

Minister Tedros urges Ethiopians to stand united to promote national interest

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Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom called on the Ethiopian Diaspora to stand in unison to promote national interest irrespective of political persuasions. While celebrating diversity that glorifies Ethiopia as a melting pot of cultures and history of nations and nationalities, he underlined the need for resilience and sense of unity in safeguarding and promoting Ethiopia's national interest to bequeath a prosperous and viable Ethiopia to posterity.

He appreciated that there could be differences in opinions but underlined the instrumentality of discussions to overcome them and achieve our development objectives to boost collective and equitable gains at all levels.



Addressing the gathering, he said Ethiopia is on the right track to achieve the Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan with a great sense of commitment and public ownership. He urged for intensified engagement on the part of Diaspora Ethiopians in the implementation of mega projects including the Renaissance Dam, railway networks and sugar factories which are now gaining momentum.



The Ethiopian Government is also focused on delivering on its promises on good governance, building of democratic institutions and expansion of education and health facilities as well as infrastructure development, crucial for the emerging economy to thrive.

Following remarks by the Minister, members of the various development and professional associations, community and religious leaders expressed satisfaction over the performance of the Government in the pursuit of its development objectives and pledged more support to see all the schemes through, actively involving in trade, investment and tourism as well as knowledge and technology transfer.

A participant and a representative of the Ethiopian Somali Diaspora, Mr. Nuur Hussien appreciated Government performance in effecting a peaceful and democratic transition following the demise of the Great Leader, the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and called on compatriots to remain seized in the on-going development plans. He expressed satisfaction looking at all nations and nationalities represented at the meeting.



In an open discussion that followed, a number of questions pertaining to housing, Eritrea, peace and security in the sub-region, food security, human trafficking, investment privileges given to members of the Ethiopian Diaspora community, etc. were raised to which the Minister gave explanations and elaborate replies.

Answering to a query on Eritrea, the Minister reiterated Ethiopia's unwavering stance for peace and noted that the Eritrean regime has remained adamant and refused to refrain from its disruptive role in the region and still continue to sponsor rebel groups and terrorists.

Ethiopia, committed to peace and stability as well as strengthening regional economic cooperation is working in tandem with members of the IGAD group, the African Union and the international community at large. Cognizant of the structural link between peace and development well how crucial peace is for development, Ethiopia, alongside partners, is

working for the furtherance of peace with governments in Somalia, South Sudan and the Republic of Sudan.

Earlier, in an introductory remark at the meeting, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ambassador to the UK and the Scandinavian countries, called on compatriots to remain seized and engaged in all sectors of endeavour so that Ethiopia's bid for prosperity could come true, changing for the better, the living conditions of Ethiopians in all walks of life.



The Minister was presented with a bouquet of flowers from women members of the Ethiopian Somali Diaspora and received a tumultuous welcome at the meeting convened at the Ethiopian Embassy in London on 12th January 2013.

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