

# Newsletter

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Ertale Lava lake, Afar Region, Ethiopia

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# POLITICAL AFFAIRS

## EPRDF Council concludes performance evaluation

On 6 April 2015, the Council of Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front concluded its semi-annual performance evaluation by setting directions which it believes would further accelerate the development of the country.

In a communiqué issued at the conclusion of the three-day meeting, the Council said 269 million quintals of major food crops are expected to get harvested at the end of this Ethiopian harvest season. The harvest of the year 2014/15 has, therefore, shown a 6.8 percent increase as compared to that of last year. EPRDF attributed the growth to the ever growing utilizations of agricultural and technology inputs as well as the supports rendered to the sector in capacity building. The Council urged all stakeholders to further consolidate their activities to boost production and productivity in the upcoming season.

With respect to irrigation development, 2.7 million hectares of land has been covered during the past six months, thus meeting 82 percent of the annual plan. The expansion of new irrigation schemes is crucial to stop the dependence of the agricultural economy on rain, the communiqué stressed. New irrigation schemes and use of technology should hence be invigorated, it added.

Similarly, soil and water conservation works on 4.5 million hectares of land were effectively carried out with the participation of 19.8 million people during the Ethiopian fiscal year. The effort should yet be sustained, according to the council.

With respect to job creation in rural parts of the country, 60.1 percent of the plan to employ 1.8 million youth was met in the past six months. But as there are localities that have identified the unemployed, attention should be given to employing the youth in the respective areas during the remaining period,

it pointed out.

In urban areas, jobs were created for 1.5 million citizens through micro and small-scale enterprises, it was indicated. This success was attained due to the attention given to enterprise development, job creation, and transformation of institutions and savings as well as provision of credit, the council said, underscoring the need for integrated efforts to alleviate the economic and social problems prevailing in urban areas.

Although manufacturing grew by an average of 13 percent during the past 14 years, attention should be given to the sector in order to fill the gap in export and import trade and to bring about economic structural change. Thus, the council stated the need for sustained effort to increase the productivity of the existing manufacturing industries and build new ones.

As regards the execution of major infrastructures, the council observed that most of them have been progressing as per the plan. Successful works were registered in telecom services, it noted. In line with the plan to make all rural kebeles become beneficiaries of telecom services, 15,875 rural kebeles have accessed the service. Some 1,066,108 citizens in both rural and urban areas have accessed potable water from newly executed projects, it was pointed out.

According to the council, the multiple activities carried out nationally have helped the country to surpass the plan in primary school enrollment and efforts are being made to improve the reading and writing skills of children. Efforts to improve secondary level education and reduce the number of dropouts as well as the execution of integrated practice-oriented adult education program should further be enhanced, it underlined. With respect to the health sector, extensive effort has been exerted to implement qualitatively the achieved MDGs and

meet the remaining goals.

Even if better results have been attained in good governance works in some sectors and institutions during the past six months in line with the directions set by the council, the achievements have failed short of meeting the satisfaction of the public. The council, therefore, called on the participation of the public in this respect and that all institutions ensure transparency and accountability in their activities to solve the problems of good governance.

