



## **THE POLITICAL PROGRAM OF THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT**

*ratified by the 10th general Congress held from 16 - 18 January 2020*

# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	i
The Preliminary.....	ii
Chapter one: The principles and the general goals.....	1
Chapter two: the political sphere .....	2
Chapter three: the economic sphere.....	6
Chapter Four: The Social Sphere.....	8
Chapter Five: The culture and the Media .....	11
Chapter Six: The sphere of education and the scientific research.....	13
Chapter Seven: The sphere of the research and the studies.....	16
Chapter Eight: The Security and the Defence .....	18
Chapter Nine: The External Relations .....	20

# **Introduction**

Any political program for any political organization is one of the most important pillars of its structure and is a compass for its leadership, cadres and members. For this reason, the political program should address, in general terms, all political, social and economic issues of the society. These lines as a whole should constitute a set of principles and goals that the appropriate organization seeks to achieve, whether be the strategy or the interim phase at all levels. Hence the organization will be in a position to direct its work. when the political organization command this comprehensive, coherent and clear vision, it must seek working methods that suit the current stage without forgetting the future with its hopes and aspirations and without neglecting the past with its successes and failures.

The Eritrean Liberation Front hopes that this political program will be a renewed formula and open to ideas that facilitates cross fertilization within the internal frameworks of the organization at all levels. Bringing with it the objective conditions surrounding the front.

This program included the vision of the ELF at all levels and it was classified into nine chapters, as it was stated in its table of content.

## **The Preliminary**

The leadership role of the Eritrean Liberation Front stems from being the forefront that ignited the revolution and awakened the Eritrean patriotism in the soul and approved the first political program emanating from the first conference in which the masses participated in the Eritrean arena. It was the first organization which indicated in its program for the formation of the shape of the aspiring democratic state and the force it should constitute.

Not only that, but the Front was the force that solidly defended the rights and aspirations of the Eritrean people to freedom. The Front had confronted the colonial power and its subversive projects. It was the first organization to point out the danger of the totalitarian regime in the Eritrean homeland talked about the crises that it would devote to.

We, on the Eritrean liberation front are facing the consequence of the devastating policies of the dictatorial regime. We affirm that stability, peace, and national unity in Eritrea are guaranteed by justice and true national partnership in power and wealth. Moreover, they have to acknowledge the gravity of the unjust injustices inflicted on many regions and national components and working to rectify them.

The distinguishing feature of the Eritrean reality today is the emergence of the demanding civil movements in which the Eritreans are increasingly involved and that have begun to enter the scene of resistance against the exclusionary regime and its non-patriotic policies. Our people from all walks of life are also struggling to put an end to the militarization of the society, its aggressive policies and eliminate all various discrimination between the Eritreans. They will also stand against the planned demographic change, the systematic displacement of youth and the breaking down of the Eritrean family.

Our struggle on the Eritrean Liberation Front today is a struggle for voluntary Eritrean national unity based on national partnership, equality between Eritreans in rights and duties. To achieve these goals and objectives, we need to muster the forces that have a real stake to effect change. We need as well to muster national energies and collective efforts to bring the desirable changes. The Liberation Front considers itself an extension of a historical action made by the Eritreans. ELF is the appropriate arena and the militant base. To strength it today, the victory process must be accelerated. To achieve this positive outcome, we all need to override personal vested interest, our petty things, our concerns and stereotypes. The current stage, its nature and circumstances force us to struggle together in order to wrest our rights and establish a homeland of justice and freedom. That is why we call upon all, through this program for each and every one to assume their historical responsibilities

We firmly confirm that we in the Eritrean Liberation Front want a democracy that depends on its means, methods, behaviour and its approach on the peaceful democratic transfer of power. This will be entrenched in a constitution that guarantees the rights of all Eritreans. The constitution must be discussed in an atmosphere of equality and freedom. A constitution agreed upon by the spectrum of the Eritrean society and not an instrument of acquiescence imposed by the ruler. A constitution whose content and purposes are not inconsistent with human rights and the values of our people, beliefs, privacy, and coexistence. A constitution that guarantees the rights of all Eritreans in recognition of human dignity, the right of the society in its entirety and to have a secure life for every one of its citizens. The will of the Eritrean people expressed through free elections will only be the source for the government authority.

