

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA

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Notes:

1. The Higher Education Proclamation No 650/2009 of Ethiopia (2009) regulates both public and private higher education (PHE) institutions in the country. It is the second such legislation within the higher education sector. The first one was issued in 2003. Although some provisions are specifically dedicated to PHE institutions, other sections concern both public and private institutions. Hence, the document attached is the proclamation in full.
2. Higher education in Ethiopia refers to education given at undergraduate and post-graduate levels through regular, continuing, distance or virtual modes. The types of higher education institutions available are classified as (a) university (b) university college (c) college (d) institute. These designations are given by the Ministry of Education.
3. The public sector accommodates roughly 85 percent of total enrollment in the country. Private institutions, which enroll the remaining percentage, are classified as for-profit and not-for-profit. While the former constitute more than 95 percent of the private institutions currently operating, the not-for-profit institutions, mainly owned by religious and non-government organizations, are rather insignificant both in terms of number and enrollment size.
4. The proclamation is a manifestation of both enabling and restrictive tendencies incorporated within a single document. Although it promotes the private sector by providing the legal recognition the sector needs to operate, it restricts its growth by establishing double standards in which public and private institutions are to be treated. One such example is the accreditation requirement which excludes the public sector altogether.
5. The full contents of the proclamation can be accessed at www.moe.gov.et/.../ad2957b2-42a1-4feo-a646-c2cc7d888785?

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