

EPRDF PROGRAM

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the end of the military rule, Ethiopia was at the brink of total collapse and disintegration. The country was strangled by economic policies deleterious to development; the citizenry was captive of an undemocratic and brutal regime, and the state was rocked by harsh nationalist conflicts and interminable wars. Let alone its foes, Ethiopia's friends were convinced that its fate was sealed and collapse was imminent.
2. Following the downfall of the military regime, the policies of the Derg, being detrimental to the country's development were removed; policies based on the principles of free market economy were drawn up, and their implementation was initiated. Among the many states effecting a transition from a command to a free economic system, the timing and execution of Ethiopia's transition was managed to avoid hurdles that would further weaken the economy or aggravate the crisis. In fact, the transition was made in a manner that achieved unprecedented economic growth. In addition to the satisfactory growth achieved, the experience gained on how to secure fast growth was rich, and a firm foundation for further development was laid-down. Accordingly, significant headways were made in the sector of our economy.
3. The undemocratic regime of the Derg was overthrown and supplanted by a democratic one. Human and Democratic Rights were given constitutional recognition and their enforcement has already been commenced. The right to self-determination and equality among Ethiopia's nations, nationalities and peoples enshrined in the Constitution is also being enforced. Like what has happened in endeavors for extensive experience has been gained in the process of building a democratic order. Enabling conditions has been created to advance the struggle for the building of a democratic order. Here, too, we have achieved considerable gains.
4. Notwithstanding the advances made, the country faces many formidable challenges. In fact, agriculture is the mainstay of the economy and the source of livelihood for 85% of the population. It is also a sector which has been entangled for centuries with structural problems that were growing worse and worse from time-to-time. In several areas, soil depletion has worsened rendering the land uncultivable. Erratic rainfall and droughts have also become recurrent. Traditional methods of cultivation have exposed the population to hunger. The reduction in the size and yield of farmlands, the recurrence of drought and the crude state of farming technology mitigate the agrarian population's capacity to feed itself. Agriculture, therefore, remains in the grip of deep crisis. The country's level of industrial development was extremely low and incapable of manufacturing products that are, in quality or price, competitive in the international market. Infrastructure is also highly inadequate. In terms of trained human resource, organization, performance, orientation, and outlook, government institutions have been found wanting to

support the desired development effort. In consequence, the country has been relegated to charity and dependence. Unless these deep-rooted economic challenges are addressed timely, the ensuing economic crisis, as witnessed in some African countries, will open the way to political and social crisis as well as to general turmoil and disintegration. Fast development is, therefore, not merely an economic necessity but also a matter of national survival and, indeed, security.

5. When it comes to building a democratic order, challenges are prevalent. A backward and undemocratic culture, born out of age-old backward and undemocratic political systems, has constrained the peoples' capability to serve as a bulwark of democracy. Institutions and practices, essential for democratic governance, are still at their infancy. Civic associations are not yet vibrant either. Parochialism and chauvinism, attitudes that undermine unity and solidarity, are still widely prevalent in the society. As a result, Ethiopia's democratization is plagued with varied setbacks. Unless these challenges are fast addressed, it will prove impossible to mobilize the citizenry in the effort to speed up development. In that case, we will neither be able to deploy democracy as a critical weapon of development, nor avert an economic crisis that poses a threat that could lead to disintegration. Unless democratization is consolidated in the nation, the home to many nations and nationalities with parochialism and chauvinism successfully dealt with, our people will be vulnerable to the grave dangers of disintegration and destruction. Thus, democracy, in our context, is not only the preferred route to good governance but also a matter of national survival. The realizations of peace, development and survival are quite far-fetched without real progress in the democratization process.
6. The EPRDF owes its successes over the past decade in guiding the Ethiopian people under its leadership to two key instruments that define its nature: Its partisanship to the people and revolutionary democracy it advocates. Nevertheless, inarticulation in the organization over certain issues of economic and democratic development, the decline of democratic principles within the organization and the spread of corruption at various levels eroded the EPRDF's political partisanship and undermined its revolutionary democratic disposition. These flaws not only barred new achievements that surpass those of the past, but also dissipated past achievements.
7. Having thoroughly examined and understood this danger, our party, EPRDF, undertook _and continues to undertake_ a broad movement of rectification and renewal. A clear vision to guide the struggle for economic development and a democratic order is now in place and the foundation has been laid down to enable members and supporters of EPRDF gain a clear understanding of these issues. We have created conditions that are conducive to eliminate undemocratic outlooks and practices and to combat corruption effectively. This revised EPRDF program itself is a result and concrete expression of this multifaceted movement of rectification and renewal.

