

Prime Minister Meles Remembered by Ethiopians in the UK

17th August 2013



The first anniversary of the passing away of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi was marked in a solemn memorial held in London in the presence of over 500 Ethiopians paying tributes and celebrating the outstanding contributions of the Great Leader for his country and people.



Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, the visionary Ethiopian leader and Pan-Africanist, was laid to rest at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Addis Ababa after he passed away on 20th August last year at the age of 57.

PM Meles was the pioneer of the cluster of poverty alleviation and development programmes which effectively has turned around the shattered economy to make it one of the ten fast growing economies in the world. Ethiopians from all walks of life, following the demise of the great leader, vowed to carry on with the nation building endeavour, his legacy, which all Ethiopians cherish and hold dearly.



Speaking at the memorial, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, recalled achievements scored under the leadership of

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in the areas of education, health, infrastructure development and the overall transformation now taking place nation-wide.

Ethiopia's hitherto unseen economic growth, peace and stability, its growing role as an active AU member, IGAD member state and as a responsible nation in the international arena, were all reflections of the legacy and wise leadership of the late Prime Minister.

True to their words, he said, the new Ethiopian Leadership under the Premiership of H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn as well as the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia, remained fully engaged in the

multi-faceted Growth and Transformation Plan that maintained the momentum of growth leading to the set objective of joining the community of middle income nations.



He said, remembering our great leader, the beloved son of Ethiopia and Africa, and the development successes we enjoyed under his insightful leadership, we reiterate our solemn promise to carry on with more determination to see through his vision and called on the Diaspora to re-double their efforts for the successful implementation of the GTP focusing on the massive projects including the GERD, railway and road projects, telecommunications, irrigation schemes and the consolidation of social facilities and democratic institutions.

The Ambassador also mentioned the **Meles Zenawi Foundation** which the peoples of Ethiopia have launched in recognition of his brilliant leadership. The Foundation is dedicated to preserving and advancing the legacy of the late Prime Minister's enduring commitment to peace, justice, democracy and development for the Ethiopian and African people. It will provide posterity with a living memorial to his statesmanship and to his robust support for the freedom and equality of the peoples of Ethiopia.



He called upon Ethiopian compatriots to extend every support possible to this great institution so that the inspiring ideas of Meles blossom to reach a great many people.

Representatives of the Ethiopian National Consensus Forum (ENCF), the Tigray Development Association (TDA), The Amhara Development Association (ADA), The Southern Ethiopia Diaspora Association (SEDA) and The Ethiopian-Somali Diaspora Forum (ESDF) recalled the great achievements of Ethiopia in the spheres of economic, political and social development under the leadership of the late PM Meles Zenawi and paid tribute to his wise and inspiring leadership.

They vowed to intensify their involvement in the implementation of the mega projects and to ensure the speedy and sustainable development of Ethiopia.

The great leader, they noted, was exemplary and inspirational in his role for the entrenchment of peace, equality and democracy crucial for development and the fight against poverty.

Chairman of the Ethiopian Somali Diaspora Forum, Mr. Nur Hussien, said hard work, distinction and dedication were the hallmarks of the leadership of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.



Once again they pledged to mobilize resources for the GERD, engage in trade and investment and stand in unison for the realization of the Ethiopian Renaissance with more vigour to carry on with the vision of the great leader which they will continue to cherish in the foreseeable future.

Songs were played and poems recited celebrating the deeds and achievements of the late PM reflecting the sombre mood and emotion of Ethiopians who still are mourning their beloved leader.



Participants at the highly emotional gathering also observed a candle-lit vigil in memory of the great leader who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty of serving his beloved country and people.



A commemorative brochure on tributes paid at the Memorial that took place in London in April for the great leader was launched on this occasion and was placed on sale to raise funds for the Meles Foundation.

---ENDS---

For further information, please contact the Press Office on 02078383880/3 or email info@ethioembassy.org.uk