



# Ethiopian News

February 2018

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## CONNECT WITH US



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# Reforms on the Horizon

## Stability Holds the Key to Progress

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# Editorial

## Stability Holds the Key to Reform

Following the [announcement of the resignation](#) of Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, as part of the ongoing governmental reform process in Ethiopia, the Council of Ministers unanimously declared a [6-month State of Emergency](#) on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

As detailed in last month's [edition of our newsletter](#), following the evaluations of the coalition parties of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), the leadership of the Front announced a series of measures aimed at ramping up the reform process, and by extension [replenishing Ethiopia's renaissance](#). However, as the leadership made crystal clear, priority would be given first and foremost to the maintenance of peace, security and the rule of law in some regional states affected by violent unrest.

Since the ratification of the State of Emergency, the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has released a statement expressing their strong hope that this announcement would not lead to "a reversal in recent moves towards reforms". The Government's position, in this regard, is certain and assuages any such concerns.

When viewed in its full context, the State of Emergency, will not act as an impediment to the reform process but represents the key foundation from which this process can successfully springboard.

In recent months, the scenarios which have faced the people of Ethiopia have been deeply concerning. Discord reported over this period, have included a marked increase in: ethnic-based hostility and violence; the destruction of public and private property; damage to investments and infrastructure; the forced closure of schools,

government offices and private businesses; the disruption of market activities; forced evictions; illegal protests; and the obstruction of roads and transportation. These events, uncharacteristic of Ethiopia's longstanding traditions of tolerance and coexistence, represent a direct threat to the lives and rights of citizens, as enshrined under the Constitution, and an attack on the federal system. They also threaten the [remarkable socio-economic development and growth](#) registered by the country over the last two decades - discouraging Foreign Direct Investment and jeopardising countless job opportunities for young people in the process.

It is in light of these threats that the Council of Ministers unanimously approved the tabling of the 6-month State of Emergency for ratification by the House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR). On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018, in a further endorsement of this roadmap, Parliament officially ratified the State of Emergency with a two-thirds majority, approving safeguards and establishing an inquiry board to oversee its implementation.

By supporting the maintenance of the constitutional order, the State of Emergency will serve to accelerate the reform process already underway in the country. Thus far, the first steps in this process have seen the release and pardon of over six thousand prisoners across the country, in a move aimed at fostering national unity, widening the political space and enhancing democracy.

Now, more than ever, it is incumbent on the peace-loving citizens of Ethiopia to defend the constitutional order from all threats, thereby establishing a foundation for the reforms needed to secure peace, advance development and propel our young democracy.





## Rekindling the Spirit of Adwa

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1896, the unthinkable transpired which shell-shocked a world unaccustomed to news of feats of heroism flowing from Africa. Not seldom, but never, in the chequered history of European colonialism, had an African nation with its “ragtag-and-bobtail army” managed to deliver a mortifying defeat on a colonial army.

For Ethiopians, Adwa – a small hill town in the north of Ethiopia – is a perpetual reminder of the power that lies in unity of purpose in the face of adversity. The Victory of Adwa is regarded by many, outside Africa, as a historical miracle. The victory not only secured the independence of Ethiopia but also demonstrated the strong unity and identity of the people of Ethiopia. Ever since, Adwa has become a synonym and symbol of freedom for Africa’s people and its diaspora.

Mindful of the great sacrifice and inspiration represented by the Victory of Adwa, the Ethiopian

Government recently gave its full support to the establishment of a **Pan-African University** in Adwa – an institution expected to embody the ideals of African unity. On the margins of the sixth Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa in April 2017, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni jointly laid the cornerstone for this first-ever Pan African University in the presence of dignitaries from Nigeria, South Africa, Malawi, Liberia and Burundi.

This year’s commemoration of Adwa Day takes place at a time of great significance to Ethiopia. In a time of public discontent and rising demand for better governance, the government has taken various measures in its attempts to maintain peace and security, sustain economic growth and achieve democratic reforms across the country. One notable undertaking, amongst many others, was the resignation of Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn from his positions as chairperson of the



ruling party and as Prime Minister, as a part of the ongoing reforms. The announcement, regarded as an emblematic deed, was a first in the nation's modern history.

Today, as ever, the spirit of Adwa inspires us – reminding us of our courage in the face of unprecedented hostility and our unity in the fight for our independence. On Adwa Day 2018, we summon this spirit once again to unite Ethiopia in our battles against poverty and in pursuit of full democracy and development.

## ETHIOPIA IN THE UK

### Nile Day commemorated in London for the first time

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Diplomats from Nile Basin countries – Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda – celebrated the 12<sup>th</sup> Nile Day in London for the first time under the theme, *“The Nile – Shared River, Collective Action”*, at an Ethiopian Embassy-hosted reception.

Welcoming guests, H.E. Dr Hailemichael Aberra Afework, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK said, “Ethiopia takes great pride in hosting this important day in the Nile Basin’s calendar – a day on which leaders of our great nations definitively chose dialogue over distrust, inter-dependence over isolation and cooperation over conflict.”



Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Diplomats from Nile Basin Countries

“By establishing the Nile Basin Initiative on this day in 1999, our countries opened a new chapter in the storied history of our great river – vowing to develop, manage, protect and conserve the water resources of the Nile on the basis of a “shared vision”,” he said.

# Nile Day 2018

*‘The Nile: Shared River,  
Collective Action’*

ONE RIVER | ONE PEOPLE | ONE VISION



“In light of challenges such as climate change, the need for greater cooperation, basin-wide planning and a legal regime governing the river in its entirety, could not be clearer”, he added.

Ambassador Hailemichael concluded by quoting Ethiopia’s Minister of Water, H.E. Dr Sileshi Bekele, “the Nile is the umbilical cord that connects and nourishes us all”, he said. “So, [let us] affirm once more our commitment to one another and assert that cooperation on this great river, is not an option, but an existential imperative.”

It is hoped that the reception in London will pave the way for similar events in the future, so the anniversary can be observed on a rotational basis.

Meanwhile, in Addis Ababa, water ministers from Eastern Africa, officials and residents took part in a march to commemorate the day.

Speaking at a meeting marking the day at the UN Economic Commission for Africa, President Mulatu Teshome said Nile countries should cooperate on the equitable utilisation of the waters of the Nile and for their peoples’ prosperity, especially as the effects of climate change had further complicated the lives of people living in poverty, so riparian countries have no other choice but to cooperate on equitable utilisation of the resource.

