

## POLITICAL PROGRAM

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## **TATEK ETHIOPIA DEMOCRATIC UNITY FRONT (TATEK)**

### INTRODUCTION

Ethiopia, our country, is reputed to be the origin of humankind. It is also known to have had an organised and independent polity over a very long period on the basis of the records on historical relics, documents, and religious books. It is not only Ethiopians, who are aware of these facts. All scholars, to whom tangible facts are the only criterion for truth, have at different times and on various occasions attested to the longevity of the Ethiopian polity. They do so as we write.

The history of the configuration of the Ethiopian Government, like that of any other in the world, has been changing from time to time. The extent of its domain likewise, expanding and contracting over a long period, has reached the stage of its present shape and state. However dissimilar the extent of the domain over which the decree of the rulers prevailed or which part of the country they came from and regardless of the era they lived in, they all had a common characteristic regarding the defence of the independence of the motherland, in accordance of their outlook and capacity.

Other causes for migration, conflict, wars and eventual integration include economic pressures. Likewise, the continuous attempt by foreign elements to subjugate the country by instigating wars was also caused migration and integration. The upshot of the intertwined upheaval and comprehensive resolution of this historical process over centuries is a people whose unity has been strengthened by intermarriage and shared experience.

Yet, the successive leaders of Ethiopia who have for centuries sacrificed themselves and jealously guarded the culture and independence of the motherland, have not, in the same measure, concerned themselves in the human rights of its citizens. That was particularly the case during the latter part of the reign of the last Emperor, when a harsh abuse of citizen's right eventually resulted in a popular uprising. However, the spontaneous upheaval that succeeded to change the political system failed to solve the fundamental problems. The people continued to struggle and the struggle is still continuing.

In the process of this struggle, certain sections considered that the existing national oppression is the result of the ethnic identity of the leaders. The solution they arrived at was to concentrate on the struggle for their respective ethnic group rather than for a multi ethnic Ethiopia.

The Tigrean People Liberation Front was one such organisation. After replacing the Derg, that failed to make a progress as a result of the self inflicted and multi-faceted problems it created, the TPLF simulated a change from an ethnic organisation to a multi-national one. Since it did not, in the process, even acknowledge the right of the ethnic groups in Tigray itself, its agenda is increasingly becoming a hidden one: The dismemberment of Ethiopia.

The solutions to our problems as Ethiopians obviously can be solved only if we join hands and struggled as one people. That was the way we fought against foreign invaders in the past and peacefully against dictators as shown by the recent overwhelming demonstration against the EPRDF Government. Unity is increasingly being viewed as the only alternative. Even those advocating an exclusive ethnic agenda are modifying it in favour of unity. Likewise the Ethiopians at home and those abroad are also synchronizing their effort.

It is in this context that the Ethiopians resident in Sweden established an organisation that is called **ድል በአንድነት**

'*Dil Beandinnet*' - (Victory in Unity). They put out a call to bring together those organisations that have the intention of starting armed struggle against the dictatorial rulers of Ethiopia. They invited five organisations. Four were present. They are:

1. Tatek Ethiopia United Front                    **ታጠቅ የኢትዮጵያ አንድነት ግንባር**
2. Ethiopian Democratic United Front        **የኢትዮጵያ ዲሞክራሲያዊ አንድነት ግንባር**
3. Ethiopian United Patriotic Front           **የኢትዮጵያ አርበኞች አንድነት ግንባር**
4. Ethiopian National United Patriotic Front **የኢትዮጵያ ብሄራዊ አንድነት አርበኞች ግንባር**

These met on 27 May 2006 (Ginbot 19, 1998 Ethiopian Calendar) and founded the Ethiopian Patriotic National United Front. They agreed in principle to form a united front at a meeting scheduled for three months later. However, only Tatek Ethiopia United Front and Ethiopian Democratic United Front attended the meeting as scheduled.

