



# Ethiopian News

April - May 2015 Issue

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## Oromia Diaspora Festival

3 - 10 August 2015



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



40% flight discount with Ethiopian Airlines, conditions apply

## DIASPORA HOUSING SCHEME



More information in the Diaspora News Section on page 17

## Elections draw to a peaceful conclusion

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 36.8 million Ethiopians made their way to the country's 45,202 polling stations to cast their votes at the fifth general election, marking a major milestone in the history of building democracy in Ethiopia.



Continued. on page 2 >>

The Election reached a successful conclusion after a campaign that began on 14<sup>th</sup> February and ended on 21<sup>st</sup> May, two days before polling. Elections are held every five years.

By any standard, this year's election process has been free, fair, transparent and credible. Over 37 million voters registered – an unprecedented surge in numbers, according to the National Electoral Board (NEBE) - and over 90% of them cast their votes on polling day. The number of registered voters in previous national elections - in 2005 and 2010 - amounted to 25,600,000 and 31,926,520 respectively.



In the last 24 years Ethiopia has carried out a protracted process of establishing a democratic society. Drawing important lessons from the previous four elections, the Electoral Board, which is responsible to the House of Peoples' Representatives, made preparations in full consultation with all stakeholders, including opposition parties, the ruling coalition – EPRDF - and independent candidates.



PM Hailemariam casts his vote

The election of public observers had taken place in December 2014 at all polling stations in the 547 election constituencies. On Election Day, each polling station had five public observers elected from among residents who observed the election process at all levels.

During the campaign, the NEBE ensured that free access to information was in place. Each political party was allocated air-time on TV and radio and space in the print media. The Ethiopian Broadcasting Authority said political parties were now showing an ability to utilize the free airtime allotted to them more effectively, making use of more than 70 per cent of the time allotted. This was a marked change from previous national elections.

Nine television debates took place from 13<sup>th</sup> March on a range of key issues including Federalism; Rural and Urban Development; Industrial Policy; National Security; Foreign Policy, Education and Health. The debates have been testimony to the upsurge of interest in competitive politics. As is the norm, state funding was made available to all political parties for campaigning purposes, to the tune of 30 million Birr – equivalent to 1.5 million dollars. Special financial support was available for political parties committed to fielding women candidates.

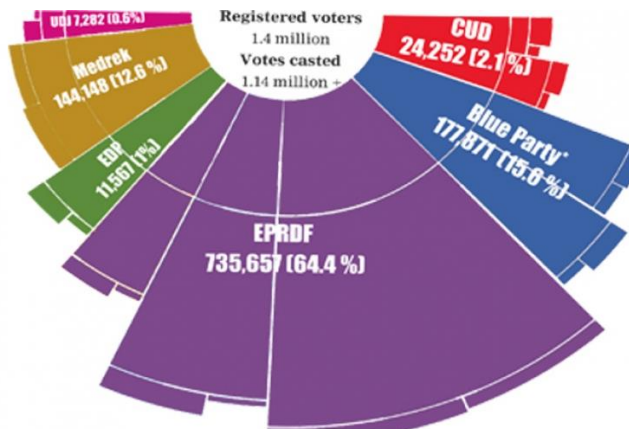
Parties who chose to take part in the TV debates included the incumbent EPRDF, the Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP), Semayawi (Blue Party), the Ethiopian Federal Democratic Unity Forum (MEDREK), the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), the All Oromo People's Democratic Party (AOPDP), the Unity for Democracy and Justice Party (UDJ), the New Generation Party (NGP) and the Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP).

A total of fifty-seven political parties contested election for seats in the federal parliament and also in the regional councils. In all, more than 6,000 candidates registered, over 1,308 of whom were women. 1,884 contested seats in the National Parliament - the House of People's Representatives - and 4,166 in the Regional Councils of the nine Regional States and the two Chartered Cities.

The public turned out in full force for the elections. The final results will be declared on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, but the Electoral Board has announced that preliminary results indicate an overwhelming victory in the



National Election for the governing coalition – the EPRDF.



How Addis voted. Photo courtesy of Addis Fortune

In the days that followed the elections, the African Union Election Observation Mission (AU-EOM) hailed Ethiopia's general elections as calm, peaceful and credible.

From 19<sup>th</sup> April, the AU deployed a total of 59 observers, of whom 50 were short-term observers and 9 long-term observers, in Ethiopia to observe the election process.

Presenting the preliminary statement of the Mission on 26<sup>th</sup> May in Addis Ababa, Hifikepunye Pohamba, former President of Namibia and Head of the AU-EOM, said the AU-EOM noted that Ethiopia's adoption of democracy since 1995 has brought about rapid development, which has contributed to making the country one of the fastest growing economies in Africa.



"The political environment since the arrival of the AU-EOM in Ethiopia has been generally peaceful

and calm and has remained so up till election day," said the head of the Mission.

The AU-EOM has commended Ethiopia's electoral body, the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) for putting in place initiatives to enhance participation of women candidates from 10% in 2010 to 15% in 2015.

"The AU-EOM was satisfied with the conduct of the political parties, candidates and supporters in the lead up to the elections, and encourages them to maintain the same until the final announcement of results in the post-election period," he said.

The AU Election Observation Mission (AU-EOM) is expected to release its final report on the assessment of Ethiopia's elections within two months. It will be published on the AU website.

