

The Message

by

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President of the Republic of South Sudan



ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE FUNERAL OF LATE
H.E. PRIME MINISTER Atto MELES ZENAWI

Addis Ababa, 2nd September 2012

- **YOUR EXCELLENCY, GIRMA WOLDE-GIORGIS, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA,**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCIES, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS,**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCIES LEADERS OF DELEGATIONS,**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,**
- **THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

It is with profound sadness that I stand here before you to pay tribute to this great son of Africa, a friend and a great leader. A dark cloud hangs over us today with this great loss to Ethiopia in particular, Africa and the World at Large. The Untimely death of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi is not only a loss to Ethiopia, but to Africa. His contribution as a champion of democracy, human rights, peace and development is evident across the continent and in particular in the region. He has been the face of Africa in all the International Forums.

To us in the Republic of South Sudan, his unwavering support and dedication to the resolution of the outstanding CPA issues between the Republic of South Sudan and Sudan cannot be left

unmentioned. We as people of South Sudan have enjoyed tremendous support from the people of Ethiopia since the error of Emperor Haile Selassie through Megestu regime to the period of our late brother Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. This unwavering support opens the way for our freedom and therefore your pain and sorrow is also our pain. He took it personally to ensure that there is peace in our Region. His life as a liberator and politician is not merely a subject for admiration and respect, but an invaluable lesson to be taken into our innermost hearts.

As we pay our last respects, let us therefore, learn from the achievements and dedications of Prime Minister Meles. He has been an inspiration to me and I believe to many of us, for the ideals, which we fought for, *Justice, Liberty and Prosperity*. He was one who cannot give up even in the face of difficult challenges. Faced with problems where others would say, "What can I do?" Instead, he took action.

We applaud Ethiopia's continuous mature democracy in engaging on regional issues and look forward to continue the legacy of our departed brother Prime Minister Meles. May that strength light the way ahead of us as we heal from this loss and may the lessons that we have learnt from Prime Minister Meles short but fulfilling and

extraordinary life inspire us to remain as we are today, united in our respect for one another and our love for our Countries and Africa in general. We have lost a great man but his legacy of a peaceful and progressive Africa will leave forever among us. Prime Minister Meles has left us huge boots to fill, but we remain confident that his Comrades will build on the solid foundation that Ethiopia has laid down under his leadership to score more programs in different fields.

At the level of our sub-region and the continent, we ought to continue to move along the travel pass that my late brother, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and other eminent sons and daughters of Africa have blazed.

Our solidarity remains with the beloved people of Ethiopia during this time of bereavement and transition. Once again, our condolences go to the Ethiopian people and in particular the family of Prime Minister Atto Meles Zenawi.

May God rest his Soul in Peace.

Thank you.