ethiopian Foreign Office.)



Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

*S. Barton to Belatengheta Herui.*

Sir,

*Addis Ababa, April 4, 1930.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 3rd instant, in which you informed me of the grievous news of the death of Her Majesty the Empress Zauditu of Ethiopia.

I have not failed to inform my Government of this sad occurrence, and I have the honour to request you to be good enough to convey to His Majesty the Emperor Tafari the profound sorrow with which I learnt of her late Imperial Majesty's death.

I avail, &c.

S. BARTON.

Enclosure 4 in No. 1.

*Sir S. Barton to Belatengheta Herui.*

Sir,

*Addis Ababa, April 4, 1930.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 3rd instant, in which you informed me that, owing to the death of Her Majesty the Empress Zauditu of Ethiopia, His Majesty King Tafari Makonnen had been proclaimed Emperor of Ethiopia in accordance with the laws and customs of the country and had ascended the Imperial Throne.

I have not failed to inform my Government accordingly, and I have the honour to request you to be good enough to convey to His Majesty the Emperor my felicitations upon his accession to the Imperial Throne.

I avail, &c.

S. BARTON.



NOTES ON

THE GOLD SCEPTRE WHICH HAS BEEN PRESENTED BY HIS  
MAJESTY KING GEORGE V. TO HIS MAJESTY HAILE SELASSIE,  
KING OF THE KINGS OF ETHIOPIA, AND THE GOLD AND  
IVORY SCEPTRE WHICH HAS BEEN PRESENTED BY HER  
MAJESTY QUEEN MARY TO HER MAJESTY WAYZARÖ MANAN,  
QUEEN OF ABYSSINIA

by

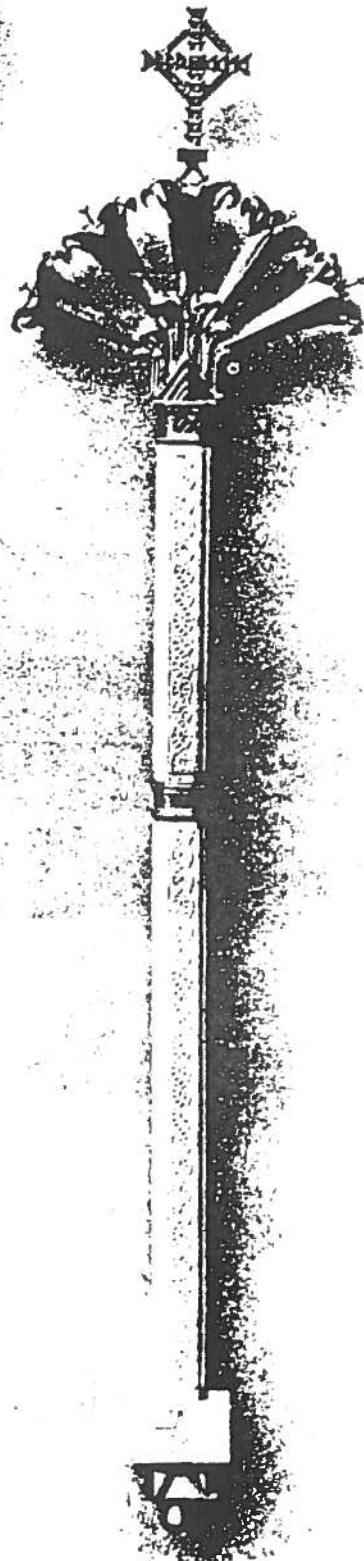
SIR ERNEST WALLIS BUDGE, Kt., M.A., Litt.D., D.Litt., F.S.A., etc.

