



Positive Global Campaign for Ethiopia by All Ethiopians
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ECONOMIC



DIGEST



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ECONOMIC DIGEST

is a monthly newsletter prepared by the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Kingdom. The newsletter aims to inform the UK public about the Economic situation of Ethiopia .

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The embassy wishes you a happy new year 2021 full of joy, health, and love.

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Ethiopia's cabinet endorses establishment of a stock market - PM Abiy

Ethiopia's cabinet on Tuesday endorsed the establishment of a stock market, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed tweeted.



The finance ministry said in June it had drafted a bill to create a stock market authority. It was not immediately clear if this was the bill passed on Tuesday. Abiy's office tweeted a statement saying that a capital market would ease Ethiopia's dependency on foreign finance. Since Abiy took office in 2018, the government has slowly begun introducing economic reforms, including preparing to open state-controlled sectors such as telecommunications to foreign investors.

Ethiopia is Africa's second-most populous nation, and its economy has in the past decade been one of the world's fastest-growing, due mainly to heavy state spending on infrastructure. Dec 22 (Reuters)

The ten year development plan breakdown



The recently endorsed ten year development plan has placed the manufacturing industry to take the lion share in terms of hard currency earnings in the coming period; while per capital income will be more

than double by 2030. The development plan that is expected to achieve real structural transformation by including different reforms in the macroeconomic policy and approach of development shows that the industry sector in general will be a major pillar to attain the demanded development in the coming decade. The plan that was approved by the Council of Ministers a week ago and sent to Parliament for ratification to be applicable as of this budget year has projected the manufacturing sub-sector of the industry sector will be the major source of foreign currency.

Nemera Gebeyhu, Deputy Commissioner of Planning Development Commission (PDC), said that the manufacturing sector will contribute 48.4 percent in the coming ten years from export earnings from the current 13.3 percent, while agriculture will be reduced to 36.4 percent from the current 77 percent.

The mining export earnings share is also expected to grow to 11.3 percent from 6.9 percent. At the end of the planned year, the poverty line will drop to seven percent from the current 20 percent of the total population. (Capital Ethiopia 21 Dec, 2020)

Ethiopia's Ten-Year Plan to Industrialize

With support of the Mastercard Foundation's Young Africa Works program, the creation of a digital industrial park labour database in Ethiopia will unlock the potential for job creation within Ethiopia's industrial parks, as well as their surrounding ecosystem.

Ministry of Trade and Industry recently announced that it is planning to enable the country to earn as much as nine billion USD in the coming ten years from the export of manufacturing products. One of the strategies in this regard is to attract Foreign Direct Investment.

Besides, it is also working to make the country among the top 50 countries in the world in terms of the ease-of-doing business to boost its quest for industrialization. Approached by The Ethiopian Herald,

Shimelis Arega, Senior Communication Expert at the Ministry of Trade and Industry said the ministry is striving to improve the country's ease-of-doing business by increasing its score from 48 to 80 percent. In addition, it has also given due emphasis to modernizing the manufacturing industry.



He further stated that increasing quality inspection of export and import products from the current 650,000 Metric Ton (MT) to 1,058,781 MT and 1,950,000 MT to 3,485,630 MT respectively by 2022 is also part of the ten-year strategic plan of the ministry to achieve its desired goal in the sector. Five million new job opportunities will also be created in the sector," he added. Ethiopian Herald.

Investment Commission Forms Unit to Resolve Dispute

The Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) has launched a new complaint system that will be handling grievances from investors in a standardised manner.



The grievance management procedure aims at ensuring the timely resolution of investment grievances that occur in the post-implementation phases. Dubbed the Investment Grievance Management Procedure (IGMP), the programme was carried out with technical support from the International Finance

Corporation (IFC) and the financial support of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Reporting directly to the commissioner, the unit has an early warning and tracking mechanism to identify problems that arise around investments.

Two-thirds of investors consider withdrawing or cancelling their investment in the face of political risk or exposure, according to a study presented by the Commission during IGMP's virtual launch. The same research showed that 42pc of investors consider the legal environment a critically important factor and the lack of a standard grievance management procedure may push investors to consider the withdrawal or cancellation of investments and expansion plans.

The systematic grievance management procedure has been set up to address these challenges early on, according to a statement from the Commission.

