

Newsletter



Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels

20 February 2015
Weekly Issue N° 24



At the Ethiopian stand during the Salon des Vacances tourism fair, in Laeken, near Brussels, on 9 February 2015

Dear Reader,

We are happy to send you this 24th newsletter of our Embassy, with news about political, social and economic developments in Ethiopia. Please don't forget to check the vacancy notice on the last page! Also kindly note that the Embassy will be closed on Monday 2 March 2015.

Sincerely,

The Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels

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POLITICAL AFFAIRS

40th anniversary of the foundation of the TPLF and the struggle against the



The 18th of February 2015 marks the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). The occasion, celebrated in the Stadium at Mekelle, the capital of Tigray Regional State, was attended by President Dr. Mulatu Teshome and Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, as well as a number of regional leaders

including Sudanese President, Omer Al-Bashir, Rwandan president Paul Kagame, Somalia President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud, Prime Minister Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed of Djibouti, Uganda's Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda and Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission. Representatives of the European Union, China and South Korea were also present. On Monday, Prime Minister Hailemariam, President Al-Bashir and senior government officials laid wreaths in the newly designated martyr cemetery in the compound of the Martyrs' Monument. This followed a procession to honor all those who died during the fight against the military dictatorship of the Derg and the reburial of 40 former TPLF fighters, representing all those who died in the seventeen year struggle.

The Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels colorfully celebrated TPLF 40th anniversary

The 40th anniversary of the TPLF has been colorfully celebrated at the Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels. At this occasion, H.E. Teshome Toga has delivered a speech, in which he described the struggle of the TPLF for equality, justice and democracy in Ethiopia. He admired the courage and perseverance of the TPLF members, who had a major importance in bringing Ethiopia on the path of democracy and development. Other staff members also expressed their gratitude and then a cake and drinks were shared in a festive atmosphere.



The Foreign Minister of Ethiopia hold talks with the Chairman of UN Panel on Peacekeeping Operations

Addis Ababa, 12 February 2015 (WIC) – Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom met a delegation led by Jose Ramos-Horta, former President of East Timor, Nobel Laureate, and Chairman of the UN's High-Level Independent Panel on Peacekeeping Operations, on 10 February 2015. The two parties reviewed African and global peacekeeping operations, discussing mechanisms to strengthen the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations in peacekeeping. They also shared details of Ethiopia's very considerable experience of successful peacekeeping operations, and considered mechanisms to enhance future operations.

Dr. Tedros welcomed the delegation and thanked it for organizing the High level panel discussion for African consultation to advance the future of peacekeeping operations, which took place in Addis Ababa on 11 and 12 February. He emphasized that consultations should be strengthened and encouraged between the troop contributing countries (TCCs) as well between AU and the UN peacekeeping operations. President Jose Ramos-Horta noted that Ethiopia had a special place in continental and global peacekeeping efforts since it is the seat of the African Union and an important troop contributing country with vast experience in conflict resolution in Africa as well as a visionary leadership. He agreed on the need for the secretariats of the UN and AU to work closely to come up with a more dynamic approach to peacekeeping operations.

President Ramos-Horta asked Dr. Tedros for recommendations for mechanisms of partnership between the troop contributing countries and cooperation between the UN and AU, to incorporate in the consultations of the High level Panel to consider ways to build the capacities and improve troop deployment and operations. Dr. Tedros detailed the characteristics of Ethiopian peacekeeping operations including their prioritization of civilian protection and care, and their operational flexibility. He underlined the need for the UN to enhance financing and improvement of troop capacity and recommended a mechanism to build up a larger number of better quality troops who could be deployed quickly and at a lower cost. He agreed on the need to keep up the momentum of political consultation to bring coherence in peacekeeping deployment and operations. He stressed the UN and AU coordination should be improved.