# **Chapter one: The principles and the general goals**

## **First: The general principles**

The Eritrean Liberation Front based on its political platform focuses on the following principles:

- Eritrea's independence was not a gift from anyone. It was rather paid for by our people during the thirty years of struggle.
- Eritrea's unity, land and people, are our national starting point.
- Rights in the Eritrean homeland are acquired through citizenship.
- Our multiculturalism is the richness and strength of our unity
- Democracy, pluralism and social justice are irreplaceable.
- The protection of human rights and public freedoms is the foundation of state building

## **Secondly: The general goals:**

- The toppling of the dictatorial regime in Eritrea.
- Building a strong and stable state with modern institutions.
- Strengthening confidence among the components of the Eritrean people.
- Building a united and integrated society.
- Comprehensive development in all sectors and the equitable distribution of wealth.
- Expanding the dissemination of knowledge and deepening its roots in society.
- Expanding the establishment of study and research centres and to support it real support.
- Strengthening the role of the family in the society and the state.
- Positive discrimination of upgrading and promoting women's role in all fields.
- Childhood care along with taking care of it.
- Encouraging and motivating the youth to participate positively in all fields

## **Chapter two: the political sphere**

### **First: Toppling the dictatorial regime**

(a) The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to overthrow the dictatorial regime in Eritrea and believes in the following:

- Toppling it by all available means.
- Differentiate between the regime and the state, as the regime means the dictator, his aides, his henchmen and their institutions, whereas, the state means the land, the people, sovereignty and the public institutions.

(b) ELF will coordinate with all the active political and civil Eritrean forces that believe in the unity of the Eritrean people, its territorial integrity and its sovereignty

### **Secondly: The transitional phase**

#### **The transitional phase concept**

The transitional phase is the decisive stage that follows the fall of the regime, and it is an inevitable stage of any democratic transformation.

One of the decisive stage characteristics is the falling of the head of the regime, whereas his aides, henchmen and the associated stakeholders do not entirely fall with him. Instead they try to come to power by detouring techniques and become the nucleus of a counter-revolution to the new government.

To achieve their objective they will desperately try to depreciate the prestige of the state and weaken its authority.

This transitional phase is a sensitive stage in the life of the states and must be dealt with advanced awareness and special care according to the following criteria:

- Working with all the forces of the Eritrean people organized in political or civil frameworks and the large sectors of the people to form a coalition to run the country through a phased national charter to be agreed upon by everyone so that the following can be achieved:

**(A) A state administration which will facilitate the achievement of the following:**

- Preserving the unity and integrity of the Eritrean land.
- Maintaining the state's institutions, facilities and public property.
- Preserving the lives and property of citizens and foreigners.
- Preserving the diplomatic and representative corps.

**(B) The National Charter:**

Preparing a national charter to be agreed upon by all political and civil forces, national figures and notables of the society. This group will determine the duration of the transitional phase and prioritize the urgent issues that need immediate solutions.

**(C) The issue of the detainees, the abductees and the enforced disappearances:**

The issue of detainees, abductees and enforced disappearances is one of the urgent issues that cannot be compromised and procrastinated and should be resolved during the transitional period. It is in view of this understanding that the liberation front seeks to resolve this chronic issue by giving it the priority in the transitional charter phase.

**(D) The refugee case:**

The suffering of our people in the refugee camps which lasted so far for more than half a century, is still fresh as a wound that did not heal since it began in the 1967th AD. It took place when the army of the Ethiopian occupation applied the scorched earth policy. Ever since then, the refugees exodus continued even in the era of an independent Eritrea state under the rule of the dictatorial elites. The responsibility for the crime of their continuous suffering in the miserable refugee camps and not returning to their homeland after nearly thirty years of independence falls on the shoulders of the dictatorial regime. Unfortunately, the Eritrean people have been inflicted by this dictatorial regime for quite a period. Of course, the refugee issue like its counter parts above is one of the urgent issues that does not accept compromise and procrastination. In view of this understanding, ELF seeks to resolve this chronic issue as follows:

The refugee issue should be given a priority similar to that of the detainees, abductees and disappeared persons in the transitional charter to ensure the following:

- Create a commission to organize the refugee return process.
- Solving the land issue in parallel with the solution to the refugee issue, as they are closely related in many aspects. This action will provide the conditions for the return of the refugees to their areas of origin and to provide them with adequate compensation in a way that guarantees them to have a decent life thereafter.