8. The EPRDF's Revolutionary Democratic Objectives will be fulfilled only if they are targeted on successful economic growth. Thus, the goal of our organization is the foundation and pillar of all our goals. Our endeavor for development must quickly overcome the structural problems and defects in agriculture. In the course of development, agriculture and industry must grow rapidly exploiting inter-dependence; and, over time, industry should take the leading role. However, ensuring rapid economic growth alone will not suffice. Development that leaves the bulk of the population as mere spectators of a well-endowed few would not rescue the country from engulfing crisis. Through rapid development and the resultant outcome, the people must be the real beneficiaries and the country must be self-sufficient to gain economic independence step-by-step. By supplying goods and services that are competitive, in price and quality, to an increasingly globalized market, we must achieve economic progress, stop food aid dependency, and foster economic independence. Realizing that we can accomplish these objectives only by building a robust market economy, we must strengthen the pursuit of economic development in accordance with the rules of the market economy, which has become a fundamental aspiration of the EPRDF. It needs to be underlined that the clarion call of the EPRDF is to work for rapid growth, ensure that the multitudes are the real beneficiaries of growth: and to foster economic self- sufficiency.
9. To achieve this goal, all forces of development must fully engage in the task at hand. We have to greatly accelerate the country's development, ensure that the people draw meaningful benefits from it, and rid the country of dependence on handouts and charity. For this reason, it is essential to enhance the peoples' productive capacity, and to contrive and implement a strategy that optimizes the developmental capacity of the people so that they can play a pivotal role in development. It is necessary to create conditions for voluntary and organized participation of all citizens in development. The fact that participatory democracy is a key instrument for development must be demonstrated in practice.
10. Our task of building a free market economy is unthinkable without the extensive engagement of the private sector in development. The present situation encourages not the private enterprises engaged in development but rather those seeking a short cut to gain wealth through rent-seeking, exploiting scarcities in the economy and peddling favors with public authority. In order to allow the private sector to play its irreplaceable role in development, we need to devise ways that encourage those who contribute to development and discourage those engaged on rent-seeking. To provide strong support for the private sector capital in development, we must do away with all bottlenecks that challenge its ventures into development. Likewise, there must be a concerted struggle to exclude rent-seeking. Through such steps, we should create a strong private sector capable of playing a constructive role in development. In tandem with this, and in addition to domestic private

enterprises also foreign investors must be offered the opportunity and full support to engage them in the struggle for development.

11. Government must encourage and support entrepreneurs with a role in development and the citizenry so that they can fully contribute to foster their effort for development. Favorable conditions must be created so that these agents of development are able to export the maximum available resources. Beyond this, there are indeed areas of development not attended to by these agents of development _ areas where neglect creates bottlenecks for overall growth and, which must be addressed in order of priority and with careful selection. Government has a twofold responsibility: to support and coordinate the efforts of the agents of development; and to engage to the extent possible, in areas where the private sector is unable to engage while at the same time address red tapes.
12. If our democratic order is to flourish, the peoples' constitutional rights must be fully respected. With the furtherance of popular understanding as well as democratic culture, ordinary people can freely exercise and protect their rights. Democratic arrangements and institutions, the pillars of democratic order, must be strengthened so that they can fully discharge the tasks assigned to them. The people must freely organize in ways of their own choice in order to secure active participation. We seek a thriving democratic order based on the free and organized participation of citizens, where the rights of the people are respected, where the people exercise their rights to advance their interest, where the democratic state and popular institutions thrive, and where popular democratic consciousness and culture develop based on transparency and accountability.
13. Democratic order is not limited to respecting human and democratic rights of the individual. On the basis of these rights and parallel to them, rights should extend to the right to self-determination and equality of nations and nationalities. The peoples of Ethiopia must become beneficiaries of these entitlements in full and an equal footing. In this regard, their capability to exercise these rights must be augmented and enhanced. In order to create a single, vibrant and coordinated economic community, all regions must have equal right and support to develop. A concerted struggle must be waged to create unity among Ethiopia's peoples based on mutual interest and fraternity. To overcome sentiments that are hostile to the democratic unity of our people requires a relentless struggle based on democratic principles.
14. To realize these objectives the EPRDF will mobilize the people to join its march forward. Our Front is fundamentally an organization of the peasantry which is the main force behind Revolutionary Democracy. Consequently, to rally the peasantry around our objectives is the first and foremost task of our struggle. The broad masses in urban areas, workers, intellectuals, low- income earners of our society are also our allies and supporters. We shall, therefore, try hard to mobilize the urban populace to march forward with us. Private entrepreneurs engaged in real development also play a special (vital) role in

our development endeavor. We shall struggle so that they do not succumb to parasitic mentality and instead become our partners in the development endeavors.

15. There might be forces that are dissatisfied with the aspirations and goals of Revolutionary Democracy. Parasitic elements who make no real contribution to development, and seek quick fortunes by peddling favors with authorities or opportunities offered by economic scarcities will be uncompromising opponents of the developmental direction charted by revolutionary democracy. Although these forces profess to stand for democracy, they are unable to practice their avowed slogans except as facade covering for their deeds. To carry out the objectives of revolutionary democracy embraced by the EPRDF, it is mandatory to fight against these forces. We must legally foil all their actions contravening the constitution and the country's laws; we must also make sure that their rights are respected, provided they pursue their programs peacefully and in compliance with the constitution and other laws of the land. Accordingly, the EPRDF is obliged to engage them in a political struggle through peaceful and legal means.
16. Nowadays, we can get a myriad of relationships among nations that keep growing stronger every day globally. Our country, too, must become an active participant in this system of relations. All Nations seek to advance their national interest. Likewise, Ethiopia aims at rapid economic development and the building of a democratic order-the alpha and omega of our national interest. It is also obvious that there are countries that would gain from Ethiopia's successful transition to a free market economy and to a democratic rule, which would in tandem promote the people's well being and the nation's economic independence. However, there would be dimensions in such change with adverse effects on others. Based on our national interest, we shall support those countries whose actions contribute to the realization of our objectives and shall closely cooperate with them. Actions obstructing our progress will meet stiff opposition and we shall devise ways of overcoming these impediments and their impacts from whichever direction they come.
17. To see the implementation of the aforementioned basic goals, the EPRDF has drawn up the following program, spelling out its economic, political, social and foreign policies. We call upon all the peoples of Ethiopia, who stand to benefit from this Democratic Revolutionary Program, to rally around these objectives and fight for their realization.

II. POLITICAL PROGRAM

1. EPRDF's Strategic Political Objectives

The EPRDF's strategic political objective is to put in place a stable multiparty democratic system whereby the human and democratic rights of citizens, upheld in the Constitution are fully respected and where democratic institutions and culture flourish through ensuring popular participation in the country's political and economic life. It strives to ensure a firm solidarity among Ethiopia's peoples forged through respect for the rights of peoples and on the bases of equality and equity.

2. Enforcing Respect for Rights and Strengthening Democratic Institutions and Culture

- 2.1. Ensuring respect for rights recognized in the Constitution among all citizens enjoying them to the full, while progressively strengthened.
- 2.2. Staunchly fighting for the full exercise of these rights by the broad masses in a Democratic System where rights of citizens are respected.
- 2.3. Ensuring that parties contesting legally and democratically for public office flourish that they organize citizens legally, and that they exercise their rights to free expression and political participation.
- 2.4. Ensuring the establishment and growth of a free and vibrant press which is in accordance with the law, disseminates news, analysis and other media products.
- 2.5. Ensuring the creation and entrenchment of a fully independent judiciary that is subject and loyal to the Constitution and rule of law, and which is administered by capable judges and legal professionals.
- 2.6. Enabling that the executive and the legislative capably discharge their constitutional responsibilities.
- 2.7. Enabling the full implementation of the constitutional provisions on independence as well as on checks and balances among the executive, the legislative and the judiciary.
- 2.8. Ensuring the development and vibrancy of professional, civic and other nongovernmental organizations essential for a dynamic democracy.
- 2.9. Ensuring the emergence of a public culture where differences are tolerated and where they receive democratic resolution, and where political competition and debate prevail struggle.
- 2.10. Remaining vigilant towards and put under control violations or infringements of rights, or illegal acts seeking to alter and overthrow the democratic order.

3. To Build a Democratic Order Deep-rooted in Free, Active Popular Participation

3.1. To ensure that special attention is given to active, free and democratic participation of the pastoralists and the urban public through effective exercising of their rights in the democratic order, upholding the human and democratic rights of all.

3.2. To ensure that citizens are freely organized in trade and civic associations and also to ensure that these associations are democratic, and to enable citizens to advance their entitlements and interests.

3.3. To ensure that conditions are created whereby citizens directly and through their civic associations can freely and fully participate in the government's programs of economic and social development.

3.4. To ensure that organs of government_ particularly, districts (woreda) and neighborhood associations (kebele)__ that allow wide and popular participation are granted broader, legally conferred authority, which provides room for active participation through trade, civic, self-help and community associations.

3.5. To put in place arrangements whereby elected representatives at all levels are accountable to the electorate, and, in case of dissatisfaction on the part of the latter, it can exercise the right of recall and elect new representatives.

3.6. To ensure that organs of government, at all levels, discharge their responsibilities with transparency and accountability; to ensure active popular participation so that citizens can be the guarantor and beneficiary of governmental transparency and accountability.

3.7. To ensure that the people can make effective use of their rights through universal elementary education that creates democratic consciousness and a sense of loyalty to the Constitution.

3.8. To ensure that policies and plans proposed by the EPRDF are subject to popular deliberation, criticism, commentary and recommendations in ways that enhance a democratic public culture.

