

Mission Statement of the EPP Youth Column

The purpose of the EPP Youth Column is to build a network of Eritrean youth, which is dedicated to discuss about the values and challenges of the young generation as well as their perception and role on Eritrea of tomorrow. In order to ensure a broad participation, the presentation of our column is in different languages, including: Tigrinia, Arabic, English, French and German.

A significant number of our young generation is apparently not interested in active Eritrean politics, and it is not many who are involved in opposition politics. Therefore, there is clearly an urgent need for them to be engaged with a view to full participation in the political process.

Our party believes that the young generation is the future of Eritrea. Certainly, we understand the challenges and difficulties of our youths. We have also a real understanding of the political situation of our country which is guiding them to some sort of indifference in Eritrean politics. Actually, one of the main objectives of our party is to raise the political awareness of the young generation and to finally enable them to become the owners of the new vision for democratic change.

We are convinced, that at this time, our commitment for democratic change, new political culture and reconciliation are the relevant avenues through which the youth will be reconnected to the mainstream movement. Furthermore, we are convinced that it will be through this engagement that our young generation will take their rightful place as builders and future leaders of Eritrea.

For this purpose, the Founding and First Congress (25-30 July 2008) of the ERITREAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (EPP) emphasized the crucial role of the young generation in the process of Eritrean democratization and established the Department for Youth Affairs in order to empower them. The Eritrean People's Party therefore calls upon all Eritreans, and particularly, the young generation, to join this new democratic movement and new political culture in restructuring Eritrean politics of today and Eritrea of tomorrow.

EPP core values and principles

The Eritrean People's Party is a political organization whose core values are to overcome the one-party dictatorship in Eritrea and to build a democratic state in which political pluralism is promoted, competitions between political parties are allowed, and free and fair election processes are adopted to ensure freedom as well as social justice. Our party strives

for political empowering of the people, to introduce new political culture in Eritrean politics and to strength the involvement of the young Eritrean generation in order to influence the decision making processes of Eritrean politics. The fundamental principles of our party are:

- 1. To protect human and democratic rights*
- 2. To establish secular democratic system*
- 3. To institute decentralized governance*
- 4. To ensure public participation on political process and decision-making*
- 5. To introduce a free market economic policy. (But since free market does not bring about social justice, we believe that the state should take care of the disadvantaged social groups)*
- 6. To create balanced economic development and equitable social justice policy.*

ERITREAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (EPP)

Department for Youth Affairs

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