

## Regional Conference of EPM, EPP, and EDP in Addis Ababa

Joint Media Team

November 1, 2009

Members of the Eritrean People's Movement (EPM), Eritrean People's Party (EPP), and Eritrean Democratic Party (EDP) held a joint regional conference on November 1, 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to discuss the draft political and organizational structure proposed by the Joint Leadership Committee of the three political parties.



Mr. Adhanom Gebremariam, member of the Joint Leadership Committee, attended the conference and delivered a speech in which he underlined the relevance and importance of unity to the democratic struggle. In view of the challenges we face and because it is vital that unity continues to be the main strategy of our struggle, we must preserve and guard the accomplishments so

far we achieved, and leave the process open for other Eritreans to join, Mr. Adhanom added. In addition, stressing the need of building a strong Eritrean opposition force, Mr. Adhanom said, one of the future roles of the three uniting parties will be to focus on strengthening the Eritrean Democratic Alliance (EDA) on one hand and to create a close working relationships with individual Eritrean organizations on the other.



Equally important, the success of unity will depend on the strong involvement and participation of both the Eritrean youth and the Eritrean women.

Members of the conference stressed and urged members of the uniting parties to focus on empowering the role of these two most important segments of our society: the youth and women.

On the draft proposals of the political program and organizational structure, members of the conference held a thorough discussion, made critical reviews, and recommended some improvements and amendments. The conference ended after members pledged to embrace and implement these two documents once they are ratified by the upcoming December unity congress.