



Ethiopian News

April 2017

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Dr. Tedros Adhanom

*The Director-General that the
World Health Organization needs.*

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“I envision a world where everyone can lead healthy and productive lives, regardless of who they are or where they live.”

– DR TEDROS

From the Desk of Dr Tedros

As I continue my campaign to be the next Director-General of the World Health Organization, I would like to share a few of my recent perspectives.

I am truly humbled to have received support from colleagues both inside and outside of the global health sector...I am especially honoured to have been endorsed by Jeune Afrique whose endorsement, in combination with that of the African Union, are very near and dear to me and I am proud to represent the continent of Africa in this campaign.

Recently, I had the great pleasure of visiting Mali, Guinea and Togo to hear the particular concerns facing these countries. I reassured them that I will continue to work to get their voices heard. I am also committed to working relentlessly turning shortcomings into lessons and new challenges into opportunities for a better WHO.

Earlier this month was **World Health Day** and the culmination of the World Health Organization’s year-long campaign: “Depression: let’s talk”. I seized the opportunity to speak about mental illness and mental health services – something I pledge to work on if elected.

As throughout my career, I have continued to stress that health should be looked at first and foremost as a rights issue, in meetings with key stakeholders around the world.

Our campaign continues to gain global momentum as we head towards the vote on 23rd May at the 70th World Health Assembly. In my discussions with Heads of State and Ministers, our vision of ‘Health For All’ has been very well received.

Having the assistance and encouragement of all of you - as well as my passion to ensure those currently voiceless are heard in the global health conversation – is what keeps me going.

As we work towards the historic vote of all 194 nations to elect the next WHO Director-General, I look forward to continuing working with you all to ensure people can live healthy, productive lives.



The 70th World Health Assembly will be held in Geneva from 22nd - 31st May 2017.

All Member States will choose among the 3 nominees by vote at the Assembly.

The new Director-General will take office on 1st July 2017.

Andrew Mitchell gives full backing to Dr Tedros for top WHO post

The UK’s former Secretary of State for International Development, the Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell, endorsed Dr Tedros Adhanom for World Health Organization Director-General in a recent Op-Ed in *The Guardian*.



“The World Health Organization will soon have a new head. Ethiopia’s former health minister, Dr

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, is the outstanding candidate,” he said.

Mr Mitchell said that the world should turn to Dr Tedros, who has **“the potential and the ability truly to transform the WHO. By doing so we will improve the health of billions of people around the world.”**

“The new WHO leader needs to have demonstrated clear success in building up access to healthcare in poor countries. Proven leadership in reforming important global agencies will be helpful and, crucially, the new leader will need political skills to bring together very different interest groups so that real change can be achieved...It is clearly Tedros who has the track record that we need.”

“Tedros’s leadership style is also perfectly suited for this role. He is a decisive but humble man. His experience in successfully leading global health institutions is unmatched.”

“In its 70-year history the World Health Organization has never been led by a person who has been a health minister, or a person from Africa.”

“As I know at first-hand from working with Tedros, we now have the opportunity to select an extraordinary leader who has a proven track record of success in his own country and on the international stage.

Read the full article, *The WHO failed on Ebola. With a future pandemic inevitable it needs reform*, at <https://goo.gl/DEvfDg>

...support from Africa

Dr Tedros also received strong backing from African countries.

In an article in Rwanda-based *New Times*, Rwanda’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Louise Mushikiwabo, described Dr Tedros as one of the best qualified individuals to lead the global agency.

“All African countries have united behind him, and Africa is ready to play its part in global health. For us in Rwanda, and for the larger eastern Africa, we feel proud and look forward to May 23,” she said.

Similarly, Uganda’s Minister of State for EAC affairs, Julius Maganda, praised Dr Tedros as “the best contender” to be the global health agency’s eighth director-general.

Asked what his likely election means for Africa, Tedros, said he is humbled to have the endorsement of the African Union. “There is consensus and commitment, not just in Africa but on all continents, that we must transform WHO into the transparent, results-based organisation that the world so desperately needs and deserves,” he said.

“If I am elected, that will be recognition by our peers around the world that our lessons from the continent of overcoming some of the toughest global health challenges with limited resources are paramount to successfully addressing health challenges around the world,” he added.

The full article can be accessed at <https://goo.gl/BTxH8>

...and across the pond

In her Op-Ed in the *Huffington Post*, former USAID Senior Advisor, Nicole Schiegg said there has never been anyone more qualified to lead WHO at this pivotal moment in its history than Dr Tedros.

“While the other two candidates in this race are accomplished, Dr Tedros Adhanom is the best choice for Director-General... Not often do you encounter a leader who has impacted so many lives and stayed true to his roots. Dr Tedros is the leader the WHO needs at this critical time. Electing Dr Tedros is the best way to ensure better health for all the world’s people.”

Read the full article, *Dr Tedros is the Leader the WHO Needs*, at <https://goo.gl/IZbPP2>



Editorial

Ethiopia to become the hub of light manufacturing in Africa

Ethiopia's second Growth and Transformation Plan will transform the industrial sector by building more **Industrial Parks** and new **Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks** (IAIPs) around the country.

By 2025, the contribution of the industrial sector to GDP will have increased from 15% (in 2015) to 28%, and of manufacturing from 5% (in 2015) to 18%.

Maintaining its double-digit growth rate, by 2030 Ethiopia will have reduced its carbon emissions to zero by way of its climate resilient green economy (CRGE).

Industrial Parks consist of a geographic cluster of independent firms grouped together, which share infrastructure and take advantage of opportunities for bulk purchasing, selling, the joint organization of training courses, waste disposal & recycling mechanisms and raw material supply arrangements. There is also improved import-export transport and logistics facilitation, shared market utilization and effective security. With the costs pooled among the many enterprises involved, they create an efficient and self-sustaining operation from the outset.

Industrial Parks, of which 12 are planned, have been a priority since the Investment Law was amended two years ago, and contain similar or inter-related industries with key infrastructure such as roads, eco-electricity and water laid on. They include special incentive schemes, planned systematic development of industries and mitigation of environmental pollution. They offer special economic zones, technology parks, export processing zones and free trade zones, all designated by the Investment Board.

IAIPs will include production zones, 'precision farming', and rural transformation centres, which will serve as raw material aggregation points in the catchment areas (100 km radius) of each IAIP.

There will be knowledge hubs and research facilities, rural hubs, primary processing hubs, social infrastructure (such as housing) and agri-marketing.