Ethiopia’s Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, Dr Seleshi Bekele said, “More than ever, Nile basin countries need to scale up their cooperation at a better stage,” and he requested “further promotion and strengthening of the objectives of the Nile Basin Initiative.”

### **The Nile: Shared River, Collective Action**

In an editorial marking Nile Day celebrations, H.E. Dr Seleshi Bekele, said "It is my earnest conviction that Nile Basin cooperation is happening now and will be sustained for years to come, for posterity. After all, this great River that weaves and bends through all our countries is the umbilical cord that connects and nourishes us all. The motto for celebrating Nile Day this year “Shared River, Collective Action” is apt and descriptive enough of our common duty to cooperate."

Read the editorial in full on our website at <http://bit.ly/NileDay2018>

### **Ambassador Hailemichael at the British Library African Scribes Ethiopia Exhibition**

On 5<sup>th</sup> February, Ambassador Hailemichael was guest speaker at the launch of a new display, “*African Scribes: Manuscript Culture of Ethiopia*,” held at the British Library’s Sir John Ritblat Treasures Gallery. Guests at the reception and private view of the collection included His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, diplomats, academics and senior staff from the British Library.

Recognising the vital role being played by the British Library in the preservation and conservation of Ethiopian manuscripts, Ambassador Hailemichael reiterated that manuscripts serve as a reminder of the power of writing that has travelled through time to retell our history.



Embassy staff with British Library Chief Executive, Roly Keating (center), Head of Collections and Curation, Kristian Jensen and Eyob Derillo, Cataloguer of Ethiopian Manuscripts (right)

He added that preparations are underway in Addis Ababa to hold a week-long international manuscript exhibition and conference in October this year entitled, “*The Written Heritage in the Land of Origins*”. The idea was conceived following the Minister of Culture & Tourism’s official visit to the British Library last November.

The Embassy will continue its commitment to working with the British Library in the pursuit of facilitating long-term partnerships with all relevant institutions in Ethiopia, the Ambassador said.

The launch of this magnificent exhibition could not happen without the efforts of Mr Eyob Derillo, who has shown unparalleled passion and commitment to the preservation and promotion of Ethiopia’s cultural heritage, the Ambassador concluded.



**“African Scribes: Manuscript Culture of Ethiopia”** runs from **6<sup>th</sup> February until 29<sup>th</sup> April**. Visit the [British Library website](#) for further information.

Highlights of the display include:

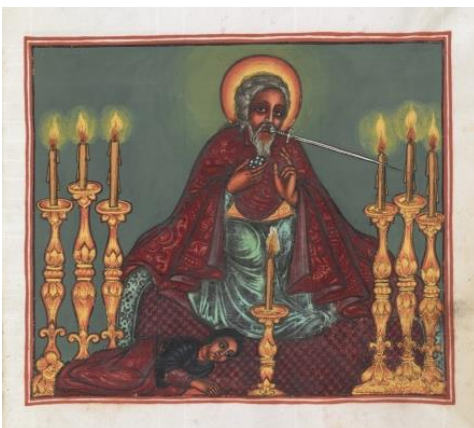
### **The Four Gospels**

The four Gospels are the central religious scriptures of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church which traces its history to the first century AD, when an Ethiopian court official on pilgrimage to Jerusalem was met on his way back by St. Philip who baptised him (Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40).



St. Luke the Evangelist accompanied by two disciples. At his feet are two Abyssinian ground hornbills. Lasta, early 17th century (BL Or. 516, f.100v)

### **The Revelation of St. John**



St John in the presence of God. Illuminated manuscript with 126 paintings illustrating the life and death of the apostle St. John. Gondar, Ethiopia 1700-1730 (BL Or. 533, f. 3r)

The Revelation of St. John of Ephesus is the last book in the New Testament, traditionally

called *Abuqalamisis* in Ethiopian. This copy was composed at the beginning of the eighteenth century for King Iyasu I (r. 1682–1706) and Queen Walatta Giyorgis. This volume is an exceptional example of Ethiopian art containing 126 paintings. This painting was inspired by a series of woodcuts depicting the Apocalypse by the 16<sup>th</sup>-century German artist Albrecht Dürer.

### **Embassy staff in Virtual Reality experience at the BBC**

A team led by Ambassador Hailemichael Aberra Afework and Deputy Head of Mission, Ababi D. Sidelil, visited the BBC’s Virtual Reality (VR) Hub to watch BBC Africa correspondent, Alastair Leithead’s, **Damming the Nile** documentary series, which explores the River Nile - from Ethiopia, the source of the Blue Nile, through Sudan and into Egypt.



Alastair Leithead (centre) with Embassy and BBC staff

The first episode of *Damming the Nile* features Ethiopia, where you can see the progress of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, travel on East Africa’s first metro train and go for a traditional Ethiopian lunch to hear why Ethiopians are contributing to the Dam.



You can watch the 360° video version here → <http://bbc.in/2EGiT4k>.



## Shining a light on Ethiopia-UK renewable energy co-operation

*Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity and the CEO of Ethiopian Electric Power visit the UK to exchange best practice with British experts in renewable energy*

Minister for Water, Irrigation and Electricity Seleshi Bekele, and CEO of Ethiopian Electric Power Engineer Azeb Asnake, made their first joint work visit to the UK from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

The UK Government's Department for International Trade organised the visit which highlighted UK expertise in renewable energy and allowed the Minister and Eng. Azeb to meet key companies and stakeholders in this sector. During the visit, Minister Seleshi signed a Memorandum of Understanding with British firm, Winch Energy, to develop a project to supply off-grid solar energy to 700 villages in rural Ethiopia, 100 villages in the first phase.



*Minister Seleshi with the CEO of Winch Energy, Nicholas Wrigley*

Tom Wrigley, Director at Winch Energy said: *"At least 50 million Ethiopians are unserved by the national grid. In the first phase of our national electrification programme with the Ministry the Ethiopian Electric Utility, we will provide 100 rural villages with 24/7 access to clean and affordable electricity, wi-fi and drinking water services. Our mission for tomorrow is to bring hope to every Ethiopian rural household, health centre, school and*

*local business, by enabling opportunity, choice and freedom, accompanied by the creation of prosperity."*

During the visit, Minister Seleshi and Eng. Azeb accompanied by Ambassador Dr Hailemichael Aberra Afework, met with Jeremy Lefroy MP, the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Ethiopia, as well as other UK government officials and British companies in the renewable energy sector. In their meetings they discussed areas where the UK and Ethiopia can deepen their energy sector investment relationship.

