



Eritrean Democratic Homeland Party

Political Program Draft

October - 2019



Introduction:

As part of our national responsibility and with full understanding of our country wide reality in all its manifestations, and despite the current blockage of the political horizon, we keenly share this political program, which was approved by the 6th General Conference held on October 2019, The aim is to define our strategic vision, goals, means and programs, not only to find the way out of the current political deadlock, but also to facilitate building a modern, happy homeland for all citizens and residents as well. We hereby affirm that change must begin at home (within the party itself) through adopting flexible and realistic programs and renewing the party's leadership. To this end, we are hopeful to bring about change for the proud Eritrean people who deserve a better-life.

Section I Eritrea –History and Geography

1) Geographical location:

Eritrea has a total area of 121320 km², sharing a border of 605 km of lowlands with Sudan on the west, 912 km with Ethiopia on the south and 113 km with Djibouti to the south-east. The long coastal plain area as well extends to more than 1,000 km from RasKassar cape in the north of Sudan, to RasRahita in the south of Djibouti and to Bab-el-Mandeb. Eritrea has (126) islands, most importantly comprise the Dahlac Archipelago and two strategic islands (Fatima and Haleb Islands), both well-known with ancient ports, e.g. Adulis port established by the Greek in the 3rd century BC.



2) The strategic importance of Eritrea:

The strategic location of Eritrea attracted the attention of ancient great powers for its close position to the oil-rich region of the Middle East, and most importantly being located in international maritime shipping routes in the Red Sea through Bab-el-Mandeb strait - the most important shipping lanes of goods from the Middle and Far East to Europe and America. Moreover, the discovery of natural sources in the region attracted international companies and states as well, which made Eritrea a target for foreign sovereignty in all its historical eras.

3) Historical background:

Eritrea's location, linking Asia and Africa, makes it a cultural bridge between Hamitic and Semitic nations and different languages. It was known as the harbour for various cultures and religions, and so Muslims, Christians, Orthodox, Catholic, Evangelical, African religions and Jehovah's Witnesses have long coexisted in Eritrea.

The existing borders of Eritrea were demarcated during the Italian colonialism (1885-1941) and continued at the British colonialism era. The land was then forcefully attached to Ethiopia in a federal union by a UN resolution and collusion of international powers which turned a blind eye to the demands of full independence by the vast majority of the Eritrean nation. Nevertheless, Ethiopia revoked the federation from one side to declare annexation of Eritrea in 1962. The international powers, represented by the United Nations, failed to protect the UN Resolution of federation of Eritrea with Ethiopia,



leaving no other choice for the Eritrean people but to adopt the armed struggle to restore their inherent right and stolen homeland.

Section II

The political situation - the regime and opposition

1) Gaining the national independence:

The Eritrean people remained yearning for freedom and independence and therefore continued to resist the Ethiopian occupation with varied means. In the 1940s, means of peaceful resistance prevailed in terms of forming political parties, civil societies, and through newspapers published in several languages. In the early 1950s, the resistance emerged through the federal parliament. Gradually, the peaceful resistance was led by the Eritrean Liberation Movement and escalated to take the form of protests, demonstrations and civil disobedience. Since all those means were unsuccessful to restore the rights or deter the occupation, the only option left was the armed struggle as declared by the Eritrean Liberation Front led by martyr Hamid Idris Awati. The revolution fought one of the longest liberation wars in Africa until the strong Ethiopian army was defeated in 1991, and hence the Eritrean people gained independence in 1993 through a referendum decision supervised by the United Nations, in which the Eritrean people voted almost unanimously by 99.83% in favor of full independence.



2) The interim government:

The newly born State of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), formed as the first interim Government after independence and has continued to live interim until today, failed to achieve the aspirations of the nation for more than a quarter of a century. The EPLF party held no general conference since 1994, failing to achieve democracy within its own structure, adopt any comprehensive national-wide vision, accommodate the Eritrean people's diversity, political plurality, ethnicity, or respond to the nation's demands and aspirations to justice, development and stability. This has been reflected negatively on the State administratively, economically and politically. The regime has wasted the country's resources to rank the lowest in the Development Index, the worst state in violation towards its own citizens, and the poorest country in the world. Eritrea is known as a country where citizens fled their homeland and as a government which reheats border tensions with neighboring countries. As a result, Eritrea has been subject to international sanctions due to its stances in against peace and stability in the Horn of Africa, which holds the country onto endless confrontation with the entire region and above all with its own people.

3) The Eritrean opposition:

Almost all segments of the Eritrean people oppose Isaias Afwerki's regime which committed all means of violation to drive disaffection such as arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearance, starvation, confiscation of the people's fundamental freedoms and property, not



excluding even the regime's comrades in struggle and many of them are languishing in jails without trials for infinite period of imprisonment, suffering in prisons which lack the basic humanitarian rights. Therefore, the opposition resistance varied in terms of means and forms to bring about a democratic alternative, and is continuing to expand day after day.

4) Evaluation of the Eritrean opposition experience:

In its quest to change the regime and establish a democratic alternative, the Eritrean opposition relies on an extended legacy of political practice throughout the long years of struggle. The Eritrean people had a leading exercise of democracy in the region and engaged in peaceful struggles through its political parties and civil societies in the 1940s, giving an example in exercising the party-political practice during the period of self-determination. This refutes the regime's allegation that the Eritrean people are not ready to exercise democracy.

The majority of the Eritrean opposition groups are but an extension to the revolutionary era, as they have been deprived from the opportunity of practicing the civil society work under the newly-born State of Eritrea because of the regime's intransigent practices, despite the opposition willingness and initiatives to be part of the development, reconstruction and the political process in a stable homeland where individual and public freedoms prevail. Nevertheless, the regime reacted violently to oppress and eradicate the opposition by force of arms. This forced part of the opposition to continue armed



revolutionary tactics, confronting the oppression by armed forces. Others chose means of peaceful struggle, mobilizing large sectors of the Eritreans in diaspora through demonstrations and protests.

In general, the political forces have different stand points on how to change the status quo, and adopt a unified stance against the regime.

The political initiatives, adopted by the opposition, such as coming together under the Alliance of Eritrean National Forces, the Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change (ENCDC), and many other political and public artistic festivals, are all deemed as an advanced awareness and influential civilized means of opposition regardless of their tangible gains on the ground. Most importantly, those initiatives have contributed in strengthening the national constants, maintaining the national territory unity, protecting national sovereignty and communal cohesion. Furthermore, they have created a culture of dialogue, tendency to resolve differences peacefully, and open horizons for joint action. Nevertheless, this does not deny the current “weak political will” among the opposition, failures and internal problems that have postponed the transitional goal (i.e. regime change) and inability to acquire supportive regional and international allies who can add tangible pressures on the regime, regionally and globally.



Section III

Social, political and cultural harmony

1- National unity:

The Eritrean people have gone through critical stages in recent history which resulted in developing an accumulated, collective awareness, shared political framework and an intermingled social dimension to a large extent. Despite the ethnic and cultural pluralism, both natural and emerged factors have formed a common national identity. The natural factors include the demographic migratory movement and social intermingles while the emerged factors include the unprecedented social, provincial, political integration of different localities within the geopolitical system of Eritrea as shaped by colonialism.

A sense of a common political identity was reinforced during the period of self-determination which formed the independence bloc and other Eritrean National parties which raised the slogan of national independence at an early stage. Later on, this sense of national identity was strengthened with the struggle actions of the Eritrean Liberation movement, and leveled up by the revolutionary actions of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) and other dynamics of struggling for independence.

Despite the above experiences, Eritrea is still suffering issues of identity and common ground for the national unity which represent challenges to the joint national work. This reality is fuelled by other external and internal factors, and at times escalated to be a direct risk to the social fabric structure and the existence of a unified State of Eritrea. These threats, represented in tendencies of sectarian, religious, ethnic



and provincial divisions, form a deviation from the joint national action. In addition to the impacts and miseries of the Civil War, tyranny and tough security control, the exclusive behavior of the EPLF's government on religious and ethnic ground is one of the most serious threats to the national unity. The EPLF's government failed to manage such cultural, ethnic, social and religious diversity; however, the Eritrean opposition parties in turn lack an effective contribution to bridge the gap caused by the regime.

The answer to the identity question and resolving the national unity problems lies in providing a healthy atmosphere for the joint national action, politically, economically and socially, within a comprehensive national identity framework, according to the rule of law and a constitution that protects the basic civil rights. The state has duty to ensure freedoms and equal opportunity on the basis of citizenship, and the political powers and civil society organizations should work persistently to create a genuine awareness of the Eritrean identity, to ensure community cohesion and social peace.

Once the final goal is the national interest, citizenship is the fair standard of rights and duties, regardless of ethnicity, cultural background and religious affiliations, the state will certainly be built on solid foundations.

2- Patriotism:

The Eritrean national affiliation has been developed through the historical struggle paths and intellectual, cultural and political



experiences, and finally consolidated by the declaration of the independent state.

Maintaining and strengthening these national constants through respect for national constants, being part of the shared legacy of the national struggle, will contribute to building our national identity.

Consideration of the country's good interest requires dealing seriously with societal security, understanding the need for peaceful coexistence between the components of the Eritrean people on the basis of equal citizenship in a democratic civil state, and dealing fairly with such ethnical diverse, while preserving a coherent sovereign and free homeland where no contradictory identities, with full respect of all diverse social components. Thus, Eritreans will maintain a homogeneous entity and respect its cultural diverse.

Diversity is well managed through equal opportunities for the people irrespective of their social or cultural links within the law framework, free democratic setting, and mutual respect of cultural diversity and social references in order to protect the coherence of the social fabric from conflict of identities.

The various social demands, arose under the EPLF's regime and then fuelled by various factors of grievances, marginalization and exclusion of certain social groups, cannot be ignored but should be solved by the rule of law, the provisions of which states that "*protection of civil rights in a democratic state based on constitutional decentralization and a constitution that guarantees public freedoms, and distribution of authorities between the federal central State and regions, provinces*



and municipalities”, to ensure all people engagement in decision-making processes and participation in government.

In order to establish a democratic transition, we need to recall the miserable circumstances caused by the tyranny regime, for example, large sectors of the Eritrean people and vast areas of the country have been marginalized. This could be addressed through adopting a positive discrimination policy, development plans, to the extent that permits empowerment of citizens, development of the means of production, and indigenization of decent livelihoods in the marginalized areas. Moreover, there is a need to address those differences and injustices arising as a result of ethnic, sectarian and provincial tendencies within the national framework and public-spirited vision of solidarity and compassion, and advanced awareness of the common destiny of one nation and a unified country. This helps to establish justice and democracy and other common concepts for the best interest of the country – i.e. to build a strong, unified nation.

3- Respect of religions and freedom of beliefs:

No doubt religion plays a fundamental role in the life of the Eritrean nation and their social and cultural revolution. Religion is key component of the people’s culture, history and stability and not only the source of values, morals, traditions and behavior but it is part of the national identity. Commitment to religion among the Eritreans has always remained firm and not fake or for provisional gains or hypocrisy. Throughout the Eritrean history, the spirits of peaceful coexistence



and mutual respect between the religious components have been prevailing. Religious leaders, regardless of their faith, are respected and appreciated by all; community has yet to take a position opposing religion in its long history. The EPLF's sectarian regime attempted to fuel sectarian conflicts not only between Christians and Muslims, but also inflaming the internal differences among Muslims and Christian sects. The regime tried to limit the religion role in strengthening social and humanitarian bonds and adhere to morality. The tyrannical and exclusionary policies have led to spreading sectarian tensions, but the awareness of the Eritrean people and their religious, social and political leaders have so far prevented the country from arriving to the brink of terrorism and sectarian wars, even though religion is generally suffers from state terrorism against religious leaders (Sheikhs) and all religious citizens. These include detention of Sheikhs and Muslim clerics for over 25 years without conviction or any information of their whereabouts, imposing guardianship on churches and changing their spiritual and administrative leadership, blatantly interfering in church affairs, and detaining other indigence communities such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Binti and others.

Religion is principally a direct relationship between man and God, and this principle supports freedom of belief and worship. The freedom of individuals necessarily entails respect of collective rights such as establishing places of worship, and regulating intersection relationship of the various religious groups, without intrusion from the State, except as required by law. Since the state is for all, government must be neutral and fair and not interfere in the internal affairs of religious institutions, such as endowments, church property, religious education and worship places.



4- Cultural Affiliation:

Eritrea is a culturally and religiously diverse nation, with different tongues and customs established over the centuries. It is strongly revealed in the religious and linguistic dualism, which has become one of the national constants, and thus ancestors realized the importance of managing such pluralism and belongingness, within the national and cultural context, and satisfaction of the spiritual aspect. Therefore, personal and collective freedom must be observed and citizens must be allowed to regulate their cultural affairs in accordance with their core renewed values, moral attitudes, social choices, and their present interests and future aspirations by benefiting from the inherited lingual, artistic and customs richness. Citizens in their human dimension are full of spirits, ideas, beliefs and experiences, which combine the cultural dimension.

Culture is one of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 and a central supporter of the common national identity, through increased awareness of the importance of unity within diversity; we need to capitalize on our diversity to create a society that is free from social, psychosomatic and moral diseases, such as fanaticism, hatred and inward-looking, which result in intellectual extremism, terrorism and wars to risk the national unity.

The aspired positive culture is one that reconciling with self and accepting others, neither an entirely imported culture, nor a closed one with limit links with outsiders, but a value-based culture within shared sublime principles, inherited ethics and social systems.



While calling for respecting the cultural, social and ethnic plurality in Eritrea, we believe that it enriches the Eritrean culture and identity.

5-Terrorism and destruction of life:

Terrorism has been defined imprecisely by experts, but they agree on its outcome and devastating effects on human beings and properties. Terrorism is old in history, and cannot be linked to a single particular community, religion or culture. The roots of terrorism acts vary over times and in different locations. While we reject and condemn terrorism in all its forms as aggression against rights and freedom of others, we have to act to eliminate it in all its religious, cultural, social and political forms by combating the causes represented in injustice, corruption, marginalization, poverty, exclusion, denigration, humiliation and political repression. Nevertheless, it is unfair to label nations with terrorism when they aspire for their rights, struggle to recover their territory and sovereignty or seek to defend and preserve their wealth. These rights to self-defense are legitimate according to the provisions of the international laws and regulations.

Section IV

The Eritrean Democratic Homeland Party Significance, definition and vision

1. Democratic Homeland Party (HADI)

HADI is considered as a continuation of the Eritrean people struggle and a result of the accumulated political awareness among the various



Eritrean political elites, and the outcome of Eritrean people political efforts in general, being a political nation by default and practice politics in an early stage. Perhaps the unique geopolitical location and successive political developments in Eritrea since the Italian colonization have altogether shaped the nation awareness and its political movement at all social levels, in addition to the transition from revolution to government and the cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences, whether in political stances, intellectual orientations or political affiliations - all these factors have contributed to the being of this party.

2. Why a new party?

Politics is a dynamic and non-static process. It is renewable, changeable by variables of time and place, and reproduced to renew the life cycle. Visions, ideas and historical political programs may be a heritage, but they should not continue at the same pace, otherwise the political life in the country would be fossilized. Observers are aware that the Eritrean people today are hungry for peace, freedom and a secure life, regardless of who is president; though the nation aspires to have new leaders to navigate the current difficult waters. Since everyone has their own time zone and veteran leaders did their best, and because the party opts not to live the present with the outdated visions and policies, it must respond to the renewed nation-wide demands, contribute in future policies formulation, challenge the deepening crises, and interact positively at the regional and international levels. The interpretation of these ideas needs a broad-minded line, renewal of discourse, and establishing a party that



believes in these notions and work jointly with others to build a modern democratic state. This requires the existence of younger leaders who look to the future and leapfrog the shackles of the past, not only to assume the power, but to establish the democratic experience to be a behavior among all segments of the society. Thus, the party in its internal structure has to be a platform to practice democracy.

A general observation of the Eritrean opposition experience - and we are part of it – shows that it is limited to lambasting the regime, without having a vision or mission to building the state and suggesting an alternative. Perhaps, this is the result of the fact that the opposition is still haunted with the logic of revolution, being an extension of the experience of the armed struggle era. If this concept carries on, it will damage the Eritrean political life once the regime is overthrown, or presume the regime elects to involve the opposition. Therefore, what is required is to put forward future programs that are negotiable in order to set the foundation for a combatable country which is well-suited with its neighbors and the world; to build a political experience that accommodates all the components and aspirations of the Eritrean people; to create a leading party with young national leaders who are selected based on competence and merit -a party that can pull the Eritrean politics away from the narrow political wrangling to the prospect of initiatives and competitive programs. However, our party is proud of the long Eritrean struggle experience and the opposition role in resilience. The party's program capitalizes on the Eritrean people struggle legacy, in addition to the local and international ideals, such as respect for human rights, preservation of



the social fabric, establishment of a State of Law, and adoption of a democratic approach for a peaceful transition of power, promotion of national belonging and sustainable development.

The party calls on all citizens, at all levels, who are keen to see change regardless of their ethnic and cultural backgrounds to work together to achieve the aspirations of the Eritrean people for freedom, dignity, security and prosperity.

3. About HADI:

The Eritrean Homeland Democratic Party (HADI) is a national Eritrean political party working to raise the values of justice, freedom, democracy and establish a State of the Law, which keenly guards the country's sovereignty, security and well-being of its people, preserves its unity, and respects the international charters and all laws emanating from them in accordance with the Constitution of Eritrea as to be agreed upon by the nation.

4. Mission:

To build a free and prosperous homeland where values of justice and equality prevail; where citizens make their own future, have their choice to be led by efficient, responsible leadership, build a democratic system through conscious political participation and be proud of their country and respected by the world.



5. Vision:

A leading and country-wide party, which accommodates all segments of the society, represents all Eritreans and is led by competencies. The party seeks to establish a decentralized system, strengthens national unity and adopts a comprehensive development vision that satisfies all administrative regions and reinforces the federal state.

Section V Goals and Means

1. Goals

HADI employs all its capabilities to achieve the following goals:

- a. Protecting the independence, developing the country gains and maintaining its unity in cooperation with all citizens.
- b. Working to strengthen the national cohesion on the bases and principles of justice, democracy and law.
- c. Cooperating with all forces of change to remove the dictatorial regime and move to the democratic alternative.
- d. Establishing a democratic civil state governed by a constitution and laws, separation of powers, respect of the judicial authority and its independence, and adoption of peaceful transition of power.
- e. Participating in the preparation and adoption of a balanced constitution which arises from, and reflects the will of, the people and regulates the political life in the country.
- f. Adopting the principle of decentralization within the borders of a united country with equal distribution of the constitutional obligations between the Center and other regions to achieve justice for all.



- g.** Ensuring freedom and respect for all religions without any discrimination and enacting explicit penalty laws to punish anti-social behaviors.
- h.** Building a strong and integrated national economy that is largely based on the national capabilities, modern technologies in all fields, achieves balance between all provinces and sectors, provides wide employment opportunities and contributes to integration and complementarity regionally and openness globally.
- i.** Achieving comprehensive and balanced development in all economic, human and technological fields, scientific research and natural resources and in different regions.
- j.** Combating ignorance and illiteracy, raising the level of education and developing curricula, supporting scientific research, and working on reforming the educational system to build a knowledge society in the country.
- k.** Preserving and supporting the family entity; advancing women to fulfill their roles in various aspects of social, economic and political development and protecting families and children.
- l.** Building the army and interior security forces on national bases and emphasizing that the army is the protector of the constitutional institutions and the civil state without interfering in politics.
- m.** Paying attention to the cultural heritage and all forms of folklore and investing in such tourism attractions to increase the national income.
- n.** The party advocates and calls for freedom of the press and media to achieve progress and prosperity in Eritrea with explicit respect for the constitution, law and democratic practices and full respect for citizens, their religion, heritage and different cultures.



- o.** Adopting transparency, combating financial and administrative corruption in various institutions of the state and activating the role of civil and national society institutions and supporting them.
- p.** Building and developing strong relations with all other regional and international countries; especially with neighboring countries; for the sake of stability, peace, cooperation and prosperity and respecting all international laws and covenants.
- q.** Supporting just causes, the oppressed nations and affirming the right of people to self-determination.

