

Newsletter

Embassy of Ethiopia, Brussels



26 June 2015
Weekly Issue N° 42



Bee eaters in Ethiopia. Picture © Ministry of Tourism

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POLITICAL ISSUES

Public contribution for GERD project is tremendous

Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen said that public contribution for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Project (GERD) is very significant. In his exclusive interview with Walta Information Centre, the Deputy Premier emphasized that the Ethiopian people residing at home and abroad have been contributing for the project both through buying bonds and offering professional supports.

The Public Diplomacy Works started with Egypt and Sudan has enabled Ethiopia to explain its real interest in connection with the GERD Project. "The Nile is a natural bridge connecting Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan. The strongest bridge among nations is the people. Hence, we have been doing much in strengthening the people to people relation through Public Diplomacy", Demeke said. DPM

Demeke also appreciated the contribution of the Ethiopian Diaspora, over USD 30 million so far.

In line with this assessment, the Office of National Council for the Coordination of Public Participation on the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam said that over ETB 7.4 billion have been collected so far from all sorts of income generating means. Due to bond selling, public saving has grown to 22 percent currently from five percent at the beginning of the GTP I. Moreover, the construction of the GERD project has now reached 45.2 percent, and 90 percent of the power transferring cable extended from Guba to Holeta to carry the 6,000MW electric power to the National Grid is finalized.

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Ethiopia's election results officially announced

On 22 June 2015, the Chairman of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE), Professor Merga Bekana announced the final and official results of last month general election. The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), a coalition of four parties won a landslide victory taking 500 seats in the 547 seat Federal House of People's Representatives. Voting for one seat was delayed, but the preliminary result indicated that it has also gone to the EPRDF. The other 46 seats in the House of Representatives were won by regional state parties: the Somali People's Democratic Party with 24 seats, the Benshangul Gumuz People's Democratic Party - nine, the Afar National Democratic Party - eight, the Gambela Peoples' Unity Democratic Movement - three, and the Harari National League and the Argoba People Democratic Organization - one seat each.

Professor Merga described the performance of the ruling party as good but said the competition had been strong. Although the opposition won no seats in Addis Ababa, for example, it held 30% of the vote. He said "the elections were characterized by high voter turnout and orderly conduct of the proceedings; and they took place in a free, fair, peaceful, credible and democratic manner." The EPRDF, along with its allies, also took a majority of the seats in the Regional State Councils, winning all but 21 of the 1,987 seats. African Union observer team said the polls passed off without incident, but the opposition alleged the government had used authoritarian tactics to guarantee victory. A Government Spokesperson, Shimeles Kemal, said the party's success was the result of Ethiopia's economic progress. He said voters gave credit to the ruling EPRDF party for the economic progress it had

introduced and achieved for the last decade. He said the voters wanted continuation of their policies, adding that “In view of the weak, fragmented opposition and the lack of viable alternative, it

was very likely that the ruling party would win in a landslide.”

© MFA Ethiopia

Obama’s upcoming visit to Ethiopia recognizes country’s ‘enormous importance’

Nearly 112 years after the United States and Ethiopia established diplomatic ties, US President Barack Obama will become the first sitting American leader ever to visit the East African nation. A visit the Atlantic Council’s J. Peter Pham says is long overdue.

“This is a country with which we’ve had diplomatic relations for more than a century,” said Pham, Director of the Atlantic Council’s Africa Center. “Economically, it’s one of the five fastest-growing countries in the world, with a number of years of double-digit growth. And with its population of 90 million and its tremendous potential for US companies, it’s also an anchor of stability in a very volatile region.”

On June 19, the White House announced that Obama would stop in Addis Ababa sometime in late July on his way back from Kenya, where he plans to visit his father’s homeland for the first time as President. Specific dates for the trip have not yet been made public.

In addition to being Africa’s second-most populous country (after Nigeria, with about 175 million people), Ethiopia is home to the headquarters of the fifty-four-member African Union (AU), which was established in Addis Ababa in 2001 to replace the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Pham said the country’s location on the Horn of Africa—and its proximity to Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan—makes it of particular strategic importance to the Pentagon.

“With the exception of the period when Mengistu Haile Mariam and his Marxist military junta, the Derg, aligned the country with the Soviet bloc [...], Ethiopia has historically been a strong ally of the United States,” said Pham. “Our countries fought on the same side during World War II, and more recently worked with the United States in the global effort against terrorism after the September 11, 2001 attacks by al-Qaeda on the American homeland.”

[...]

