



Ethiopian News

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“It is my wish that you will not have to experience the strife and suffering that was the lot of my generation, and that you shall enjoy a brighter future.”



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H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi

1955 – 2012

The True Son of Ethiopia and Africa

May He Rest in Eternal Peace

PRIME MINISTER MELES REMEMBERED BY ETHIOPIANS IN THE UK



The first anniversary of the passing away of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi was marked at a solemn memorial held in London in the presence of over 500 Ethiopians paying tributes and celebrating the outstanding contributions of the Ethiopia's great leader to his country and people.

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, a truly 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 turned around the shattered economy to make it one of the ten fastest growing economies in the world. Ethiopians from all walks of life, following the demise of His Excellency Meles Zenawi, vowed to carry on with the nation-building endeavours - his legacy -which all Ethiopians cherish and hold dear.

Speaking at the memorial, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, recalled achievements scored under the leadership of Prime Minister 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, have 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 by 2025.

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. He 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.

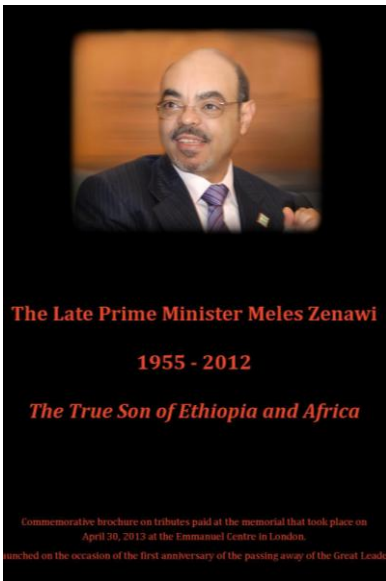
Chairman of the Ethiopian Somali Diaspora Forum, Mr Nur Hussien, said hard work, distinction and dedication were the hallmarks of the leadership of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

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 forward the vision of the great leader whom 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 was launched on this occasion and was placed on sale to raise funds for the Meles Zenawi Foundation.

For information on the brochure, please contact the Press Office on 02078383883;

Donations to the Meles Zenawi Foundation can be made on the following Account Details:

**Commercial Bank of Ethiopia
PO Box 255
Addis Ababa**

SWIFT code: CBETETAA

**Meles Foundation Dollar account no: 1000043346052
Meles Foundation Euro account no: 1000043346354**

**Tel: +251 11 5515004/11 5515000
Email: cbevpr@ethionet.et; cbeftrnt@ethionet.et**

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF PM MELES OBSERVED

On 20th August, Ethiopia observed the first anniversary of the death of the late Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, in a memorial held in Gulele at the newly established Meles Zenawi Memorial Park, in the presence of over 800 local and international guests including the Heads of State and Governments from IGAD neighbouring countries and dignitaries.

Speaking at the memorial, W/ro Azeb Mesfin, the widow of the late premier, remembered the Prime Minister as a committed leader who did his very best to transform Ethiopia into a growing democratic country. She underlined Meles's commitment to the people of Ethiopia and to the equality of the people.



"When we lost this great leader, some of us felt like the promising developments may fade away; but what has happened is that his death becomes another source of inspiration like more gas on a fire. This memorial is simply an event that renews our commitment to development and democracy," she said.



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn remembered Meles as a strong leader who built up Ethiopia, on strong democratic and developmental foundations. He also noted that Meles was a strong advocate of Africa who pioneered the continent's ability to speak with one voice in various international fora.

"The late Meles Zenawi's death was tragic and took many by surprise. Some prophesied doomsday scenarios for the country; yet the institutions and party he helped build proved themselves resilient to any difficulties while they keep fulfilling the national causes they espouse."

"Meles is a great loss to his loved ones and to the country as he had the wisdom to help shape the future of his family and the country," he said.

"Meles achieved remarkable endeavors in green economic development while he led a successful party and government to establish a widely defined democratic system that has recognized and observed rights of individuals and groups at the same time. He was the champion of the poor and a relentless speaker for the African continent on a whole host of issues," he added. Prime Minister

Hailemariam committed his government to keeping alive Meles' legacy by realizing the renaissance of "this great nation".

