

## EPP/EDP Joint Leadership Committee Visits London

Joint EPP/EDP Media Team

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With the purpose of discussing the journey and progress of unity between Eritrean People's Party (EPP) and Eritrean Democratic Party (EDP), the Joint Leadership Committee members (JLC) Mr. Amanuel Habte and Mr. Hamid Dirar paid a joint visit to London on Sunday, July 12, 2009 and held a public meeting. During the meeting, both leaders discussed at great length about the scheduled merger of EPP and EDP, including the Eritrean People's Movement (EPM) organizational decision to enter the unity process and play its role hand in hand with EPP and EDP. The action has already inspired confidence and hope among the Eritrean public. The JLC also explained the recent successful merger between EPP and EDMG/Setit, which will bring a positive impact on the overall unity perspective in the Eritrean struggle.

Speaking on the unity between EPP and EDP, the speakers talked in-depth how the introduction of change and transformation in their respective parties created a new paradigm and gradually brought the two parties to fight the old beliefs and build new confidence towards creating one party. They emphasized the importance of adopting change as a driving force for meeting future challenges and problems on one hand, and encouraging for a meaningful participation of Eritrean people in the struggle against the political tyranny in our country on the other. The speakers further expressed their strong hope that the decision of EPM to enter in the ongoing unity process, which the complete merger is expected to occur soon, would inspire others, as well as contribute a positive role in creating a durable unity in our struggle.

Joined by members of the Eritrean opposition forces, Eritrean civic society organizations, and individuals, the public meeting received diverse comments, recommendations, and constructive ideas. On its part, the Joint Leadership Committee discussed and clarified issues and questions raised by the participants.

The members of the Joint Leadership Committee had also the opportunity to meet with the leadership of CidRie, an Eritrean civic society organization in which they succeeded in holding a preliminary discussion on a host of issues. In this preliminary discussion both sides noted their common views on the 'method of struggle' and other issues. They also expressed support for having a serious discussion in the future, focusing on how to achieve change in Eritrea through establishing a joint programs and tasks.

Continuing their visit in London, members of the Joint Leadership Committee also held meeting with the head of African Desk in the British Foreign Office and broadly discussed the overall situation of Eritrea. In addition, the members of Joint Leadership Committee had an interview with BBC where they answered questions related both to the Eritrean opposition forces and to the current prevailing situation of Eritrea.

Apart from holding a public discussions and meeting other organizations, the members of the Joint Leadership Committee also held a separate joint meeting for representatives of the their own three organizations (Eritrean People's Movement, Eritrean Democratic Party, and Eritrean People's Party) and discussed joint projects that need to be covered in the near future.