

Eulogy to Prime Minister Meles

Enveloped by immense sadness

Shedding oceanic tears

Our dear motherland Ethiopia is grieving

The untimely passing

Of her intrepid son

No one begrudges a long life

But a life of great deeds even when cut short

Is worth more than several lifetimes

Like a bright star

Shining boldly under a dark sky

The gloom now hanging over our vast land

Has served to bring to light the grand accomplishments

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Meles

Who knew better than our beloved and respected Meles

How to express the aspirations and longings

Of the peoples of Ethiopia

I also dare say of Africa

And translate them into actions?

He was a deep thinker who saw both near and far

Who had the rare ability to get straight to the heart of things

Above all our leader Meles was a supreme practical problem solver

Unlike some idle talkers who never ceased to throw darts at him

Scanning the vast Ethiopian horizon

He said "poverty is our number one enemy"
And he rallied the people to fight it with a systematic plan
With a great resolve and iron will
It was one war he fought with relish
With all the energy he mustered until his last breath
He was a man of peace who hated wars
Unless foisted on his country by invaders
And adventurous destructive forces

Our wise teacher Meles was no demi-god
But one of us born of the same flesh and bones
He had no time for self adulation
He just pressed on with the herculean tasks
Of the rejuvenation of his motherland
Indeed our Meles was the proud son of the peoples of Ethiopia and of Africa!

Dear country men and women!
At this critical hour
Let's wipe off our tears
Straighten our backs
And press on with the unfinished business of our country
Let's go at it step by step
Without being impetuous or impulsive
And without divorcing ourselves from our own realities
Let's protect the stability of our country
The way we protect the apple of our eye

For without peace and stability
The journey of dynamic development
Our leader Meles has started us on
Will come to naught like a fool's dream
This will be a long journey
But no doubt we will reach our destination
Guided by the creative and pragmatic policies of reform
Already put in place by Prime Minister Meles and EPRDF*
This we must do to realize the Ethiopian renaissance
With 80 million people behind it
No force on earth will stop us from achieving it!

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SWS

*"I cannot separate my achievements from what can be considered as the achievements of the ruling party," he (Meles) once said. "Whatever achievement there might have been, it does not exist independent of that party." guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 21 August 2012