2. Means:

HADI is committed to achieving its goals through legitimate and peaceful means, including:

- a.** Adopting the approach of peaceful dialogue as a civilized method to solve the problems and disputes between the parties and even with the authority.
- b.** Crystallizing the party's vision, attitude and participation in raising the awareness of the community through all means of communication.
- c.** Providing studies and consultations on political, economic and social issues as a positive contribution to all issues needed by the Country and the Eritrean society.
- d.** Attracting all groups to the party, including youth, women, workers, peasants, students and others; fueling their creativity and motivating the talented in various fields.



- e. Increasing the party branches in all governorates to engage citizens in activity practice, gain political awareness and deepen their spirit of national solidarity.
- f. Participating actively in election after regime change and in the legislative councils in accordance with the political mechanisms, either to be part of the executive authority, or part of the power of opposition parties.
- g. Paying more attention to training to efficiently qualify the party's membership and the Eritrean youth in general and to boost the spirit of work and production.

Section VI

Change and political reform

1. Our vision for change and reform

The party believes in comprehensive change of the totalitarian ruling regime as a way of political and economic reform for the renaissance of society and human development in the country. The party also believes that the first step towards the path of change is sign agreement between the forces of change on a common vision and a clear perspective of the transitional phase after the removal of the current regime, then laying the basic building blocks of the constitutional state, as well as ensuring the values of dialogue as a mechanism for resolving differences and resorting to the people through the democratic practices as adopted globally.



2. Stage of the current regime change:

The party seeks to change the current autocratic regime and replace it with a democratic system instead. It firmly believes that change can only be achieved through a concerted effort among the forces seeking change, the integration of roles between the forces of change inside and outside Eritrea and the involvement of the people who are the first victims of this regime through an uprising that hastens the demise of dictatorship. Therefore, the party is working through four paths:

- a. Framing and organizing the masses who believe in change and raising their awareness of the perils of the dictatorial regime on the sovereignty of the country and unity of the society.
- b. Working to bring the views of the forces of change, unify their efforts through political alliances and grouping umbrella.
- c. Reaching convergence of Eritreans' national struggle of both internal and external forces and bridging the gap between the two views through innovative and unconventional means.
- d. Preparing the Eritrean people for the process of change and leading the popular uprising to accelerate salvation from the tyrannical dictatorship.

3. The transitional phase:

The transitional phase is a decisive stage in the country future due to the situation following the change of the undesirable regime, and its severity particularly increases if it comes after such locked, authoritarian regime as in Eritrea. In such situation, the country either becomes democratic in an open-for-all political framework that



accommodates the differences, demands and contradictions of all stakeholders or the country will slide in a state of wandering and ruptures to be worse than in the situation experienced under the arbitrary and oppressive dictatorship such as in the cases of some neighboring Arab countries.

Democratic transition requires resolving the chronic negatives aspects, and the social, economic and administrative imbalances as a result of Isaias Afwerki's regime, especially in the absence of laws regulating the rights and duties. The removal of the dictator alone does not mean solving all problems and restoring security, because the impact will continue to exist and would be difficult to eliminate adversities caused by the regime; especially the administrative vacuum arising as a result of the absence of the regime's forces. Unless the forces of change act wisely, the old guard may turn into a counter-revolution which could break the security situation, weaken the power of the state and even become a gateway for external regional and international forces intervention, entering Eritrea in foreign dependency and worse would become a total 'torn country' and lose its sovereignty and unity.

Accordingly, it is vital for all the forces of change to prepare for the transitional phase towards a stable national country in accordance with the following arrangements:

- a.** Form a transitional national assembly in which all national spectra; without exception; are represented by political, civil and community forces whose task is to restore security, maintain the state entity and facilitate citizens life.
- b.** The formation of a transitional government composed of



technocrats and experts to carry out the tasks of the transitional phase.

- c.** Consider the transitional justice and the requirements of crime and punishment, priority should be given to the Country stability and community reconciliation.
- d.** Repeal all laws that violate freedoms, release all prisoners of conscience, political prisoners and filter all files of rights violations.
- e.** Educate citizens in order to preserve the state's institutions and resources as well as security of citizens and their properties.
- f.** Dissolve and integrate the opposition military groups into the military and security forces entrusted to secure the transitional phase, in order to prevent any manifestation of the civil war and to prevent reprisals outside the law. This force is certainly not an alternative to the Eritrean National Army.
- g.** Return the confiscated lands to their owners through legal frameworks and without prejudice to the public right or the rights of individuals.
- h.** Believe in the participatory approach and remove mistrust through conducting national dialogues transparently.
- i.** Call for all-inclusive national conference, in which all political and civil forces participate, without exclusion or marginalization, to form a national council responsible for taking in the tasks and drafting the laws of the transitional phase.
- j.** Set a specific time frame for the transitional phase, followed by general elections and forming elected government.



Section VII

The foundations of building the State of Eritrea

1. Building the state of law:

Eritrea has been classified under Isaias Afwerki's regime as a police state with distinction. Today, it needs to be transformed into a state of law. The establishment of the state of law will practically ensure the constitutional rights of its citizens and residents; it will also help to enact the modern conveying legislation through institutions that contribute to comprehensive development benefiting from human, natural and material resources; will preserve the capabilities of the people and their wealth through legal procedures that fight corruption; will work to establish financial and monetary policies that are credible and transparent which makes the civil society a partner and a controller of the state, at the same time it helps to gain the local and international community's trust, brings more investments and leading projects, as well as the preservation of rights and the consolidation of the democratic approach, the clarity of the mechanism of trial, because the rulers in constitutional states are subject to the law like other citizens which reduces the state of injustice and oppression and cuts the road to rebellion and revolutions to provide legal and guaranteed mechanisms of change established in international conventions.



2. Drafting the Eritrean Constitution

Since the state of Eritrea is still without a constitution which genuinely represents the will of the people and the social contract that governs relations between the society groups, it must be drafted according to the legal standards and should include all elements that help to build a modern state and good governance. The supremacy and sovereignty of the Constitution must be guaranteed as a supreme law and a reference for every new regulation. The state's circles submission to this law must also be established in the constitution, detailing situations where the state should intervene and where to hold, as well as the separation of the state's powers from the ruler's individual power. The constitution shall:

- a. Define the basic criteria of the State structure and the government system being the supreme law. It should state that the people are the source of power.
- b. Regulate the State general powers in terms of formation, competence and relations between those authorities, the duties of each authority and the relationship between the state and the people.
- c. Include the principle of separation of powers and independency of the judiciary system.
- d. State the sovereignty of the democratic approach in the government.
- e. Identify Eritrea's identity consistently with the reality of the country, history, environment and the values of its people.
- f. Guarantee personal and public freedoms in a detailed manner, balance between power and responsibility within the society and has



protect citizens' freedom and rights from the State interference which has the power and influence.

g. Represent all spectra of Eritrean segments and protect their rights. Citizenship is the basis of rights and duties; there should be no discrimination between them on the basis of sex, race, religion or creed or economic or social situation; they shall all enjoy equal opportunities.

h. Establish the system of transparency, integrity and accountability, whereby the government employees, regardless of their positions, are the state's civil servants of the people and are subject to accountability.

i. Adopt a decentralized government system and specify the competencies and powers of the federal and regional authorities.

j. Establish a constitutional court independent from the Supreme Court, which shall be entrusted to protect the Constitution and monitor the constitutionality of laws.

