

Newsletter

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Paradise Lodge at Arba Minch, Ethiopia, overlooking Nechisar National Park. Picture David Stanley

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POLITICAL ISSUES

President Obama to arrive in Ethiopia this Sunday

On Sunday, US President Barack Obama will become the first sitting US President to visit Ethiopia. Obama's trip to Ethiopia will be the second stop on a journey that will include a visit to Kenya. From there, Obama will trace the Great Rift Valley northward to Addis Ababa.

On 22 July 2015, President Barack Obama celebrated the growth in American economic links with sub-Saharan Africa, ahead of his upcoming trip to Ethiopia and Kenya. Speaking at a White House reception marking the signing of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, Obama said that despite its challenges,

Africa is "incredibly dynamic and resilient", with "extraordinary" opportunities for the United States of America. "Despite its many challenges – and we have to be clear-eyed about all the challenges that the continent still faces – Africa is a place of incredible dynamism, some

of the fastest-growing markets in the world, extraordinary people, extraordinary resilience," Obama said.



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and President Barack Obama in 2013.

Picture: Pete Souza

The continent "has the potential to be the next center of global economic growth," he said at the event, which celebrated the African Growth Opportunity Act, US trade legislation which aims to help bolster Africa's prosperity.

The US leader hailed a catalogue of



accomplishments notched during his presidential tenure that have helped strengthen Washington's ties to the continent.

"As president, I've worked so hard to take our relationship with Africa to a new level," Obama said. "We've boosted US exports. We've launched historic initiatives to promote trade and investment, health, agricultural development and food security, Power Africa to promote and expand electrification," he said.

The president also praised the enduring nature of the connection between Africans and Americans. "The ties to Africa here in the United States obviously are deep; they are long; they're complicated" Obama said. "There have been times where there have been misunderstandings, and there have been times where there have been suspicions. But when you look at every survey, it turns out that the people of Africa love the United States and what it stands for".

"Despite poverty, despite conflict, there is a strength and a resilience there," Obama said.

"The opportunities are extraordinary, and we just have to break down the stereotypes and the barriers."

Last month, a 10-year extension of the AGOA was signed by the US President and by the Congress. More than 40 sub-Saharan countries are eligible for trade benefits under the law, through which most imports from Africa enter the United States duty-free.

Obama has made a concerted effort to increase US ties with Africa. Last August, he staged the inaugural US-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington. The US says the Africa trade measure supports an estimated 350,000 jobs.

Sources: Voice of America, NDTV, MFA Ethiopia, Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels

Read more:

<http://www.voanews.com/content/obama-saluting-growth-in-us-africa-trade/2873696.html>

<http://www.ndtv.com/world-news/barack-obama-upbeat-on-africa-on-eve-of-kenya-ethiopia-trip-784385>

Book refutes human rights allegations against Ethiopia

A book aimed to refute the allegations of human rights violations against Ethiopia entitled "The Ethiopian Human Rights Landscape in the Context of Right-Based Approach to Development" was published by the Government Communications Affairs Office. It strives to provide a defense against endless incrimination of Ethiopia as offender of human rights.

The book states that behind the negative campaigns against Ethiopia lies vested interests. It states that some of the allegations originate from displeasure with the country's refusal to toe a particular ideological line at the expense of its own national priorities.

The book classifies the allegations into two categories: the post 2005 laws the nation introduced and the nation's development agenda, particularly land-lease policy, villagization and mega projects.

Ethiopia introduced three proclamations in 2008 and 2009: the Mass Media and Freedom of Information Proclamation (2008), the Charities and Civil Societies Proclamation (2009) and the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation (2009).

Since their introduction, each of the proclamations is subjected to critic as illegal contravention of global human right declarations signed by Ethiopia.

The book shows that these allegations are false and asserts that the laws don't violate any of the declarations.

Regarding the allegations against the development agendas of the country, the book examines accusations about the so-called development-induced human rights abuse in the borderlands of Ethiopia of large concentration of indigenous communities.

The accusers argued that these communities are at risk because of the state-directed development, which the book disproves.

Saying the development activities put these communities in danger, the accusers want the communities to continue with their current

state and oppose the transition to a more stable and dependable mode of livelihood.

The allegations against developments being underway in South Omo Zone, and selected sites in other emerging regional states of Afar, Somali, Gambela and Benishangul Gumuz, also originate from displeasure with the country's refusal to toe the western ideology.

The book argues that there is no ground, except ideology for the allegations against Ethiopia's integrated development activity in every part of the country.

