

Newsletter

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Burchelli Zebra, Nechisar National Park. Picture: W2C Travel Picture Gallery

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POLITICAL ISSUES

The first Oromia Diaspora Festival is taking place in Ethiopia

Between the 3rd and 10th of August, the first ever Oromo Diaspora Festival is taking place in Ethiopia, with a rich program including celebrations and visits to special project and investment zones in Oromia Regional State in Ethiopia.

On 2 August 2015, the Festival was officially opened at the Oromo Cultural Center in Addis Ababa in the attendance of high-level government officials and the members of the Oromo Diaspora communities. Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom applauded the role played by the members of the Oromo Diaspora communities and reiterated that this participation is worth-cherishing as it places Ethiopia's development at its core. Dr. Tedros also noted that the Government encourages the Diaspora to be more involved in the course of Ethiopia's economic growth.

Dr. Tedros said that it is very symbolic to mark this festival at a time when Ethiopia joins the world's fastest growing economies. He also stressed that it is high time to join hands to fast-track the efforts in order to enable Ethiopia to join the list of Middle Income Countries by 2025.

Furthermore, he briefed the members of Diaspora communities on Ethiopia's impressive growth and its future trajectory, development path as well as its stellar performance in achieving most of the Millennium



Development Goals (MDGs), adding that massive infrastructure development is making a big push in Ethiopia's impressive economic growth.

On 3 August 2015, the opening ceremony of the Oromo Diaspora Festival was celebrated at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The event was attended by H.E Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E Abadula Gemeda, Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives, H.E Muktar Kedir, President of Oromia Regional State, Aster Mamo, Minister of the Civil Service, Ambassadors and many dignitaries.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn expressed his gratitude to the members of the Oromo Diaspora for their presence and keen interest to take part in the event to bring a holistic change in the development process of their country. The Premier said the first national celebration of the Diaspora festival aimed to bring together the Diaspora community to participate in the overall development process of the country. Active engagement of the Diaspora will have an immense benefit for Ethiopia's path to Renaissance. He noted Ethiopia has achieved a high economic growth for the last twelve years, adding that this development was backed by the Diasporas' contribution in terms of knowledge, skill transfer and leadership. He further added that the Diaspora should play a pivotal role in the investment sectors like the flora industry, livestock and fisheries by taking into consideration the favorable condition of the Oromia Regional State for modern agriculture. The booming manufacturing and construction sectors are also good opportunities to invest. In addition to this, he also called the Diaspora to take part in research and university development and also to promote Oromo culture and history. The Prime Minister thus called upon the members of the Oromo Diaspora to have a proactive participation in Ethiopia's development efforts and contribute towards measurable achievements.

On 5 August 2015, over 300 members of the Oromo diaspora have visited development projects and the Anole Monument in the

Arsi Zone of the Oromia Regional State. The purpose of the visit is to enable them to see for themselves the development endeavors in the country and weigh the opportunities. After visiting a number of investment sites, the Diaspora members have expressed their readiness to invest and do business in Ethiopia as the investment opportunities in the country are favorable.

Ethiopia's Ambassador in Kenya, Dina Mufti told reporters during the visit that the diaspora is keen to invest in the country. He noted that they can indeed play significant role in promoting knowledge, experience, and transferring resources and technology to the country. One of the participants, who lives in Saudi Arabia said "this event has created golden opportunity for us to observe the investment environment here and also meet our families and friends."

He added that he has decided to work in the country to contribute to the national development. Another member of the diaspora who came from Canada said "I have come to my country

to visit the ongoing developmental activities. And I am very pleased with the progress the country has made." She further indicated that she will again come next year to invest in her motherland.

In his welcoming speech, Chief Administrator of Arsi Zone, Sahadat Nesha said the zone has created favorable environment for investment



during the first Growth and Transformation Plan. Out of the 420 investors who obtained investment licenses during the period, 268 are engaged in agriculture, industry, social services and other sectors. The total registered capital

of the investors is 5.7 billion birr.

Sources: MFA Ethiopia, Ethiopian News Agency, Walta Information Centre, Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels

REGIONAL ISSUES

Outcome of the High-Level Partnership Forum about Somalia

On 3 August 2015, the United Nations, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the European Union (EU), the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom welcomed the outcome of the High-Level Partnership Forum held in Mogadishu last week. They commended the commitments made at the forum to “deliver a transparent and inclusive electoral process in 2016, to strengthen security and to accelerate the delivery of concrete results to the people of Somalia.” The statement issued by the UN and its partners noted with satisfaction that the commitment to promptly start a national consultation to agree on an electoral process for a timely transfer of public office in 2016 is “a positive step.” The statement welcomed the commitment to finalize a detailed action plan for the national consultations on the 2016 electoral process by 15 August and stressed that the plan ought to inculcate the views of all stakeholders including the Federal Parliament and the authorities in all the regional

administrations.

The joint statement further called on all parties to “engage seriously and urgently in finalizing this work and then to play a full role in the national consultative process.” The statement also indicated that international partners are committed to the timely implementation of the commitments made and agreements reached as well as to extend their support for the realization of a united, federal and democratic Somalia, at peace with itself and the rest of the world.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

Sudan keen to “bring the war in the Two Areas to a definitive end” through a negotiated solution

On 3 August 2015, Sudan’s President Omer Hassan al-Bashir held bilateral talks with the African Union chief mediator Thabo Mbeki on the recent developments of the peace process, national dialogue as well as the relations between Sudan and South Sudan. The President underlined that Sudan is keen “to bring the war in the Two Areas [South Kordofan and Blue Nile] to a definitive end by achieving a comprehensive cease fire and discussing other issues through negotiations. According to Sudan’s presidential assistant Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, President Bashir briefed Mbeki on the new developments of the national dialogue ranging from its agenda to the national figures partaking in it. Mbeki

on his part told reporters that his bilateral discussions with President Bashir covered issues related to the peace process in Sudan. Mbeki noted that the meeting reflected President Bashir’s commitment to put a stop to the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile once and for all. Speaking on Sudan’s relations with South Sudan, Mbeki pointed out that his meeting with President Bashir signaled Sudan’s keenness to implement the cooperation agreements signed with South Sudan with a view to resolve the outstanding issues between the two countries.

