

Farewell To Meles Zenawi

Melese was a champion of the poor who devoted himself to liberate us from the oppression and alleviating us from poverty in our country Ethiopia and as well as throughout Africa. He has dedicated his life by putting his country first before anything else.

In those past few days after his death while Ethiopians are mourning we were able to witness how he won the hearts, mind and affections of millions in our nation. Ethiopians has paid respect; deeply grieved and saddened by the untimely death of their visionary leader. Ato Meles was son of Ethiopia and a gift for all Africa; God provides people with outstanding leadership skills like PM Melese in this world once in a while. We were fortunate to have him in this crucial era. Meles has left a legacy which can never be forgotten. He left us with hope, inspiration and assignment with the growth and transformation plan that he designed to alleviate us from the centuries old chronic poverty and put us in the rank of middle income countries.

Ever since his childhood time Meles has never wasted a single time without applying it in to use. He interrupted his secondary education to join a guerrilla movement and to over throw the fascist military junta that was a **butcher** of the young and enemy of development. Meles has participated in fierce fights with the derge military lost his comrades but never retreated or withdraw from his aim. He has educated his fellow comrades in political and military science. During the early 80 famine that killed millions of Ethiopians and pushed many to starvation he has played a major role in the food security program.

After over throwing the fascist military junta lead by the coward and ruthless dictator Colonel Megestu Hailamariam he has spent his time transforming Ethiopia into a modern and civilized country in which society can benefit from their rights and live in peace and harmony. He has proposed to elders and other interested parties to participate in drafting the country's constitution that became the law of the land. Without being tired he focused on development building infrastructure connecting the country by road. Building massive dams that can generate hydropower that can sustain the growth of the country and ultimately generate foreign currency. The right of women was in his priority list and now in Ethiopia women has witnessed that for the first time they have been given a chance in their country. Meeting deadlines for the MDG and reducing the infant mortality rate, mother's health and constructing health centers. His other agenda was to eradicate illiteracy and EPRDF has managed to build several universities in all the keeles; each werda, awraja and keble today has elementary and secondary schools. Let me tell you a story what was told to me by one of my friend from Addis regarding the loss of gold in Olympic this summer in London "He said that in the past most of the runners use to run many kilometers a day to go back and forth to and from school however he said after EPRDF started constructing schools in every kebele the new generation has stopped running to school anymore most of them walk no more than 30 minutes".

For the first time in the history of Ethiopia EPRDF has allowed a multi parity system and invited political parties to form and participate in the growth of the country. We have witnessed the glimpse of light in democracy and the emergence of private newspapers that flooded Addis Ababa and other cities in Ethiopia.

Meles has salvaged Ethiopia by architecting the blue print of Nations and Nationalities equal standard in the country to all. His program has incorporated the military to be a joint force by recruiting brave men and women from all nations and nationalities of Ethiopia. These forces were able to defend our country Ethiopia from the invading enemy and went beyond and above to liberate Somalia from a terrorist organization. Our military under his administration has participated in many peace keeping assignments and was able to be recognized by the west and UN as the most disciplined force.

Meles has for over 10 years worked tirelessly and played the water politics very cautiously to form the Nile Basin Riparian countries forum so that the 1959 colonial treaty become overwritten by the new agreement that will allow the use of Nile accordingly. Without this major frame work no one in Ethiopia could have ever thought of building a dam on Abaye river (ጥባይ) on the soil of Ethiopia. History will always remember him as the father of the new treaty.

What distinguished him from others was that special ability to understand the central contradiction of the times, to grasp the most critical question of the day and reply with a charismatic and articulate way in a simple and understandable way. Ethiopians has called him Melese “melse be kisu” thus he was able to inspire and lead masses into struggle the enemy of freedom and poverty. Meles has repeatedly demonstrated this quality and it was this, among others that endeared him to his people and sustained his popularity among the masses for 21 years."

Meles will be remembered for his statesmanship and dedicated service to his country as well as the African Continent he has represented Africa in many international meetings and has made sure we all will not be robed by the west just like what they did during colonization time. His firm stand, approach and diplomacy have given him respect legitimacy and acceptance by all G8 countries as well as by all world leaders and international institutions. During those meetings he showed by example what can be achieved through honesty, integrity, dedication and commitment.

Ethiopians have showed solidarity, manner, respect, strength, peace, love and commitment. I appeal to the ruling party to lead and govern the country with honesty and also to respect the people opinion above all human rights should be given a consideration. Any power struggle could diminish the work and goal of PM Melese Zenawi and might lead us into hell. Last but not least we Ethiopians have the right to know the cause of death and exact time of death of our brave leader.

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family of PM Meles Zenawi, to my fellow Ethiopians and to the EPRDF party for this irreparable loss.

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