*These beautiful products of the Goldsmith's Craft have been designed in  
the Studios of Messrs. Garrard & Co., Ltd., 24, Albemarle Street, W.,  
Goldsmiths to the Crown, by their artist, Mr. Charles Sykes, and were  
produced in co-operation with Sir Ernest Wallis Budge, whose assistance  
Messrs. Garrard gratefully acknowledge.*



ሥራዬ ለገዢዎቼና ለጥያቄዎቼ ለሚያገለግል ነው።







HAILA SELASSIE, KING OF THE KINGS OF ETHIOPIA  
THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, A DESCENDANT OF  
SOLOMON, SON OF DAVID, KING OF ISRAEL.

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HAILA SELASSIE is the son of Râs Makonnen (died 1906), whom Menyelek II. had named his heir and successor. He was born in 1893, and in 1916 was appointed Regent and Heir-apparent, and governed under the name of "Râs Tafari." He has adopted his baptismal name of Haila Selassie as his throne name.

These sceptres have been designed with the view of making them to possess a historical, religious and symbolic character in accordance with the traditional history of "Unconquered Abyssinia." The great native work called "KEBRA NAGAST," i.e., the "Glory of Kings," the teachings of which are based upon the traditional history of Abyssinia for nearly three thousand years, and are regarded as infallible by every class in that country, states that the founder of the legitimate line of the Kings of Abyssinia was Solomon, the son of David, King of Israel, who reigned at Jerusalem about 900 B.C. Their great ancestress, according to native tradition, was the great Ethiopian queen Mâkêdâ, whom the Arabs call Balkis or Belkis, who under the guidance of her Wazîr and Master of Transport called Tamrîn, set out from her country of Sâba (Sheba), which lay some fifteen hundred miles to the south of Jerusalem, in order to visit King Solomon and profit by his advice and world-famous wisdom. Towards the close of her visit Mâkêdâ renounced her native religion of Sabaeism, i.e., the worship of the sun, moon, stars, earth and sea, and married King Solomon. The affairs of her own great kingdom made it necessary for her to return to Sâba, and when she bade farewell to Solomon he gave her a very special ring as a keepsake. In due course, after her return to Sâba, she gave birth to a son, whom she named "MENYELEK," and when the child reached man's estate he took the ring from his mother



and went to Jerusalem, and Solomon acknowledged him to be his son, and made him his equal in the kingdom. The traditional history of Abyssinia states that Menyelek wished to return to his native country, and to found a kingdom there similar to that of Solomon. When he left Jerusalem he stole the Ark of the Covenant which was in Solomon's Temple, and succeeded in carrying it off to Abyssinia. Some think that it was hidden in Aksûm, and believe that it is still there.

The result of these proceedings was that the new kingdom in Abyssinia was founded on Jewish lines, and from that day to this close relations have been maintained between the sovereigns of Abyssinia and the kings and rulers in Jerusalem. For centuries the Abyssinians maintained a college and a monastery where their young men could go and learn the principles of the Jewish religion.

Soon after Constantine proclaimed Christianity the national religion of his country, 'Ēzânâ, the mighty King of Abyssinia, who had conquered all the country as far south as the Equator, and Nubia, Meroë and Arabia, also adopted Christianity as the national religion of his country, and in the second quarter of the fourth century of our Era the Cross became the chief symbol of King's religion instead of the crescent moon and star. Two centuries later the Books of the Bible were translated from the Greek into Ethiopic by monks from Syria or Edessa, and the Abyssinian Church has from the IVth century to the present day fashioned itself on the teaching of the Coptic Church in Egypt and adopted its rites and ceremonies. Abyssinia has remained, as King Menyelek II. rightly said, "an island of Christianity in a sea of paganism."

The great sceptre which His Majesty King George is giving to H.M. Haila Selassie is made of solid gold, and is one royal cubit and two hand breadths in length, say 27 inches over all. The sceptre, or more correctly, rod of power, has in all ages been the symbol of authority, wisdom and knowledge. The magicians in Sumer and Babylonia carried a rod as their symbol of learning, Pharaoh's magicians did the same. And we may note in passing that the symbol of the College of Physicians in our



own day is a rod or staff with two serpents twined about it. The rod or sceptre of Moses brought the plagues on the Egyptians, and smote water out of the rock, and gave victory to the Israelites in battle.