Minister Seleshi and Eng. Azeb also attended a roundtable chaired by the Trade Envoy, hosted by



*Ethiopian Power Market Roundtable hosted by the Department for International Trade*

British renewable energy company Globeleq. At the roundtable a number of UK companies presented their areas of expertise, and Minister Seleshi shared Ethiopian energy sector experience including the plan to generate 17,000MW of power by 2020. The MoU with Winch energy follows the Ethiopian government's call for international power developers to help achieve this target.



*Ethiopian Renewable IPPs Workshop at Globeleq*

Following the meeting, Mr Lefroy commented: *“I have been delighted to welcome the Minister and CEO to the UK this week. The Government of Ethiopia has ambitious plans to grow its generation capacity and increase electrification so that the poorest can access energy. The UK is already supporting these initiatives through projects such as Corbetti Geothermal, which has significant development and private finance from the UK, and I hope this visit will encourage more British investment into Ethiopia’s energy sector.”*

Commenting on the visit, Minister Seleshi said: *“Renewable Energy is at the heart of Ethiopia’s plans to reach middle income status by 2025. Creating millions of new on and off grid connections will ensure better lives for all Ethiopians: improving health and education outcomes and supporting the creation of new businesses and jobs. Use of Ethiopia’s abundance of clean electricity will also allow us to share energy with our neighbours, creating revenue for Ethiopia and helping bring light and power to millions of people in East Africa. British companies are key partners for us.”*

Engineer Azeb said *“It has been very good to see the level of interest in Ethiopia’s energy sector from British companies and developers. There are many challenges to universal access in Ethiopia, but we hope that recent reforms to the market, including new PPP provisions and incentives for innovative renewable energy companies, will help us develop a world class grid that is 100% clean, reliable and allows millions more people to access power.”*

Full video of the visit is available on our YouTube page at <http://bit.ly/ETUKLinks2>

## **Jeremy Lefroy MP leads Ethiopia visit**



The UK Prime Minister’s trade envoy to Ethiopia, Jeremy Lefroy MP, paid a visit to Ethiopia in February, along with the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ethiopia, Laurence Robertson MP.

Their visit included an infrastructure financing conference at the Radisson Blu hotel in Addis, organised by the Department of International Trade at the British Embassy, to share UK expertise in financing infrastructure projects, particularly Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).



Mr Lefroy chaired the conference which was attended by a number of ministers and international partners, including Seleshi Bekele, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, the World Bank, InfraCo Africa and KPMG. British-led companies such as Globeleq, Arup, Crown Agents, Control Risks, and Corbetti Geothermal presented on their areas of expertise.

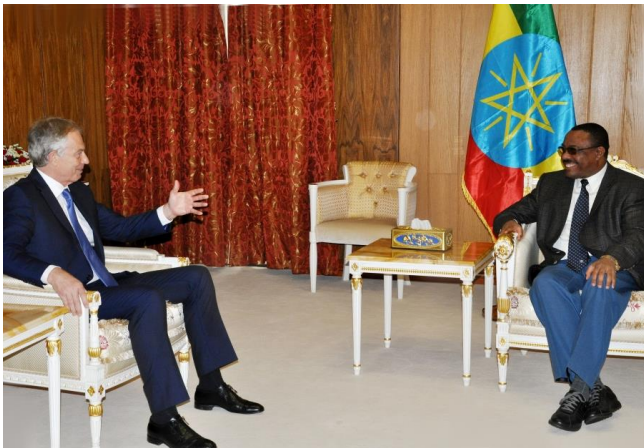
The Trade Envoy also visited Ethiopian Airlines, where he agreed to bring a trade mission of UK aerospace companies to Ethiopia in May, met with the Ministers of Health, Finance and Agriculture, and the Agricultural Transformation Agency and the CEO of Ethiopian Tourism Organisation, to discuss trade and investment opportunities in these sectors.



He also met Dr Arkebe, the Ethiopian Prime Minister's Special Adviser, to discuss UK participation in Ethiopia's ambitious industrialisation programme.

The visit was supported by the UK government's Department for International Trade, Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

### **Tony Blair visits Ethiopia; meets with PM**



"Despite challenges and issues, Ethiopia's economy is still growing strongly, still attracting a lot of foreign investment", former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair said on his recent visit to Ethiopia.

"For those who watched Ethiopia for several decades, it is always important to remember how far Ethiopia has come today from where it was back in the 1980's. I think this is important to recognise," he said.

Noting the importance of supporting this progress, he said his institute will continue to support Ethiopia in delivery of basic services, its industrialisation programme and in other areas.

"The one thing we try to help the government with is to focus on basic issues of delivery; electricity, clean water, and waste management, things that make a difference in those lives" he said.

Encouraging job creation, sustaining proper education and training and industrialisation are the other key areas for support.

Prime Minister Hailemariam briefed Mr Blair on the ongoing economic growth and industrialisation.

"I was struck by the degree to which the Prime Minister is absolutely focused on how he makes improvements in the country that will help the country move to the next level of development."

The Tony Blair Institute for Global Change has been supporting Ethiopia towards realising its goals related to industrialisation since 2014.

## **LOCAL NEWS**

### **Ethiopia commemorates 81<sup>st</sup> Martyrs' Day**

On 19<sup>th</sup> February, Ethiopia commemorated the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Martyrs' Day in Addis Ababa at the Martyrs Monument.



Government officials, representatives of Addis Ababa City Administration, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) and other organizations laid wreathes at the Monument.

In a press conference, President of the Ethiopian Patriots Association (EPA), Lij Daniel Jote Mesfin, urged the current generation to preserve the peace and unity of the country.



Ethiopians commemorate the day every year on 19<sup>th</sup> February, a day on which Ethiopians were massacred by the troops of Fascist Italy following the attempted assassination of Marshal Rodolfo Graziani. Estimates show that as many as 30,000 Ethiopians were killed during the massacre.

### **Ethiopia receives \$375 million from World Bank for Electrification Programme**

The World Bank has approved a \$375 million International Development Association (IDA) credit to support Ethiopia's goal of achieving universal electricity access by 2025.



Ethiopia has the second highest available generation capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa, almost all from renewable energy generation (mostly hydropower), and vast and mainly untapped solar, wind and geothermal energy. Over the past decade, the Government has launched one of the most successful electrification programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa, expanding the grid network coverage to **nearly 60%** of towns and villages.