The two sides also discussed various related issues including the role of neighboring countries to facilitate operations in any given area. President Ramos-Horta suggested a high level forum could meet in the near future in partnership with Ethiopia and troop contributing countries in New York to continue consultations. Currently, out of the 16 peacekeeping operations deployed by the UN, nine are deployed in Africa. Ethiopia has a proven commitment to the maintenance of global peace and security and has been participating in UN peacekeeping operations since the establishment of the UN. (MoFA)

Crown Princess Mary of Denmark visited Ethiopia

Crown Princess Mary of Denmark payed a visit to Ethiopia on 16-18 February along with Danish Trade and Development Minister, Mogens Jensen, with the aim to exchange views with the government, civil society organizations and individuals championing women's and girls' issues, to discuss issues relating to the specific challenges they face in humanitarian crises and possible solutions. While discussing with visiting Danish Crown Princess Mary Elizabeth Donaldson, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam said Ethiopia has been working to meet the target to end FGM and child marriage by 2025. FGM and harmful

traditional practices are "significantly" dropping in the country following concerted efforts exerted during the past years, he added. Girls and women are victims of harmful traditional practices in every part of the country because of the attitude of societies towards these practices. Since increasing knowledge of societies is important to change this reality, the government will continue its efforts to raise their awareness, Hailemariam said. Crown Princess Donaldson for her part appreciated implementation of relevant instruments such as strategy, legal frameworks and bills that help to fight these practices in Ethiopia. Appreciating

the efforts exerted to make the society part of the solution, she said this could be exemplary to other countries. Ethiopia has managed to halve the rate for FGM and Child marriage between 2000 and 2013. FGM rate has decreased to 23 percent in 2013 from 52 percent in 2000, while child marriage reduced to 8 percent from 32 percent. The country will realize the target to end these practices by 2025, if it continues with the current pace, said Haileleul Seyoum, Women and Youth Mobilization and Participation Director at the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth. The government's commitment and efforts being

exerted to make the society part of the solution by raising awareness, and improved cooperation with partners contributed for the success gained in the area, according to Haileleul. Minister Jensen noted that "girls and women have the right to decide over their own bodies, as well as to seek education and contribute to society," and reiterated that "if the poorest communities really want to lift themselves up, women must be included." The Danish delegation also hold discussions with female entrepreneurs, including Bethlehem Alemu, founder of Sole Rebels.

Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, Danish Trade and Development Minister Mogens Jensen and Ethiopian Prime Minister

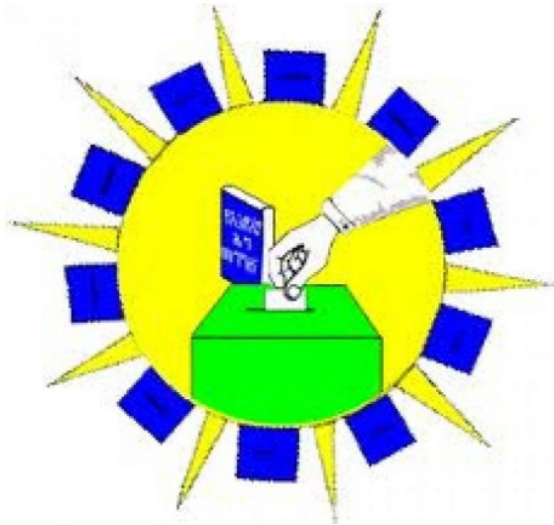


Leipzig mayor and his delegation had a successful visit to Addis Ababa

The Mayor of Leipzig, Burkhard Jung said on 14 February that he and his delegation had a very successful visit to Addis Ababa. Speaking at a joint press conference with Addis Ababa Mayor, Diriba Kuma, at the end of a three day visit to Addis Ababa, he said he had been able to make plans for further collaboration between the two cities. He said the relationship of the two twinned cities would be further consolidated on the basis of mutual benefit in various areas, including science, technology, culture, youth experience sharing, administration and capacity building. The support the Leipzig city administration has been providing to Addis Ababa in green city development and park management, technical and vocational education as well the health sector would continue. The Mayor, who led a 110 strong delegation drawn from the business

community, universities, and governmental bodies, thanked the people of Addis Ababa for their hospitality and expressed his admiration for the city's all-round infrastructural development. Mayor Diriba Kuma, recalling the successful two-day business forum held in Addis Ababa and the opportunities it provided for initiating Leipzig businesses to invest in the city, said the visit was an opportunity for the two sisterly cities to further strengthen their friendship. He also thanked Leipzig city for its willingness to share best experiences in housing development, road construction, education, health and technical and vocational education sectors. Their cooperation would also contribute to the boosting of Ethio-Germany relationship. Source: MFA

