



FDRE Institution of the Ombudsman

The Ethiopian Institution of the Ombudsman (EIO) envisages to see "good governance that is of high quality, efficient and transparent and are based on the rule of law, by way of ensuring that citizens' rights and benefits provided for by law are respected by organs of the executive."

The institution is a parliamentary ombudsman accountable to House of Peoples Representatives. The Council of the Ombudsman comprises of Chief Ombudsman, Deputy Chief Ombudsman, Ombudsman Heading Children and Women Affairs, Ombudsmen heading branch offices (to be opened soon) and the necessary staff.

Major Powers and Duties of EIO

- Supervises administrative directives issued and decisions given by executive organs and practice thereof do not contravene the constitutional rights of citizens and the law as well;
- Receive and investigate complaints in respect of maladministration;
- Conduct supervision, with a view to preventing maladministration and ensuring the executive carries out its functions in accordance with the law;
- Seek remedies incase where it believes maladministration has occurred;
- Undertake studies and research on ways and means of curbing maladministration;
- Make recommendations for the revision of existing laws, practices or directives and for the enactment of new laws and formulation of policies, with a view to bringing about better governance; and
- Perform such other functions as are related to its objective.



Together we can succeed in building a culture of good governance in Ethiopia!

Notifying Fault

Where the institution, in the process of conducting investigations, believes that a crime or an administrative fault has been committed it has the duty to forthwith notify in writing to the concerned organ or office.

Duty to Cooperate with EIO

- Article 38 of the EIO Establishment Proclamation says "Any person shall provide the necessary assistance with a view to helping the institution exercise its powers and duties."

How does EIO report?

- The institution issues an official report as may be necessary.
- The institution exercises transparency in its mode of operation, including issuance of regular reports.

The institution has the duty to exercise caution in respect of matters that should be kept secret, with a view to not endangering national security and wellbeing or to protecting individual lives.

Confidentiality

Unless ordered by a court or otherwise permitted by the Chief Ombudsman, any appointee or staff or professional at EIO is obliged not to disclose, at all items any secret known to him in connection with his/her duty.

Power Limitations of EIO

- Decisions given by councils established by election in their legislative capacity;
- Cases pending in courts of law of any level;

- Matters under investigation by the office of the auditor general; or
- Decisions given by Security Forces and Units of the Defense Forces in respect of matters of national security or defense.

Immunity for EIO

No appointee or investigator of the institution may be detained or arrested without the permission of the House or the Chief Ombudsman respectively except when caught in flagrant for a serious offence.

Any Non-Answerability for Defamation

- No complaint lodged pursuant to EIO establishment proclamation entail liability for defamation.

No report of the institution submitted to the House, on the finding of an investigation undertaken, nor any other correspondence of the institution relating to its activities shall entail liability for defamation.

Penalty

A person who, having received summons from the institution or been called up on by it otherwise, does not appear or respond without good cause, within the time fixed or is not willing to produce a document or to have same examined shall be punishable with imprisonment from one month to six months for with a time from two hundred to one thousand birr or with both.

Contact Information

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