



## Panel 3: Reconciliation

# OVERCOMING DIVISIONS, POLARIZATION, AND FRAGMENTATION IN THE DIASPORA

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How do we overcome the divisions and achieve effective collaboration?

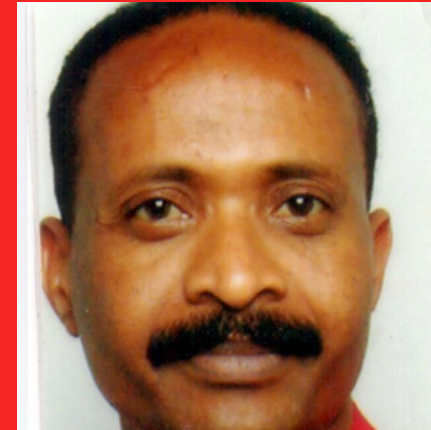




## Panel 3: Reconciliation

# OVERCOMING DIVISIONS, POLARIZATION, AND FRAGMENTATION IN THE DIASPORA

Eritrean diaspora politics is divided, polarized, and fragmented. It is high time that it breaks out of the vicious cycle, finds its compass, and makes an earnest effort towards reconciliation. Coming together should, at a minimum, be based on broad agreement that a new democratic dispensation requires a constitutional government; that the destiny of Eritrea lies in the hands of the Eritrean people; that change in Eritrea is an internal Eritrean affair and must therefore come from within; and that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interest of the State of Eritrea are inviolable. How do we overcome the divisions and achieve effective collaboration?



## PANEL 3: RECONCILIATION

Moderator: Mr. Merid Zeru

How do we overcome the divisions and achieve effective collaboration?



## IDENTIFYING THE UNDERLYING CAUSES

Presenter. Mr. Suleiman A. Hussein



## FINDING PRACTICAL AND WORKABLE REMEDIES

Presenter. Mr. Nasser Omer Ali



What's

# **POLITICAL POLARIZATION?**

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...the extent to which opinions on issues are opposed, and the process by which the opposition increase over time.





# IDENTIFYING THE UNDERLYING CAUSES

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Absence of an Eritrean diaspora with **internal cohesion**, sense of **unity** and **acceptable level** of polarization is real.

It's, therefore, important to dive in below the surface to understand the real issues that underlie the problem.

01

The divide-and-conquer tactics of subsequent regimes, the process of decolonization, post independence wrong start, the rise of AstroTurf groups/individuals, and incompetent strategies contributed to the division and thereby to zero sum game.

02

The Eritrean diaspora, more than any other time, is failing to come together, let alone to effect change in Eritrea. Moreover, it does not seem to have learnt from its decades' worth of mistakes.

03

At this stage of the struggle, the political polarization has shifted from benign level to pernicious level.

04

It is, therefore, high time to break the vicious cycle, overcome the polarization, and make an earnest effort beyond & above reconciliation.





## FINDING PRACTICAL AND WORKABLE REMEDIES

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What was historically limited to intra elite, ELF vs EPLF, opposition vs supporters ...etc. has now transformed into a mass political polarization in the diaspora.

The good news is, the current level of polarization could be the optimal level of polarization needed to disrupt the status quo and to reconcile the Eritrean diaspora. How?

01

Build, secure and maintain the commitment of "*Eritreans for constitutional governance, home grown change and an inviolable sovereignty & territorial integrity*". But how?

02

By **leading** the change, by setting long-term change goals, including stabilizing the transitional period and beyond.

03

Clearly outlined vision & strategy, not just for coming together, but also to work together and to stay the course of nation building.







# THE RISKS OF OUR IN ACTION TODAY?



- ⚠ The ongoing mass exodus persists
- ⚠ Spill over effect of the polarization
- ⚠ Existential threat to the very existence of the nation
- ⚠ The danger of making Eritrea's independence a "fleeting-experience"
- ⚠ Stay irrelevant in the struggle to reassert Eritrea's sovereignty





# GET IN TOUCH

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