

H.E. Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin Honours Former South African President and Freedom Fighter Nelson Mandela

Ethiopian Embassy, Beijing, 10 December 2013- H.E. Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin, accompanied by diplomats from the Ethiopian Embassy in Beijing, laid a wreath and signed the Book of Condolences yesterday, opened at the South African Embassy in Beijing to honour Nelson Mandela, the country's first democratically elected president and anti-apartheid leader, who died last Thursday aged 95.

On his condolence message, Ambassador Seyoum stated-



"Nelson Mandela, the greatest Son of Africa and the towering leader of our times has passed. Mandela was born for the people, lived for the people, and died for the people. His iconic works and teachings are immortal. They will continue to lead good humanity across continents and borders; across races, religions and politics. They will transcend beyond generations, present and future."

In an interview with CCTV last Friday (12/6/13) Ambassador Seyoum recalled his personal account of Mandela and portrayed him as an inspiration to Africans and to humanity. He said the legacies that Nelson Mandela left behind are immortal and his legacies will be celebrated across generations.

<http://english.cntv.cn/program/newsupdate/20131206/105720.shtml>

H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the African Union expressed most profound sympathies and sincere condolences to the family of President Mandela as well as the People and the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia in a Statement noted, "The People and Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia received with profound sorrow the news of the passing away of former South African President Nelson Mandela- a visionary leader, who dedicated his life for the achievement of freedom and justice for his people." <http://www.mfa.gov.et/news/more.php?newsid=2800>

The House of Peoples' Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has passed a decision for the Ethiopian National Flag to fly Half-Mast for three consecutive working days in Ethiopia and in Ethiopian diplomatic missions across the globe to mourn former President Nelson Mandela.