Furthermore, the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) has played key roles both in Somalia—where Ethiopian troops participate in the AU’s mission fighting al-Shabaab terrorists—and in the disputed Abyei region between Sudan and South Sudan, where the ENDF as well as Ethiopian police and civilian personnel make up most of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

Overall, he said, Ethiopia ranks fourth worldwide and first among African nations in its contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations around the globe.

Economically, Ethiopia is emerging as an African leader in hydroelectricity, thanks to an ambitious construction program that aims to harness the potential of the Blue Nile as well as that of the Nile River’s other major tributary, the Atbara River, which originates in the heart of Ethiopia’s highlands near Lake Tana. Together, the two rivers account for nearly 90 percent of the water and over 95 percent of the sediment carried by the Nile proper.

“Since the overthrow of the Soviet-backed communist Derg regime in 1991, political stability, improved governance, and heavy investment in infrastructure have led to growth that has lifted Ethiopia out of abject misery in just one generation,” Pham said. “Anyone who has visited the country more than once notes the transformation taking place constantly.”

The country’s potential to expand will grow even more, he said, if the US Congress renews the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which expires in September.

“There will be those who criticize the visit because of one difference or another with the government of Ethiopia,” Pham noted, “but the President’s visit is not so much a ‘Good Housekeeping seal of approval’ as

an opportunity to engage a key partner—including on topics on which we might differ—and above all, to advance US strategic interests.”

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<http://ethio.be/1FFb46Q>

In the media: Interview with Ambassador Teshome Toga

H.E. Teshome Toga, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic to the European Union, Benelux and Baltic countries gave an interview to the quality magazine Diplomatic World. During the interview, Teshome Toga gave insightful background information about the current development of

Ethiopia and addressed topics such as coffee, tourism, regional cooperation and security. You can read the complete interview by clicking here:

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



H.E. Teshome Toga with Mrs Bernadette Reyntjens, Director of Diplomatic World. Picture © Diplomatic World

ECONOMY

IMF: Ethiopian economic outlook highly favorable

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team visited Addis Ababa from 3 to 17 June 2015 to conduct discussions for the 2015 Article IV Consultation with Ethiopia. At the end of their visit, in a statement released on 19 June 2015, the Mission said that “Ethiopia’s state-led development model has delivered rapid and broad-based growth over many years. It has also reduced poverty significantly, while keeping inequality low. The outlook for Ethiopia remains highly favorable, reflecting its significant economic potential and productivity-enhancing investments and reforms. Ethiopia’s growth has so far been driven in large part by public investment. To sustain rapid and inclusive growth over the coming years, the private sector will need to play an increasing role as a driver of growth.”

The Mission noted that economic momentum has been strong during the past year, reflecting, it said, robust public investment in infrastructure and solid performance in agriculture. It noted that exports had been affected by lower commodity prices and the impact of Ebola on travel receipts, and that imports, especially for capital goods and construction-

related services, had increased sharply. Foreign direct investment and foreign disbursements to state-owned enterprises had increased. It also noted that inflation had remained in single digits. The Mission said there were two key factors to sustain rapid and broad-based growth over the medium term: boosting domestic and foreign resource mobilization, and reducing bottlenecks to doing business. This would allow a growing role for the private sector.

The Mission met with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia Teklewold Atnafu, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development Sufian Ahmed, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development Abraham Tekeste, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister Neway Gebreab and other senior officials, and representatives of the private sector, the international community, and civil society during its visit. The IMF Executive Board is expected to complete the 2015 Article IV consultation in September 2015.

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Ethiopian supplier of H&M upgrades facilities

Ethiopia’s Almeda Textiles, which sells clothes to Swedish fashion chain Hennes & Mauritz AB, plans to increase revenue by 50 percent to \$30 million a year by 2018 by upgrading factory equipment and training staff.

The company will invest in its only plant near the city of Adwa Tigray region, Almeda’s General Manager Libelo Gebreselassie said in an interview on Monday. He declined to say how much will be spent. The company, which began operations in 1998, could

supply Stockholm-based H&M with more than 4,000 t-shirts a day next year if productivity improves, he said.

“We’re upgrading our internal capacity,” Libelo said at Almeda’s offices in the capital, Addis Ababa. If the company can boost capacity and reliability at the plant, H&M may increase its orders”.

Almeda is owned by the Endowment Fund for the Rehabilitation of Tigray [...] It’s been supplying H&M, Europe’s second biggest clothing retailer,

since 2013.

