

Newsletter

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Ethiopia-Kenya Highway, Deritu, Oromia, Ethiopia. Picture by David Stanley



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POLITICAL ISSUES

EPRDF 10th regular congress



EPRDF 10th regular congress in Mekele.

The 10th Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) congress took place from 28 to 31 August 2015 in Mekele, Tigray. The 180 members of the EPRDF Council re-elected Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn as Chairperson and Demeke Mekonnen as Deputy Chairperson of the front.

Speaking after his re-election, Prime Minister

Hailemariam urged conference participants to deliver quick responses to the needs of the public by keeping their promises and adhering to the directions set at the conference with unreserved effort. Prime Minister Hailemariam stated the need for the full participation of all Ethiopians in the effort to make the decisions taken by the conference a reality. Furthermore,

the Premier strongly stressed that his party is highly determined to cease talking about the prevalence of good governance but rather to implement it in reality and deliver efficient services to the Ethiopian people. The Prime Minister said that the party has to retain its culture of internal democracy that could help to enhance good governance and fight against rent seeking attitudes and practices. Ensuring good governance and curbing rent seeking is a question of life or death, he underlined, adding that members and leaders of the party should seriously work hard to ensure internal democracy within the party itself.

In addition, he noted that his government is willing to work with peaceful opposition parties in areas of common interest if these parties are committed to peaceful and legal engagement. The front will continue to struggle with the opposition in areas of difference but the opposition has to contribute their fair share in the continued effort to realize the country's renaissance. During the congress, attendants were divided in seven groups and discussed the executive report of the party. According to members of the first group, EPRDF has been unable to attain the desired level in responding to the woes of the public related to good governance and fighting against rent seeking attitudes and practices in the past years. Members of

the group complained that an official sacked for its rent seeking behavior in one part of the country is re-assigned in other part of the country. They said that corrupt officials are in a kind of organized and chained benefit sharing mechanisms established across the public bureaucracy command chain. The participants in this particular group have also underscored the fact that the general public has been suffering from such organized group maladministration. Furthermore, they said though EPRDF has publicly acknowledged rent



EPRDF Chairperson Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and Demeke Mekonnen, EPRDF Deputy Chairperson

seeking is a critical threat to the party system, it has not yet taken a practical action to solve the danger it has been facing.

Reacting to these views, Beker Shale, member of the Central Committee of the Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO) and Head of the Ethiopian Revenue and Custom Authority, reflected that things are improving since the era of EPRDF reform began. Beker

said “EPRDF has been submerged in a deep-rooted rent seeking practice before the era of reform. However, after the reform rent seeking behaviors is diminishing following a serious of measures introduced by the party”. According to him, major achievements in good governance have been accomplished in the past 10 years in the farming and pastoral areas to create food self-sufficiency and in urban areas to also solve the problems of unemployment of the country. The party is determined to solve the good governance problems which is a serious problem within the party itself. Besides, he underscored the need to see the different dimensions of rent seeking and the importance of solving it through popular participation.

The Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) Central Committee Member, Ambassador Dr. Addisalem Balema, on his part underlined that EPRDF has a track record to foresee problems and successfully resolve them. “We have a

tradition to see things in advance, amplify them and look into possible avenues for remedies. We are successful in that”. Addisalem underscored the need to identify rent seeking practices in the country and remedy them in a manner it can not be an obstacle to the development effort of the country. He said EPRDF has a credential to do that from its achievement in the past.

In a statement issued at the end of the congress, conference participants vowed to gear up efforts with the public and sustain the ongoing rapid economic growth of the country. They called for further struggle against rent seeking tendencies, abating problems related to land administration, avoiding the drawbacks related to procurement and contract management as well as challenges in the areas of tax and revenue.

The 11th conference of the EPRDF is scheduled to take place in Hawassa city.