**(E) The land issue:**

The land issue is considered one of the most important issues that concern all those keen on the Eritrean homeland and its unity. The policies pursued by the dictatorial elite regime have created a crisis of national reality that is conducive to produce rift in the social fabric. That is why all Eritrean people should strive to solve it as soon as possible so as to preserve the homeland, its unity and cohesion. Needless to say that most of the Eritrean lands are known and related to specific groups or components

They kept this land, lived there, enlivened it by farming it and used it as a pasture.

Owning the land by its owners does not deny the others from co-living in the context of mutual consent and co-existence. This is possible as long as they are not transferred from one region to another with the new order of the regime. In the past, moving of individuals from one region to another took place automatically and spontaneously. As a consequence, there was no negative reaction from the indigenous population. However the policy of the organized forced resettlement adopted by the sectarian regime was neither accepted by the deportees nor by the indigenous population. The implementation of this forced resettlement was meant to achieve two goals for the regime: first to fulfil their sectarian goal by effecting a demographic change and secondly to apply a divide and rule policy which guarantees the regime the consolidation of its power.

Based on the foregoing, the Eritrean Liberation Front will seek to include the land issue within the national charter phase. It will be one of the priorities of the transitional government to ensure the establishment of a commission for the land issue that operates within the following mechanism:

- Issuing an urgent decision, including deterrent penalties, criminalizing assaults and self-conduct on land issues.
- Issuing a decisive decision whereby any decision issued by the dictatorial regime regarding the land is cancelled, and all his actions are considered null and void.
- Providing the original areas of the deportees with all services.
- Compensating the deported persons with a remuneration in compensation for every building they constructed or the land they reclaimed
- To transfer all deportees to their places of origin at the expense of the state.

## **(F) The National Reconciliation Conference**

Carrying out a true national reconciliation that does not exclude anyone, through which we guarantee a secure and stable homeland in which everyone is happy. Accordingly, a transitional justice body should be formed, with reconciliation based on the following:

First: an inventory of all crimes, classification and tallying of the victims and their whereabouts.

Secondly: the perpetrators of those crimes must acknowledge their crimes and those upon whom they have committed the crimes.

Thirdly: Redressing and compensating the victims.

Fourthly: Holding a comprehensive national reconciliation in light of the results of the above.

### **Thirdly: The post-transition state administration:**

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to execute the following program:

(A) Preparing a permanent constitution for the country with the participation of all political and civil forces, national personalities, notables and dignitaries of the society and members of all the Eritrean people in all its spectrum. Forming an independent national commission for the country's general elections.

(B) The establishment of a Supreme Constitutional Court that handles all legal disputes.

(C) Establishing a decentralized system of government in the country through which everyone's participation in power is achieved.

(D) Establishing a modern institutions and a capable administrative body.

## Chapter three: the economic sphere

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to create a balanced economic development that includes all economic activities at its three levels:

The productive activity, the transfer activity and the service activity.

### First: the primary economic activity:

It is the productive sector: it includes agriculture, grazing, forest production, mining, wild and marine fishing.

1. **In the field of agriculture:** It seeks to follow the heavy farming method of intensive which is one of the modern methods that link the plant and animal production on the land which on return reduces the traditional grazing. Reducing traditional grazing that harms the environment, reduces productivity and causes other problems.
2. **In the field of forest production:** It seeks to conserve and cultivate forests and increase green belts.
3. **In the field of mining:** The front seeks a rational and beneficial investment of mineral resources as they are non-renewable sources. Conducting more geological studies and ground surveys to find out the mineral resources. Then they will estimate their quantities and invest them in a way that is beneficial to the state and the Eritrean person and allocate a percentage of production to the regions from which minerals are extracted from their territory. Thereafter follows the equitable distribution of the proceeds of those wealth.
4. **In the field of hunting:** The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to legalize wild hunting and tighten its control to preserve and protect wildlife and link it then to the supervision of protection of natural reserves and forests.

As for the marine fishing which is the most important: The priority will be to invest in it in order for local expertise to diversify protein sources and then benefit from the experiences of friendly countries in investing it.

### Secondly: The economic activity from the second level:

It includes various manufacturing industries be it heavy, medium and light. In this regard, the Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to enable the industry in Eritrea and provide its components of energy, capital, expertise and modern technologies. It will also encourage citizens to invest financially in industries, especially in light industries ones to start with.