Despite these major strides in the sector, Ethiopia still has the second largest energy access deficit in Sub-Saharan Africa (after Nigeria), and the third in the world. Household connections have not kept pace with network expansion.

Last November, Ethiopia, with World Bank support, launched its National Electrification Programme (NEP) to shift from infrastructure development to the delivery of reliable and affordable electricity services. The NEP has a sustainable, transparent, and locally grounded electrification roadmap with a customer-centric approach. It has the potential to leverage additional multi-donor financing and involvement in the sector.

The Ethiopia Electrification Programme approved on 1<sup>st</sup> March will directly support the NEP – which requires an estimated investment of \$1.5 billion over the first five years – and provide one million 'last-mile' household connections.

World Bank Country Director for Ethiopia, Carolyn Turk said, *"We hope to [help] facilitate the provision of **electricity services to all Ethiopians by 2025** so that children will be able to study at night, health facilities provide life-saving services and businesses operate optimally."*

Support of the three pillars of the NEP: grid electrification, off-grid services, and sector capacity and institutional reform, a holistic approach, will optimise electrification efforts to maximise the development impact of electricity services, irrespective of where someone happens to live.

*"Whilst financing new connections, the programme will also help Ethiopia strengthen its energy institutions and the overall sector, so that the benefits of expanded electricity services can continue for years to come,"* said Riccardo Puliti, Senior Director for Energy and Extractives at the World Bank.

The Programme aligns with the World Bank Group's twin goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting prosperity, the Country Partnership Framework for Ethiopia, Sustainable Development Goal 7, and the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative.

It will be implemented by the Ministry of Water, Irrigation & Electricity and the Ethiopia Electric Utility. Disbursement of funds is linked to the achievement of tangible and specific results.



## 100MW solar energy farm to be developed

A private investor is to build a new 100MW solar energy farm in Ethiopia, as part of recent government reforms to the energy market that include new public-private partnership provisions and incentives for innovative renewable energy companies.



Located near Metehara, 200km southeast of Addis Ababa, the farm will take 7-8 years to complete.

After selling the power it generates to the government for 20 consecutive years, the investor will hand over the farm to the government.

The Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity (MoWIE) is offering incentives to attract more foreign and local investors into the hydropower, wind and solar energy development sector.

Private sector investors are also participating in the development of geothermal energy. Two agreements were signed recently for the development of geothermal energy at Corbetti and Tulu Moye, each expected to cost \$2 billion. The two plants will produce a combined 1,000MW of power upon completion in eight years' time and will be run by the Ethiopia's first privately-owned utility.

Ethiopia seeks to increase its power generation capacity to 17,000MW by 2020. So far, 4,284MW has been developed and construction of projects that have the capacity to generate 9,000MW are underway in various parts of the country. Others with over 3,000MW capacity are at the preparatory stages.

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

### \$35 million earned from power exports

Over \$35 million was secured from power sales to Djibouti and Sudan in the first half of this Ethiopian fiscal year (2017/18), according to the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity (MoWIE).

In its bid to become a regional powerhouse, Ethiopia also plans to sell electricity to Kenya and Tanzania, while Burundi and Rwanda have also shown interest in importing power.

Ethiopia and Kenya are building a 1,045km power transmission line to link the countries' grids. The 500KV line, runs from Wolayita Sodo in south-central Ethiopia to Suswa in Kenya, and will enable Kenya, who has already agreed to buy 400MW, to import electricity from Ethiopia.

In a recent interview with Bloomberg, Dr Sileshi Bekele, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, said Ethiopia seeks to raise its power generation to 17,000MW by 2020 from the current 4,300MW.

### Ethiopia to export natural gas by 2020

Ethiopia is planning to install a pipeline from the Somali Regional State to Djibouti, to export natural gas by 2020, located in the State in the 1980s.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas has signed an agreement with Chinese mining company Poly GCL for the development of the natural gas. Under the partnership programme, a pipeline from Calub Hilala to Djibouti will be built during the current fiscal year.

The Ministry of Mines said the project aims to generate \$1 billion per year by exporting gas, in addition to meeting domestic demands.

### Africa Business and Investment Forum takes place in Addis Ababa

The U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), hosted Heads of State from five African countries, at the inaugural Africa Business and Investment Forum, held on 30<sup>th</sup> January in Addis Ababa, where leaders called for partnership, not support.

African Heads of State insisted they are interested in working with both public and private enterprises, to attract the international business community.

Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission on Africa, said: "Today's Africa Business and Investment Forum demonstrated a real commitment by our African leaders that they are focussed on paving the way for private investors in the U.S. and the rest of the international community, to invest in Africa."

The event was opened by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, upcoming Chairman of the African Union, who was joined by fellow Heads of State including Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger, Macky Sall of Senegal, Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, and Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique. They discussed diverse areas including Trade and Diversification, Energy, Agribusiness and Health.

President Paul Kagame commended the ECA and its partners for, "This effort to draw business leaders into this conversation about public-private sector investment in Africa. It is long overdue and I trust that it will become a regular event during our Summits."

Speaking at the day-long Forum, PM Hailemariam said Ethiopia's population of 100 million, its young population, and fast industrialisation rate makes it a good destination for investors.



"My government has embarked on the expansion of industrial parks for textiles, agro-processing, leather and pharmaceuticals. These have attracted many investors and we expect more," he said, adding "We are working with our regional partners to enable regional power integration."

Over 150 CEOs and senior executives of key companies, both multi-nationals and SMEs, also participated in the Forum, contributing to the ongoing dialogue around Africa to increase opportunities for business partnerships, secure commitments to, and track the adoption of, business-friendly policies, and showcase countries and policies that are creating an enabling environment for enhanced African regional and global trade and investment.

The Forum was held on the margins of the African Union (AU) Summit.

### **Ethiopian Airlines starts direct service to Europe to facilitate flower export**

On 24<sup>th</sup> January, Ethiopian Airlines launched a direct freight flight from Bahir Dar to Belgium, one of the largest Ethiopian flower importer destinations.



Mr Tewolde Gebremariam, Group CEO of the Airlines said: "Today marks yet another big milestone in the history of Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services, for we start direct freighter services, dedicated to flowers, with the aim of delivering the best flowers to consumers in Europe fresh, timely and direct from the flower farm in Ethiopia."

On the launch day, Tana Flora, Ethio Agri-CEFT and Koga Veg. Agricultural Development plcs exported 45 tons of horticulture produce for the first time to the European market directly from Bahir Dar.

