

ERDA Started implementation of Zeroruha school project.

One of the primary objectives of ERDA is to help improve the teaching and learning environment in Enderta. As we all know there are several primary schools in the area that do not have class rooms. Students learn in a tent or under a tree without shelter and desk-chair. Obviously, this condition has a negative impact on the quality of education. Education plays a key role to fight poverty and enhance people's life. ERDA is determined to fill this gap by organizing and mobilizing the community and outreach to all Deki Enderta in North America and beyond. Hence, in accordance to its objective, ERDA started implementation of the first project, Zeroruha.

In this regard, ERDA delegates one of its board member, Mr. Kiros Memchaw, to facilitate conditions on the ground for implementation of the project. During his two months stay back home, Mr. Kiros talked with prominent individuals, government officials and others, concerning ERDA's goal and its readiness to participate in development endeavor. Following consultation with members of ERDA and concerned individuals, Mr. Kiros formed a construction committee of seven individuals to facilitate and follow up the project through its completion and beyond. We in ERDA believe construction of a school project is never easy. However, there are ways to ease the process and encourage the spirit of cooperation among Deki Enderta. With this in mind we put the right people, the committee, in place to manage and follow up the process of construction. Furthermore, the committee will also keep the entire school community and other responsible bodies informed about the progress of the project and share information on regular basis with chairman of ERDA.

Meanwhile, the committee and Mr. Kiros discussed with administrative officials how to proceed and accomplish the task in accordance to ERDA's goal. There were a number of meetings held to discuss the issue. Thanks to the willingness of the government, hard work of the committee and Mr. Kiros, ERDA secured the project area for the construction. Now, we are determined more than any time else to finish this project and move to our next task.

On September 29, 2009 administration officials, the committee and Mr. Kiros traveled to the project site and talked to the community including students. They were welcomed by the people of the Zeroruha and the people expressed their excitement in different local songs. Following the welcome ceremony, the travelers met the students and teachers to exchange opinions concerning the project. Finally, Mr. Kiros laid a cornerstone. Knowing that the project increases access to education for their children, the people promised to volunteering, donating local material and labour for accomplishment of the project. We have received a significant cooperation from all concerned government officials in the area to secure the area for the project, in Zeroruha. Definitely, this project will improve quality of education and greatly enhance the lively hood of thousands. The board of ERDA has taken a series of decisions to prompt a successful start of the construction since we secured the land. ERDA opened an account in Mekelle and transferred 25, 000 dollars to facilitate a smooth start of the construction. The first phase is already under construction as of the first week of January 2010. We want to thank everybody who contributed

for the successful mission of our first project. Your help is requested in order to complete the construction of this school and bring this plan into reality.

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