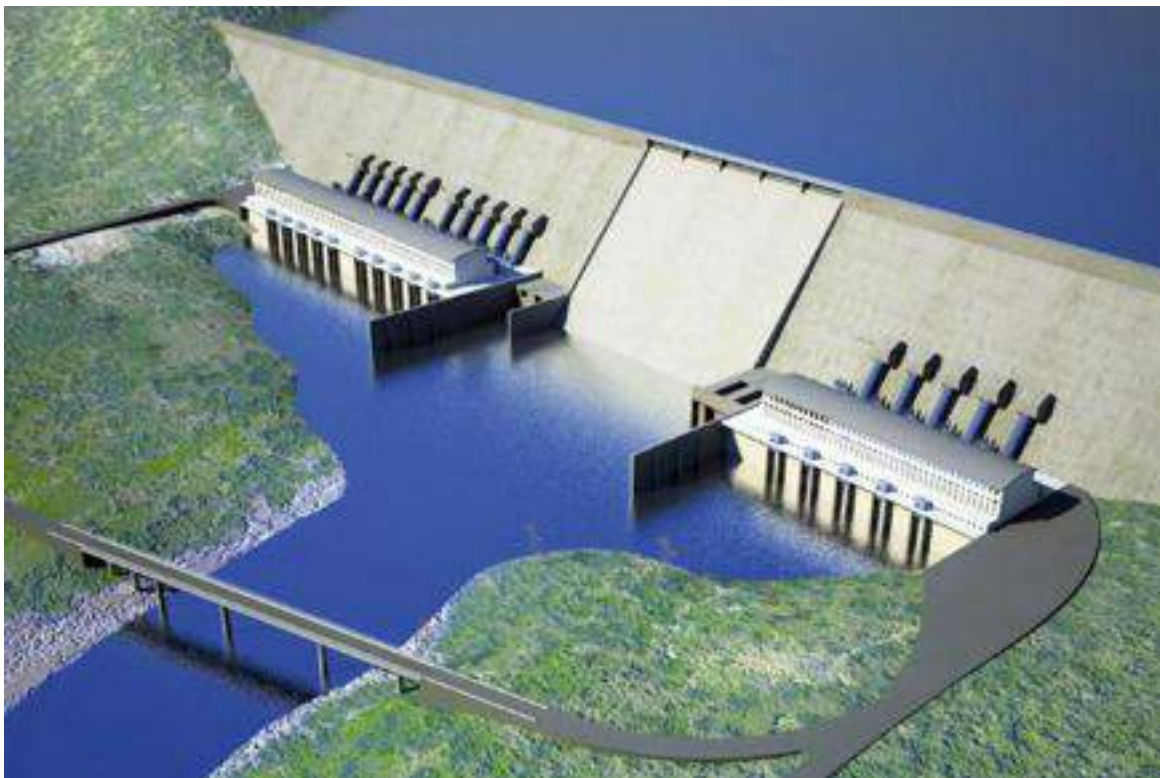
As conducting democratic, free, fair, peaceful and credible election is among the strategies of EPRDF, it evaluated the performance in this regard and was satisfied that members and the leadership at all

levels had training on the election strategy of the organization and on the election code. Candidates of the party were evaluated by the public before they could qualify to run; and the female candidates of EPRDF for the House of Peoples Federation are 38 percent and 48 percent for regional councils, it was pointed out.

The council, which indicated the huge voter registration within a few days after the commencement of the registration, further urged the peoples of Ethiopia to consolidate their participation in the election that guarantees power to the peoples.

Source: ENA

## GERD - a symbol of Ethiopia's rebirth



Ethiopia, which is undergoing a spectacular socio-economic revival, is celebrating the 4th year anniversary of the laying down of foundation for the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

The construction of the Dam is gaining momentum as per the schedule through the meticulous

planning and execution of the government as well as the active participation of the public at large.

What makes this year's anniversary very special is that it is being observed just few days after Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan signed in Khartoum a preliminary agreement of principles on Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam project. During the signing

ceremony Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn reaffirmed the fact that the construction of the Renaissance Dam will not cause any damage to any country and especially to Egypt. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on his part said "We have chosen cooperation, and to trust one another for the sake of development."

Indeed, the signing of the deal among the three countries is symbolic and historic, as it heralds the era of cooperation among riparian countries on the Nile River. This political progress coupled with the accelerating pace of the construction work makes this year's anniversary unique. Forty-two percent of the work on the construction of the dam has already been completed.

The government of Ethiopia, which has been investing on huge hydro-electric power projects with a view to expanding infrastructure in the country, is mobilizing huge resources towards the completion of the GERD that is highly expected to effectively realize the dream of Ethiopians for their industrial development prospects. The involvement of the Ethiopian people, from all walks of life, in the construction of the Dam has been quite remarkable and encouraging from the start. The government is giving due respect and recognition to the public's irreplaceable role in this regard. By doing so, it has continued to demonstrate its unflinching commitment to construct and finish the GERD with the active participation of the public at large.

