**Happy Bith Day Beloved Eritrea**

By Haile Habtegaber

As we zoom in to celebrate the 29th Independence Day of our beloved country, we are reminded of the sacrifice paid by our fallen heroes and heroines and the precious treasure they have left behind for inheritance. The celebration of our indendence day is therefore not only a privilege we enjoy as proud citizens of a free and sovereign nation, but is also an honour conferred for their stoic deeds and heriosm as well as the occasion to lionez them most. The picture of every TEGADAY and TEGADALIT proudly displayed on the walls of the livig rooms of their families, is a **“ portrait that hangs in place of honour**”.

We are also celebrating this incalculably significant event in our national holidays calendar when the whole world is locked down due to the unforgiving pandemic. Countries big and small, rich and poor are strugllig to cop with the devastating impact of the virus. We see even those who would not hesitate to project their might and superiority in all aspects, have been himuliated and exposed. If any thing what the outbreak of this pandemic has shown is that, it is not what you have that matters to successfully fight the virus. Who you are and your character is even of greater significance. Certainly this is not to minimize the critical part that material assets can play, but how you lead as a government is equally of paramount importance. Eritrea’s approach has manifestly shown that it is possible to do a lot of good work if you count on your people and positively lead the way forward. This peoples’ approach has paid handsomely enabling the country to arrest the spread of the virus with zero death and full recovery of all infected patients, albeit temporarily as the war continues. Trust is critical in every government undertaking. And the Eritrean people have responded spectacularily because they believe in their common good and trust their government. With its people on its side and post this crisis, the government of Eritrea will undoubtedly deliver on the aspirations and eventual transformation we all long for and look forward confidently that the future of our country is in safe hands.

To put this in proper perspective, Eritrea is a small and poor country that cannot boast of possessing the required material resources to fight the virus. Far from it. But it is a country that is rich in healthy social capital. The resolve and fortitude shown by all pariotic citizens is what has made the difference. However this would not have been enough had it not been for the the time-tested organisational capacity of **Hizbawi Ginbar (EPLF/ SHABIA) ,**  the precursor of Peoples Front for Democracy and Freedom (HGDF). The government of Eritrea has levaraged this (unique Eritrean innate disposition to reach out to your people) - human resource asset in the decisive fight against the spread of the virus and won. This has been the thoughtfully nurtured and deployed strategy durig the protracted war of independence. In all its struggles for survival, the resource Eritrea relied and continues to reley upon is its people and a winning people as such!

Finally what must be clearlly understood by all friends or enemies of Eritrea is that **Hizbawi Ginbar/Shabia** is a natural entity of government. I assert this is not because of partisian bias, but because its past and present history has withstood the test of times and unduobtedly will continue to be so with the march of times. It is firmly and deeply embedded in the Eritrean social fabric. Let those who bash Eritrea as a means of their sustenance and those with evil mind set who wish bad Eritrea be perpetually dissapointed because they are stuck against a winning country!

 In closing let me say **YOHANA**
تهانينا لكم

(tahanina lakum) to every Eritrean as we celebrate virtually the birth day of the jewel of the Red Sea.

 Glory to our Martys

 Long Live Eritrea Livre.