

Newsletter

Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels



16 January 2015
Weekly Issue N° 19



The stand of the Embassy at the Tourism Fair in Leuven, last week

Dear Reader,

This week, we inform you about the visit of the Italian Foreign Minister to Ethiopia, the electoral process, as well as about the opening of the new Heineken brewery near Addis Ababa. We hope you will enjoy these news. As always, we are happy to receive your feedback and comments.

Please be aware that we launched a special survey this week, in order to understand how we can improve the communication of the Embassy. It is an opportunity to send us a detailed feedback! You can answer it here: <http://surveymonkey.com/s/HLCPPR7>

Thank you in advance,

The Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels

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Bolstering cooperation with Italy

Dr. Tedros held talks with Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni



Paolo Gentiloni and Dr Tedros in Addis Ababa this Wednesday. Picture: MFA

Italy's Foreign Minister, Paolo Gentiloni made an official visit to Ethiopia on 14 January 2015. Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros extended a warm welcome upon his arrival at Bole International Airport. Following the welcoming ceremony, the two Ministers held discussion on range of matters dwelling on multilateral, regional and bilateral issues of common interest. The two sides hailed the strong bilateral relations between the two countries and underlined the need to further deepen and broaden areas of cooperation for mutual benefit of the two peoples.

In particular, the two sides exchanged views on increasing trade and investment volumes and boosting economic cooperation between the two countries. Dr. Tedros emphasized that the trade and investment volume between the two countries should be enhanced to reflect the excellent bilateral relation in other areas of cooperation. They also highlighted the need for strengthening partnership in realizing regional peace and stability. Dr. Tedros expressed his appreciation to Italy's support to regional peace efforts as current

chair of IGAD's International partners Forum. Minister Paolo Gentiloni for his part expressed his admiration to Ethiopia's dynamic role in stabilizing the Horn of Africa and for its active support to IGAD-led peace process in South Sudan as well as for defeating Al Shabaab in Somalia. He also noted Ethiopia's significant role in combating terrorism within the sub-region.

“The trade and investment volume should be enhanced to reflect the excellent bilateral relation”

The two Ministers underlined the need for strengthening cooperation

in tackling challenges associated with migration and mobility of people. Upon the conclusion of the discussions, the two Ministers signed bilateral agreements, aimed at bolstering cooperation in culture, education, art, scholarships, archives, museums libraries, archeology, conservation and protection of cultural heritages. On 15 January 2015, a financial agreement was signed between the two countries amounting to over 16.1 million euros in the form of loan and grant to support Ethiopia's drought resilience program, health service improvement and women empowerment.

Source : MFA, WIC.

Voter registration: unprecedented success

In just three days, 3.5 million Ethiopian voters registered

Addis Ababa, 12 January 2015 (FBC) – Since registration of voters for the upcoming May general election officially commenced last Friday, a reported 3.5 million people have registered in just three days. Across the nation, some one million people registered on the first day of registration, according to the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE). Deputy Chairperson of NEBE Addisu Gebrehiwot (Ph.D.) told fanabc.com that latest figures show that 3.5 million voters have registered to cast in the upcoming ballot. The number of voters who

registered on the first day exceeded all expectations, he added. Some voters' registration stations had to access their stocks in issuing cards to prospective voters. The high turnout in the registration is indicative of the public's readiness to exercise its democratic right of voting, said Gebrehiwot and called on all eligible citizens to register in the stated time frame. All 45,000 voters' registration stations will provide registration services until 19 February 2015.

