

Newsletter

Embassy of Ethiopia, Brussels



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“Messob” are used to serve food in Ethiopia

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POLITICAL ISSUES

Victory Day: the 24th Anniversary of the overthrow of the military dictatorship

May 28th, twenty four years ago marked a momentous day for the peoples of Ethiopia, bringing to an end nearly two decades of war and instability. It was a historic day for the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia who had suffered and endured the brutality of the extreme and ruthless military dictatorship of the Derg. It was a day that offered survival rightly to all peoples of Ethiopia, dried the tears of every segment of the population and offered hope, peace, dignity and development. It was a day that wrote the final end to the dark years in which the misguided and ill-informed 'Marxist' policies of the military regime had shattered the lives of so many civilians across the country. Victory Day was, indeed, the start of a real transition to peace and stability, democracy and economic development.

During the Derg's time, the country faced deep-rooted economic, political and social problems across the country. People were determined to have real and effective change and the 'National Question' was just one of the first demands for socio-political change. The demise of the Derg in 1991 had been preceded by a long period of civil unrest as well as the steady advance of the unified opposition of the Ethiopian peoples, led by the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). Their victory was not just a mere change of Government; it was a victory which opened the way to peace, development and democracy for the Ethiopian People. Those long years of struggle against the military rule and towards development, peace and stability, democracy, fraternity, justice and equality were not in vain. The newly established Transitional Government immediately embarked on the path of transforming Ethiopia from a militarily-controlled, oppressive and Marxist dictatorship to a free and democratic federation as exemplified by the

Constitution of 1995.

The New Ethiopia, with its vision of realizing unity in diversity, was constituted on the basis of equality, mutual respect, the common aims and interests of all the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia as well as of all the country's religions and faiths. It is with this in mind that May 28 (Ginbot 20), Victory Day, is celebrated throughout the country.

May 28 brought about a fundamental shift to growth and development in the country and laid the foundation for Ethiopia's renaissance. The Transitional Government established a firm basis on which Ethiopia has been able to achieve remarkable successes in development and democratization as well as in international relations. These have included the formulation of a democratic constitution and the carrying out of a series of democratic elections, in which the people have voted freely for their own leaders and representatives. This constitution has provided the foundation for all the policies and strategies of the country and has allowed a series of five, highly successful, national and federal state elections.

Ethiopia has become one of the fastest growing economies in the world with impressive agricultural and industrial results both in urban and rural areas, substantial and significant infrastructure development, and major social developments in health and education. The wide variety of pro-poor policies have been supplemented by a series of major infrastructure developments, notably the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, using internal resource mobilization. At the same time, Foreign Direct Investment, technology transfer, technical assistance and foreign trade have all shown significant increases. The double digit growth of the last twelve years is a vivid illustration of the success of these policies, with their guaranteed element of

public participation, focusing on addressing priorities at home, aiming at democratization and winning the war on poverty.

Similarly, the Foreign Affairs and National Security Policy and Strategy has helped Ethiopia play a major role in bringing peace and security to the Horn of Africa and encouraged its continuing and expanding role in peacekeeping operations, for the UN and the AU as part of its commitment to collective security. Ethiopia has represented Africa in negotiations on various international fora, notably in climate change discussions. The country's image has undergone major improvements. It has worked hard to minimize its own vulnerability to threats, while its internal developments and the building of people-to-people ties with neighbors has demonstrated its commitment to regional peace and stability.