3.9. To ensure that the bureaucracy at all levels has a sense of public duty, and the human, organizational and professional capability to fully understand, and implement policies of the government effectively.

3.10. To enable government bureaucracy at all levels to be recruited and promoted on the basis of its merits alone; clearly demarcating political appointment and the bureaucracy; in this regard, working for gradual proportional representation of national within the bureaucracy of the Federal Government.

4. Struggling for the Creation of a Firm Democratic Unity Based on Respect for the Equality and Rights of All Peoples' and a Sense of Solidarity and Fraternity Among Themselves

4.1. To ensure that the constitutionally guaranteed right to self-determination of the nations, nationalities and peoples including the right to secession is not eroded.

4.2. To ensure, through concerted effort, a strong solidarity among the Ethiopian people through free consent and fraternity in a condition where their constitutional rights are fully respected.

4.3. To ensure respect for the peoples' rights to local self-government, and their right to use their own language and ensure capacity-building so that they can effectively exercise all their rights, and inequities in their executive capacity are addressed to close the gap effectively.

4.4. To ensure that all people enjoy equal representation in public institutions, with power to make collective decisions, and in elected bodies of government; to ensure that their representatives in such bodies have the capacity of effective participation.

4.5. To ensure public knowledge of the histories of the peoples, and the preservation and enrichment of their cultures.

4.6. To ensure that the people have an equal right to develop the territories they inhabit and to ensure that disadvantaged regions receive special support to develop their implementation capacity, and their capacity to establish the infrastructure necessary for development; and to ensure that the effort at balanced development is guided by the goal of creating a single, integrated economic community.

4.7. To ensure the strengthening of Ethiopian unity based on equality, mutual respect and fraternity through unwavering commitment.

4.8. To ensure that fight against parochialism and chauvinism, detrimental to the democratic unity of the peoples of Ethiopia, continue unabated, and their influence on citizens overcome.

4.9. To ensure that the cultural and historical heritage of all our peoples, a shared legacy, is protected, preserved, recognized and developed.

4.10. To ensure mutual interaction, knowledge and cooperation with respect to collective interests, rights and causes are strengthened and enhanced.

5. Creating a Capable National Defense and Law Enforcement Bodies

5.1. To ensure the building of a strong, popular defense force that is fully knowledgeable of and loyal to the Constitution, that stands for popular sovereignty, and that protects the country against external aggression.

5.2. To ensure that the defense force, has the required efficiency and size, with all the necessary structures to carry out its mission commensurate with the country's economic resources while it grows more efficiently and progressively.

5.3. To ensure that arrangements are in place to enable popular participation in defense, and to encourage continual enhancement and improvement of popular participation.

5.4. To ensure that the armed forces are firmly united based on knowledge of and allegiance to the Constitution, its ideals as well as its own mission; to ensure that its members are rewarded on the basis of merit and contribution and also to ensure that the defense force is modern and capable; to ensure that the composition of the armed forces is a balanced reflection of the country's national and ethnic composition.

5.5. With their rights of citizenship respected, members of the armed force are excluded from membership in any political party and to ensure that they are only accountable to a duly elected government, and remain free of the control or influence of any other political organization.

5.6. To ensure the establishment and strengthening of a capable police force that is knowledgeable about and loyal to the Constitution and the law of the land.

5.7. To ensure that the police, at all levels, respect and guarantee respect for the rights of citizens and to ensure that they (the police) have the capacity and determination to apprehend criminals and the lawless, and to bring them before the court of law.

5.8. To ensure arrangements are in place and allow citizens to participate in the struggle against crime and to ensure the progressive strengthening and improvement of such arrangements.

5.9. With their rights of citizenship respected, to ensure that, the police are excluded from membership in political organizations and to ensure mutual support and cooperation among different police forces.

III. ECONOMIC PROGRAM

1. EPRDF's Strategic Economic Objective

The EPRDF'S strategic economic objective is to build a robust free market economy whereby: rapid economic growth is assured, where the people are genuine beneficiaries of growth and development and where the share and

position of the country in the global economy is improved to ensure the country's economic independence.

2. Rural- and Agriculture-Centered Development Strategy

2.1. To ensure that development is centered on the agricultural sector in recognition of the pivotal role of human capital in rapid and sustainable development, as most of the population is rural, and in further recognition of the fact that it is in agriculture that limited investment yields great returns in development.

2.2. To ensure rapid development through land-use policy whereby farmers have sufficient farming land and that this resource would be put to optimal use with a view of protecting and preserving the environment.

2.3. To ensure that labour, the decisive developmental resource, is rendered more productive through education and training, health care, and the provision of improved technology.

