

## **The sole objective of ERDA**

As a development association, ERDA has a very noble objective to help the people of Enderta in their effort to tackle poverty. Nevertheless, the last few years were challenging to establish itself as a developmental association and to be in the front line to fight illiteracy and beyond. Some argued against the existence of ERDA for different reasons. They thought, there may be a sort of overlap with the work of other associations. Their concerns were addressed and discussed in different meetings.

Consequently, there is a broad consensus among Deqi Enderta about the importance of the association and its role in development activities. However, as our chairman Mr. Kassa Tadesse told the audience in the Second Anniversary of ERDA in Denver, the road ahead may not be smooth. Thanks to determination of some Dequi Enderta, ERDA founds itself in a very strong position more than any time else and we promise again to work hard in front of obstacles. We also expect continued opposition from some folks who do not want us to support our area for some reason.

To fulfill its objective ERDA's board selected a project, a school to be build in the near future. This project is in Zerorha, which is a 12 KM away from Mekele. Unlike its proximity to Tigray's capital city, Zerorha elementary school is in a bad shape. The classes are held in tent or to be exact under a tree. These school kids do not have basic staff to continue their education; there are no chairs, no class rooms and books. These kids have a knee interest to go school under any condition. It is because of the lacks of basic needs, ERDA chose this school to build class rooms.

We contacted Tigray Bureau of education to start our project and they are happy and ready to help us to accomplish our duty. Some of board members of ERDA are currently on the ground, forming committees from the public and prominent individuals. Feasibility study will be conducted with help of professionals and as soon as we get the study we will post the project profile in our web site.

In a nutshell, we believe we will bring a change to our area if we are united and determined to help the disadvantaged in our area. It is not only Zerorha but we can do many projects in the years ahead. Regardless of what has been said we stand to gather to help our people.