

## PRESS RELEASE

### Participants Urged Women to Make a Good Use of their Ability on the Culture Sector

**Wednesday, August 21, 2019** | Mekelle - A consultation forum to promote women's participation in the culture sector was held on Wednesday, August 21, at Milano Hotel in the city of Mekelle.

In the forum entitled "**The Role and Challenges of Female Artists**", Dr. Daniel Teklu, Tigray Academic Language President, Deputy Director of the Regional Culture and Tourism, Zenebu Halfom, Head of the Office of Women's Affairs, invited guests and women's including wide range of stakeholders participated.

Dr. Hagos Abreha who came up with a research paper entitled "Ashenda, Art for Women" has said: - "Ashenda is an ancient tradition, a religious festival, a girl's play" Dr. Hagos added that women are not using their role in the culture sector.

In addition, female participants mentioned some of their challenges that obstruct them from actively participating on the culture sector. Some are: suppressing traditional thinking, lack of support and awareness from the community and government towards the culture sector.

Finally, participants noted that a similar forum should be held to increase women's participation in the culture sector as well as get support from the government and the community to increase their participation in the culture sector.

One of the highlights of the day was the fun-filled with jazz and cultural play at Geza Gerlas Cultural Hall.

#### Note to Editors:-

SELAM is an international, non-government, and non-for-profit organization established in Sweden in 1997. SELAM is committed to create an enabling environment for cultural growth that shall contribute to economic, political, and social development. SELAM, through its country office Selam Ethiopia, is a reputed name in the culture sector for:

- **Catalyzing Sectoral Transformation** through advocacy and engagement of relevant stakeholders, where we organized hundreds of networking and advocacy platforms – dubbed **Selam Cultural**

**Forum** – a series of continual events for the last 10 years, with each edition focusing on a specific thematic topic in culture

- **Facilitating Cross-Cultural Exchange** mainly through organizing music festivals in Ethiopia, Sweden, Cuba, and other countries while providing opportunities and exposure to emerging artists and performers – our flagship annual music concert **Selam Festival Addis** is a testament.
- **Brokering Knowledge** via capacity building trainings by highly qualified international professionals to upgrade skills of Ethiopian musicians, sound engineers, artists, film makers, and professionals.

Selam Ethiopia is currently implementing a three-year project – **Culture Leads the Way (CLtW)** – in Addis Ababa and four regional states that aim to strengthen and advance the participation of culture actors in the development processes through different forms of cultural expressions, including this edition of **Selam Cultural Forum**.

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