



**Kinijit International Council**

**ክነጅት ኃለምአቀፍ ለዕላይ ምክርቤት**



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

### **The Material Reasons for Sacrifices:**

*Kinijit and its leadership sacrificed and continue to sacrifice the lives and material well being of individuals not for selfish interests and for power and glory but to enable the Ethiopian people to achieve representative democracy, freedom and human dignity. Kinijit's existence and its potential to transform Ethiopian society for the better cannot and should not be seen in isolation from its dedication to the Ethiopian people. Our role is to enable the entire leadership and organization to achieve its vision, mission and goals. In this context, we should be aware of the fact that internal and external interests and powers will do every thing to sow seeds of division and dissent within our ranks by exploiting individual interests for glory, wealth and political power. Such schemes are and will be intended to diminish and erode Kinijit's potential as a formidable national Opposition Party with capability to challenge and transform Ethiopia for the better. We need to be aware that divisions based on individual interests continue to be anathema to the Kinijit's strength as an Opposition party.*

Ethiopia's political history informs us that attitudes, values, behaviors and orientations of political groups and individuals that focus on narrow, sectarian, individual and group interests at the cost of the greater public good have diminished the capacity of the Ethiopian people to transform their society for the better. Despite successive regime changes, Ethiopia remains to be among the poorest and least developed countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. This social, political and economic reality has occurred and continues to occur despite the country's enormous human and natural resources potential, its proud history and culture, its cultural icon arising from a long and glorious past and its prominent and strategic geographical position in Africa. **Transforming its political and economic governance is therefore not a matter of choice, but necessity.** We believe that such transformation will enable the Ethiopian people to join the family of rapidly developing countries within a short period of time.

In this connection, the experience and suffering of the entire leadership of Kinijit will long be remembered as land mark sacrifice in defense of peace, national reconciliation, freedom, decency, democracy, unity and national transformation for an all inclusive and pluralist Ethiopia. For us, to move an inch from Kinijit's vision for a better tomorrow for personal, individual, egotistical or other motive will be inconceivable. We know that to do this will only prolong the poverty, backwardness and agony of the Ethiopian people. It will be tantamount to knowingly and intentionally supporting the leadership of the EPRDF and its continued dominance. History has shown that those who subordinate



# Kinijit International Council

ክነጅት ማላም አቀፍ ለዕላይ ምክርቤት



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

the long term interests of the Ethiopian people for personal glory, greed and power will ultimately be judged harshly not only by the Ethiopian people but by history.

To repeat, the struggle embodied in Kinijit is one of implanting a legacy of peace, national reconciliation, individual rights, the rule of law, freedom from fear and retaliation, social and economic justice and pluralist democracy. It is a long and hard journey that will test the will, values, commitment, determination, perseverance and dedication of each and every one of us who believe in the “spirit of Kinijit.” That is the reason why we continue to call on supporters within the country and throughout the Diaspora to make qualitative distinctions between those who believe in transforming Ethiopian society for the better and those whose personal, narrow and individual interests drive their behaviors and political actions.

We also believe that there is enormous potential to move away from the politics of recrimination, accusation and counter accusation, personal vendettas and recriminations that affect unity through discussions, dialogue, conflict management and resolution. The time has come for political parties, groups, professional and civic associations, women and youth groups and individuals to build bridges with one another. On our part, we are determined to reach out to others that are dedicated to peaceful democratic transformation in Ethiopia. The time, we believe, is not tomorrow but today.

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