



PASTORALIST FORUM ETHIOPIA (PFE)

The 10th Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD) Celebration

“More Commitment for Good Governance and Sustainable Pastoralist Development in the New Ethiopian Millennium”

Press release

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for immediate release

Addis Ababa. The 10th Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD) will be celebrated at the national level on *Tir* 17 and 18, 2000 (Jan 26-27, 2008) in the Aba Geda Conference Hall in Adama/Nazereth Town in Oromia National Regional State. The theme of the Day is ***More Commitment for Good Governance and Sustainable Pastoralist Development in the New Ethiopian Millennium***. EPD is a multifaceted advocacy instrument and a platform that brings almost all pastoral actors together in the country for overarching goal-sustainable pastoral development. Being commemorated annually since 1999 in different venues, this historic event has raised immensely the profile of the pastoralist and enhanced pastoral solidarity better heard by the decision makers and the public. It was in the 8th EPD (2006), the Federal Government has recognized and endorsed officially EPD as a national day to be commemorated every year on *Tir* 17.

In response to the resolutions passed by the pastoralists, the Ministry of Federal Affairs (MoFA), the Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE), and Pastoral Affairs Standing Committee (PASC) in the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives are jointly organizing the 10th EPD. 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 from representatives of the pastoralists and CSOs; special awards for development hero pastoralists and partners; paper presentations by various actors signifying the theme of the day; and, a special platform will be arranged for the pastoralists to debate on key issues and pass resolutions of the day.

The efforts being exerted so far by both the Government and Non-Government actors to alleviate problems of the pastoralists are encouraging and need to be continued. The most important developments made in the decade includes growing recognition of pastoralists and pastoralism; recognition of the Ethiopian Pastoralist Day (EPD) as national day; inclusion of pastoral interests in the national plan (PASDEP); formation and reformation of the pastoral institutions at the federal and the regional government levels; power devolution to grassroots institutions; presence of pastoral strategies and development initiatives; and a growing interest to develop pastoralists and pastoralism by various actors. PFE appreciates all the progresses made so far and deliberations underway by all pastoral actors to develop pastoralists.

Despite pastoralists have since the last nine subsequent EPDs urged the Government in particular and pastoral actors in general to give attention **to the establishment of Pastoral Institution at the federal level in the capacity of either a Ministry or a Commission; develop and implement land use plan suitable to pastoralists; facilitate and support the establishment of Pastoral Councils; promote acceptance of livestock as a collateral for bank loan; and special attention to enhance social services** the progresses made are still low.

Therefore, by appreciating the positive achievements obtained through political will and commitment of the Federal Government, and efforts and commitment of the non-state pastoral actors in developing the pastoralists, PFE urges all pastoral actors to join hand-in-hand to address these outstanding pastoral issues.

PFE is a local umbrella NGO working with pastoralists and partners to advance the rights of the pastoralists and addressed.

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