The two fronts formed TATEK Ethiopian Democratic United Front (Tatek) on 27 August 2006 (21 Nehase 1998) and announced to the Ethiopian people that they have decided to work under one political program, one rule and one leadership. TATEK will on the one hand try to rally the presently dispersed armed struggle and on the other hand campaign as a political organisation. In the latter sense it will bring the cause we are fighting for, for the attention of the genuine children of Ethiopia, that our decisions are inspired solely by national interest and in the unrestricted defence of Ethiopia's sovereign rights. To that end we circulate the following program as we renew or vow to implement it.

The problem our country is presently facing is not only mere injustice. It is also one that brings into question the very existence of Ethiopia as a country and us as its people. That is why TATEK Ethiopian Democratic United Front calls on all Ethiopians to do their utmost by participating in the struggle. Those who can should do so by action and those who can't by prayer. Ethiopia then would be not merely our last resting place but a country where its people live with pride and joy.

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**VICTORY IN UNITY!**  
  
**ኢትዮጵያ ለዘላለም ትኑር**  
**LONG LIVE ETHIOPIA!**

## VISION

The Ethiopia we visualize is a country where democracy and fairness reign. The right of its people is comprehensively respected. War, sickness, hunger and backwardness, that have increasingly become its whole mark, are once and for all, thrown into the dustbin of its otherwise remarkable history. Its citizens live peacefully and proudly, and not on the basis of what ethnic group they belong to, but on the merit of their respective effort and knowledge, such that various nationalities and ethnic groups live in unity with respect, care and affection for each other.

## SECOND PART

### OBJECTIVE

The main objective of Tatek Ethiopia Democratic Unity Front (TEDUF) is the realization of its vision. Accordingly it has drawn its short and long term objectives.

#### 2.1 SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE

2.1.1 TEDUF(Tatek)'s short term objective is to dislodge the narrowly based sectarian government that has come to power without the consent and wish of the Ethiopian people. It has brought the people deprivation and hardship and exposed the country to the danger of dismemberment. To that effect it calls on all concerned for Ethiopia to join hands in struggling to bring about a peace and reconciliation conference. The conference would allow the participation of TPLF/EPRDF.

2.1.2 While actively working for the realization of the call for the Peace and Reconciliation conference, Tatek will engage in an all round multi faceted struggle until the clique in power comes to the conference table or if it refuses until it is replaced by a popular government. .

2.1.3. To cooperate and create a climate of understanding and mutual accommodation with other anti-TPLF groups and organizations.

2.1.4. To prevent the ongoing stripping and plunder of the nation's asset and its cultural heritage by TPLF/EPRDF. As that is likely to be accelerated in the course of the struggle we would take more care and make the people be aware of this.

2.1.5 To take all measures and prevent internecine conflict between the people of Ethiopia, and to find timely solutions if it occurs.

2.1.6 To engage in continuous and accommodating political process with other organizations regarding the prevention of the ascendance to power of yet another totalitarian or narrowly based regime in the wake of triumph.

### LONG TERM OBJECTIVE

However much Tatek Ethiopia Democratic Unity Front is adamant that effectively disengaging the TPLF/EPRDF from power is the removal of a blight that threatens the existence of our country, it does not consider that the multifaceted and deeply engrained problems of the country could be resolved by that only. To return our country to its position of preeminence in civilization and historical distinction in the world, to make it such that the various nations and nationalities are not the causes of its problem but the source of its strength and its beauty who live in harmony, where its natural wealth is not a cause for external aggression but a resource that secures it

foreign currency, or in general to change the deplorable situation it is in at the moment, into one that we would be confident in and proud of, Tatek would take up the following as its long term objective.

2.2.1 As soon as the TPLF/EPRDF regime is effectively disengaged from power, the convening of a peace and reconciliation conference would be mandatory. Political organizations, religious and civic communities, prominent individuals, scholars and elders would be represented at the conference.

