

The Central Council of the Eritrean People's Party Starts First Regular Meeting

By

EPP Office for Information and Culture

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The newly elected Central Council of the Eritrean People's Party started its first regular meeting in the afternoon of 31 July 2008, only a day after the Constituent and First Congress of the new party completed its sessions with great success. Members of the Central Council are 39, and reserve members are four. The following are the EPP Central Council



1. Haile Ghebru
2. Laine Kahsai
3. Dr. Ghebremeskel Habte-Yonas
4. Dr. Aklilu Ghirmai
5. Woldeyesus Ammar
6. Abdulgadir Hibtes
7. Amanuel Habte
8. Mohammed Adem Artaa
9. Mohammed Asselo
10. Mengisteab Asmerom
11. Tesfai Woldemichael (Degiga)
12. Mohammed Ali Ibrahim
13. Haileab Andu
14. Fessehaye Hagos

15. Dr. Solomon Ghebregiorgis
16. Eritra Alazar
17. Kiros Tadesse
18. Ghergis Negash
19. Gime Ahmed
20. Alem Yohannes
21. Humed Mohammed Ahmed
22. Haileyesus Ghebrai
23. Gherezgheher Tewolde
24. Assefaw Berhe
25. Tuku Tesfai
26. Berhane Tesfagaber
27. Tsegai Mezghebe
28. Sirak Zemenfes
29. Tsega Tekle
30. Idris Ismail
31. Hassey Mogos
32. Haj Saleh
33. Bairu Seyoum
34. Tekle Melekin
35. Haneze Kahsai
36. Mensur Siraj
37. Tserha Solomon
38. Negusse Tsegai
39. Abdulgadir Al-Ogud

Reserve members

1. Antonio Tesfay
2. Debesay Beyene
3. Rezene Lulekal
4. Berhane Kidane

The first meeting of the Party Central Council has elected 17 members for the Executive Office of whom nine shall form the Secretariat that conducts the day-to-day affairs of the Party. The other 8 Executive Office members shall be assigned in the various departments to assist in accomplishing Party functions in departments each of which will have additional number of members, as required, designated by the Executive Office. The following are the new members of the Executive Office of the Eritrean People's Party:

1. Woldeyesus Ammar, Chairman of the Central Council and the Executive Committee
2. Tesfai Woldemichael (Degiga), Vice-Chairman in charge of Foreign Relations
3. Amanuel Habte, Head, Department for Organizational Affairs
4. Mengisteab Asmerom, Head, Department of Information and Culture
5. Mohammed Adem Artaa, Head, Department for Political Education and Training
6. Dr. Aklilu Ghirmai, Head, Department for Youth Affairs
7. Eritra Alazar, Head, Department for Women's Affairs
8. Mohammed Ali Ibrahim, Head, Department for Internal Affairs
9. Berhane Tesfagaber, Head, Department of Finance and Social Affairs
10. Idris Ismail, member of Executive Office
11. Ghergis Negash, ”
12. Laine Kahsai, ”
13. Haile Ghebru, ”
14. Tsegai Mezghebe, ”
15. Gime Ahmed, ”
16. Assefaw Berhe, ”
17. Tekle Melekin ”



It is to be recalled that the Constituent and First Congress of the new Party completed its deliberations on 30 July 2008 after adopting all congress documents, passing political resolutions and electing the new party leadership mentioned above. The election committee, headed by Mohammed Nur Ahmed, a special congress observer from the Eritrean Democratic Party (EDP), consisted of six other members who were: Dr. Tedros Amanuel, Leteab Tewelde, Mohammed Osman (observer from the Horn of Africa Studies in Khartoum), Jemal Humed (of the Adoulis website in Sudan), Ghirmai Kifle, and Samson Ghebrewit. The count of the ballots was



completed after 6pm and the elections results were announced in front of all invited guests who included members of the press as well as Mr. Hibur Ghebre-Kidan, the Ethiopian Government representative and Chairman of the Secretariat of the of the Sana'a Forum, Mr. Haj Abdelnur, Vice-Chairman of the Eritrean Democratic Alliance, and representatives of Eritrean opposition organizations.



The closing ceremony was opened by a musical troupe from the refugee camp of Shimelba in northerb Ethiopia. Following an introductory note about the congress by Mr. Gherezgheher Tewolde, a party member who chaired the congress plenary sessions, Mr. Hibur Ghebre-Kidan took the podium to congratulate the new party for a wonderful start it was making.

Mr. Hibur Ghebre-Kidan stated that the strategy for change that the new party was declaring ushers in a new chapter in the politics of the Eritrean opposition and he believed this is a sound strategy that can bring many Eritreans within the fold of this call. He reconfirmed his government's genuine commitment to help positive changes in neighbouring Eritrea which deserved a better system of governance. He wished that the next congress of the newly born Eritrean People's Party shall be held inside Eritrea.



On his part, Mr. Haj Abdelnur congratulated the new party for holding a successful constituent and believed that this congress will have its positive influence in the rest of the opposition camp. He noted the past role of the ELF-RC in the makings of the national umbrella and expressed his confidence that the new party that includes members of the now dissolved ELF-RC will played a major role in the joint struggle of the opposition forces.



Mr. Mohammed Nur Ahmed, who spoke on behalf of the independent observers of the congress, witnessed that he attended many congresses in the past but that the constituent congress of the new Eritrean People's Party was unique in many ways. He was impressed by the democratic nature of the discussions and depth of political consciousness of the congress participants. He hoped that this capacities can be transferred to Eritrea soon where we should be holding our congresses in a multiparty political exercise.

The leader of the Cultural and Musical Troupe of Simret from Shimelba announced at the stage that the group was very much pleased with the formation of this broad based party and declared their decision to be members of the Eritrean People's Party of that day. The musical group entertained congress delegates and guests till late at night.

