



Members and Supporters of Oromo Peoples Democratic Organization In North America



April 10, 2008.

OROMOS' DREAM BECOME TRUE

Statement from members & supporters of Oromo Peoples Democratic Organization (OPDO) in North America.

We, the members and supporters of the Oromo Peoples Democratic Organization (OPDO), congratulate the Democratic Organization and the people of Oromia for commemorating its eighteenth anniversary in a colorful celebration. On this occasion, we would like to reiterate the Organizations' past episode to illustrate the troublesome journey it had traveled from inception to present to bring about the democratic and prosperous State of Oromia.

The Organization was born about eighteen years ago in the ragged mountains with the initiation of young visionary Oromos who were then engaged in a bitter and incessant war with the fascistic military regime to bring freedom and equality of all nations and nationalities.

In 1991, the Organization along with its partners in war & peace succeeded in toppling the fascistic military regime after crushing one of the most powerful military machine in Africa thereby ushering a new era for all nations, nationalities and peoples in Ethiopia for the first time in the long history of the country. By establishing the State of Oromia and democratic political order, OPDO has succeeded in making the dreams of the Oromo people a reality. After waging tireless military and political struggle with national chauvinists and vulgar nationalists, the Oromo people along with others were able to create a genuine Federal Republic of sovereign nations guaranteeing peace, freedom, equality, democracy and sustainable economic development. This was only made possible with the commitment and valor of all the young people who took arms against the fascist power, shed their blood and offered their dear life for the noble cause, pride and freedom of their people. It can be deducted that the fate of Oromo People is inseparably intertwined with its Organization. To justify this assertion, we would like to cite some of political, economic and cultural developmental achievements attributable to the effective leadership of the Oromo peoples Democratic Organization along with its partners.

Politically, Oromia is exercising a multi-party system where all political organizations, legally registered freely, contend for seats in the Caafee (Regional Parliament) and in the local Assemblies. Among the 540 seats in the Caafee, the oppositions filled 150 seats. The Caafee is the highest political body in Oromia where Oromo deputies freely exercise the rights of the Oromo nation to self-determination.

Economically, Oromia is one of the leading Regional States in Ethiopia, registering sustainable annual growth of 13.5% in 2006 and 2007. Oromia has become a home of hundreds of heavy and light industries attributable to its strategic location, natural resources and relatively developed infrastructure. The State of Oromia has made a magnificent stride in changing arid zones become a hospitable environment for the affected rural populations through effective irrigation by utilizing underground rivers that have been never tapped before.

Socially, Oromia is in the process of making a cultural renaissance of which Afaan Oromo, the official language of the State of Oromia, has been flourishing as never spoken before. All government institutions including, schools, the court system and the Caafee use Afaan Oromo as a medium of communication. The one major

reason why the Oromo children are succeeding in schools and colleges is because they learn in their own vernacular. This year alone the Oromo freshmen students who enrolled in universities and colleges constitute over 50% (27,000 out of 50,000) of the total enrollment. The use of Qubee Afaan Oromo in the school system has a profound effect on this measurable success.

Social development index suggests that the economic and political developments taking place in Oromia has touched the lives of millions of Oromos resulting a better living standard than any time before. One of the major indices of social improvement is the ability of millions of Oromo families to send their children to schools, which was unthinkable 30 years ago. It is impossible to detail every impeccable achievement accomplished in this press statement. We encourage every Oromo in individual to have an opportunity to visit Oromia and witness for him/herself the drastic changes taking place in the country.

Having noticed the al-round success registered, we, members and supporters of the Oromo Peoples Democratic Organization, have dully pledged to stand behind the Organization and contribute our part to the furtherance of our shared national interest. .

Members & Supporters
North America