

# Resignation for PM Meles Would Be No Less than Defection from Duty

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## A Response to Mr. Alemu's Article: "Meles Must Go!" May Be He Should.

### Mr. Alemu:

First of all, it very vague for me to understand that how on earth can the resignation of PM Meles would be a precursor for the so-called long begged paradigm shift. Secondly, a paradigm shift in such a way that Ethiopians take care of their destiny has been made by their own costly sacrifices of the last 30 plus years. If you are talking about reversing back to the long gone *status quo* where **some Ethiopians are treated to be more Ethiopian than others** to be a paradigm shift, you need to wake up and shake your head hard. That is closed. Oromai!

Mr. Alemu. You have tried to indicate the achievements registered by the EPRDF government as compared to the previous regimes, as your *hunch* tells you. Do you understand your problem? You guess that EPRDF is better than Derg. First, don't compare an apple and an orange. Second, if you choose to do so, don't guess. What you need is to use your five sense organs. Your problem is that you have a serious difficulty to *acknowledge* what a *Tigryan-led* EPRDF achieves. A passing comment on your last list of achievements: If you believe Meles is *intelligent*, he doesn't need to be *shrewd*. You know him shattering every shrewd idea. He is indeed intelligent!

You begin by *hunch* and close by declaring the achievements as *undeniable facts*. The list can go much more than you would like to list. The reason why EPRDF won the majority is because of its ability to lead the Nation in positive direction in the economic, political and social sectors. The sole reason why EPRDF lost in major towns is because those towns are dominantly refuges of beneficiaries of the previous barbaric regimes, dreaming the coming back of their *Messiah*. EPRDF had limitations in those places but not to the extent that it makes it to lose to criminals and their accomplices. You should not fail to understand that this is not result of healthy politics.

Readers, I found it easier to put Mr. Alemu's ideas as they are and indicate their problems. Mr. Alemu, you tried to indicate that the Ethiopian political elite are turning the course of the political development of the Nation into dangerous direction. And you are telling us that the remedy for this political ill is the resignation of PM Meles. Let me show readers how your statements that oblige the resignation of PM Meles are nonsense.

*Meles' past political miscalculation in relation to the Eritrean regime has created suspicion among a large segment of the population.*

I am not sure about what you mean by political miscalculation. But I don't see a problem with miscalculation. If there is miscalculation, it is just a mistake. And you say a large segment of the population is getting suspicious. Suspicious of what? Are they suspecting that Meles has conspired in relation to the Eritrean issue? This doesn't make sense either because the Eritrean issue was there for the last 100 some years. Mr. Alemu, does it make sense to you when you say "**Large** segment of the [Ethiopian] population is suspicious of Meles' past political miscalculation in relation to the Eritrean regime." This is flawed premise to suggest for the resignation of Meles. I think you are captured by the infamous chauvinists' clause: The Ethiopian People Elect Us.

*Meles has been so far unable to shook of this mistrust and regain a degree of trust necessary to defeat the old guards and their Derg leaders.*

The degree of trust Meles needs is from the Ethiopian peoples and his EPRDF comrades. By the time the Ethiopian people lost trust upon EPRDF, or Meles, they will deny their vote for EPRDF. Thus, what Meles has to do is to maintain the trust of the Ethiopian people towards his party and himself. EPRDF has a potent political strategy and judiciary system to knock old guards and their Derg leaders down. Are you telling us that Meles (or any other EPRDF leader) needs to gain trust to defeat dysfunctional old guards? You believe that the dysfunctional old guards are not yet defeated, though history tells us that that homework has been completed in 1991, and suggest Meles resigns.

*Meles has been successfully portrayed to be a symbol of division within the circles of the political elite.*

Do you portray Meles as a symbol of division within the circle of the political elite? You can. And it is up to you. But do not generalize. For example, I don't portray him as such. Wait a minute. Meles has been successfully "portrayed" to be a symbol of division.... Are you telling us that because he is portrayed to be a symbol of division, he really is an actor of division? I guess you don't. It is ironic to suggest for the resignation of PM Meles because some people "portray" him to be a symbol of division. If we are going to decide who to keep in and who to let out of office based on our biased thinking, we don't need to have elections.

*Meles has been a target of negative publicity due to his leading role in dismantling the old vicious systems of governance that favor small sect of the population.*

That is the right thing for Meles or any other leader of EPRDF to do. Dismantling the old vicious systems of governance that favor small sect of the population? That was the objective of the 17 years costly war. In popular democracy, the cutting point is that the voice of 51% of the general populace is respected, and that of 49% is heard. What about that of the small sect of a population who were the beneficiaries of the old system? I can definitely say one thing. It is absurd to give them the weight to the extent that they can be a reason for the resignation of a Prime Minister. Do the Ethiopian people see Meles or EPRDF negatively for bringing criminals of Derg to justice? Nobody would do that!

*And, frankly, Meles has so far not shown an interest to fight back these negative characterizations, thus allowing the imaginations of the forces of destruction to go wild.*

Here unfolds an interesting evolution of scenarios. Meles didn't show an interest to fight back negative characterizations. Then, the imaginations of the forces of destruction go wild. Then, you think the remedy is Meles' resignation, thus pick a pen. What you better need to do is to make a genuine and just fight against the forces of destruction. Google "political cartoon" and you will see how world leaders are negatively characterized. Should every other leader resign because his/her opponents characterized him/her negatively? No way!

