

## **NES Commentary No.52**



### **Title: The Grand Renaissance Dam (GERD): Egypt and Sudan have to be the First to Lead and Reject the Colonial Treaties from 1891 to 1959!**

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#### **I: Inspiration**

1. “Where there is hate, may love replace it, where there is conflict, may reconciliation beat it, where there is bitterness, let forgiveness prevail to remove it. “
2. “Love Ethiopia now and choose the pathway to create, invent, innovate and value the health as wealth for all the people above all else.”
3. “Promote the civil and human rights by valuing the values of social solidarity and social justice for all the Ethiopian people without any exclusion by using ethnic differences. “
4. “Ethnic division is vice; Ethiopian unity is virtue; and do not love money to kill people, love the unity of Ethiopia and the health of all the people.”

## **II: Introduction**

Today is May 27,2021, the day when at a meeting in London on May 27, 1991 the ethnic divide and rule politics was imposed on Ethiopia with the U.S.A and U.K support of the TPLF and EPLF. The TPLF was approved to form a transitional Government on May 27, 1991 and on May 28, 1991 the EPLF declared a provision Government in London to secede Eritrea from Ethiopia. The Berlin 1884-85 Scramble for Africa was replayed to divide and rule Ethiopia. The Ethiopia that has a long history of independence in Africa was deliberately undermined by ethnic division. It is now 30 years since this ethnic division has undermined Ethiopia. The 30 years' ethnic era must end finally. Let us make the call and appeal to all to end ethnic divide and rule to be a closed chapter in Ethiopia forever. Let all the people agree even if they disagree to promote the civil and human rights by exercising and valuing the deep values of social solidarity and social justice for all the Ethiopian people without any exclusion by using ethnic, religious, language, race, gender and other differences.

First: let us finally close the ethnic division chapter that recklessly has made the people that should live peacefully to be always in conflict. Second: let all those who are in politics to come together and enter into a dialogue culture to create the one and one Ethiopia united and freed from the generation old ethnic fracturing by the politics borrowed from 1884-85 Berlin Conference colonial divide and rule scramble for Africa. Third: let us all learn about Ethiopianism and why Ethiopia must never be under ethnic division when the world values Ethiopia as the spiritual public good feeder to the world. Fourth: Let all Ethiopians learn and know Ethiopia is also the pride of Africa serving as the example in making Africa independent by making Addis Ababa the African capital city with the Africa Union headquarters. It was 58<sup>th</sup> Africa Liberation Day on May 25, 2021. Time to fast-track African unity and not delay it to 2063([https://youtu.be/hrqG\\_BhTFjY](https://youtu.be/hrqG_BhTFjY)). Fifth: Let us all learn to value our values, value Ethiopia's rich history, value the spiritual heritage, the knowledge heritage and the struggle heritage by learning from the Great

Adwa Great African victory (<https://nesglobal.org/adwa124>). Sixth: Let us also value the rich lessons from the Adwa African victory over World Empire. Adwa Great African victory lives to strengthen Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance for our time and the future. Ethiopia's independence has made Ethiopia a target by the colonialists. The colonial powers chose to attack Ethiopia by denying her rights over the Nile River (and also exacerbating the ethnic division) by using a number of colonial treaties from 1891 to 1959 not to have the right to the 86 % of the water from the Nile basin. The conflict implanted by the colonial powers through the various treaties is still affecting Ethiopia from completing on time the Grand Renaissance Dam. Colonized African countries that the colonial powers used the such treaties to apply the tactic of divide and rule for them to own the water by denying Ethiopia the water from the Nile river must be the first to reject the colonial treaties and make a colonially freed agreement. Egypt and Sudan have not done it and all humanity that is against colonialism must urge them to be the first to reject all the treaties from 1891 to 1959 to facilitate the GERD to be completed without any further delay. We call upon Egypt and Sudan to be the first to reject all colonial treaties. All the politicians in Ethiopia must free Ethiopians from all the current ethnic divide and rule malaise. Let the people to people relations with peace, stability and reconciliation prevail not only in the region in North East Africa, but in all Africa. The continuation of so much suffering the people have gone must end and the politicians must change their ethnic mind-set for good. Let all recognise the 30 years suffering to end today without any delay. (27-28 May, 1991-27-28 May, 2021

### **III: No Need to have the Up and Down Negotiations on GERD**

The ups and downs of the negotiation process on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam has not made it possible to be completed on time. The negotiation is still continuing and every meeting involving Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan is reported ending always without finalising together a complete agreement. Mediators have been involved and they have not brought any tangible outcome. Some of them went beyond the task assigned to them doing interference rather than mediation.

We hear the rhetoric that all the negotiators even from Egypt and Sudan have accepted the GERD must be completed. Their disagreement is related to technical details to find agreement on the water sharing and hydropower sides. The reality is the timely completion of GERD has not been achieved.

#### **IV: GERD is a True Gift to Africa as a Whole**

GERD provides strength not only to Ethiopia but also to all the region and Africa as a whole. All the riparian countries should agree to address together with full collaboration any weaknesses from start to finish. The opportunity of GERD as an engineering mega project is not just for Ethiopia, but it is for all the partners in the region. All should be open to undertake inclusive partnership as GERD is truly a real precious asset for all. The GERD reservoir can generate clean carbon diet free energy, fisheries, clean fresh water, and flood control, regulation of water vapour, generating electricity and providing youth employment opportunities. The energy and electricity production can be not only for Ethiopia but also for the region as a whole.

How can Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia with the rest of Riparian countries and the Africa Union discover the agreed pathway together to care and share rather than creating conflicts by escalating problems by obstructing the timely completion of the GERD? How can GERD be turned into a model for Africans to discover conflict resolution by learning to re-agree even if they have disagreements? There is no need to outsource the mediation to external actors from Europe and America. Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan must learn to settle whatever differences they have by avoiding external interferences. If they cannot agree together, they should rely on the Riparian states and the Africa Union. There is no need to include external actors that often have their own agenda and that have been

knowing for playing historically with their oppressive colonial maniacs by accelerating many conflicts to dis-empower the African agency to bring solutions to any problem, and reconciliation to any conflict. How can we all unite to make GERD a true model for providing African solutions to African problems?

## **V: The Colonial Treaties from 1891 to 1959**

The colonial treaties from 1891 to 1959 were done to divide and rule Africa. All the African current states must reject the divide and rule from the colonially imposed treaties, and discover ways to ensure full collaboration with each other without fail always. All must know they cannot collaborate without rejecting the colonial treaties that divided them and made them fall into so many civil wars from the 1960s until now. Reject colonial treaties to stop the unending conflicts, civil wars, coups and ethnic cleansing. We now sadly see Ethiopia is embroiled with so many innocent children and mothers and ordinary citizens brutally massacred by using ethnic differences that external actors are also said to be involved to distract Ethiopian unity to complete the GERD.

Egypt and Sudan must not interfere to exacerbate the ethnic strife that is currently complicating the transition of Ethiopia from the ethnic division to the unity of the people by respecting the human and civil rights of all Ethiopians as citizens of a sovereign country.

Let African unity prevail above all else to solve all problems. GERD can be best placed to bring the unity from all the conflicts it has been with to be the exemplary model to bring African solutions to African problems. Let Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, the Riparian states and the African Union make GERD to become the model for both resolving the colonially fabricated conflicts and any differences from yesterday to today and tomorrow.

Egypt and Sudan must be the first to reject the over 10 colonial treaties that the British, the French, the Italians and others imposed to deny the right of Ethiopia to the Blue Nile water. They should acknowledge that Ethiopia remaining independent even after the Berlin 1884-1885 Scramble for Africa was subjected through the treaties they imposed to do a colonial intrusion on Ethiopia. They know over 86 % of the Blue Nile water flows from Ethiopia. How can they deny Ethiopia the right to share the water by allocating all the Nile water to Egypt and Sudan to create strife and conflict which has not been resolved until today? Why must these colonial treaties continue? Why did Egypt and Sudan fail to reject the colonial treaties if they have really been on the trajectory to undertake full de-coloniality? The best proof of Egypt and Sudan becoming de-colonial can be best expressed and demonstrated if they were able to reject the 1891-1959 colonial treaties imposed on them by their colonisers.

How can Egypt and Sudan say they have become independent and have de-colonised by retaining colonial treaties that control them imposed on Africa from their Berlin 1884-85 European meeting? The only proof for the world to know that they have really de-colonised is when they reject all the colonial treaties and especially the ones that still are being used to obstruct the earliest possible completion of the GERD.

Egypt and Sudan must be the first to reject the 1929 and 1959 unfair colonial treaties. The two Governments must come out, and publicly reject all the colonial treaties, and appeal to all in Africa to come together and continue to learn to share and find the pathway to agree even when disagree.

Egypt and Sudan should join Ethiopia and the rest of the Riparian states to make full agreement without any interference from all the former

colonial powers and others outside Africa. GERD must make Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan to become three as one and one as three united firmly, anchored to promote the well-being of the people and the safety of the water, soil and nature. They all must agree to make the GERD construction done now without taking any more time with their full agreement. Egypt and Sudan, all the other Riparian states and the Africa Union have to recognize and redress the injustice done against Ethiopia with the colonial exclusion of her right over the Blue Nile water that originates and flows from Ethiopia. They should all acknowledge that GERD cannot make any one lose. All can gain with win –win and mutually beneficial sustainable relations to bring people to people unity in the entire region and the rest of Africa.

GERD should not have been subjected to any conflict as it has been let alone what has been from April 2011 to now! That is truly a big mistake. Those who made the mistake should acknowledge and come back to support the earliest possible completion of the GERD. The entire weather pattern and climate can be examined systematically to make sure the water level is never reduced. There can be also solar panels that can be used to store the heat from the sun during hot seasons to retain the green zone on the ground and retain water. We have created the African solar energy network to harness the heat and light from the sun to create electricity and continue to use the land to produce as many fruits and crops as possible. ([www.ansole.org](http://www.ansole.org)).

There are many possibilities and opportunities that the region as a whole can gain from GERD. What is lacking is the united and agreed focus to find real solutions to any problem. The much-needed applicable research is not often done. This is what should have been undertaken by joining the research team and not go alone by each side and come out with information to create problems rather than solutions. The power of knowledge, wisdom and imagination should have been used to empower all the countries together rather than using the power of unnecessary and

divisive politics, prejudice and selfish interest to divide and fight rather than build the GERD and unite.

The filling of the dam can be accomplished with water gain by discovering the appropriate and agreed high way to avoid water loss. We can do a genuine and serious Strength, weakness, opportunity and threat analysis over time how to facilitate the possibility for water gain rather than water loss at any climate and weather changing time. It is a matter of how on the journey all can agree to share and work to achieve high quality output on both the hydroelectricity and water level sides. In Japan, they can now recycle toilet water. There is no reason why we cannot apply engineering knowledge, capability, competence, learning and innovation to make sure that the water level can continue to increase rather than play unnecessary destructive politics by accusing Ethiopia not to complete the GERD on time.

The weather condition and climate can be thoroughly examined with space satellites with remote sensing communications and a variety of ground and water level experiments that are waiting to be applied. New technology can be used to assist and to make sure the water is not only retained but also ways can be discovered to recycle the water and increase the level by regulating the flow annually. We are now in the fourth and fifth Industrial Revolution era where we can fuse biological, ecological, physical, technological and socio-political worlds through digitalised science, technology and innovation incubations and simulations. There is now opportunity to unify and create holistic innovation systems to bring and expand the interconnectivity between cyber physical, ecological and socio-economic systems. GERD can benefit all by doing systematic and effective research knowing all the space, land, sea can resiliently be developed to become also increasingly interdependent and inextricably interwoven.

Consideration should be given to methodologies of saving the water being lost due to evaporation, to deal with the water flow value chain from Ethiopia to Sudan and Egypt. The Three countries can join to manage innovatively the optimal waste management to address systematically the environmental challenges that all the three countries face by applying the digital technology to create sustainable, smart and integrated African development.

## **VI: Stop Supporting Ethnic Division in Ethiopia**

The interference in the internal politics to polarize by inflicting ethnic and religious divisions to distract Ethiopia from completing the GERD is a violation of human rights and international law. Governments that spearhead such interventions must stop and apologize for all the damage that Ethiopia has been continuing to suffer.

GERD will not reduce the water level. In fact, the engineering design and model can be framed in such a way that GERD's hydroelectricity can come with the increase rather than the decrease of the water level in the Nile River region as a whole. All the Riparian states must create Research Association of the Riparian States Collaboration(RASC) to manage systematically the Nile region by applying science, technology, engineering and innovation to understand the space, the land and the water in the Nile River region to generate hydroelectric power by increasing the water level rather than reducing it.

