

The Dallas/ Forth Worth Ethiopian American Consensus Forum

On April 24, 2008, The DFW Ethiopian Americans Consensus Forum invited Ethiopian Embassy officials Ambassador Taye from the LA consulate office, Council Minister Mule Tarekng, from DC and the Dallas area Ethiopian Community for a meeting. The purpose of the meeting was mainly to inform the community on investment opportunities, updates on current development and other issues raised by community. Embassy officials discussed these issues and responded to questions from the attendees.

Embassy officials were very accommodative and willing to share their messages even to those who were opposed to their presence in Dallas. The officials and the organizers went out of their way to invite about 12 protesters who were standing outside the Hotel to join the meeting and raise their concerns. However, for lack of good manners, civility that bordered hooliganism they were escorted out of the meeting by police before the formal meeting started.

The meeting continued, and actually, those in the opposition who remained in the meeting and asked questions civilly, made the meeting stimulating and very productive.

In a meeting that took a little over 3 hours, it can safely be claimed that almost all contentious Ethiopian political and development issues were raised. Including election and composition of Election Board, the need for judicial reform, national reconciliation, the rising coast of leaving, investment hurdles, and services related to the Embassy.

Finally, Embassy officials told attendees that despite the brief rowdiness, they intend to continue and engage Diaspora on such forums, and that they were encouraged by the outcome of the meeting.