As President Dr. Mulatu Teshome said in a message to the people of the country on 28 May 2015, the Ethiopian government has managed to realize fast and sustainable economic growth for the past 24 years. Accurately targeted development policies,

concentrating on agricultural production and the real commitment of the leadership had helped millions of Ethiopians to pull themselves out of poverty. He noted the Government's measures to increase production and productivity of pastoralists and provide them with new agricultural technology. Health coverage was now virtually one hundred percent and the average life span of Ethiopians had increased from 45 to 64 years. The 19% of the population that had access to potable water in 1991 had now risen to 85%. The President praised the Ethiopian people for their firm and determined efforts to ensure peace and stability and to cooperate with the Government in fighting terrorists and anti-peace elements. Ethiopia, he noted, was recognized not just by its neighbors but by the international community for its efforts in working for lasting peace and stability in the region. The President also congratulated the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of the country on the free, peaceful and credible national and regional state elections last weekend. They were, he said, a real indication of the country's growing democracy.

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Ginbot 20 colorfully celebrated in Brussels



Ambassador Teshome Toga cutting the cake on the occasion of the Ginbot 20 celebration

The Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels colorfully celebrated the 24th anniversary of Ginbot 20 on 30 May 2015 together with many Ethiopians and

people from Ethiopian origin living in the Benelux countries. Ginbot 20 anniversary commemorates the fall of the dictatorial regime in 1991 and the establishment of a federal democratic system in Ethiopia.

In his statement, H.E. Ambassador Teshome Toga, Ambassador of Ethiopia to the European Union institutions, Baltic and Benelux States recalled the martyres who sacrificed their life to give Ethiopia a chance to development and democracy. The representative further underlined that this Ginbot 20 celebration is particularly important, as it comes both immediately after the successful election held on 24 May 2015, and also just at the time of the completion of the first edition of the Growth and Transformation Plan.

The 24 May 2015 election has been a success: the Ethiopian people could elect their representatives in a civilized and calm atmosphere by using democratic rights without having to suffer from illegitimate interference.

Despite attempts by some groups to undermine the peaceful process, the electoral steps were well-managed and the people was committed to a transparent and fair election. These democratization achievements have been noted by the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia. The results of the election show that the incumbent Government received the people's confidence to continue its development and democratization policy. The Government is ready to lead the country into these transformations.

The Ambassador also underlined that these positive achievements are not to be separated from the good relations Ethiopia is enjoying with its neighbors and international partners. Ethiopia's foreign policy is based on equality and mutual benefit. In return for this open and fair stance, the country is recognized by the international

community as a major and reliable partner.

Ambassador Teshome finally underlined that the Government is not only designing policies that are benefiting the people in Ethiopia, but also the diaspora living abroad. Reciprocally, the diaspora is strongly contributing to the country's development and democratization process. The members of the diaspora were thanked for this outstanding commitment and welcomed to further engage for the country's Renaissance.

In a Q&A session, the recent diaspora housing program was presented and discussed. After the celebration, traditional Ethiopian food was served to the participants.

To get a glimpse of this colorful event, please watch our video! <https://youtu.be/9EZb5Pg6yEo>

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Ethiopia's long-standing contributions to the United Nations awarded in New York

H.E. Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations attended the event organized at the UNHQs to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. He received a medal awarded to Ethiopia in honor of its peacekeepers who sacrificed their lives to advance the cause of peace.

Since the establishment of the United Nations, Ethiopia has been actively participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations based on its firm conviction on the principle of collective security enshrined in the UN Charter. Currently, Ethiopia is

number one in Africa and fourth in the world in terms of the number of peacekeepers deployed under the United Nations umbrella.

Close to eight thousand Ethiopian Peacekeepers are serving in various UN peacekeeping missions including in Abeyei, Darfur and South Sudan. In addition, more than four thousand Ethiopian peacekeepers are deployed in Somalia as part of the African Union peace support operation in that country.

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Ethiopia's participation in the 101st Session of the ACP Council of Ministers held in Brussels

The 101st Session of the Council of Ministers of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group took place in Brussels from 26 to 29 May 2015 and delivered conclusions on various issues relevant to the group. Major topics of discussion included health, migration, ACP-EU economic partnerships

and the private sector development.