A total of seventeen IAIPs will be built across all states, and construction of four of them has already begun – in Bahker in Tigray, Bure in Amhara, Ziway in Oromiya and Yirgalem in SSNP. They will help attract more domestic and foreign investment.



Hawassa Industrial Park located in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State

Developing and administering the industrial parks is mandated to the **Industrial Parks Development Corporation** which is responsible for preparing and implementing the national industrial parks' master plan and creating the industrial park land bank, which was set up in accordance with an agreement concluded with the regional states.

The first Industrial Parks have so far created jobs for about **70,000** women and men. The firms involved are utilizing local raw materials and creating value chains within the agriculture sector. Their coordinated activities provide for the development of value-added produce, boosting the country's global competitiveness and market access, creating hundreds of thousands of future jobs, and contributing significantly to the development of an industrial-led manufacturing sector. For this reason, it is realistic to assume that Ethiopia will achieve middle income status by 2025.

Tony Blair visits Ethiopia

Former Prime Minister, Tony Blair, was in Ethiopia last month and met Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, exchanging views on good governance issues and mechanisms to provide efficient public services.



Ethiopia has become a preferred country globally, Blair said, adding that Britain could share its experience to enable Ethiopia to attract investment and improve service sectors.

Prime Minister Hailemariam said Ethiopia is keen to learn from Britain to accelerate its industrial development, offer efficient and accessible services and carry out result-oriented activities.

International Development Minister makes debut visit to Ethiopia



On his first visit to Ethiopia in April, International Development Minister James Wharton, reinforced the UK's commitment to help those suffering from drought in Ethiopia.

The Minister visited the Tigray region to see the lifesaving impact of UK aid and how ongoing support is building resilience and helping recovery from last year's El Nino induced drought.

Minister Wharton also visited Endabaguna refugee reception centre in Northern Ethiopia where he met vulnerable families and children benefiting from UK support. Ethiopia is one of the largest host nations of refugees – with over a million people having crossed the border – the majority fleeing humanitarian crises in neighbouring South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea.

While in Addis Ababa, Minister Wharton met with government officials and workers at the British leather manufacturing firm, Pittards, who have benefited from UK aid-supported skills training to increase productivity. He also met with a local entrepreneur whose leather making business has benefited from UK help.

The UK is strengthening its focus on economic development as a long-term solution to poverty, he said. His visit follows that of International Development Secretary Priti Patel to Ethiopia earlier this year where she launched DFID's first Economic Development Strategy at Hawassa Industrial Park; UK aid is helping to transform the local economy by creating around 60,000 new jobs.

...Brexit won't affect Ethio-UK ties

In an interview with the *Ethiopian News Agency*, Minister Wharton said Brexit will not hamper any of the bilateral ties between Ethiopia and the UK. It will instead create opportunity to further deepen the relationship between the two countries.

Ethiopia and the UK have long-rooted and historical ties, he said. "We want to use our leaving the European Union as an opportunity to re-engage, to reinvigorate and strengthen the existing ties with our friends and partners. Ethiopia is a key friend and partner in this region and in the world".

It will be an opportunity to drive more trade and cooperation which will benefit both countries.

On Ethiopia's role in peace and security the Minister said Ethiopia has a very significant role in the region in ensuring stability and promoting peace, and has made significant contributions to peace-keeping forces in neighbouring countries. Ethiopia has a leading role, with many nations looking to it for guidance and support.

Praising the response to the current drought the minister said: "The government of Ethiopia has a strong track record of response in previous years where it's committed significant promises to support those in need and this is laudable and commendable and recognized by the international community."

NATIONAL NEWS

The 6th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa concludes

The 6th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa wrapped up on 23rd April following dozens of panel discussions and public lectures on a range of themes including natural resource governance and pressing security issues in Africa.



This year's Forum was held under the theme 'Natural Resource Governance in Africa' and provided a platform for heads of state, academia and technocrats to candidly debate the causes behind Africa's inability to effectively manage its resources and how to develop effective policies on natural resources.

PM Hailemariam said the Forum provided an informal platform to articulate African common interests. Recollecting Ethiopia's long-standing contribution to Pan Africanism and its ideals, he emphasized that the Forum is only one aspect of Ethiopia's commitment to African causes.



Former president of Nigeria and Chairperson of the Forum, Olusegun Obasanjo, appreciated Ethiopia's support of the Forum, saying it provides Africans from a range of strata with the freedom to put forward "African Solutions to African Problems," particularly in the field of security.



With its inclusivity, the Forum helps bring about diverse opinions and do away with the 'WE/THEY' dichotomy in policy making and implementation.

"We've done well but not enough, and can do better." The Tana Forum is one indispensable means to that end, he added.

...Cornerstone for Pan African University laid

PM Hailemariam and President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda laid the cornerstone for the construction of the Ethio-Pan African University (PAU) in the historic town of Adwa, Tigray Regional State. Guests included government officials who had attended the 6th Tana High-Level Forum on Security.



PM Hailemariam said the university will teach, not only Ethiopia's history, but that of the struggle of all

Africans for freedom and will strengthen the bonds of brotherhood between Africans. It will also increase tourist flow to the town of Adwa, as the university encompasses the areas where the historic battle of Adwa was fought.

President Museveni said, “Adwa is a holy place for we Africans”, and stressed the need to use Adwa as a source of “knowledge and modernization”.

Ethiopia’s second human right action plan launched

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn launched Ethiopia’s second human right action plan on 26th April to help improve human rights conditions and build full democracy in Ethiopia.

The action plan, benchmarked mainly from the constitution, lays out the direction for government and civic associations to follow, and clearly states the division of work amongst the governmental institutions.

The government has made efforts to build democracy and improve human rights, the PM said, which have paid off, creating brotherhood and unity by efficiently rectifying past flawed relations.

“We became citizens of a country that respects individual rights and where the rule of law is guaranteed,” he said.

However, our democracy, which is at the infant stage, is not immune from defects such as a lack of awareness of law enforcement bodies, mal-administration and other problems related to backward thinking, the Premier said.

The government has identified good governance problems during the deep reform programme conducted recently to address the problems.

Federal Attorney General Getachew Ambaye said the implementation of the second Action Plan will respond to the ever-growing demands of the people for development and good governance. The Plan aligns with Ethiopia’s laws, policies, strategies and its second Growth and Transformation Plan, he added.

“A new, strong implementation procedure is based on lessons learned from the first Plan”, he said.

A series of training for public officials, CSOs, professional associations and NGOs will be provided to ensure its effective implementation.

UN Resident Coordinator, Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie said, “The spirit and intent of this Plan is in line with international human rights instruments, with explicit focus on vulnerable populations, in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals of leaving no one behind.”

