

Newsletter



Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels

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Ethiopian stand at tourism fair "Salon des vacances" in Laeken, near Brussels, on 6 February 2015

Dear Reader,

This week, we are very pleased to inaugurate a new section of our newsletter: the Reader's Question. In this edition, we answer a question about the elections in Ethiopia next May. We are waiting for your questions and comments for our next newsletters! Write us at newsletter@ethiopianembassy.be

Sincerely,

The Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels

CONTENT

The 24th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government successfully concluded
Ethiopia and Egypt to Cooperate on Trade and Investment
South Sudan Parties Sign an Agreement on the Establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity
Dr. Tedros Held Talks with Foreign Minister of the Netherlands
Addis Ababa light Train Pre-revenue Testing officially Launched
Ethiopia Shows Strong Engagement in Agricultural and Infrastructural Development
Farming Changes May Hold Key to Ethiopia's Industrial Goals
Ethiopia to Implement Competition and Consumers Protection Laws
Announcements of New Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation/EBC/ Television and Radio Streaming Channels
Reader's Question of the Week
Agenda



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http://youtu.be/lgpZI_TOARI

The 24th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government successfully concluded

The 24th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government successfully took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the 30th and 31st of January 2015. Important topics such as Ebola, the fight against terrorism and the Agenda 63 were discussed by the Heads of States and Government. The motto of this session “Year of Women’s Empowerment and

development which he said claimed the lives of thousands of South Sudanese and displaced hundreds of thousands, devastating the livelihood of many more. This is a tragedy not only for the Republic of South Sudan but to all of us in the region, he said. “The suffering of our sisters and brothers in South Sudan is being felt deeply and painfully” the Prime Minister noted. Even under this challenging condition there will be no option but to press upon the leaders of this resilient people that has sacrificed dearly for so long to rise up to the occasion and bring their nation to peace, stability and reconciliation he emphasized.

He urged the council members to push the two parties to speedily reach to an agreement on the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity and implement it thereon. He stressed the need for the Council, the Commission as well as other partners to continue to support the IGAD

process and called up on all parties to be at unison so that the efforts would not be diluted by duplication of efforts which would further complicate the peace process.

The Council issued a communiqué that noted the current situation in the country as critical and the failure of the meeting of the parties on the November 22, 2014 deadline was “utmost disappointment”. It also called up on both parties to recommit to an unconditional end to hostilities, reiterated its determination to take sanctions against all parties that continue to undermine the Cessation of Hostilities agreement. The Communiqué welcomed the steps being taken towards the operationalization of the AU High Level A-hoc Committee for South Sudan and the Arusha agreement of January 21, 2015 aimed at uniting the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) and urged all stakeholders to build on this positive step.

Source: African Union



Opening of the 24th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government

Development” was an important theme of discussion, and various speakers expressed their commitment to mainstreaming women in all socio- economic activities on the continent. At the end of the meeting, the Heads of State and Government elected President Mugabe as the new AU chairperson.

On the last day of the Summit, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held its 484th meeting at the Heads of State and Government level. The session took note of the briefing made by Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, the Current Chair of IGAD on the conflict in South Sudan. It hailed the contribution of the IGAD Chairperson and other leaders, the IGAD mediation Team and other international partners for their unreserved commitment to search a lasting solution to the Conflict.

Prime Minister Hailemariam noted the grave humanitarian crisis brought by the unfortunate

South Sudan Parties Sign an Agreement on the Establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity

In the early hours of this morning, H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of South Sudan, and Dr. Riek Machar, former Vice President of South Sudan and Leader of the SPLM/A (In Opposition) signed the 'Areas of Agreement on the Establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) in the Republic of South Sudan' document. This document confirms agreed areas between Parties, including the mandate of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU), the establishment of transitional justice institutions and oversight monitoring mechanisms, and commits the Parties to agree a final and comprehensive peace agreement no later than March 5, 2015. The Parties also rededicated themselves to the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement of January 23, 2014, and agreed that any future violations of the CoH Agreement would be referred to the AU Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council.

The signing ceremony was attended by H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chairperson of IGAD, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya and IGAD Rapporteur, Ambassador (Eng.) Mahboub M. Maalim, the Executive Secretary of IGAD, Smail Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, partners of IGAD and other dignitaries. During the occasion, the IGAD Chairperson, Prime Minister

Hailemariam Dessalegn urged the two principals to respect what they have signed.

"I am confident that the two leaders will respect what they have signed today. In the coming meetings in February, we will see a comprehensive peace agreement signed. This is what the people of South Sudan are expecting and the people of the region and the international community are expecting from the leaders". Prime Minister Dessalegn reiterated " Failure to do so will have grave consequences to all of us and specifically to the leaders of South Sudan."