Multi-Party Democracy in Ethiopia



After the downfall of the dictatorial military regime (Derg) in 1992, Ethiopia has embraced a multi-party democracy system. The country was in a quagmire of protracted civil war that basically offshoots different outlooks. Ethiopia is an emerging democracy that has been striving to bring a robust multi-party system in the country. Multi-party system is a new phenomenon in Ethiopia, as it has been introduced barely a couple of decades ago. After liberation, EPRDF took the bold initiative summing all other armed groups (more than 17) and political organizations in and outside the country to discuss and decide the fate of the country.

The first step taken in consolidating the multi-party system was the establishment of the Electoral Commission (Proclamation N° 11/1984 E.C) as per the provision of the Charter of Transitional period as an independent and non-partisan institution responsible for accommodating a level play for different outlooks. After accomplishment of its mission i.e. undertaking constitutional assembly, the commission was replaced by the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) (Proclamation N° 64/1985). Among the rights provided by the Constitution is the right to form political groups or join a political party, as well as promote one's outlooks whether privately or in groups. In accordance with the registration of political parties Proclamation 2008/1979, national and regional political parties are registered by the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE). Those political parties have been contesting in elections throughout the country for national or regional level.

The number of political parties that took part in the past four elections for the constitutional assembly

has been increasing : 57 political parties in 1987 (Ethiopian Calendar), 64 in 1992 E.C, 35 in 1997 E.C. 63 in 2002 E.C (sources: NEBE special edition 2010). In this third general elections, an unprecedented participation of voters and of political parties could be observed: 1558 candidates for the Federal assembly and 3983 candidates for the regional assemblies. In the fourth election in 2010 there were 79 political parties contesting throughout the country. The participation of political parties in Ethiopia is steadily intensifying over time. Since the introduction of multi-party system, Ethiopia has conducted four successful general elections.

The introduction of inter-party dialogue is a new impetus towards a robust multi-party system. The inter-party dialogue further helps the contesting parties to discuss major issues such as: rule of procedures, member's codes of conduct of the House of People's representatives, the electoral code of the country, the establishment of the NEBE with the consent of contending parties, and other laws related to political parties and media. Most of the issues discussed were endorsed with the consent of rival political parties, and differences will be settled by the majority ruling of the House of People's representatives. Following this dialogue, some of the rules of the game have been redrawn and hence reliable foundations have been created for the establishment of a robust multiparty system in the country.

The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) which is accountable to the House of People's Representatives, an independent and autonomous organ, has been conducting four successful national and several regional and local elections. NEBE is now in a better position to conduct election of higher quality. NEBE is preparing to undertake and accomplished successful voters and candidate registration as well as holding several workshops for awareness creations with different section of the society in the country for free fair and peaceful election of the upcoming fifth general election that will takes place in the mid May of 2015 throughout the country. In this round of elections, 57 political parties have been registered and over 60,000 candidates are going to contest in the election. The number of voter's participation is increasing from election to election. In this round of election the voter's registration increased to 34,445,392 (96 %) out of which female voters registered amount 16,579,491 (about fifty percent of the voters).

Sources: Election 2010 Special Edition, Offices of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia

ECONOMY

Ethiopia earns \$ 114 million from horticulture exports in 6 months

Addis Ababa, 18 February 2015 (WIC) – Ethiopia generated \$114 million from horticulture exports during the first six months of its budgetary year (which began last July), the Ethiopian Horticulture Development Agency (EHDA) said Tuesday. “Nearly \$91 million of total revenues were secured from the export of 289 million flower cuttings and over 20,000 tons of roses and summer flowers. The balance was obtained from nearly 77,000 tons of vegetables, fruits and herbs.” According to the Agency, the Netherlands represents the main export destination for Ethiopian flowers, accounting for 80 percent of the country’s total flower exports. Other markets include Germany, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Italy, Japan and the U.S. The main export destinations for Ethiopian fruits and vegetables included EU countries, the UAE, Somalia, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Sudan,

among others.

