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**Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party(EPRP)**

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**MELES REGIME INTENSIFIES ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION**

Reliable reports revealing the sad fact that the Meles Zenawi regime has leased out parts of the Gambella National park land to a Saudi Arabian modern farming company and that the felling of the trees has begun in earnest has highlighted the regime's intensified assault on the environment in Ethiopia. It is to be remembered that the vast Nech Sar Park was torched by the cadres of the regime some years back leading to the loss of the forest and wild life.

The Meles Zenawi regime has proved an enemy of the environment in more ways than one. Moreover, it has allowed foreign entities to degrade the Ethiopian environment at will, to engage in deforestation and ecological attacks. Sudanese nationals have been given access to Ethiopian land and to cut trees for coal, devastate the bamboo trees in the Metema region and to hunt down endangered wild animals. Deforestation and extensive logging from Quara to Wollega has led to alarming environmental degradation. The regime that has imported genetically modified seeds has also intensified the use of dangerous fertilizers that have harmed the soil and contributed to pollution.

The recent intensified sale of agricultural land to foreign companies (Saudi Arabia, China, India, etc) has led to intensified deforestation as land is cleared for farming (rice, wheat, etc to be taken outside of Ethiopia). Hunters from the Middle East have been allowed, for a price, to hunt down wild animals that need protection instead. Rivers and streams have been spoilt, the dams on Gilgel Gibe have been accused of negatively impacting on the surrounding areas, the lack of potable water and the inadequacy of the sewage system in the cities have aggravated the environmental degradation. Addis Abeba deservedly has become one of the dirtiest cities in the world. The persistence of famine and drought is definitely linked to this situation and the irresponsible environmentally unfriendly measures of the Meles Zenawi regime.

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