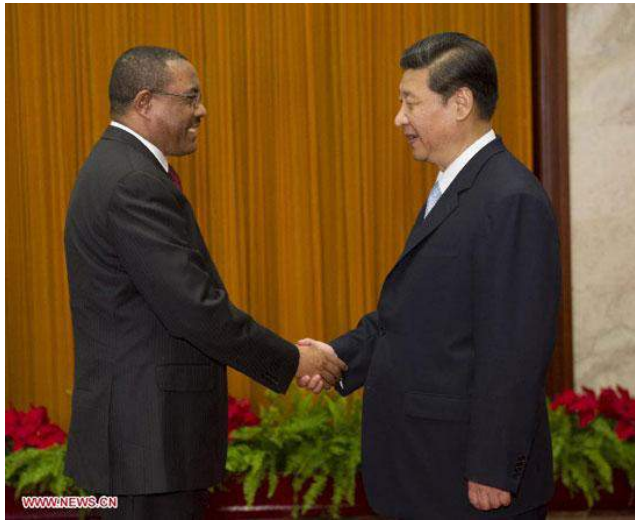
Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn arrives in Beijing

A high-level delegation led by Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn arrived in Beijing on 2 September 2015 to attend the 70th anniversary of the Chinese People’s Victory Day marking the end of World War II. The anniversary victory parade will showcase 12,000 Chinese soldiers as well as an array of domestically-produced military hardware, and close to 1,000 foreign troops. Many world leaders including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon are attending the ceremonies.

Prime Minister Hailemariam and his delegation which includes Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros will also be holding a series of bilateral discussions

with Chinese officials as well meeting business companies. A conference has been organized under the title ‘China-Ethiopia International Production Capacity Cooperation’ and the Ethiopian delegation will take part in five business fora organized in different provinces of China. The delegation will also hold discussions with selected companies on investment in manufacturing and industrial zone development in Ethiopia. It will meet with various financial institutions and construction companies to discuss issues of development finance and on ways for these companies to work in cooperation with the Government on the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) modality.

The delegation will also hold discussions with Chinese Government enterprises and private companies on joint ventures with Ethiopian counterparts for investment in Ethiopia. The delegation has already met with Mr. Liu Qitao, Chairman of the China Communication Construction Company, Mr. Zha Weimin, Vice President of the China Export and Credit Insurance Cooperation (SINOSURE), and the



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn meeting Xi Jinping, President of the of the People's Republic of China

Vice President of the China Poly Group Corporation. Mr Weimin assured the delegations that SINOSURE will continue its commitment to support companies that are involved in projects in Ethiopia, particularly those involved in the major infrastructural projects. Prime Minister Hailemariam, who welcomed SINOSURE's active involvement in Ethiopia's development, urged it to renew its commitment to continue supporting the country during the second phase of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) which begins next year.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

SOCIAL ISSUES

Ministry to revise housing schemes registration

The Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Construction (MoUDHC) is to revise the registration held for various housing schemes two years ago. The revision is required as the previous registration didn't consider the demand and ability of the people to buy the houses, UDHC Minister, Mekuria Haile said.

The complaint filed by winners of condominium houses last year regarding the housing price is the main reason for the revision of the registration. The new system will allow residents to shift from one housing scheme to another scheme based on their income. The re-registration of the housing program,



scheduled to begin next Ethiopian fiscal year, is expected to give solution to majority of the homeless people in the metropolis. According to the Addis Ababa Housing Development Agency, the number of Addis dwellers registered for the 10/90 and 20/80 housing program is 787,306, while the number of people listed for the 40/60 housing program is 163, 539. These housing programs are highly subsidized by the government: from 60 percent of the total price (40/60 program) to 90 percent (10/90). The program is part of the strategy of the government to rebuild and modernize the capital city of the country.

The Ministry also said it is going to implement a program that helps to ensure food security of

over 4.7 million urban dwellers over the coming 10 years. The program will be implemented in 11 towns at a pilot level, including Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa city administration. It will be extended to other large and medium-sized towns in the future.