She said the action plan encompasses civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to a clean environment and the right to development.

“The UN strongly believes that the national human rights action plan and the UN Development Assistance Framework, provide an enormous opportunity to further strengthen the advancement of the human rights agenda in Ethiopia” she added.

Representatives from the nine regional states, the two city administrations, opposition political parties and diplomats attended the launch.

UN Human Rights Commissioner visits Ethiopia

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, visited Ethiopia from 2nd to 4th May, at the invitation of the Ethiopian government.



Mr Zeid held talks with PM Hailemariam, the Speaker of the House of People’s Representatives, the Foreign Minister and other high-ranking Ethiopian officials, and leading members of the African Union.

As part of his discussions on the human rights situation in Ethiopia and the work of the UN Human

Rights Office in the country, Zeid met with H.E Commissioner Dr Addisu Gebre-Egziabher, Chairperson of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), and with members of civil society organisations and political parties.

During discussions with EHRC Chairperson, Mr Al Hussein, he described Ethiopia as “one of our partners in the Commission’s efforts to promote and protect human rights for all.”

The EHRC chief said as a founding member of the UN Human Rights body, Ethiopia has long been implementing human rights laws endorsed by the global outfit.

A Memorandum of Intent to establish a Human Rights Regional Hub for the Eastern and Southern Africa sub-regions in Addis Ababa was signed. The High Commissioner also visited a remand centre, and witnessed what he described as a “vibrant dialogue” between opposition party members and members of the ruling party, and met representatives of civil society and opposition political parties.

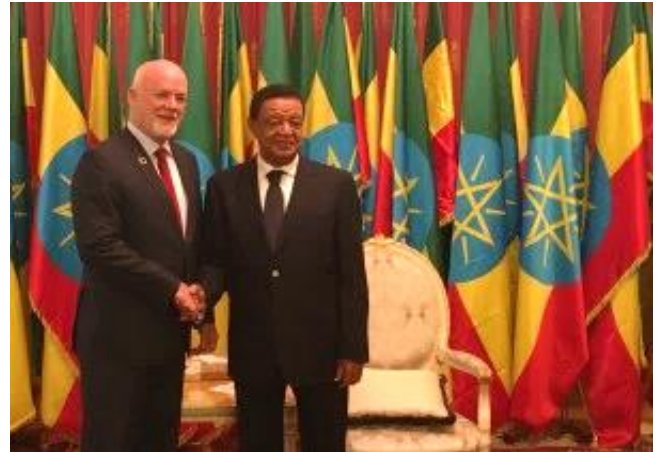
The High Commissioner held a press conference before his departure where he said that ultimately, only the Ethiopian government can take action to shape the future of the country.

He also highlighted the need for greater and freer civic space, with “broader latitude for the contributions of critical or dissenting views” to decision-making in the country. It was, he said, “important for the government to ensure a far more substantive, stable and open democratic space for all its people”. He noted that all governments needed to be held to the mark by independent media and “the vital action of civil society and human rights defenders.” He said: “I am convinced the Ethiopian Government will find its most important and productive investment will be in the rights of the people, which build strong and safe societies.”

Detailed coverage of the High Commissioner’s visit can be found on 5th May’s issue of “A Week in the Horn” → <https://goo.gl/ch1b2a>.

UN General Assembly President visits Ethiopia

The President of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Mr Peter Thomson, visited Ethiopia in March and met the President of Ethiopia H.E. Mr Mulatu Teshome.



President Thomson expressed gratefulness for Ethiopia’s long-standing commitments to the work of the UN – noting that Ethiopia is one of the largest troop contributors to UN peacekeeping.

He congratulated the Government for Ethiopia’s sustained economic growth over the past decade, and the nation’s strong commitment to sustaining peace and sustainable development.

President Thomson also met H.E. Mr Admasu Nebete, Ethiopia’s State Minister for Economic Cooperation, and stressed the importance the UN is placing on the Sustainable Development Goals. He said he was greatly encouraged by Ethiopia’s leadership of sustainable industrialization (SDG9).

Minister Nebete said Ethiopia’s Growth and Transformation Plan II synergises with the Sustainable Development Goals and that sustainable industrialisation was at the heart of Ethiopia’s efforts to ensure green growth and decent jobs.

The UN President made a field visit to the Bole Lemi Industrial Park where he engaged with entrepreneurs and workers on the importance of innovation, industrialisation and infrastructure for poverty eradication, increased employment, and the positive impact these have on the achievement of other SDGs.



After the visit President Thomson said, “I was very impressed by the visit to the Bole Lemi Industrial Park, particularly in seeing over 5,000 young Ethiopians employed in decent jobs. **Ethiopia is demonstrating SDG9 at work, thereby serving as an excellent example to other developing countries.**”

