Dear Prime Minster

We are technology professionals of Ethiopian origin living and working in the US. We are experienced software developers, testers and managers. The past couple of months, we were busy organizing ourselves in to a professional group. The main reason for organizing the group is to contribute our fair share to the advancement of technology in Ethiopia. Initially, we started by setting up a meeting to discuss cash contribution to respond to your call to contribute a dollar a day. On the same meeting, we came up with an even more impactful alternative to cash contribution.

We all agreed that an engineer’s time can be much more impactful than a small amount of cash donation. We therefore, agreed to give back a small portion of our time to support the government using our technical skills.

To that end, we have identified the different technical areas which we can engaged in. At the end of this email, we have added a list containing the different skills we can contribute, with a brief description of their meaning in plain English.

To give you an idea of how we are planning to contribute, let’s take one sample project.

**Project:** The ministry of Health plans to build a web-based system to manage the prevalence of communicable disease in Ethiopia.

Any software project, no matter how small, has several factors that, which if not addressed at the right time, will cause it to fail. In this case, the MoH must have the IT staff with the right technical skill to identify the gaps and requirements before even floating a tender. In the shortage of that skill, the ministry must hire professionals form outside of the company. There are 2 major isues in the latter case. The first one is cost. External technical professionals can be very expensive. The second one is dependability. Even after paying large sum of money, the report submitted by the external consultant may be erroneous.

This is where we come in. We can help in many ways. We can work with the IT staff to fill the technical gap, thereby avoiding or reducing the need for external consultant. If it is a must to hire external consultant, we can assist the consultant finish the task quicker, thereby lowering the cost. We can also evaluate the report submitted by the consultant, thereby increasing the dependability of the report.

We can follow the same approach for the various stages of the software development lifecycle. We can help with defining acceptance criteria for the MoH, we can review the software design document prepared by the company selected to develop the software, we can do code review, we can even do software testing to ensure acceptance criteria are met, before MoH releases the funds to the company developing the software. This can potentially save hundreds of thousands of foreign currency especially if the contract is done with an international company.

So far, we have discussed the efforts that have short term impact. Our focus will however be on efforts that will have long term impact. For the long term, sustainability is critical. With the limited number of professionals and the limited time we have, we cannot sustain these efforts for a long time.

That is why we also came up with another solution that addresses the sustainability issue. We are all ready to work with the government of Ethiopia to train fresh graduates and engineers with the objective of upgrading their technical skills and equipping them with the skill necessary to discharge their responsibility effectively. After they complete rigorous training, they will be ready to tackle any problem they come across. As we train the trainers, they will also be responsible to train more professionals and fresh graduates. That way, the quality of the local talent will improve significantly allowing the government and the private sectors to depend on local professionals for their technical consultancy needs.

To achieve these goals, we have decided to contribute **5 hours** a week. This would mean an hour a day, a similar concept to contributing a dollar a day, except, this one is much more valuable.

Finally, our pledge to help is only part of the equation. For our plan to work, we need to partner with some of the best professionals the country has to offer. We are therefore, requesting your office to assign a strong team of professionals who can not only facilitate the process, but also strongly believes in advancing technology through team work and collaboration.

We all look forward to work with you, all the best!!

# List of professionals signing up to contribute

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Name** | **Title** | **Company** | **City** | **Email** | **Phone** |
| 1 | Lakew Mulat | Software Engineer 2 | Microsoft | Redmond | [lakew@live.com](mailto:lakew@live.com) | 425-274-5426 |
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| 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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Potential areas of engagement

# Requirement review

A requirement review or walk-through is a meeting where you walk-through the requirements documentation, page-by-page, to ensure that the document represents everyone’s complete understanding of what is to be accomplished.

# Defining acceptance criteria

Microsoft Press defines Acceptance Criteria as “Conditions that a software product must satisfy to be accepted by a user, customer or other stakeholder.” Google defines them as “Pre-established standards or requirements a product or project must meet. The customer must define functional criteria (functions that must be in place for the software to be accepted), non-functional criteria (technology stack, site look and feel standard) and performance criteria.

# Software design review

Design review is the process of reviewing of a software design, at a time early enough in the process to allow for changes if necessary. It is useful in making sure that all stakeholders are on the same page regarding the software to be developed. It helps stakeholders understand how the various components will interact and how the software will be structured. Design review is useful in identifying design deficiencies and necessary improvements. It has many advantages such as:

* Ensuring the design will be consistent with technical goals of the organization
* Ensuring that the design can be implemented in the required time
* Ensuring that the proposed design will meet the requirements
* Ensuring that the design will have the needed interfaces with other systems
* Ensuring the design will follow established software design principles

# Code review

A code review is a process where two or more developers visually inspect a set of program code, typically, several times, and give feedback to the software developer company to fix any issues that arise during the review. After the developer is done addressing the feedback, the reviewers then check one last time to ensure their concerns are addressed as per their feedback.

# Software testing

The process of finding defects in a software system. It involves the verification of actual results are the same as expected results. It helps to identify errors, gaps and missing features. The testing to be done can be performance, functional, smoke or acceptance testing

# Software development

We may not have the time to develop complex, large scale systems. However, we can engage in developing small scale applications that can have significant impact. We can also participate in developing smaller components that can later be integrated to a large system.