

## **The Eritrean Lowland minus Kunama and Kunama minus DMLEK are both incomplete !!**

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I have seen an advertisement on meskerem.net as “Seminar of the sons of the lowlands” on 29th of March, 2014. I do not mind even if it’s for political purpose not as stated to establish an association related with social background.

Association, be it for social or community purpose is the other side or a bed rock for a further political organ and its nothing wrong if it’s all inclusive in its form and content. So far, any social or political association of Eritrea, regardless of its time and scope is and was deemed to politics of exclusion. As a result, none of the social or political associations or forces are efficient and affirmatives in their struggle and day to day activities.

To me, the Eritrean lowland is a home of linguistic and culturally diversified people and none of them will say it’s mine or my own alone, saving those indigenous Nilotics: Kunama and Baria. Still, any political formula that marginalize and exclude the two ethnic groups will lead to a failure because the rest have their own ancestral land, territory, cultural and linguistic boundary (though there is no boundary for culture and language) and yet greed to share the land of the two indigenous, Kunama and Baria. If the motive of the London-based “seminar of the sons” not daughters??? “of the lowlands” as exclusive and marginal in its linguistic, sex or gender, and cultural as the previous greed-led policies as usual, then, it’s as obvious to doom and we hope that should not. The Eritrean lowland is for all Eritreans but more share to lowlanders and most or greatest share for the indigenous, Kunama and Baria. And the same applies to the highlanders. An Eritrean lowland political organ, standing only for few and one gender, say men only, the matrilineal Kunama will not feel comfort because his or her mother is excluded from the natural share. If the motive of the seminar is to promote

the benefit of the Eritrean “sons” only and forcing the daughters to stand and read a supporting message that’s centered for male chauvinism, then it’s against the interest of all peace loving Eritreans who want to treat and be treated equally. Therefore, the slogan advertised as “افتتاح سمنار ابناء المنخفضات” (source Alnahda) Seminar of the sons of the lowlands opened in London 2014/3/29 لندن النهضة متابعات

2014/3/29” is incorrect and by far, be it for political and communal purpose, that seminar has to be accommodative and inclusive. It should include both genders: male and female, the three religious followers-traditional, Christians and Muslims, and all social segments: Kunama, Baria, and so on. That seminar should address all active and passive (as observers) partners of the lowland and highland Eritrea respectively. As a very important final touch, it has to be different from the Dergue’s lowland project, “ye qolamaw tiyaqe” which provokes all Eritrean citizens at home and field. We all should be dead sure of the motive of the seminar as innocent in its content and inclusive in its structure and as a tributary meandering to the main national interest, the interest of the Eritrean people and land. It has to be a floor where disparities converge to equality. It has to be a stage where all beneficiaries come out with a win-win formula. Making and labeling others as Eritreans Gypsies and bulging the others belly is a time bomb and no one, from the social segments, will be comfortable with it.

It has to be a non provocative and non greed-led initiative. It has to be for the consolidation of the Eritrean unity and stability. It has to be for the stability, tranquility and for a common benefit of our regional partners, people and governments. Therefore, the Eritrean Kunama and DMLEK, as integral parts, decisive and active partners of the Eritrean lowland, and being ignored and side lined by the organizers of the seminar, I stood at the middle of the road with two mixed feelings. The same and the usual sense of exclusiveness, as if Kunama and DMLEK are still marginalized and as threat for internal and regional instability on one side, and as a bold and blessed initiative for instigating awareness in the minds of all Eritreans to prepare

such seminars in search for further visionary solutions for the issue of national unity. Be it the case, as a member of DMLEK, I believe that, the Eritrean lowland, minus any of its social segments at large and with especial reference to the indigenous Kunama, is incomplete. At the same token, ignoring DMLEK and inviting handpicked Kunamas is repeating the same dance and incomplete at the same time. So let's try to be inclusive at all levels and time.

The principles of DMLEK shall flourish forever!!

The Eritrean lowland is the home of cultural, linguistic and  
socially diversified people!!