Ethiopia continues to exhibit economic resilience: World Bank



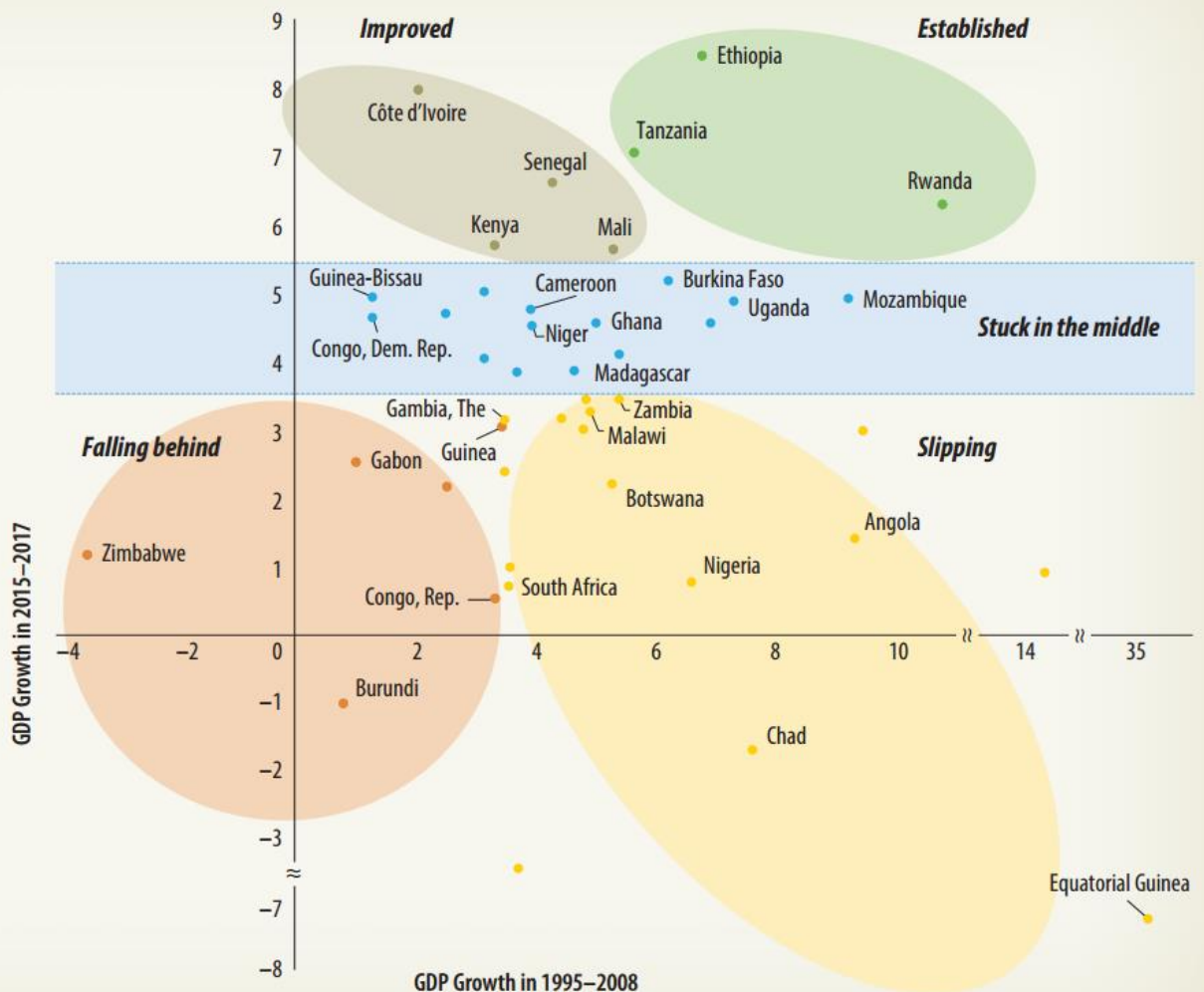
According to the new World Bank report, *Africa's Pulse*, Ethiopia is among countries that are showing economic resilience, with growth rates above 5.4% in 2015–17.

The report says in non-resource intensive countries such as Ethiopia, growth is expected to remain generally solid, supported by domestic demand.

Seven countries exhibiting resilience are Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, and Tanzania (see graph). They are home to nearly 27% of the region's population and account for 13% of the region's total GDP.

Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, and Tanzania are the countries in the region showing resilience.

FIGURE 1.8: Taxonomy of Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa: GDP Growth in 2015–17 versus 1995–2008



Source: World Bank staff calculation based on the WDI database.

Ethiopia is one of the most improved countries in the provision of telecommunications services, shifting from being one of the weakest performers in 1998–2002 to being at the international norm for its level of development in 2008–12.

The report also notes that there has been progress in electricity-generating capacity in Ethiopia over the past decade.

Africa's Pulse is a bi-annual analysis of the state of African economies conducted by the World Bank. The full report can be accessed at <https://goo.gl/ispuxa>

\$645 million agreement signed between World Bank and Ethiopia



The World Bank has extended a \$645 million loan to Ethiopia for the implementation of development projects across the country for improving water supply and sanitation services and the efficiency of trade and logistics and quality assurance.

\$445 million will be used to enhance water supply and sanitation services in Addis Ababa and 22 cities across the country.

\$150 million is for upgrading the dry port in Modjo, a key transportation hub that handles 95% of Ethiopia's trade, and the remaining \$50 million will be used to increase the efficiency of institutions engaged in quality assurance.

Ethiopia marks World Health Day 2017

Ethiopia joined the rest of the world in commemorating World Health Day on 7th April, at the newly inaugurated Yeka Kotebe General

Hospital, which has mental health services, in the presence of government officials and ministers, NGOs, healthcare professionals, the media and youth groups.

Depression Let's talk

Held under the theme "*Depression; Let's Talk*" the Day focussed on three groups of the population, adolescents, women and the elderly.

Speaking on behalf of the State Minister of Health, Dr Kebede Worku, Dr Kassu Ketema said that reports indicated that 10% of the Ethiopian population currently suffer from depression, the highest percentage of any mental illness in the country. The government is committed to strengthening mental health facilities, he said.

Addressing the guests, WHO Representative to Ethiopia, Dr Kalu Akpaka, said depression affects people of all ages, from all walks of life and in all countries. He commended the Ethiopian government for investing in mental health services, stressing that a patient's support mechanism is as important as the treatment. "I would like to reassure you that we at the World Health Organization will be there to support you, and ensure that appropriate services are availed for mental health illness", he said.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Ethiopia is the second-fastest growing economy; wealth market

World Finance, a UK-based magazine providing comprehensive coverage and analysis of the financial industry, international business and the global economy, has ranked Ethiopia second in their list of five of the world's fastest-growing economies.

In the next three years, it said, smaller emerging economies are forecasted to outpace the likes of China and India in terms of economic growth.

Ethiopia was second with a growth rate of 8.7%.

“...several of [Ethiopia’s] sectors show great promise for the economy. A burgeoning services industry underlies the hope that Ethiopia will become a middle-income country by 2025. The construction sector was also boosted in the mid-1990s by massive public infrastructure investment, and gathered real pace between 2004 and 2014. A prime example of its accomplishments is the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which is often considered the crowning glory of the country’s recent growth.”

...second-fastest growing wealth market

Similarly, as part of the new *AfrAsia Bank Africa 2017 Wealth Report*, published by *New World Wealth* in association with AfrAsia Bank Limited, Ethiopia is the second-fastest growing wealth market in Africa, and was second top performing country in Africa, after Mauritius, for HNWI (millionaires) between 2006 and the end of 2016, with growth of 219%.



Addis Ababa

The report also forecasts that between 2016 and 2026, Addis Ababa will be the fastest growing city for HNWI, with growth of 110%, followed by Dar es Salaam and Nairobi.

Industrial parks to create employment opportunities for refugees

Three industrial parks are to be built in Dire Dawa, Mekelle and Jimma/Ziway, creating 100,000 jobs.

The Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) said 70,000 jobs will be for Ethiopians, while the remainder will be granted to refugees.

The U.K. government, European Union and the World Bank have provided more than \$500 million for their construction, which will focus on labour intensive garment, leather and food processing.

At last year’s **Leaders’ Summit on Refugees**, co-hosted by Ethiopia and the USA, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn pledged to assist refugees.