2.2.2. A transitional government that administers the country for a limited period of time would be set up. In that period the Constitution of the country would be drafted and ratified by the people, and an independent and impartial Electoral Board would be set up. The national defense, police and security forces would be set up and their answerability to the constitution be assured.

2.2.3 Ensuring a pluralistic multi-party system prevails in the country through a democratic system.

2.2.4 In the election held after the completion of the Transitional Period Tatek will be a strong contender to implement the political, economic and social programs noted below for an enduring democratic system, the supremacy of the rule of law, progress and peace in the country.

## PART THREE

### PRINCIPLES OF THE FRONT

#### 3.1 POLITICAL MATTERS

##### 3.1.1 Governmental set up and authority

3.1.1.1 Tatek will engage in an all out struggle to implement a system where authority emanates from the people. It will stand for a presidential system where a president is elected and a party comes to power directly by popular vote, abolishing once and for all the long standing and still existing political system in the country where a clique or a group of related individuals apportion authority.

3.1.1.2. Tatek will struggle to set up a federal system where the administration reflects the interconnection of the central government and localities in a manner that fosters the country's independence, unity and rapid progress.

3.1.1.3. Since the whole mark of a democratic system is the division of power Tatek will struggle to implement a system where there is a clear and balanced division of authority between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary stipulated in the statute.

##### 3.1.2. BASIC RIGHTS OF A CITIZEN

3.1.2.1. All Ethiopian citizens would have equal rights respected by law. On that basis Tatek will zealously struggle to make sure that the authority and the wealth that an individual gets is based on merit and not on what ethnical, political or other group he/she belongs to. Nevertheless, to rectify the developmental imbalance between various regions and the economic, social and cultural repression of women, Tatek will give a special attention and support to the need of disadvantaged regions, women and the disabled.

3.1.2.2. Based on the right of the individual Tatek will do all in its power to make sure that the right of all nations and nationalities is respected and that all Ethiopians live in unity with mutual respect for each other.

3.1.2.3. Tatek will see to it that an Ethiopian citizen can live, work and receive social services in any part of the country of her/his choice.

3.1.2.4. Tatek will see to it that relevant legal instruments of the United Nations, African Union and other human rights laws are implemented.

3.1.2.5. Tatek will see to it that the right of citizens to organize, to express their views in a manner of their choice is implemented within the bounds of the law.

### 3.1.3 THE RIGHTS OF NATIONALITIES

3.1.3.1 Despite the existence of many nationalities in Ethiopia their historically and socially interaction over a very long time has fostered a strong and common bond between them. The existence of many nationalities in Ethiopia should hence be, not a danger for its unity but the expression of its strength and its beauty. By enhancing this common bond Tatek Ethiopia Democratic Unity Front would struggle for a system where their equality, rights and interest is manifestly respected.

3.1.3.2 Tatek would also struggle for a social system that enables nations to express their identity and culture, enrich their language, guard their heritage, and determine the manner of their self administration.

3.1.3.3. Tatek struggles for the right of nations to be educated adjudicated and get social services in their own mother tongue.

### 3.1.4. LANGUAGES

3.1.4.1. Tatek Ethiopia Democratic Unity Front believes that Ethiopia should be proud of the fact that it is the repository of many languages and cultures. All the languages and cultures are the common property of all Ethiopians. There is no order of importance but for the difference in the number of people speaking them. TEDUF would do all in its power to strengthen this feeling of equality amongst Ethiopians.

3.1.4.2. The national language and the working language of the Federal Government would be decided upon on the occasion of the drafting of the constitution. Regions would decide upon their respective working language in accordance of its suitability. The working language of the federation would be the working language in all regions. However, if administrative regions find it necessary, they can also adopt a parallel working language of their choice.

### 3.1.5. RELIGION

3.1.5.1. The freedom of religion would be assured.

3.1.5.2. The state and religion would be separate and one would not interfere in the affair of the other.

3.1.5.3. The law will see to it that no citizen is persecuted as a result of religious belief.

3.1.5.4. The Government would take all measures such that no one disturbs the peace and well being of the country under the cover of religious activity.