Regarding the health sector, the ACP group welcomed the outcomes and recommendations of the meeting of ACP Ministers of Health in February, including the promotion of universal health coverage in ACP countries, and making it an overarching goal for the health sector amongst the

proposed Sustainable Development Goals of the post-2015 development framework, with sustainable financing. Strengthening health systems to cope with epidemics such as the Ebola outbreak through multi-sectoral, coordinated approaches standardized within national systems, was also recommended.

On the pressing topic of migration, the ACP Council of Ministers urged the effective implementation of the ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration and Development, so that migration will not only be a challenge, but also an opportunity for both countries of origin and host countries. The Council underscored that beyond the military and security approach taken by the EU, there is an urgent need to have a comprehensive approach to deal with migration, in partnership with all countries concerned. This global approach should attach the root causes of migration,

while favoring international legal instruments that guarantee the human rights of migrants, regardless of their legal status in the host country.

On the ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements, the ACP Council of Ministers called for more flexibility in negotiations on outstanding issues; more attention to the difficulties of implementation; and adequate new and financial resources as well as technical support required by ACP regions to implement these agreements. The Council of Ministers furthermore urged the EU to continue supporting the private sector development of ACP countries, most notably through the establishment of the Light Support Structure.

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Ethiopia represented at the European Development Days



Ethiopian Minister for Environment and Forestry, H.E. Belete Tafere

At the 2015 European Development Days organized on 3 and 4 June 2015 in Brussels by the European Commission, participants from over 140 countries, representing 1,200 organisations had a chance to discuss how to create sustainable growth, develop a shared vision of universal and fundamental rights and show that smart policies can improve the lives of millions of people.

The Ethiopian Minister for Environment and Forestry, H.E. Belete Tafere, was invited to participate in a panel discussion about the climate change conference which will be held in Paris at the end of 2015. According to the Minister, we have no other option than to put all our efforts into this conference to address the pressing issue of climate change and to unite the agendas of all the countries on the topic. The Government of Ethiopia is very much committed to address the problem as its level, as it for example did by fighting deforestation and by building a renewable energy system. The Minister also recalled the ambitious goal of the Growth and Transformation Plan to achieve a zero net emissions economy by 2025. In the last years, a massive social mobilization in Ethiopia already made it possible to achieve some concrete goals such as rehabilitation and management of



degraded landscapes.

Later in the debate, the Minister recalled that Ethiopia has long suffered from climate related problems. But today, the emphasis should be put on existing opportunities and optimization of internal

capacity. The Minister also thanked Ethiopia's international partners for the positive cooperation they are having to implement a greener development.

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ECONOMY

US extends Ethiopia's AGOA market access for 10 years

The Ethiopian Investment Commission Director General Fitsum Arega recently said Ethiopia has been given another 10 years extension opportunity for accessing US market duty and quota free. He also said that African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has been extended which is big news for the country. "I congratulate those companies which are

manufacturing in Ethiopia and supplying to the American market. And we are grateful to the US government for allowing the extension" he added. "In the past we haven't utilized the opportunity to the maximum extent. But we believe in the years to come the Commission will work with other ministries on the construction of industrial parks to attract and

allow more manufacturers to settle and manufacture in Ethiopia and access American market through the AGOA opportunity” Fitsum added. “The relationship we have with the US government is so good that Americans want us to grow and access their market.” He said that Ethiopia is also accessing European market tax free and without quota limitation as well. It was learnt that AGOA was going

to phase out in December 2015 but the US government allowed its extension for Ethiopian manufacturers to export tax and quota free.

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allAfrica <http://allafrica.com/stories/201505211352.html>

HEALTH

Ethiopia achieves GTP & MDG goals on potable water

Ethiopia has achieved accessing potable water targets set both in the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) and the Millennium Development Goal (MDG), Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy said. GTP I planned to provide 100 percent potable water in the urban and 98 percent in the rural areas. The Ministry has already achieved both target. According to the State Minister, the Ministry has managed to provide potable water to 34.8 million citizens exceeding the plan set to provide for 33 million citizens. The State Minister also emphasized that the Ministry has managed to achieve 80 percent although the plan in the MDG was to reach 60

percent.