### *Ethiopia's successful fight against hunger recognised by FAO*

During the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation conference on 7<sup>th</sup> June, H.E. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn received an award for Ethiopia reaching target 1C of the Millennium Development Goal – 'halving the proportion of hungry people, between 1990 and 2015'.



According to the World Bank, "poverty in Ethiopia fell from 44% in 2000 to 30% in 2011, a 33% reduction in the share of people living in poverty". The figure fell to 25% in 2013.

PM Hailemariam said "we have now created a situation where our peoples' resilience in the face of the vagaries of climate change-induced drought simply means there is hardly any danger that even



a single individual will die of starvation.” Ethiopia is now in “a new historic chapter in which smallholder farmers were no longer obsessed with survival but with ways to move out of the status quo and “embrace the world of wealth”. The PM said there were still millions struggling to make ends meet, but as 2011 demonstrated, even the worst drought in sixty years did not result in famine as “we have managed through the hard work and dedication of our people and unwavering leadership to create communities that are resilient to shocks such as drought and have built robust communities.”

***Ambassador voted African Diplomat of the Year***

H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede was presented with the 2015 Diplomat of the Year Award for Africa by *Diplomat Magazine* on 21<sup>st</sup> April, in the presence of more than 80 Heads of Mission and senior diplomats in London’s iconic Langham Hotel.

The Ceremony was hosted by former UK Ambassador Charles Crawford CMG, who presented 10 awards to Heads of Mission and top diplomats.



On receiving his award, the Ambassador thanked *Diplomat Magazine* for organising the event and for creating a platform for the Diplomatic corps, saying “It is a great honour for me to stand here today to receive this Award. I am sincerely grateful for this nomination and would like to thank all who have worked with me. The Diplomat Magazine Awards have become the hallmark of excellence in diplomatic circles, every person dealing in this noble profession strives for this award. And now that I am one of the award winners, I am completely happy.”

“Africa is in the process of transformation...a continent on the rise, now considered a destination

of trade and investment”, he said. “I promise to continue to work with my fellow Ambassadors and High Commissioners to promote the interests of this great continent in my tenure as Ambassador”.

The awards also recognised the contribution of Diplomats from other continents. Now in its seventh year, *Diplomat* magazine’s annual Awards Ceremony is considered to be one of the most highly anticipated events of the diplomatic calendar.



Recipients of the 2015 Diplomat of the Year Awards

H.E. Berhanu Kebede has had a long career in diplomacy. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1978 and in 1983 transferred to the Diplomatic Mission in Brussels as an economist. In December 2000, he was appointed Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Russian Federation, with the rank of Ambassador. In February 2002, he was appointed Ambassador to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland. He was then appointed Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in March 2006, where he has served until the present.

Congratulations Ambassador!

***Ethiopia appoints first Honorary Consul to  
Scotland***

Ethiopia has for the first time, appointed an Honorary Consul to Scotland.

Professor John Struthers of the University of West of Scotland’s School of Business and Enterprise was appointed in March this year and officially accepted his exequatur, duly signed by H.E. Dr Tedros Adhanom, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, at



a lunch in his honour at the Ethiopian Embassy in London on 28<sup>th</sup> April.



As Honorary Consul, Professor Struthers will assist Ethiopia in its efforts to increase its trade and investment links with Scotland, encourage educational and cultural exchanges, and assist the London based Ethiopian Embassy to interact with the Scottish Government, civic society, and the business community.

The Professor will continue his University research work in the economics of commodity price volatility, and in particular commodities such as coffee, one of Ethiopia's major exports.

The University of the West of Scotland said: "Professor Struthers is keen to highlight the major strides that the Ethiopian economy has made over recent decades with its recent high level of economic growth and major infrastructural improvements. These include the huge Renaissance Dam project and the major expansion in the country's road and rail network, which is improving transport links between Ethiopia and Djibouti. The country has recently witnessed massive expansion in the number of new universities. These developments, along with the huge potential that Ethiopia has in the area of cultural and religious tourism, means that this is a particularly important period for the country."

At the official lunch, Professor Struthers said: "It is a great honour and privilege for me to be appointed as Honorary Consul for Ethiopia in Scotland. Given my economics background and contacts within the business community in Scotland, such as with the Chambers of Commerce and the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, I look forward to

playing my part, along with the Ambassador and colleagues at the Ethiopian Embassy in London, in forging links between our two countries."

### *Ethiopians celebrate the 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ginbot 20*

Diplomats, community leaders, invited guests and members of the diaspora celebrated the 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ginbot 20 (28<sup>th</sup> May) Victory in London on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

More than 300 people attended the event marking the fall of the Derg military dictatorship in 1991.



Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede said Ginbot 20 (28<sup>th</sup> May 1991) heralded Ethiopia's march towards democracy, peace and prosperity.



This year's celebration coincided with the successful conclusion of Ethiopia's fifth national

election, on 24<sup>th</sup> May, and the country has entered a growth and development trajectory unparalleled in its recent history.

The Ambassador highlighted the encouraging results achieved at the end of the implementation of the first Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP1) and said that GTP2, due to start shortly, will keep the country on track, to achieve Ethiopia's objective of becoming a middle income country by 2025. He concluded by calling on members the Diaspora to redouble their participation.

