

ሓባራዊ አወገሃዲ አካል

ሰልፊ ደሞክራሲ ኤርትራ - ሰልፊ ህዝቢ ኤርትራ



هيئة التنسيق المشتركة

الحزب الديمقراطي الارترى - حزب الشعب الارترى

JOINT CO-ORDINATION BODY

ERITREAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY- ERITREAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

Final Statement of EDP/EPP Leadership Meeting

12.04.2009

A joint leadership meeting of the Eritrean Democratic Party (EDP) and the Eritrean People's Party (EPP) was held between 11 and 12 April 2009 in Frankfurt, Germany, to receive and study reports on past activities by the Joint Coordination Body (JCB) and to draw new plans for the final phase of the unification process.

The meeting took place at a time when the political, economic and social situation in Eritrea was in continuous and dangerous downturn; and as a result, when the people are subjected to hunger and starvation; while a big number of young Eritreans is fleeing in country, and at a time when thousands of Eritreans are still languishing in prisons without a day at court. The joint leadership meeting thus resolved that change in Eritrea and a better life to its people shall resume only after the removal of the incumbent regime in Asmara.

The leadership meeting thoroughly reviewed the reports on political/diplomatic, information and organizational spheres conducted [in the past 8 months] under the leadership of the JCB and agreed that the transition work plans in various spheres were successfully achieved within given time frame. The meeting evaluated that total membership of the two parties reached a satisfactory level of mutual confidence and camaraderie with shared viewpoints, and that a fertile ground is laid out for the unification process to be smooth and successful.

It is to be recalled that the shared aspiration of the two sides was to include in the unity process as many Eritrean forces as possible that have common visions. To do this, the EDP and the former ELF-RC (whose members are today in EPP) have joined the ELF in signing a statement of understanding in 2004. Likewise, the two sides also made repeated approaches to the Eritrean National Salvation Front (ENSF) in 2007 to reach an agreement on unity. Although it is regrettable that the said unity efforts of forces with related visions for Eritrea could not be achieved as wished, it is nevertheless a step forward to see the EDP and the EPP continuing the unity process towards merger. This will prove to be an exemplary event in narrowing down differences that long existed among Eritrean political forces.

The EDP/EPP leadership meeting reached the following major decisions for the finalization of the unity process of the two fraternal parties:

1. Formation of Joint Leadership Committee

Taking into consideration the increased tasks and responsibilities awaiting for joint action, the meeting upgraded the existing coordination organ and decided on the

formation of a six-person Joint Leadership Committee (JLC) mandated to lead the unity process till the unification congress.

2. Unification Congress

The meeting resolved that merger shall be effected through a unification congress that will take place, as previously envisioned, in December 2009. The JLC shall decide the venue and time of the congress as well as its preparation and its logistical and financial needs.

3. Integration of certain organs of the two parties

Final integration of various organs of the two parties shall take place at the unification congress; nevertheless, the JLC is mandated to integrate certain organs of the two parties whenever it finds it feasible.

4. Joint Festival

The meeting decided that, as of the summer of 2009, the annual festival of the Eritrean Democratic Association shall henceforth be a joint festival of the two sides.

5. The Opposition Camp

- Expressing full conviction in the need of upgrading and strengthening of the Eritrean Democratic Alliance (EDA), the meeting resolved on continued efforts in support of the national umbrella.
- The joint leadership meeting also underlined the importance of working towards consolidated close work with organizations within and outside EDA that have visions related to our two parties. In particular, the JLC was mandated to take make additional efforts to promote the unity dialogue started with the Eritrean People's Movement (EPM).

Finally, the EDP/EPP leadership meeting expressed gratitude to countries, organizations and individuals who in a way or the other supported the ongoing unity process between the two fraternal parties.

Eritrean People's Party (EPP)

Eritrean Democratic Party (EDP)

Frankfurt, Germany
12 April, 2009