3. The political Practice:

Eritrea recently got out of retarded foreign colonialism to fall under a repressive police regime. Therefore, it needs a stage of political rehabilitation, reform of the political system both at government and opposition level and building national unity and trust among its components. Political reform and the promotion of democratic choice are considered the appropriate means to achieve integrated and balanced development and to create stability and steady development in the State and society. The reform vision must be consistent with the Millennium Development Goals, as defined by the United Nations, in



pursuit of good governance and a coherent informed society, through:

- a.** Making the democracy as the base for transparency and accountability as approach and behavior and enabling it at all levels.
- b.** Establishing a state of right and law through the rule of law and the Constitution;
- c.** Liberating the Eritrean people, raising their morale, removing the impacts of dictatorship such as fear, negativity and isolation.
- d.** Adopting political pluralism and forming parties according to a law regulating the work of the parties, alternating governments peacefully, practicing political action openly and peacefully, rejecting any isolation or harassment of anyone, admitting the opposed and different parties and acknowledging their rights to work and participate.
- e.** Party leaders and State officials shall have integrity, efficiency, justice and equality; so that every citizen feels that the country is moving towards recovery from the dictatorship and marginalization era and from the diseases that plagued the descending nations towards disintegration and disruption.
- f.** The presence of civil society organizations; including professional, trade unions and others; supporting and strengthening them as a partner in development and - at the same time - as an observer of the performance of the government and parties and creating a balance against the strength of the state.
- g.** Conducting periodic free and fair general elections at the party level. The general elections shall be subject to the supervision of the judiciary, parties, local and international organizations concerned.
- h.** Raising the level of political and legal awareness of the Eritrean people, encouraging individuals and groups to engage in the political



process and consolidating the principle of democracy and political realism.

- i. The political discourse expresses unity within the framework of diversity without imposing any partisan, sectarian, national or factional propositions, but rather a national partnership.
- j. Understanding international interests, and the interests and aspirations of Eritrea's neighbors and preventing their interference in its internal affairs.

4. Administrative System:

Civil service is the executive arm of the state's strategies to deliver public services. It is important that public service be provided fairly and effectively to fulfill the public satisfaction, must be a national agency that accommodates various categories of the people and recruitment is based on merits of competency. Service must be provided on transparent and high efficiency basis and must respond to the demand of the people for fast and satisfactory service. Civil servant must be a servant to the people and respect their values and social customs and traditions. Therefore, the Party believes in the necessity to abide by the following drivers:

- a. Choose the best available human resources based on criteria that serve justice as far as possible to occupy the civil service employments and secure the continuity of their training and qualification programs.
- b. Develop knowledge and experience of civil servants, advance capabilities through delegation and missions, adopt planning for this operation, specify priorities and determine the targeted categories and evaluate the outcomes.



- c. Accelerate career advancement of excellent and creative employees through ongoing incentives and promotions for job rotation programs' purposes.
- d. In terms of the administrative system form, the country is divided into regions in a Constitution based decentralized system that observes the integration of material and human resources and fulfillment of national unity. Until the people are engaged in the appropriate regional division, the old regional division will be the reference.
- e. The Constitution distributes powers and responsibilities for all ruling levels to have coherent performance at different levels. Each level has legislative, executive administrative and financial powers together with enjoying independence of decision in all levels.
- f. Assert the importance of decentralization of the administrative and financial system and adopt good governance principles in balanced partnership and justice in the distribution of power and wealth.

5. Civil Society Organizations and Civil Administration:

The Eritrean society is regarded as a traditional society in which the bond of family, clan and tribe plays its role and has effects on the behavior of individuals and groups. Such bonds contributed and are still contributing in the resolution of disputes, settlements, maintaining filiations and cooperation in charity. However, this will not replace the establishment of Civil Society Organizations in their modern concept. CSOs include all associations that voluntarily organize the society such as syndicates, NGOs, cultural, thinking,



religious and sport groups, charities, social and sport clubs, academic institutions/research centers, media platforms and political parties. The EPLF's government ended any role for the traditional and modern civil society organizations, denying CSOs' leading role in the period of revolution and armed struggle and in the mobilization of people's support and framing the collective effort, in addition to the present state in the world today which encourages the growing role of the civil organizations. Therefore, according to this vision and in recognition of the civil society role, the Party views CSOS program as per the following drivers:

- a.** Coordinate between the formal and people's effort represented by those organizations, and revive the known values of groups in the solidarity of the Eritrean society in facing the social, economic, health and development crises and issues of the society.
- b.** Develop legislations and laws that regulate the work of those institutions and entities as an essential partner in development, improvement of living of citizens and defend the citizen against the interference of governments through the practice of their indirect role that controls works of the state.
- c.** Goals of the organizations must be obvious and their work must be transparent, especially in financing. Such organizations must be established on democratic basis and their members should be qualified and trained to play their vital role in successful scientific way.
- d.** The organizations must play their roles in people's awareness and contribute in re-building individual and society to fulfill the economic, social and cultural objectives of the society.
- e.** The organizations must have an effective role in the development of human and charity work and protect it from the hegemony of the state, parties and persons.



- f.** Rationalize the performance of civil administration to perform its role in the civil peace, resolution of disputes and maintaining positive customs.
- g.** Support CSOS to build the society on civil bases and social justice.
- h.** Establish independent Eritrean human rights' organizations that monitor human rights and, in cooperation with the counterpart international organizations network, defend public freedoms, political prisoners, and prisoners of opinion and conscience.
- i.** Encourage the formation of professional, sectarian and other syndicates that enjoy independent decisions.
- j.** Form organizations that protect children and youth from exploitation, risks of alcohol and drugs and awareness of smoking harms.
- k.** Encourage the establishment of organizations for consumer protection, environment friends, protection of nature from desertification and pollution and public utility organizations.

6. Public Freedoms and Media:

Freedom is one of the most significant pillars and legitimate rights of the society and is a key guarantee in building and developing civilized societies. The Eritrean people have never enjoyed the long sought freedom despite sacrifices of people. Immediately after liberation, public freedoms were lost in the local authoritarianism politically, socially, economically, culturally, religiously and ethically. As a result, it became a vital question to restore and secure the freedom in the future through precautionary actions against interference. Hence, the Party thinks to fulfill this through the following arrangements:



- a. Issue and comply with all legislations that secure public freedoms such as laws of press, political parties and groups, elections and other legislations and laws.
- b. Secure freedom of organization, meeting, movement and ownership which can be restricted by a court order only.
- c. The power's acknowledging the media's right to obtain necessary information to secure transparency, fulfillment of people's control over the political and administrative practice of the power to preclude injustice, tyranny and opinion despotism or taking unilateral decision.
- d. Build effective and independent media institutions and cultural platforms and make ultimate utilization of technological development.
- e. Develop laws that secure freedom and independence of, and regulate performance of media.