The full book can be downloaded here:

<http://ethio.be/1Lxc0m9>

Agreement reached at the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the podium during the opening ceremony of the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Photo by: Eskinder Debebe / United Nations / CC BY-ND

On 15 July 2015, an agreement has been reached at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda was agreed by 193

United Nations member states in attendance. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the agreement is a critical step forward

and he called the agreement a “milestone in forging an enhanced global partnership”. “The results here in Addis Ababa give us the foundation of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development that will leave no one behind.”

The Action Agenda contains more than one hundred concrete measures and addresses multiple sources of finance and covers a range of issues, including technology, science, innovation, trade and capacity building. Among the key issues highlighted in the document are commitments about domestic resource mobilization and aligning private investment with sustainable development in part by setting the right incentives.

“This conference shows the way forward – with governments, international organizations,

financial and trade institutions, business, and civil society, all working together for sustainable development” Secretary General Ban Ki-moon noted. According to Ban Ki-Moon the results of the Addis Ababa Conference would give the foundation of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development. He urged the negotiators to keep that goal in mind as they finish their work.

The conference took place from 13 to 16 July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in order to find a negotiated and agreed outcome, which should constitute an important contribution to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and to finance development at large. About 5,000 participants including 16 Heads of State and Government and 66 government ministers took part in the summit.

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Ethiopia is ready to intensify its economic ties with Belgium

President Mulatu Teshome, bidding farewell the outgoing Ambassador of Belgium Ambassador Hughes Chantry, said that Ethiopia is keen to deepen its longstanding political and diplomatic relations with Belgium.

President Dr. Mulatu, who noted that Ethiopia is also ready to strengthen its cooperative partnership with Belgium in the areas of education, agriculture, investment and trade, stressed the need for Belgian investors to bring their enterprises and invest in Ethiopia with a view to elevate the ties between the countries to a new level. Noting that both countries are the seats of the AU and EU, the President said that cementing the relations should be given attention.

Ambassador Hughes Chantry on his part, emphasized that his country values the

importance of replicating the excellent political ties into the economic front with Ethiopia. He also noted that Belgian investors have already engaged in Ethiopia in various fields including civil engineering, textile, floriculture and agro-processing. The outgoing Ambassador further noted that over 50 Belgian businesspersons will come to Ethiopia in October 2015 to explore the possibility of investments in the country, adding that his country is willing to support Ethiopia’s developmental efforts, including in the field of education.

Ethiopia and EU sign agreements

On 17 July 2015, the Government of Ethiopia and the European Union signed agreements worth EUR 190 million to support Ethiopia's road sector and safety net programs. EUR 140 million of the fund is for the Road Sector Policy Support Program (SPSP-IV) and EUR 50 million will be for the Fourth Safety Net Program (PSNP-IV). EU's Commissioner Mimica said that "the road sector budget support program aims to support the implementation of the government's Road Sector Development Program IV, which covers the period 2015-2020 and aims at improving the road network and ensuring rural accessibility." The commissioner further noted that the expansion of the road network was playing a key role in Ethiopia's development and improves the accessibility to basic needs, public services and markets.

One day earlier, on 16 July 2015, Ethiopia secured more than EUR 81 million through agreements with the French and Italian cooperation agencies as well as with the European Investment bank. The funds will be used to upgrade water and sanitation infrastructure in more than 120,000 households across the country. This program includes both technical assistance during its implementation

and long-term loans. It will also provide new water and sanitation infrastructure as well as rehabilitate existing services in small and medium towns across Ethiopia.

The EU-Ethiopia development partnership formally started when Ethiopia signed the Lomé Convention in 1975, and the European Commission opened its Delegation's office in Addis Ababa the same year. Since then, the Commission has played a significant role in supporting Ethiopia's economic development both financially and technically. According to H.E. Teshome Toga, Ethiopian Ambassador to the EU, Benelux and Baltic states, the Ethio-EU relationship is based on mutual benefits and on strategic principles. Besides its aid, the EU is also the destination for 30 percent of Ethiopia's coffee, leather, horticultural and floricultural exports, while more than 300 European investors are doing business in Ethiopia, totaling more than 60 billion of dollars of foreign investments. Moreover, the European Investment Bank also offers significant lines of credit to Ethiopia for telecommunications, aviation and energy projects.

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Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn met members of the European People's Party

On 22 July 2015, the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Hailemariam Desalegn and the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ambassador Berhane Gebre Christos met members of the European People's Party (EPP). The discussion between

the State Minister and the delegation focused on the Ethio-EU relations, the developments in Ethiopia, the role of Ethiopia in the region and future areas of cooperation between Ethiopia and EU.

