

A Solemn Observance in Memoriam of Premier Meles Zenawi held by Ethiopians in the D.C. Metro Area

Tsehay DeBalkew, Washington D.C. 8 / 20 / 2013

The first anniversary of the passing away of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi was observed in a Somber memoriam held in the premises of the Embassy of Ethiopia in Washington D.C. with a strong congregation of Ethiopians numbering in their hundreds on Tuesday August 8, 2013 recalling the extraordinary undertakings of the visionary leader.



Opening the observance event the guest of Honor, Speaker of the Ethiopian House of Federation, Kassa Teclé Birhan underlined that the late PM Meles was the only one initiator of a developmental state in Africa which modus operandi has effectively transformed the dwindling economy of Ethiopia into a robust and ever burgeoning economy registering a galloping rise for the last decade.

His outstanding deeds have earned him wide acclaim of Ethiopians and foreign dignitaries from all hooks and nooks of the nation and abroad, who he said have vowed and pledged to carry on with his legacy, which all cherish and continue to nourish, he added.

The Speaker of the House of Federation also mentioned the Meles Zenawi Foundation which the people of Ethiopia have launched in recognition of his brilliant leadership. The Foundation is dedicated to preserving and advancing the legacy of the late Prime Minister's enduring commitment to peace, justice, democracy and development in Ethiopia and the African continent at large.

Speaking at the memorial, Ambassador Girma Birru, Special Envoy, Ambassador Extra-ordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to the US and resident Ambassador to Canada and Mexico, recalled the achievements scored under the wise leadership of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in the political economic and social fields and the overall transformation now taking place nation-wide and the indelible mark he has left behind to endure for generations to come.



Ethiopia's hitherto unseen economic growth, peace and stability, its growing role as an active member, at the Continental and Regional levels and as a responsible nation in the international arena, were all reflections of the legacy and wise leadership of the late Prime Minister.

"The centerpiece of his legacy was promoting and defending national economic development. For without the conquest of poverty, Ethiopia would remain weak and vulnerable" he re-iterated.

"The other two pillars of Meles' legacy were national pride and national security policy in the context of globalization". It is in these two defining and paramount beliefs of the late Premier he noted, that one finds the deeper meaning of Ethiopia's Foreign Policy and its engaging interaction in today's globalized world, the Special Envoy underscored.

He said, remembering our great leader, the beloved son of Ethiopia and Africa, and the development successes we enjoyed under his insightful leadership, we re-dedicate our solemn promise to carry on with more determination to see through his vision and called on the Diaspora to re-double their efforts in the nation building effort currently in full swing.

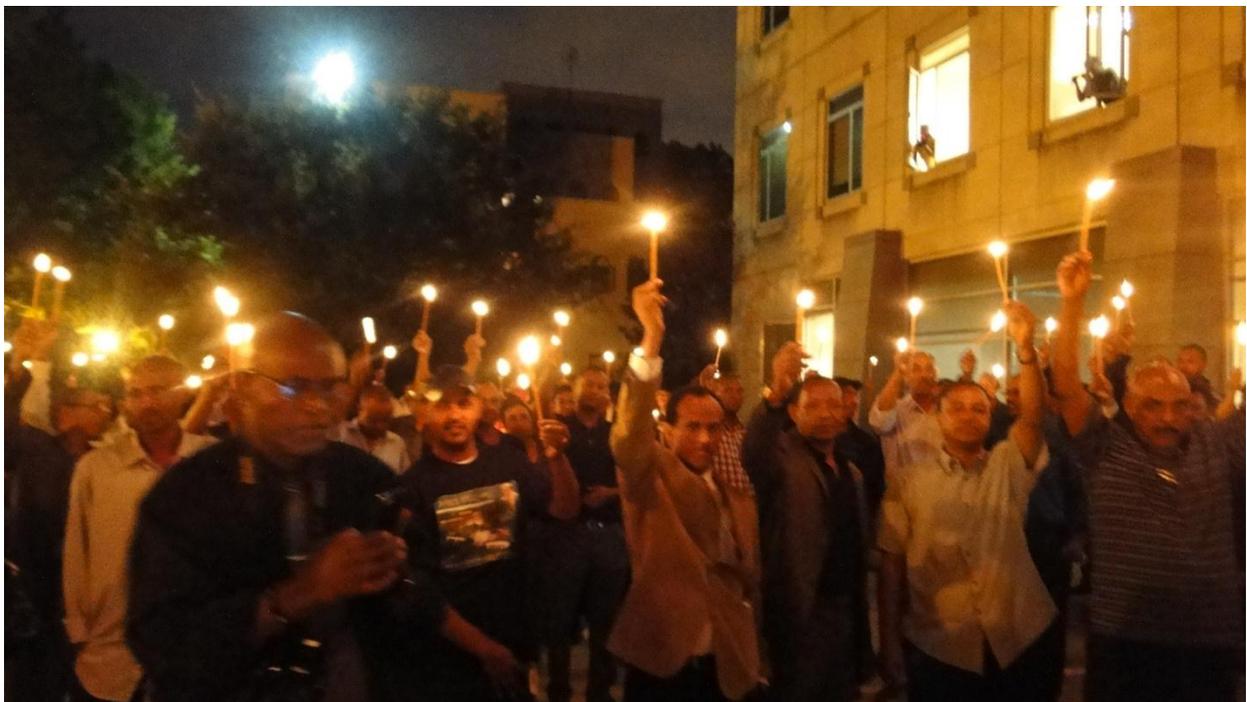
Representatives of nations and nationalities, and the pro-active Youth cluster, recalled the great achievements of Ethiopia in the spheres of economic, political and social development under the wise leadership of the late PM Meles Zenawi and paid tribute to his inspiring leadership.



They vowed to intensify their involvement in the implementation of the mega projects and to ensure the speedy and sustainable equitable development that is in full gear in Ethiopia. The great leader, they noted, was exemplary and inspirational in his role for the entrenchment of peace, equality and democracy and development and called upon Ethiopian compatriots to extend every support possible towards the realization of the GTP.



Songs were played and poems recited in addition to a commemorative video enacting and enumerating the unforgettable leadership of Premier Meles which was screened on the occasion celebrating the deeds and achievements of the late PM.



Participants at the highly emotional gathering also observed a candle-light vigil in memory of the visionary leader who paid the final sacrifice in the line of duty of serving his beloved country and people.

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, the visionary Ethiopian leader, was laid to rest at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Addis Ababa after he passed away on 20th August last year at the age of 57.