Ethiopia is the largest refugee-hosting nation in Africa, the fifth largest in the world and currently hosts more than a million refugees from Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan and other African countries.

Pizza Hut to open three outlets in Ethiopia



Pizza Hut is set to open three outlets in Ethiopia later this year, becoming one of the first international restaurant chains to enter the country. The agreement between U.S. fast-food giant Yum! Brands Inc. and Ethiopia’s Belayab Foods & Franchise allows for as many as 10 outlets within the next three years.

The openings are part of Pizza Hut’s plans to expand into sub-Saharan Africa. Around half of Pizza Hut’s business in Africa is in South Africa, where it opened in 2015.

\$72 million earned from export of processed meat

The Ethiopian Meat and Dairy Industry Development Institute said that the country earned an around \$72 million in revenue in the last nine months, from the export of processed meat, mostly exported to the Gulf Region.

Institute deputy director Khalifa Hussein said Ethiopia exports about 50 tonnes of meat daily - 60% goes to the UAE and 38% to Saudi Arabia.

The Ethiopian Meat Producers and Exporters Association ensures that the country satisfies international meat-processing standards, with modern abattoirs, cold room storage, and laboratory facilities.

The association runs capacity training workshops and consultations to farmers and cattle suppliers to ensure conformity with export standards.

Habesha Cement factory inaugurated

On 19th April, PM Hailemariam inaugurated the Habesha Cement Plant in Holeta town, 35km west of Addis Ababa, increasing Ethiopia's cement production capacity to 16.4 million tonnes a year.



Within 10 years, it will increase tenfold, so Ethiopia will cover its needs and export to the neighbours.

At the ceremony, PM Hailemariam said with Ethiopia undertaking large infrastructure like the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and housing projects, the need for cement is set to grow and by 2020 it could produce about 27 million tonnes of cement annually.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan to receive electricity from GERD

Sudan will import electricity from the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, Africa's largest hydropower plant, when it is completed. A transmission line will connect the Dam with Sudan's capital, Khartoum.

The \$6.4 billion project will produce more than 6,000MW of electricity, once fully operational.



...Tanzania to import 400MW from Ethiopia

Tanzania will import 400MW of electricity from Ethiopia to power its industrial drive, through a high voltage line linking the two countries via Kenya.

Under a 2015-2020 development plan, Ethiopia will raise its power output to 17,346MW, harnessing hydropower, wind and geothermal sources.

Ethiopia launches satellite TV

The Information Network Security Agency (INSA) has launched a National Integrated Satellite Television Transmission Platform - "Ethiosat" - to serve public and community media in Ethiopia.



INSA Director-General, Major General Teklebirhan Wolde-Aregay, said the platform will contribute to ensuring equality and fairness of media usage as well as to creating an informed community.

There are 15 to 20 TV channels that rent satellites individually to transmit their programmes. The platform will create opportunities for all TV stations

to transmit from one platform, the DG said, and slash the foreign currency fees that are currently paid to satellite service providers, ensure security and expand access. The agency is striving to transfer TV transmission technology from analogue to digital.

Urban food security begins in 7 cities

The implementation of the urban food security programme has been launched in seven cities - Hawassa, Mekele, Dessie, Adama, Dire Dawa, Harar and Jigjiga - to benefit urban low income families.

More than 55,000 people will take part in the programme. Within five years, it will extend to 11 cities, including Addis Ababa.

The \$450 million project, consisting of three programmes - the safety-net programme, job creation and capacity building, will benefit more than 4.7 million people. The safety net programme offers direct financial aid to elderly and disabled people and supports community-based participation.

Addis Ababa names train after Leipzig city



Addis Ababa's City Administration has named one of the light trains after the city of Leipzig in Germany, which is twinned with Addis Ababa.

The Mayor of Addis Ababa City, Deriba Kuma, said the move follows similar naming of a train, market centre and a square after Addis Ababa by the City of Leipzig a year ago in recognition of the twinning.

"The 'Leipzig' train will consolidate the fruitful cooperation between the twin cities and help promote the city of Leipzig, and Germany."

Mayor of Leipzig, Burkard Jung, said the two cities have co-operated in education, civics, politics, culture, art and economy for almost ten years.

New animation series, Tibeb Girls, coming soon

A new animation series *Tibeb Girls*, about three super heroines, is set to hit Ethiopian screens soon.



The series, produced by Ethiopian film director, Bruktawit Tigabu, aims to educate young girls about activism and leadership.

The three girls, FIKIR, TIGIST, and FITEH, use their superpowers to deal with injustices and harmful practices toward girls in Africa and educates adolescent girls how to live a healthy life, through a cast of women whose strong character and performance set precedents for young African girls looking to venture into the media industry. An initial pilot season will be followed by a second season of 13 radio and 13 television episodes.

Could this be the Ethiopian version of Powerpuff Girls?

Addis Ababa to get new mall

A new 3-billion Birr business centre - Hidase Grand Mall - is to be built in Addis Ababa by local investors Hidase Share Company, opening in 2020.

It will have 5,000 shops, two 4-star hotels, bank and insurance offices, cafeterias, restaurants, apartments and a parking lot and, will create more than 35,000 jobs.



📷 Photo of the Month: A troop of Gelada Baboons in the Simien Mountains National Park.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Ethiopia voted world's most welcoming country

The people have spoken. Ethiopia is the world's most welcoming country!



This is according to a recent poll by *Rough Guides* readers who were asked where they had found the most hospitable places in the world.

"Top of the list sits Ethiopia, a profoundly beautiful East African country with a history that stretches back many thousands of years. It was never colonised, so the customs and hospitable traditions are largely just as they've always been. Take the Ethiopian coffee ceremony: the women of the household meticulously roast, grind and boil the aromatic beans, before presenting three consecutive cups of exceptionally fresh coffee to their guests. The process can last for hours, and is

considered a real mark of friendship."



...Ethiopia's coffee culture explained

As might be expected of the country where coffee first originated, Ethiopia has a strong and pervasive

culture centred around coffee, known locally as buna.



Coffee is the most important cash and export crop in Ethiopia which produces almost 400 million kilos of coffee (almost 5% of the global total), making it the world's fifth-largest coffee exporter. Roughly half of the coffee produced in Ethiopia stays in the country, which has the **highest domestic consumption of coffee on the continent**.