Representatives from the Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Somali communities highlighted the significance of Ginbot 20 and the socio-economic progress the country has achieved in the past 24 years. They expressed their commitment to stand firmly with the Government in its development endeavours.

Representatives from the Wales and Southwest England Ethiopian communities also addressed the audience and conveyed a similar message.

A special ceremony was also held where certificates of recognition were awarded to associations that have greatly encouraged their members to participate in development activities during the first GTP period.



A documentary film, produced by the Embassy, depicting Ethiopia's continued march towards prosperity and development, was screened. You can watch it via our YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EthioEmbassyUK>

### *Africa Day celebrated in London*

Members of the African Union Group of Ambassadors and High Commissioners and guests celebrated **Africa Day 2015** on 26<sup>th</sup> May in London, with special guests of honour H.E. Mr Ian Khama, President of Botswana, and Zeinab Badawi, Chairperson of the Royal African Society and world renowned BBC anchor.

Also in attendance were MPs and peers, the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and representatives of both the British Government and of British companies linked to Africa.

Speaking on the occasion, President Khama highlighted the strong desire for the unity of African people and their determination to up the development level" across the continent and of its leaders' wish to reaffirm their commitment to the constituent act of the Union, by building peace and security and strengthening democracy.

Zeinab spoke of her passion for African history which, she said, had so frequently been written by incomers. In a collaboration with UNESCO, which holds a colossal archive of material written about Africa by Africans, she hopes to put on record the true history of the magnificent continent through the eyes of its people "to bring Africa's history to this modern generation." This will include the "wonderful civilisations" of Sudan and Ethiopia.

**AFRICA Day**



**CELEBRATING UNITY  
AND DIVERSITY**

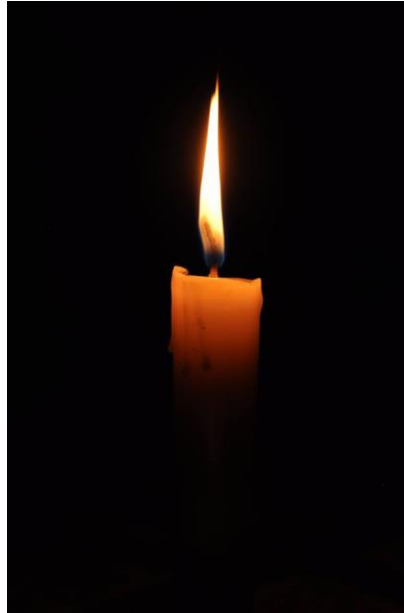
This year's African Union theme is "*Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063*".



## *Ethiopia mourns victims of ISIL in Libya and Xenophobia in South Africa*

Ethiopia observed three days of national mourning in April following the news of the barbarous killing of innocent Ethiopian Christians in Libya on 19<sup>th</sup> April and xenophobic attacks in South Africa.

The people and government of Ethiopia were greatly saddened by the news, more so as the acts were supposedly committed in the name of religion. There is no excuse for such deliberate crimes against humanity. Strong condemnation was welcomed from the AU, the US government and the international community at large.



Both the Ethiopian Muslim Affairs Supreme Council (EMASC) and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC) have condemned Islamic State's barbaric acts.

The EMASC strongly condemned the slayings as "genocidal acts". EMASC President Hajji Mohammed Aman Jemal said "the slaying committed by the terrorists is a shocking deed which stands contrary to the Holy Quran. Human beings are sacred," so says the Holy Quran. "This shows the respect it has for mankind, oblivious of their colour, ethnic origin and religion."

He added that the Prophet Mohammed explicitly ordered Muslims not to harm Ethiopia as it gave shelter to the very first Muslims. The act perpetrated by extremists is therefore an atrocity that blatantly disrespects Islam and the Holy Quran.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church condemned the killings. The patriarch, His Holiness Abune Mathias, said the victims are followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. The act does not represent any religious institution and faith, but is committed by terrorists that should be condemned, he said.

The Government has striven ever since to repatriate Ethiopians from Libya, in collaboration with other stakeholders. Ethiopians residing in Libya can contact the nearest Ethiopian Embassies in Cairo and Khartoum for assistance.

On 7<sup>th</sup> May, Egypt's President, Abdel Fattah El Sisi, and Ethiopia's Ambassador to Cairo H.E. Mahmoud Dardir, received 27 Ethiopian nationals - the first batch of those liberated after being held by militants in Libya - through cooperation between the Egyptian and Libyan security agencies.

President Sisi said Egypt was alarmed at the obnoxious murder of innocent Ethiopians in Libya and would cooperate with its brothers in Libya and Ethiopia to free more Ethiopians. Many repatriations have since followed, including Ethiopian citizens from Yemen.

### *Ethiopians mourn victims...*

In Addis Ababa and in cities all over the world, Ethiopians gathered to pay their respects to the victims.

In Addis Ababa, hundreds of thousands of residents gathered in Meskel Square at a rally against IS, denouncing the terrorist group for the killing of innocent civilians.



Addressing the crowd, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, said that the "killing is intended to create division among Ethiopians. However, Ethiopia's long history of religious tolerance will not be hampered by this evil act."

The slaughter of Ethiopians by the terrorist group has no religious base, he said.



“We, Ethiopians, including political parties need to condemn the act in the strongest possible terms as terrorism is a grave threat to the country,” he said.

