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ONE COUNTRY
ONE PEOPLE
ONE FLAG & ONE
COMMON DESTINY

የኢትዮጵያ አንድነት አርበኞች ግንባር (ኢ.ኢ.ኢ.ግ)

ETHIOPIAN UNITY PATRIOTS FRONT

(EUPF)

Ethiopian Unity Patriot's Front
(E.U.P.F)

Political Program, 2000
Brief Summary

Translated and Summarized
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Introduction

Ethiopia is an ancient nation known by ancient philosophers and writers of the holy books such as the Bible and the Quran. It had existed before the Christ with its long geographical borders and diverse nationalities in history. Ethiopia is a home of more than eighty different tribes and a general population of above seventy five million people (CSA 2006).

The historical human category of Ethiopians is from Bantus, Cushitic and Nilotics with diverse cultural backgrounds and different languages. According to Ethiopian history, these diverse nationalities have mixed and united through inter marriage and they all stood in unity in defending Ethiopia from foreign invaders and colonizers with strong national patriotism ideology.

Geographically Ethiopia is known as the origin of the Blue Nile and other navigable rivers and water resources, fertile agricultural land, and unique weather comfortable for human kind. With these resources in place, it would have been economically a very strong nation. However, being a resourceful country, it had fallen under focus of the foreign invaders and imperialism expansionists. During the colonial era it was frequently attempted to be conquered by invaders such as Turkey, Egypt, England and Italy.

Despite the attempt made by the foreign invaders, three thousand years ago, Ethiopia had a central leadership which was gradually weakened by internal conflicts and the wars between the Mesafints (local kings). These internal conflicts had not only weakened the economy and struggle to maintain the unity and the sovereignty of the country, but also opened the way for invaders.

As a result Mussolini of Italy managed to invade and occupy some parts of Ethiopia. However, the Ethiopians anger and patriotism to protect their land was unleashed. The popular move from corner to corner against the expansionist Italian forces led to the defeat of Italy at the battle of Adwa in 1896.

During this time Ethiopians woke up and united under the slogan 'one country, one flag, and one common destiny'. With this strong nationhood, they crashed and defeated the well organized Italian army. This strengthened the weakened central leadership and national feeling through out the reign of the king Haile Sellassie and Dergue regime.

The result of the war in the northern part of the country and other internal conflicts plus the international conspiracy, with the cover of democracy supported by those who were against Ethiopia, made EPRDF to succeed and occupied the power in 1991. Under EPDRF however, the democratic process, which was expected by the Ethiopian people, never happened. In stead, EPRDF imposed itself upon the people of Ethiopia by force.

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In last decades one of the charges by the international community was the abuse of human rights in Ethiopia under the Monarchy and also under Dergue regime. In this regard, EPRDF promised the Ethiopian people and the international community that it would improve the violation of human rights records in the country. A promise that EPRDF has never attempted to respect, in stead the human rights situation in the country has deteriorated. At all corners of the country people are being killed in the streets and many are suffering from brutal treatment in prisons by the government police, army and security, simply because they demonstrate to make their voices heard.

International community and human rights watch have witnessed police torturing people in prisons without charges and denial of justice. Moreover using the divide and rule racism policy, EPRDF have divided the people and created ethnic conflicts which became the cause of current internal fighting of tribe against tribe, Christians against Muslims. These intentionally created conflicts took the lives of many Ethiopians and caused long term instability in the country. The combination of all these EPRDF government deliberately made problems made the fed of Ethiopian people to be extreme poverty, displacement, refugees, detention and death.

The economy of the country from the previous stage has deteriorated. The employment opportunities are totally diminished in all regions except Tigray where the current elites come from. In all regions prisons are full of political prisoners without charges. Most of these people have been arrested simply because of expressing their opinions against the government policies. The features of democracy which include the freedom of speech, expression, association including human rights remain violated.

The intimidations and the arrests and prosecutions of students, politicians, and journalists are clear evidence of brutal action of authoritarian leadership of the EPRDF regime. This undemocratic act of destroying the reputation and the future of the country has brought the patience of the Ethiopian people into an end and caused serious anger and general outcry for change of the ruling system.

To respond to the voice of the Ethiopian people and save the country from this situation, the concerned Ethiopian children from all nationalities in regardless of religion, sex and class, have stood up to struggle for change of the government through all possible means. To organize such Ethiopians anger in and outside the country, there became a need for a strong political party.