More equality in electoral process

Parties to field many women candidates in upcoming election

Addis Ababa, 13 January 2015 (WIC) – The parties that say they would field many female candidates are Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and New Generation Party (NGP). CUD Public Relations Head, Sasahuleh Kebede, told ENA that his party would field many female candidates at national and regional levels. Series of training have been given by the party so that women could become strong competitors in the election, he said. Coalition for Unity and Democracy Unity party has also put emphasis on recruiting female mobile and permanent observers, according to Sasahuleh.

upcoming election, 40 percent of EPRDF's candidates at federal level would be women and 50 percent at regional level, according to Desta. New Generation Party (NGP) President, Asfaw Getachew, said opportunities would be created for women to take part in the election as they comprise half of the population. According to the president, 35 percent of the total 280 candidates to be fielded by the party across the country are female. National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) stated on its part that it will provide special financial support for political parties that field women. (ENA)

On his part, EPRDF Public and Foreign Relations Head, Desta Tesfaw said that the participation of women at the various councils is low due to the neglect of the rights of women during the past systems. He therefore claimed that his party is implementing the various compensatory tactics to narrow the gap. Desta, who recalled the huge role women played in the ousting of the dictatorial regime, added that many will take part as candidates in the upcoming election. Since the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front believes in the crucial role women have played in the consecutive economic growth registered by the party, policies and laws issued were made to benefit women, besides building their capacity, the head added. In the



Investments in home country

Government to extend support for diaspora members

Addis Ababa 12 January 2015 (ENA) – Ethiopian diaspora members who are interested to invest in their home country are welcome, and the government will extend necessary support to make their projects successful, the Government Communication Affairs Office said. While discussing yesterday with representatives of the Diaspora who are desirous to operate in Ethiopia, the Minister Redwan Hussein said the government is committed to address challenges the diaspora members are facing during the process

and implementation of projects. He explained them the need for the diaspora to work with the government to solve challenges and enhance the overall development of the country. The Ethiopian diaspora members are willing to invest in their home country and contribute for the development, Israel Gedebu said, representing three hundred diaspora members who are interested to invest here. Those who have been seeing the country's journey towards development as outsiders are decided to be part of it, he added.

Hundreds of new jobs created

Heineken group opens a 110 million euros factory near Addis Ababa



Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam inaugurating the Heineken facility, on 15 January 2015

A new Heineken factory opened in Ethiopia on 15 January 2015. During an opening speech, the local Managing Director Johan Doyer said that over 800 people will be employed in the building of the Heineken brewery. Moreover, about 200 additional workers will be needed for external operations, and 6,000 farmers (a growing number expected to reach 20,000) will

supply barley to the factory. Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, present at the opening, said in his remarks that “Heineken’s investment is a testament of the confidence of foreign investors in this country”. The new brewery will initially focus on local brands Hamar and Bedele, but could start producing the premium Heineken brand next year.

This facility is the third brewery of Heineken in Ethiopia, where the group already invested nearly 300 million euros. Worth 110 million euros, the facility has a capacity of 1.5 million hectolitres and is the largest in the country. During a video interview for CNBC Africa last May, Jean-Francois van Boxmeer, CEO of Heineken International, explained that Africa was the fastest-growing region for the group and accounted for 20 percent of its revenue. The investments of the group are therefore focused on this continent, where Heineken is present since the 1920s. Today, Heineken owns 57 breweries and plants in Africa and is selling beer in the majority of African countries.

Special thanks to the Dutch Embassy in Ethiopia for the image and for providing information. Other sources: Reuters, CNBC Africa. Cover image: Heineken group. To learn more, read Heineken's press release: www.ethio.be/1DKfygB



Business opportunities

Privatization and joint-ventures calls made public

The Ethiopian government published a list of companies to be privatized. The offers have to be submitted before 5 March 2015. For more information, contact the Embassy or visit our website: <http://ethio.be/1zn92uF>

Moreover, a list of Ethiopian investors looking for foreign partners has also been made available by the Ethiopian government. For more information, contact the Embassy or visit our website: <http://ethio.be/17PipYw>

Agenda

The Embassy is participating to the Tourism Fair Luxembourg on 16-18 January
More information: <http://eventegg.com/expo-vakanz/>

Please note that the Embassy will be closed this Monday, 19 January 2015. Don't forget to regularly check the Calendar on our Website to be sure not to miss any event or public holiday:
www.ethiopianembassy.be/en/embassy/calendar

ABOUT THE EMBASSY

Working Hours: 9:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00

Consular Service: Monday – Friday 09:00 – 13:00

Legalization and Power of Attorney: Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 13:00

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