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IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT

ነጋሪት ፡ ኃዚጣ። NEGARIT GAZETA

(አ ቀ ጆ ች) PROCLAMATIONS

፻፳፻፱ ፡ ፩ ፡ (VOL. 1)

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ADDIS ABABA APRIL 1951

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Price Eth. \$ 7

3. The capital of the State Bank of Ethiopia shall be Maria Theresa dollars 1,000,000 which shall be provided by Our Ministry of Finance.

Done at Addis Ababa this 26th day of August 1942.

TSAHAFE TEZAZ WELDE GUIORGUIS
Minister of the Pea.

22

No. 22 of 1942.

**A PROCLAMATION TO PROVIDE
FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE LEGAL STATUS
OF SLAVERY AND CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS**

**CONQUERING LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH
HAILE SELASSIE I
ELECT OF GOD, EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA**

WHEREAS it has always been Our desire to abolish the institution of slavery in Our Empire:

AND WHEREAS by Our Proclamations of the 22nd day of Megabit, 1916 and the 8th day of Hamlie, 1923, We proclaimed that all slaves who wished to be free could become free by asserting their freedom before a Judge:

AND WHEREAS We further provided for the punishment of persons who bought and sold slaves or who sought to prevent slaves from asserting their freedom:

NOW THEREFORE We desire to provide for the abolition of the legal status of slavery throughout Our Empire:

AND WE PROCLAIM AS FOLLOWS:

1. This Proclamation may be cited as the Slavery (Abolition) Proclamation, 1942.

2. In this Proclamation, unless the context otherwise requires—

“slave” means a person whose condition is that of slavery;

“slavery” is the condition or status of a person over whom any or all the rights attaching to the right of ownership are exercised;

“Slave dealing” includes any act of capture, acquisition or delivery to another of a person with a view to reducing him to a state of slavery: any act of acquisition of a slave with a view to selling or exchanging him, any act of delivery to another by sale or exchange of a slave who was acquired with a view to being sold or exchanged, and generally any act of trading in or transporting slaves.

“legal status” means a status recognised by law.

3. The legal status of slavery is abolished.

4. Any person who:—

(i) transports or assists in transporting a person out of Our Empire in order that he may be sold as a slave: or

(ii) engages in slave-dealing, or assists or in any way helps a person thus engaged:

is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction:

(a) to be sentenced to death: or

(b) to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 20 years or to a fine not exceeding Maria Theresa dollars 10,000 or to corporal punishment not exceeding 40 lashes or to any combination of these penalties.

5. Any person who prevents or attempts to prevent any slave from asserting his freedom, or recaptures or attempts to recapture any slave who has asserted his freedom, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years or to a fine not exceeding Maria Theresa dollars 1,000 or to both such imprisonment and fine.

6. Any person who transfers or receives any other person as a pledge or security for a debt shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 2 years or to a fine not exceeding Maria Theresa dollars 500 or to both such imprisonment and fine.

7. The provisions of Our Proclamations of the 22nd day of Megabit 1916 and the 8th day of Hamlie 1923 are hereby re-enacted in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Proclamation.

Done at Addis Ababa, this 26th day of August 1942.

TSAHAFÉ TEZAZ WELDE GUIORGUIS
Minister of the Pen.
