



THE TRIPOLI POST

Al-Qathafi, Chairman of AU, Vows to Achieve African Unity

The African Union (AU) summit in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa has elected the Leader of the Revolution Muammar Al-Qathafi new chairman AU. The position will give Al-Qathafi the power to influence policies across Africa.

Al-Qathafi immediately vowed to push on with the plan to strengthen the institutions of the AU and make the African states stronger, stable and peaceful in a rather unstable world.

He said in his acceptance speech: "I think the coming time will be a time of serious work and a time of action and not words."

He told Africa's heads of state that there is much to do and that some of the procedures need to be reviewed in order to speed up the establishment of Union's institutions.

He also promised to do all he could to solve the problem of Darfur and other African crises.

In his acceptance speech, Al-Qathafi acknowledged that he some times provoked some of African heads of state in order to push the agenda of the African Union.

However, he said for the African leaders to have different views regarding the future of the

content is a healthy thing. He said the credit goes to all heads of state and their sovereign countries for making the right decisions all along during the process of forming the Union.

Al-Qathafi told the summit did not wish to take up the post of the chairman of the AU, despite he was invited to it earlier, because he believed that his position was to help Africa realize its dreams of unity regardless of his official position.

Al-Qathafi is, in fact, the engineer and the founder of the AU. He called for emergency African summit of the Organization of African Unity on 9 September 1999, which was then replaced by the more dynamic and realistic continental body, the AU, whose real objectives are to make Africa stronger, richer and more peaceful.

In 1999 and up to the establishment of the Union in Durban, South Africa in 2002, many dismissed the whole idea as unrealistic. But the insistence by Al-Qathafi on it and his strong belief in the future of an united, prosperous African continent as well as Libya's economic power and money that

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The Leader of the Revolution and the new chairman of the African Union Muammar Gaddafi speaks to the media after the closing ceremony of the 12th African Union summit at the United Nations Headquarters in Addis Ababa February 4, 2009.

Israel Seizes Ship Carrying Aid for Gaza

The Israeli navy intercepted a ship carrying hopelessly needed humanitarian supplies

from Lebanon to the Gaza Strip and towed the vessel into port Thursday, foiling a new attempt

by international activists to break Israel's cruel blockade of the Palestinian territory.

It was the first time Israeli forces seized an aid ship, after the navy let some boats in and turned others around.

The interception was condemned by Lebanon and Syria, adding to regional tensions in the wake of last

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