PM Hailemariam said that the government would further step up its anti-terrorism struggle and work to stop human trafficking.

He also urged religious institution to contribute a share in the efforts to stop human trafficking and migration, and called on youths to be “job creators at home” rather than migrating to other countries risking their lives.

The Mayor of Addis Ababa City Administration, Diriba Kuma, said residents of the metropolis should join hands to fight against extremists operating under the guise of religion. The Administration will do all in its power to create more jobs, he said.

Both PM Hailemariam and Mayor Diriba extended their condolence and sympathy to the families of victims.

Religious leaders also present stressed the need to jointly fight against terrorism and extremism by rallying alongside the government. “Terrorism doesn’t represent any religion. We all, therefore, need to strongly condemn and prevent it,” they said.

Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Abune Mathias, said the church strongly condemns this shocking terrorist murder of Ethiopian migrants. The President of the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council, Sheik Mohammed-Amin Jemal Umer, said Islamic State (IS) is an anti-religion organization which doesn’t represent the Islamic religion,” he said.

Secretary General of Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia, Megabi Zerihun Degu, said that religious institutions should stand alongside the government to prevent extremism and terrorism in the country.

Here in London, the Embassy opened a Book of Condolence, where people from all walks of life, including members of the diplomatic corps, friends of Ethiopia and members of the diaspora, paid their respects, condemning the killings.



**MAY THEIR SOULS REST  
IN ETERNAL PEACE**





A candle-lit vigil was held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015 for the victims, where the Ambassador condemned "the heinous and barbaric act, the killing of Ethiopians [in Libya] by an affiliate of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh)". He urged Ethiopians to stand together and strengthen their unity more than ever, saying the Government would fight the terrorist group, in partnership with the international community.



The Ambassador extended his condolences to the victims' families and urged prayers for the martyrs saying "We have been extremely saddened and shocked by this barbaric act and we pray to God Almighty to let their souls rest in eternal peace."

Mohammed Eltom, Ambassador of Sudan, said "This is a barbaric act of pure evil, a sub-human crime which has been committed. We are all united and stand together more than ever before. Terrorism cannot and shall not be allowed to set the agenda. May the victims rest in perfect peace and may their memory be eternal."

The Embassy, Government and people of Ethiopia would like to thank everyone who offered condolences during this difficult time.

### ***...New anti-human-trafficking law to curb illegal immigration***

The government is to draft a bill introducing harsher penalties, to curb illegal immigration, during ongoing efforts to bring migrants back home through embassies in Khartoum and Cairo.

The Minister of Justice said human smuggling had increased alarmingly, despite previous measures taken by the government. Minister Getachew Ambaye said the main reason was that "measures have not been severe enough." Currently crimes related to human smuggling attract prison terms of 5 to 20 years and a maximum fine of \$2,500. The Minister said these were not in line with the seriousness of the crime and the new law would provide for heavier penalties.

Another bill to ensure the safety of Ethiopians working abroad will also be introduced. The bill, for amending the penal code, will be submitted to parliament for ratification.

### ***Ethiopia marks World Malaria Day***



World Malaria Day was commemoration in the Nelson Mandela Hall at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa under the theme "Invest in the future: defeat malaria."

In a keynote address, Prime Minister Hailemariam, who is Chairperson of the African Leaders' Malaria Alliance and Deputy Chair of AIDS Watch Africa, stressed that Malaria Day presented African leaders, actors and stakeholders with the opportunity to review progress, re-affirm their

commitment and address challenges related to the prevention and control of malaria.

The PM urged African leaders to continue their investment in the fight against malaria.

Referring to the 2014 World Malaria Report from the World Health Organization, he noted that “during the last decade, malaria control in Africa has been a major success story.” Expressing Ethiopia’s own commitment to the fight against malaria, the PM said the national target is a 75% reduction in malaria incidence. It will meet the MDG malaria target (goal 6) by the end of the year.

He said: “I am also proud to tell you that Ethiopia is the one country that has pioneered the push to universal coverage of mosquito nets.” He urged the African Commission “to steer the development of the African Roadmap for Malaria Elimination” and called on the African Leaders’ Malaria Alliance Secretariat and other partners to support the Commission. Following the Prime Minister’s address, a plenary session was held to discuss the big push to defeat malaria in Africa, and the AU and African Leaders’ Malaria Alliance high-level dialogue for ending malaria by 2030.

## ECONOMY

### *Ethiopian economy recognised in 2015 Africa Economic Outlook*

The 2015 African Economic Outlook was launched on 25<sup>th</sup> May at the Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

The report was launched under the theme, Regional Development and Spatial Inclusion.

