



Kinijit International Council

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"Is This a Political Stunt?"

Retraction by KIC

We regret the press release of October 5, 2007, under the captioned title that was posted on the Kinijit website attributed to the entire KIC and, used by various Websites to continue to fuel 'differences' that the Kinijit leadership should resolve through constructive, serious and calm dialogue and discussion. The Ethiopian people, Kinijit as a political institution and its leaders, well intentioned supporters in the Diaspora, the international community that is on the side of peace, national reconciliation, pluralist democracy, the rule of law, human rights and justice in our country and, KIC are committed to the resolution of the current crisis through dialogue among leaders.

The initial courtesy meeting on October 4, 2007, between Engineer Hailu Shawel, Chairman, Wzt. Bertukan Mideksa, First Vice Chairperson, Dr. Hailu Araaya, CUDP spokesman and, Ato Brook Kebede, elected Member of Parliament is a welcome development in the right direction. It is only a first and correct step. Much, much more remains to be done in the day and weeks to come. We believe that all of us who wish to see One Kinijit with One Voice owe it to the Ethiopian people that we will pull in the same direction to strengthen CUDP as an institution. Innocent lives were lost, jailed, forced to flee their country and, CUDP leaders were jailed because they challenged a repressive and dictatorial political and economic machine. The structural and policy issues that faced them during the May 15, 2005 elections remain today. We therefore owe it to the Ethiopian people that we prevent any obstacle that will prolong their misery. In the end, history will judge each and every one of us in the Diaspora whether we helped to sustain the democratization process in our country or whether we became part of the problem.

With this in mind, we would like to dissociate ourselves from the statement that asserts that "... they had no intention to go through a sincere and honest dialogue but had gone all the way to score a political stunt".

We would like to take this opportunity to ask Kinijit supporters from all sides to refrain from making inflammatory, unfounded, personalized and sweeping judgments and declarations that will only help detractors and the ruling party whose strategic objective is to weaken, marginalize and 'destroy' Kinijit as an Institution. Let us allow the initial and modest gestured and process that begun on October 4, 2007 to bear fruit. "

KIC