Part One
General

1. Short Title

This Proclamation may be cited as the "Flag Proclamation No. 654/2009".
2. Definitions

In this Proclamation unless the context requires otherwise:

1) “Regional State” means a Regional State member of the federation established in accordance with Article 47 of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;

2) “Administrative City” means the Administrative City of Addis Ababa or the Administrative City of Dire Dawa;

3) “Person” means a natural or juridical person;

4) “On the Right” means on the extreme right with reference to the direction of a person standing in the line of flags facing observers.

3. Scope of Application.

This Proclamation shall be applicable.

1/ within the territorial boundary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia including Regional States and Administrative Cities; and

2/ to Ethiopian citizens in foreign countries, embassies and consulates of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, merchant ships, boats and air planes registered in Ethiopia.

PART-TWO
National Flag Day

4. The Flag Day

The National Flag Day /hereinafter referred as “the National Flag Day”/ shall be celebrated at the national level every year on the second Monday of the Ethiopian month of Meskerem
PART-THREE
The Flag and the National Emblem

5. Symbolism of the Flag

The Flag of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (hereinafter “the Flag”) symbolizes the sovereignty of the Republic and the unity of its peoples founded upon their common will.

6. Colors and Shape of the Flag

1/ The Flag shall have the colors: green at the top, yellow at the middle and red at the bottom together with a National Emblem of circular blue background. The Emblem shall be set at the centre of the Flag in such a way that its circumference curves on the midpoint of the width of both the green and red colors.

2/ The colors shall be bright and basic.

3/ The colors shall be structured horizontally and be of the same size. The length of the Flag shall be twice its width.

4/ The Emblem shall be a blue circle with depictions:

a) straight and equal lines of yellow that come from all directions and join each other;

b) a star formed by the straight and equal lines;

c) yellow rays radiating from the points where the straight and equal lines cross each other.

7. Meaning of the Colors of the Flag

The colors of the Flag shall represent the following meanings:

1/ the green for labor, fertility and development;

2/ the yellow for hope, justice and equality; and

3/ the red for sacrifice and heroism towards the prevalence of freedom and equality.
PART-FOUR
Procedure of Display and use of the Flag

8. Meaning of the Emblem

1/ The circular blue background of the Emblem signifies peace.

2/ The straight and equal lines signify the equality of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples as well as of Religions.

3/ The star formed by the straight and equal lines signify the unity founded by the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia of their common will.

4/ The yellow rays signify the bright prospect in sight for the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples united of their common will.

9. Pictorial Representation of the Flag

The pictorial representation of the Flag is as follows:

10. Standard Sizes of the Flag

Without prejudice to Article 6(3) of this Proclamation, the standard size of the Flag shall be as follows:
11. Sizes for Display

Without prejudice to Article 6/3/ of this Proclamation in the following places and occasions the Flag shall be displayed in accordance with the standard sizes provided under Article 10 of this Proclamation:

1/ at major squares, the size of the Flag shall be Size No.1;

2/ at medium squares, the size of the Flag shall be Size No. 2;

3/ at the squares of offices, higher education institutions and organizations, the size of the Flag shall be Size No.3;

4/ on major government buildings, the size of the Flag shall be Size No. 3;

5/ at organizations and business enterprises on the ground floor of major buildings, the size of the Flag shall be Size No.4;

6/ on major ships and when displayed by a guard of honor in procession, the size of the Flag shall be Size No.4;
Federal Negarit Gazeta No. 58 28th August, 2009  ....  page 4848

7/ in honor of foreign guests and on public holidays the size of the Flag flown in the streets shall be Size No.5;

8/ on medium size ships, the size of the Flag shall be Size No. 5;

9/ on the desks of the offices of the President, the Prime Minister and Ambassadors, the size of the Flag shall be Size No.6;

10/ on vehicles in which the President, the Prime Minister and Ambassadors travel, the width and length shall be in the ratio of 3:4 and shall be 30 by 40 cent meter.

12. Display of the Flag

1/ Except in case of force majeure obstructive to having it flown the Flag shall fly daily at the House of Peoples’ Representatives, at the Council of Ministers, at Regional organs of power at every level, at Ministries, at other executive organs, at courts, at schools, at military establishments, at police and border-guard establishments and at the embassies and residential buildings of Ambassadors of the Republic and merchant ships and boats of the Republic.

2/ Government offices not specified in sub article (1) of this Article shall fly the Flag on public holidays.

3/ Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-article 2/ of this Article the Flag shall fly at the following places:

a) at the square with in the premises of the House of Peoples’ Representatives;

b) at the square within the premises of the House of Federation;

c) at the respective offices and residential buildings of the President and of the Prime Minister of the Republic.
4/ Without prejudice to the generality of this Article the Flag shall be flown at the place where registration or casting takes place during election for the House of Peoples’ Representatives.

5/ When the Flag is displayed with any other emblem including the emblems of college, sport clubs and institutions, it shall be at the center as higher as its proportional height.

13. **Tip of the Flagstaff**

The tip of any Flag staff shall be semi-circular in shape.

14. **Place for Setting up the Flag Staff**

The Flagstaff of the Flag flown at a square shall, as far as possible, be set up at the centre in front of the institution buildings.

15. **Time of Hoisting and Lowering the Flag**

1/ Without prejudice to sub-articles (2) and (3) of this Article, the Flag shall be hoisted at 6 a.m. and lowered at 6 p.m. at offices specified in Article 12(1) of this Proclamation as well as on ships and boats. However, military units in regions where a state of emergency has been declared need not comply with the regular hoisting and lowering times until the situation changes.

2/ In schools, the Flag shall be hoisted in the morning before classes begin and lowered at 6 p.m.