The unit has been informally operational since early 2019. Still, it gained its legal mandate following the legislation of the issuing of the investment proclamation in January 2020, according to Lilanie Gudeta, team leader of the Unit. Since early 2019, although operating informally, the IGMP has managed 12 grievances, five of which have been successfully settled. It also has managed to save around 239 million Br in investments and around 590 jobs.

"The main goal of the system is to retain investment," said Lilanie.

(Fortune December 19, 2020)

Ethiopia's Mines and Petroleum Ministry opens 30 potential areas for investment



Ministry of Mines and Petroleum revealed today that it has opened 22 mining and 5 petroleum sites as well as 3 service areas for investors.

Briefing journalists, Mines and Petroleum Minister Takele Umma said the potential areas for mining and petroleum have passed exploration stage.

Laboratories, drilling and refinery services are the other potential investment areas currently opened to market, he added.

The potential areas in mining sector include deposits of iron ore, gold, phosphate, potash, marble, coal, gemstone, limestone, chlorine, sodium chloride, among others.

Identified petroleum potentials in Ogaden, Gambella, South Omo and Rift Valley are under concession, negotiation and open for oil and gas exploration, it was learned.

The minister called on businesspersons to invest in the mining and petroleum extraction potential areas and services.

According to Takele, the ministry has been working in collaboration with the relevant ministries to create conducive environment for investors by amending policies and laws that hinder the development of the sector. (ENA)

Ethiopia Signs Agreement With GIZ, UNIDO To Back Textile Industry

Ministry of Trade and Industry of Ethiopia has



signed a trilateral agreement aims to transform the textile industry sector with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and German Development Cooperation (GIZ) today.

Agro Industry Processing Division State Minister at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Teka Gebreyesus and UNIDO regional Director and representative to Ethiopia Aurelia Patrizia have signed the agreement representing their respective organizations.

The Agreement is aimed to building capacity of Chinese textile factories in Ethiopia bring sustainable industries that will effectively discharge their social responsibilities, according to Trade and Industry Ministry.

The agreement is said to be implemented with financial support from government of China under coordination of UNIDO, regional director Aurelia Patrizia said.

State Minister Teka Gebreyesus, to his part, expressed gratitude to government of China and UNIDO for their support to the industrial development endeavours of Ethiopia pledging commitment to continue working with such international partners for better productivity.

December 10, 2020 (FBC) –

Banks Start Issuing International Debit Cards to Travelers



All of the commercial banks can now issue foreign currency debit cards to travellers, according to a new circular issued by the National Bank of Ethiopia

(NBE). For the past two years, the state giant Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) has been piloting the project by issuing the international prepaid cards only to traveling high-level government officials.

Signed by Yinager Dessie (PhD), governor of the central bank, the circular stated that the pilot period has come to an end and all banks can begin the service as of the end of last month. The circular fully activated the directive that was approved in August 2018, allowing banks to issue foreign currency cards to travellers, who had been taking the foreign currency in cash. While enacted, the two-year-old directive did not have a clear timeline as to when the piloting would end and when the full service would begin.

To issue the cards, the banks should have an agreement with seven international card payment networks including American Express, Visa Card, Master Card, Diners Club, JCB, Union Pay and Discover. The banks should also install a card personalisation machine or outsource the project, establish a central clearing system, and put in place secure telecommunications infrastructure services. The banks can issue cards, which will be valid for two years, in currencies of the destination country or in dollars, euros and pounds

Before acquiring the prepaid international cards, travellers should secure an international debit card license from banks, and the license will be subject to a yearly base renewal. While crediting the foreign currency to the international cards, the banks are allowed to charge travellers only 1.5pc of the value as a service fee. (ENA)

AfCFTA to increase Ethiopia's export to Africa: ECA Executive Secretary

-Boost Africa's GDP by 28 to 44 billion USD

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is expected to increase Ethiopia's export to Africa while boosting its GDP in the short term, the government's revenue is expected to fall slightly, according to Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) forecast.

In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald in relation to the launching of AfCFTA ECA Executive Secretary Vera Songwe said the benefits concentrated in textiles, processed foods and light manufacturing.