Mr. Alemu: Nobody can be certain that the development of democratic process would not be faced with dangers. But the difference is pinpointing the real sources of danger. PM Meles' (and his comrades') character cannot be the source of that danger. The sources of danger lie with chauvinism and within chauvinists, whom you are calling *bigots* and *hate mongers*. And for that you should have advised PM Meles to keep steadfast to kneel down them and promise to join him. Thus, I see no good in your proposed change that you were advancing—to advise the Prime Minister to resign.

Mr. Alemu, you stated that:

*The resignation of PM Meles will deny the radical elements of the Derg an easy target. People will have an opportunity to know who these people in the opposition are; their composition, their real agenda and their real issue will be forced to surface out. Their attack on the people of Tigray will be aborted. Anti-peace forces will be denied any sanctuary and be easily exposed.*

Let us be genuine and fair so that we put the Ethiopian reality. The Ethiopian people can be grossly divided into two groups: Politically Literate and Politically Illiterate. The Politically Literate ones know what is right and not right, what is good and not good, what can be done and cannot be done, what is possible and not possible with respect to the economic and socio-political reality of present-day Ethiopia. The Politically Literate people know the difference between EPRDF, and ex-King and ex-Derg remnants.

They know where the problem lies and the presence of PM Meles in office does not overshadow that naked reality. Just one passing point to your statement! Their attack on the people of Tigray will be taken care of by the Ethiopian people. It is the duty of EPRDF to educate the Politically Illiterate Ethiopian people that an attack on the People of Tigray is an attack on the People of Amhara, an attack on the People of Oromo, an attack on the People of Afar, an attack on the People of Somalia, an attack on the People of Benshangul, an attack on the People of Every Other Nation and Nationality. This is the way they have to be exposed, not by making an elected leader resign.

I would say “What!” in response to your statement indicated below.

*Political groups who fought for the rights of nationalities, forces that had an issue with Ato Meles and are looking this rising tide of chauvinism and Berg’s attempt for resurrection from the sidelines, will come to defend their gains and shut out the forces of reaction for once and all. Even those former EPRP elements who are shamefully being recruited by the forces of anti-Tigray will get a chance to reflect on their stand and rid themselves of the Derg sickness (yeDerg abaze).*

Nationalities will come to defend their rights after Meles resigns? They already defended and are defending! They denied their vote to chauvinists’ parties in the last election. Visit the NEBE website and check the elections results in Afar, Benshangul, Gambela, Somali, Tigray, and all the constituencies of Oromia and SNNP inhabited by indigenous people. They don’t need the resignation of PM Meles to learn who chauvinists are. They knew them as far as their grandpas. And don’t worry about a sickness of another sickened and dysfunctional EPRP.

Mr. Alemu, you hope that:

*The resignation of PM Meles will also build confidence about peaceful transfer of power for the first time in the history of the country. This positive step will be a cornerstone for the new Ethiopia*

Though you agreed that Meles is a person with all the qualities a country like ours needs to have as a leader, you opted to suggest his resignation for failing to compromise. Are you telling us that Meles has to resign because chauvinists get wild and crazy, and calling this a compromise? Mr. Alemu, Meles’ lack of compromise is your belief. Not Meles’ character. The problem with Meles as far as you are concerned is his identity, as you put it as follows:

*EPRDF needs one who can be compromising and determined at the same time. EPRDF also needs a **non-Tigrrian** as its leader. Let us be real and to the point. Then these red-eyed chauvinists-tribalists will have no an easy target for attack. They will be laid bare. This is the antithesis that would render them ineffective and remove them from the political arena.*

It is the responsibility of EPRDF to have a different leader. If you are a member of EPRDF, you can share the idea with your comrades. But, be assured that EPRDF will not change leaders based on national (i.e. ethnic) background. They usually do it on leadership skills and qualities. No more, no less.

Mr. Alemu, you sound like fortuneteller below:

*The resignation of Ato Meles, if it happens, will come with one caveat. The reform process that he has initiated will continue. People's freedom, the freedom to secede, if that ultimate solution is the only option, will be respected whether Meles goes or not. Regional disparities in economic, social and political developments will be addressed equitably and fairly. Bigots and hate mongers will have no role in the political life of the country. Ato Meles will retire in peace and contribute immensely to his country and party in other ways that will be acceptable to his future bosses. This is an Ethiopia that I want to feel and see.*

No. Your dreams (which very good ones) can only be realized when intelligent leaders like Meles stay in leadership. He is only 51 years old, and the law of the Nation doesn't prevent him from staying in leadership. Don't forget Ethiopia had been ruled by a corpus.

To wind up my comments, it is up to the Ethiopian electorate to decide on the fate of EPRDF. Once elected, it is the duty of EPRDF to decide whom to put in office. The responsibility of Meles is to obey the decision of his party. As TEGADALAI, Meles has to further the cause for which his comrades martyred with full determination. His martyred comrades did not deter to pay ultimate sacrifices. Thus, there is no reason for him to resign. Resignation would be no less than defection from duty, as they call it **ምስላም** as fighters.

PS: አቶ አለሙ፣ ያለውን የሰጠ ንፋግ አይባልም ላልከው ይሉኝታ ፈርተህ መስጠት የሌለብህን አትስጥ እልሃለሁኝ።

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