7. Culture and Arts:

Creating a socially coherent, emotionally homogeneous and culturally interacting people needs setting plans to raise all levels of the people. The Eritrean people need to revive their glorious values and heritage and develop and purify its art from the deformations caused by the People's Front regime. The Party is of the view to develop a cultural and media program according to the following drivers:

- a. Maintain the well-established values in the society that shape its identity and mindset, and deny cultural obliteration and alienation. The mission of art is to reinforce and strengthen the virtuous national values, aesthetic aspects, improve public morals and mental and emotional entertainment throughout all kinds of original art.
- b. Create a value-based technical vision that stimulates creativity



and production; re-build the national identity in the Eritrean awareness; make the advancement in various fields as the key foundation of the national thought and the role of the state with its institutions and legislations is the support and encouragement to fulfill this goal.

c. Focus on fulfillment of harmony between the state and the nation. This harmony is based on mutual sincerity between them, recognition of fraternity of citizens, solidarity and unity within the country and keeping away from the accusations that do not consider feelings of others and raise disorder. If there are conflicting thoughts and visions among the citizens, this should not be a reason for accusation of treason. Rather, freedom of thought and belief is the basis of democracy.

d. Instill the values of co-existence and social peace. Thought can be met only by thought without any security interference or resorting to violence. Free media plays an important role in connecting the nation to its glories and whatever unites the nation and does not cause destruction or create separation. Media has to provide factors of stability, peace and security in fair application of basic freedoms.

e. Create balanced and common culture that helps creating an environment that cherishes “cultural compatibility” concept and strengthens a national culture established on the basis of diversity into unity framework.

f. Encourage thinkers, authors, libertarians and artists to be innovative and utilize their innovations to serve thorough development efforts and publish their scientific, literary and artistic production.

g. Openness to valuable world cultures.



- h.** Establish and activate cultural and artistic centers in all regions to build the cultural identity, build illuminated elites and unleash their innovative energies in different domains by benefiting of the cultural diversity.
- i.** Re-write the national history with its different stages and civilization accumulations by the professionals and scientific competencies and teach it to the youth to help building collective conscience.
- j.** Protect historical landmarks and monumental sites in general as a national wealth and a national history, include the Eritrean monuments in the school curricula to inform the generations of their civilization history and register them in the global heritage.

Section VIII

Development Policies and Economic and Social Reformation

1. Foundations of Balanced Development:

Development in its broad meaning is a legitimate right for all human kind and a national entitlement for all citizens. The issue of development had international and regional concern and is considered a UN objective for the third millennium until 2030. Eritrea is an emerging country that needs exerting more effort and necessary plans to achieve a balanced development that observes adaptation between ambition and the available potentials to cover different areas and sectors, subject to fulfillment of balance for all categories of the people according to the following determinants:



- a. Pay attention to human development as the key element to achieve public development for all state sectors and develop structures that help to easily and smoothly fulfill development objectives in work, production and knowledge.
- b. Optimal exploitation and just distribution of different resources, prioritize the most affected areas due to wars, drought and negligence, and rationalize their use to achieve welfare and decent life for the people and reserve rights of the next generations.
- c. The state has an effective role in serving justice for all the society and in particular the weak categories encourage scientists and innovators of citizens to contribute in the cognitive advancement and the required development to combat poverty in the country and to have social and economic stability.
- d. Use technology and broadband in development as a modern state-of-the-art instrument to keep up with the developed countries and societies in their steadily move towards sustainability of diversified development.

2. Economic Reality and Lack of Vision:

For long decades, Eritrea was subject to occupying regimes which ignored building a solid Eritrean economy of reliable solid structural foundations. Rather, those regimes left Eritrea economically devastated. It was hard to build a national economic system on a ground that lacks the statutes, laws and authorities on which the economy can be built. In post-independence period, PF regime failed to set the economic structure for the absence of a clear economic vision. Rather, PF regime intentionally engaged the country in wars and



disputes with the neighboring countries which hindered production and reduced investment opportunities. The regime also fought trade and investment and the existing ones, though limited, have been monopolized by the regime and certain beneficiaries. Accordingly, this led to economy deterioration and setback to a condition worse than it was in the occupation period.

3. Crafting Economic Infrastructure:

Eritrea is a new state with only thirty years since its independence. The majority of its people live on traditional farming and livestock grazing. There are limited trading attempts which do not effectively contribute to the economy growth but they embrace many opportunities. Eritrea is also rich with natural resources that can contribute to the future of the economy if managed by a rational political system based on an ambitious, clear economic vision.

Countries seeking to achieve sustainable development of economic sectors and establish unabated economy that is not influenced by activity slackening need to develop the basic infrastructure for economic and investment with capacity to sustain through updating economic policies and developing different sectors, particularly the agriculture sector which is considered the most important resource of living and self-sufficiency. Such policies require conducting thorough studies of different resources and qualifying infrastructure to support the economic growth, including construction of modern roads, rehabilitation of seaports, enacting well-adjusted laws to preserve the rights of investors and establishment of free zones. Certainly, such



procedures will contribute in the revival, development and sustainability of economic and business activity.

4. Setting Policies of Economy Revival:

Setting explicit economic systems is one of the most important things needed by the economies of developing countries in the planning of investment sustainability and productivity, adopting balanced financial and monetary policies and controlling the policies by strict laws and passing laws for consumer protection. Additionally, simplified customs' laws must be passed to facilitate the economy movement, increase numbers of investors, streamline the export and import goods movement, pass comprehensive and just taxation laws at all levels, encourage work and production and create job opportunities for the capable. The increase of individual's income will expand the local market and will provide decent life to man. This requires expanding the scope of trained labour, because building human capital is more important than building the material capital. All this needs explicit and facilitated policies and procedures without complexities and flexible laws that help the economy's stability, sustainability and balanced growth until it reaches advanced stages that fulfill welfare of the Eritrean people.

5. Encouraging Civil Institutions:

Economic growth in any country needs synergy of all formal and communal institutions and compliance with the public laws that regulate the movement of economy in particular. The bodies which the



state must help and support include the emerging conventional social institutions that aim at legitimate gain through a limited economic activity which contributes in the economic stability of the society, combat poverty and unemployment, regulate activities by laws, which are supported by sovereign funds towards success and turning into effective economic institutions that contribute in the growth of the national economy. A country like Eritrea lacks a clear economic system and its people live on a low level of individual's income worldwide. This level becomes economically active primitively and needs the support of charities and the civil institutions and cooperatives in providing services to citizens under formal auspices of the country. The support of those bodies represents a support of economy and development and improvement of performance of such bodies, which contributes eventually in the economic growth and stability of the state.