"We forecast a 23-26 percent increase in exports to Africa from Ethiopia accompanying a GDP boost of 0.07 percent and estimated fall in total government revenue of 0.7 percent in the short term, but with benefits concentrated in textiles, processed foods and light manufacturing," she said. (ENA)

Committee Arises to Assess Damaged Investments

The Office of the Prime Minister has formed a high-

level committee that will assess the damage country. With four institutions as members, the committee has started its operations by requesting that banks and insurance companies submit data about clients whose businesses were affected by a spate of violence.



The Ethiopian Investment Commission, the Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE), the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) and the Ethiopian Insurance Corporation are the members of the committee. The Commission sent letters to the Ethiopian Bankers Association and the Association of Ethiopian Insurers two weeks ago, inquiring

about companies and investments affected.

The committee was formed as part of the government's latest efforts in helping investments recover quickly from vandalism sustained due to the recurrent violence that has engulfed the country, according to a letter sent by the Commission. A few weeks ago, the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) started drafting a directive to set up loan schemes geared toward redressing damaged investments. The directive is expected to specify the interest rate and preconditions for the loans. After receiving the Commission's letter, the Bankers Association dispatched a request to banks requiring the submission of information about damaged companies, including the companies' total capital and outstanding loans. The Association also attached a form that the member banks are to fill out and send back to the Association within a week. The banks have been required to provide details about the 419 companies listed by the Commission.

The companies are engaged in the service, agriculture and manufacturing sectors across four regional states and one city administration. About 326 of them are from Oromia Regional State, with the majority located in Ziway town. The second and third highest numbers are registered in Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz regional states, totaling 58 and 31, respectively. A single company from Dire Dawa is also on the list.

Sher Ethiopia, B.G.I. Ethiopia, Castel Winery, the National Mining Corporation's Daleti Quarry Site, ELFORA Agro-Industry's Melgie Wendo Food Processing Factory, Tana Beles Sugar Development Project, Haile Hotels & Resorts, and Horizon Plantations' Limu Coffee Farm are among the companies included on the list.

(Fortune 26 Dec 2020)

Board Adds Dukem Depot to PPP Projects

The board of the Public-Private Partnership, which is chaired by Minister of Finance Ahmed Shide, approved the construction of the country's largest depot through the joint investment of the government and the private sector. Planned a few years ago, financial constraints have so far delayed the project.



Approved three weeks ago, the project was tabled to the board after the Ministry of Finance reviewed the proposal and endorsed it for a final blessing from the board. An Australian consultancy firm that was hired to conduct a feasibility assessment has estimated the cost of Dukem Depot to be 145 million

dollars. The construction of the Depot is expected to take three years.

Proposed to be built in Dukem town, Oromia Regional State, the Depot will rest on 10ha of land. It will have a capacity of storing 300 million litres of jet fuel, benzene and diesel fuel. Upon completion, the terminal is expected to boost the nation's emergency reserves from 36 days of supply to 65.

The Depot, which will be the first in the country that stores jet fuel, will have 12 tanks that each have a storage capacity of 25 million litres. Two-thirds of the tanks will reserve diesel fuel, while the remaining will contain jet fuel and benzene. Each tank is five times larger than the nation's current largest depot, which stores five million litres. (Fortune 26 Dec 2020)

EIC briefs America, Asia, Africa, Australia investors on the investment law reform

Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) held discussions with investors from America, Asia, Australia, Africa, and other countries on the newly amended investment legislation at Hyatt Regency Hotel at Addis Ababa.

The discussion platform is co-organized by Ethiopian Investment Commission with a view to enhancing to attract and retain foreign direct investment (FDI) and multifaceted developments in the investment sector.

During the meetings, the investors shared their concern and challenges which is important inputs for further development. Aftercare strategic action also introduced during the sessions.



The Commission also held similar discussions with the Middle East and Asia, Turkey, Israel as well as industrial park investors aimed to update on the amended investment law and initiate good communications for better aftercare services. Officials from IPDC also joined the seminar while industrial park investors and IP developers received a briefing on the investment law reform.

The future is Horticulture and Horti-business!

Ministry of Agriculture higher management together with other key stakeholders had a discussion on the options of horticulture investment and national project of Avocado production.

Our country Ethiopia has a great opportunity for horticulture development due to having suitable climate, fertile soil, and huge irrigation potential and affordable human power. The sector has attracted a huge investment flow and has been steadily penetrating international markets over the last two decades.



