

23rd Eritrea Festival Starts Programmes, EPP Members Attend Briefing Session

By

Information Team at Festival Site

The 23rd Eritrea Festival opened its doors today, 8 August 2008, at a university campus at Bockenheimer Warte in central Frankfurt, for guests coming from many parts of the world, including participants from Australia, Africa, North America and, of course from over 10 countries in western Europe.

The university building corridors, the meeting hall and even the main kitchen hall were decorated with slogans talking about the theme of change of attitudes and practices that the new Eritrean People's Party wanted to promote and about the general need of change and democratization in Eritrea, currently under an oppressive regime. Also gracing the festival hall were the new EPP emblem alongside the old Eritrean Blue Flag and the current state flag in Eritrea.



Members of the newly formed Eritrean People's Party (EPP) held a two-hour briefing session by the Party leadership on the outcome of their recent constituent and first one-week congress that ended on 30 July 2008. In the relatively short briefing session, Mr. Woldeyesus Ammar, the Party Chairman, talked about the successful party formation process that was conducted during the past two years by the indefatigable members of the former ELF-RC and other party candidates, and singled out the most important issues that preoccupied the recent party congress. The Party leadership responded to a number of questions raised by the audience. Taking part in the briefing session were a number of new party leadership members, among them Mr. Tesfai Woldemichael (Degiga), the head of Department of International Relations; Mr. Amanuel Habte, head of the Department for Organizational Matters, and Mr. Berhane



Tesfagaber, head of Department for Financial and Social Affairs. The meeting was coordinated by Mr. Assefaw Berhe, member of the Executive Office in charge of Organizational Affairs.

Following dinner, the festival participants were entertained by Eritrean singers who included the renowned Hussein Mohammed Ali, Eyob Haile and many young singers and musicians belonging to different parties and political orientations.



The main Festival day is Saturday, 9 August, in which presentations will be made by different Eritrean organizations, German representatives, and civil society members. The annual Eritrea of Tomorrow Seminar will follow the political statements and the keynote address by the chairman of the new party, the EPP. Among the panelists at the Seminar will be Mr. Abdurahman Al Sayed from UK, who will be talking about representative governance in Eritrea of Tomorrow; Mr. Mussie Semere, on economic system that could suit Eritrea, and Mr. Assefaw Berhe on the kind of reconciliation we are required to make.