Ambassador Berhane briefed the EEP members on a range of issues that includes the

contribution of Ethio-EU relations to Ethiopia's development, the Federal system of the country, its economic development, its role in peace and security in the region, the process and results of recently concluded national and regional elections as well as the activities of political parties in Ethiopia.

Furthermore, the State Minister noted that Ethiopia and EU have an excellent collaboration in economic, peace and security affairs among others. The support of the EU has been vital to catalyze the socio-economic developments in Ethiopia and the relations between Ethiopia

and the EU and the European people will be further strengthened. Ambassador Berhane also emphasized the fact that Ethiopia's federal system is changing the country and Africa for the better.

Manfred Weber, Chair of the European People's Party group, on his part, congratulated Ethiopia for the developments going on in the country and noted Ethiopia's efforts in maintaining regional stability as vital in minimizing regional challenges like illegal migration. Ethiopia has been outstanding in its contribution in the regional and global peacekeeping efforts, he added.

The European Investment Bank opens an office in Addis Ababa

On 16 July 2015, the European Investment Bank (EIB) opened the bank's first permanent representation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The new office will lead engagement by the EIB, the world's largest international public bank, both to support long-term infrastructure and private sector investment in Ethiopia and to manage relations with the African Union Commission and other international organisations based in the Ethiopian capital.

"The EIB has helped to change lives across Africa for more than 50 years. On behalf of my country Ethiopia, I am pleased to welcome the EIB to Addis Ababa and wish all those working in the new office the best of success" said State Minister of Finance, H.E. Ahmed Shide and Economic Development of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. According to

the State Minister, "EU's decision to strengthen relations with Ethiopia and AU at the eve of the second Growth and



Transformation Plan (GTP) is a historical incident"

"The European Investment Bank has a strong track of record supporting crucial infrastructure investment across Africa and around the world. Our new home in Addis Ababa will help us to support crucial investment in water, energy and other key sectors, as well as backing private sector growth, essential for economic development in Ethiopia. This represents a historic step in strengthened engagement of

the European Investment Bank in the country and has only been possible given the firms support of Ethiopian authorities and European Delegation colleagues” said Pim van Ballekom, European Investment Bank Vice President responsible for sub-Saharan Africa.

“The new permanent presence of the EIB in Ethiopia will enable the world’s largest multilateral finance institution to directly contribute to European Union discussions with the African Union and other Addis based regional and international organisations. The new office will allow the EIB’s significant infrastructure, climate action and private sector experience to be shared for the benefit of Africa and Africans” said Ambassador Gary Quince, Head of the European Union Delegation to the African Union.

The official opening was welcomed by H.E. Ahmed Shide, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia, H.E. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Ambassador

Chantal Hebberecht, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia. Minister and Ambassadors from across Africa and Europe, representatives of other international finance organisations and the business community were also present.

The opening of EIB’s office in Ethiopia comes a day after the announcement of EUR 40 million of new support to improve clean water supply in 20 towns across Ethiopia by the bank on the sidelines of the Financing for Development Conference convened to prepared new Sustainable Development Goals.

The EIB has supported investment in Ethiopia since 1976 and last year the European Investment Bank provided more than EUR 2.5 billion for investment across Africa.

Full statement of the EIB: <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2015/2015-170-european-investment-bank-opens-first-office-in-addis-ababa.htm>

AMISOM and Somali National Army offensive against Al-Shabaab

A military offensive against Al-Shabaab in the Bay and Gedo regions of Somalia, codenamed ‘Operation Jubba Corridor’ is being undertaken by AMISOM and Somali National Army (SNA) . The military offensive aimed at liberating the parts of Somalia still controlled by the terrorist group called Al-Shabaab and restoring peace and stability in the country. Recently, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali National Army (SNA) troops undertook successful operations that have

seen the militants pushed out of most regions of the country.

AMISOM Deputy Force Commander Operations and Plans Major General Mohammedsha Zeyinu said the aim of the operation is to eliminate Al Shabaab in the few rural areas it still occupies, clear main supply routes to facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid to the population and remove Al Shabaab from all the said areas, ensuring full control by the Federal Government of Somalia. The Major

General reiterated AMISOM's commitment in offering support to the Somali National Army

and ensuring peace is fully restored in Somalia.

ECONOMY

Bosch Group to invest in

On 21 July 2015, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Dr. Tedros Adhanom

conferred with Uwe Rascheke, Board Member of Bosch and discussed on the investment opportunities in Ethiopia.