We will launch similar services from other flower-producing regional states such as Hawassa, he said.





**Four companies to commence production at Kombolcha Industrial Park**

Four companies from South Korea, China, Italy and the US have begun installing machinery to commence production at the Kombolcha Industrial Park, located in the Amhara regional state.

The four companies are expected to go operational this Ethiopian fiscal year and will create jobs for around 20,000 people once fully operational.

Costing \$90 million, the Park was inaugurated in July 2017 in the presence Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn.

**...Addis-based diplomats visit Hawassa Industrial Park**

Ambassadors of Sweden and the European Union visited Hawassa Industrial Park, accompanied by the Head of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Addis Ababa and the Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission, hosted by H&M and the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC).

More than 18 foreign companies produce textiles and garments for international brands at the Park, which employs around 14,000 workers, which will rise to 60,000 in future.

Fitsum Arega, of the EIC Commission, gave the delegation a tour of the facilities, the one-stop service and the Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) water treatment plant, which treats and recycles liquid waste from all the industries.



The delegation visited one of the international manufacturing companies, Indochine PLC, and saw H&M’s ongoing work promoting labour rights and working conditions.

The park was inaugurated in June 2017.

## TRAVEL AND TOURISM

### Preservation of Bete Golgotha Mikael Church in Lalibela launched

Ethiopia's Minister for Culture and Tourism, Dr Hirut Woldemariam and U.S. Ambassador Michael Raynor, jointly launched a new project for the preservation of Bete Golgotha Mikael Church in Lalibela, on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.



Ethiopia's Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) and the World Monuments Fund (WMF) signed the commencement for the project in the presence of the Ambassador and the Minister.



The preservation work is funded with a grant from the U.S. Embassy through the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP). The project will invest a total of \$500,000 with an additional \$119,500 dollars in matching funds from the World Monuments Fund.

The project will utilise non-intrusive techniques which were piloted during a previous AFCP project

in 2016 at Lalibela. Local craftsmen will be trained in these techniques so that they can be shared and replicated for future projects.

The project is supported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism; the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage; the US Embassy; the World Monuments Fund; the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church; Lalibella Town Administration; the Amhara Region Bureau of Culture and Tourism and Addis Ababa University.

### Ethiopian Airlines to start Chicago flight



The largest airline in Africa, Ethiopian Airlines (EAL), will commence direct flights from Addis Ababa to Chicago from 2<sup>nd</sup> June, the airline's 4<sup>th</sup> destination in the U.S. and 7<sup>th</sup> in the Americas.

Tewolde Gebremariam, EAL Group CEO said: "Chicago is the third biggest US city and an important global aviation hub. We'll be filling a critical air connectivity vacuum as our flights will be the only direct service between Chicago and Africa.

"The flight will boost growing economic and people-to-people relations between the U.S. and Africa in general, by enabling greater flow of investment, trade and tourism."



The route will be operated with a Boeing 787, one of the most technologically advanced aircraft in the carrier's fleet.

### **...Africa's first A350 flight simulator operator**



Ethiopian Airlines is the first Airbus 350 XWB simulator operator in Africa and among the few in the world.



“The introduction of the A350 XWB Full-Flight Simulator is part of our ‘Vision 2025 strategic roadmap’ to be fully self-sufficient in the provision of pilot training in all the aircraft types we operate. It complements the other full-flight simulators we are already operating.”

The airline has invested over \$125 million in the last 7 years to help bridge the skill gap with well-trained aviation professionals across the continent.

Taking delivery of Africa's first Airbus A350 XWB in 2016, Ethiopian currently operates 7 A350 XWBs with a further 17 on order.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### **Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia praised for promoting tolerance, peace and co-existence**

The Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia won an award for promoting tolerance, peace and co-existence by the United Religious Initiative-Africa during World Interfaith Harmony Week held in Ethiopia, the first time outside the UN Headquarters.

President Mulatu Teshome praised the Council saying “Promotion of peaceful co-existence, human dignity, justice and interfaith harmony can be significantly enhanced by teaching the golden rule which is “treat others as you want to be treated.”

Unity Earth in USA delegate, Yani Maniates and Ben Reisman from Holland both said Ethiopia has strong roots in practicing Christianity and Islam in a peaceful and harmonious way. “Ethiopia is a mother country of interfaith harmony”, Yani commented.

### **Dereje Wordofa appointed Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA**

United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, has appointed Dereje Wordofa of Ethiopia as Deputy Executive Director (Programmes) of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).



Mr Wordofa brings to the position over 28 years of experience in providing strategic leadership, advocacy, programme development and managing operations in complex and challenging environments, largely focused on Africa.

## SPORTS

### Genzebe Dibaba leads Team Ethiopia to World Indoor Championships glory



A 12-member team represented Ethiopia at the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Birmingham from 1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Leading Team Ethiopia was Genzebe Dibaba, who successfully defended her titles in the 1500m and 3000m races. Young and aspiring athletes such as Yomif Kejelcha and Samuel Tefera also took centre stage at the Arena Birmingham.

Ethiopia's medal haul kicked off on the opening night of the Games with the women's 3000m final where Genzebe Dibaba defended her title against 13 other women in a field that included world 5000m champion Hellen Obiri, 2016 world indoor 1500m champion Sifan Hassan and double European indoor champion Laura Muir to name but a few.

Dibaba crossed the finish line in 8:45.05 to win her third successive world indoor 3000m title, with Sifan Hassan taking silver in 8:45.68 and the UK's Laura Muir bronze in 8:45.78.

Speaking after the race, Dibaba said, "I'm very happy to be world indoor champion for the third time. This is a great competition and the race was fantastic. This day is for me and my country...I wasn't good in 2017, but 2018 is my time."

On Day 3 of the Championships, Genzebe Dibaba, in the race for the world indoor 1500m gold medal, finished comfortably in 4:05.27, making her the second woman to complete a world indoor 1500m-3000m double.



This was the fifth individual world indoor title for Dibaba, who won the 1500m in 2012 before a hat-trick of 3000m successes in 2014, 2016 and now 2018. Only four other athletes have achieved that tally: Maria Mutola and Ivan Pedroso (both seven) and Stefka Kostadinova (five).



The UK's Laura Muir finished second in 4:06.23, with Hassan third in 4:07.26.

"I am so happy to be able to do the double," said Dibaba, "Last year I was sick but this time I was ready to run for my country. This is a gold for all the people of Ethiopia too."