### 3.1.6 WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

3.1.6.1 TEDUF will give special attention to this matter. The Government in power and those that preceded it did not ponder solutions to the economic, social and cultural oppressions of women. When they attempted to do so it is a nominal tinkering for the purpose of getting their political support. The problem of women who are half of the population, is still widespread and concerning.

3.1.6.2. TEDUF will carry out all that is necessary to relieve women from oppression and to educate them such that they play a constructive role in the economic and political life of the Nation.

### 3.1.7. YOUTH AFFAIRS

3.1.7.1 The one and main method the totalitarian regimes of Ethiopia use to prolong their rule is to frustrate the conscientiousness of young people attempting to spawn a generation unaware of its right, unconcerned about the country's development and not particularly eager to learn about the situation it is in. TEDUF will rid of the insidious and dangerous methods of rule of the EPRDF. It will endeavor to nurture a generation not only responsible enough to inherit the trusteeship of tomorrow's Ethiopia but keen to work and pass to the subsequent generations a motherland enriched and respected by its youth.

3.1.7.2. Tatak Ethiopia Democratic Unity Front is determined to pay no less sacrifice to dislodge the totalitarian regime than it is to transform the prevailing despondence of the young. It wants to foster a generation keen for its right and freedom and proud of the motherland.

3.1.7.3. TEDUF will give a special attention to nurturing the health of the young. It will also give special attention in equipping the young with the knowledge of modern technology. The envisaged economic and social policies of the country will take that into account.

### 3.1.8. THE PUBLIC MEDIA AND THE PRESS

3.1.8.1. TEDUF will do all in its power to have a free press to realize the right of the public to get balanced information.

3.1.8.2. To make sure that the government media puts across to the public an independent and impartial view that contributes to the development of the country TEDUF will have an independent board.

3.1.8.3. TEDUF will issue a directive that guards the basic right of the Free Press that is in accordance to international standard.

3.1.8.4. TEDUF will encourage the participation in the sector of private investors and professionals of the media.

## PART FOUR

### ECONOMIC MATTERS

#### 4.1 GENERAL ECONOMIC DIRECTIVES

4.1.1 To speedily extricate Ethiopia from the depth of its poverty TEDUF will institute a plan researched by distinguished professionals that takes into account the resource of the country.

4.1.2. All measures will be taken to encourage the massive involvement of internal and external capital investors in a free market economy.

4.1.3. However uninvolved the government is in the general economic activity of the nation it would be the proprietor and administrator of such services as water, electricity, telephone and postage that have direct bearing on communal life of the nation.

4.1.4. The government would give particular attention to basic development, and to the growth of science and technology.

4.1.5. It will make a great effort to transfer the economy from agriculture based to industry.

## 4.2 FARMING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

4.2.1. As 85% of the population of Ethiopia lives in the countryside and its economy is based on farming the government would give particular attention to the sector. There is no register.

4.2.2. As the size of the land in the countryside is not properly registered our forest is subject to deforestation and fire, our fertile soil is wasted and the surrounding contaminated, Tatek believes that the ownership of land in the countryside should be properly identified and recorded. Hence the land in the countryside would be divided into private, common and governmental.

4.2.3 The peasant farmer will have full ownership over the land he/she tills and the area that she/he lives in. That will include the right to sell, to change, to inherit or to transfer.

4.2.4. The lands where there are public utilities, common grazing lands, and bare lands will belong to the resident community as a whole.

4.2.5. Grounds and mountains where there are forests, rivers, lakes and natural or man made attractive places, government reserved areas, will be government property by mutual agreement with the community. The government will notify the community as to which are government holdings.

4.2.6. Helped by technology farming will be carried out in a manner that reduces the burden on peasants and increases the yield. The farming would be directed to support industry.