The EHDA has been registering growth from year to year since its establishment a decade ago. “Ethiopia earned over \$245 million from horticultural exports in the last fiscal year ending July 7, 2014. This amount exceeded by more than 6 percent the \$230.5 million in revenue generated the previous budget year. The amount earned in the first six months of the current budget year had also surpassed – by 7.2 percent – the amount generated in the same period last year. “Demand for Ethiopian horticultural products has increased significantly in the global market and the country’s foreign currency earnings from the sector have grown in tandem. New investors – from the Netherlands, India, Ecuador and Saudi Arabia – have all recently engaged in the [horticultural] sector”. (World Bulletin)

Reuters: Bole international airport expands to meet growing passenger traffic

Ethiopia will complete expansion work on the capital’s airport in 2018 to triple the number of passengers it handles from 7 million a year now and will soon pick a site for a new hub to deal with 10 times the number in future, a senior official said. Bole International Airport, on the edge of Addis Ababa, is home to Ethiopian Airlines, the state-owned national carrier that is ranked the largest by revenue in Africa. Less than a decade ago, the airport handled 1 million passengers a year but that rose to 7 million in 2014. Officials expect it to climb by 18 percent a year in the next few years. Expansion work began in September at the airport, where passengers can face long queues at peak travel and transit times. China Communication Construction Company is carrying out the work at a cost of \$300 million, set for completion by 2018. Ethiopia, with one of the fastest growing economies in Africa, is now looking at sites for a new international airport to serve up to 70

million a year, Hailu Gebremariam, Ethiopian Airports Enterprise project manager for Bole, told Reuters. By comparison, Dubai International Airport handled 70.5 million passengers in 2014, the world’s biggest for passenger traffic, ahead of London’s Heathrow with 68.1 million. An official said the cost of such an airport could be \$2.5 billion to \$ 3 billion.

Ethiopian Airlines has been rapidly expanding its fleet. It now has 77 aircraft, with 44 more on order. The International Air Transport Association (IATA), an industry body, ranks the airline Africa’s biggest by revenue and profit. As well as capturing transit passengers, the airline aims to draw more visitors to see Ethiopia’s mountain scenery and ancient churches, castles and other monuments.

Read the full article: <http://reut.rs/1EfwZmh>

HEALTH

Ethiopia breaks world record for mass HIV test

Addis Ababa, 16 February 2015 (WIC) – The United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Ethiopia on Saturday announced that Ethiopia has now officially become world record holder for most people being tested for HIV. Rahel Gettu, UNAIDS country community mobilization and networking advisor in Ethiopia, told Sudan Tribune that Guinness World Records has on Friday officially confirmed the horn of Africa's nation has beaten the world record which previously had been held by Argentina. While marking the World AIDS Day, Ethiopia last December conducted a free mass HIV testing campaign held at a Stadium in Gambella regional state. Accordingly, a total of 3,383 people voluntarily tested for HIV status in single venue in an eight-hour period. Of those, 82 people (2.4%) of them tested positive and had since been linked to health facilities for support and further follow up. Ethiopia set the new record after facing strong competition from South Africa and

Botswana. Gambella, which borders neighboring South Sudan, has the highest HIV prevalence in Ethiopia (6.5% – the national figure stands at 1.3%), according to the Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey 2011. The region, located in the country's south-west, also hosts over 180,000 South Sudanese who crossed borders to Ethiopia following conflict that breakout in the young East African nation in December 2013. UNAIDS officials say such voluntary AIDS testing in regions like Gambella where there is high HIV prevalence is crucial to prevent new HIV infections. Voluntary AIDS testing will be continued across the country to enhance the ongoing efforts of achieving zero new infections in Ethiopia, the officials added. (Sudan Tribune)

Other

Vacancy Notice

The Embassy is looking for a research officer. More information here:

<http://www.ethiopianembassy.be/wp-content/uploads/Vacancy-Notice-Resarch-Officer.pdf>

Please kindly note that the Embassy will be closed on Monday 2 March 2015

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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