Coffee ceremonies' are common in homes, hotels and restaurants all over Ethiopia, accompanied by burning frankincense, a bowl of popped corn, with freshly cut grass strewn across the floor

Most bars, restaurants and *buna bets* (coffee shops) also have coffee machines for espresso-style black coffee or milkier *buna watat*. Many locals claim machine coffee is more bitter than traditional brew coffee, so upmarket cafes offer both.

For travel inspiration on some of Ethiopia's coffee routes, visit the Land of Origins website at www.ethiopia.travel

Park to relocate settlers to protect wolves

Efforts are underway to save the endangered Ethiopian wolf, by relocating settlers around the Simien Mountains National Park, where only 120 wolves are estimated to remain. A total of less than 500 remain in Ethiopia, mostly in the Bale Mountains National Park.

Getachew Assefa, coordinator of the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme said he envisions increasing the number significantly.

The local community currently use more than two-thirds of the park's area for grazing, agriculture and settlement. A range of projects have also been launched to raise conservation awareness among locals, starting with the new generation.



Last month we reported that the wolves are beginning to recover from three tough years in the Bale Mountains, with 60 pups recorded.

Simien Mountains National Park was inscribed as a Natural World Heritage Site in 1979, whereupon UNESCO lauded it as "one of the **world's most spectacular landscapes**".

"Ethiopia is much more than 'The Land of Origins'" - UNWTO Secretary-General

On a recent visit to Ethiopia's historic city of Gondar, Dr Taleb D. Rifai, Secretary General of the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), said Ethiopia's, tangible and intangible heritage, history and culture, makes it more than the land of origins.

Gondar's Fasil Ghebbi Palace compound includes the Castle of Emperors Fasilidas, Iyasu and Dawit;

the Library and Chancellery of Tzadich Yohannes; the Palace of Mentuab and the Banqueting Hall of the Emperor Bekaffa. Renowned monasteries, churches, thermal areas and the Palace of Guzara are also located in and around the city.



Gondar – the Camelot of Africa

“The same kind of stone and building techniques, yet the styles are completely different. That is what really fascinates me” the Secretary General said.

“Ethiopia’s beauty is in the diversity within unity. There is a remarkable spirit that unifies the whole place”, Dr Rafai said.

Visiting Ethiopia for the third time, he said “The most important and impressive development I saw is the maturity of the political will and belief in tourism today that I felt [was] so strong and clear.”

He pledged that the UNWTO will help Ethiopia position itself on the international stage.

Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts to build Addis hotel

Swiss-based hotel management company, Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts has signed up to its first hotel in Ethiopia, in the capital Addis Ababa, as its expansion in sub-Saharan Africa gathers pace.

“We’re delighted to sign our first property in Ethiopia, and excited to secure a presence in the heart of Addis Ababa – a dynamic and thriving capital city which we believe has fantastic potential for continued growth and development,” said Alan O’Dea, Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts, Senior Vice President Africa.

“Addis Ababa is set to enjoy strong economic growth and continued infrastructure improvements in the years ahead, and we are looking forward to bringing our signature upscale hotel experience to a new generation of corporate and leisure visitors to the city.”



Just a short stroll from Bob Marley Square, the hotel will boast world-class dining and leisure facilities including an all-day dining restaurant and an Asian restaurant, an outdoor swimming pool on the first-floor terrace overlooking the Ethiopian Elite Sports Centre.

Mövenpick operates 83 hotels worldwide, 25 in Africa alone, with five more in active development.

Ethiopian Airline’s catering voted Outstanding

Ethiopian Airlines Inflight Catering, the largest single in-flight catering facility in Africa, has won an award for “Outstanding Food Service by an African Carrier” during the 2017 PAX International Readership Awards in Hamburg.



The national dishes on Ethiopian’s Cloud 9 menu will have you coming back for seconds... to Ethiopia.

The CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, Mr Tewolde GebreMariam, said “Readers of PAX International have spoken out loud and clear and unanimously

voted Ethiopian as an outstanding inflight Food Service in Africa. I wish to thank them all for their strong vote of confidence. Our international kitchens, which produce more than 100,000 meals a day, specialise in Chinese, Halal, Indian, Italian, Kosher, and Vegan meals, using fresh and organic fruits and vegetables direct from the farm.”



Mr Aklilu Habtu, Director Ethiopian In-flight Catering, receiving the award

...Ethiopian Airlines to be official African carrier for UNWTO Global Conference in Jamaica.

Ethiopian Airlines, Africa’s largest airline, has been designated as the official carrier for African States attending the “United Nations World Tourism Organization’s Government of Jamaica, and World Bank Group Conference on Jobs & Inclusive Growth: Partnerships for Sustainable Tourism”.



“Ethiopian Airlines has excellent connectivity into the USA, and has a codeshare arrangement with United Airlines, which offers daily flights into Montego Bay. So, I am very happy to be partnering with them for this very important conference,” said the Jamaica Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett on a recent visit to Ethiopia. This is an excellent opportunity [for Ethiopian] to become the carrier for the entire African region and bringing people into the Caribbean for the conference would be a good start to setting up connectivity within the region.”

SPORTS

Kenenisa Bekele and Tirunesh Dibaba finish second at London Marathon



A record 39,400 plus runners took part in the Virgin Money London Marathon on 23rd April. In the men’s elite race, Kenya’s Daniel Wanjiru beat race-favourite Kenenisa Bekele in a thrilling finish to win his first London Marathon in 2:05:48. Kenenisa finished second in 2:05:57.



Bekele (left) with Kenya’s Daniel Wanjiru and Bedan Karoki.



Kenya’s Mary Keitany won the women’s race in 2:17:01, and Ethiopia’s Tirunesh Dibaba clocked 2:17:56 to become **the third quickest woman in history and claim the Ethiopian record**. This was the first time in history that two women have broken 2:18 in the same race. Fellow Ethiopian Aselefech Mergia came in third in 2:23:08.

Athletics Roundup

...Ethiopians dominate Rome Marathon



Shura Kitata Tola won the men's race at the Rome Marathon in 2:7:30 - the second fastest time in the Marathon's history. In the women's race, Rahma Chota Tusa won in 2:27:23, repeating her 2016 victory and also leading an Ethiopian 1-2-3!

...Gebremeskel makes it five victories at Carlsbad 5000

Dejen Gebremeskel won a record fifth Carlsbad 5000 title in 13 minutes, 27 seconds.



"It's amazing for me to win 5 times...This is a big deal...They bring champions here" he said. Carlsbad has been the site of 24 world bests and eight U.S. bests.

...Ethiopian hat-trick at Yangzhou Half Marathon

Ethiopia's Mosinet Geremew completed a title hat-trick at the Yangzhou Jianzhen International Half Marathon on 23rd April taking his third straight title in 1:00:56.



