



Ethiopia Today

Newsletter of the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Canada

Vol.1 No.7 OCTOBER 2014

IGAD Envoys Condemn Latest Attack

The IGAD Special Envoys for South Sudan have strongly condemned the action of SPLM/A-In-Opposition forces in initiating conflict in the area of Bentiu, Unity State. A statement said the ongoing fighting in and around Bentiu, Unity State, demonstrated that the SPLM/A-In-Opposition has yet “to abandon the option of war.” The IGAD Envoys called on the forces of the SPLM/A-In-Opposition to immediately cease hostilities, for government forces to demonstrate restraint and for all parties to give peace a chance.

They demanded the parties adhere to their commitments, particularly the requirements of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement to end the recruitment and mobilization of forces, including that of child soldiers, the acquisition of arms and ammunition, and all possible military provocation.

The Envoys also appealed to the IGAD Heads of State and Government, the United Nations, the African Union and the international community to prevail on the parties to immediately cease fighting, commit to a genuine process of peace and dialogue and abandon the option of war.

The statement noted that the already dire humanitarian situation throughout South Sudan was further imperiled by this violence, and risked millions of lives and the international effort to address the humanitarian catastrophe induced by

this war. This “unfortunate development” comes despite progress in the peace talks in Ethiopia and at the start of the current session of talks. It is also taking place on the eve of the convening of the Assembly of the IGAD Heads of State and Government and, at their specific request, direct negotiations between President Kiir and Dr. Machar.

Ethiopia to Help Ebola-affected Countries

Health Minister, Dr. Keseteberhan Admasu, told a press conference on October 24 that Ethiopia was sending 210 health professionals to help deal with the epidemic. The mission, to be deployed in two groups, would be made up of medical doctors, nurses, field epidemiologists, environmental health professionals and public health specialists, drawn from both public and private sectors. They will engage in Ebola case management/treatment, surveillance, contact tracing, social mobilization, and community engagement, and will also assist national health systems in the affected countries to continue their essential and basic health, food, water and sanitation services.

Dr. Keseteberhan Admasu said “This new commitment of deploying medical staff can be considered as a continuation and commitment of Ethiopia’s firm stand for African solidarity. Ethiopia shall and will continue to support all efforts until this dreadful crisis is over.” He also

said Ethiopia would be providing financial support of US\$500,000 to Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, the worst affected countries. The African Union, which earlier launched its AU Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA) program recently appealed for more human resources from member states and development partners to fight the Ebola epidemic. The AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, expressed appreciation to the government and the people of Ethiopia for the contribution and expressed the hope that the positive decision of Ethiopia would encourage other AU member states to respond favorably to the AU's call.

Ethiopian Diaspora Held a Fundraising Event in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Ethiopians and Ethio-Canadians residing in Winnipeg, Brandon and other cities in Manitoba province held a successful fundraising event in Winnipeg city on November 2, 2014, in which a great number of Ethiopian Community members, Canadians and officials of provincial administration participated. The event is organized by Ethiopian Community and Winnipeg Area Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Public Participation Coordinating Council.



H.E. Ambassador Birtukan Ayano

Hon. Flor Marcelino, Minister of Multiculturalism and Literacy, Hon. Steve Ashton, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation of Manitoba province and H.E. Ambassador Birtukan , were among the invited guests that were in attendance at the event.

H.E Birtukan Ayano, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Canada, in a speech delivered at the event congratulated the organizers of the event and members of the Ethiopian community of Winnipeg and Manitoba Province for their dedication and strong support towards the development of Ethiopia. H.E further noted that the nation's plan to alleviate poverty and to join the rank of middle income countries is on the right course as evidenced by successful two digit economic growth, recorded over the last eleven years. In order to sustain the viability of the current economic growth it is essential to avail sufficient energy supply, she said. Accordingly, the Ambassador said, the GERD and other hydro power dams under construction in the country by the government and Ethiopian public participation is to satisfy current and future demand of energy of the country and to export to the neighboring countries. Ambassador Birtukan commended Ethiopians and Ethio- Canadians who participated in the actualization of the event and for their



Dr. Seifu Guangul

financial contribution and hoped that their current enthusiasm for the development of their country of origin remain intact until the completion of GERD project.

Dr. Seifu Guangul, chairperson of Ethiopian Association Manitoba as well as head of the organizing committee praised fellow participants and called upon all Ethiopian diaspora to exploit current suitable conditions in the country and partake in the development of the country.

