



Embassy of the State of Eritrea, London – UK

## **Seminar on Eritrea's Development for Scottish Friends of Eritrea**

On Saturday, 20, March 2010, the Eritrean Ambassador to the United Kingdom & Ireland H.E. Tesfamicael Gerahtu, conducted a seminar on "The Realities and Challenges of Nation Building in Eritrea: Development Strategies and Prospects of Transformation". Video clips on Eritrea's development and tourism and a mini book exhibition were displayed at the event. The event, in which 27 Scottish friends and 13 Eritrean youth participated, was sponsored by the Scottish friends of Eritrea and was held at the Playfair Library, University of Edinburgh. After an introduction by Mr. Gordon Peters, the seminar Chair, Ambassador Tesfamicael, presented an extensive briefing on the topic.

After giving a short background on the global and regional situation, the Ambassador outlined some of the basic tenets of the development realities and challenges in Eritrea. In his briefing, he gave a detailed account of the political philosophy based on an independent stance, progress in the political process of national building, the promising trends in the economic growth, the social sector strategies and its impact in improving the quality of life of the people and foreign policy, regional strategies and the effort registering in fostering diplomatic and economic cooperation based on partnerships. He also gave a detailed analysis of the unjust and illegal UN Security Council Resolution 1709/2009 imposed on Eritrea through US manipulation.

At the end of the seminar, the Ambassador responded to several questions and comments presented by the participants. Participants in their comments expressed their satisfaction on the seminar content and organization. They also commended the efforts of the Eritrean people and Government to surmount the basic challenges of development in the nation. Dr. Francis Roberts in particular expressed that Eritrea's development programs were progressing impressively despite the hardships and obstacles encountered along the way.

One of the organizers of the Seminar, Mr. Micheal Freudenberg also stressed the importance of this sort of seminar not only in raising understanding on Eritrea, but also in fostering closer relations and cooperation between the Scottish and Eritrean people. He further affirmed that the development endeavours being undertaken on the basis of self-reliance and the nation's independent political path could not be hampered by external conspiracies.

After the seminar traditional dinner and coffee was served for all the participants at Mr. Micheal Freudenberg and Mrs. Miriam Yassin's residence, wherein several representatives of various governmental and non governmental organizations were present. Eritreans from Glasgow were also amongst the invited guests representing the elegance and pride of the community.

Embassy Media Working Group (EMWG)  
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