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**ETHIOPIANS ABROAD MUST REDEDICATE THEMSELVES FOR THE FULL REALIZATION
OF THE VISION OF THE LATE PRIME MINISTER MELES ZENAWI**

The untimely death of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has sent shockwaves throughout Ethiopia, the Continent of Africa and the world. The Ethiopian Diaspora Association (EDA) has had the unique opportunity to observe firsthand the response of Ethiopians from all walks of life, as well as the international community, to this great loss. Clearly, along with their deep sorrow, Ethiopians have expressed in no uncertain terms their resolve and commitment to honor the legacy of their late leader by redoubling their efforts in pursuit of his vision and strategic plan.

Men, women, the youth, rural and urban dwellers, as well as people of all religious backgrounds have voiced in unison their unwavering commitment to keep the pace set-forth by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. They have pledged to exert their energy and resources to ensure the preservation of gains made to-date, while forging ahead with the Growth and Transformation Plan. Specifically, they have made it clear that full realization of the Great Renaissance Dam and the fight against poverty remain top priorities.

The Ethiopian Diaspora Association strongly believes that the legacy of our late leader, coupled with the wisdom, dignity and humanity with which the Ethiopian people have handled their painful loss, provides with a golden opportunity for Ethiopians at home and in the Diaspora to fulfill their duty and desire as responsible citizens and nationals.

The Diaspora community is both a byproduct and witness to the negative effects of poor governance, undemocratic political system, instability, poverty and intolerance to differences Ethiopia had had to endure for centuries. Internal and external displacement of millions and the suffering and death of thousands of people from starvation were prevalent news headlines about Ethiopia. These days, search for news articles on fastest growing economies, you are certain to find Ethiopia among the few leading countries. Today, Ethiopia is found in the short list of AU, EU, World Bank, IMF, and the UN and its various organs as a country registering rapid growth and development in all facets of life.

As we bid farewell our late leader, the architect of Ethiopia's transformation, we are also reminded of our duties as citizens and nationals. Now is the time for Ethiopians in the Diaspora to mobilize and direct all resources, knowledge and experience, and join forces and unite with the Ethiopian people and Government for the full realization of Ethiopia's Renaissance Movement, and continue to promote Ethiopia as a peaceful and respected member of community of nations.

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