Such devotion and steadfastness on the part of the

government and the public started ever since the launching of the construction of the Dam over Abay River on 2 April, 2011. Starting from this historic day, the Ethiopian government has been displaying its resolution to mobilize every available resource internally to advance on the project. From day one, the government has made it clear that Ethiopia will never stop its program to construct hydro-power dams because of lack of external support. The government has decided to exploit Ethiopia's abundant resources to generate electricity from renewable sources not only to relieve the acute shortage of electric power in the country but also to export to neighboring countries.

To this effect, the government has been extensively engaged in mobilizing the people of Ethiopia and boosting their commitment for the realization of the Dam. Accordingly, Ethiopians both in the country and in the Diaspora have been doing everything in their capacity to finance and facilitate the construction of the dam through contributions and purchase of bonds. The public has been displaying its determination to realize this huge project at every possible cost. The people are actively supporting the government's leading efforts to overcome the political and financial obstacles that have impeded Ethiopia from realizing the opportunities available through the use of the Nile River. Similarly, Ethiopians in the Diaspora, irrespective of their political differences, have also shown their keen interest and readiness to see the successful completion of the Dam. (EH)

## Ethiopia signs financing agreements with AFD, EU

On 7 April 2015, financing Agreements for the Development of geothermal energy in Tendhao area (Afar) were signed between the Ethiopian Government and the French Agency for Development and European Commission at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

As per the agreements, the total financing amounting to 16.5 million euros has been jointly provided by the French Agency for Development (AFD), through a EUR 9 million soft loan, and by the European commission, through a EUR 7.5

million grant of the EU Trust fund for infrastructure in Africa. The project aims at identifying a low-carbon geothermal resources and contributing to the development of this energy sub-sector in the country where there is huge potential. The funding will also be dedicated to the development of shallow reservoir, equipment purchase and to strengthen the capacities of Ethiopia Electric Power (EEP) and the Geological Survey of Ethiopia (GSE).

Ahimed Shide, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia and Christian Yoka, the French Agency for Development Regional Manager in Addis Ababa signed the agreements in



the presence of State Minister for Development of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Annick Girardin and witnessed by Brigitte Collet, Ambassador of France to Ethiopia and the African Union as well as Chantal Hebberecht, Ambassador of the European Union to Ethiopia.

During her trip to Ethiopia, French State Minister Annick Girardin also reviewed national

contributions ahead of the Addis Ababa conference on development financing in July, and visited the Ashegoda wind farm, sub-Saharan Africa's largest, which is financed by the AFD. With Ethiopian Environment Minister Belete Tafere, she opened the "En Route to Paris" conference ahead of the Paris Conference on Climate change which will take place end of this year

Sources : Walta Info and French Diplomacy.

## Political parties appreciate NEBE's efforts

During an awareness creation meeting held in Adama on March 29-April 2 the national and regional political parties participating in the 2015 National and Regional Election appreciated the role being played by the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) to make the election fair, free and democratic.

The political parties also forwarded their gratitude to the Board. During the four days meeting, political parties started their remarks by recognizing the work done by the Board, and almost all of the parties were grateful.

In the upcoming May 2015 National and Regional election, 58 political parties will compete. Among them, 22 are national political parties and the others will compete at regional level. The parties discussed on election ethics laws and election compliant resolving process. The political parties commented and reflected on their ideas freely without any limitations.

The high level leaders of the National Election Board of Ethiopia were leading the stage and lawyers presented papers on the ethics and complaint resolving mechanisms for the election process.

Since the fall of the communist Derg, Ethiopia had four general elections. The election process is improving from election to election and the

capacity of the NEBE and the contesting political parties are becoming stronger. The NEBE Chairman, Prof. Merga Bekana, said "this days we are really proud of our political parties' competency. The ideas raised from the political parties especially from the opposition parties, is mature and solid compared to the past elections. The disciplines of the parties during discussion and their culture of tolerance and respect among themselves regarding the different ideologies and ideas are really appreciated". Prof. Merga further mentioned that the board worked hard to achieve this result by delivering continued capacity building trainings and awareness creation sessions since 2013. He thanked the parties for the recognition of the Board's impartiality and its efforts, and for showing their respect to the board rather than complaining to the Board.

