BY NEW BUSINESS ETHIOPIA REPORTER

The new Ethiopian Parliament commences operation this afternoon (October 24, 2010) by electing new Speaker of the House and allowing the existing Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to stick on his position for the coming five years.

The former Speaker of the House Member of the Parliament (MP) Teshome Toga is replaced by the former president of Oromia Regional State Aba Dula Gemeda. While the previous Parliament Deputy Speaker of the House, MP Shitaye Minale is reelected to continue in her position.

The Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) secured 499 Seats of the Parliament out of the total 547 during the last may national election, according to the Electoral Board.

The party has nominated the current Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to continue is his position and gets approval of the new parliament which gathered 540 MPs.Only one opposition party

member Girma Seifu from Ethiopia's opposition coalition, the eight-party Medrek is able to join the new parliament while over a hundred MPs from different opposition parties were in the previous parliament.

The Prime Minister is expected to nominate his Ministers in the coming few weeks. The president of the country Girma Wolde Giorgis, in his speech to both the representatives of both Upper and Lower Houses urged everyone to work hard and change Ethiopia for good.

Many people are surprised by the silence of the European Elections Observers Mission to Ethiopia which was supposed to announce its observation result within a few months following the election.

Out of the three major independent election observers (European Union, African Union and the Civil Society) invited by the Ethiopian government to observe the election, it is only the European Union, which didn't presented its final observation report on time.

Meanwhile both the civil society coalition and African Union have said in their report that the election was fair and free.

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