During the discussion, higher management and stakeholders raised up, the country has a huge potential for the production and export of horticulture farming that can be competitive in the global market with additional proximity of its geography which is located in the gateway of Africa, Middle East, and Europe.

The sector is one of the five largest contributors of export income for the country in US\$ 315.14 million in the year 2018/19. Floriculture contributes much of the share in around 79% while the expanding vegetable, fruits, and herbs have 21% share of the revenue. Horticulture export created employment opportunity for over 200,000 Ethiopians.

The other opportunities for investors are that Ethiopia has a well-known cargo in Africa and in all over the world that has over 57 cargo and over 101 passenger destination countries. There are also different incentives for investors in the horticulture sector that is done by the government like, Zero tax on export, Exempted from duties and other taxes on imports of machinery, construction materials, spare parts, raw materials and vehicles, Loan facilities (70%) from Development Bank of Ethiopia and 30 years of zero charge land lease depending on investment location are the major incentives that are created by the government for investors. The Ministry of Agriculture State Minister of Horticulture Development Sector Mr. Wondale Habtamu said, The sector majorly focused on introducing end to end interventions across the horticulture value chain to address the critical bottlenecks and promote the use of improved technologies to enhance quality of products, increase food security, increase income of smallholders, and contribute to the national agriculture commodities export, improves nutritional status of households and creates job opportunity at different levels. EPA)

Africa needs to duplicate Ethiopia's carbon neutral industrialization:- Arkebe



Africa must be committed to replicating Ethiopia's green economic success in bid to ensuring sustainable development through carbon neutral industrialization, said Arkebe Oqubay (Ph.D) who is Special Adviser to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D). He recently tweeted that Ethiopia's Addis Ababa electric-powered light rail system is one of the first

in Africa. It demonstrates Ethiopia's Green Economy Strategy. Africa must commit to green growth.

According to him, Ethiopia demonstrated high assurance in building carbon free economy as it is a key to respond to climate change and achieve Sustainable Development.

There are enormous untapped opportunities for action on climate change in Ethiopia and, for that matter, Africa as a whole. Ethiopia is well positioned and moving fast to contribute to developing a green global economy, the environmental legacy and commercial benefits of which will endure long in the future. (EPA)

Huawei eyes Ethiopia growth as Telecoms Industry opens up

Huawei Technologies Corp. is positioning itself to get more business in Ethiopia, as the East African economy opens up its telecommunications sector.



"Ethiopia is rising and becoming much more important for the future," Loise Tamalgo, Huawei's head of public relations for 22 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, said in an interview in Ivory Coast's commercial capital, Abidjan. The company is likely to move a regional office covering about five nations from the

Democratic Republic Congo to Ethiopia, where it currently only has a country office, he said.

Liberalization of the telecom industry is at the forefront of what Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said in 2018 would be a wide-ranging privatization program. The plan was intended to bring in much needed foreign exchange and boost the economy while improving connectivity across the Horn of Africa nation.

The country is seeking to double its mobile towers to about 14,000, which would require an investment of up to \$1.1 billion, and build out its fiber-optic network from less than 30,000 kilometers (18,600 miles) currently, according to the Ethiopian Communications Authority. It also plans to sell a 40% stake in Ethio Telecom and issue two new telecom licenses next year. (25 December 2020)

Beekeeping sector to create ample jobs

Producing 25 per cent of all African honey and one of the largest worldwide, the Ethiopian beekeeping industry could create numerous job opportunities for youths, a non-government organization that works in the agriculture sector announced. International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) More Young Entrepreneurs in Silk and Honey

(MOYESH) Programme in Ethiopia Coordinator Workneh Ayalew (Ph.D)



told The Ethiopian Herald that utilizing the latest technologies in the beekeeping industry enables creating numerous job opportunities in Ethiopia.

Tending its untapped potential the sector is a blossoming business in the country that enables youths to promote their entrepreneurship capital,

he added. "icipe is working in partnership with job creation commission and MasterCard foundation through providing the latest technologies, entrepreneurship training, and market linkage to the youths countrywide. The Young Entrepreneurs in Silk and Honey (YESH) project targets to create up to 100,000 jobs in the sector," he said. Nations Nationalities and people's regional states, he said. The beekeepers also witness the sector's profitability and potential in the country. Accordingly, the YESH project is financed by the MasterCard foundation that works to create conducive job opportunities for African youths.