6. Social Reformation Policies:

The state consists of a wide society of different habits, traditions, beliefs, culture and demands. The society needs guidance of the state and control of the related organizations through just reformation policies and ongoing care in order to create a good and productive society free from pests that prevent the societies from playing their role such as literacy, poverty, corruption and others affecting the movement and growth of societies. The Eritrean people suffered from long term wars for decades during the occupation which showed no concern for its development or taking care of social sides. Rather, the society was prejudiced by the occupier's policies which are characterized by discrimination, intentional ignorance and deprivation



of basic rights. Moreover, the people could not take their own decisions or live in dignity on their land. If the political and economic systems are not regulated by laws applied in reality, they can be one reason of corruption of societies due to the transformation happening to the society. In return, the society has to maintain its coherence and claiming its rights. Unfortunately, PF regime ruling today adopted, since the independence, social policies that aggravated the issues which the occupier tried to create. The majority of the society in the past confronted those policies by some kind of coherence and unity for being issued by a foreign occupier. However, today, those policies raised doubts and seditions among the society members and the condition of non-trust is spread among the citizens. To face this condition, we believe that the social reformation operation must pass through the following concepts:

a. Social Justice:

Equality and justice among all citizens are of the most important things to achieve social justice, regardless their ethnicity, religion and social, economic and cultural status. We have to positively consider the ethnic multiplicity and cultural diversity in Eritrea as a factor of enrichment for the communal heritage of habits, traditions and experiments. They indicate the well-established, and numerous values of, the society. We have to establish mutual respect through statutes and laws that define the national rights and duties, the right of public freedoms such as the freedom of transport, ownership and disposition of private properties and not to transgress third party rights. The state must advance the society which is the goal and mean of development,



provide jobs to the capable and protect the society from risks by the combat of crime and society harms such as drugs and others. All such things provide the basic ground for social justice which we will seek to create in Eritrea.

b. Support of Woman's Role:

Women in Eritrea endured a heavy burden during the period of revolution and their sufferings have continued after the independence to-date. She did neither find the care that she deserves, the laws that protect her nor the appreciation that fits her status and sacrifices. The society can be advanced only by two sides in order to have thorough and balanced development. Accordingly, literacy and violence against woman must be combated through the issue of protection laws and other legislations that help the woman to be an effective member in the society and secure her complete political, economic and social rights. Positive discrimination is significant so that the woman is capable to fill the gap in education and qualification between her and the man. Afterwards, it is also significant to engage her in all programs that qualify her to occupy advanced positions in decision making.

c. Family Care and Childhood Protection:

Family is the core of society and the approach to its well-being. That's why the provision of all potentials to prepare and reform the family and provision of appropriate environment to the family are of high importance. The state is tasked with cherishing the family by providing education to the youth, spreading virtuous values, helping the family



to be coherent through balanced laws and fighting trends that proclaim family disintegration and crime networks that aim at destruction of family and youth through multiple means and programs.

The family coherence and adoption of virtuous values and ethics and instilling the homeland's love in the young generations will inevitably create a solid coherent society.

Meanwhile, this contributes in rectifying and facing the pests that threaten the society and the state on a par.

Protection and balanced raising of childhood and provision of health, psychological and educational care is the proper planning for the country's future, as they are considered tomorrow's men and women. This is of the duties of the state and the society. The state must develop appropriate laws and establish the institutions that supervise the same. The society has to play its role as per the set policies. This requires passing legislations and laws that maintain all categories of the society which needs the concern and care of the state. By protection of the society from risks and pests by the state, we create a safe and sound society that contributes in development to be one of the state foundations and protect the state from weakness and collapse. The state's power is stemmed from the society's power.

d. Role of Youth in Sustainable Development:

Youth are the backbone of sustainable development. Cherishing youth reflects the keenness on the continuity and comprehensiveness of this development. We need here to unleash energies and develop



potentials of youth to draw a vivid future of the country. This can be achieved through recognizing their talents, qualify and provide them with necessary skills to meet the renewed demands of the age, reinforce their capabilities to face the challenges that face the youth in particular and the country in general, provide advanced education opportunities that commensurate with the needs of the labour market and the tremendous advance in the world, and combat unemployment. Initiatives and entrepreneurship must be encouraged among the youth who must have the skill of communication, networking and leadership. Youth must be encouraged for voluntary work and different sport competition programs must be supported to raise the name of Eritrea high in all regional and international competitions, Innovators must also be encouraged in the numerous intellectual and artistic aspects.

7) Development of educational policies:

The progress of nations and civilizations is entrusted to the advancement of education, which is the gate of the renaissance; the development of educational policies developed by an adult woman is considered one of the basic infrastructures for the rebirth of the development of countries.

Nonetheless, education in Eritrea, unfortunately, suffered during the colonial period, and also under the nascent State of Eritrea. The EPLF regime failed to adopt educational policies that promote the society and the state or to bridge the gap left by the colonial eras, but the worst is that the regime introduced a program that holds back the



educational development. The mother tongue-based education system applied by the regime was neither consistent with the desire of the nation, nor with the capabilities of an emerging State. Clearly, it was non-viable to provide the curriculum requirements for a eight languages and dialects in an integrated manner, particularly some dialects are limited to a narrow geographical area, and not spread even inside the Eritrean territories. Rationally, how feasible is it to employ graduates of these languages in such a small-state by population, otherwise the outcome of this education must be absurd, not to mention the marginalization suffered by these languages in practice.

Since education is a pivotal issue in the development process it must achieve the following objectives:

a. Social Justice: The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as defined by the United Nations seek to ensure quality education for all as a general right and promote gender equality and women empowerment. Education basically aims to meet individuals and community needs through acquisition of knowledge, skills and values which constitute the base for any development. One of the main objectives to be achieved is to eliminate all types of illiteracy in Eritrea, such as critical illiteracy, job-related illiteracy and computer illiteracy, within the next few decades; this is one of the fundamental rights of each individual living in the state. There is a need to disseminate education among the Eritrean community so that all people in cities and rural areas have easy access to education, while keeping harmony between quantity and quality to achieve social justice, democracy



and participatory processes because targeted education creates positive behavior change at community and individual levels, and effectively helps to solve the problems facing the society, and thus is an important lever to advance society toward progress and prosperity.

b. Advanced education: A goal that needs to be focused on is to build competencies which contribute to the management of the State through planning and advanced education. The outcome of advanced education should be employed to identify the development requirements, contribute to the economic development, and self-sufficiency in terms of skills needed for all sectors the economic. Given the rapidly developing of modernity and the Idea of Progress, coping with this trend needs very advanced education and high competencies in technology and strategic planning to enable us qualify a generation of leaders to guide the community and rank the State of Eritrea among and the emerging countries.

