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Ethiopians said good-riddance as the murderous chief priest departs...

-massive traffic jam in Addis on Thursday afternoon, Friday morning...

By Getahune Bekele

“I will spend the night right here wiping the tears of Waldiba monks with this handkerchief, am not going home. My beloved church is free at last. My Ethiopia is free...oh St Mary...oh our 44 holy Tablets...”a tearful young man who give his name as Nikodimos told the Horn Times reporters in the compound of St Estefan orthodox church on Thursday afternoon 16 August 2012 as thousands, unusual number for mid week evening mass, gathered to pray and rejoice.



The death of patriarch Paulos, head of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has been seen as divine intervention by the most high to end Ethiopias’ 21 years of brutal enslavement at the hands of Aba paulos himself and Leggese Zenawi, both hailed from the northern town of Adwa in the iron curtain province of Tigraye.

According to his aide, Abune Flipos, the diademed and resplendent king of darkness, Aba Paulos, died of hypertension and diabetes at Balcha hospital in the early hours of Thursday. He was 76.

Since Zenawi disappeared, the patriarch had been feeling betrayed and was inconsolable. He grieved for two months. An insider told the Horn Times that Paulos feared and dreaded capture and trial. He therefore avoided public appearances like all TPLF top dogs and upgraded security around his residence.

The lavish fete he organized at Sheraton hotel on 11 August 2012 to commemorate his 20 years in power was his way of going out with a bang. He knew that it was game-over.

Soon after his death was announced on radio Fana at about midday, Addis Ababa came to a standstill. At Bole road, the traffic stretched for kilometers and around St Urael Orthodox Church, the congestion eased only at 8pm as the faithful got home in jovial mood.

“Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!” shouted a group of young men as they rush to the hilltop Shola Michael church, famous for vehemently opposing Pauloses’ dictatorial rule, on several occasions preventing him from entering the shrine.

“Aba Paulos and Legesse Zenawi are both dead. God has delivered deliverance to the oppressed nation. Both the mother land and our spiritual mother(the church) are free. We are free.” Said Temesgen Fanta, a 42 years old taxi driver who abandoned his faith for 20 years in protest of Abune Pauloses’ scandalous sub Rosa election as head of the church in 1992.

Described as a warlord in white togs, the supreme pontiff, Aba Paulos, died leaving behind a divided church, a nervous nation tittering on the brink of freedom and hordes of heretics who escaped canonical punishment by hiding under his so-called secular umbrella.

Judged by none, feared by millions while enjoying an unfettered jurisdiction over the ancient faith, the bearded pseudo monk was also accused of larceny. Reports are that he plundered the churches' wealth to fund his extravagant life style befitting a pop star, even arrogantly erecting his own statue in Addis Ababa.

He had been repeatedly urged by the churches' scholars to practice the pure Christian faith based on the dogma and the sacred laws of the fathers.

However, he observed none of them.

The Ethiopians would always remember him as Judas of the modern era. In 1993, he gave TPLF gunmen permission to storm the St Mary church to dislodge protesting students who took refuge there, sacrilegiously watching the gruesome preceding from his balcony next door.

The man undeservedly called "Holy Father" and "The Supreme Shepherd of the Faithful" will be buried on August 23 in Addis Ababa against the will of the masses who want him to be taken back to Adwa.

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