H&M can't comment on its relationship with Almeda for "competitive reasons," spokeswoman Anna Eriksson said by e-mail on Tuesday. The vendor of \$9.95 beach dresses said that the rising dollar drove second-quarter profitability to the lowest level in nine years.

Ethiopia's government plans to invest about \$1 billion a year in export-focused industrial parks that will contain textile factories among other manufacturing sites, Arkebe Oqubay, a special adviser to Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn,

said last month. While Africa's second most-populous nation has a target to earn \$1 billion this year from textiles and clothing exports, it shipped only \$70 million worth in the nine months through March, according to the Trade Ministry.

About 90 percent of Almeda's dyed fabrics and garments are sold in Ethiopia, with large orders from the army and police force for uniforms, Libelo said. The company's sales will probably be \$20 million in the [Ethiopian] fiscal year ending July 7, up from annual revenue of about \$15 million in the two previous years, he said.

© Bloomberg

The booming infrastructure development in Ethiopia

With 11 percent growth in the past decade and the bold objective to become a middle-income country by 2025, Ethiopia has been recently called an "African Lion" by economists. Infrastructure expansion is found at the centre of the national development

considerable: the mostly asphalted road network is almost three times larger than in 1997, the railway network is transforming the landlocked country into an interconnected economy, the telecom services are expected to cover 85 percent of the country



Addis Ababa Bole Airport. Picture © Vob08

strategy. In fact, reliable transportation networks, abundant green energy as well as performant telecoms are vital to increase the living standards of the population, enable a dynamic economy and attract foreign direct investments. These sectors have been a top concern for the Government of Ethiopia in the past years, and the achievements are

soon and the biggest hydroelectric dam of Africa is to be inaugurated in two years, transforming Ethiopia into a power hub for the whole region.

Important funding of road construction had the result to triple the number of rural people with access to an all-season road in the last five years, and

several highways have been completed. Railways have also been extended, with eight corridors currently under development. The most significant of them will connect Addis Ababa to the port of Djibouti, giving a new impetus to exports: the new track will reduce journey time by more than half and provide reliable means to transport containers. Moreover, a 34-kilometers light train line in Addis Ababa has been inaugurated this year. In terms of air transportation, Ethiopian Airlines flies passengers to 83 international destinations and cargo flights to 24 cities. It is Africa's fastest growing and most profitable passenger and cargo carrier.

Access to communication services has also been remarkably expanded. The mobile usage is set to increase to 64.4 percent of the population this fiscal year from 7.6 percent in 2009-2010, and the internet subscribers should reach more than seven percent of the population this year. A brand new 4G network was recently launched that will notably boost Ethiopia's attractiveness for businesses that are highly dependent on flexible and high speed connections.

Reliable transportation networks and telecoms are of little use if they are not accompanied by a

continued and affordable energy supply. Ethiopia has therefore massively invested in the construction of several hydroelectric dams to take advantage of its 45,000 MW hydroelectric potential. The completion of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam expected for 2017 will be game-changing as it will boost the economy of the country and stimulate further regional integration. Upon completion, it is estimated to have the potential to generate 6,000 MW, which is equivalent to the combined power of four nuclear reactors. Ethiopia also enjoys high potential in other renewable energy sources such as geothermal power and wind energy. With 102 turbines of 1.53 MW each, the Adama II Wind Farm is the newest wind energy facility to have been inaugurated in the country.

This quick overview shows that Ethiopia's fast growth in the past decade was sustained by massive investments in infrastructure. Like Eugene Owusu, former head of the United Nations office in Ethiopia puts it, "Ethiopia is in a hurry to develop. You might think it's insane for any country to aspire to grow at such a fast rate. But it reflects the confidence the country has right now. It reflects the bold ambition and the political commitment of the leadership".

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AGENDA & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ethiopian Diaspora Day / Oromia Diaspora Festival

The Ethiopian Diaspora day will be celebrated in Addis Ababa from 12 to 16 August 2015 as well as the Oromia Diaspora Festival from 3 to 10 August 2015. The diaspora members who are interested to attend should register at the Ethiopian Embassy (contacts below). Participants of the Oromia Diaspora Festival who purchase their tickets between 3 and 30 June 2015 and are travelling between 29 June 2015 and 3 August 2015 will secure a 40 percent discount on their flights with Ethiopian Airlines. Luggage: 2PCs

per person (32 kg). This discount will be secured via supporting letter from the Ethiopian Embassy (Brussels) to Ethiopian Airlines ticket offices.