Currently, Ethiopia harvests below 10,000 tons of honey despite the potential to harvest 100,000 tons of honey annually. Wide honey potential, diversified

agro-climatic zones and vegetation promote engaging in the beekeeping sector, according to him. Currently, icipe creates more than 10,000 jobs for the youth through its YESH project in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, and Southern Nations Nationalities and people's regional states, he said. The beekeepers also witness the sector's profitability and potential in the country. Accordingly, the YESH project is financed by the MasterCard foundation that works to create conducive job opportunities for African youths.

The Ethiopian Herald December 30 /2020

Ethiopia is the leading country in livestock population

Ethiopia is the leading country in Africa in terms of livestock population with more than 60 million cattle, 30 million sheep, 30 million goats and over 1.5 million camels.



Livestock contributes over 15Pct of Ethiopia's GDP and 45Pct of the agricultural GDP. In Ethiopia, livestock is a tractor for crop farming, source of cash income for millions, insurance for uncertainties, fertilizer for crops, expression of status for families, store of asset, and source of foreign currency for the country.

(Ethiopian Business review)

Ethiopia per capita milk consumption is 20 liters, 180 liters lower than the recommended

According to the UK-based academic research journal the Conversation on 2020, Ethiopia produces about 4 billion liters of milk per year. But with low per capita consumption, estimated at just only 20 liters.

The FAO recommends that the per capita consumption of milk for any healthy society should be about 200 liters, meaning 22 billion liters of milk is required. (Ethiopian Business review)

ATA TEAMS UP WITH PARTNERS TO DELIVER LIVESTOCK, COVID-19 INFORMATION TO FARMERS

The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ethio Telecom and Ethiopian Public Health Institute, has incorporated and deployed livestock advisory and COVID 19 health advisory contents on its 8028 Farmers Hotline. The new contents are currently available in five local languages (Amharic, Afaan Oromo, Tigrigna, Wolaytigna and Sidamu Afoo).

According to United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO, 2018),



the livestock sector where about 1.3 billion people are dependent on for their livelihood contributes to 40 percent of Global agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Ethiopia's livestock is one of the largest in Africa, contributing nearly 20 percent of the country's GDP, and 15 percent of export earnings (FAO, 2019).

The livestock sub-sector supports the livelihoods of about 80 percent of rural people in Ethiopia.

"Farmers across Ethiopia should have easy access to crucial and relevant information for them to make informed decisions regardless of their locations. Moreover, they should also have updates regarding the current pandemic that is challenging the world so that they can protect themselves, their families as well as their community. Hence, we have decided to team up with our partners to ensure delivery of important and up-to-date livestock and COVID-19 information to our smallholder farmers using 8028 farmers toll-free hotline services in a way they can easily access it." ATA CEO Khalid Bomba said.

Ethiopia introduces zero profit tax incentive to boost tourism ..

With the aim of encouraging new private investments in tourist attraction sites, the Government of Ethiopia has introduced a zero profit tax for new investments in hospitality sector near seven tourist attraction sites of the country. Initiated by Tourism Ethiopia, the private public partnership that has been promoting tourism industry of the country, said it has selected seven potential tourist attraction sites for investors, who can enjoy zero profit tax for five years. The seven destinations in Ethiopia which will benefit from the special investment incentives are located in Oromia, Tigray, Amhara, Afar, and South Region of Ethiopia, according to Sileshi Girma, Tourism Ethiopia Director General, who spoke to the state newswire,



Ethiopian News Agency.

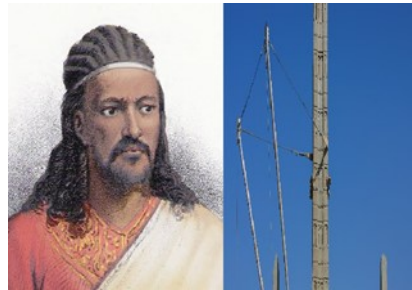
He noted that the purpose the special investment incentives in the selected areas is to encourage investors invest and take part in the development of the tourism sector of the country, which is currently under-developed. Gerdama Mountains in Tigray region, Simen Mountains National Park, in Amhara region, Nech Sar National Park, in Southern part, and Abiyata Shalla National Park, are among the selected areas for special investment incentives package.