2.4. To ensuring the creation of organizations and associations that encourages broad, active popular participation in development; and to ensure the independence of these organizations and associations so that they can serve as arena for active, free and democratic participation.

2.5. To ensure that our efforts for agricultural development improve the productivity of land and labour.

2.6. To ensure the building of infrastructure supporting agricultural development: education and training, health services, irrigation schemes and the like. To ensure also organizational forms that enable greater coordination of agricultural development programs. To strengthen executive bodies of government, particularly at the district (Woreda) and local (Kebele) levels.

2.7. To ensure that agricultural development is governed by the market_ particularly, the global market_ and is attuned to its mechanisms and to ensure the growth and enhancement of cooperatives as a means of improving the rural market. To ensure that farmers produce commodities that are in demand and competitive in quality and price by gaining access to new technologies; and to ensure the participation of the private sector in the agricultural market.

2.8. To ensure that agricultural development releases agriculture itself from confinement to the cultivation of a few crops and to a limited range of activities. To ensure that it extends its scope to: animal husbandry, environmental protection and agro-forestry cultivation of crops, fruits and other plant, spices and products needed for industrial production. To ensure that different regions select from these activities a set that promises optimal yield in their specific overall condition and

environment. To ensure also that some areas diversify while others specialize, and that there is mutual support between specialization and diversification.

2.9. To ensure that there is coordination and mutual support between agriculture and other sectors of the economy. To ensure that the agricultural sector contributes labor, capital accumulation and markets to the other sectors so that gradually industry, commerce and service will become the leading sectors of the economy. To ensure that agrarian finance grows stronger and better organized in order to support the envisioned direction of development.

2.10. To ensure the country's food security through improved land use and proper selection of agricultural work with optimal yield in a given area, and through efficient use of rainfall and dry land water. To ensure food security by improving trade among rural and urban communities. To ensure better food security through voluntary resettlement and free movement of labour. To ensure food security by launching income-generating activities based on agriculture. To ensure that such schemes are fully realized in practice through coordination, and attention to local peculiarities.

2.11. To ensure animal husbandry flourishes among pastoralists through improvement in the number and quality of animals, and growth in the market for animals and animal products. To ensure that pastoralists in selected areas are provided an opportunity to lead sedentary life. Also to ensure that pastoralist development is planned and is progressively improved through cooperation with pastoralist communities and community leaders.

2.12. To ensure that land tenure is in strict compliance with constitutional provisions.

2.13. To ensure that the right of pastoralists to use land is secured and to institute measures to improve effective exercise of this right. To ensure that modern farms that can widely utilize pastoralist labour can lease rural land for extended periods of time. To ensure that such practices do not displace rural labor or create rural unemployment.

2.14. To ensure that investors who seek to develop modern farms are granted long-term leases and other incentives for investment. To ensure that these areas are well-built in infrastructure which is crucial for development. To ensure also that labour employed in modern farms is provided with adequate work. To ensure that investors in rural development are provided with training and services appropriately.

2.15. To ensure that agricultural development is supported by sustained research which is an integral part of agrarian development both by enhancement of domestic research and by transfer of foreign technology research and knowledge

ascertained to be adaptable and appropriate to our conditions. To ensure growth, both in quality and magnitude, of agricultural research.

2.16. To ensure rapid and high productivity of agricultural technology and to effect a transition from subsistence to commercial agriculture through the provision of training that capitalizes on the expansion of rural primary education. To ensure also that this trend receives coordinated support from education and training, research and technology, market and financial services. To ensure in the middle and long term that agricultural development is guided by the same strategy.

3. Optimal and Coordinated Use of Development Actors

3.1. To ensure that the rural as well as the urban population fully participate in development through better health care, education and training and other inputs to human productivity. To ensure, also, that strategies in industrial development focus on areas that are labour-intensive and that promote the productivity of labour.

3.2. To ensure that government focuses on providing support to popular initiatives for development, as popular participation is indispensable to rapid, sustainable growth.

3.3. To ensure that investors engaged in the production of goods and services that contribute to economic growth are supported, since the private sector plays a unique role in the building of a free market economy. To ensure that domestic private enterprises receive special support and encouragement.

3.4. To ensure that the private sector engaged in development receives full and coordinated support so that it can produce goods and services that are competitive. Ensuring that it has access to efficient infrastructure at competitive, reasonable cost; adequate financial services, information services, expertise and training. To ensure that government contrive means of working in cooperation and partnership with the private sector.

3.5. To encourage local entrepreneurs operate without any restriction to capital in all areas, save those reserved for government. To ensure that foreign entrepreneurs are encouraged freely in all areas, save those reserved for government and local entrepreneurs.

3.6. To ensure, alongside support for private enterprise engaged in development, that those in the neither private sector nor engaged in real development, seeking quick enrichment through corruption, illicit trade, rent-seeking and the like are fully checked and discouraged.

3.7. To ensure comprehensive support for the private sector engaged in development, government shall create a stable macroeconomic environment

conducive to economic progress and capacity building and all round support for development inertia.

3.8. To ensure that government is widely engaged in the creation and expansion of the infrastructure for rapid development. To ensure, in this regard, that road construction is carried out in full cooperation between government and the people. To ensure that national and foreign private enterprise fully participate in the production of electric power and to ensure also that private enterprise work in partnership with government in the expansion of telecommunications.

3.9. To ensure, in addition, that government invests in sphere where there are bottlenecks to development, and areas where the private sector is unable to engage itself at a desirable scale and quality, and to ensure, likewise, that government breaks away from areas free from such setbacks.

3.10. To ensure that defense industries are under government and that in this area there are cooperative efforts to facilitate technological transfer and managerial improvement.

3.11. To ensure expansion of the financial sector by guaranteeing access to national and foreign private enterprises and improvements in the quality and competitiveness of the financial sector as well as creating favorable conditions for the management of financial institutions by foreign nationals or firms in order to alleviate managerial deficiencies of government or local private enterprises in finance, also to ensure greater efficiency in the financial sector by facilitating greater competition.

3.12. To ensure that the bureaucracy lives up to its goal of providing public service, and of supporting citizens and entrepreneurs engaged in development. To ensure the avoidance of bureaucratic bottlenecks to development. To ensure, likewise, that institutions of government secure trained manpower, better organizational capability and systems of work so that they can serve as instruments of development. To ensure that these measures undergo sustained improvement.

3.13. To ensure that government pay special attention to capacity building so that it can coordinate and enhance the capacity of other agents of development as well as to guarantee its own effective agency in development.

4. To Enable Balanced Development in All Areas and to Enhance the Country's Economic Freedom

4.1. To ensure that development in various regions is guided by the twin aims of speeding up the country's overall economic growth, and creating a fully integrated, single economic community. To ensure widespread and free movement of capital and goods across the country.

4.2. To ensure equality of rights and opportunities among regions so that they can achieve the optimal growth possible. To ensure balanced growth in the executive capacity of regions, key to overall balanced growth. To ensure that special capacity-building support is extended to regions disadvantaged in implementation capacity.

4.3. To ensure that all regions have access to a fair share of infrastructure compatible with the requirement as the construction of developmental infrastructure promotes rapid overall growth, speeds up economic integration and is cost-effective.

4.4. To ensure that subsidies to regional budgets are made on the basis of the transparent formula of appropriation; to ensure that the formula are reviewed for improvement. To ensure that regions that are disadvantaged in development receive additional support to that effect.

4.5. To ensure maximum popular participation in development, since the people are the decisive resource in the quest for balanced development. To ensure that the private sector is encouraged to participate fully in all areas of development. To ensure that a policy of incentives for private enterprise is in place in regions extremely disadvantaged in development.

4.6. To ensure our county's share and standing in the global economy, since overcoming dependency on both relief and aid hinges on the country's ability to be a real player in the powerful and growing relations of globalization. To ensure that we have the capacity to produce goods and services that are, in quality and price, competitive in the global market.

4.7. To ensure that our developmental resources can rescue us from relief and economic dependency providing that they are deployed to maximize and sustain growth. To ensure, in this regard, that all options and opportunities are fully explored.

4.8. To ensure that the purchasing capacity of the people is enhanced in order to create an interdependent and integrated domestic market, essential to the achievement of rapid development and economic independence. To ensure that the interdependence of rapid economic growth and a large domestic market is recognized and exploited.

4.9. To ensure close economic cooperation and integration with countries in the region and across Africa that would help the effort to overcome economic dependence and to gain economic autonomy.

4.10. To ensure peaceful international relations and cooperative ties that offer opportunities for avoiding dependence and attaining economic independence. To ensure that challenges that obstruct such ties are removed or alleviated. To ensure that tools are found for securing rapid growth and economic autonomy in pace

with changes in international relations. To ensure if progressive improvements in these methods and instruments are obtained.

5. To Draw up and Realize an Urban Development Strategy That Speeds up Development

5.1. To ensure the establishment of cities and towns that support rural development and serve as hubs for commercial and industrial development closely linked to agriculture. To ensure that urbanization and urban development is planned in coordination with agricultural and industrial development.

5.2. To ensure that the infrastructure services of cities are tailored according to their role in the economic development of their environs; ensuring that the function of urban centers and their infrastructure are clearly determined and implemented according to plan.

5.3. To ensure that the provision of urban land and infrastructure accords priority to commercial and production plants to be established in the area. To ensure that land is reserved for these purposes in keeping with the rate of urban growth.

5.4. To ensure that problems surfacing during the implementation of urban land-lease policy are speedily resolved. To make sure that the grant of leases encourages development and is both transparent and efficient; to ensure that these steps are progressively improved.