UN Ban Ki-moon Announces \$8 Billion in new funding to the Horn of Africa

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the start of a tour of the Horn of Africa on Monday (October 27) announced US\$8 billion in funding for Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. He said “The countries of the Horn of Africa are making important progress in economic growth and political stability. Now is a crucial moment to support those efforts, end the cycles of conflict and poverty, and move from fragility to sustainability. The UN is joining with other global and regional leaders to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach towards peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa,” the UN Secretary General said. The UN Secretary General is accompanied by World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, as well as the President of the Islamic Development Bank Group and high level representatives of the African Union Commission, the European Union, the African Development Bank, and the Intergovernmental Agency for Development (IGAD). On the first day of the visit in Addis Ababa, the World Bank also pledged US\$1.8 billion for cross-border activities in a Horn of Africa Initiative intended to boost economic growth and opportunity, reduce

poverty, and spur business activity. The African Development Bank announced a pledge of US\$1.8 billion over the next three years for countries in the region and the Islamic Development Bank has committed to deploy up to US \$1 billion in new financing for its four member countries in the Horn of Africa: Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. The African Union Commission Deputy Chairperson, Erastus Mwencha said that “Our efforts to create peace and stability must be reinforced by investments in the peoples and countries of the Horn.”

A conference on IGAD Economies and Federalism in Somalia Held in Addis Ababa

Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Ethiopia’s Foreign Minister and Chair of the IGAD Council of Ministers, delivered a keynote address at the Conference on IGAD Economies and Federalism on October 29, co-organized by the Horn Economic and Social Policy Institute (HESPI) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Dr. Tedros Adhanom; UNECA Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr. Abdalla Hamdook; Ambassador Mohammed Afey, IGAD Special Envoy to Somalia; and Ambassador Ahmed Abdisalam, Somalia’s Ambassador to Ethiopia made opening remarks at the opening session of the three-day conference.

HESPI managing director, Dr. Ali Issa Abdi said the conference was the first of its kind despite the fact that federalism had been on the political agenda of Somalia for a long time. He noted that many in Somalia believed that federalism would break up the country by ‘balkanizing’ the nation while many others believed it was the panacea to Somalia’s intractable problems of governance and

its previous state collapse. He said the debate between the two sides had been acrimonious and far from civilized. It was, however, important to have a sober discussion to reconcile differences. Ambassador Ahmed Abdisalam underscored the role of experts in helping Somalis come to a common understanding on issues of federalism through a dialogue based on ‘nuanced understanding’ of the subject, though he also emphasized that “the expert’s role is facilitating the discussion , discussing the way forward is solely the task of the people of Somalia”. Ambassador Mohammed Afey noted that that pluralism continued to be a subject that even advanced countries still grappled with. He hailed Ethiopia’s bold steps in recognizing self determination and federalism in its constitution, pointing out that peace and stability had followed the coming into force of the constitution. Referring to the IGAD-led process in Somalia to lead to a federal state, he said “Somalia is a federal state: what remains is full implementation, “and he called on Somali MP’s to expedite the establishment of the Boundary Demarcation Commission. Dr. Abdalla Hamdook highlighted the changing narrative of the Horn of Africa with its rapid economic development and the increase of FDI while emphasizing the need for underpinning consolidation of these gains. Dr. Tedros Adhanom, in his keynote address, underlined that Somalia was making a good progress in removing the threat of Al-Shabaab and in consolidating local administrations in newly liberated areas. Speaking about the experience of federalism in Ethiopia, he said federalism was a blessing to Ethiopia because it had brought both peace and economic development. The key factor in this, he said, was ownership, adding that “ownership brings commitment and hence positive results. “ He said Somalis must take

ownership of their common destiny. A federalism prescribed from the outside cannot work as it can endanger commitment to uphold it. He also talked about the need to put Somalia’s interest beyond individual or group interest to end to the nation’s problems.

News

Addis Ababa Becomes 3rd Largest UN Duty Station



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon inaugurated the United Nations’ New Office Facility (NOF) in Addis Ababa at the ECA Compound on Tuesday (October 28). Mr. Ban Ki-moon said that Addis Ababa had now become the third largest UN duty station after New York and Geneva.