There is little doubt that all these sceptres bore on them inscriptions and mystical and magical devices, and therefore on the flat bar at the end of the sceptre of the King of Abyssinia, the ineffable and mightiest of all the names of God יהוה has been cut in Hebrew letters. This Great Name stands in the middle of the PENTACLE, a magical symbol which was in use in Babylonia in the fourth millennium B.C. The PENTACLE ☆ was, tradition asserts, cut on the wonderful Shamir stone which was set in the famous ring of King Solomon. The Great Name enabled him to work miracles, and the Pentagram gave him power to destroy all the evil influences which the devils and their servants on earth could bring against him. Therefore it is right that both the Name and the Pentacle should appear on the sceptre of a king of Abyssinia of the Solomonic line.

On the right-hand side of the length of the shaft is engraved in Amharic, the modern language of Abyssinia, the words from Psalm 68.31, thus :—

:: ሊትዮጽዖ : ለፔቶን : ወደ : ለገዢብሐር : ትዘርጋለች ::

ETHIOPIA SHALL MAKE HER HANDS TO REACH UNTO GOD.

On the left-hand side of the length of the shaft are engraved in Ethiopic, the old ecclesiastical language of the country, the name and title of the king, thus :—

:: በትረ : ኃይለ : ሥላሴ : ንጉሠ : ነገሥት : ዘሊትዮጽዖ ::

THE SCEPTRE OF HÅILA SELASSIE, KING OF THE KINGS OF ETHIOPIA.

At the top of the shaft is a reproduction of the circular seal of King Menyelek II., showing in the round the Abyssinian lion carrying the Cross with its banner unfurled. The Ethiopic inscription reads :—

:: ሥላሴ : ንጉሠ : ነገሥት : ዘሊትዮጽዖ ::

:: ዋዓ : ለኑበሐ : ዘላሥነገደ : ይሁደ ::

MENILEK, KING OF THE KINGS OF ETHIOPIA.

THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH HATH CONQUERED.



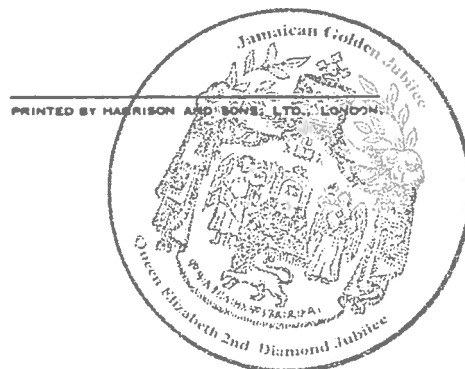
Menyelek II. was born in 1844, became King of all Ethiopia in 1889, and died in 1913. This mighty King's name has long been used as a word of power, and it will protect and strengthen the hand of the King when he wields this sceptre. He was the great uncle of the present King.

Above the circle is a beautiful little gold cross with a single carbuncle set in it. This cross has been copied from a magical cross found drawn in an Ethiopian manuscript of the LEFÄFA SEDEK, which was brought from Shoa some 60 or 70 years ago and is now in the British Museum. On the head of the sceptre it indicates the exalted position in the world which Abyssinia has gained under the protection of the Cross of Christ, before which the enemies of that country, both invisible and visible, fled.

#### THE GOLD AND IVORY SCEPTRE WHICH HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY IS GIVING TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN WAYZARÔ MANAN.

