

EPP Scandinavia Region Held Annual Seminar

Department of Information and Culture
Eritrean People's Party
June 20, 2009

The Eritrean People's Party Scandinavia Region annual seminar was held in Yonishoping on Saturday, June 20, 2009. The seminar brought together a number of EPP members from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. EPP members of secretariat Mr. Amnuel Habte, EPP Organization Affairs head and Mr. Berhane Tesfagbir, Finance and Social Affairs head, as well as five members of EPP Central Council also attended the seminar. The seminar, which lasted eight hours, was held under the theme of "unity of Eritrean opposition forces is the salvation of our people and the downfall of PFDJ."

Following a welcome speech by Mr. Negasi Hamde, the seminar began by discussing on the current political, social, economic, and diplomatic crisis that the Eritrean people are facing under the dictatorial regime of Isayas Afeworki. Members reaffirmed their commitment to remove the repressive regime in Eritrea and introduce a democratic system that would guarantee a sustainable peace and stability in the country.

The seminar also provided a thorough assessment of the ever-worsening situation of the Eritrean people, where the regime of Isayas continues to subject them to appalling crimes and atrocities, as well as to physical and extreme psychological suffering. The participants underlined the importance of redoubling their efforts not out of ambition but out of conviction - for the stake is the existence of Eritrea and its people. In this context, the seminar noted that members of EPP Scandinavia Region to continue to further deepen their commitment to the policies, values, and programs of EPP, thereby focusing on being efficient and transparent.

Mr. Amanuel Habte, Organizations Affairs head, gave a detailed update on both the current state of Eritrean opposition forces and on the danger hovering over our country, Eritrea. He noted that the Eritrean opposition forces had come a long way, but the overall strategy surrounding the best means on how to remove the regime continues to create an obstacle. He stressed that if the opposition forces would want to move forward and capture the hearts and minds of Eritrean people, they should not be held hostage to a strategy that is not viable and sustainable.

Turning to the question of EPP constitution, Mr. Amanuel underlined two points: clear understanding on the meaning (interpretation) and full implementation. He said EPP constitution is one of the pillars that not only enumerates members' obligations and rights, but also specifies the powers, functions, roles, limits, and responsibilities of members in the party. In addition, he said the constitution works only when the implementation part of it is carried out in a manner that is fully transparent and understandable.

The seminar also welcomed the recent merger between EPP and Movement of Gash- Setit. The seminar further discussed the most recent development of the unity process between EPP and EDP, which is expected to be concluded at the end of this year. In addition, the seminar noted the importance of the unity efforts being pursued by other members of the Eritrean Democratic Alliance (EDA), which this is a positive step that advances the objectives of EDA.

On resources of the party, Mr. Berhane Tesfagabir, Finance and Social Affairs head said the principal challenge remains in the areas of financial and economic strength of the party. Mr. Berhane further highlighted the significance of certain areas within the party that need more financial resources than other areas and urged members to redouble their efforts to strengthen the financial situation of the party.

The seminar concluded after lengthy discussion, followed by question and answer, as well as by forwarding suggestions and recommendations.