Speaking on the occasion Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn noted that the continent was struggling against colonialism and apartheid during the establishment of ECA in 1958, Africa is now witnessing development. Today, Africa has liberated itself from colonialism and embarked upon an era of development, stability and good governance, he noted.

"It is for this reason that I am hopeful that this building would herald the consolidation and realization' of this new chapter- an era of African Renaissance." he said.

In his keynote speech, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on his part said the opening of the new facility would help to bring the UN staff together, thereby harmonize UN operations, saying "Most of all, it means the United Nations are better placed to deliver better results."

"With the completion of the new facility, we take an important step towards a future of dignity, prosperity and peace." Ban said.

Noting the ECA compound has a rich history, the Secretary-General said Africa Hall, a gift from Ethiopia upon establishment of the ECA in 1958, has seen memorable events, including the founding of the Organization of African Unity more than half a century ago.

"Thanks to this new facility, we have been able to cater for growing demand for office space and increase the number of staff working in the compound to more than 1,000." said Executive Secretary of ECA, Carlos Lopes.

Although, the facility wouldn't allow bringing all UN staff into the compound, it will house UNOAU, UNAMID, UNICEF, UNOPS, WHO and UNHCR representatives to the African Union Commission and ECA, he added

Established as one of the UN's five regional commissions, ECA's mandate is to promote the economic and social development of its member States, foster intra-regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development.

Ban Hails Ethiopia's Effort to Ensure Peace, Bring Economic Integration

The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon hailed Ethiopia's role to ensure peace and stability and bring about economic integration in the Horn of Africa region.



In a press conference he gave to local and international journalists at the Sheraton Addis on October 27, Ban said that peace and stability cannot be sustained without development and development cannot be sustained without peace.

"The two things are inseparable. Ethiopia has contributed a lot in realizing these needed paths both within itself and in the region," he said.

Ban also congratulated Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and Foreign Affairs Minister Tedros Adhanom for the prevailing dynamic economic growth and political stability in Ethiopia. He further thanked the government of Ethiopia for its generosity in receiving and sheltering over 600,000 refugees escaping war and repression from various countries.

The World Bank Group (WBG) President, Jim Yong Kim, on his part appreciated Ethiopia's fast economic growth and poverty reduction strategies, which lifted millions out of poverty.

He further said that the World Bank will support Ethiopia's fight against poverty and in its efforts to create economic integration in the region.

Business and Economy

Made in Ethiopia: The Leather Gloves Keeping the World Warm and Stylish



The steady hum of sewing machines fills the air inside a large glove making factory on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, the bustling Ethiopian capital. Patches of leather move through an array of working stations as busy laborers work feverishly to meet the company's export quota: 5,000 gloves a day.

The operation belongs to Pittards, a UK-based company whose trading partnership with Ethiopia dates back to the early 1900s. Here, hardy, durable cow hide is made into work gloves. These are ideal for builders and gardeners, and are mainly exported to the U.S. And then there are the stylish designs created from a different type of animal skin, these are made to keep fingers warm in Tokyo, Paris and Rome.

"The fashion glove is made of sheepskin which is unique to Ethiopia," explains Tsedenia Mekbib, general manager at Pittards Products Manufacturing. "The durability, the stretch ability and the strength make it popular for gloving leather specifically. That has been the one strength of Ethiopia and the leather sector."

Sophisticated designs with decorative touches may be the hallmark of this type of glove, but they must also be practical. Ethiopia's climate makes this animal skin effective in withstanding the winter chill an essential selling point.

And this effective material is in abundant supply. Ethiopia's 90-million cattle, sheep and goat population is one of the world's largest, according to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (CNN) **(WIC)**

Bombardier Transportation Lands Rail Contract in Ethiopia



Bombardier Transportation has landed a contract to deliver mainline signalling for a 400-kilometer stretch of rail in Ethiopia.

The order awarded by Turkish construction company Yapi Merkezi, which is delivering the design and construction of the project, has a value of approximately US\$45 million.

"This is one of the longest lines tendered as a turnkey project in sub-Saharan Africa," Yapi Merkezi board member Erdem Arioglu said in a statement Wednesday.

"Yapi Merkezi went through a very detailed selection process to determine its suppliers and subcontractors and Bombardier was selected due to its proven track record and its successful, long-term cooperation with Yapi Merkezi on similar projects worldwide."