Sutume Asefa won the women's race in 1:10:30. Fellow Ethiopian Ababel Yeshaneh trailed eight seconds to finish runner-up.



At the **Hamburg Marathon**, Tsegaye Mekonnen took the men's title in 2:07:26, while compatriot Ifa Megertu finished second in the women's race.

...Bonsa ends Kenya's reign in Madrid

Ethiopia's Bonsa Dida won the men's title at the 40th Rock 'n' Roll Madrid Marathon, in 2:10:16, ending Kenya's 7-year dominance, Belete Mekonen finished second in 2:13:04. In the women's race, Bedatu Hirpa finished third in 2:34:47.

Ethiopians win at inaugural Great South Sudan Run

Dawit Fekadu and Degitu Azemeraw won the inaugural Great South Sudan Run, held earlier in April in Juba.

Benjamin Kemboi from Kenya finished second followed closely by South Sudanese athlete David Gonji, the first south Sudanese finisher of the race. For the women, Kenyan Purity Biwott finished second followed by Ethiopian Athlete Derartu

Debela. The first South Sudanese female athlete, Stella Itong, finished fourth.



The race was organized by running legend, Haile Gebrselassie, chairman of the Great Ethiopian Run and Ayesheshim Teka, an Ethiopian Investor, with the support South Sudanese Government under the slogan “Fund raising to fight famine and poverty”.

Haile thanked the Government of South Sudan for the success of the exceptional event. Organisations, including the AU, made donations, the highest amount being \$200,000.

Meet Ethiopia’s first female Football Federation Deputy Director-General

Meskerem Goshime has been appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the Ethiopian Football Federation, the first woman to do so.



Meskerem said, “I will be focusing on managing the technical development of football and also the development of both women’s football and national teams”.

DIASPORA CORNER

Cornerstone laid for \$100 million Diaspora-funded hospital

PM Hailemariam Dessalegn laid the cornerstone for a \$100 million Medical City Center in Addis Ababa, to be built by the Ethio-American Doctors Group, a consortium of more than 260 physicians.

An economically sustainable centre of excellence, the 150,000m² hospital will deliver internationally accredited care and will catalyse how healthcare is delivered in Ethiopia, the region, and beyond, said the Group.



The PM said the government will continue to support Ethiopians and the Diaspora who invest their knowledge and capital in their home country.

80% of diseases in developing countries are curable if treated, he said, and the hospital will make a significant contribution to preventing them, helping Ethiopia save foreign currency by reducing the number of Ethiopians seeking medical treatment abroad.

Girma Tefera, Board Chairman of the Group, said the hospital will train more physicians and share knowledge with other medical personnel beyond the hospital, which will have 300-beds, a state-of-the-art diagnostic centre, 8 operating rooms, 80 outpatient consultation rooms and a cancer treatment centre.

The focus will be on cardiovascular, neurological and oncology services with a range of invasive procedures. It will go fully operational by 2020.

EVENTS

2017 World Hydro Congress hosted in Addis

The 2017 World Hydropower Congress will be taking place in Addis Ababa from 9th to 11th May.



The Congress, **held for the first time in Africa**, will bring together leaders and specialists to set the course for hydropower's contribution to future energy and water systems. How to do 'better hydro' will be a central theme. Building on the outcomes of the Beijing 2015 event, it will examine how governments, businesses, finance, civil society and academia can advance sustainable development.

Regional forum on sustainable development to be held in Addis Ababa

The 2017 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, in preparation for the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will be held in Addis Ababa from 17th to 19th May, under the theme **Ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity for all**.

The ARFSD tracks progress in implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that are at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as the global fight to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity continues.

In Africa, the SDGs are being implemented along with the First 10-year Implementation Plan of **Agenda 2063**, Africa's 50-year strategic framework for socio-economic transformation, which will accelerate past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development at regional, sub-regional and national levels.

The Forum outcome will strengthen governments' efforts and inform the global debate at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will be convened in New York in July.

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

An Ethiopian success story: Agriculture



In Ethiopia, agriculture is the largest sector of the economy, providing jobs for 80% of the workforce and accounting for more than 40% of the country's GDP. Recognising the importance of the agricultural sector for employment creation and poverty reduction within its large rural population, Ethiopia's public budget prioritises the growth-oriented pro-poor sectors of education, agriculture and food security, water and sanitation, health and roads. In 2012/2013, the public-sector investment in those areas accounted for over 70% of general government spending.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/BV100n>

Foreign investment continues in Ethiopia's clothing sector



Ethiopia's economy has registered double-digit growth in recent years, making it one of the fastest growing in sub-Saharan Africa, writes Matthew Newsome.



Ethiopia attracted foreign investments of \$1.2 billion in the first six months of its current fiscal year – half of which was in textiles and clothing

“Foreign investment has played a critical role in the country’s economic success, with the government offering favourable benefit packages to attract clothing and textile companies looking to relocate their manufacturing bases to Africa...Local textile companies can also find reasons to be hopeful about the “foreign textile invasion”.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/qvuhaQ>

Trade is Moving Ethiopia Forward



Samuel Getachew on the Trade Not Aid campaign in the *Huffington Post*:

"Old wisdom was that foreign aid was a great strategy to help move Africa forward. This seems to have changed. Trade is the new foreign aid to the continent, one blessed with young population, ample resources and a better investment environment.



“Ethiopia is transforming itself to an investment hub. That is a good thing. There are many foreign investors venturing in to the country looking for investment opportunities, complementing the diaspora and the locals that are taking advantage of a better investment environment in the country.”

Read more at <https://goo.gl/P4jnPu>

5 countries managing climate change better than the US



Climate change is a problem that will affect the entire world, says Alison Durkee, - and it's up to individual countries to step up and play their part.

The U.S. isn't leading the way when it comes to

climate change...[but] there are a few countries that are taking real action against climate change.



"Ethiopia is taking the threat of climate change seriously. In 2011, the country established the Climate Resilient Green Economy to address climate change, the first such programme of its kind in Africa. The CRGE's vision is to build a middle-income climate resilient green economy by 2025...through zero net carbon growth."

Read more at <https://goo.gl/I0NE9z>

The extraordinary life of Ethiopia's singing nun



The Guardian's Kate Molleson documents the extraordinary life of Ethiopia's legendary 93-year-old singing nun, Emahoy Tsegué-Maryam Guèbrou a.k.a. The Honky Tonk Nun.



