

Eritrean Minister of Health Walked Away From a Meeting

Department of Information and Culture

Eritrean People's Party

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The Health Minister of PFDJ regime, Mr. Salih Mekki, walked away from a public meeting after he faced a mounting and challenging questions from angry Eritrean crowd in the audience, in Washington, DC, on Sunday, August 9, 2009.

Following the speech of the minister, the meeting facilitator asked explanation on the crisis of the country and the large influx of Eritrean youth emigrating from their own country to other countries.

Members of the audience further raised a number of follow up questions such as “the sky rocketing unemployment, the unimplemented constitution, the sub standard education system, the closure of the only University in the country (University of Asmara), the forced military conscription, and others.”

After admitting to the audience that he did not expect to be subjected to these sorts of tough questions, Mr. Salih Mekki told his audience, “Eritrea is in the state of war; we cannot talk about constitution until after we eliminate the danger, we won't step down from power until after Woyane leaves power; and we won't implement the 1997 ratified constitution.” Bracing against the unavoidable, Mr. Salih attempted to control the audience's explosive nature of questions and attitudes with one word: “it is not fair to say that Eritrea has no constitution; yes, we have one though it is EPLF's constitution.”

The response of the Minister spawned anger, and a number of people raised their hands for further follow up questions. But unable, frustrated, and unprepared for the myriad of challenging questions, Mr. Salih got up and abruptly walked away from the meeting, which resulted in the dismissal of the meeting earlier than the scheduled time, as well as prior to attending the main topic of the agenda, which was “the role of Eritreans on Community and Political Affairs.

The meeting ended in a complete failure as the minister could not face up to the questions raised by the members of the audience.

Now, did anyone ever think a PFDJ official would abruptly walk away from a meeting like the minister did? No, this is a sign of first-hand experience for PFDJ officials that the pressure is building and they cannot hide it any longer.