

REMARKS BY H.E. SALIM AHMED SALIM  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 1992 ANNOUNCEMENT CEREMONY OF THE  
AFRICA PRIZE FOR LEADERSHIP FOR THE SUSTAINABLE  
END OF HUNGER  
9 JULY 1992, AFRICA HALL, ADDIS ABABA

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PRESIDENT MELES ZENAWI, <sup>Joan</sup>MADAM HOLMES, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

ALLOW ME, ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, TO  
SAY HOW DELIGHTED I AM TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF ADDRESSING  
YOU TODAY <sup>from our Headquarters</sup> AND OF PARTICIPATING IN THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION.

MAY I ALSO SAY WHAT A PERSONAL PLEASURE IT IS FOR ME TO  
SERVE ON THE INTERNATIONAL JURY FOR THE AFRICA PRIZE, ALONG  
WITH MY COLLEAGUES :

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER, DR NORMAN BOLAUG,  
THE ZAMBIAN BUSINESSMAN AND FORMER PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR,  
MR. MARK CHONA,  
MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR, H.E. IDE OUMAROU,  
THE DIRECTOR OF THE U.N. FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES,  
DR. NAFIS SADIK,  
THE FATHER OF INDIA'S GREEN REVOLUTION, DR. M.S.  
SWAMINATHAN,  
AND OF COURSE, OUR DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN, DR. CHESTER  
CROCKER,

WE WILL THEREFORE NOT REST. WE WILL NOT GIVE UP. WE WILL NOT DIMINISH OUR DETERMINATION AND ENERGIES UNTIL EVERY AFRICAN CHILD, WOMAN AND MAN ENJOYS WHAT MUST BE THEIR BIRTHRIGHT-- TO LIVE A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE LIFE.

THIS COMMITMENT IS SACRED TO US. OUR CONTINENTAL BODY, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, WAS FOUNDED NOT ONLY AS A FORUM FOR COMMON POLITICAL ACTION, BUT EQUALLY AS A CRUCIAL VEHICLE FOR ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST ASPIRATIONS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.

THE COMMITMENT TO THE RICHNESS, FULLNESS AND DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE WAS THE DRIVING ENERGY BEHIND AFRICA'S FIRST LIBERATION, ITS POLITICAL LIBERATION. AND SO TOO IS THE COMMITMENT BEHIND THE STRUGGLE FOR OUR SECOND LIBERATION, OUR ECONOMIC LIBERATION.

IN MEETING THIS CHALLENGE WE DO REALISE THAT AFRICA'S PEOPLE ARE THE SOLUTION TO AFRICA'S PROBLEMS. WHEN OUR ECONOMIES IMPROVE, THE ONLY MEANINGFUL RESULT IS THAT RESOURCES WILL BE GENERATED TO INVEST IN THE KNOWLEDGE, HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF OUR PEOPLE. IT IS ONLY OUR HARD WORK THAT WILL TRANSFORM ECONOMIC ABSTRACTIONS INTO AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE.

WHAT ADDS THE SPARK THAT MOBILIZES THE POWER OF AFRICA'S PEOPLE AND POINTS THE WAY TO SOLVING PROBLEMS IS LEADERSHIP.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION OF THE AFRICA PRIZE, THE HUNGER PROJECT, FOR ITS SUSTAINED EFFORTS AT MOBILIZING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICA.

BE IT IN MOBILIZING PUBLIC SUPPORT AT A MOMENT OF CRISIS, AS IS NOW THE CASE IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, OR IN WORKING IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURE, OUR "PRIORITY OF PRIORITIES," THROUGH THE PAGES OF "AFRICAN FARMER" MAGAZINE, YOU ARE STANDING FIRM IN YOUR COMMITMENT TO AFRICA.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE PROJECT HAS TAUGHT PEOPLE IN NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD, THAT PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICA IS NOT A MATTER OF GUILT OR CHARITY, BUT A MATTER OF HUMANITY -- A QUESTION OF SOLIDARITY IN OUR COMMON STEWARDSHIP OF THIS FRAGILE PLANET, AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR COMMON HUMAN FAMILY.

THE PROJECT HAS HELPED PEOPLE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AFRICA TO SEE BEYOND, THE PESSIMISM AND CYNICISM ENGENDERED BY THE PROBLEMS OF THE MOMENT, TO A REALISTIC AND ACHIEVABLE VISION OF THE FUTURE -- A FUTURE FREE FROM HUNGER.

AFRICA, AS MS. HOLMES HAS POINTED OUT, IS MAKING HERCULIAN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ITS ECONOMIC LIBERATION.

BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU, AND ALL OF YOU IN THE HUNGER PROJECT AROUND THE WORLD, THAT WE IN AFRICA REALISE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CHALLENGE AT HAND.

THE AFRICA PRIZE IS ABOUT LEADERSHIP. THE AFRICA PRIZE HOLDS BEFORE EACH OF US THE NOTION THAT TRUE LEADERSHIP IS LEADERSHIP THAT EMPOWERS PEOPLE. FROM GREAT LEADERSHIP, PEOPLE GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY, THEMSELVES, ARE GREAT. THAT A BETTER LIFE IS WITHIN THEIR GRASP.

AS THE ANCIENT PROVERB SAYS, THE MARK OF GREAT LEADERSHIP IS THAT, WHEN THE TASK IS DONE, THE PEOPLE WILL SAY, "WE DID IT OURSELVES".

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I THANK YOU.