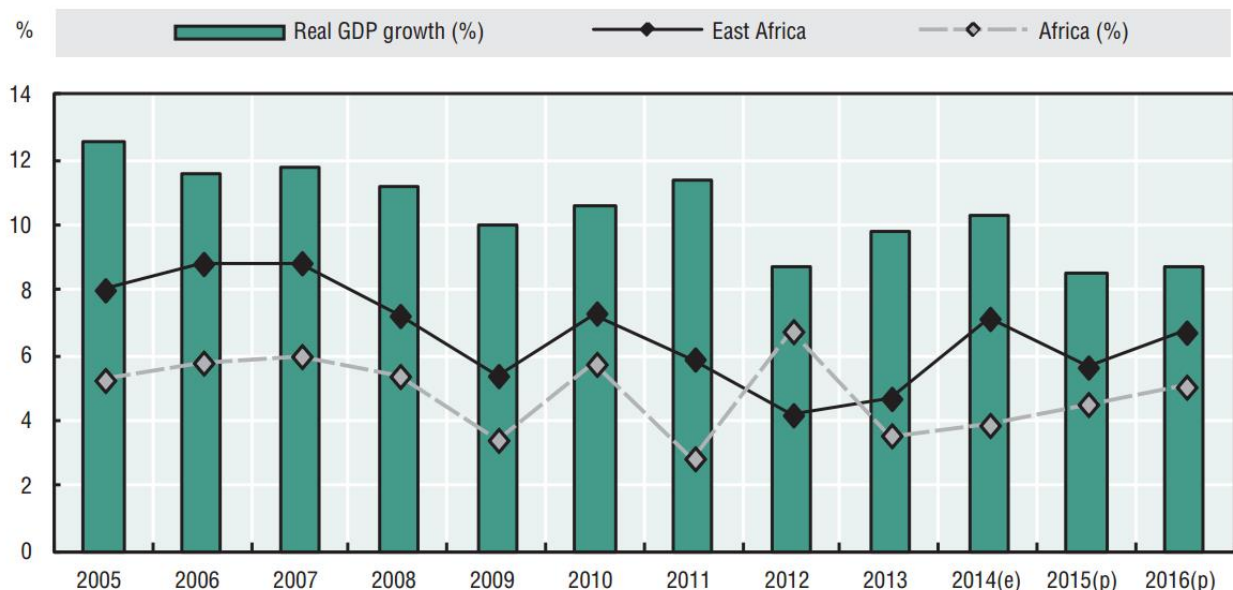
The Report says the IMF ranks Ethiopia in the five fastest growing economies in the world. After a decade of continuous expansion (during which real GDP growth averaged 10.8% a year), in 2013/14 the economy grew for its 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year posting 10.3% growth.

Supported by a slowdown in global commodity prices, the Government of Ethiopia succeeded in containing annual consumer price inflation to 7.1% in December 2014 (down from 39.2% in 2011) by pursuing a tight monetary policy and using base money as its nominal anchor, the report said.

Over the past decade, the public-sector-led development strategy, with its heavy investment in

### *Ethiopia’s Real GDP (in green) vs East Africa and Africa*

Figure 1. Real GDP growth



Source: AfDB, Statistics Department AEO. Estimates (e); projections (p)



infrastructure, has underpinned the country's strong growth. This high rate of growth has been inclusive, spanning different economic sectors and benefiting both urban and rural communities. Growth has been inclusive and widespread and a large number of new jobs have been created in both the public and private sectors, particularly through a boom in construction in all sectors.

The service sector grew by 11.9% in 2013/14, driven by an expansion in hotels and tourism (up 26.4%), transport and communications (13.7%), financial inter-mediation (17.8%) and wholesale and retail trade (14.9%). Over the same period, the industrial sector grew by 21.2% (14.4% of GDP) driven by construction, mining and manufacturing. The outlook for the sector remains positive with government measures to boost jobs and increase value added (through provision of industrial shelters, access to finance, etc.) targeting both the export-oriented light manufacturing industries (garment, textiles and leather) and small and medium manufacturers. Ethiopia has a strong potential to rapidly transform its economy, link increasingly into global value chains and become the African manufacturer of the future.

The garment and textile industries show strong potential - expansion into large-scale cotton and leather shoe production (Ethiopia has the largest number of cattle in Africa). Furniture making could also develop, harnessing the country's sound forestry management, and agro-processing could draw on the country's natural resources.

You can read the full profile via the following link: <http://goo.gl/xgIxun>

### ***More renewable energy to be exported to neighbouring nations by 2018***

As part of a cross-border effort to maintain regional energy demand, Ethiopia will begin exporting renewable energy to a broader range of neighbouring nations by 2018, which will also limit increases in climate-changing emissions.

The **Eastern African Power Pool (EAPP)** initiative will create or expand clean energy transmission lines to a dozen countries in the region. Ethiopia will acquire a bigger role as a regional power exporter.

Ethiopia already exports power to Kenya, Sudan and Djibouti but has signed deals to send power to Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan and Yemen as well.

### ***Consultancy firms selected to study the Renaissance dam***

Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan have selected two international consultancy firms which will conduct further technical studies on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the three countries signed a historic agreement on a declaration of principles in Khartoum.

A French firm, assisted by a Dutch firm, has been selected to carry out the studies on the dam's effects on the environmental, economic and social impacts on downstream countries Egypt and Sudan. The firms will compile the study over an 11-month period and publish their recommendations.

Upon completion, the dam, Africa's largest, will generate 6,000 megawatts of electricity, making Ethiopia a major regional power hub.

Construction, slated for completion in 2017, is currently more than 50% completed.

### ***Ethiopia to build biggest air cargo hub in Africa***

A \$98 million world-class cargo terminal, the size of five football grounds and able to shift 600,000 tonnes of freight a year, will be constructed at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport.

The terminal will be designed by German engineer Unitechnik Group, and will increase the existing facility's capacity more than four times. The contracting work will be undertaken by local firm Varnero Construction.