Dr. Tedros noted that Bosch products are known to the Ethiopian market for their good quality and performance. He appreciated the company's decision to open its office in Ethiopia and expressed the full support of the government.

During the meeting, Dr Tedros indicated that the government created favorable condition for companies that establish production plants in Ethiopia. Ethiopia's membership in COMESA and Ethiopian Airlines flights to some 83 destination worldwide is a plus for any company starting operation in Ethiopia.

Mr. Rascheke said Bosch selected 12 countries in Africa as investment destination because Ethiopia and the rest of African countries are



BOSCH

interested Ethiopia

on the rise. The office of the company to be opened in Ethiopia will study the areas where it

can fit, assess the market and see how it can use Ethiopia as an export point for the region.

Ethiopia's large population, fast economic growth in the past decade, infrastructure development and stability are some of the pulling factors for Bosch to consider Ethiopia as an investment destination, Mr. Rascheke said.

Founded in 1886 in Stuttgart (Germany), Bosch is the world largest supplier of automotive components. Its products also include food processing and packaging appliances, hydraulics for energy production and mining, household equipment, security and conference technology, industrial technology consumer goods and power tools.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ታላቅ የዳያስፖራ ፌስቲቫል በኦሮሚያ

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

በፌስቲቫሉ ላይ ለመገኘት ፍላጎት ካልዎት ብራሰልስ በሚገኘው የኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ በመመዘገብ ለኢትዮጵያ አደር መንገድ ከኤምባሲው የሚጻፈውን የትብብር በድብዳቤ

መውሰድዎን አይዘንጉ። በዕድሉ ተጠቅመውም በፌስቲቫሉ ላይ በመሳተፍ የክልልዎን የልማት እንቅስቃሴ ይመልከቱ።

ለበለጠ መረጃ ብራሰልስ በሚገኘው የኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ የዳያስፖራ ዘርፍ በግንባር በቅረብ ወይም በሚከተለው አጵራሽ በመገልገል መመዘገብ ይቻላል።

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ታላቅ የኢትዮጵያ ዳያስፖራ ቀን በአዲስ አበባ

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

የኢትዮጵያ ኤምባሲ መመዘገብ ይቻላል። ለበዓሉ የኢትዮጵያ አደር መንገድ 10% የአደር ቲኬት ቅናሽ የያደረገ አድርጓል። በመሆኑም በዕድሉ ተጠቅመው የዕረፍት ጊዜዎን በበዓሉ ላይ በመገኘት በሚወዷት ሀገርዎ ያሳልፉ።

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 in Brussels (contacts below). Participants of the Addis Ababa Diaspora

Festival can secure a 10 percent discount via a support letter from the Embassy.

Phone - 003227713294

Mail - info@ethiopianembassy.be

Website - www.ethiopianembassy.be

8th Ethio-Chamber International Trade Fair

The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (ECCSA) is organizing the 8th Ethio-Chamber International Trade Fair from 5 to 9 November 2015 at the Addis Ababa Exhibition Center & Market Development Enterprise. The overall objective is to contribute to the development of competitive industry and business sector mainly through the promotion of products and services.

The Trade Fair is expected to bring together large number of manufacturers, importers, exporters, local and foreign companies supplying raw materials and technological inputs to local manufacturers, service giving enterprises and prospective buyers to one spot. It is a good opportunity to create new business linkage and strengthen existing partnership. Furthermore, investment opportunities of the country will be introduced to stakeholders and prospective investors, therefore, it avails a chance to introduce your products and services, and promote your business in a country that has a population of more than 90 million.

What makes the 8th Ethio-Chamber International Trade Fair so unique is that it promotes the use of appropriate technology and provides an opportunity for exchange of knowledge and experience. Latest

technologies in various sectors of development will be staged in a separate setup. Moreover, to strengthen partnership between the academia/researchers/innovators and the industry/business sector, selected innovative ideas and products that are recognized by the Ministry of Science and Technology will be introduced.

You are cordially invited to participate in this Grand International Trade Fair. You can download a booklet (<http://ethio.be/1HPzK42>) containing relevant information as well as registration and sponsorship forms. We would appreciate it very much if you could kindly confirm your participation as soon as possible. To confirm your participation, please complete, sign and seal the registration form and forward it preferably through e-mail or fax if not by hand delivery or mail to the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations address indicated in the booklet. If you have any enquiry, please do not hesitate to contact us by clicking here: http://ethio-tradefair.ethiopianchamber.com/?page_id=87

Download the booklet:

<http://ethio.be/1HPzK42>

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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