

Sunday, November 18, 2007
Washington, DC

EPRDF Support Group in North America (EPRDF-SGNA) welcomed a delegation led by Mr. Nega Tsegaye, State Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here in Washington, D.C.

A meeting was held between the delegation and members of the EPRDF Support Group to discuss several issues mainly focusing on human rights, democracy, good governance, freedom, accountability, and the rule of law, Ethio-Eritrea border conflict, and Somalia's current situation.

Ato Nega and his work colleague Wzo. Mebrat Beyene, Director General for Community Affairs, also accompanied by Ambassador Taye, praised the effort and activities of the EPRDF Support Group in particular that has been accomplished and still under way to successfully tackle the infamous piece of legislation known as HR 2003.

Ato Nega Tsegaye took the initiative and addressed the audience about the current situation at home focusing on the main agenda of his government, which is eradicating poverty and bringing Ethiopia to the level of the mid income countries within the next 20 years.

Wzo Mebrat stated that we should develop a culture of tolerance with each other and respect all kinds of individuals, their ideas and opinions, which could contribute towards bringing democracy in Ethiopia. She said that to make a difference it requires the participation and commitment of all, and further stated that no empire has lasted forever and even we human beings never live forever. She also stated that governments come and go, but her party has done more for Ethiopia than any other government in the past. She stated that her party is further preparing the country for a peaceful transition of power through a democratic process.

Ambassador Taye made a special note to the audience that Ethiopians residing in Washington DC metropolitan area, most of all, to make every effort to "Say NO to HR 2003."

At the meeting more than 100 supporters of EPRDF have participated. All members of the support group, guests and the delegation were invited to a fabulous dinner prepared at Axum Ethiopian restaurant in Washington DC. After dinner there was a brief session for questions and answers.

The meeting was very encouraging, and was completed successfully with the spirit of friendship, cooperativeness and with a commitment to advance the cause of freedom, democracy and human rights in Ethiopia.

The Support Group