The first stage and providing the necessary financing for that, especially those that rely on local raw materials such as the food and leather industries etc. Then the gradual progression towards the laying of a strong industrial base that secures the needs of the country and absorbs a workforce and eventually work hard to train and develop it.

### **Thirdly: The economic activity of the third degree:**

The sector includes related services and related activities, such as banks, public and tourism facilities, transportation, trade, infrastructures, various networks, and others.

1. **In the field of banks:** financial and banking policies are put in place to finance various development projects and adopt lending policies for citizens on terms and procedures that do not contradict the values of the society.
2. **In the field of public utilities and housing:** plans are drawn up for cities, villages, gardens, parks and the distribution of land uses, in a way that achieves balanced and sustainable development in all regions of the country.
3. **In the field of tourism: tallying and protecting** the archaeological sites which are scattered in many parts of Eritrea will be restricted and protected. The development of beach tourism, the construction of tourist villages, summer resorts, pedestrian lanes and water sports areas on the coast. There will also be mountain tourist villages and motels for mountain climbers and the establishment of nature reserves and their rehabilitation to receive local and international tourists.
4. **With regard to transportation:** The road and railway networks are rehabilitated as well as the mountain tunnels, airports and ports. Establishing an internal road network linking production areas with consumption areas and between villages and different cities. International and continental routes to neighbouring countries should as well be established.
5. **In the field of trade:** the front will adopt the method of free trade, with the intervention of the state to protect the producer and the consumer by enacting control legislation to fight against greed, monopoly and other devious methods.
6. **With regard to infrastructures:** the front will adopt a policy of building service networks such as networks of water, sewage, electricity, transportation and communications.

# **Chapter Four: The Social Sphere**

## **First: The social welfare**

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to extend, expand and circulate the social welfare in the society according to the following principles:

- Protecting the society from the social distortions and deviations.
- Enacting laws and regulations organizing the social welfare to ensure real social welfare programs.
- Establishing social welfare apparatus and institutions with clear tasks to play their role competently and effectively.
- Rehabilitating the leading and administrative cadres working in the field of social welfare to ensure the effectiveness of social welfare institutions.
- Rehabilitating and supporting groups with the special needs and their gradual integration into the society.
- Encouraging and supporting voluntary individual and group charitable social care projects.
- Establishing research and social studies centres to provide real information about the community that helps in setting effective policies and making quick remedial decisions.
- Coordination with international organizations and benefiting in return from their experiences in the field of social welfare, in a manner that does not violate the traditions and values of the Eritrean community.

## **Secondly: The social security and the pension systems**

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to extend, expand and circulate the social security in the society according to the following principles:

- Enacting comprehensive laws to ensure social gathering through the assistance of people of expertise, as well as benefiting from the experiences of other countries in this field.
- Establishing institutions entrusted with the task of the social security.

- Enacting special laws on retirement and social insurance to ensure a decent life for retirees and their families.
- Establishing a pensioners' institution that will be supported permanently and entrusted with the task of looking after pensioners and their families.
- Enacting a law that preserves and invests the social insurance funds for the benefit of the workers.
- Enacting of special health insurance laws for all the citizens.
- Establishing a health insurance institution that guarantees health insurance for every citizen.
- Establishing a special institution for the unemployed to guarantee them the minimum basic necessities of their life in a manner that preserves their humanity.

### **Thirdly: The social protection**

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to extend social protection to the special categories in the society, expand it and circulate it according to the following principles:

- Enacting laws and legislations that regulate social protection for the following categories: The elderly, the adolescents, the beggars and the prisoners.
- Providing the necessary support that covers the needs of these groups in a manner that preserves their human dignity.
- Providing private homes for the elderly who have no family.
- Establishing special homes for the adolescent who are subjected to homelessness regardless of the cause and instead provide them with education and rehabilitation to ensure their integration into the society where they belong.
- Establishing an institution to serve and care for the prisoners in a manner that preserves their humanity, working to rehabilitate them behaviourally and professionally, and provide them with suitable job opportunities so that prisons turn into educational and productive institutions.
- Establishing specialized scientific research and studies centres to study the crime and the behavioural deviations and suggest solutions and treatments that limit them.

