የኢትዮጵያ ሕዝባዊ አብዮታዊ ፓርቲ ( ኢሕአፓ)

*Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)*

**November 26/2009**

### THE US AGOA PROGRAM IS HELPING THE RULING PARTY

On Nov. 19, the US Agency for International Development- funded AGOA Plus said it brokered a contract worth as much as $30 million annually between Jackson, Mississippi-based Atlas Manufacturing Group and the Adwa (Tigrai) based Almeda Textile. Almeda is part of a group of companies that was founded and is controlled by members of the ruling TPLF party under the EFFORT umbrella. EFFORT controls most of the sectors of the Ethiopian economy and is chaired by TPLF Central Committee member Abadi Zemo and its deputy is none other than Azeb Mesfin, the queen of corruption and the wife of tyrant Meles Zenawi. Almeda, that is to say the dictatorial regime of Meles Zenawi is getting a US$ 30 million contract through a shady deal that enjoyed the manoeuvre and backing of the ruling party and State.

EFFORT is controlled and owned by the ruling party and its notorious quasi monopolist control over the economy has been denounced many times. The profit gained by the EFFORT companies goes direct into the coffers of the ruling party and allegations that the companies are not owned by the TPLF or that the profit goes to development projects in Tigrai are baseless. So, why is AGOA funding the dictatorial ruling party to the detriment of the interest and welfare of the Ethiopian people?

The EPRP once again expresses its objection to such types of ill disguised business deals that actually fund the dictatorial regime and its ruthless party. Such actions go against the interest of the Ethiopian people, do not benefit the Ethiopian economy and only serve to strengthen the machinery of repression put in place by the Meles Zenawi regime. The EPRP calls on Ethiopians all over the world to express their protest to AGOA, to the Atlas Manufacturing Group and to the US government.

**EPRP**
P.O.Box 73337
Washington D.C. 20056
U.S.A
Tel. : (202) 291-4217
Fax : (202) 291-7645
E-mail ESPIC@aol.com

**EPRP**
BP 22
Bois Colombes 92270
France

Website: http://www.EPRP.com