Furthermore, safe drinkable water coverage is expected to reach 86 percent by the end of this fiscal year. The Ministry constructed 75,000 water delivery stations in the first GTP and plans to construct 170,000 thousand in the second GTP period. By the second phase of GTP, the target is to deliver better services in quantity, quality and coverage.

Furthermore, the availability of potable water is planned to reach 16 hours on average without any interruption in the second GTP period.

Over EB 30 billion was allotted for potable water and other related works in the first GTP period.

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Health system in Ethiopia: successes and challenges

During the last decade, Ethiopia not only enjoyed a double-digit growth of its economy: the oldest nation of the Horn of Africa also registered remarkable achievements in social sectors, especially in the health and education fields. In

addition to reducing poverty by 33% since 2000, ‘health, education, and living standards have also improved, with undernourishment down from 75 percent to 35 percent since 1990 and infant and child mortality rates falling considerably since 2000’

(World Bank). Under-five mortality of children has been reduced by two thirds between 1990 and 2012, the lifetime risk of maternal deaths was reduced by nearly two-thirds, from 1 in 24, to 1 in 67 over the same period, and the maternal mortality ratio from 1400 in 1990, to 420 in 2013 (69 percent reduction). New HIV infection has been decreased by 90 percent and mortalities due to TB and Malaria have also been cut down by 50 percent. The average life span of Ethiopians had increased from 45 to 64 years in the last 20 years. Recently, the country made the headlines for breaking the world record for the biggest mass HIV test. These improvements are due to a large part to a well-coordinated, extensive effort and intensive investment by the government of Ethiopia and international partners, enabling an increase of the health expenditures per capita from USD 7.14 in 2004-2005 to USD 16.09 in 2007-2008. Under its policies and strategies in the health sector, Ethiopia gives priority to controlling communicable diseases, epidemics and diseases related to malnutrition and poor living conditions and to the development of environmental health and rehabilitation of health infrastructure, health governance and information system.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Ethiopia has done clear progresses in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) concerning health and education. The country reached the target on hunger reduction, and is on a good path to achieve universal primary education (MDG 2): the net enrollment ratio in primary education increased from 77.5 percent in 2005-2006 to 85.4 percent in 2011-2012. The Child Mortality (MDG 4) has been reduced by two thirds between 1990 and 2012. The target of reducing HIV/AIDS prevalence to less than 2.5 percent (MDG 6) has also been achieved, as it lays now about 1.2 percent. The number of children sleeping under adequate nets to prevent malaria has also sharply increased. Tuberculosis, finally, should be cured at a level of 90 percent by the end of this year.

In comparison, the MDG 5 (“improve maternal health”), however, was less of a success. Maternal mortality rates have not clearly improved since

2005. This can be explained through the difficulty to reach health facilities in case of emergency, through insufficient expansion of family planning methods (though they are expanding). Given the meager progresses on this goal, a MDGs Acceleration Framework was adopted by the government of Ethiopia in collaboration with the United Nations.

Increasing the pace: the Health Sector Development Program

The strategy of the Ministry of Health is outlined in the Health Sector Development Program (HSDP), which is part of the broader development strategy Growth and Transformation Plan I (2011-2015) decided and implemented by the government. The priorities of HSDP IV (2012-2015), which is supported by the European Union, are to improve the maternal and new-born health, child health, and to reduce the prevalence of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and malnutrition. It also plans the construction of over 800 new primary hospitals. The construction of over 200 hospitals has already been initiated in the various regional states and is expected to be completed soon.