#### **Fourthly: The public Benefit Associations:**

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to activate and support the voluntary community effort in all its forms and within an integrated vision as follows:

- Enacting laws regulating voluntary community work to ensure its success.
- Facilitating the procedures for establishing voluntary community institutions.
- Encouraging voluntary community initiatives by providing them with possible support.
- Benefiting from the experiences of other societies in a way that suits our Eritrean society and its specificity

#### **Fifthly: The Religion**

Religions in Eritrea are considered one of the most important components of the Eritrean identity and they are protected by the rule of law and custom. Any infringement thereon should be criminalized by law. Because the essence of all religions does not differ from one religion to another. This must be emphasized on this essence and rooting it and making use of it while establishing peace and security and stability throughout the Eritrean nation.

## **Chapter Five: The culture and the Media**

### **First: The culture**

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks in the field of culture to achieve the following:

- Issuing legislation to achieve the goals and dimensions of the cultural policy, provided that such legislation emphasizes the national constants.
- Giving the creators, the writers, the artists and the intellectuals the place, they deserve by spreading their production and encouraging them and supporting them financially and professionally, making the work in culture an attractive work.
- Upgrading the cultural level of the country by stimulating the cultural movement.
- Paying due attention to the heritage and purification of impurities and distortions suffered.
- Setting a policy to protect the national monuments, turning them into tourist attractions and introduce the new generations to the history of their country.
- Construction of cultural infrastructure facilities such as theatres, cinemas and cultural centres for children and young adults in various regions of Eritrea.
- Organizing periodic cultural festivals and competitions in the fields of artistic and cultural creativity to enhance and raise the status of culture in Eritrea.
- Paying due attention to the local languages and dialects as containers to preserve much of our heritage.
- Establishing research and studies centres concerned with the heritage, as well as the languages and dialects, and help protect them and prevent their extinction.

### **Secondly: The media**

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to achieve in the field of media the following:

- Working to make the primary goal of the media to spread the values of the freedom, democracy, work and responsibility, instilling the national spirit and protecting the fabric of the society.
- Working to launch a guarantee for the freedom of expression, thought, opinion and press, in a way that enhances Eritrea's unity, its renaissance, and the well-being of its people.
- Ensuring to obtain, circulate and transmit information in a manner that does not conflict with preserving the security of the country.

- Establishing a Higher Council for the Media and Publishing; Specialized in following up the performance of all the media outlets
- Ensuring freedom of ownership of the media and publishing newspapers and magazines, and that they should not be suspended or closed except through a judicial procedure and social media guarantees.
- Facilitating all the legal and administrative procedures related to owning, issuing and managing the newspapers, the radio and the television channels, stations and electronic publications.
- Encouraging the national capital to invest in the media fields
- Using the media to better manage the cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity and stay away from anything that threatens the values of the social cohesion.
- Using the media to instil the ethical values, customs and traditions of our people and strengthen and encourage the shared values.
- Working to establish and adhere to a media professional honour code.
- Paying attention to the human cadre working in the media field, qualifying it and developing its artistic and creative capabilities so that it can keep abreast of everything new in the media science, arts and technologies.
- Caring for and developing colleges and departments of media, and setting up institutes and centres specialized in media work methods and techniques.
- Granting all the Eritrean parties and organizations officially registered the right to establish their own media in accordance with the regulations established by the constitution. granting equal opportunities in advertising and media and publicizing its programs, especially in electoral campaigns, through the windows of the official state media.
- Using the media to crystallize and promote balanced and sustainable development in Eritrea.
- To give all the Eritrean cultures equal opportunities in the windows of the official media.
- Working to establish and encourage cultural, social, national and literary clubs that contribute to crystallizing the national culture.
- Ensuring that the media plays its role in introducing Eritrea and attracting tourists by highlighting the historical areas and monuments.

## **Chapter Six: The sphere of education and the scientific research**

The Eritrean Liberation Front through its educational and educational field aims that the Eritrean child is born on the values of honesty, trustworthiness respect for time, love of work and correct behaviour. As a result he will be in the future a good citizen who believes in the highest values dedicated to his country and people, armed with science and knowledge.

