

P.M. Meles Zenawi's Legacy

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P.M. Meles Zenawi is the right person at the right time to be leading Ethiopia today. He will always be remembered as the leader who is on course for restoring Ethiopia's proud history in its totality, with the help of other Ethiopians who shared the same national vision.

On Governance

With the leadership of P.M. Meles Zenawi, Ethiopia has been forever transformed into a country of Nations and Nationalities with equal rights per the Ethiopian Constitution. The Nations and Nationalities of Ethiopia are self-governing entities which decide what is best for their citizens. Ethiopians can be proud of their diverse languages, religions, and cultures. What a beautiful concept! Ethiopia under P.M. Meles Zenawi's leadership has evolved as a democratic nation which would have been unthinkable to contemplate prior to 1991.

On Economic Development

I cannot say enough about the ongoing booming economic development that is evident in Ethiopia. It is **everywhere!** One has to see it in order to believe it.

I must admit that I was overwhelmed by the transformation of the agricultural sector. I know first-hand that Ethiopian farmers are by far the most obvious beneficiaries, thanks to P.M. Meles/EPRDF's "pro-farmers" stance. Indeed, Ethiopian farmers have come a long way since the Neftegna era of the past. It seems like only yesterday when farmers were virtual slaves under the previous feudal system and the misguided policies of the vicious DERG regime. Now farmers are a political block to be reckoned with. Gone are the days of starvation ever since the concept of "food security" was adopted by the EPRDF government of P.M. Meles Zenawi.

Local and foreign investment in the agriculture sector is huge. It is no longer just about coffee export anymore: Ethiopia is exporting cut flowers, fruits and vegetables, as well as a range of various other new crops, agricultural

products and byproducts. The application of irrigation has enabled farmers to double or triple their crop output and to venture into new crops such as *rice*; consequently many farmers have literally become millionaires. P.M. Meles has recognized those hard-working farmers as *national heroes* and presented them with Medals of Honor!

Every sector of the economy, be it health, education, infrastructure including electric power, telephone communication, and the construction of highways, have reached phenomenal levels; with yet even higher levels in sight. Ethiopia is set to become a net exporter of electric power to the rest of Africa and beyond. Ethiopian cities are being modernized beyond recognition with high rise buildings and condominiums sprouting everywhere. Industries are being built to make Ethiopia less dependent on imported goods such as cement, steel, and medicine. Ethiopia is becoming a primary destination for tourists thanks to the fabulous exposure by the New Millennium celebrations. The best way of communicating the economic development in every conceivable sector is to urge Ethiopians in the Diaspora to visit their homeland. *After all, seeing is believing.*

With annual double digit economic growth, Ethiopia is on track to join the "middle income club" of world nations in about fifteen years or less. P.M. Meles deserves most of the credit for the achievement.

[On the Ethiopia-Eritrea Border Resolution](#)

The EPRDF proposed a solution (dialogue) to resolve the stalemate regarding border demarcation. If pillars were to be set per the "delimitation line" in accordance with the Delimitation decision by E.E.B.C., as P.M. Meles has stated frequently, there would be no permanent peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Among the flash points that would trigger war are the issues of Kunama, Irob and Afar, to name a few. The question of Tserona must also be revisited (<http://www.tigraionline.com/border-demarcation.html>).

P.M. Meles has consistently stated as a matter of public policy, that Ethiopia would never invade Eritrea unless provoked by the latter. His vision is for Ethiopians and Eritreans to live side by side as brothers and sisters. Eritrea would economically benefit immeasurably as a peaceful neighbor of Ethiopia. However, as the saying goes, it takes two to tango. Isaias Afwerki is the only hindrance who is standing in the way of peace; shame on him!

[On P.M. Meles Zenawi's Future Beyond 2010](#)

I believe that P.M. Meles will keep his promise to step down after 2010. Naturally, many Ethiopians would like to see him stay as Prime Minister for at least another term. However, I believe that there are other Ethiopians within EPRDF who are capable of continuing P.M. Meles Zenawi's shining

legacy. I also expect P.M. Meles to continue serving the Ethiopian people as a citizen for many years to come. After all, he is only in his early fifties, and relatively very young indeed.

The Ethiopian people are prepared to protect their economic and political gains against disgruntled individuals and groups who are tirelessly conspiring to undermine the accomplishments of EPRDF under the leadership of P.M. Meles Zenawi. I would characterize such infiltrators as vermin, whose intent is to create divisions among Ethiopian Nationalities; thus, to give themselves opportunity to impose their will upon Ethiopians. Luckily the next leader of Ethiopia, whoever he/she may be, will be someone who will further build on what P.M. Meles has started; and thus propel Ethiopia to new heights of prosperity and democracy.