"In addition to the usual tax exempted import of construction inputs, capital goods, importing duty-free vehicles, anyone who is interested to invest in these selected areas will not pay profit tax for five years," he said, indicating that Ethiopia has cultural, natural and anthropological tourist attractions that can create millions of jobs and huge revenue for the country. Developing the tourist attractions with world class facilities will enable the county to attract more tourists, according to Mr. Sileshi. ([newbusinessethiopianews](#) Dec 30, 2020)

Ministry to bring back hundred stolen heritages home

Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced that it has planned to return around hundred stolen heritages within 10 years interval having established a new National Heritage Returns Committee- that works on repatriation of looted heritages.

Ministry's Communication Director, Endegena Desalegn told to The Ethiopian Herald that the national committee will permanently work on repatriating heritages that were stolen for various reasons and kept in different countries.



The committee is expected to open its own office, organize a sub-committee that is drawn from various sectors such as culture, law and diplomacy, among others. Mentioning the country has received different looted heritages from different countries including the first piece of the granite obelisk looted by the troops of the fascist Italian, strands of Emperor Tewodros II's hair, crowns of earlier kings, he said, however there are also numbers of unreturned treasures.

"As we know, we have many stolen heritages especially books that depict the ancient civilization and development of the country, wisdom, artifacts made of silver and gold, covenant, including the bones of Prince Alemayehu and sacred church chattels. So, this committee is formed to return those treasures. Returning the heritages by itself is not enough, equally, it is important to preserve and protect the existed possessions and heritages. To this end, everyone should understand the value of the heritages and play role in preserving them to transfer them to the next generation, he underscored. Besides, every concerned bodies working in research and conservation of cultural heritages should also play a vital role in keeping and following up heritages, he remarked. (The Ethiopian Herald December 29/2020)

Policy reforms transforming political, economic undertakings: PM Senior Advisor



Numerous policies and legislation have been revised and enacted in the past reform period in a bid to accelerate the country's inclusive growth as well as transform the Horn of African region, said Mamo Mihretu Senior Policy Advisor and Chief Trade Negotiator at Office of the Prime Minister. Speaking on the 'Policy Matters' Part 4 series inter-

view that was aired on the PM office Facebook page Mamo added that creating independent democratic institution has been the main focus area of the reform.

The government has introduced number of new legislations that widen political and media landscapes. Among the revised laws include civil society law. Repressive laws including the anti-terrorism law have been replaced with new ones. The main aims of the policy reforms are addressing poverty, other existing problems and achieving shared prosperity. In fact, the previous public resentment and cycles of protest had to do with policy failures and deficiency in democracy. In relations to economic reform, the Senior Advisor said that the government has introduced macro sector structural reforms and revised investment law to conducive and competitive conditions for investment. "For the first and after 60 years, the government has revised and enacted a new modern commercial code. This is imperative to open new investment areas for both domestic and foreign investors."

The incumbent is working in a special legislation and ratified the so-called new work convention on recognition in enforcement of foreign arbitrary award. This is an important legislation for the investment community in making Ethiopian market quite attractive for investment, according to Mamo. "We are pushing ahead in terms of expanding participation in bilateral, regional and multilateral trades including pursuing and advancing WTO accession. Hence, when everything is said and done, not only do we make Ethiopian climate investment competitive, but we will stimulate the activities that would create jobs to the youths." The future of the horn of Africa is quite bright. The most defining challenge in the horn of Africa had been the strained relation between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Mamo added. This was not just an issue between Ethiopia and Eritrea but it was an existential issue for the wider Horn Africa. The tense relation had spillover effect and was vulnerable for proxy wars. And, the rapprochement has been a game changer to the region. "I believe the future of the horn of Africa is fundamentally bright in this regard." (The Ethiopian herald January 3/2021)

Ethiopia To Cut Wheat Import By More Than Half

– The Ministry of Agriculture announced that the wheat, which is being cultivated through irrigation this Ethiopian year, will reduce the import of wheat by more than half.

This was disclosed by Agriculture Minister Umer Hussen during a discussion with members of House of People's Representatives. Ethiopia has been importing 17 million quintals of wheat in a year. According to the minister, the harvest expected from 300,000 hectares of land this year would help produce 10 million quintals .Even if it was possible to get more produce this harvest season, the flooding in Afar Region obstructed the effort to meet the target, he added. Some 90,000 hectares of irrigated land has been covered with wheat, the minister said, adding that best seed, chemical, fertilizer supplies have been properly provided.

