

Graduation Speech at EiABC, Students of Architecture, Saturday, March 09, 2013

Dear graduates,

Dear Dr. Admassu Tsegaye, the president of the Addis Ababa University, dear Dr. Jeilu, the academic vice president of the Addis Ababa University, the Scientific Director of EiABC, Mister Joachim Dieter, distinguished guests, directors and instructors at the EiABC, and parents of graduates, It is my privilege this morning to be one of the graduation speakers at EiABC, the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development.

Dear graduates of architecture, congratulations to you all!!! Today is the day of graduation for you the students of Architecture, who laboured for the last five and a half years to make it to this day. I say well done!!! This is your day! In this age of growth, development and transformation, our nation is in great need of young architects with fresh visions, enthusiasm and energy. I am sure that you fit into this expectation of the industry and the nation at large, after having spent five and a half years of your precious time, in an institute that is well reputed to have competent instructors and teaching environment.

By now you are most probably ready and eager to leave the Institute and start your professional practice. As you know, Ethiopia is in need of young professionals who can play various roles in taking major responsibilities in the different sectors of the nation. You have entered into a path where there are various opportunities but also a path that requires your endurance, character and determination. Entrepreneurial minds are needed

in instigating creative mentality into the market. The booming construction sector needs competent professionals with adequate skills. Decision makers who determine the fate of this nation, change agents, scholarly academics are highly required. Those who think about urban development issues and those who also go beyond the urban looking into the future of the rural areas are yet to come out from you. You have a bright multifaceted future ahead of you if you are willing to give it your hundred percent. There are plenty of areas of practice and research that are yet to be explored and vanquished by your expertise in this nation. You have put all that you have in the past five and a half years. Now is the time to unleash and develop what you have learnt further into the professional world of architecture and other interface disciplines in this heyday of growth, development and transformation. It is time to ask what you can do for your country in this era with the glimmer of hope to overcome poverty at large and build a nation that can be a model for growth and prosperity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank your instructors, who contributed to your development as professionals, your directors and student dean who did their best to create a feasible learning environment, your parents and families, who gave their precious resources and emotion to help you reach where you are today and also all the supportive staff at the EiABC who gave their best that you would get the most feasible learning environment.

Once again I congratulate you the graduates of architecture in this academic year 2012/2013 for your achievement, and hope that you will make us all proud by giving your best in playing your part in building a better Ethiopia.