To learn more about the revision of the housing scheme: <http://ethio.be/1LZM9nn>

ECONOMY

Japan to establish an industrial park in Ethiopia

Speaking at the Africa-Japan forum that was held from 30 August to 1 September 2015, Dr. Arkebe Oqubay, special adviser to the Prime Minister, said Japan has put specific requirements to establish their industrial park in Ethiopia. The park is expected to be established within the coming two years.

“Industrial policy dialogue has been going on between Ethiopia and Japan every six months. We are going to see a dynamic change in the years to come since we would like to build an internationally competent

economy,” the advisor said. We have a very successful cooperation with Japan in the area of adopting Kaizen Philosophy, Arkebe added. Japan has been implementing Kaizen philosophy in Ethiopia for more than three years through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In adopting Kaizen Philosophy, the Ethiopian Kaizen Institute has achieved successful results so far.

Ethiopia has the intention to establish industrial parks across economic corridors of the country

with a total investment of USD 10 billion in the coming decade. These industrial parks are planned to be established in Hawassa, Mojo, Adama, Dire Dawa, Debrebirehan, Kombolcha and Mekele. The Chinese industrial park called Eastern industrial zone has been operational for years now around Dukem town of the

Oromia Regional State, some 35 kilometer to the south eastern part of Addis Ababa while that of Turkey is in the process of development.

The diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Japan began in 1930. The two countries have enjoyed an

excellent diplomatic relation in various sectors for the past 85 years. In the closing ceremony of the Africa–Japan Business Investment Forum, the Ethiopian State Minister of Trade Tadesse Haile noted that Japan’s development served as a blueprint for Ethiopia and for Africa. He further said the Forum showed that the Japanese presence in infrastructure and the automobile industry in Africa as well as in other sectors would be further strengthened.



AFRICA JAPAN BUSINESS INVESTMENT FORUM

SPORTS

East African athletes at Beijing 2015



Genzebe Dibaba

East African countries had a remarkably successful World Athletics Championship 2015, in Beijing last week with Kenya topping the medal table with 7 gold, 6 silver and 3 bronze medals, and beating Jamaica, the US and the UK, into second, third and fourth in the medals' table. Ethiopia came fifth with 3 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals. Kenyans took gold medals in the men's 800m; women's 10,000m; men's 3,000m steeplechase; women's 3,000m steeplechase; the men's 400m hurdles; men's

javelin and the men's 1,500m. Genzebe Dibaba in the women's 1,500m; Mare Dibaba in the women's marathon; and Almaz Ayana in the women's 5,000m won Ethiopia's gold medals. Gelete Burka in the women's 10,000m; Senbere Teferi in the women's 5,000; and Yemane Tsegaye in the men's

marathon won silver medals; and Hagos Gebrhiwet in the men's 5,000m and Genzebe Dibaba in the women's 5,000 took bronze medals. The first three places in the women's 5,000 meters went to Ethiopians. Eritrea won its first ever gold medal at the World Championships in the men's marathon.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

REGIONAL ISSUES

Ethiopia's increased role in peacekeeping missions

The regional meeting of AU ministers of defense was held in Addis Ababa from 31 August to 1 September 2015. The prime objective of the meeting was to discuss on how to strengthen the capabilities of the AU peacekeeping forces: "Enhancing rapid deployment capabilities." In his opening remarks, Ethiopian President Dr. Mulatu Teshome said Ethiopia will further strengthen its international peacekeeping role missions.

Ethiopia is the second Military and Police contributing country to the United Nations Peacekeeping operations in the world and the leading country from Africa. 8,309 Ethiopian troops and police forces are currently serving under the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in different parts of the world. They are successful in their operations, the President said.

The meeting gathered inputs for the new UN peacekeeping operation rule to be adopted by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The United Nations has 100,000 troops

deployed in various countries worldwide.

Ethiopia has been contributing troops and police forces to UN peace keeping missions around the world for decades. The history of Ethiopia's peacekeeping contribution to the UN went back to 1950 when Ethiopian contingent deployed to Korea guided by the UN principle of collective security. Since then, Ethiopia has participated in Peacekeeping missions in Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia and currently in Darfur and Abyie in the Sudan and South Sudan.

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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