5.5. To ensure popular participation in the political administration, security and development of urban centers; to ensure that urban planning and implementation is based on peoples' participation.

5.6. To ensure capacity- building in municipal services, urban growth, and the drawing up and execution of master plans; to ensure that the role of experts in such activities is enhanced and to ensure advancement of the capacity of urban administration.

5.7. To ensure that urban centers develop their capacity to raise funds and collect the revenue necessary for urban administration and development. To ensure that municipalities develop the capacity to raise funds at least covering running costs.

6. To Assure Rapid Industrial Development.

6.1. To ensure that expansion of industry is based on agricultural growth and coordinated with the agricultural sector.

6.2. To ensure that new industries are, as far as possible, labor-intensive.

6.3. To ensure that industrial growth focuses on the production of exportable commodities that are, in quality and price, competitive in international markets.

6.4. To ensure that adequate support is given to encourage private enterprise to play the key role they have in industrial development; to ensure that public development enterprises are privatized, and that those that remain in the public sector extend full support to industrial development undertaken by the private sector.

6.5. To create favorable conditions for foreign enterprise to boost industrial growth. To ensure the existence of close coordination and cooperation between local and international industrialists.

6.6. To ensure consolidation of local industrialists by encouraging their effort to organize; to ensure close coordination and cooperation between government and industrialists based on the shared interest in rapid industrial growth.

6.7. To ensure support for the spread and growth of small private development enterprises that can strengthen industry and furnish it with a broad base. To ensure that trained youths are encouraged to engage themselves in these enterprises.

IV. SOCIAL PROGRAM

1. The Strategic Social Objective of EPRDF

The strategic social objective of EPRDF in integration with our economic development is to realize rapid social development out of which the people will favor utmost gains. To effect this social objective, it will implement the following social program.

2. Establish a High Standard, Expanded Educational and Training System That Is Integrated with Our Production and Development Activities

2.1. Provide primary schooling for all. Design the education in such a way that it produces duty-bound productive citizens well aware of their rights with entrenched democratic attitudes.

2.2. Expand secondary school education in parallel with economic development. Design the education in such a way that it generates productive, duty-bound citizens well aware of their rights and duties promoting democratic attitudes.

2.3. To enable citizens who have had primary and secondary education actively engage in the on-going development activities, specially, in our efforts to rapidly bring our farming technology to highly improved state and to make cardinal participation in strengthening the capacity of the public, government and investors to expedite our industrial development. Design a broad vocational training system oriented approach towards our development strategy that qualifies citizens to extensively participate in the aforementioned activity and equip them with new ideas and career that make them productive and creative as well. Encourage investors put paramount contribution into this system. Make this vocational

training system evolve and improve constantly instep with our economic development.

2.4. Expand higher education in coordination with our economic development. The educational system has to produce researchers, citizens highly aware of their rights and duties, with deep democratic understanding as professionals.

2.5. Enable the higher institutions to be extensively engaged in research works essential for the economic, social and political development of our country. Design the education in such a way that it is of high standard and functions together with our development efficiently. Effect a cost sharing system with supports higher learning financially without giving rise to school drop outs in consequence of financial difficulties.

2.6. Expand, as much as possible, informal and specialized education and increase nursery schools through the involvement of the public and investors.

2.7. To directly involve the public in the administration of schools and make the public contribute in educational finances, particularly in school building activities. Exploit all available opportunities that enable schools to engage themselves in income generating schemes during the course of the teaching-learning activities so that they may cover certain expenses.

2.8. Encourage investors and non-governmental organization to participate in educational services at all levels and disciplines within the range of the curriculum set by the government.

2.9. Give extensive training that helps to upgrade teacher's professional ethics and capacity and see that there is capable of administrative systems put in place. Create favorable conditions to improve the lives of teachers and safeguard their rights. To ensure that teachers and students have extensive democratic participation in school administration.

3. Build Prevention Oriented Health Service System

3.1. Make our health service tasks mainly focus on disease prevention. Coordinate this activity with our city and rural development endeavors. Professionals have to be trained for this purpose and the prevention system must be well organized and expeditious. This system must be developed and improved unceasingly.

3.2. Taking into consideration the impact of AIDS pandemic on social and economic development of our country and the challenge against the very existence of our people, continuous and constant participatory anti-AIDS campaign have to be launched, with presentations at the core activities.

3.3. To make the health service focus on basic health services and benefit the public in general and specifically the rural population, who so far had been denied of this service.

3.4. The government shall, as much as possible, build hospitals of varied status. Make these health institutions have a system that enables them hire and maintain highly qualified professionals. Improve and upgrade this system consistently.

