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Ignorance and Miscalculation

Some Egyptian officials do not lose their hope to regain their hold as an omnipotent user on the Nile River. This is nothing but an illusion. It is pretty much clear that Ethiopia's foe from inside and outside are hoping for better days ahead for them after Meles Zenawi. This vividly depicts two things. One is how much Prime Minister Meles as a person has blocked undemocratic strivings for power. Two is the fact that these forces will remain weak for a while for they do not understand the new Ethiopian spirit and reality.

Prime Minister Meles did not and can not establish an empire that will be scrambled after he has left office. The country does not operate like that; the system in use does not allow that to happen. It is a collective leadership that is working in Ethiopia and achieved tremendous success. What Meles started will definitely be accomplished and what he has already accomplished will again definitely be maintained. Ethiopia is on the right track of development, peace and security and the diplomatic and strategies giving priority to peaceful coexistence and mutual development continue to get appraisals from all but the Eritrean government.

Oddly, Egyptian based bikiyamasr.com under its title "In Ethiopia, a post-Meles future could bring end to water tension with Egypt" its front page quoted an Egyptian from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation saying, on August 05, 2012, Sunday morning, *"with the combination of Egypt's new President Mohamed Morsi and the potential of seeing a new leader in Ethiopia, they hoped the tension over Nile River water could be resolved."*

The notion from the official clearly depicts that some Egyptian officials do not have lucid understanding on the nature and character, policies and strategies, commitment of the Ethiopian government to bringing peace and stability to the region and elsewhere. It

shows that some Egyptians do not still understand the Ethiopian position on the Nile River. The position of all Ethiopian's towards the Nile River is congruent with the government's position. Both the government and the people are aware of the economic consequence of failing to use its water resources.

Ethiopia has a tidy position that it should utilize its water resources substantively without fundamental harm on its neighboring countries including Egypt. Ethiopia believes that it can retain its benefits based on mutual understanding and mutual benefit. There is no win-lose, nor there can be lose-win policy. Ethiopia for the last two decades has been fostering dialogues among the upper riparian and down stream countries to have a common bright future in their economic, political and diplomatic relations regarding the use of the Nile.

The reality in Ethiopia is obvious to any body. The leading party, EPRDF, is a solid party. It firmly believes that Ethiopia should have a strong position towards the Nile River and other water resources. Its policies and strategies on the matter are based on mutual benefit with all riparian countries. There should be equitable share of that resource. It is Ethiopia under the leadership of Meles Zenawi that gave a chance to Egypt to take its time and see it self towards the agreement. It is Ethiopia under his leadership which was ready to establish tripartite committee to come with an investigation whether the renaissance dam would affect Sudan and Egypt. It is Ethiopia that contributes more than 85% to the river. It is Ethiopia that never said it should use that water solely to her self.

To be certain, there will be no change towards the matter. Ethiopia does not depend on the shoulder of one man. Ethiopia is a country governed by a solid system. All these nonsense coming from some Ethiopian extremists and, perhaps, some Egyptians is therefore a huge miscalculation and ignorance on the nature of the government. Egypt whether like it or not will be forced to come back to table and discuss its matters. A matter on the Nile River seems finalized. It again seems all the riparian countries which

signed the agreement will never extradite their benefits to Egypt. Egypt contributes nothing to the river.

The day to day activities of the government are, as usual, continuing with out any problem. There would be nothing that interrupts from their day today activities. In his absence for almost two months the country is still safe and calm as usual. Egypt holding onto a lion's share of water from the world's largest river has become an outdated thinking. Therefore, all Egyptians and Ethiopian extremists should be aware of Ethiopia's position during Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and post is one and the same.