Currently, efforts are also being exerted to fully stop wheat importation within three to five years, Umer revealed. He stated that substituting imported wheat through promoting irrigation saves foreign currency, and has created high motivation among farmers and pastoralists.

In related news, locust prevention activities are being carried out in 18 zones of Somali, SNNPR and Oromia regional states, the minister said. Some 13 airplanes are monitoring the locust and spraying chemicals, Umer said, adding that vehicle and labor force have also been used. Currently, the dessert locust is spreading in Kenya, Somalia and Southern parts of Ethiopia, according to ENA. Addis Ababa, December 30, 2020 (FBC)



Ethiopia home grown economic reform program

According to Dr. Yinager Dessie (Governor of National Bank of Ethiopia), Ethiopia home grown economic reform program includes sectoral, monetary, and fiscal reforms.

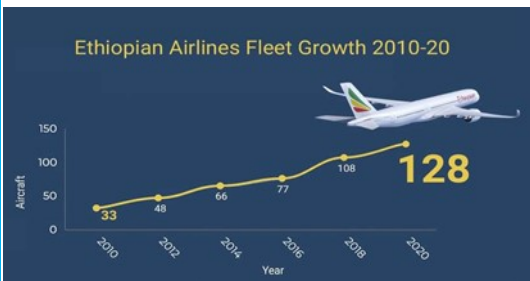
Further, the governor elaborate on the following points. The two main objectives of the program are

- * To correct the macroeconomic imbalances and ensuring economic growth.
- * To achieve this the program developed several initiatives. Some of these initiatives are in implementation stage and some are in preparation stage.
 - ◆ A Ten-year financial sector development roadmap
 - ◆ Forex management roadmap
 - ◆ Financial education strategy
 - ◆ Financial consumers protection strategy

(ETHIOPIA CEOs FORUM)

Did You Know?

Between 2010 to 2020, Ethiopian Airlines emerged as the fastest growing airline in the world.



The airline fleet expanded from 33 to 128 aircraft - this is a 4 fold growth.

It also evolved into a diversified aviation group, which mainly comprises of Passenger Airline, Cargo Airline & Logistics,

Ethiopian Aviation Academy, Ethiopian Inflight Catering Services, Ethiopian MRO Services and Ethiopian Hotel & Tourism Services.

Ethiopian Mining Potential Areas



The potential areas in mining sector include deposits of iron ore, gold, phosphate, potash, marble, coal, gemstone, limestone, chlorine, sodium chloride, among others.

Identified petroleum potentials are in Ogaden, Gambella, South Omo and Rift Valley.

Ethiopia, UK to contribute as leaders on [global] climate agenda

Ethiopia's green legacy initiative is a very impressive, homegrown initiative that

has been picked up around the world, says UK Deputy Head Mission to Ethiopia.

The DHM Alex Cameron told The Ethiopian Herald recently that both the UK and Ethiopia will contribute as leaders on the climate agenda.

"Ethiopia's legacy when it comes to climate is really impressive. Ethiopia is a champion of sustainable green development. It has perhaps the cleanest, greenest energy makes in the world which is very impressive and it has ambitious emission reduction targets," Alex remarked.

He further noted that Ethiopia is currently reviewing its national target contribution which is a big part of the Glasgow summit. "We are confident that Ethiopia will continue to demonstrate that leadership in the ambition target"

Concerning UK and Ethiopia partnership on the fight against climate change, he said his government is absolutely committed to support Ethiopia to realize its ambitions strategy and international commitment. The focus of Ethiopia's nationally determined contribution to the Paris agreement is mitigation of carbon emission, Alex said, (E P A)

Some Negotiations Remain Pending, Continental Free Trade Bloc Takes Off

The much-anticipated continental-wide free trade area for Africa has been launched beginning January 1, 2021. However, negotiations are still ongoing as to what degree and how early African countries open their service sectors, such as finance. (January 2, 2021. Fortune)

Happy New Year 2021



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Embassy of Ethiopia

Tel: 020 7838 3873

Fax: 020 7225 3513

E-mail: businesshead@ethioembassy.org.uk

Web: ethioembassy.org.uk