For his part, President Uhuru Kenyatta, expressed optimism over the positive prospect this development holds for South Sudan. "All of us are truly hopeful that we will be here in just about a month's time to witness a comprehensive peace agreement concluded, . . . [we] would see a transitional government in place to prepare South Sudan for elections and ultimately for the will of the people to prevail." Chairman of the IGAD Special Envoys for South Sudan, Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin added that final round of peace talks will resume on 20 February 2015 with the aim of finalizing a comprehensive peace agreement no later than 5 March 2015.

Source: IGAD

Ethiopia and Egypt to Cooperate on Trade and Investment

Prime Minister Hailemariam and President El-Sisi held discussions on the sidelines of the 24th AU Summit. On the occasion, President El-Sisi noted that Egypt recognizes Ethiopia's sovereign right to utilize the Nile Waters. The two sides' discussions focused on ways to further promote the bilateral cooperation of the two countries. According to Ato Getachew Reda, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, the two leaders held productive discussions in promoting trade, investment, education and other areas of cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister Hailemariam underlined Ethiopia's commitment to expand trade ties and learn from the experience of Egypt in promotion of trade and investment. According to Ato Getachew Reda, Prime Minister Hailemariam noted that Ethiopia understands Egypt's interest in the utilization of the Nile Waters stressing that the development of Ethiopia

is undertaking centers on the principle of mutual benefit and based on accepted norms of international water law. Ato Getachew also noted that President El-Sisi expressed his belief that Ethiopia's development of the Nile Waters takes in to consideration of Egypt. The two sides also agreed on the need to work closely in correcting the wrong messages spread by some Egyptian politicians and journalists with regard to the utilization of the Nile Waters. The two leaders had met in Malabo and New York in 2014 and agreed on promoting dialogue to narrow differences with regard to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam which in turn resulted in the resumption of the tripartite technical teams between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt.

Source: MFA

Dr. Tedros Held Talks with Foreign Minister of the Netherlands



Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom met Mr. Bert Koenders, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, on the margins of the 24th Assembly of the Heads of State and Government at the headquarters of the African Union on 31 January. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral and regional matters. Dr. Tedros underlined

the need to encourage trade and investment and build on the growing Netherlands' investments in Ethiopia especially in the area of floriculture and horticulture. Mr. Koenders said Ethiopia's fast and equitable economic growth provided important lessons in balancing growth and equitable development. He said the Netherlands appreciated Ethiopia's significant contributions to UN and AU peacekeeping missions and noted his country's desire to work with Ethiopia and Africa in peacekeeping. They also discussed AMISOM's contribution to Somalia and the Netherlands contribution in helping resolve the Mali crisis. Dr. Tedros highlighted Ethiopia's firm commitment to support peace and security in the region, with the example of the role being played by Ethiopia forces in Abyei, in South Sudan and in Somalia. He noted that Ethiopia is hosting more than 600,000 refugees from neighboring countries making it one of the leading refugee-hosting countries in the world. Mr. Koenders hailed Ethiopia's open door policy in hosting refugees and expressed the desire to work closely with Ethiopia. Dr. Tedros welcomed the growing bilateral relations between the two countries and thanked Netherlands for its support to Ethiopia's development efforts. He appreciated Netherlands interest in working with Ethiopia in issues such as migration and refugees.

Source: MFA

Addis Ababa Light Train Pre-revenue testing Officially Launched

Pre-revenue testing of Addis Ababa light railway has started on 2 February 2015. Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, Deputy Prime minister Demeke Mekonnen, Foreign affairs Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom, Addis Ababa Mayor, Dirba Kuma other higher officials and dignitaries and thousands of residents of Addis Ababa attended the inauguration ceremony. On the occasion, FDRE Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn said that because of active public participation and government committed leadership, all mega development projects across the country are going on the right track. He further noted that the pre-revenue testing of Addis Ababa light railway project could be a testimony to the

achievements made in mega projects. Prime Minister Hailemariam underlined that active public participation is crucial to all development process and nation building. He also added that the Ethiopian Government has been working to ensure sophisticated and modern transportation system while also maintaining the goal of building carbon emission free transport system. Dr. Eng, Getachew Betiru CEO of Ethiopian Railway Corporations said that the corporation has been training personnel to operate and manage the new railways under construction throughout the country. Dr Arkebe Ekubay Chairman of the board of directors of the Ethiopian Railways Corporation stated that the

pre-revenue testing of Addis Ababa light railway is the last phase of the project and official service would be launched soon. He also pointed out that Ethiopia is striving in building a modern railway network to connect the development corridors of a country, hence speed up socio-economic transformation. Transport Minister Workineh Gebeyehu said that Ethiopia has been striving to bring dynamic change in land, sea

and air transportation by spending huge amount of resources. Dirba Kuma, the mayor of Addis Ababa, noted that the successful completion of Addis Ababa light railway project is a testimony of fruitful journey towards Ethiopian renaissance and the government would continue to invest in infrastructure expansion to fuel socio-economic development of Ethiopia.



