



JUBILEE PALACE
ADDIS ABABA

It is with great satisfaction that We witness the publication of the inaugural issue of the Journal of Ethiopian Law, which marks still another step forward in the legal development of Our country. During Our reign we have been pleased to see the Constitution and the other laws which We have proclaimed, the implementation of those laws and the modernization of the legal system, all of which have proceeded in light of Ethiopia's rich legal heritage beginning from the Fetha Negast. Since, as We have observed, Ethiopia's rapid progress demands the services of a large number of legal experts, a Faculty of Law has been established to educate persons capable of insuring the effective application of the law. We hope that further progress will be achieved by the creation of a law journal containing reports of the decisions of Our courts and commentary upon the law of Ethiopia.

Law is a unifying force in a nation; one of the goals sought to be attained by the enactment of modern codes and other legislation is that the law be uniform throughout the Empire. Where the meaning of provisions of the law is doubtful or a question arises that is not expressly covered by the law, it is necessary that the courts interpret the law and decide upon its application. These judgments of the courts must be known to all engaged in the administration of justice and the study of the law. The publication of court decisions will serve to make the law more certain, and thus will be a valuable contribution to the legal system of Ethiopia.

The Codes, though drawing in part on foreign sources, were drafted to accord with Ethiopia's needs and ancient legal tradition. The foundation of the Codes lies in the feeling of the people as to what is just. This being so, Our courts and

judges cannot rely exclusively on foreign sources in interpreting the Codes. The national character of Ethiopian Law demands that Ethiopian Commentary upon the law be developed. We hope that through the medium of the Law Journal, legal experts, both Ethiopian and foreign, can express their views as to the meaning of the provisions of the Codes and propose solutions to legal problems likely to confront Ethiopia. The Law Journal can serve as the vehicle by which writings explaining the law of Ethiopia can be published and made available.

We hope that this Journal will be widely circulated throughout the Empire and abroad. Law is an instrument for civilizing the peoples of the world. We hope that the publication of this Law Journal will add to the study of Ethiopian Law. And We hope that this Law Journal will find its appropriate place in the international literature of laws.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure that We inaugurate the publication of the Journal of Ethiopian Law. We earnestly hope that future publications of this Law Journal will give the desired fruits.

HAILE SELASSIE I