From the great Book of the Miracles of the Virgin Mary we obtain narratives of the Annunciation which are based upon the Books of the New Testament, but which also add details which are not found in the older manuscripts. According to one of these narratives the Archangel Gabriel, having made the wonderful announcement which he had been sent to make to the Virgin Mary, presented to her a lily plant bearing upon it a cluster of lilies in full bloom, which he had been ordered to take to her from the garden of the Celestial Paradise. The artists who illustrated the Books of Miracles with coloured pictures often included a drawing of it in their Vignettes, and the beautiful sceptre in gold and ivory which is being despatched to Abyssinia has been copied from one of the oldest manuscripts of the Miracles of the Virgin Mary. On the entablature at the foot of the sceptre are engraved the ineffable Name of God and the Pentacle of King Solomon which have been described above.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA  
PROCLAMATION PROMULGATING THE  
REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE EMPIRE  
OF ETHIOPIA

CONQUERING LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH  
HAILE SELASSIÉ I  
ELECT OF GOD, EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA

hereas, twenty-four years ago, at the beginning of Our Reign, We granted to Our faithful Subjects and proclaimed a Constitution for the Empire of Ethiopia; and

Whereas, Almighty God, the source of all benefits, has strengthened and inspired Us to lead Our beloved People, during Our Reign, through the greatest of trials and hardships to an era of great progress in all fields; and

Whereas, being desirous of consolidating the progress achieved and of laying a solid basis for the happiness and prosperity of the present and future generations of Our People, We have prepared a Revised Constitution for Our Empire, after many years of searching study and reflections; and

Whereas, Our Parliament, after due examination and deliberation, has submitted to Us its approval of this Revised Constitution;

Now therefore, We, Haile Sellassié I, Emperor of Ethiopia, do, on the occasion of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Our Coronation, hereby proclaim and place into force and effect as from to-day, the Revised Constitution of the Empire of Ethiopia, for the benefit, welfare, and progress of Our beloved People.

Given in Our Imperial Capital, on this the 4th day of November, 1955, and on the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Our Coronation.

Tsahafe Tezaz Tafari Worg  
*Minister of the Pen*



# THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA

## ARTICLE 20

Upon the establishment of a Council of Regency, each member thereof shall take, in the presence of the Emperor, the following oath which shall be administered by the Archbishop:

'In the name of the Almighty, and as a member of the Council of Regency, I hereby swear to defend, with all my power, the rights, privileges and inheritance of His Majesty the Emperor, so long as I shall remain a member of the Council of Regency; that I will, at all times support and defend the Constitution; and that in all my actions and conduct as a member of that Council, I will ever be motivated by respect for the Constitution and the firm resolve of protecting the rights, privileges and inheritance of His Majesty the Emperor of Ethiopia. So help me God.'

The Archbishop shall himself take the same oath.

## ARTICLE 21

On the occasion of His Coronation, the Emperor shall take the following oath:

'In the name of Almighty God, We . . . . Emperor of Ethiopia, swear that We will uphold and defend the Constitution of the Empire; that We will govern Our Subjects with patience and devotion to their general welfare in accordance with the Constitution and the laws; that We will faithfully defend, with all the means in Our power, the integrity and territory of Our Empire; that We will faithfully see to the impartial execution of all laws approved by Parliament and proclaimed by Us; that We profess and will defend the Holy Orthodox Faith based on the doctrines of St. Mark of Alexandria, professed in Ethiopia since the Holy Emperors Abreha and Atsbiha; that We will ever promote the spiritual and material welfare and advancement of Our Subjects; and that, with the aid of the Almighty, We will faithfully execute the promises which We have here undertaken. So help Us God.'

## ARTICLE 22

On the occasion of the Coronation of the Emperor, if over twelve years of age, the Crown Prince or the Heir Presumptive, as the case may be, all members of the Crown Council and all members of the Parliament, shall individually take an oath of homage and fidelity to the Emperor.



# THE CONSTITUTION OF 1955

## ARTICLE 23

In pursuance of the requirements of Article 22, the Crown Prince or the Heir Presumptive, as the case may be, if over age of twelve, shall take the following oath:

'In the name of the Almighty, I hereby swear that I will faithfully observe all the precepts and directions of my August Father ("Sovereign" in the case of an Heir Presumptive) and will ever strive to respect His wishes and seek not after that which is not given to me, and be not so impatient as Adonias or so daring as Abesalom; that I will ever conduct myself so as to be worthy of my Sire ("Sovereign" in the case of an Heir Presumptive), of my Imperial Blood and of the high station which is ("may be" in the case of an Heir Presumptive) my destiny; that I will, at all times, respect the Constitution and the laws, and will ever profess and defend the Faith of our Orthodox Church. I swear that, with the assistance of the Almighty, I will faithfully execute the promises which I have here undertaken. So help me God.'