Vice Chairman of NEBE Dr. Adisu Gebregziabiher said that he is very happy to see the parties' confidence and the improvement in ethics, ideas and commitments. Further, on behalf of the board, he promised support and commitment from side of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia to the political parties will continue strongly.

Source : National Electoral Board of Ethiopia ([www.electionethiopia.org](http://www.electionethiopia.org))

## GERD Diaspora Council meeting in the Netherlands



On Saturday April 4, 2015, the GERD Diaspora Council members living in the Netherlands held a meeting in Rotterdam. At this meeting, the diplomats of the Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels gave a briefing on the current situation of Ethiopia, and specially on upcoming fifth round of National and Regional elections, updates about the Agreement on Declaration of principles signed between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan on GERD, how to strengthen the GERD Diaspora Council in the Netherlands, the new directives on the diaspora house scheme and other issues related to consular services of the Embassy. During the discussions, the Council members appreciated the role played by the Government of Ethiopia for the rapid economic and social development of the country. In addition, they have commented on the Agreement on Declaration of principles signed between the three countries on 23 March 2015.

Furthermore, the Council members were briefed about the new directives regarding diaspora

housing scheme, the new ID regulation for persons of Ethiopian origin, as well as other consular services given by the Embassy.

The Council members expressed their strong support and commitment to continue their financial and technical contribution until the completion of this flagship projet. They also underlined the need to get detailed information and the speedy implementation of the housing scheme.

# ECONOMY & ENERGY

## Ethiopian Airlines wins award in China



Ethiopian Airlines, the largest airline in Africa, has won the Airline of the Year Award for the second time in a row at MICE Magazine’s 8th Annual Industry Golden Chair Awards held in Beijing, China on 1 April 2015. The annual Golden Chair Award is one of the most influential awards in China and ranks airlines, hotels, travel agencies and tourism destinations with the best performance.

Ethiopian Group CEO, Tewolde Gebremariam, said, “We are honored to receive this award for the second year in a row. I wish to thank MICE Magazine and, above all, our esteemed customers from China for their vote of confidence. Ethiopian has become the airline of choice for Chinese travelers between China, Africa and Brazil. We offer the best and fastest connectivity options with a total of 28 weekly flights to 4 gateways in China that are Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, and with immediate connection to 49 destinations in Africa and Sao Paulo in Brazil. All the flights are operated with the latest and most comfortable aircraft, the 787 and 777. Thanks to our codeshare agreement with our fellow Star Alliance partner, Air China, we avail seamless

and convenient connections with one ticket and the ability to accrue and re-deem frequent flyer miles on the two airlines. Going forward, given the growing economic and people-to-people ties between Africa and China, we will expand our reach in China, Africa and Brazil with new

destinations and more frequencies with a view to enhance our service to our customers from China”.

In 2014, Ethiopian received Best Airline to Africa award by Premier Traveler, one of the most prominent travel magazines in the United States.

Ethiopian has also been awarded Best Airline in Africa and African Airline of the Year awards by Passenger Choice and The African Airlines Association (AFRAA). In 2015, Ethiopian was recognized as the Best Regional Airline by Air Transport World, the global leading aviation publication.