In 2007, noting that the health resources were often difficult to access for a large part of the population, the government also launched the Health Extension Program, with the goal of providing a universal coverage of primary health care. The most visible measure is the deployment of more than 38,000 government salaried Health Extension workers. After receiving a medical training, these women are dispatched in communities around the country to help resolve the geographic and cultural gap between communities and health facilities. This measure has been widely regarded as a success:

“Ethiopia has demonstrated that low-income countries can achieve improvements in health and access to services if policies, programmes and strategies are underpinned by ingenuity, innovativeness, political will and sustained commitment at all levels. An example is the development and rapid implementation of the Ethiopian Health Extension Programme.”

(Good Health at Low Cost. 25 years on: What Makes A Successful Health System? Balabanova et al, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2011

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CULTURE

Destination Ethiopia: book presented in Leuven



A book about Ethiopia was presented in Leuven on 27 May 2015. Cosigned by the Belgian entrepreneurs Jan Flamend and Karel Claes and the photographer Bart Ramaker, "Bestemming Ethiopië" (Destination Ethiopia) published by De Cavalerie brings together detailed texts and inspired photographs about various aspects of Ethiopia. The book was presented in Leuven at the occasion of an Ethiopian evening organized by the Belgian organizations Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs. During the event, the guests had the chance to meet the authors, enjoy Ethiopian food and buy big format photographs of Ethiopia by Bart Ramaker. A representative of the Embassy said a few words about the opportunities Ethiopia offers to entrepreneurs and to people eager to discover

unusual and rich tourist destinations.

Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs, which organized this Ethiopian evening, is an active network of businessmen and women supporting entrepreneurs in the South. The organization is working with local NGO's and with local entrepreneurs in so-called "Business to Business Plans". This includes the possibility to invest in local companies and to provide knowledge transfer. In Ethiopia the organization supports, among others, agricultural businesses, sustainable water

management projects and microfinance systems. Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs also organises trips for businessmen and women to Ethiopia, to visit cultural highlights in the north of the country but also relevant sustainable businesses and NGO's. The travel agency of the organization, Dynasty Ethiopia Tours, is an example of a business that is flourishing thanks to support from Entrepreneurs for Entrepreneurs.

<http://www.ondernemersvoorondernemers.be/>

<http://www.dynastyethiopatours.com>

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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The Ethiopian Rift Valley wine now in Benelux !

A wine that makes you feel as warm-hearted as the people of Ethiopia themselves

As country manager of the Castel Group in Ethiopia, I was lucky to supervise the implementation of a vineyard in the southern part of the country.

This project has been initiated during a meeting in January 2007 between the late Prime Minister of Ethiopia, his Excellency Meles Zenawi and Mr. Pierre Castel, founder and President of the Castel Group, active in the wine business for more than 65 years.

Even if at first glance Ethiopia may seem as a newcomer in the wine industry, one has to remember that it actually started that activity in the first half of the 20th century. Moreover, when you know that Dionisos - god of grape, harvest and wine - would be native from the antique city of Nysa in Ethiopia, we can say that “wine in Ethiopia goes way back”

The town of Zeway has been selected to develop the vineyard because of its sub-humid to semi-arid climate and its sandy loam type of soil. In May 2008, about 750,000 vineplants imported from Bordeaux (Chardonnay - Merlot - Cabernet Sauvignon - Syrah) were planted over more than 120 ha.

A state-of-the-art winery was completed in 2011.



The 2013 first vintage was bottled in 2014 and 800,000 bottles were produced both for the domestic and the export markets. Besides Eastern African countries, USA,China but also France and Germany had already the privilege of tasting this new abyssinian nectar.

Although back home in Belgium, I am highly connected with Ethiopia -both personally and professionally - and did not miss the opportunity of offering my assistance to import and promote “my wine” in my own country.

My partner and friend Mrs.Debritu- Lusteau joined me in this exciting project, covering the distribution in The Netherlands.

Therefore, we are now pleased to announce the arrival of 12.000 bottles of an excellent “Rift Valley” red wine,available in 3 different types : Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah throughout Benelux.



To see the description of the 3 types of wines, [please click here](#)

To see the purchase details , [please click here](#)

Le tenachen !

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