As a result, the Ethiopian children from different backgrounds and representatives from various Ethiopian political groups who believe in unity and patriotism formed the **'Ethiopian Unity Patriot's Front (EUPF)'** in 1994 under the slogan of **'one country, one flag, and one common destiny'**. EUPF has renewed it call for all Ethiopians to unite in struggle to safe the future of Ethiopia. This brief political program summarizes the main objectives of EUPF as follow,

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Main objectives

1. Removing EPRDF from the yoke of Ethiopian people
2. Form transitional government incorporation with other political parties
3. Organize elections and hand over the power to democratically elected government

1) Political Aspect

1.1. To remove the EPRDF regime that imposed itself upon the Ethiopian people by force, EUPF is determined to use all possible means including armed struggle.

1.2. As part of the political program, EUPF will build the sense of patriotism and the unity of Ethiopians by abolishing and re-dividing the regions which were divided based on racial ethnic policy by EPRDF.

1.3. EUPF believes in multi party free and fair elections. It will therefore, ensure the implementation of a democratic system in the country after ensuring protection and security of Ethiopian national borders, air space, and water zones, and maintain peace in the country.

1.4. EUPF in transitional period will tirelessly work hard to hand over the power to free and fair democratically elected government of Ethiopia.

1.5. EUPF will cooperate and work together with other political parties and groups who believe that bringing change in the country is the only solution to save the future unity and sovereignty of Ethiopia.

2) Basic Rights of citizens

2.1. EUPF will play its part to ensure the implementation of basic human rights and democratic freedom that is internationally recognized under the United Nations' and the African Union's charters.

2.2. Ethiopia has been under authoritarian regimes which were accused for violations of human rights and inequality of income distributions mainly under the current regime. The EUPF's first target is to change this bad reputation of human rights and ensure that the dignity of the Ethiopian people is maintained.

2.3. EUPF will work hard for equality of race, class, gender, religion, culture and develop ethnic languages including the rights of minority and improve the living standard of all citizens in Ethiopia without discriminations.

2.4. EUPF will further fight for the respect of human values and the rule of law to ensure security and stability of individuals are protected.

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2.5. EUPF will work hard to ensure the freedom of movement, freedom of choice and sense of belonging for all citizens of Ethiopia.

3) Foreign policy

3.1. EUPF's foreign policy is based on belief of mutual understanding and respect for sovereignty of other States under the International law.

3.2. Ethiopia is a member of the United Nations and founder of the African Union, the former OAU. Therefore, EUPF will respect the Charters of these two organizations and implement their policies.

3.3. EUPF believes in cooperation with other States to maintain peace and security in the region, and to improve the economic development and trade between the countries.

4) Economic policy

4.1. For the last decade the controversial issue in Ethiopia has been the ownership of the land. In Ethiopia land would remain common public property. However, to encourage the private investment through market economic policy private land ownership would be considered.

4.2. Free market economy will be the base of Ethiopian economic policy. In the economic policy, individuals with capital investment would be encouraged to take part in free market competition with less involvement from the State.

4.3. EUPF will work hard to make sure free market economic policies are put in place to improve the well being of individuals.

4.3. Based on the market competition, the government will pay attention to economic institutions, heavy and small industries, banks and transport to improve productivity

5) Social and Cultural aspect

5.1. EUPF will work to improve cultural heritage, cultural diversity and develop the culture of minority tribes to the equal standard.

5.2. Education is the most important aspect to improve the development and wellbeing of citizens. EUPF will put the necessary resources and effort to improve the infrastructures and quality of Education in Ethiopia. This will include Universities and Training Colleges.

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5.3. Similarly the health sector will be one of the priorities of EUPF government. Improving basic health care in the countryside in terms of infrastructure and the provision of an adequate professional staff for clinics, health centers and hospitals will be the first goal of the government. This will include the fight against HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia and the improvement of drinking water and sanitation.

5.4. Employment opportunity will also be one of the priorities. Incorporation with other stakeholders, EUPF will focus on the provision of Skills and knowledge needed in the market to improve employment opportunities.

6) Defense and National Security

6.1. EUPF will form a national army from all Ethiopian nationalities which will be separate from political parties. This army will include, Ground Force, Air Force and Naval Force under the Ministry of Defense.

6.2. EUPF will also form civil security forces such as Police, Prison Police and Intelligence and security organizations to ensure peace and border security are protected.

6.3. EUPF will ensure the protection and security of its previous internationally recognized land, water, and space boundaries.

Victory is to God! while mobilization and determination is to the people.

EUPF shall win!!!