To instil these values, the Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to make a qualitative leap in the education and scientific research in Eritrea. This will build a qualified human force capable of investing the country's resources in a scientific manner that achieves a decent life for the Eritrean people and makes a positive contribution to the human civilization

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to modernize the education as follows:

### **First: The General Education: [Primary, Intermediate and Secondary]**

1. The horizontal expansion in building academic, technical and vocational schools to include all parts of the country in its various regions. So that education is available to every Eritrean individual wherever he is.
2. To provide free education at the state's expense, without affecting the quality of education or the integrity of the school environment.
3. Construction of a suitable and integrated school environment, including classrooms, offices, laboratories, water and sanitation networks, electricity and other infrastructure. As well as stadiums, arenas, parks and recreational facilities.
4. Updating the school curricula so that it achieves educational goals and graduate cadres involved in the labour market.
5. Introducing modern teaching techniques to keep pace with the requirements of the times. At the same time developing teachers' performance and educational management and applying quality standards.
6. The medium of instruction will be Arabic and Tigrinya languages in the primary and intermediate stages as it was pursued in the past. But as from grade seven students from the two streams {Arabic and Tigrinya streams} merge into one class. Thereafter, English will be the medium of instruction. Therefore any school up to intermediate stage in Eritrea will consist of two streams:
  - One stream studies scientific subjects in Arabic and studying both Tigrinya and English as basic subjects

The second stream studies scientific subjects in Tigrinya language and studies Arabic and English as basic subjects.

- Teaching at the secondary level shall be in the English language, provided that the Arabic and Tigrinya languages are among the basic subjects.

### **Secondly: The Higher Education and the Scientific Research:**

It includes universities, higher institutes and their equivalent. Institutions from which the researchers, academicians and technicians graduate in all literary, scientific, applied and legal fields. These cadres are prepared to lead and operate the wheel of development on scientific bases and plan according to modern scientific methods and tools. This requires:

1. Establishing modern universities and keeping pace with scientific developments using curricula, tools and capabilities that enable them to conduct innovative scientific research.
2. Modernizing the University of Asmara and providing it with various buildings, networks, infrastructure, and transportation facilities.
3. Establishing universities in the provincial cities so that competencies do not accumulate in the capital region .It also needs to establish scientific departments and curricula so that the region's natural and human resources are studied to link education and scientific research with the development process.
4. Allocating an adequate budget for the scientific research and development, and provide tools such as laboratories, workshops, computers, and software, and train the technicians working on them.
5. Establishing medium technical schools and vocational training institutes to meet the country's need for the skilled workers and technicians in various specializations such as mechanics, electricity, carpentry, building, construction, plumbing, and others.

### **Thirdly: The private and the special education:**

The private education is a type of education that parents feel obliged to fulfil by teaching their children special sciences such as religious sciences. The parents will pay for some of the education expenses. Likewise, private institutes and schools differ from special schools in that they offer free education. This free education is guaranteed by private organizations and donations from the people of the country who are financially capable.

As for the special schools, they are schools established by individuals or groups for the purpose of investment. However the curriculum of the Ministry of Education is taught in addition to other materials that distinguish these schools from government schools for the purpose of attraction or excellence. These schools are different from other schools in offering live languages, [is a written native language] computers, Uc Mas [is a unique scientifically proven brain development program designed for children and young people] and others, all for a tuition fee that the Ministry's determines its highest ceiling.

Both the private and the special education are conducted under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, for which it has its own department for monitoring, supervision and guidance.

With regard to this type of education, the Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to encourage private and special education to perform an educational mission that complements the curriculum of the Ministry so that:

1. That religious institutions, academies and religious schools should come under the supreme religious establishment of every religion.
2. The special schools come under the Ministry of Education in terms of supervision, evaluation and monitoring.
3. Students in the private and special education can apply to universities and higher institutes provided they meet the conditions for admission to them.

## **Chapter Seven: The sphere of the research and the studies**

### **First: during the struggle against the dictatorship**

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to establish a centre for research, studies and documentation that includes the researchers, scholars, university professors and experts in various fields. The objectives of the centre are summarized in:

1. Gathering the historical information and documents to write the history of the Eritrean revolution against the foreign colonialism. Focusing in the first stage on the history of the Eritrean Liberation Front and its long struggle against the Ethiopian colonialism. Then against the racist dictatorship that stole the independence of the Eritrean people and imposed its gang domination across the country
2. The centre will work to translate the literary, cultural and scientific production of the Eritrean writers to bring the hearts of readers of the two official languages in Eritrea close to each other and to let each of them know what his fellow countryman is writing in the other language. Likewise, the front's literature, publications, and editions of the centre itself will be translated in either of the official languages.
3. The centre will be an advisory body to the Front. It will also be a cultural and media interface for the Front and a reference for the satellite channels, news agencies and researchers in these fields.

