

Shlomo Molla MK, (Kadima Party) Deputy Speaker of the Knesset



Shlomo Neguse Molla was born in a small, rural Jewish village of 40 families in Ethiopia's Gondar province. The only one in his family educated beyond the age of ten, Molla attended a Jewish high school run by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

In 1983 when he turned 16 years old, Molla heard rumors that Jews from the Tigre province (about 700 kilometers away across Ethiopia) were secretly being taken via Sudan to Israel. Molla and a group of friends were determined to become part of what was later known as "Operation Moses".

In Israel, Molla was taken to an Absorption Center in Tzfat. He later studied at a high school in Haifa and went on to become an officer in the IDF. Molla received his LL.B from Ono

Academic College in Israel.

Molla's involvement with the Jewish Agency began as a volunteer during Operation Solomon in 1991. He became Director of the Tiberias Absorption Center and was subsequently responsible for Ulpanim (Hebrew learning schools) in Northern Israel. Consequently, Molla became the Director of the Unit for Ethiopian Immigration & Absorption of the Jewish Agency.

At the 35th Zionist Congress elections Molla was nominated by then PM Ehud Olmert, to sit on the Zionist Executive and to head the Department of the Zionist Institute including the struggle against anti-Semitism, the Zionist Archives, WZO library publishing house, the Zionist Council and the Zionist Archives.

In February 2008, Shlomo Molla became the second Ethiopian Member of Knesset following and the first Ethiopian to serve as the Deputy Speaker for the Knesset on August 3, 2011 .

MK Molla is a member of House Committee, Committee on the Status of Women, Public Petitions Committee, Subcommittee on Trafficking in Women, Alternate Member, and Finance Committee. He also acts as Chairman for the Lobby for Equality and Pluralism & and for the Lobby for Struggle Against Racism.

Shlomo Molla is married with three children.