4.2.7. To avoid the pollution of the surrounding peasant farming would be the result of researched findings.

## 4.3. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND LIVESTOCK

4.3.1. Despite the fact that Ethiopia was the origin for variety of flora and fauna, to day, its forest resource is depleted and the animal stock has died out. It is on the verge of becoming devoid of natural resources. Apart from being deprived of an asset from which it would have had a good income, its depletion has disrupted its climate to the extent that a country that is the source of many rivers is afflicted by draught and its children are dying of hunger. As the reversal of the resource depletion and its consequence requires an input of a great effort, Tatek will implement a clear conservation policy.

4.3.2. Research institutes that work around wild animals will be strengthened and given a special attention. Private investors keen to work in conservation of localities will be given special encouragement.

4.3.3. A punitive law will be passed to restrain those that engage in the depletion of forests, the killing of wild animals and in the pollution of the environment.

#### 4.4. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

4.4.1. Private investors would be strongly supported to invest in the industry sector.

4.4.2. Essential control will be implemented to synchronize the priority over the environment.

4.4.3. The raw materials of the country will be given to industries within the country.

4.4.4. Industries would be encouraged to produce complementary products.

#### 4.5. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

4.5.1 As the development of industries results in the rapid increase of the town population major town plans would be prepared in that context.

4.5.2 As the existing condition of linear expansion of towns is not conducive to service provision, town plans that take into account the optimal use of services will be encouraged.

4.5.3. Town lands would be private, such that they can be bought and sold. The government would pay a market price if a certain land is required for public use.

4.5.4. The right for shelter would be an equitable commodity where individuals are encouraged to build in groups.

4.5.5. Private investors would be strongly encouraged to engage in building residential complexes.

4.5.6. To reduce unemployment in towns, the young would be encouraged to take initiatives and to be entrepreneurial and job creating schemes will be initiated by the government.

### PART FIVE

#### SOCIAL MATTERS

##### 5.1 HEALTH

5.1.1. To produce a healthy generation a health policy that pays particular attention to preventative measures for physical and mental illnesses would be implemented

5.1.2. All citizens would have the right to get basic health education and care. Special effort would be made to establish basic health centers and to produce trained medical personnel.

5.1.3. To eradicate malaria, an all out effort would be made to reinstate the Malaria Eradication Authority

5.1.4 All measures would be taken to prevent an epidemic disease and to its immediate eradication if it occurs.

5.1.5. All measures would be taken to fight the scourge of our time AIDS. Citizens would be encourage to make material change in their life style and senior government officials would be made to set examples.

5.1.6. All measures would be taken to encourage the revival of traditional medicine and to upgrade them on scientific basis.

5.1.7. Private health clinics that have kept up their standard would be encouraged and supported.

5.1.8. No effort would be spared to cultivate medical staff to the level of proportion of the nation's population.

## 5.2. EDUCATION

5.2.1 The education policy would be formulated to produce a well-mannered educated and technologically up to date generation

5.2.2 The government would give particular attention to basic and elementary education. It will expand schools. It will enable the condition for the better training and optimal condition of elementary teachers. As getting elementary and secondary educations is the right of a citizen it will be given free of charge.

5.2.3. Trainees would be trained to an international standard hence the educational and training system would concentrate on quality rather than quantity.

5.2.4. Entrepreneurs would be encouraged to invest in education. The government would supervise their service to make sure that the education they give is appropriate.

5.2.5. Starting from elementary school, the working language of the nation would be part of the curriculum. That will enable citizens to go and work anywhere in the country. Regarding the turning out of a well-mannered, physically fit and upright citizen, physical training and education on proper citizenship would be part of the curriculum through out the training stages.

5.2.6. Special attention would be given to higher education. For that purpose the higher educational set up would be enabled to improve in extent and in quality.

## 5.3 OTHER SOCIAL MATTERS

### 5.3.1. SERVICE SECTOR

5.3.1.1. To enable the fair and prompt provision of social services from governmental or private service providers Tatak will give the necessary training to personnel.