President of Sudan, Omar Al Bashir said "Meles Zenawi was a great African leader who did his very best for the continent in peace and security, development and democracy and for the place of Africa in the world. His unwavering support for peace and stability in the Sudan was unforgettable as his wisdom helped solve many of the contentious issues. He deserves such a memorial as he was such a great leader of the African continent."

The Special Envoy of the President of the Republic and South Sudan, Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr Barnaba Marial Benjamin, said the late Prime Minister of Ethiopia was the "voice of the voiceless in Africa."

"The late Zenawi was the voice of the voiceless in Africa on so many issues, he was an advocate of peace, security and economic development...It's through the efforts of the late Zenawi that South Sudan today enjoys relative peace," he said.

Dr Benjamin called upon the incumbent Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn to embrace the legacy of PM Zenawi to work for peace in the region and unity across the continent.

The Presidents of Djibouti and Somalia also recognized his immense contribution to his country, the IGAD region and the whole of Africa in their respective speeches. They paid tribute to his outstanding efforts at both national and continental level to maintain regional peace and security, as well as his leading role in environmental protection and climate change negotiations.

The heads of the states present pledged to embrace the "Zenawi legacy" to lead the region into peace and prosperity. They described the late PM as "a visionary and realistic leader" whose plans especially on agricultural transformation and climate change have left a remarkable impact in the region.

Following the speeches, the commemoration stone for the Meles Zenawi Memorial Park was laid by

the President of the Meles Zenawi Foundation, Mrs Azeb Mesfin. The site will be home to a state-of-the-art Library and Research Centre.

At a reception held afterwards, Jendayi Frazer, Former Assistant Secretary of State of African Affairs, said Meles was a highly determined and committed leader who passed away serving his people all through his life. He was a visionary leader who aspired to see a prosperous Ethiopia and Africa as well. Meles changed the challenging relation with European countries and worked hard to boost the ties with the US, she said. Meles' bright thoughts gained him recognition from the presidents of the US, she said, adding, he was working in close collaboration with President George W. Bush and President Barak Obama on continental peace and stability issues. He sacrificed all his time to meet the MDGs, prevent climate change and other international issues.



She expressed hope that the Meles Foundation will help to realize his vision and sustain his teachings.

World Peace Foundation Executive Director with Tufts University, Alex de Waal, on his part said Meles was a great leader who worked day and night to bring economic change in his country thereby reducing poverty. He laid the foundation to build a system which links the country with neighboring countries with infrastructure and energy sectors.

ETHIOPIA'S GREEN REVOLUTION CARRIES PM MELES' LEGACY FORWARD

The first anniversary of the passing of Ethiopia's Prime Minister, H.E. Meles Zenawi, was marked on 20th August, with the laying of a commemorative stone in the presence of over 800 local and international guests - including IGAD-country heads of state - at a site in the newly designated

Meles Zenawi Memorial Park, which will be home to a state-of-the-art **Library and Research Centre**.

World-renowned architect Fasil Giorghis and a team of other young Ethiopian architects are working with STUDIO OTHER SPACES – headed by Danish installation artist Olafur Eliasson with his colleague architect Sebastian Behmann - and highly respected structural engineer Dr Messele Haile, on a specially designed memorial site in Addis Ababa dedicated to the life and ideas of the late Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi.

Their proposal envisions a comprehensive concept for the entire Memorial Park, including a path that leads through the restored indigenous forest, comprising trees and plants from all over Ethiopia; uniquely designed research and conference facilities, library, offices, and guesthouse; a tranquil site for the Prime Minister's tomb; artworks integrated into the landscape; and sites that communicate the Prime Minister's life to visitors as they walk along the path. The entirety presents the main incidents in the prime minister's life, along with events in the world in which he lived.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership, the Meles Zenawi Foundation will support scholarly studies into the late Prime Minister's life and works, taking forward his lifelong commitment to peace, justice, climate-resilient economic development, good governance, and democracy for the Ethiopian and African peoples.

Over past months, in memory of the late Prime Minister, people in *kebeles* (localities) across Ethiopia have planted up **Meles Zenawi Public Memorial Parks** – over 10,000 parks in total, covering about 300,000 hectares, planted with almost a billion trees and plants. The emphasis has been on local planting and the importance of climate-resilience in all future development projects. The capital, Addis Ababa, will have 13 public parks, including the extensive national Memorial Park mentioned above.