Ethiopian is a Pan-African global carrier, member of Star Alliance, operating the youngest fleet in the continent with an average of less than 7 years and currently serving 85 international destinations across 5 continents with over 200 daily departures. (Africabusinesscommunities)



## Update: Dairy processing trade mission to Ethiopia

The Netherlands-African Business Council (NABC) organizes a dairy trade mission for Dutch companies to Ethiopia from the 26th of April until the 1st of May 2015. Interested companies are welcome to register (see contact details below)

[Picture]

The mission focuses among others on quality testing, milk processing, packaging, cooling and logistics, as well as distribution. This mission includes bilateral tailor-made meetings and visits, matchmaking sessions and at the end, a celebration of King's Day

at the Royal Dutch Embassy in Addis Ababa. Among other events, a Dairy Platform Meeting with key stakeholders will give a chance to discuss current challenges and opportunities in the sector. This platform will be opened by H.E. Ethiopian State Minister Dr. Mebratu Meles. Dutch companies in the sector are cordially invited to join this mission and explore trade and investment opportunities in Ethiopia.

More information and registration: <http://ethio.be/1Gl2Vjt>

Contact: [maryn.kleingeld@nabc.nl](mailto:maryn.kleingeld@nabc.nl) 0703043618

## Wind energy in Ethiopia



Ethiopia has a defiant will to stand out. This will extends to its efforts to become a world class developer of clean energy sources like wind power. Ethiopia has become a major exporter of energy

in the region and has embarked on a journey to harness its clean energy with a goal of producing over 1.3 million megawatts of electricity from wind.



In 2012, the first wind installation in the country was introduced. Launched as the Adama I Wind Farm, a plant with a total of 34 turbines producing a capacity of 51 megawatts of energy kick-started the initiative. A race to achieve the country's strategic five-year plan to generate 890 megawatts of power from wind had begun. What has followed since then is multiple projects designed to help reach the set target.

In 2009, ground was broken for another wind farm at Ashegoda, known as one of the windiest places in Ethiopia. The project was delayed in its development but operations began in October 2013. Ashegoda Wind Farm is the largest wind farm in Africa, generating around 120 megawatts of energy. It is among the eleven sites in Africa identified by experts with great potential to generate power from wind.

A recent feasibility study was conducted by Vergnet Group SA, a French firm in the region of Tigray where the farm is located, with the intention of expanding the farm. Commenced late last year, the project will help the country add to the grid a total of 40 megawatts in the Tigray Regional State. The Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) Ato Alemayehu Tegenu and the Minister of Communication and Information Technology Debretsion Gebremichel have entered into another agreement to expand power generation in the country. The target is 10,000 megawatts of electric

power from water, wind and geothermal sources. The wind farm in Ashegoda has 84 turbines spanning a large grassland field, more than 780 kilometers North of Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia.

This project has not only brought clean energy to the people of the region but has attracted other players in the sector from neighboring countries like Kenya to tour around and learn a few lessons from it.

Late last year, the government began the Adama II Wind Farm project around 98 Kilometers East of Addis Ababa, which is generating energy on a trial basis and is expected to be fully operational in June 2015. The plant began development in 2013 and will eventually be able to produce around 153 megawatts of electricity with a total of 102 turbines, improving the country's wind generation capacity to 324 megawatts so far.

Though overall it has been a costly venture, consuming over 345 million USD, the Government and private sector partners of Ethiopia are undeterred in embracing clean energy solutions. This falls under the five-year Growth Transformation Plan for Ethiopia: plans that will see the country generate around 890 megawatts of energy from wind in the near future.

Source: Clean Leap

Link to the article: <http://ethio.be/1GrL194>

## TOURISM

### Discover Ethiopia's rich wildlife and nature

Thanks to its rich and varied topography and climate, Ethiopia is the home of a great number of wild animals and plants typical of different altitudes and climates.

Located within the tropics, the physical conditions and variations in altitude have

resulted in great range of terrain, climate, soil, flora and fauna. Much of Ethiopia's highland area lies above 2,000 meters and there are 20 peaks above 4,000 meters. At 4,620 meters, Ras Dashed, is one of the highest mountains in Africa. One of the lowest places on earth can also be found in Ethiopia, in the Danakil

Depression, which lays 116 meters under sea level, comprising the Erta Ale active lava lake.