5.3.1.2. All that is necessary will be implemented to enable citizens know their right and their duty and to make sure that they are in a position to defend it.

5.3.1.3. Organizations will be set up to see to it that the services to the community are properly carried out

5.3.1.4. A law will be passed to eradicate corruption as it damages the economy of the country and the well being of its people.

5.3.1.5. The collection and the payment of taxes would be in accordance with the assessment of independent professionals.

### 5.3.2 SOCIAL CARE

5.3.2.1. Pension and compensation will be paid in accordance of the capacity of the nation's economy, to those citizens that have served the country as soldiers and have reached pension age or have been disabled or become ill in the course of their service.

5.3.2.2. Training centers for the disabled that take into account the extent and nature of their disability will be set up and all will be done to enable them to be working.

5.3.2.3. A program for a coordinated effort to help the elderly and the disabled who have no means of self help would be made. That will also help in the eradication of street beggars and a disorganized manner of aid.

5.3.2.4. Parentless and down and out youth will have a special centre where they would get education without being uprooted from their culture.

### 5.3.3 CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS AND POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS

5.3.3.1. To resolve political, economic, social and cultural problems citizens have a right to organize themselves by gender, age set, residential district, or in a manner of their choice and within the remit of the law.

5.3.3.2. Forums would be set up to enable associations implement their objectives or to voice their view on the grounds that basic principle of citizens' rights have been infringed.

5.3.3.3. On the occasion of the discussion of major and nation wide addenda civic associations and political organizations will be encouraged to have a contribution.

5.3.3.4. As Tadek believes that civic associations have a lot to contribute to policies and directives on various subjects their participation from the drafting stage onwards would be made essential.

## PART SIX

### NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

#### 6.1 THE NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE (NDF)

6.1.1. A national defense force that is made up of the armies of opposition forces (Tadek's included), the former members of the Ethiopian Army, and new willing recruits, selected from all nationalities in a fair way will be set up to guard the nations territorial integrity, the unity and independence of its people.

6.1.2. The army that is to be established would be independent of any political party and it will be answerable to the elected central government. Non interference in political matters would be one of its task. .

6.1.3. The number of army personnel would be based on the capacity of the nation's economy and the prevailing external and internal security condition. It will be well trained, disciplined, organized and will have a clear objective of its task. It will be armed with modern weapons.

6.1.4. The members of the NDF's right for pension and health care would be respected. Families of members of the NDF who have sacrificed their life in the course of active duty would be cared for.

#### 6.2. THE POLICE AND SECURITY FORCES

6.2.1. A properly trained police and security forces will be set up between the Central Government and the Federal Branches to safeguard the Ethiopian national interest and to enforce the security, peace and the law of its people.

6.2.2. The ethnic make up of police and security forces will be all inclusive

6.2.3. The police and security forces will be barred from any political participation. They will also be free from the influence of any political party. They would be exemplary in behavior and respect the culture of the community they serve.

6.2.4. There would be a legal safeguard to prevent the police and security forces from abusing their authority by inflicting physical or mental damage on the public.

## PART SEVEN

### FOREIGN POLICY

7.1. The foreign policy of Ethiopia will be free from the influence of any foreign government. It will protect the national interest, the country's territorial integrity and foster cooperation with others.

7.2. The foreign policy will facilitate the economic, social, cultural and technological growth of the nation. It will not interfere in the internal affairs of other nations.

7.3. The foreign policy will encourage fraternal relationship with neighboring countries, and cultural exchange that fosters peace and economic growth.

7.4. Ethiopia will stand alongside those countries and organisations that make great effort for peace, democracy and for better world order. Tated will make an effort to change the prevailing unbalanced and harmful view on Ethiopia by a policy that wins respect for the country and its people.

7.5. By enhancing the prestige Ethiopia has cultivated as a result of being the founding member of the United Nations, African Union, and Non Aligned Nations, its foreign policy will condemn interference, invasion, racism and the instigation of conflict.