



The National Union of Eritrean Women is about to celebrate its 30th anniversary from November 29 to December 1, 2009 in Sawa. This celebration is being conducted under the theme: "The Youth Guarantee the Nation's Future." The women's organization, which was established in 1979 under the umbrella of the Eritrean struggle for liberation, has more than 250,000 active members currently. Shabait conducted an interview with the President of the NUEW, Ms. Le'ul Gebreab regarding the upcoming celebrations and the overall activities of the union. Excerpts follow:

How are the preparations to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the NUEW going?

Prior to the celebration of the anniversary, various workshops focusing on political, economic and social aspects of women were conducted in 6 regions of the country. The workshops focused on different issues such as women's role in agriculture, education, leadership, rehabilitation, and health. The workshops were unique in their magnitude and the issues they covered. Similar workshops were also conducted abroad by Eritreans focusing on similar issues. Summaries of these studies and discussions will be presented during the celebration of the 30th anniversary. Besides, various programs highlighting the historical role of Eritrean women's journey before and after independence would be featured with special focus on their involvement in political, social and economic sectors.

As part of the NUEW's endeavors to document the history of Eritrean women's role in the armed struggle; it would open a wide opportunity for authors and artists to enlighten women's contribution in detail in their work area.

When we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the NUEW, does it mean there were no movements or organized efforts speaking out for Eritrean women's rights prior to 1979?

NUEW's: Commemorating 30 Years of Struggle for Women's Emancipation

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