

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of Ethiopia took part in the 50th Anniversary celebration of the OAU/AU in Beijing



Ethiopian Embassy, Beijing, 27 May 2013- The Golden Jubilee of the Organization of African Unity/African Union (OAU/AU) was celebrated at a Gala Dinner organized by the African Ambassador’s Group in Beijing on Saturday, May 25.

On the occasion, Guests of Honour H.E. Mr. Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of Ethiopia and Honourable Mr. Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of China delivered statements.

Mr. Demeke extended best wishes on the occasion of the Anniversary and lauded on the Continent’s common history and heritage, its unity and diversity as well as its enormous potentials and common destiny.

He said “Much as we take enormous pride and satisfaction from our successes, we also feel dissatisfied by our pitfalls that contributed to our current state of affairs. It is in view of this fact that the theme “Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance” was selected to give us the opportunity to reflect on Africa’s past, and to look at its present and future.”

He said the previous generation paid the price to liberate the continent from colonialism and the future generation has the responsibility for the economic Emancipation of Africa.

Mr. Demeke expressed gratitude to the People, Government and Communist Party of China for their consistent friendship and partnership to Africa and its people. He commended the Forum of China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) as a unique platform for the new strategic partnership for peace and development.

He said that colorfully celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the OAU/AU in China is a fitting tribute to Africa-China partnership.

Honorable Mr. Zhang Dejiang congratulated the Peoples and Governments of Africa and admired the achievements under the OAU/AU leadership. He expressed his confidence that African countries will continue to make joint efforts towards progress and development.

While looking into the history of the relations between Africa and the People's Republic of China, Mr. Zhang praised the vibrancy of mutual friendship and partnership that extended for over half a century. He emphasized on the significance of FOCAC and noted on the commitment of the Government of the People's Republic of China to further advance the China-Africa strategic partnership in the tradition of sincere friendship, mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and common development.



H.E. Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, Ambassador of Ethiopia to China, delivered a statement representing African Ambassadors Group in Beijing. He expressed gratitude to all the organizers and sponsors of the event. He passionately recited a poem adapted from the words of Marcus Garvey.

Cry it loud, and shout it on hurrah!
Time has changed so, hail New Africa!
We are now awakened, rights to see,
We shall fight for dearest liberty!
For One-Africa in peace and prosperity!

The festivities of the evening continued to midnight with cultural shows by both African and Chinese artists as well as African students in China. Ambassador Seyoum gave awards to the supporters and sponsors of the event as well as to organizations and individuals that contributed to strengthening China-Africa partnership.