Video reportage by CCTV: <http://youtu.be/L4qxzxi0560>

Ethiopia Shows Strong Engagement in Agricultural and Infrastructural Development

Addis Ababa, 3 February 2015 (WIC) – Ethiopia has been showing strong engagement in agriculture and infrastructure development, the issues incorporated in Africa’s Agenda 2063, AU Commissioners said. The commissioners stated that the country is showing good progress in the two sectors included in the agenda. Rural Development and Agriculture Commissioner, Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, said in order to eradicate poverty, the continent has prepared a comprehensive agricultural development program that would help it eradicate famine and reduce poverty. Ethiopia is among the few countries that met the goals of the program by allocating 10 percent of its budget, exceeding the 6 percent proposed for agricultural growth in the agenda, she added. According to the commissioner, Ethiopia has also shown good performance in agricultural research technologies, marketing network, and extension. Infrastructure and Energy Commissioner, Dr. El Ham M.A Ibrahim, said on his part the country has been undertaking encouraging work by creating comprehensive infrastructural network in the continent. Its decision to make use of the support the commission has been extending to countries developing renewable



energy shows the attention it has given to the sector, according to the commissioner. Its activities to realize the integration of the continent in infrastructure development through railway and the determination to implement the Yamasakoru declaration with respect to creating free flight routes to continental airlines is admirable, Dr. El Ham M.A Ibrahim stated. (ENA)

Farming Changes May Hold Key to Ethiopia’s Industrial Goals

An article published on the website of Voice of America gives an insight on how Ethiopia’s Agricultural transformation Agency (ATA) is expected to contribute to the country’s ambitious plan of becoming a regional manufacturing hub. According to Khalid Bomba, chief executive of Ethiopia’s Agricultural Transformation Agency “the cheap labor for industrial manufacturing is going to come from the rural areas... You are not going to have people coming off the farm if productivity levels don’t increase.” Even if Ethiopia boasts some of the highest economic growth in Africa, at 8 percent or more a year, agriculture still accounts for more than 42

percent of gross domestic product, high even in Africa, it is further stated. The article then shows how the ATA agency was conceived to achieve productivity gains on the model of what was observed in Malaysia or South Korea.

Read the complete article here:

<http://ethio.be/1lh6qUb>

Ethiopia to Implement Competition and Consumers Protection Laws

On 21 March 2014, Ethiopian government introduced a new Trade Competition and Consumers Protection Proclamation (No. 813/2013) to protect the business community from anti-competitive and unfair market practices and also consumers from misleading market

conducts. At the request of the Ethiopian Government, UNCTAD will assist the Ethiopian Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (TCCPA) to implement the new competition and consumer protection laws. The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg agreed to provide

financial support to this three-year project. The project was launched in Addis Ababa, on 29 January 2015, at an event organized by UNCTAD, the Luxembourg Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and Embassy of Luxembourg in Ethiopia, Ethiopian Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. The event provided an opportunity for the TCCPA to present the Project to relevant stakeholders and for the Trade and Foreign Affairs Ministries' representatives to outline the Government's objective to create an enabling environment for business through the development and implementation of appropriate policies and laws. The Luxembourg Ambassador expressed his government's commitment to enhance bilateral

relations with Ethiopia. UNCTAD, in collaboration with the TCCPA, will start work on the project in the first quarter of 2015 - drawing up an implementation plan and facilitating the establishment of a steering committee, in order to enhance its implementation. The project will cover activities based on four broad areas, including policy and legal framework, institutional framework, enforcement capacity building, and advocacy for competition and consumer protection. Competition law enforcement is an essential tool to ensure that Ethiopians benefit from trade liberalization. Consumer protection is complementary to competition law and policy in enhancing consumer welfare.

Source: UNCTAD

Announcements of New Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation/EBC/ Television and Radio Streaming

Dear Ethiopian Diasporas and Friends of Ethiopians living in the Benelux's Countries, we are very glad to announce that recently the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) has launched several Television and Radio Streaming channels such as EBC1, EBC2, EBC3, Amhara TV, Tigray TV, TV Oromiyaa, ESTV, FM Addis

97.1, EBC National Radio and Amhara Radio. You can find those eight Television and three Radio streaming channels, to follow up what is happening in Ethiopia on daily basis, either through internet or by installing the receiver material called ROKU.

Reader's Question of the Week

Will there be a voting facility at the Embassy to allow the diaspora to participate in the Ethiopian Elections of 15 May 2015?

Dear reader,
Thank you for your kind question. Every Ethiopian has the right to take part in the elections. However, organizing voting facilities abroad requires a lot of resources and logistics, and consequently no arrangements have been made so far. We hope and expect that this is something

that the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia will consider in the future. Ethiopia is not the only African country in this situation.

Moreover, as a general information, we would like to inform members of the Diaspora that the Ethiopian constitution does not allow dual citizenship. Thus, people of Ethiopian origin who have adopted another nationality are not entitled to participate in Ethiopian elections.

Agenda

5-9 February 2015: Brussels Holiday Fair
<http://www.salondesvacances.eu/>

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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