Along with this rich topography, five main climatic zones are influencing the diversity of the wildlife: the hot, arid zone covers the desert lowlands below 500 meters (average temperature above 28° C); the warm to hot, semi-arid zone including areas with an altitude of 500-1,500 meters; the warm to cool, semi-humid zone covering the temperate highlands between 1,500 and 2,500 meters; the cool to cold humid zone including the temperate highlands between 2,500 and 3,200 meters and the cold, moist temperate zone covering the Afro-alpine areas on the highest plateaus above 3,200 meters (average temperature below 10° C). Ethiopia is a country of 13 months of sunshine, and its main rainy season happens in June-July-August.

Ethiopia's biodiversity is unique even when compared to its neighbors. There are over 6,000 species of plants, 277 species of mammals, out of which 35 endemic species, and more than 800 species of birds.

Though their population has decreased in the past decades, Ethiopia still has populations of African elephants, the world's largest living land mammal. With its high level of intelligence, interesting methods of communication and complex social structure, it remains one of the most impressive animals on earth. Both male and female African elephants have tusks, contrary to the Asiatic species where only male

have them.

Some of the most impressive animals found in Ethiopia also include the Abyssinian lion. The Lion is the principal terrestrial predator in Africa and therefore a key species of the savannah ecosystem. The Abyssinian Lion found in Ethiopia has a large, dark mane, extending from the head, neck and chest to the belly. He

is also smaller and more compact than other lions. Recently, it was established by scientists that these lions represent a genetically distinct population of the common African lion. An Abyssinian Lion breeding park is located in the National Palace and Park in Addis Ababa. The animal was a symbol for the patriotic Ethiopian independence (Black Lion Movement).

Besides of the Elephants and Abyssinian lions, there are a number of charismatic and endemic "flagship" species in Ethiopia, most notably the Gelada Baboon (an endemic genus and the world's only grazing primate), which can be found in the Simien Mountains. His friendly attitude towards tourists make him easy to observe. The Mountain Nyala (Simien Mountains), the extremely rare Ethiopian Wolf (Red Fox), the



Mountain Nyala found in the Simien Mountains

Walia Ibex (endemic to Simien Mountains), the Swayne's Hartebeest, the African Wild Ass and the Dibatag (an antelope of the desert areas of Ogaden) are also present in different parts of Ethiopia. Zebra can be found in the the southern part of the country. Some reptiles are found only in Ethiopia, including the Bale Mountains



### Abyssinian Lion

Heather Chameleon, the Bale Mountains Two-horned Chameleon and the Ethiopian Mountain Chameleon.

Ethiopia is particularly well-known for its wonderful and unique birdlife, which is appreciated by bird-lovers. Birds are numerous, diverse, very colorful and easy to observe. About sixteen out of the 862 species recorded in the country are found nowhere else on earth but in Ethiopia. Of the ten bird family's endemic

to the African mainland, eight of them are found in Ethiopia. Among the endemic birds, the Thick-billed Raven, Wattled Ibis, Black-winged Lovebird and White-collared Pigeon are notably common over extensive areas of the plateau. As they are big, readily identifiable and not timid, they are easy to see and observe frequently at a close range. Even in the highland forests, which support comparatively few endemic species of birds, the endemics are ubiquitous.



Though Ethiopia's wildlife is little known to town dwellers and the expatriate community of the country, there are more than 30 National Parks, Wildlife Reserves, and Sanctuaries, which cover an impressive 14% of the country's surface, along with numerous lodges and touristic infrastructure. These many protected areas

enable the visitor to enjoy the country's scenery and its wildlife, conserved in natural habitats, and offer opportunities for travel adventure unparalleled in Africa. In short, travelers looking to discover new landscapes, animals and plant species should not hesitate: Ethiopia's wildlife has much to offer.



Mocking cliff chat



Swayne's hartebeest



Ethiopian Wolf



Gelada Baboon

## 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

Ethiopian Embassy, Avenue de Tervuren, 62, 1040 Etterbeek, Belgium  
+32 2 771 32 94 [info@ethiopianembassy.be](mailto:info@ethiopianembassy.be) [www.ethiopianembassy.be](http://www.ethiopianembassy.be)