In the event that the aforesaid oath shall not have been taken on the occasion of the Coronation, either by the Crown Prince or by the Heir Presumptive, as the case may be, it shall be taken before the Emperor by the Crown Prince or the Heir Presumptive, as the case may be, upon his attaining the age of eighteen.

## ARTICLE 24

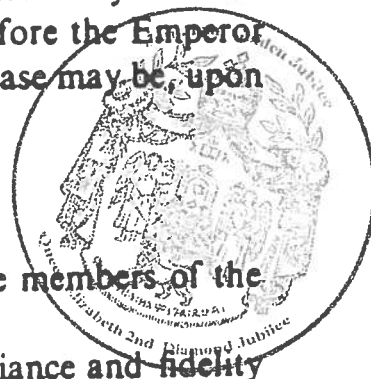
In pursuance of the requirements of Article 22, the members of the Crown Council shall take the following oath:

'In the name of the Almighty, I hereby swear allegiance and fidelity to my Sovereign, His Imperial Majesty . . . . and that I will, as member of the Crown Council, faithfully place above all else the interest and welfare of Ethiopia and of its Sovereign; that I will, at all times, faithfully respect the Constitution and laws of the Empire, and that I will disclose no secret or confidential information revealed to me in connexion with my official duties and position. So help me God.'

## ARTICLE 25

In pursuance of the requirements of Article 22, the members of the Parliament shall take the following oath:

'In the name of the Almighty, I hereby swear allegiance and fidelity to my Sovereign, His Imperial Majesty . . . . and that I will, as member of the Parliament, faithfully place above all else the interest





## THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA

and welfare of Ethiopia and of its Sovereign; that I will, at all times, faithfully respect the Constitution and laws of the Empire, and that I will disclose no secret or confidential information revealed to me in connexion with my official duties and position. So help me God.



### CHAPTER II. THE POWERS AND PREROGATIVES OF THE EMPEROR

#### ARTICLE 26

The Sovereignty of the Empire is vested in the Emperor and the supreme authority over all the affairs of the Empire is exercised by Him as the Head of State, in the manner provided for in the present Constitution.

#### ARTICLE 27

The Emperor determines the organization, powers and duties of all Ministries, executive departments and the administrations of the Government and appoints, promotes, transfers, suspends and dismisses the officials of the same.

#### ARTICLE 28

The Emperor appoints Mayors of the municipalities referred to in Article 129 of the present Constitution, from three candidates presented, in each case, by the Municipal Councils thereof.

#### ARTICLE 29

The Emperor reserves the right, with the advice and consent of Parliament, to declare war. He, further, reserves the right to decide what armed forces shall be maintained, both in time of peace and in time of war. As Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, He has the right to organize and command the said forces; to commission and to confer military rank upon the officers of the said forces; and to promote, transfer or dismiss any of the said officers. He has, further, the right to declare a state of siege, martial law, or a national emergency, and to take such measures as are necessary to meet a threat to the defence or integrity of the Empire and to assure its defence and integrity.

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## ARTICLE 30

The Emperor exercises the supreme direction of the foreign relations of the Empire. The Emperor accredits and receives Ambassadors, Ministers and Missions; He, alone, has the right to settle disputes with foreign Powers by adjudication and other peaceful means, and provides for and agrees to measures of co-operation with foreign Powers for the realization of the ends of security and common defence. He, alone, has the right to ratify, on behalf of Ethiopia, treaties and other international agreements, and to determine which treaties and international agreements shall be subject to ratification before becoming binding upon the Empire. However, all treaties of peace and all treaties and international agreements involving a modification of the territory of the Empire, or of sovereignty jurisdiction over any part of such territory, or laying a burden on Ethiopian subjects personally, or modifying legislation in existence, or requiring expenditures of state funds, or involving loans or monopolies, shall, before becoming binding upon the Empire and the inhabitants thereof, be laid before Parliament, and if both Houses of Parliament shall approve the same in accordance with the provisions of Articles 88-90 inclusive of the present Constitution, shall then be submitted to the Emperor for ratification.

