

Ethiopians in the UK mourn their Great Leader

25th August 2012 - LONDON

Members of the Ethiopian Diaspora community residing in the UK paid tribute to the paramount Leader Prime Minister Meles Zenawi at a condolence book signing ceremony at the Ethiopian Embassy in London.



Prime Minister Meles Zenawi who has led Ethiopia for the last 21 years with great wisdom and far sightedness passed away on August 20 at the hospital where he was under medical treatment.

Many on the occasion, expressed their deepest love and respect to the late Prime Minister and the achievements under his leadership. The public emotional outpouring testified to the support the great leader enjoyed for his innovative, pro-poor development plans in the fight against poverty, Ethiopia's formidable enemy.

Carrying high the tri-colour and pictures of the paramount leader, the Ethiopians were chanting slogans reflecting determination that the inspiration from the Prime Minister would continue sustaining them in their drive to achieve Ethiopia's Renaissance.



Melete Kassaye who learned about the sad news at the early hours of that morning, said "He will be remembered for all the tangible changes that are evident across the nation. We citizens should carry on with all development endeavours with more vigour and commitment embracing the legacies of the great leader."

Speaking to fellow compatriots on the occasion, Deputy Head of the Ethiopian Embassy in London, Ambassador Abdirashid Dulane underscored the major role of the visionary leader who made possible a faster economic growth through varied development projects including the Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan which envisaged to double agricultural production and bring to a new high social and infrastructural developments.

He urged Ethiopians to stand united in the further implementation of the plan to see through the dream of the late Prime Minister of seeing Ethiopia join the community of nations with middle income in the not distant future.

In a prayer and benediction he gave remembering the good deeds of the late leader, Head Priest and pastor of the London St. Gabriel Church Gebregiorgis Dimtsu, said Ethiopians should stand united in this difficult time and carry on in peace the building of a nation that cherishes tolerance and equality boosting social development in all spheres of endeavour.



A cross section of the community including mothers, the youth, the elderly and religious leaders stood for hours in queues to express their grief and gratefulness to the late Prime Minister, who was hailed as one of the prominent African leaders and a Panafricanist that stood unflinchingly for the interests of Africa and Africans.



Participants at the event vowed to endure the tragedy that has befallen them with the traditional Ethiopian perseverance and unity and ensure the progress of Ethiopia's peace and sustainable development to the satisfaction of its people.

Many more Ethiopians are expected to sign the book of condolence over the weekend.

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For further information, please contact the Press Office on 020 7838 3883/0; 07717 603163; 0788 637 1094 or send an email to info@ethioembassy.org.uk.