Following this upgrade, planning will begin on a further expansion to 1.2 million tonnes a year, making the terminal one of the largest in the world.

Work on the terminal will proceed in parallel with a \$300 million expansion to the passenger handling capacity of Bole, currently being undertaken by the China Communication Construction Company, raising throughput to 20 million people a year.

## **TRADE & INVESTMENT**

### *Ban on Teff flour exports lifted*

Ethiopia plans to export teff flour, a local food staple now considered a superfood.

Teff is high in protein and eight essential amino acids including lysine, which is usually absent from grains. It has high amounts of calcium, manganese, phosphorous, iron, copper, aluminium, barium, thiamine and vitamin C. The iron from teff is easily absorbed. Teff is gluten-free and has a low glycemic index, which makes it ideal for diabetics. It is high in fibre and low in sodium and fat. It can be used in pancakes, breads, cereals, snack bars and many other foods. It is used to make *injera* - the traditional Ethiopian staple – a pancake.



More than 45 commercial farmers will start production and 180,000 quintals will be exported in the coming year. The Ethiopian Standards Authority has set the standard for a teff flour.

Ethiopia is seeking potential buyers in the United Kingdom, contact the Ethiopian Embassy Trade and Investment Team on [trade@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:trade@ethioembassy.org.uk)

### *Dangote Group inaugurates \$500m cement plant in Ethiopia – the biggest in East Africa*



On 4<sup>th</sup> June, Dangote Group opened a \$500 million cement plant in Mugher, western Ethiopia, in the presence of Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.



The biggest in East Africa, the plant will initially produce 2.5 million tonnes of cement a year and the company said it plans to further expand its output.

“We will double this plant,” Aliko Dangote said, adding that a reliable power supply was one of the attractions that lured the investment to Ethiopia.

### *Ahadukes factory inaugurated*

Ahadukes Food Products biscuit and pasta factory - a joint venture between Ahadu PLC and UK-based Vasari Investments Group - was inaugurated on 5<sup>th</sup> May in the presence of President Mulatu Teshome, the British Ambassador to Ethiopia, Federal and Regional Presidents, the Mayor of Bishoftu and distinguished guests.



The 800 million Birr factory, in Bishoftu, Oromia, can produce 500 quintals of biscuits a day.



Each of the four corridors built to produce pasta will have a production capacity of 900 quintals a day.

President Mulatu highlighted the government's focus on industrial development, especially in the manufacturing, food and beverage sectors. "The role of food processing plants such as Ahadukes creates valuable linkages between agriculture and industry, which contributes to the transformation



of the national economy," he said. The government is committed to providing more production areas and assistance to both local and foreign investors at industrial parks being built around the country.

Noting UK investment was very low a few years ago, the UK Ambassador said he is pleased at the way "our investment has taken off dramatically from this low base in recent years."

Though UK investment is increasing in a variety of sectors, "food and beverages continues to be one area in which we think the UK has a great deal more to offer to the Ethiopian market" he said.

"Ethiopia is now seen as a core market for Vasari, whose first local investment was in the Dashen Brewery, one of the largest brewers in the country in partnership with their local partner TIRET.

"The Ahadukes project ties in with the Ethiopian Government's desire to add value to agricultural production through new processing methods and meeting export targets as well as creating large numbers of jobs and transferring technology."

The factory, built in 2012 on 42,000 sq metres land, will expand onto an additional 36,000 sq metres.

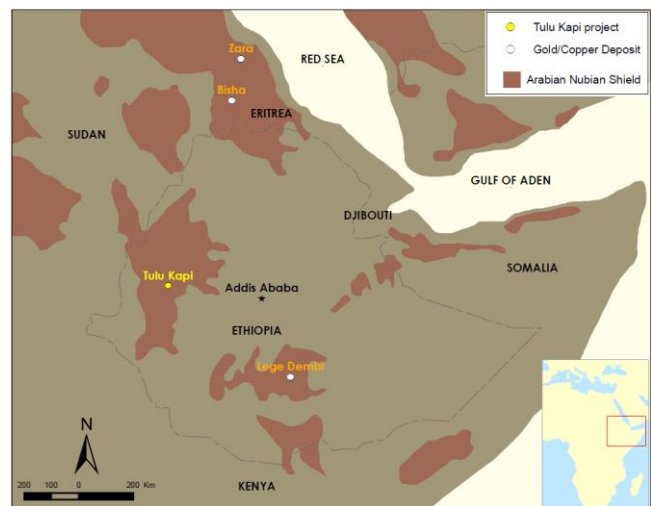
The initial \$36 million investment should grow into a \$120 million project in just a few years, enabling it to produce 6,500 quintals of flour a day.

### ***KEFI minerals signs Ethiopian mine deal***

UK-based mining company, KEFI Minerals signed a 20-year agreement with the Ethiopian government on 13<sup>th</sup> April to mine for gold and silver in the Oromia region, taking over exploration rights from Nyota Minerals for the Tulu Kapi project.

KEFI Chairman Harry Anagnostaras-Adams said they aim to produce 28.6 tonnes of gold over 11 years and production is set to commence in 2017.

After coffee, gold is Ethiopia's second-largest export earning an average of \$450 million to \$500 million a year for the past five years.



