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حزب الشعب الارتري (ح ش ا)
السكرتاريا

ERITREAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (EPP) Executive Committee

Final Statement

2nd Regular Meeting the Executive Committee

5-6 August, 2009

The 19-person Executive Committee of the Eritrean People's Party (EPP) met on 5 and 6 August, 2009 for its second regular meeting to evaluate party performances of the past 12 months and to draw future plans. Mr. Woldeyesus Ammar, Chairman of EPP, welcomed members to the meeting and read out the agendas with brief description of the points to be covered in the discussion.

Key Issues

The Executive Committee noted the current situation of our country: i.e. the ever worsening political repression, its effect on the population and economy. It further noted the gross human rights and political violations of the government of Isayas Afeworki on its own citizens, which in turn greatly intensified the immigration of thousands of Eritreans to neighboring countries. The scale and scope of the political repression, torture, imprisonment, religious persecution, arrest and disappearance were recorded to have been unprecedented in the history of the country.

The Executive Committee condemned the PFDJ's policy of forced and involuntary resettlement of highland villagers in the lowland part of the country. It further noted with concern that forcibly removing villagers from their ancestral and long-established territory and resettling them in new land by evicting others from their ancestral land will affect the social fabric of our society, as well as create conflict and animosity among various Eritrean social groups.

The Executive Committee underlined the urgency of addressing the overall situation of our country and reiterated its call on the Eritrean political organizations, civic societies, and concerned individuals to gather their resources and focus on sustainable work relationships, with the aim of speeding up the removal of the repressive regime of Isayas Afeworki. The meeting further noted that the prevailing crisis in our country requires urgent and concerted action. It therefore stressed the importance of remaining

firmly focused on building a strong umbrella organization on one hand, and pursuing complete unity between organizations that have the same political programs on the other.

Comprehensive EPP Annual Reports

The chairman presented an assessment of the EPP activities over the last 12 months, and covered the following key areas:

- Brief notes on accomplishments of different Departments and institutions
- Diplomatic activities at joint EDP/EPP level
- The successful merger of EPP with EDRM/Gash-Setit.
- Update on the latest meeting of the Eritrean Democratic Alliance (EDA) and the proposed National Conference and
- An overall report on the unity process underway between the Eritrean Democratic Party and EPP on hand, and the positive outcome of meetings and discussions undertaken with the Eritrean People's Movement (EPM) on the other.

The eight members of the Secretariat, representing their respective Departments, presented comprehensive annual reports on details of accomplishments, areas that need improvements and draft new work plans for the next five months.

Pursuing on the departmental accounts, members of the Executive Committee reviewed the reports, made critical and necessary adjustments, and adopted a work plan for the next five months. The meeting further noted that the annual reports on party performances showed positive results on the implementation of policies and programs set out to accomplish.

The Executive Committee took note on how to engage Eritrean youth more effectively in the struggle against the dictatorial regime, and resolved to enhance support to the Department of Youth.

Likewise, the meeting a summary report on the risks that the Eritrean refugees are facing while they cross the borders of Eritrea into Sudan and Ethiopia, mainly by armed bandits roaming on the border areas in addition to the security forces of the regime of Isayas Afweorki. It stressed the importance of providing appropriate protection to Eritrean refugees from any life-threatening risks on the border areas.

Joint Conferences

The Executive Committee reviewed the EDP/EPP draft political program and organization structure (constitution) as well as the modalities for merger of the two parties scheduled for December of this year. The meeting endorsed the convening Joint regional conferences of both Political Party members throughout the world, possibly within the next few months, underlining that the key function of the regional conferences is to seek input and enrich the draft documents that are to be submitted for final ratification by the upcoming unification congress in December 2009.