Bombardier Transportation is headquartered in Berlin and is a unit of Montreal-based Bombardier Inc. (brandonsun.com)

Ethiopian Receives 10th B787 Dreamliner



Ethiopian Airlines, the largest airline in Africa, announced it has received its 10th B787 Dreamliner dubbed “Niagara Falls” on 2 October 2014.

Ethiopian, an aviation technology leader in Africa, was the first airline in the world outside Japan to receive and operate in August 2012 the B787 Dreamliner, the most technologically advanced commercial aircraft.

The airline has chosen the B787 as its core fleet on its mid and long range routes such as Johannesburg, Lagos, Abuja and Harare in Africa; London, Paris and Frankfurt in Europe; Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong, and Seoul in Asia; Washington D.C., Toronto and Brazil in the Americas. The Toronto and Washington, D.C. routes are recorded as the longest non-stop routes using the B787. Ethiopian is Pan-African global carrier serving 83 destinations across five continents from its main hub at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa.

Indian Companies to Invest 2 Billion USD in Ethiopia



Addis Ababa, October 02/2014 Indian companies with an aggregate capital of 2 billion USD are making preparations to invest in Ethiopia, according to India’s Ambassador to Ethiopia.

Ambassador Sanjay Verma told ENA that Indian investors are ready to invest in Ethiopia seizing the favorable investment opportunities created in the country. The reliable peace and fast economic growth in the country have in particular made Ethiopia the most preferred investment destination in Africa for Indian investors, he said.

As a result, the number of Indian businesspersons investing in Ethiopia has been growing from time to time, the ambassador noted, adding that over 600 Indian companies with 4 billion USD have so far invested in the country.

According to Verma, the trade and investment volume of Ethiopia and India has exceeded 1.2 billion USD. In order to further strengthen the trade and investment tie of the countries, India is finalizing preparations to establish the biggest agricultural and science center in Africa and a textile industry cluster in Kombolcha town, the ambassador revealed.

Moreover, the ambassador recalled that India had extended 1 billion USD to Ethiopia’s mega projects, specifically electric transmission lines, railway construction, sugar factories and

irrigation. Diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and India started over seventy years ago.

Tourism and Culture

Visitors Say Ethiopia Land of Incredible Destinations



North American National Tour visitors who visited Ethiopia recently said that Ethiopia is an incredibly diverse nation with infinite tourist destinations which could drastically build its image at global level. The group, which included authors, journalists, educators and travel operators made the remark in the early October after they visited the country for ten days.

The visitors during their stay in Ethiopia traveled to great tourist destinations such as Lalibela, Aksum, Gondar and the Blue Nile.

Yuriy Segovia, Author and journalist in the United States said Ethiopia is a country with an absolutely great potential for tourism, but which still needs to promote itself to the rest of the world. "Many people still perceive Africa as something backward, poor and continent in misery and sickness, but Ethiopia is different in that it is a country with fantastic tourist sites and fantastic people," Segovia said.

Segovia also said that his perception is that Ethiopia has to work on promoting itself aggressively. This is a unique country, rich in diversity compared to other African countries. As it is difficult to reach tourists in North America and Europe and other parts of the world, it is possible to do it locally."

He says, through people, tourism is much more perceptible and Ethiopia has a great human resource. Visiting Ethiopia for the second time he said road construction has significantly improved over the last nine years, increasing the accessibility of tourism sites in the country. "You are on the right track to raise the number of foreign visitors," Segovia added.

NTA Director of International Development Hybina Hao also said that Ethiopian tourism can grow as much as the rest of tourism owning countries provided that it continues to build its capacity to meet the demands of international tourists and promote its endowment.

John William came to Ethiopia to celebrate Maskal two weeks ago. And, it was not his first time visiting Ethiopia but he came to Ethiopia many times. John says that he likes to visit Ethiopia very often not only for its impressive historical features but also to enjoy the humble hospitality and kind approaches of the people.

Christina Bie was also one of Maskal celebrants from Canada. She said: "I have seen no country like Ethiopia which is endowed with some kind of unique scenery and natural heritage in every village and region you move."

By creating websites and other online platforms, the group of visitors noted that the country's image should be posted to communicate and to invite the outside world. They also pledged to introduce Ethiopia to others in various events back home.

Ethiopian Tourism Organization Chief Executive Officer Solomon Tadesse on his part said that the government has planned to launch a website that would enable the country promote itself, providing detail information about its countless natural and historical destinations. (EH)