GERD can in fact make it possible for Egypt to get even more water than what it is getting now. What is needed is to create the dam without any sabotage to facilitate both the provision of water and electricity. The engineering to store the water is not difficult. What is very damaging being the unnecessary politics that the politicians and media play. The politicians, the extremists and media preferred to promote ethnic political

division openly to hurt and divide Ethiopia rather than learning to agree on how best both electricity and water can be shared. What cost is involved and how best to agree to share the needed cost? South Africa pays annually to Lesotho for the water that flows to them. The Nile River water is the source of life for Egypt that flows from Ethiopia. Egypt too as South Africa doe, should have paid Ethiopia compensation. Egypt should agree to contribute and agree to pay even for all the years it has shared the water of the Nile River.

Egypt should also commit to contribute for building GERD rather than opposing and delaying it any more. It is much better to create and use the dam and reservoir than relying on downstream water levels that flow at different rates depending on the cycle of dry and wet season.

All the Riparian countries must never fail to find restorative and rehabilitative justice to resolve any differences. They must all apply the rich spiritual heritage that promotes African values, traditions and associational culture to do the needed, necessary by doing mediation and resolve any problem by addressing systematically all the issues to move forward together by all undertaking a shared future.

We appreciate all who can contribute to make sure all the regional states are engaged to solve problems rather than create problems. Let all in the Nile region create unity, rather than division, create peace rather than war, undertake sustainable and enduring engagement to make the people to be innovative, inventive, and integrative to make the sustainable and transformative development future for all Africans by making the health, safety and prosperity of all the people the priority of priorities.

## **VII: Concluding Recommendations**

Egypt and Sudan, all the Riparian States, AU and all the rest of the world must acknowledge why Ethiopia that is the source of the Blue Nile water

is denied the right to be included in using the Blue Nile water. All Africa states must stop to continue using treaties that the colonial powers used to divide and rule by excluding the legitimate, fair and just sovereign right to Ethiopia on the waters of the Blue Nile River. Let us Africans all do to manage any conflict and problem without outsourcing our problems to the colonialists that created this division by imposing all the unjust colonial treaties. All Africans must learn to reject the colonial mischief.

Egypt and Sudan have to be the first to acknowledge the colonial wrong done against Ethiopia by her exclusion of her right to the Blue Nile that flows from Ethiopia. They should both learn from the Turkish Sultan when he ruled Egypt paid 50 million gold coins to Ethiopia by acknowledging the sovereign right of the Nile River to Ethiopia. Egypt and Sudan must even agree, apologise to offer to Ethiopia compensation even though it is too late as they should have done it a long time back rather than using colonial treaties to deny Ethiopia its legitimate right. South Africa to this day continues to pay to Lesotho as Gashe Kidane Alemayehu has been involved in the negotiations. The Agreement on the GERD must not be delayed. Any future meetings must bring final resolution with full and workable agreement. The GERD must be completed without any delay anymore. All agreements must be based on scientific research output. All should join to undertake evidence based research to make sure that conspiracy and other conflicts are stopped finally and surely. Scientific hydrological knowledge must prevail. Politics and media must be controlled. Acknowledgement of Ethiopia's sovereign right over the Blue Nile is nothing else but justice finally redressed: Egypt and Sudan must be the first to do the rejection of the colonial legacy even if it is cynically done to divide and rule the African brotherly states.

Let GERD become the example to all conflict resolution challenges that downstream and upstream countries face in all parts of Africa. Make GERD the conflict resolution example for Africa. As there are 10 mega

dams in other parts of Africa, GERD should be the example of social solidarity. African values and justice should be applied to convert conflict into reconciliation. The relativity and the speed of light square conflict resolution rehabilitative and restorative justice must prevail over the gravity burden of colonially construed injustice against Ethiopia that above all else Egypt and Sudan should have been the first to acknowledge, compensate and support genuinely for the GERD to have been completed not delayed when it was expected to be done by 2017. Let GERD become the model for both resolving the colonial and the current differences. Let GERD be done and become the true asset for all Africa and the states in the region. There must be a pan-African solution for GERD. No more outsourcing and exporting the problem. Let all the actors engaged learn to solve without playing selfish politics but choosing and preferring to apply real science and knowledge. Let GERD be the model for African unity. Let all unite with the Great Adwa African Victory Spirit and make GERD to be owned by the Ethiopian people with the principle of sovereign wealth fund without any doubt and with full resolve to support all the people in the region as a whole.

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