The last day of the Championships was for 18-year old Samuel Terefa, who swept past in the home straight to win the men's 1500m finals in 3:58.19 – just 1.21 quicker than Sir Roger Bannister, who sadly passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Sir Roger was the first person to run a mile in under four minutes.



Terefa - at 18 years 134 days - became the youngest man to claim the crown. Fellow-countryman Deresse Mekonnen was 20 years 140 days when he won in Birmingham in 2003.

On the same day, 20 year-old Yomif Kejelcha successfully defended his 3000m title with a powerful display of front running finishing in 8:14.41.

Speaking after the race, Yomif said, "I'm very happy to be the world indoor champion again...I'm very happy for my country and my people. This year, I have been second sometimes but my coach has been working with me to make my race seamless..." "Next year, I want to break the 5000m world record."



18-year-old Selemon Barega, managed to sneak the silver medal, clocking 8:15.59 to Kenya's Bethwell Birgen's 8:15.70.

Team Ethiopia finished second on the medal table, behind the USA, with 4 gold and 1 silver. The United Kingdom finished fourth with 2 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze medals.



Before their departure from the UK, the Embassy hosted the athletes and presented them with gifts in recognition of their achievements at the Championships and for the remarkable role that they play in promoting Ethiopia's image.





Upon arrival in Ethiopia, the team were given a heroes' welcome led by Ethiopian Athletics Federation president, Haile Gebrselassie (centre in blue jacket) and other senior officials.

### **Ethiopia to host 2020 African Nations Championships**



Ethiopia will host the next African Nations Championship (CHAN) tournament in 2020.

Ethiopian Football Federation (EFF) President, Juneidi Basha, and Ethiopia's Sports Minister, received the mantle from President of the Confederation

of African Football (CAF), Ahmad Ahmad.

The Ethiopian government has invested heavily in infrastructure with state of art stadia in major cities, roads systems, hotels and improved security.

Morocco hosted and won the 2018 CHAN tournament beating Nigeria 4-0 and is the first nation to host and win the tournament.

### **FIFA World Cup Trophy in Ethiopia**

The FIFA World Cup Trophy landed in Addis Ababa on 24<sup>th</sup> February amid excitement from football fans. Ethiopia is one of ten African destinations of the 51-country global trophy tour.

The trophy remained in Ethiopia for two days and was available for thousands of football fans to view at the Hilton Addis Ababa. The 2018 FIFA World Cup trophy tour kicked off last September in host

country Russia and will visit more than 50 countries and regions across six continents, travelling 126,000 kilometres in nine months in the lead-up to the football tournament.



Mulatu Teshome (PhD) (right), President of Ethiopia, Sharon Keith (centre), business unit marketing director at Southern & East African Business Unit (SEABU), and Restu Yirdaw (left), Minister of Youth & Sports, at the National Palace for the FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour.

The 2018 FIFA World Cup will be held from 14<sup>th</sup> June in Russia.

### **FIFA officials visit Ethiopia ahead of planned regional office set up**

Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) officials visited Ethiopia seeking buildings to house the FIFA regional office in Addis Ababa. Led by the FIFA Project Coordinator for Africa and the Caribbean Regions Géraldine Heinen, the group was accompanied by Ethiopian Football Federation president, Juneidi Basha.



FIFA officials in Ethiopia

The office will support football development in East Africa with project management, finance and law officers.

FIFA has regional offices in South Africa, West Africa, Central Africa and North Africa.



# ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

## Energy from rubbish to power Addis Ababa



Reppie, a new waste-to-energy plant in Addis Ababa, will transform the city's waste management.

The plant, the first of its kind in Africa, will dispose of three-quarters of the city's rubbish while generating electricity to power a third of the city.

Furthermore:

- 3 million bricks will be made from ash
- 30 million litres of water will be recovered from waste
- 1.2 million tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> will be averted = 900,000 trees per year
- ...hundreds of jobs will be created, for people who depend on scavenging at the landfill

Reppie will serve as a blueprint for several other plants to be built around the continent.

Read more at <http://bbc.in/2ocQGMg>

## Ethiopian Geothermal Is Private Equity's Next \$4-billion Bet

**Bloomberg** U.S. private equity and hedge funds are backing an effort by Ethiopia to turn itself into an exporter of electricity to the region, channeling at least \$4 billion into geothermal projects across the nation.



Seleshi Bekele, the electricity and water minister, is seeking to quadruple Ethiopia's power generation by 2020 and expand power sales abroad that now bring in about \$90 million a year. The government is also seeking to bring power to all households by 2025, up from about 30% currently.

More than 90% of Ethiopia's electricity is from hydro-electric plants, benefiting from powerful rivers such as the Nile. It is now at the beginning of building out other forms of renewable energy, especially geothermal wells that tap the natural heat from underground rock structures in a Rift valley that passes through the nation.

Ethiopia is seeking investors for all the projects and will hold competitive tenders for renewables such as solar this year.

Read more at <https://bloom.bg/2GQ1eI>

## Sylvia Pankhurst: Honorary Ethiopian

BBC  
RADIO



As British women celebrated 100 years since they won the right to vote, we would like to highlight Sylvia Pankhurst's commitment and devotion to the people of Ethiopia in this Radio 4 programme.

Sylvia, one of the foremost Suffragettes and daughter of Emmeline Pankhurst, became deeply involved in the Ethiopian cause following its invasion by Italy in 1935. She would later be recognised as an honorary Ethiopian, and be given a state funeral. She also became an avid writer on Ethiopian culture, culminating in the publishing of her work *Ethiopia, a Cultural History*.



Her granddaughter, Helen Pankhurst, talks to BBC Radio 4 about her Ethiopian legacy.

Listen here <http://bbc.in/2EIKdjb>



## Addis Ababa massacre memorial service – in pictures

**The Guardian**

Ethiopian war veterans attend a memorial service at Holy Trinity Cathedral to commemorate the Addis Ababa massacre, in which up to 30,000 Ethiopians were killed by occupying Italian occupying forces on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1937.



Ethiopian war veterans and priests at the memorial service, at the Kidist Selassie (Holy Trinity) Cathedral, of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo church

More photos at <http://bit.ly/Yekatit12ET>

## The 10 Coolest Cities Around the World to Visit in 2018

**Forbes**

Cities that were recently mere jumping-off points for safaris or beach vacations—or best ignored altogether—are coming into their own, writes Ann Abel.

### Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



“Many travelers fly into Addis Ababa and then head straight out...They’re missing out on all the vibrancy of this stunning African city...it’s a cultural epicenter and gateway to an ancient world... The fascinating Ethnological Museum is one of Africa’s top museums, but the real hidden highlight of Addis is its late-night scene, which is hosted in atmospheric underground jazz clubs...Close an evening with Ethio Jazz and discover a fusion of traditional music, Afro Funk and Jazz.”

Read more at <http://bit.ly/VisitAddis>

## 10 Most Exciting Mountain Climbs in Africa

**africa.com**

Recently, Africa has become an alluring destination to many tourists around the world. If you are looking to explore the continent’s breath-taking views while getting an adrenaline rush, then jump off your seat and get ready to climb Africa’s mountain peaks.

### 5: Simien Mountains

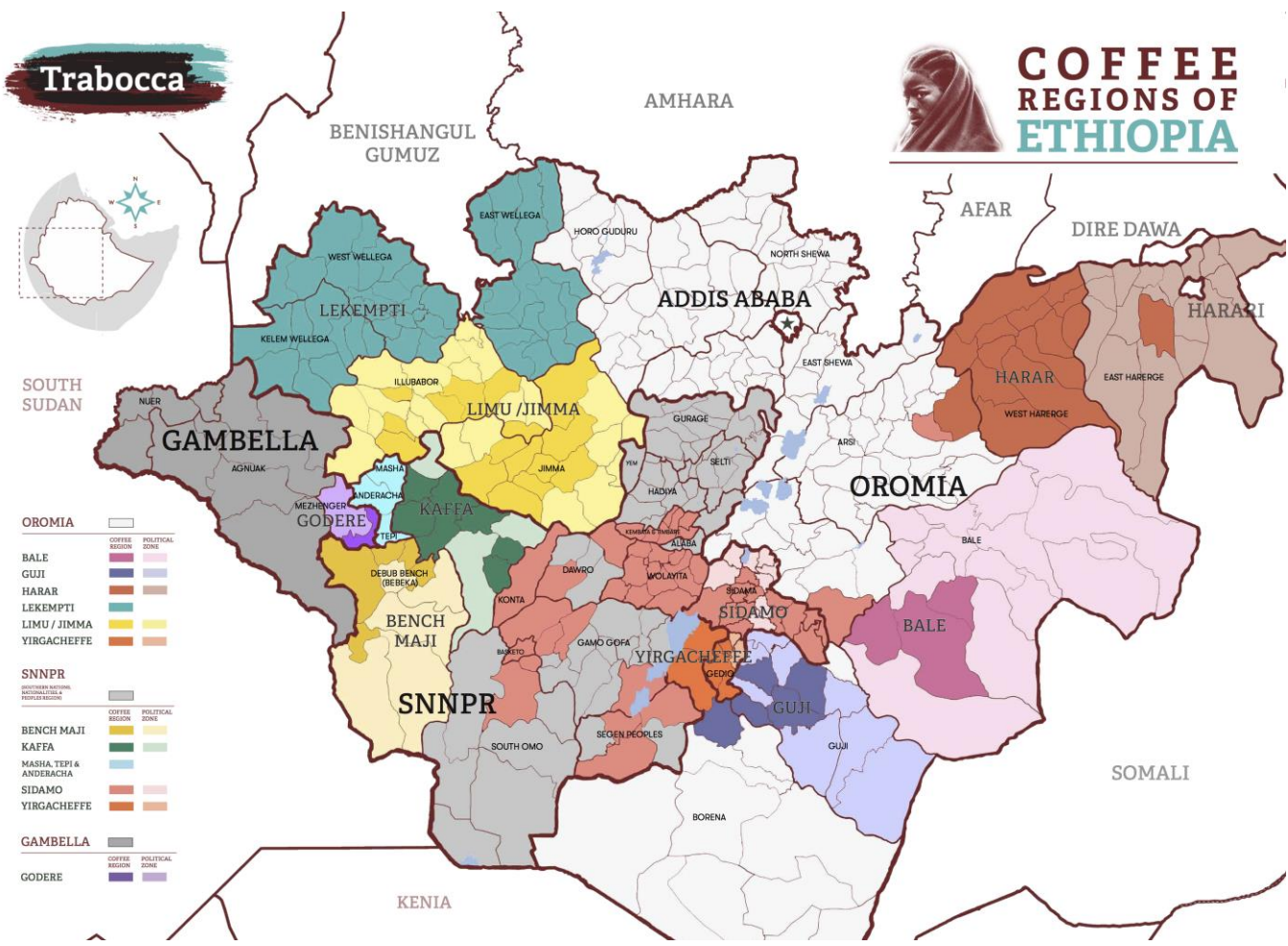


Found in Ethiopia is a view of summits formed from magic lava and designed in a gorgeous layout. The Simien Mountains reach the height of 4,533 meters, and the highest point is Ras Dashen.

One of the greatest aspects of these mountains is that most don’t require previous experience or technical skills for climbing. In fact, you can simply prepare your bag and go. Reaching the top of a mountain gives the climber a chance to see the world with a different eye. Most times, it is even possible to experience all four seasons while climbing. There is sure to be great joy and pleasure while climbing one of these exciting mountains, so let’s stop waiting and start exploring!

Read more at <http://bit.ly/VisitET5>





### The Coffee Regions of Ethiopia in New Map from Trabocca

Home to wild arabica’s natural habitat and containing nearly all the world’s genetic diversity in coffee, Ethiopia’s complex history of coffee cultivation and processing has historically defied politically defined borders.

Amsterdam-based green coffee importer Trabocca, has created a new Ethiopian regional coffee map to help roasters better understand where exactly their coffee is coming from.

The map currently displays the states of Oromia, SNNPR and Gambella, which comprise much of the country’s land and where practically all Ethiopian cherries are harvested. Within those states, Trabocca overlays the specific coffee regions with politically defined zones.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/ETCoffee>

### In Ethiopia, there's a remarkably elaborate ceremony that shows how coffee turns into a drink from a fruit – here's what it's like to participate

**INSIDER** Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee and we take our coffee seriously! From bean to brew, you can expect the traditional coffee ceremony to last around one and a half hours.

First, coffee cherries are picked and peeled to expose the raw coffee bean. The host then roasts the beans and soaks each guest in the aroma created by the coffee's smoke.

Next, the roasted beans are ground into a fine powder. Once ground, the coffee is then poured into a boiling pot (Jebena).

Serving the coffee is an art that involves an masterful pour and plenty of sugar.



