



ERTEREYA KUNAMA KOIBISA DEMOKRASIYA SUNADA (ERKUKODISU)  
ዲሞክራሲያዊ ምንቅስቃሴ ካርነት ኩናማ ኤርትራ (ዲሞክሲክ)  
الحركة الديمقراطية لتحرير كوناما اريتريا  
DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE ERITREAN KUNAMA (DMLEK)

## **Statement of the 5<sup>th</sup> Congress and 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Democratic Movement for the Liberation of the Eritrean Kunama (DMLEK)**

The struggle for the liberation of Eritrean kunama has reached to its epic. The kunama people from all corners of the world are celebrating the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of DMLEK. The sacrifice paid during the past 22 years was bitter and the motto of the sacrifice was nothing but to guarantee the continuity of the legitimate struggle. By now no Kunama individual is left unaware of the atrocities, persecutions, and murder of the Eritrean regime at post.

Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Eritrean Kunama (DMLEK) has conducted its 5<sup>th</sup> Congress successfully and passed resolutions pertinent to the struggle to liberate the Eritreans at large and the Kunama people in its limited scope. The political and deliberations of the movement resolved at the 5th organizational congress of DMLEK are the very indicatives of the being intensified on daily base.

As a political entity, DMLEK was founded in 1, April, 1995, for which we all Kunama celebrate as the birthday of DMLEK. On its side, the entire movements of the organization helped its people to organize a civic organization, the Eritrean Kunama Relief

Association (EKRA) and then, three social associations of Youth, Women, and veterans of Eritrean Kunama. Even though, these associations are crucial for our struggle, the demand for more political forums is on demand to lure those Kunama who are not included in the legitimate struggle of their Kunama. Let their difference be political, social, and administrative, they are most welcome to join if they have the will to sacrifice and liberate their KUNAMA. Now, we are at the spot where we need our cohesiveness as a yard stick to guarantee the continuity of the Kunama in Eritrean soil. Our contemporary slogan is "Our Unity, Our legitimate struggle, and our sole mode of organizing pattern (nationality-based) are bed rocks to our survival and continuity." Therefore, DMLEK with its associates has confirmed its readiness to salvage and harness the unstipulated unity of the Kunama unity. The congress has also evaluated that if the resolved deliberations of the congress are liable to be accomplished on the designed time, if devoted to promote and upgrade the political, social, economic and diplomatic awareness and capacity of our Kunama people to the needed level, the dignity and survival quest of our people shall be realized.

Even though, the Kunama and its leading organization, DMLEK, do not have the ambition to lead others, by now, they, the Kunama, regardless of their being minority have something valuable input in all national issues. Therefore, it's not imperative and unwise to marginalize the Kunama as usual. By now, DMLEK and its members have developed the skill of how, what and when to negotiate to resolve a certain political or social conflict. This skill and culture will enable the leadership to deal with sister organizations to cohere and topple the regime in Eritrea. While celebrating the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of DMLEK, we are with the hope to realize the relief of our people. However, we should also anticipate the how and vastness of the forth coming challenge. Even if the struggle

will demand much more years, DMLEK and its members should realize what and how much part they should play in resolving crucial conflicts in the opposition field to unseat the regime. The greater our cohesiveness, the lesser the time to topple the regime. Finally, the congress and participants of the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary celebration is indebted and grateful to the leaders of the Eritrean oppositions, the local administrative leaders and esteemed guests in participating in this special event. The congress is also thankful for the people of Ethiopia and their vanguard organization, EPRDF, for their invaluable support for our legitimate struggle to forge everlasting regional partnership of our beloved people.

***"Our Unity, Our legitimate struggle, and our sole mode of organizing pattern (nationality-based) are bed rocks to our survival and continuity!!"***

***"We will strive to bring our legitimate struggle to its final page!!"***

***"The Principles of DMLEK shall flourish for Ever!!"***

**April 1, 2017.**