

## Ethiopians in the Washington Metropolitan Area Paid homage to the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi!

Tsehay Debalqew, Washington D.C., September 2, 2012

More than two thousand Diaspora Ethiopians mourned the untimely and sudden passing of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi by paying homage to him on Sunday at the chancery of the Ethiopian embassy in Washington D.C.



Community members from the Ethiopian Diaspora, expressed their profound shock and anguish at the sudden demise and untimely death of the visionary leader and paid tribute to his distinguishing leadership acumen and his over-arching benevolence, magnanimity and wisdom encapsulated by his far-reaching dreams.

Representatives of the Diaspora community presented wide ranging statements of eulogy by enumerating the phenomenal and monumental tasks the premier had accomplished during his life span.



They praised the late prime minister for changing the nation in a positive fashion for good. Members drawn from the youth and women's associations and individuals lauded the late PM Meles as a leader endowed with many characteristics dubbing him as an honest, down to earth, honorable, well respected, passionate, compassionate, charismatic, intelligent and visionary leader.

A contingent of State department envoys and former officials of the UN- ECA and the World Bank attended the function and recounted personal stories fittingly describing the late PM as an exceptional leader who stood for peace development and democracy.

Members of the D.C, Ethiopian Community presented poems and gave touching speeches on the life of Prime Minister Meles. Rahel Yifter, a young girl at one point brought the mourners to their feet and triggered profound tears when she proclaimed, “We will put Meles’ legacy in the inner core of our hearts.” Moving poems recital occasion drew the limelight by energizing and reinforcing determination of the attendees to embrace Meles’ legacy and to realize his vision—to see a peaceful and prosperous Ethiopia.



UTNA, rep reminisced the engagements the late PM had with members of UTNA i.e. Union of Tigreans in North America, a civic organization whose existence came a year ahead to the emergence of the Tigrean Peoples Liberation Front /TPLF/ described the late Prime Minister as, “an avid supporter of education who tirelessly advised those he met for the need to transform themselves in order to better serve their motherland and reap the fruits for themselves.

Representatives from the Eritrean Democratic Congress and the Orthodox Christian denomination in North America read messages of condolences and affirmed their solidarity with the Ethiopian people. The Eritrean Democratic Congress offered its solidarity by saying “Peace loving Eritreans equally mourn the death of Prime Minister Meles with you.

In closing, the entire members pledged and expressed their commitment and determination to redouble their efforts in helping Ethiopia, solemnly declared to stand in unison and start working towards the realization of the great vision that Meles harbored for Ethiopia by shouting an oath pledging to fulfill the grand dreams of the late PM Meles Zenawi. Finally the two thousand strong mourners went out in throngs stood in the premises of the Embassy singing the Ethiopian national anthem and raised their hands aloft and with candle light vigil eulogizing the late PM pledging to pay all sacrifices so that the vision of the great and paramount leader shall be immortal for eternity.