Born in 1923, Emahoy grew up in one of Ethiopia's most privileged families. She and her sister were the first girls to be sent abroad for their education, to a Swiss boarding school, where she first encountered western classical music. She took piano and violin lessons and turned out to be a special talent.

“...she sang for Haile Selassie...She was a feminist: the first woman to work for the Ethiopian civil service, the first to sing in an Ethiopian Orthodox church, the first to work as a translator for the Orthodox Patriarch in Jerusalem. “Even as a teenager I was always asking, ‘What is the difference between boys and girls?...We are equal!’ she said.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/8v28RT>



Exploring Ethiopia’s Past and Future Through Body Painting



New York Times features colourful images by Ethiopian photojournalist, Aida Muluneh, whose work features decorative body paintings that reflect Ethiopian culture or traditional fabrics and baskets, and reflect her own life’s journey.



The prevalence of decorative body painting in her images — stark whites, vibrant reds, azure blues — are rooted in Ethiopian tradition that is revived and celebrated as contemporary self-expression. Her models provide a canvas for her, but remain open-minded participants in the process.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/KXg5ap>

In Ethiopia, a Search for the Lost Ark



Indiana Jones fans, did you know that the Ark of the Covenant is in Ethiopia?



The Chapel of the Tablet in Aksum, Ethiopia claims to be the final resting place of the Ark of the Covenant.

If you saw *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, writes Bill Wiatrak, you probably know Indiana Jones had to journey across the world to get near the Ark of the Covenant, and still never really saw it.

Ethiopians claim the ark was never lost, as most historians believe, but has been in their country for thousands of years. The “First Edition” of the Ten Commandments has been carefully guarded by the descendants of Menelik...No one is allowed to see the Ark except for a sole guardian who is appointed to guard it and stays with it until his death.

Sound familiar?

Read more at <https://goo.gl/NDG83S>

Go to Ethiopia for Ancient History, Jazz, and a Capital City on the Rise



Condé Nast’s Alex Postman on why Ethiopia found its way onto his Pinterest board.



“Home to a 1,700-year-old Christian civilization, the country has long drawn pilgrims to its high-altitude rock churches and the palaces of royals who claimed to be descended from Israel’s King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba...Despite all the new high rises going up in the capital, the city’s charisma lies in the relics of its near past...Hit the National Museum of Ethiopia to see the 3.2-million-year-old bones of the hominid Lucy; and the chaotic Merkato, Africa’s largest outdoor market...fly an hour from Addis to Lalibela, to wander among 12th-century churches carved out of red rock and watch pilgrims in white *gabi* scarves arriving for worship at sunrise...A short flight takes you to the city of Gondar, where you’ll explore crumbling castles of 17th-century emperors.”

Read more at <https://goo.gl/Q7PJ2W>

The Most Beautiful Churches in the World

Caitlin Morton lists 20 of the world's most beautiful churches in another *Condé Nast Traveler* feature...proof that a little faith (and a lot of artistic genius) goes a long way.

At number 13 is the Church of St. George, Lalibela.



Read more at <https://goo.gl/Y9jSPv>

Newsmax's Top 25 Easter Destinations



Newsmax's Becca Blond listed the world's top 25 Easter destinations and Lalibela came in at number 9...



"Ethiopia was one of the earliest countries to embrace Christianity, and very little has changed in the way its practitioners worship there. Easter, or *Fasika*, begins in earnest on its eve, as congregants gather until nearly dawn when Lent fasting gives way to enormous feasting and celebration. Lalibela, named after the 13th-century Ethiopian king who commissioned its building, is where a dozen

interconnected churches were carved out of volcanic earth. The purpose of this architectural wonder was King Lalibela's founding of a "New Jerusalem" after Saladin had conquered the Hebrew city during the Third Crusade. "

Read more at <https://goo.gl/KnjhK4>

6 Must-Visit Eco-Friendly Hotels for Earth Day

VOGUE The United Nations deemed 2017 the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development to guide hotels, cruise lines, and tourism boards toward best practices to make sure the environmental impact of travel is positive, not negative.

But **sustainability doesn't mean sacrificing luxury**. There are hotels that protect the land and eco-friendly practices, and uphold a high-level guest experience, from the design to the food.

In Ethiopia, Limalimo Lodge, in the Simien Mountains, was built by more than 100 people from the surrounding area and is committed to promoting sustainable tourism and minimal environmental impact.



The lodge also promotes conservation in the Simien Mountains National Park through its \$10 a night conservation fee; funds go toward local conservation activities.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/B4FnH2>



Choose your perfect African safari - 11 fantastic trip ideas



Wanderlust lists 11 African wildlife adventures. Birdwatching in Ethiopia

comes in at number 3...



"In Ethiopia you will have the chance to seek many of its 850+ species of birds with vast numbers of passage migrants

stopping on their way to or from Eurasia...Serious birders can venture further south to Yabello, home to the Streseman bush-crow, or the Jemma Valley to seek the highly sought-after Harwood's francolin."

Read more at <https://goo.gl/nmQaXs>

Journey to an Ethiopian volcano in one of the hottest places on Earth



Paul Schemm and his family visit one of Africa's most active volcanoes - Erta Ale.

"Ethiopia is increasingly making its mark on the global tourist map as newly built roads and hotels open it up to the broader tourist market.

But even for the most veteran traveler to Ethiopia the Danakil is in a category of its own... This punishingly hot lowland is home to immense salt flats that once were a major source of wealth for the medieval Abyssinian Empire, as well as colorful sulfur pools and the Erta Ale — or "smoking mountain" — the most accessible of the region's volcanoes. And we decided to take the kids along ...who had a great time.

A well-organized tour in four-wheel-drives made for an unforgettable trip of four days that included the salt flats, the sulfur pools and the volcano.



"The salt is white and looks like snow, making the lines of camels walking across it seem especially surreal — a bit like a Nativity scene in a Midwest town after a snowfall, but really hot."

Read more at <https://goo.gl/gy1dns>

What to Do in Addis Ababa by Liya Kebede



Also in *Conde Nast Traveler*, Ethiopian supermodel, Liya Kebede, shares her picks for artisan markets, coffee ceremonies and Ethio Jazz hotspots in her hometown of Addis Ababa.

"I grew up in Addis. Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee, and home to an amazing jazz scene. In the

afternoons, the Hilton Addis Ababa welcomes visitors with a beautiful traditional coffee ceremony in its lobby. And in the evenings, there is great jazz music at the Ghion Hotel. It's one of the first hotels built in Addis, where you get the feeling of stepping back in time to a golden era of Ethio-jazz in the 60s."

Read more at <https://goo.gl/7JxtYp>

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