

Congress Designates Party Name, Starts Deliberation on Documents

By
Media Team at Congress Site
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(Members of the Congress Secretariat elected on 25 July 2008 are, from left to right: Dr. Aklilu Ghirmai, Ms Freweini Ghebre-Tsadiq; Messrs. Gherezgheher Tewolde, chairman; Haileab Andu, vice-chairman; Humed Mohammed; Mesnsur Siraj Al-Zein, and Laine Kahsai).

Party Congress on Saturday, 26 July 2008, resumed its second-day deliberations on congress documents presented by the preparatory committee. Independent Observers taking part in the meetings alongside party delegates are the following: Mr. Jamal Humed, manager of Adoulis website from the Sudan; Mr. Mohammed Osman, representative of the Khartoum-based Horn of Africa Research and Studies Centre, and Messrs Mohammed Nur Ahmed and Haj Abdelnur, leadership members of the Eritrean Democratic Party (EDP) who were given the special observer status to attend all the sessions of the congress by the preparatory committee, as well as many former members of ELF-RC from the Sudan, Ethiopia and other places.

The congress secretariat made a roll call of 152 voting members of the congress and confirmed the presence of a full quorum before started discussions on the agenda adopted a day earlier. The adopted agenda was as follows:

1. Designating name of the new party
2. Discussing the draft party political programme
3. Discussing the draft party constitution
4. Election of party leadership
5. Congress resolutions and final statement

The session at the outset discussed 10 proposed names for the party as presented by the preparatory committee as well as congress delegates. At the end of long and deep discussions

over each of the proposed names, the congress voted to call the new party as **Eritrean People's Party, EPP (Selfi Hizbi Eritra/ Hizbel Shaab al Eritri)**.

After voting for party name, the congress discussed over five proposed party emblems, some exhibited in colourful paintings at the congress. Finally, the congress voted and accepted a new emblem: a rectangle divided in two triangles, one blue and the other red with nine white stars representing the nine provinces of Eritrea before independence and in the centre of the circle formed by the nine stars is a green olive branch.



The congress later continued discussions on the 4th chapter of the draft on political programme dealing with sections on the human and democratic rights of the Eritrean people; the formation of a national government that ensured power-sharing of the people, and the formation of a national army that defends the constitution and a constitutional government.