Coffee is sometimes served with the herb rue

Guests usually enjoy three cups of coffee in one ceremony - Arbol, the first cup, is the strongest. The second cup is Tona, which is prepared with the same reused coffee grains, and the third, Bereka, is known as the "one for the road."

Read more at <http://bit.ly/BunaET>

### **Injera: the bike wheel-sized base of Ethiopian cuisine**

**The Guardian** Foodie scenesters are descending on long-serving Ethiopian restaurants in search of this spongy flatbread topped with mountains of dried meat and veg, writes Morwenna Ferrier.



Injera is the latest world dish to fall foul of the hip young things. It is a sort of spongy flatbread made from teff flour, which has lots going for it...It is effectively sourdough, and gluten free, appealing to the coeliac and the Goop-y alike. It is also delicious!

Read more at <http://bit.ly/ETFood>

### **Hands-on eats: A deep dive into enjoying Ethiopian food like a pro**



**The Washington Post** Ethiopia has one of the world's most singular cuisines, one influenced by foreign ingredients but still wholly its own. It's a fiery fare that doesn't require utensils and places great importance on bread at the table.

An Ethiopian meal is a feast for the hands, a tactile experience in which a diner tears off a piece of injera flatbread and uses it to scoop up the stews and salads that cover a communal platter. The bread, in short, doubles as a utensil...Good injera should be thin, tangy and have a lot of "eyes" - those tiny craters you find in the flatbread.

Despite Ethiopia's affection for raw meat, the country has, by necessity, a deep respect for vegetarian and vegan fare. More than 40 percent of the country's 106 million residents consider themselves Ethiopian Orthodox, a Christian church that observes as many as 250 "fasting" days. During fasting periods, the observant will typically eat only once a day, usually around midday or evening, and the meal will not include meat, fats, eggs or dairy.

Ethiopian cooks have therefore become experts at developing veg dishes with lots of flavour, such as *misir wat* (in which red lentils are goosed with berbere) and *tikel gomen* (a dish in which cabbage, carrots and potatoes are elevated with turmeric, ginger and cumin).

So when your vegetarian friends tire of salads cobbled together from an indifferent kitchen at the latest flavor-of-the-month restaurant, take them to a place that knows how to cater to both meatheads and vegheads: an Ethiopian spot.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/ETFood1>



## EVENTS

### V&A to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the events at Maqdala with display of important Ethiopian objects

**V&A** The Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) has announced the launch of *Maqdala 1868*, a free display of around twenty stunning Ethiopian objects, which will open on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The display, organised in consultation with the Ethiopian Embassy in London and an advisory group from the Ethiopian community and historians, members of the Orthodox Tewahedo Church and others, commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the siege and battle at Maqdala, the culmination of the British Expedition to Abyssinia. Spanning several V&A collections including metalwork, photography and textiles, the display will showcase outstanding examples of Ethiopian metalwork and craftsmanship within the context of the collection's complex history.



Crown, gold and gilded copper with glass beads, pigment and fabric, made in Ethiopia, 1600-1850 (c) Victoria and Albert Museum

Maqdala 1868 will focus on the run-up to the battle and its aftermath, including some of the earliest examples of military photography in Britain, the precursor to modern photojournalism. Also on display will be a portrait of Emperor Tewodros II's son Prince Alemayehu, by Julia Margaret Cameron soon after he was brought to England by the British military. Examples of intricate and skilled Ethiopian metalwork and textiles will also be shown.

Highlights include a gold crown, admired for its filigree designs and embossed images of the Evangelists and Apostles, a solid gold chalice, a selection of jewellery and a wedding dress thought to have belonged to the Emperor's wife, Queen Terunesh.



Prince Alámayou, photograph, taken on the Isle of Wight, by Julia Margaret Cameron, July 1868. (c) Victoria and Albert Museum, with thanks to Mrs Ida Perrin, 1939

The objects in this collection were taken during a British military expedition, led by Sir Robert Napier from 1867-8 to secure the release of British hostages imprisoned by Ethiopian Emperor Tewodros II. On 13<sup>th</sup> April 1868 the campaign culminated in the death by suicide of the emperor and the destruction of his fortress. Four years later, in 1872, Her Majesty's Treasury deposited a gold crown and chalice at the V&A. The rest of the V&A's collection relating to Maqdala came to the V&A at a later date via private donations, bequests and purchases.

Quotes from key contemporary Ethiopian and British sources will form an important part of the interpretation of the display, including excerpts from former Prime Minister William Gladstone's speech to the House of Commons in 1872 on the question of ownership.

Tristram Hunt Director of the V&A, said: "As custodians of a number of important Ethiopian objects taken from Maqdala by the British military 150 years ago, we have a responsibility to celebrate the beauty of their craftsmanship, reflect on their modern meaning, and shine a light on this collection's controversial history. By working closely with Ethiopian communities in London and the Ethiopian Embassy we are able to present this display with a new understanding of the collection's significance and share these objects with a new audience."

It is to be noted that 2018 also marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Emperor Tewodros.

H.E. Dr Hirut Woldemariam, Ethiopia's Minister of Culture and Tourism and H.E. Dr Hailemichael Aberra Afework, Ethiopian Ambassador to the United Kingdom will attend the opening reception at the V&A on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

***Magdala 1868 will run from 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – July 2019, in the Silver Galleries, Room 66. Admission is free.***

## DIASPORA CORNER

### Ethiopians raise 800 million Birr for GERD

In the first half of this Ethiopian fiscal year, Ethiopians at home and abroad have raised nearly 800 million Birr for the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which has become a symbol of national consensus, more than half from bond sales and other means of fundraising.

The National Council for the Coordination of Public Participation in the Construction of GERD, said the aim for this fiscal year is to raise 1.4 billion Birr.

In April, public events will be held to commemorate the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inauguration of the dam. News of events in London will be posted on the Embassy website and social media channels.

### New BBC Radio Services and English Language Learning for Ethiopia

The BBC has launched new daily radio services to be aired Monday-Friday in Amharic, Afaan Oromo and Tigrinya. The new language services have been available online since September 2017 - when they launched websites and Facebook pages in all three languages.



The new services will provide impartial news, current affairs, features and analysis for Ethiopia, as well as regional and international news with a strong focus on culture, health and original journalism from the region.

The programme will be broadcast on shortwave, satellite - and streamed directly onto each service's Facebook page.

In addition, English Language Teaching (ELT) will feature prominently across the schedules for all three languages, with daily content.

## CONNECT WITH US



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