

***Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father,  
and from the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor.1:2)***

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, carers, members and friends of Irob Development Association (IDA),

HAPPY EASTER to you and to all in Christ.

I greet you all with St. Paul's words for love, grace and peace, which is the treasure of our faith and foundation of all our Christian lives expressed in the measure of our good works for the good of our brothers and sisters.

I had the pleasure of meeting with three representatives of the Irob Development Association (IDA) from Europe and United States in August of 2014. They have spent their limited time, energy and resources to meet with Irob communities in Addis Abeba, Mekele, Adigrat and Dawhan to organize and strengthen the Irob Development Association and got very good results. They shared with me how Irobs both here in Ethiopia and in the Diaspora are coming together, tirelessly working to organize and strengthen the Irob Development Association that will result in benefiting the Irob people here in our area. I am delighted to have heard that our people all over are being organized to help one another, synergizing their resources, be it ideas or material, instead of acting individually.

I am also informed that the stated Purpose of the Irob Development Association (IDA) is to operate exclusively for developmental/charitable purposes supporting educational and socio-economic development activities of Irob people. IDA's goal is to improve the qualities of education, help preserve our Saho language, culture and historical heritage of our people. Although the government with its policy and efforts is trying to address the indicated objectives, this I believe is not enough and it is primarily the responsibility of every one of us as Irobs and therefore, we all should unite in assuring IDA to become a strong tool of bringing all Irobs to one unmistakable road of development.

Today, we the Irob people are losing the most promising members of our society; our youth in search of unattainable dreams. Many of these young people are perishing at sea and in deserts. Standing with our youth in assisting them towards better economic future would alleviate the hopelessness and pragmatic road map towards becoming productive members in our own country.

The social fabric of our society seems to be coming loose, causing untold suffering within our families, as so many of our adults struggle with a destructive habits and dependency on others for their family's economic survival.

While our church and the government is increasing the quantity of schools in Irob wereda, the quality remains at an alarming level and our children are unable to compete enough with others as they enter higher grades in the cities. In this regard, I would like to mention that the sustainability of the diocese's educational institutions and relevant services are also facing a critical situation as the financial requirements are dramatically increased on one hand, and on the other, the resources have always been dependent on the generosity of our external partners who, since the world financial crisis, have substantially cut down their support, and leaving us in a very precarious situation.

Our language that is the corner stone of our identity needs to be supported if it is to stand the test of time and stay relevant for the future generation. New print and visual media needs to be created and those already in place must be supported to improve the quantity as well as the quality.

I am writing this letter therefore, to encourage all of you, my brothers and sisters here in Ethiopia and in the Diaspora to become paying members of Irob Development Association (IDA) and actively participate in all its defined creative purposes and activities and make it a strong Irob organization. We must think also of contributions in kind, like organized voluntary services which could be organized for research works in the area, training the local youth, etc.

In anything you do, keep your faith enkindled and let it remain be the font of your good works. May you all be strengthened in your life's engagements by the grace of our Risen Lord who came and gave us His life so that we *"might have life, and have it full"* (Jn.10:10)

Once again,  
Happy and Blessed Easter to all of you.  
Yours in Christ,

  
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+Abba Tesfaselassie Medhin  
Bishop of Catholic Eparchy of Adigrà