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Mail - info@ethiopianembassy.be

Website - www.ethiopianembassy.be

ታላቅ የኢትዮጵያ የዲያስፖራ ቀን በአዲስ አበባ

ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ የኢትዮጵያ የዲያስፖራ ቀን በዓል እ.ኤ.አ ከኮንት 12-16/2015 በአዲስ አበባ በደማቅ ስነ-ስርዓት ይከበራል። በበዓሉ ላይ ለመገኘት ፍላጎት ካልዎት ብራሰልስ በሚገኘው የኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ

መመዘን ይቻላል። ለበዓሉ የኢትዮጵያ አዳር መንገድ 10% የአዳር ተኬት ቅናሽ የያዘ ለአድርጓል፡፡ በመሆኑም በዕድሉ ተጠቅመው የዕረፍት ጊዜዎን በበዓሉ ላይ በመገኘት በሚወዷት ሀገርዎ ያሳልፉ።

ታላቅ የዲያስፖራ ፌስቲቫል በኦሮሚያ

የኦሮሚያ ብሔራዊ ክልላዊ መንግስት ለክልሉ ተወላጆች በዓይነቱ ልዩ የሆነ የዲያስፖራ ፌስቲቫል እ.ኤ.አ ከኮንት 3-10 ቀን 2015 በውቢቷ አዳማ ከሞቀ አቀባበል ጋር አዘጋጅቶ ይጠብቅታል። በክልሉ ቆይታዎ ነጻ መጥታና የትራንስፖርት አገልግሎት እንዲያገኙ እንዲሁም የክልሉን የልማት እንቅስቃሴ እንዲጎበኙ ይደረጋል።

በሚገኘው የኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ በመመዘን ለኢትዮጵያ አዳር መንገድ ከኤምባሲው የሚጻፈውን የትብብር በድብዳቤ መውሰድዎን አይዘነጉ። በዕድሉ ተጠቅመውም በፌስቲቫሉ ላይ በመሳተፍ የክልልዎን የልማት እንቅስቃሴ ይመልከቱ።

የኢትዮጵያ አዳር መንገድ ከክልሉ መንግስት ጋር በመተባበር በፌስቲቫሉ ለመሳተፍ እ.ኤ.አ ከጁን 3- ጁን 30/2015 ተኬቶችን ለሚገዙ እና ከጁላይ 29-ኮንት 3/2015 ለሚገዙ 40% የአዳር ተኬት ቅናሽ አዘጋጅቷል። የሻንጣ መጠን በመንገደኛ 2PC/32ኪ.ግ ነው።

ለበለጠ መረጃ ብራሰልስ በሚገኘው የኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ የዲያስፖራ ዘርፍ በግንባር በቅረብ ወይም በሚከተለው አድራሻ በመገልገል መመዘን ይቻላል።

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በፌስቲቫሉ ላይ ለመገኘት ፍላጎት ካልዎት ብራሰልስ

Third international conference on Financing Development: Ethiopian Airlines special offers

Ethiopian Airlines has several special offers for the participants in the Third international conference on Financing Development. These include discount on flight tickets to Addis Ababa (booking until 16 July 2015) and special tour offers to visit the country's

rich tourism potential. More infos and contacts: see the next pages.

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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ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES SPECIAL OFFER

Enjoy discount on your flight to the Financing for Development Conference!

July 2015 Conference on Financing for Development

Addis Ababa, the diplomatic capital of Africa will host the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development from 13 to 16 July 2015. On the conference, over 6,000 high-level political representatives including Heads of State and Government, Ministers, businesses and NGOs are expected to attend.

Discount conditions

12% off on Business class and 10% off on Economy class fares from all Ethiopian Airlines online points to Addis Ababa.

Fare is valid for the participants of International Conference on Financing for Development. Discount shall apply on ET operated sector only. This discount is not applicable on PR fares. Passenger should present letter of invitation or other document which shows he/she is a participant of this event and and be sent to Copy of letter should be retained at ticket issuing office and be sent to ET finance office up on request. No additional discount applies including CHD, and INF. All rules and regulations other than stated on this contract shall apply per system. Fare discount is valid for sales till July 13, 2015. Outbound travel to ADD is valid till July 16, 2015. Inbound travel from ADD is valid from July 13 - August 12, 2015.





Embassy of Ethiopia
Brussels, Belgium



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#FinancingForDevelopmentConference
and you want to get more from
#Ethiopia?

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just for you!

More information: ethio.be/Ethiopian2015