3.5. Encourage investors and non-governmental organizations to extensively participate in rendering health services.

3.6. To extensively involve the public in building health service institutions especially in the basic health service facilities. To have the public share health care expenses. Expanding health insurance system in line with our economic development.

4. Standing Unflinchingly for the Right of the Workers and Equality of Women, and Giving Attention for the Youth

4.1. Struggling for improvement of wages and working environment in an integrated manner with the economy achieved by enforcing constitutional rights of workers to organize, negotiate and call strike ensuring organizational independence and democratic operation of trade unions, supporting workers to improve productivity through sustained training.

4.2. Putting in place a system that guarantees pension and social welfare. Enabling the system to gradually cater for the private sector.

4.3. Exerting efforts for sustainable industrial peace, pivotal for development; encouraging and coordinating integrated endeavors by government employers and employees for sustained improvement in productivity of workers. Improving wages and working conditions based on these undertakings.

4.4. Encouraging workers to have a conscious, free and democratic involvement in nation building and political activities. Adhering to a direction that will allow organized undertaking to this end.

4.5. Struggling for participation on equal footing of women in political, economical and social affairs while favoring equal benefits of economic growth.

4.6. Encouraging the formation of Women's Association and consolidating them to foster the struggle for equality of women, working for heightened independence and democratic operation of the association. Encouraging women to boost their democratic participation in their associations and raising their educational participation to the level of men.

4.7. Ensuring their right for maternity leave and respecting their right for pension and promotion on equal footing with men.

4.8. Ensuring women's right to property ownership, management use and transfer; ensuring the right of rural women to get access to land in order to use it.

4.9. Enabling the younger generation acquire innovative ideas; professional competence, good ethical background in order for it to engage with vigor in development and the building of a democratic order; encouraging the youth to be organized independently paving the way for its engagement in the political, economic and social arena and reap the benefits at all levels.

IV. FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROGRAM

1. The EPRDF Strategic Foreign Affair Policy Objectives

The EPRDF's strategic objective in foreign affairs policy is to create global and regional contexts fostering to our chief national interest of building a democratic order and establishing a thriving market economy. Our aim is to create a lasting peace essential to the attainment of those aspirations, which are the central expressions of our national interest and sovereignty. To realize our strategic goal in foreign affairs policy, we shall carry out the following program.

2. A Foreign Policy That Safeguards the Rights and Interests of Citizens

2.1. To ensure that our foreign affairs policy is guided by and is in the service of programs guaranteeing rapid development that benefits the people and promotes our economic independence, in which, in turn, the pillar and foundation of our national interest based on democratic principles.

2.2. To ensure friendly and cooperative relations with all countries that is of mutual advantage. To ensure support for all activities that are mutually advantageous, to oppose and do away with activities contrary to the national interest.

2.3. Creating strong political, economic and social cooperative relations so as to strengthen unity and fraternity among people.

2.4. To ensure, through firm commitment the peace and stability of the region as regional peace is of great importance for the flourishing of our democratic order and for our rapid development. Our contribution to regional peace is potentially of considerable significance. To ensure that the principles of the equality of peoples, the cooperative advancement of shared interests and noninterference in internal affairs is observed. To ensure the use of political, diplomatic and economic means to check disruptions of regional peace. To ensure that these measures are used in cooperation with peaceable forces. To ensure the arrest of any acts of subversion directed at the nation.

2.4. To ensure firm support for African Unity and African Cooperation. To ensure also that Ethiopia plays a constructive role in the expansion of African flora.

2.5. To support international efforts for peace, justice and development.

3. Capacity-Building in Implementation of the Program in Foreign Affairs Policy

3.1. To ensure that government has the institutional and organizational capacity to execute foreign policy and guarantee respect for the national interest and national sovereignty. To check the effectiveness of capacity-building program is being progressively improved and sustained.

3.2. To ensure the creation and strengthening of centers of foreign policy research and study so that they can carry out sustained research and investigation on foreign affairs and national security. To make sure that the findings of such centers have positive influence.

3.3. To ensure that institutions responsible for the execution of foreign policy have the prerequisite consciousness, commitment and expertise to implement the program on foreign policy. To have a foreign program executives who have effective and efficient qualities, strong attitudes and beliefs, and are professionals.

4. To Encourage Broad Popular Participation in the Execution of Foreign Policy

4.1. To create public awareness and participation concerning the fundamental direction of foreign policy by providing up-dated information consistently.

4.2. To ensure encouragement of forums on friendship where experts and the public can deliberate and debate on topical issues of foreign policy. To ensure adequate public knowledge and deliberation about the meaning and purpose of international agreements and relations signed by the government.

4.3. To ensure that the rights and interests of Ethiopians residing in other countries are respected in accordance with international law. To ensure encouragement of their participation in Ethiopian political and economic life as well as in foreign policy implementation.

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