## ARTICLE 31

(a) The Emperor alone confers and withdraws the title of Prince and other honours, and institutes new orders.

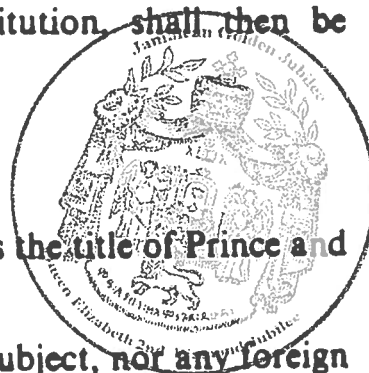
(b) Without His special leave, no Ethiopian subject, nor any foreign national in any Government service in the Empire, may accept any honour, insignia of order, dignity, or title of or from, a foreign government. The granting of any title, honour or order may exempt no one from the common duties and burdens of the subjects, nor may it carry with it any preferential admission to the offices of the State.

(c) Officials who are released from office with assurances of Imperial favour, retain the title and rank of the office they have filled.

(d) The Emperor also makes grants from abandoned properties, and properties in escheat, for the purpose of recompensing faithful service to the Crown.

## ARTICLE 32

The Emperor has the right to coin, print and issue money.



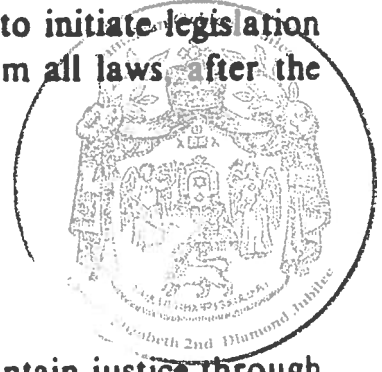
# THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA

## ARTICLE 33

The Emperor has the right to convene the annual sessions of the deliberative Chambers and to convoke extraordinary sessions thereof. At the opening of each session of the Chambers, He may present, or cause to be presented, a speech from the Throne concerning the legislative programme recommended by Him. He has the right to postpone the opening of and to suspend, for not more than thirty days, and to extend, any session of Parliament. He has the right to dissolve the Chambers, or either of them, by an Order, providing at the same time, for the appointment of a new Senate or the election of a new Chamber of Deputies, or both, as the case may be, and for the convocation of the Chamber for a session within four months from the date of the Order.

## ARTICLE 34

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 86, 88, 91 and 92 of the present Constitution, the Emperor has the right to initiate legislation and to originate other resolutions and to proclaim all laws after the same shall have been passed by the Parliament.



## ARTICLE 35

The Emperor has the right and the duty to maintain justice through the courts; and the right to grant pardons and amnesties and to commute penalties.

## ARTICLE 36

The Emperor, as Sovereign, has the duty to take all measures that may be necessary to ensure, at all times, the defence and integrity of the Empire; the safety and welfare of its inhabitants, including their enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental liberties recognised in the present Constitution; and the protection of all His subjects and their rights and interests abroad. Subject to the other provisions of this Constitution, He has all the right and powers necessary for the accomplishment of the ends set out in the present Article.



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**SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**

Delivered by

**HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY HAILE SELASSIE I**

**On The Opening Day Of The Ethiopian Parliament**

**On November 3, 1972**

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**DISCOURS DU TRONE**

Prononcé par

**SA MAJESTE IMPERIALE HAILE SELASSIE Ier**

**Lors de l'ouverture de la session parlementaire**

**le 3 novembre, 1972**