

OUR MISSION

The *DEQEBAT-ERITRA* is a website devoted to analyzing and exposing the negative impact of the Eritrean dictatorship on the lives of our people and our nation. We selected the name *Deqebat* for our website in order to enhance our non-sectarian and inclusive philosophy; the term '*deqebat*', in Tigrinya, connotes Adi-derived citizenship in contrast to acquired citizenship; both are legitimate in Eritrea. What is illegitimate and politically unacceptable is a hostile takeover of the Adi citizenship by the new citizenship. Understood in this manner our name is intended to serve as a torchlight to the struggle of the Eritrean people for national and democratic rights.

We stress that the *Deqebat* website is totally dedicated to serving the Eritrean people: It is from this perspective that we invite everybody to contribute their views in the form of articles, essays, poems and cartoons. Despite the fact that we do not censor contributions, authors of articles and essays are urged to exercise discretion and good judgement; refraining from making false accusations, and abstaining from the usage of foul language, is bound to encourage a continuous and healthy discourse among the participants of the great Eritrean national debate. Moreover, it should be understood by all that the *Deqebat* website is a goal-oriented and nation-focused institution. With this in mind the editorial board of the *Deqebat* pays special emphasis to the following themes: 1) strengthening Eritrean nationalism via humanism, and 2) fostering, promoting, and defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country.

Eritreans withstood incomparable social and political upheavals in the last fifty years. Not many peoples of the world can claim to have survived centuries of colonial resistance and barbaric home rule that has been the lot of the Eritrean people to bear. It is indeed the moral fibre and resilience of our people that sustains the *Deqebat* website!

Despite the financial constraints and political hurdles that the *Deqebat* had to surmount during the past seven years, we strove, unfailingly, to inform, analyse, and teach Eritreans in all walks of life. Despite all manner of obstacles that are strewn across our path, we continue to struggle for the establishment of a democratic and constitutional Eritrea. For us, the demise of the dictatorial ruling party (the PFDJ) - the source of all the ills of our nation - is a primary objective!

The *Deqebat* shall not only accept contributions from the public at large, but shall without fail present its own editorials, essays, and articles, in the noble pursuit of retrieving Eritrean national and democratic rights. Yes, we are ardent believers in human rights; especially, the right of the individual to formulate, and express his views on all matters, without fear of persecution! Yes, we also believe that a free exchange of ideas strengthens Eritrean national identity! Furthermore, the *Deqebat* website is dedicated to the enhancement of national unity and identity: It is this goal that has shaped the distinct editorial voice of the *Deqebat*. Let us raise the old battle cry of the *Deqebat* together: "We seek the truth! Truth is our strength!" After all, no nation can be built upon falsehood and propaganda.

Glory to the martyrs!