### **Secondly: After the fall of the dictatorship regime**

After the fall of the regime and the return of the centre to Eritrea, it will become a centre for the strategic research and studies. It will be independent from political parties and organizations and will work with complete neutrality from internal affiliations and it will add to its tasks in-depth historical studies, geopolitical research and international relations .It will be a consultative body for decision-makers in the strategic issues. Other specialized centres should branch out from it, working according to its plans and strategies such as:

### **1. The Information and the Documentation Centre:**

It specializes in the population surveys, the home statistics, the vital statistics, the workforce statistics, the agricultural and the industrial statistics, and the port, the airport, crossings and other statistics.

### **2. The natural meteorology centre:**

The centre will conduct ground studies (geological and geomorphological) and will monitor earthquakes, volcanoes, and solar energy reservoirs, metrological studies and climatic fluctuations. It will also study the coasts, islands and corals. In addition it will study the natural disasters such as the droughts, the locust outbreak plague and the state of the vegetation status, the water conditions and others.

To conduct such studies, the centre will need financial resources from the state because it is expensive. It will need as well expertise, tools, time and effort, but it will give the decision-maker an autonomy in his decisions because he will possess statistics and scientific information. It is also useful for setting the development plans and the studied political decisions.

## **Chapter Eight: The Security and the Defence**

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to establish a defence and security policy based on the following pillars:

- Professional armed forces and security services
- The armed forces and the security services have the sole mission to defend the country and protect it from any internal or external threat.
- The armed forces and the security services are national institutions that should be kept away from partisan and regional, tribal and religious loyalties.
- The armed forces and the security services must be completely removed from the practice of politics and interference in government affairs in any way.
- The security and the police services whose prime mission is to be an honest guard for the citizens' interests and safeguard their blood, their family from sexual abuse and preserve their family wealth.

### **First: The Armed Forces**

- Structuring the armed forces on a national basis to accommodate all people of the country without discrimination.
- Ensuring the neutrality of the armed forces at all levels.
- Developing the national spirit among the armed forces by focusing on the national culture
- Raising the efficiency of the armed forces, preparing them good preparation and developing their capabilities
- To have an absolute interest in arming the armed forces well and enhancing their ability to defend the homeland.
- Establishing military colleges and institutes to continuously raise the efficiency of the leaders and soldiers of the armed forces.
- Establishing military colleges and research centres to develop the armed forces.
- Building and developing a solid military manufacturing base to be able to fully arm the armed forces.
- Establishing a disciplined system based on objective principles and standards for promotions, awarding medals, and various material and moral incentives

- Establishing a social security fund for the armed forces to take care of members of the armed forces and their families and improve their living conditions.
- Listing the first generation and the veterans, honouring and compensating them financially and morally, and ensuring a decent life for them and their families.
- Tallying the fighters of the two periods of the armed struggle and the struggle against the dictatorship and honouring them with the honour that befits them and what they have provided and reward them with compensation and guaranteeing a decent life for them and their families.
- Establishing a precise and disciplined system for honouring members and officers of the armed forces, in which medals and stripes, will be in the names of the first generation and the veterans.

### **Secondly: the police and the security services**

- Establishing and structuring the Ministry of Interior and its police and security services on sound national bases so that citizenship is the key to joining them.
- Enacting laws that control the duties of the security and the police services in a manner that guarantees the rights of the Eritrean citizen.
- Controlling the duties of the security services and organizing the process of monitoring them according to the law.
- Setting the necessary precautions that prevent the security services and the police from any violation or breach of the job entrusted to them.
- Enacting laws and legislations that impose cooperation and complementarity between the security and the police services and other related bodies such as the judiciary and the prosecution
- Establishing a social security fund for the police and the security services to take care of its members and their families and improve their living conditions.
- Establishing a precise and disciplined system for promotions and honours of the police and security personnel, in which medals and stripes will be in the names of the first generation and the veterans who joined the revolution from the ranks of the Eritrean police.

## **Chapter Nine: The External Relations**

Eritrea is located in the heart of the world. Thus an integral part of it overlooks its most important waterways. It also interacts with its regional and international variables affecting and influencing it. For this reason, the Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to make this mutual influence governed by a set of principles and values as follows:

- Preserving the national sovereignty.
- Respecting the sovereignty of other countries is a basic principle of engagement.
- Integration between the domestic and the foreign policy is a primary goal so that the foreign policy will reflect the principles, goals and values of the Eritrean people.
- Peaceful coexistence among the peoples of the world is one of the most important principles that must prevail.
- Renouncing the use of violence in all its forms in international conflicts opens the way for a secure and stable world in which everyone is happy.