Through dedication to his ideals and priorities, and in full appreciation of his legacy, the Meles Zenawi Foundation, with the support and participation of the people of Ethiopia, will keep PM Meles alive and among us.

As Prime Minister Meles himself said:

“Our struggle is not a marathon but more akin to a relay race where those who ran earlier pass on the baton to those who come later.”

MELES ZENAWI: AN EXTRAORDINARY LEGACY ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

By **Nicholas Stern**

It is one year since the death of Meles Zenawi, one of the world's and Africa's most remarkable leaders.



Meles Zenawi left college at the age of 19 in 1975 to fight against the Derg; after 16 years that brutal military regime was overcome and he led Ethiopia, first as President, then as Prime Minister, for two decades.

In that time primary school enrolment went from one-third for girls and 50 percent for boys to 100 percent. Under-five mortality fell by 60 percent, compared to sub-Saharan Africa's 40 percent.

If Ethiopia's growth of GDP had been at the same rate as for sub-Saharan Africa (which was itself accelerating at that time), Ethiopian incomes would have been one-third lower than now. These are remarkable development achievements.

He was also an outstanding figure for Africa as a whole. He led for the African Union on many issues and his analytical force, wisdom and intelligence were greatly valued in the councils of the world, at the UN, G20, G7/8 and elsewhere.

Meles was also a tough man, in a tough place, ready to take difficult decisions.

Neighbouring countries were unstable and difficult. His own country is extraordinarily varied in its cultures, languages and religions, and in its environment and development.

Ethiopia, for all its progress, remained poor and vulnerable to the vagaries of weather and climate. In this difficult regional, developmental and political environment, he saw democracy as "work in progress" and it is clear that there was a long way to go.

At the same time, we should recognise how far it had come relative to a brutal military regime, preceded by an incompetent imperial administration.

On climate and environment and their relationship with development, he was visionary, determined and practical.

It was Meles who, in the run up to the Copenhagen UNFCCC conference of December 2009, insisted on and obtained the promise of \$100 billion per annum from developed to developing countries.

He saw the deep inequities in the facts that the rich countries had become rich on high-carbon growth and the poor countries were hit earliest and hardest on climate change.

Yet at the same time, he argued (in Africa Day at the Durban UNFCCC conference in December 2011) that "it is not justice to foul the planet because others have fouled it in the past". He saw, as with so many other things, that Africa and the developing countries should take their future development, and their environment, in their own hands.

He proposed Ethiopia's **Climate-Resilient Green Economic Strategy (CRGE)**: he had a vision of Ethiopia being both a middle-income country and carbon-neutral by the second half of the next decade, and had concrete plans for getting there. He saw how to contain Ethiopia's double-digit growth rate and de-carbonise at the same time. He saw how degraded land could be restored to great productivity and how forests could be preserved and enhanced by the work of, and in the interests of, local communities.

His ideas on environment and development are still embedded in Ethiopia's plans for the future.

Across Ethiopia people in the *weredas* and *kebeles* are expressing these ideas through the planting of trees and gardens.

His legacy on how to combine poverty reduction on all its dimensions with environmental and climate responsibility carries lessons for us all.

Personally I had the privilege of working with him for more than a decade, as Chief Economist of the World Bank: writing the report of the Commission for Africa, of which he was a key driving force; working together in the run-up to Copenhagen 2009 and at the conference; on the UN Secretary-General's Group on Climate Financing in 2010; and, more recently, on ideas for a BRICS-led infrastructure development bank.

He was an outstandingly gifted, intelligent and committed man; that very rare person, a great mind and a great leader.

He was extraordinary and is irreplaceable. But what can and should, and I believe will, continue is his remarkable and practical vision of how to combine development on the one hand and environment and climate responsibility on the other.

Indeed, he saw so clearly that if we fail on one, we fail on the other, and far from being competitive, they support each other.

His lessons and legacy on environment and development provide fundamental guidance for Ethiopia, Africa and the world.



Professor Nicholas Stern (Lord Stern of Brentford) is Chair of the Grantham Research Institute. He was adviser to the UK Government on the Economics of Climate Change and Development from 2005-2007, where he was Head of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, published in 2006. He was also Chief Economist and Senior Vice President at the World Bank from 2000-2003.