Tulu Kapi will be Ethiopia's second mine after Lege Dembi, which is in the Adola gold belt about 300 km (186 miles) southeast of Addis Ababa. The mine is run by Midroc, a firm owned by Saudi-Ethiopia businessman Mohammed al-Amoudi.

### ***Housing sector to open to foreign companies***

Urban Development and Housing Minister, Mekuria Haile, is urging foreign construction companies to participate in the country's housing development programme.

"Selection of companies will be based on their technical proposals, financial capacity and implementation capacity," he said, adding that the

government had identified that the major gaps were in knowledge, skills and input utilization.

Foreign company involvement would help complete construction on time. But the government remains committed to helping local enterprises improve their capacity and become competitive. Foreign companies can begin work in the coming Ethiopian New Year which begins in September.

Meanwhile, an assistant professor and leading expert on the construction sector at Addis Ababa University, Dr Webishet Jekale, said the involvement of foreign companies in the country's housing development programme was important to enable locals to adopt new technologies, build their capacity and learn about modern design and construction machinery.

***New CEO for Ethiopian Commodity Exchange***

The Board of Directors of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange has announced the appointment of Ato (Mr) Ermias Eshetu as Chief Executive Officer of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX).



Ermias's background in Software Engineering and as a Principal Consultant in Business Intelligence systems, has allowed him to acquire unique skills specializing in the ability to integrate real business challenges with practical IT lead solutions.

"I believe in the practical application of technology and market-based institutions to transform the agricultural based economy. Through technology, a strong partnership with the private sector, and enhanced exposure to international best practices, I aim to ensure that ECX continues to deliver new innovations," said Ato Ermias.

**TOURISM**

***New lodge on the horizon at Lake Langano***



On 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Hara Lodge on Lake Langano, south of Addis Ababa, was officially opened in the presence of invited guests including the British Ambassador to Ethiopia, H.E. Greg Dorey.





The lodge is built on a 10-hectare plot of land and is owned by British investor Richard Parry, who first visited Ethiopia in 1994.

On the shores of Lake Langano, the lodge is a self-contained retreat with abundant wildlife, offering a range of activities from fishing to horse riding, and has 26 rooms costing from \$50 to \$260.



It will contribute to the local community and the national economy. The 45 employees are almost all from the local community.

### *Tourists staying longer in Ethiopia*

The time tourists spend in Ethiopia has reached 16 days – a 3-fold increase over the last 7 years.

According to the State Minister for Culture and Tourism, Mr Tadelech Dalecho, the improvement of service quality in the hospitality industry and infrastructure development around the country and destination areas, has helped the increase.

Hotels meeting international standards have increased to over 600, with more involvement of local and foreign companies in the sector. The grading of hotels continues, to improve services.

### *Update on the Hotel Classification Project*

Ethiopia's first ever hotel classification system began in January 2015. Since then, UNWTO has completed the training of 53 regional inspectors. The inspectors will grade the country's accommodation facilities.

From April to June, these newly trained assessors will further strengthen their capacities by

accompanying six international assessors in grading up to 400 Ethiopian hotels, giving them their first official star grade.

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015, the first group of inspections was carried out by a UNWTO team of experts, as part of the activities of the World Bank-funded project.



Opening Ceremonies were organized in the presence of Minister of Culture and Tourism Amin Abdulkadir and Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Tadelech Dalecho. This included ribbon-cutting ceremonies at each of three hotels and speeches. During his speech Minister Abdulkadir referred to this project as an "historic event".

## **SPORTS**

### *Haile retires from competitive running*



Ethiopian long distance legend, Haile Gebrselassie, announced his retirement, at 42, from competitive running on 10<sup>th</sup> May after taking part in the Great Manchester Run, bringing an end to a career spanning 25 years which saw him claim two

Olympic gold medals, eight World Championship victories and set 27 world records.

*“For me a day without training is like a day without eating.”* – Haile Gebreselassie

Haile tried to challenge a sixth victory in the elite men's section, having won in 2005, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. After completing his final competitive Haile went on to complete the route for a second time with the non-elite runners at an event he said he had always enjoyed.



Widely considered one of the greatest distance runners in history, Haile's career came to the international spotlight in 1993 when, at the age of 20, he won the first of four consecutive world championship titles in the 10,000 metres.

Speaking to the BBC, Haile said, “I'm retiring from competitive running, not from running. You cannot stop running, this is my life.”

***Genzebe Dibaba crowned Sportswoman of the Year by Laureus***



She did it! World indoor champion Genzebe Dibaba was named sportswoman of the year at the Laureus World Sports Awards in Shanghai on 15<sup>th</sup> April

2015, becoming the first sportsperson from Ethiopia to win an award at the prestigious event.

Dibaba was recognised mainly for her 2014 season, which saw her set the world indoor records for 1,500m and 3,000m as well as a world indoor best for two miles.

Outdoors, she went on to record world-leading times over 5,000m and 2,000m before ending her season with 3,000m victory at the IAAF Continental Cup in Marrakech.

***Athletics Roundup:***

***Tufa ends Kenyan domination at the London Marathon***



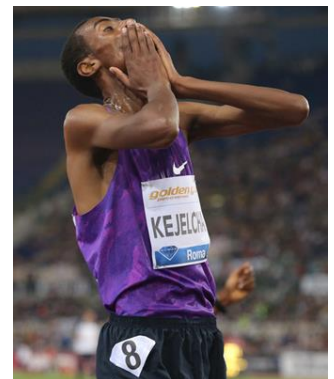
Tigist Tufa won the London Marathon on 26<sup>th</sup> April in 02:23:22, ending Kenya's 4-year winning streak in the women's race, becoming the first Ethiopian women's champion since Derartu Tulu in 2001.



