

## **Unity that Aims Beyond the Current Regime**

Department of Information and Culture  
Eritrean People's Democratic Party  
January 25, 2010

The merger of the three political organizations that ushered in the birth of the Eritrean People's Democratic Party (EPDP) is a crucial development in the struggle for democracy. Having coalesced three political organizations together under one party, the new party is redefining the political landscape of the Eritrean opposition, bringing together parties of the same political visions and persuasions, reviving the disintegrated support base of the Eritrean opposition, and preserving the unity of Eritrean people.

Thus, the merger of the three organizations is both worthy and fundamental to our cause, and we should endeavor to advance it. Certainly, the three organizations have lived up to the long-awaited demand for unity. The issue of unity has preoccupied our minds for many years, and prevented Eritrean people in general and, Eritrean youth and women in particular from participating and playing their role in the struggle against the PFDJ ruling dictatorial regime.

Unmistakably, the false plea for unity in our political discourse has run out its course. And anymore attempt to deter the evolving unity under the leadership of the Eritrean People's Democratic Party or others would be nothing, but a red herring intended to draw attention away from the central issue, and a smokescreen to maintain the status quo that never took us anywhere.

Further, the Eritrean People's Democratic Party will not fall prey to divisive and short sighted politics of the PFDJ regime and some Eritrean opposition forces. The Eritrean People's Democratic Party is not either crying a disingenuous unity, as claimed by some cyber politicians. The EPDP is looking for a new direction and a new path that challenges the old and divisive politics

No doubt, the unity of the three organizations also represents a challenge to the Eritrean opposition forces that prefer to maintain things as they are rather than to change them by talking unity or agreement that are façade at best and impractical at worst. We strongly believe that any unity is disingenuous as long as it does not change and allow overhauling of the internal structures and patterns of the concerned parties. Our experience shows that no real unity is possible until the move to true change, and not to preserve the status quo, is pursued effectively. This process should include the recognition by Eritrean opposition political leaders that they themselves are part of the reason why change, which is a ground conducive to unity, is not taking place within their respective organizations.

At this juncture, the Eritrean People's Democratic Party is moving forward in order to meet its commitments and objectives of which one is to strengthen the foundation of unity as an element that binds Eritreans together in their fight against the PFDJ regime that has brought unspeakable devastation and ruin on their lives.

But the unity of the three organizations is not about unity that only aims at the removal of the current regime of Isayas Afework. This unity goes beyond the downfall of the current regime that will help build a sustainable national peace, promote stability, allow economic growth in future Eritrea, and advance the living standard of Eritreans.

This unity is also a tool to lay a foundation upon which Eritreans can build a culture that respects their traditions and values, erects the pillars of democracy and justice, and fosters coexistence within our multifaceted Eritrean communities.

Today, the divisive practices of the current regime in Eritrea and its cohorts, as well as the ethno-religious disciples have become a real threat to the unity of Eritrean people in which the extent of its damage may not be easily restored. These groups, all of whom are after power, manipulate through deception the gullible ones as their ambassadors to execute their divisive politics. And the essence of their strategy is to render Eritrean people powerless, weaken the diversity of Eritreans, create fear and suspicion among Eritreans, and stay in power. And these are some of the compelling reasons why we need to redefine and reexamine unity as an indispensable and crucial foundation for Eritreans in order to build a peaceful, democratic, and vibrant society, among other things.

Eritreans need unity and all true Eritreans must work to achieve it. We need to stop the emerging ethnic devices, help change the status quo of the opposition forces, solidify a true unity, and aim to embrace the culture of democracy. This is the type of unity that we all Eritreans must adapt and strive to achieve through introducing positive and durable change in our politics.