

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi Received Africa Leadership Award



(Los Angeles May 31, 2008):-Prime Minister Meles Zenawi won this year's Africa Leadership Award. Africa Times, a US-based newspaper and the Africa Achievement Award Committee honored Meles in a colorful ceremony held at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel in Los Angeles, California. H.E.

Ambassador Taye Atske Selassie, Consul General of Ethiopia in Los Angeles received the prize on behalf of the premier.

In a message read out by Ambassador Taye, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi highlighted the achievements Ethiopia has made over the last few years. He noted that despite the increased prices of food and energy and the looming drought, Ethiopia's economy fared well this year.

Speaking of the progress Africa has made, Meles pointed out that almost half of the African countries have registered more than five per cent growth. He also reminded Africans of the challenges the continent of Africa faces today. "Extremism may not be the direct result of poverty, but it is undeniable that there is a relationship," Meles noted. Moreover, he cautioned that the connection between poverty and intolerance should not be overlooked.

He also urged Africans in the Diaspora to deploy their “immense professional skills and great wisdom” to the transformation of Africa. He went on to say that Africa “is your responsibility as much as ours.” “Together,” he proclaimed, “We can make Africa a far better place to live than it has ever been before.” He said the prize is not to recognize the performance of individuals, but should inspire all those who are working hard for the development Africa.



Previous winners of the Africa Political Leadership Award include Nelson Mandela, Bill Clinton, Desmond Tutu and President Olusegun Obasanjo, among others.

In a related development, Africa Day was celebrated in Hollywood, where the Ethiopian new millennium was recognized. Members of the diplomatic community and invited guests attended the event, which the Consulate General of Ethiopia hosted.