



# Kinijit International Council

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P. O. Box 10441 Marina Del Rey CA 90295 USA

## **The Road Ahead: One Kinijit One Voice**

From the Executive Committee, Kinijit International Council, September 4, 2007

### **Context:**

In July of this year, we welcomed and celebrated the freedom of what Amnesty International called “prisoners of conscience,” the release of the leadership of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party (CUDP) in our country. Their just release and subsequent developments in the political and diplomatic spheres reinforce the Diaspora’s and our dedication and commitment to the entire leadership of a unified Kinijit that represents the aspirations and hopes of the Ethiopian people and their quest for peace, national reconciliation, freedom, pluralist democracy, peaceful coexistence with neighboring countries and rapid social and economic development. This and future generations of Ethiopians deserve a society free of fear, division, isolation, repression, mutual recrimination, mistrust and abject poverty, principles that are embodied in the vision, goals and programs of CUDP.

It is our genuine view that what made and will continue to make the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUDP) a formidable and unbeatable Opposition party is its capacity to reach out to all segments of Ethiopian society and, to craft a vision for freedom, democracy, the rule of law, social and economic justice, the alleviation of poverty that will transform this and the coming generation. The sacrifices made by thousands of Ethiopian youth, women and men, the suffering of the entire leadership of the Kinijit, the deaths of hundreds of innocent Ethiopians, the persecution of hundreds of others, are directly related to the quest for political, economic and social justice and, to transform Ethiopian society. It is in this that the recognition and celebration of Ethiopia’s Millennium becomes meaningful.

The May 15, 2005 elections and the “spirit of Kinijit” that galvanized and energized an entire nation has not and will not evaporate into thin air unless those of us who believe in a pluralist and democratic Ethiopia let this happen. Accordingly, our support and commitment to Kinijit and its “spirit” will remain unwavering and unreserved. Both collectively and individually, we believe that the legacy we want to leave behind for this and the coming generation is far more important than individual wealth, status, ego, heroism, glory, power and benefit. Our commitment is to Ethiopia’s national unity in diversity, the rule of law, pluralist democracy, freedom and justice for Ethiopia’s mosaic.

### **Kinijit International Council’s Primary Role:**

The Kinijit International Council was sanctioned by the CUDP leadership and created in order to provide CUDP and its leadership with material, logistics, intellectual, public relations and diplomatic support in a well coordinated and strategic manner. KIC and its executive leadership believe that the only way that the “spirit” of Kinijit that emboldened



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and mobilized millions of Ethiopians during the May 15, 2005 elections can be realized is through one Kinijit and through one voice. The leadership, organizational structure and method of work of KIC will reflect Kinijit's vision and goals to transform Ethiopian society for the better. Therefore, we intend to live by the direction, priorities and instructions given to us by Kinijit's leadership.

*KIC was founded with one single strategic objective in mind namely, to support the vision, goals and programs of the CUDP. The struggle for a peaceful transition to representative democracy is the sole reason for the emergence and popularity of the CUDP. In our view, differences that emerge within the Opposition camp, including within the CUDP are not and cannot be personalized or individualized. They have to be assessed and diagnosed within the context of the short, medium and long term interests of all of the Ethiopian people.*

**(To be continued...)**