

# The 35th anniversary of the Amhara National Democratic Movement /ANDM/ was colorfully Celebrated in Washington D.C.

November 21, 2015

Hundreds of Diaspora Ethiopians residing in the Washington, D.C. Metro area, particularly members and supporters of the organization observed the 35th anniversary of the ANDM event on Saturday, November 21, 2015 at the auditorium of the chancery of the Ethiopian Embassy.



*Amb. Girma Birru lighting the candle and delivering speech*

Ambassador Girma Birru, Special Envoy, Ambassador Extra-Ordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to the US, Mexico and Jamaica graced the event as the

guest of honor. Addressing the event, the Special Envoy recounted the genesis of ANDM, and added that it stands as one of the democratic organizations that have been able to actively mobilize the people. The Ambassador stipulated that ANDM, has distinguished itself by putting the history of the Amhara people in its proper place. He went on to add that it is through the sacrifice of gallant sons and daughters that ANDM showed to the rest of the people that the Amhara people were suffering under the yoke of successive repressive systems. He also credited the ANDM for fostering propitious atmosphere for other democratic organizations to flourish.

The Special Envoy further stated that it was due to the struggle by the ANDM that chauvinism was uprooted and the unity of Ethiopia could be realized only through the voluntary association of the various peoples, nations and nationalities based on equality and brotherhood. Ambassador Girma re-iterated that although much is done to obliterate poverty and its attendant ills, the ANDM and other democratic parties have the bounden duty of leading the Ethiopian people until poverty is buried with all its manifestations.



*Ato Merkebu Beyene reading the Central Committee Statement*

The ANDM Central Committee statement read to the public who attended the celebratory event that, it will strive for the realization of the second five-year growth and transformation plan with the active participation of the public. The statement

added that it will continue to mobilize the public for further progress; i.e. improving agricultural productivity, promoting irrigation development and ensuring structural transformation in the manufacturing industries are among the priorities in the coming years. Emphasizing the need for proper utilization of resources at the government, party and the public level, ANDM said it is ready to effectively mobilize the resources.

Fighting rent seeking tendencies and backwardness are also major activities need to get attention. To be victorious in terms of fighting corruption and malpractices, ANDM should continue to promote and implement the good values existing in the organization, the statement said. In addition to undertake integrated activities with the government and public, ANDM said it is ready to work with opposition political parties for the bright future of the nation.



*Panel Discussion on the history of ANDM and Democratic Nationalism*

The Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM), the precursor of ANDM, was founded by former members of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP). At its third organizational conference in 1994, the EPDM changed its name to Amhara National Democratic Movement (ANDM), marking its transition from a pan-Ethiopian movement to a regional National party. Waging an armed struggle against the Dergue regime in 1982, the organization fought the military regime with other armed groups until its downfall in 1991. After the fall of the military regime, the organization among the four parties under EPRDF, has been working bring development to the country.

On the event, a Minute of Silence was observed to remember the Martyrs whose sacrifice has been instrumental in eventuating today's Ethiopia. Representatives of sister organizations had also made solidarity messages. The attendees of the event participated in the open discussion that resumed and a brief history of APDM was also presented. At last a candle was lit by the guest of Honor. A cake-cutting ceremony was undertaken and luncheon was served. The event was organized by members and supporters of ANDM in Washington, D.C. Metro area.





*Solidarity message from Sister Organizations and a Moment of Silence for the Martyrs of the struggle*