8) Health, psychological and physical care system

Provision of health services and responsibly to general environment is part of the State duties and the simplest rights to maintain human health and safety. The development of health and environmental services is a necessary duty to maintain human health and is an indicator of the modern State of today. These include provision of continuous preventive and curative health care services for all citizens, in addition to providing quality service at low price, taking into account the limited income group. On the basis of this concept, the Party believes in offering health services according to the following



guidelines:

- a.** Setting ambitious plans and legislations for preventive and curative health and environmental sanitation through experts, and take advantage of international stakeholders in this regard.
- b.** Establishing specialized medical centers and general hospitals in urban areas, and equip them with medical devices, and top qualified physicians and supportive teams.
- c.** Setting mandatory vaccination and immunization policies for children.
- d.** Providing affordable medicine to all, and subsidize pharmaceutical industry and related research.
- e.** Developing advanced health insurance services for all citizens.
- f.** Extending care of the elderly within their family and, in special cases, at social welfare homes where they receive dignified care.
- g.** Extending care for people with Special needs emotionally, mentally and physically, and different aspects of sustainable care.
- h.** Qualifying medical and health staff through training, and enhance their career and professional situations.
- i.** Reconstructing and rehabilitating sports cities and gyms, and training supervisors of sporting facilities according to the latest standards.
- j.** Establishing sports clubs and inspiring them to take an integrative role, intellectually, culturally, socially, physically and psychologically so as to be incubators of national education, instill values of tolerance, responsibility and unity and inspire pride of belonging.



Section IX

Regular forces and National Security

1. Army Forces and National Defense:

The strength of the state security services, including the army, police and intelligence, is part of the state power; they must be equipped with advanced rehabilitation, training and readiness to effectively participate in the stability, peace and development. The presence of this network is not, as conceived by many, for the purpose of enraging excessive foreign wars and controlling citizens' lives, but to restore security, harness their energies for development and protect the state from external and internal attacks in concerted effort with citizens to resolve domestic crises, whether being economic, military or other threats. To this end, the army forces should enjoy high efficiency being the protector at threat times and driving force for development at peace time. This in turn requires reinforcement of the military institutions by providing adequate support with high-efficient elements to contribute well in performing their operational duties. Therefore, the Party view is to build the army according to the following:

- a. Forming the army on professional and clear basis and recruits should enjoy military, mental and health fitness, and units are trained to enjoy high professionalism.
- b. Having a clear role in the Eritrean constitution in terms of protecting the border and the constitutional institutions, in addition to supplementary functions, such as partaking in economic and social development, disaster prevention and others.



- c. Adopting self-reliance in establishing military schools in a purely national vision, manufacturing military supplies and equipment, setting a clear system of national service to refine and maintain youth and instilling patriotism, and readiness to sacrifice for the sake of homeland and development.
- d. Ensuring “citizens in uniform” neutrality in national elections, and not engage them in political conflicts.
- e. Stating that the powers of making war and peace should be vested in the authority conferred by law, whether being the legislative authority, the President or the executive authority as stated in the constitution.
- f. Providing support to the army reserve force with adequate, professional military principles, supplies and capabilities and army reserve readiness for call when needed.
- g. Paying attention to the families of martyrs and war-disabled soldiers, and establishing institutions caring for their affairs.

2) National security and intelligence:

States have the right to protect their borders, institutions and citizens through the various bodies, including security and intelligence agencies, the role of which is to ensure the safety and tranquility of public and individuals without exceeding the legal frameworks. Forming the national security and intelligence agencies must consider the following:

- a. To be a national security establishment and recruitment selection should be based on national and professional credibility, physical fitness and required mental, psychological and academic capabilities.



- b.** To take in its role according to the law while refraining from intimidation and terrorizing citizens or arrest them on suspicion; to protect citizens within the country and abroad and safeguard the interests of the citizens and maintain social stability and security, in addition to protecting the political, economic and military secrets and resources of the nation.
- c.** To perform the preventive tasks against espionage and hostile activities directed from abroad which threaten the country's economic, military security, and combat terrorism, smuggling, drugs, money laundering and the organized crime.
- d.** To be subject to accountability, if abused their powers.

3) The police and security community:

Police in the service of the people" is an important principle in the composition of the civil organs of the government and the judiciary to impose order in the state, and to maintain security in times of peace, and the protection of the law and its provisions, with the way that freedom out of prevention exception, and at the same time, the police to facilitate the service of citizens, in the opinion of the party that created the following program:

- a.** Be national comprehensive configuration and trained to perform their role efficiently and effectively.
- b.** Based on the protection of the community property and vital institutions, and facilitate the service of citizens rapidly, and control of public order, the protection of public morals, the civilized behavior, and the spread of tranquility and stability in society.
- c.** The development of civil defense and disaster.



- d.** Correctional care, improving prison conditions and taking into account the humanitarian aspects in dealing with prisoner, combating begging and vagrancy.
- e.** To enact laws protecting citizens from arbitrary actions by the police.

Section X

The strategic vision of Eritrea's foreign relations

Eritrea relationship with other States and international organizations must be built on a national strategy and all processes to gain the international support in economic, political, technical and military aspects, and building regional and international alliances and partnerships.

The strategic priorities are as follows:

- a.** Developing a joint cooperation with neighboring countries to achieve common interests, and maintaining mutual security and safety, and respect the sovereignty of each State with non-interference in internal affairs.
- b.** Convening treaties, alliances and friendship agreements based on common interests and maintaining security and stability in the region. Such agreements shall be ratified by the parliament in a transparent manner.
- c.** Keeping good relations with all States and international organizations and adopting non-aligned policy with any existing alliances based on enmity to states, international or regional blocs. To avoid any wars, except in the case of defending sovereignty and territorial integrity and national interests.



- d.** Building close regional cooperation in all political, security and economic and social development fields. The African Union shall be the main umbrella for regional cooperation and extending Eritrea's participation in other regional blocs with special priority to strengthen relations with the countries of the Horn of Africa.
- e.** Maintaining the security of the Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb and international navigation to secure the shared interests of the countries of the Red Sea basin, including Eritrea's interest in the protection of its ports and islands, and preservation of the marine environment, natural life, and fisheries, and use of other natural resources, economic activities and tourism in the Red Sea.
- f.** Maintaining cooperation to preserve the diverse and common wealth, economic, investment and customs tariff; facilitating the movement of passengers and others, through agreements with neighboring and regional countries, in addition to cooperation in mutual benefit in the areas of technical assistance, training, human development and the development of means of production, and security of food, water, agriculture and cooperation in other areas that contribute to the development and stability of peoples in the region.
- g.** Keeping the cooperation with the international organizations, especially in the development programs and projects of the United Nations Organization, and its efforts to maintain security and world peace. And further to cooperate in the commitment of the international conventions and treaties signed by Eritrea, particularly in the areas of human rights, economic, trade and cultural and scientific cooperation.

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