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INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY

Ethiopia’s rural electrification to increase in the coming fiscal year

Ethiopia is working on a new rural electrification program as part of the Climate Resilient Green Economy plans, the Ministry of Water Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) announced. The Rural Electrification Fund Office stated that it has planned to purchase and distribute 4,404 solar home systems and 24 institutional solar systems in 2015-2016. The Office has

also disclosed a new five-year project for the purchase and distribution of 200,000 solar home systems and 600,000 improved cook stoves.

The MoWIE’s Alternative Energy Technology Development and Transformation Directorate, which manages the programs, announced

that the program works with different donor organizations to deliver the solar home systems and institutional solar systems to some parts of the country that are not connected to the national grid. Yisehak Seboka, Rural Electrification Fund Office head at the MoWIE, underlined the directorate is also forming a new team for the new solar home systems and

stove project.

This program will be financed by the Government in collaboration with other financial sources including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Power Africa, Energy Plus, the World Bank, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

Source: MFA Ethiopia

Taiwanese George Gloria Groups Shoe Corporation to expand investment in Ethiopia

The Taiwanese-based George Shoe Corporation of George Gloria Business Group stated that it will soon start to build a plant worth about USD 120 million. George Shoe installed its factory a year ago in its two sheds and started exporting. Following these new investments, the plant is going to increase its production fivefold, and when it reaches its full capacity, it is expected to extend employment opportunity to around 1,000 people. The company said that

its products will be exported to China and the US markets.

The new plant, which will be completed fully within five years, will be situated in the town of Mojo. It planned to produce five million feet leather per month and the production will start by next year, O.K. Kaul, General Manager of the Corporation, told the press.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

Ethiopia ranks 4th as investment destination in Sub-saharan Africa

Ethiopia ranking fourth in the Investment attractiveness from sub-saharan countries.

Among the top 10 investment priorities countries in Africa, four are in North Africa, two in West Africa, three in East Africa and one in Southern Africa.

South Africa has held firm at number one, a position it has maintained since the 1990s. It has sustained its Africa ranking despite dropping in the world rankings from 33rd to 35th and a GDP revision that saw Nigeria



become formally acknowledged as Africa's largest economy.

Its overall score declined in 2014, as it has done for the past four years, owing to a weaker operating environment and, more specifically, a benign growth outlook.

Nigeria remains second with its overall investment score largely unchanged from 2013 — the upward revision to its GDP being offset by a weaker growth outlook.

Egypt and Libya both dropped substantially in the rankings. Egypt slipped from third to sixth as the growth outlook and operating environment weakened after the military coup and troubled elections. Libya fell from seventh to 19th, reflecting the political unrest and a slump in the operating environment.

Algeria re-enters the top 10, after a three-year hiatus, coming in at number eight (Figure 4). As the fourth largest economy in Africa, it had typically ranked in positions four to seven until 2012. The recovery in its rankings is mainly ascribed to an improvement in the economic growth outlook.

Rwanda is a newcomer to the top 10, continuing a trend that has seen it move all the way from

39th place in 1999. Its progression in the past year reflects the continued improvement in its operating environment as well as a pick up in expected growth.

Rwanda and Ethiopia are the most unexpected countries in the top 10, but both deserve their elevated status. Rwanda's rating reflects the excellent reforms of the past decade; and Ethiopia's reflects its sheer size and phenomenal growth rates.

Aside from Algeria and Rwanda, notable advancements in the rankings include Niger (up nine spots to 25th), the DRC (nine spots to 26th), Lesotho (three spots to 39th), and Swaziland (four spots to 40th) — all underpinned by more favourable economic growth outlooks.

Notable downward movements were evident in the Congo (down five spots to 35th), Mauritania (four to 36th), and São Tomé and Príncipe (11 spots to 49th).

South Sudan makes its debut in our rankings as previously we had insufficient data to assess it. It placed 44th out of 53 African economies, and 164th out of 184 global economies. With South Sudan's entry, Somalia is now the only African country that we do not rank. (<http://www.rmb.co.za/>)

AGENDA

The Economist's Summit to be held in Addis Ababa in October 2015

On 28 and 29 October 2015, the Ethiopia Summit organized by The Economist will be

held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The forum will bring together the country's leading policy

makers and business leaders with multinational executives interested in expanding their investment in Ethiopia. Questions like “ What will the second GTP framework look like and what do the next five years hold for Ethiopia?”

enormous growth potential across a number of different industry sectors.” The Economist further elucidated its view on Ethiopia’s agriculture and manufacturing sectors growth in the previous years.



will be put on the table. The Economist expects that investment and business opportunities in Ethiopia will be explored and challenges will also be tackled during the event. The Economist noted that since Ethiopia is pressing on GTP II plans for September the Summit will take place at an optimum time.

Describing the continued growth in Ethiopia, The Economist wrote that “Ethiopia offers

Interested? Register here:

<http://ethio.be/EconomistSummit2015>

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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