### **First: Eritrea's relations with its neighbouring countries**

Eritrea connects important borders with three countries directly, namely The Sudan, Ethiopia and Djibouti. It is also linked to these countries through basic human components in addition to the strong cultural ties. Within these data and objective conditions and with advanced awareness, the Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to achieve the following:

- To take advantage of all these data to establish peace with neighbouring countries.
- Building interaction and participation relations with the neighbouring countries.
- Finding economic integration with these countries in a way that achieves common interests
- Facilitating the movement of the shared components, in order to preserve their communication with their families on both sides of the border.
- Facilitating trade with the neighbouring countries in a way that benefits everyone.
- Establishing joint projects with those countries that benefit the joint components.
- Enacting laws and signing security agreements to serve the relationship with the neighbouring countries.

## **Secondly: The relationship with the countries of the region**

### **1. Eritrea and the countries of the Red Sea Basin:**

The important and vital strategic location of Eritrea on the Red Sea and its supervision of its southern entrance (the Bab al-Mandeb strait) has gained it great importance. The Red Sea is one of the most important international shipping lanes. It provides the regional and the international powers with access to the Mediterranean Sea in the north and the open ocean in the south. Through it, more than half of the world's oil is transported, and several other countries share with Eritrea the views of it in its east and west.

Because Eritrea is an important country in the Red Sea that influences and is affected by what is happening in it, the Eritrean Liberation Front seeks to achieve the following:

- Eritrea will play a fundamental role in making the Red Sea a safe region and a global corridor from which all countries of the world can benefit through coordination with the countries bordering it.
- Eritrea will seek to find an umbrella that brings together all the countries of the Red Sea basin, aiming to create a common ground between them and to coordinate their positions in a manner that preserves the security of the Red Sea.
- Signing the agreements that protect the right of every country to use the sea and benefit from it economically
- Signing the agreements that neutralize the Red Sea from polarizations and international conflicts, in order to preserve its security.
- Seeking to find joint economic projects to serve the Red Sea Basin and strengthen the relationship between its countries.

### **2. Eritrea, IGAD countries and the African Union**

The Eritrean people have long suffered from the neglect of the Organization of African Unity (which later became the African Union). Its clear negative positions regarding the right of the Eritrean people when they sided under the Ethiopian influence alongside the successive Ethiopian regimes. Thus, the successive regimes committed against our people the most heinous crimes. As a result of all of this, the Organization of African Unity was one of the reasons that led to the delay of Eritrea's independence for thirty years. However, the Eritrean people unforgettably, had bypassed all those negative attitudes and opened a new page with the African Union. Therefore Eritrea became a member of the African Union.

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks Eritrea to play its positive role in both IGAD and the African Union as follows:

- Eritrea will seek to correct Eritrea's relations with this surrounding on the basis of freedom, independence, sovereignty, shared and mutual interests.
- Eritrea will seek to promote joint action in all its forms and levels and support democratic trends in the region.
- There are a lot of historical and geographical ties that bind Eritrea to the countries of the region. So it is important that the Eritrean foreign policy be directed towards strengthening these relations and ties and playing a positive and constructive role in the region.
- Eritrea is part of the region whose countries are still suffering from backwardness and disintegration. For this, it will seek to work together with the rest of the region to get out of the state of disintegration and backwardness.
- Eritrea further will seek to spare the region the evils of both external and civil wars, and work to free the region from weapons of mass destruction

### **Thirdly: The relationship with the countries of the world and the international organizations**

The Eritrean Liberation Front seeks in its relations with the countries of the world the following:

- The pursuit of flexible realism in the foreign policy.
- Expanding Eritrea's diplomatic representation in the world, in a way that contributes to serving Eritrean interests in the first place.
- Moving away from the policy of axes and focus instead on the permanent search for the interests of the Eritrean people that are not inconsistent with the values and principles that they believe in.
- Working to activate the role of the international institutions such as the United Nations, UNESCO, World Food and others.
- Eritrea will have active participation in the international and the regional conferences dealing with world and regional issues in order to solve them.
- Eritrea will reject the politics of violence in foreign relations. It will also reject the principle of power in solving any outstanding problems
- Eritrea will seek to improve its image among the peoples of the world and to manifest that it is not only a peaceful country but it will contribute as well to the world peace.