3/ The Flag shall be hoisted on the eve and lowered on the morrow of public holidays, however on each of these days the Flag shall be hoisted at 6 a.m. and lowered at 6 p.m.

16. **Unity of the Flag**

The Flag of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia shall only be of the colors of Green, Yellow, Red and blue circular background as provided hereinabove, together with the Emblem at centre, as specified in this Proclamation.
17. Respect Due on Hoisting and Lowering of the Flag

1/ Any Ethiopian national shall have the responsibility and duty to pay due honor to the Flag of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

2/ The Flags related with a national historical phenomenon or event shall be kept at museums prepared for such purposes.

3/ When the Flag becomes old or worn out or in any way can no longer be used, it shall be destroyed by burning with the due respect.

18. Procedural Orders of Display of the Flag with the Flags of the Regional States

1/ When the Flag is displayed with a flag of a Regional State, it shall be placed on the right.

2/ When the Flag is displayed with two flags of Regional States, it shall be placed at the centre as higher as its proportional height and the other two flags shall be placed on the right and left of the Flag respectively according to the Amharic alphabetical orders of the names of the Regional States.

3/ When the Flag is displayed with more than two flags of Regional States, it shall be placed at the right end and, the flags of the Regional States shall be placed following the Flag according to the Amharic alphabetical order of the names of the Regional States concerned.

19. Procedural Order of Display of the Flag with the Flags of Foreign Countries.

1/ When the Flag is displayed with a flag of a foreign country it shall be placed on the right.
Procedure at Procession

At public procession, the procedure of displaying the Flag shall be as follow:

1. When a foreign official or an agent of international or continental organization travels in a car provided by the Ethiopian government, the Flag shall be flown on the right side of the car and the flag of the foreign country or the flag of the organization shall be flown on the left side.

2. When the Flag is displayed with two flags of foreign countries, the Flag shall be placed following the English alphabetical order of the names of the countries.

3. The provisions from sub-article (1) to (3) of this Article shall be applicable respectively to the flags of the United Nations Organization, the African Union, and any other international organization.

4. The guard of honor shall hold the staff with his right hand at his bottom and his left at the upper part by creating at the center of his body.

5. When the Flag is displayed with two flags of foreign countries, the Flag shall be placed following the English alphabetical order of the names of the countries.
2/ The Flag shall be flown on the vehicle, train, airplane, vessel or ship in which the President, the Prime Minister or the Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is traveling.

3/ Without prejudice to the provisions of subarticle (2) of this Article, the privilege of flying the Flag on a vehicle is restricted to:

   a) the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Peoples’ Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
   b) The Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Federation;
   c) The Ministers of the Federal Government;
   d) The Commander –in- Chief of the Army;
   e) The Presidents of the Federal Courts;
   f) The Presidents of the Regional States.

22. Half-Masting and National Mourning

1) In the event of the death of the President or the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on official duty or retirement, the Flag shall be flown at half-mast on the declared day of national mourning.

2) Up on the death of persons and dignitaries other than those mentioned under sub article-1/ of this Article, half-masting and a national mourning day may be held if the House of Peoples’ Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia pass a decision to that effect.

3) In cases where a national mourning day coincides with official holiday the Flag shall not be flown at half-mast.

4) On occasions of funeral in accordance with the provisions of this Article, the Flag shall first be folded following the appropriate procedure before the bier or coffin is lowered in to the grave. The Flag may not touch the ground.
PART FIVE
Prohibitions and Penalties

23 Prohibited Activities

It is prohibited to commit any of the following:

1) to use the Flag without its Emblem as provided under this Proclamation;

2) to deface the Flag by writing or displaying sings, symbols, emblems or picture;

3) to use an old, faded or torn Flag;

4) to fasten advertisements, notices or other Flags or emblems on the staff of the Flag;

5) to disrespect, dishonor or damage the Flag by writing or word or act in public places;

6) to prepare or use the Flag without the proper order of its colors and size or its Emblem;

7) to fly the Flag beyond the permitted time;

8) to use the Flag for table or any other material covering at meetings or similar gatherings;

9) to use the Flag as a covering for a building;

10) to use the Flag in any form of commercial advertisement;

11) not to show the proper respect at the hoisting and lowering of the Flag;
24. Penalties

1) Without prejudice to the appropriate provisions of any other law, whosoever commits an act in contravention to the provisions of sub article /2/ to /11/ of Article 23 of this Proclamation shall be punishable with a fine up to 3000 birr or with rigorous imprisonment up to one year.

2) With out prejudice to any other appropriate provisions of a law, whosoever commits an act in contravention with sub-article /1/ of Article 23 of this Proclamation shall be punishable with a fine up to 5000 birr or rigorous imprisonment up to one year and six months.

3) Where the acts provided under sub-article/2/ of this Article are committed by a legal person, the punishment shall not be less than two times of the fine.

PART–SIX
Miscellaneous Provisions

25. Power to Issue Regulations

The Council of Ministers may issue regulations necessary for the implementation of this Proclamation.

26. Power to Issue Directives

The following organs of government may issue directives of implementation pursuant to regulations made in accordance with Article 25 of this Proclamation:

1) the Ministry of National Defence with respect to military units;

2) the Ministry of Transport and Communications with respect to merchant ships and boats;

3) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with respect to the embassies and consulates of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
27. **Inapplicable Laws**

The Flag and Emblem Proclamation No. 16/1996 and the Flag and Emblem /as amended/ Proclamation No. 48/1996 are replaced by this Proclamation.

28. **Effective Date**

This Proclamation shall enter into force up on the date of publication in the Federal Negarit Gazeta.

Done at Addis Ababa, this 28th day of August, 2009

GIRMA WOLDEGIORGIS

PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA