

## **EPP Holland Branch Holds its Congress**

The branch of the Eritrean People's Party (EPP) in the Netherlands held its congress successfully on 11 July 2009 under the slogan: 'Unity of opposition groups is the corner stone of our victory.'

Participants arrived on time and congress was started by reading and thoroughly discussing the political report prepared by the preparatory committee and the party structure which guides day-to-day activities of party cells and branches. The congress stressed the importance of change in political and work attitude of every member so that a new culture of tolerance, and mutual respect among members and other compatriots.

Following in the footsteps of the Party, the branch welcomed the unity process being seriously pursued by the leadership and believed that the struggle for change and democratization in Eritrea cannot be achieved by one party or a group of parties alone but by rallying the vast majority of the Eritrean people with the political and civil organizations. It said this approach will strengthen the Eritrean Democratic Alliance and speed the democratic change.

The branch congress also drew its attention to Eritrean youth and resolved to take steps towards encouraging and mobilizing them to play an effective role in the current struggle.

The congress valued the ongoing unity among the member organisations of the Eritrean Democratic Party (EDP) and vowed to do all it can to make the unity process a success. The branch congress also praised the courageous steps taken by the Eritrean Democratic Resistance Movement of Gash Setit to merge with their compatriots in EPP.

The congress hailed Dutch friends with particular mention of the Diaconal Paulus Kerk and the Stitching Kerkelijk Sociale Arbeid, who have been on the side of Eritreans since 1982 by providing branch members with a place where they could perform social and other activities.

At the end of the day, the congress passed recommendations and democratically elected a five-person committee to lead the EPP branch in the Netherlands until the unification process with EDP and most probably also with Eritrean People's Movement is achieved at the of the current year.