Compatriot Tirfi Tsegaye came in third in 02:23:41, while Aselefech Mergia finished fourth in 02:23:53.

***...World lead times for Kejelcha and Aman at the IAAF Diamond League in Rome***

Yomif Kejelcha, still only 17, became the first runner to run faster than 13 minutes in the 5,000m this year when he beat a strong field to





win in 12:58.39. Hagos Gebrhiwet finished third in 12:58.69 and Imane Merga clocked 12:59.04 in fourth place.

Earlier, world 800m champion Mohammed Aman won in a world-leading time of 1:43.56.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Yebrgual Melese claimed the women's race at the Prague International Marathon in 2:23:49, 1 minute ahead of Sara Moreira of Portugal.

At the 32<sup>nd</sup> Vienna City Marathon, Ethiopia's Sisay Lemma won in 2:07:31, while compatriot Siraj Gena finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2:12:48. It was Lemma's third marathon victory after winning in Carpi in 2012 and in Warsaw the following year.



At the Paris Marathon on 12<sup>th</sup> April, Seboka Tola of Ethiopia finished in third place in the men's race. Meseret Mengistu and compatriot Amane Gobena took the top two spots in the women's race.

Lelisa Desisa won the men's race at the Boston Marathon in 2:09:17, crossing the line 30 seconds ahead of his compatriot Yemane Adhane Tsegay.



This was Lelisa's second victory in Boston following his win in 2013, the year that a bomb exploded close to the finish some two hours after he crossed the line. He returned his winner's medal that year in honour of the three people killed.

## DIASPORA NEWS

### *Registration for the Diaspora Housing Programme now open*



Ethiopians and foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin are entitled to own a house through a government Diaspora housing scheme, either individually or by becoming members of a housing association.

Registration for the scheme opened on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

For further information, including registration criteria, directives and forms, please visit our website at: [http://www.ethioembassy.org.uk/community/Diaspora\\_Housing\\_Information.htm](http://www.ethioembassy.org.uk/community/Diaspora_Housing_Information.htm)

Enquiries: Asmelash Bekele Weldemariam  
Contact: 020 7838 3881;  
[pd.counsellor@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:pd.counsellor@ethioembassy.org.uk)

### *First ever Diaspora Day to be commemorated in August*

Members of the Diaspora are invited to celebrate the first Diaspora Day in Addis Ababa from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

In January, in line with Ethiopia's Diaspora engagement policy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared 16<sup>th</sup> August (Nihase 10) "Ethiopian Diaspora Day".

Diaspora from all over the world will be able to connect with Ethiopians at home, giving a chance for young Ethiopians abroad to see something of their country and fully experience its culture. The day will also offer the chance to evaluate Diaspora activities and allow members of the Diaspora to make suggestions on matters of concern. It will also underline that the Diaspora is an extension of Ethiopia overseas.

The Embassy's multimedia team will be present in Ethiopia to cover the celebrations and will post on our YouTube page.

## Oromia Diaspora Festival



3 - 10 August 2015

**Ethiopian**  
የኢትዮጵያ  
THE NEW SPIRIT OF AFRICA

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 



### ***Oromia Diaspora Festival – 40% flight discount with Ethiopian Airlines, conditions apply***

For the benefit of those attending the upcoming Oromia diaspora festival – from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August - Ethiopian Airlines is offering a 40% on the round-trip ticket for Ethiopians and foreign citizens of Ethiopian origin, provided that you buy your ticket between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

You can book your **outward flight** for 29<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August inclusive and are free to choose the date of your return flight. Passengers must travel via London Heathrow Airport.

In order to be eligible a supporting letter showing participate at the festival will be required.

Those wishing to take advantage of this offer should contact Mr Terefe Dida, Minister Counsellor of the Ethiopian Embassy on mobile 07503 760405 or by email at [trade@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:trade@ethioembassy.org.uk) You can also email [demeke@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:demeke@ethioembassy.org.uk) or [yalewkebede@hotmail.com](mailto:yalewkebede@hotmail.com)

All tickets must be issued by 20<sup>th</sup> June through the Ethiopian Airlines London office by calling 0208 987 7000 option 2.

### ***Meeting to Enhance Diaspora Participation held at the Embassy***

A meeting to discuss the participation of the Ethiopian Diaspora in the country's development endeavours was held at the London Embassy on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. H.E. Eshetu Dessie, Minister of Cabinet Affairs in the Prime Minister's Office, and H.E. Dr Yinager Dessie, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, briefed participants from various sectors of the Ethiopian community in the UK. H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede was also present on the occasion.

The briefing and a discussion centred round policies which encourage Diaspora participation in promoting trade, investment, tourism and technology transfer in Ethiopia.

21 Community leaders representing 15 community sectors also signed the Condolence Book and expressed their deep sadness at the gruesome murder of Ethiopian Christians by ISIL in Libya.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### ***Ambassador Berhanu visits Canterbury Christ Church University***



On 8<sup>th</sup> June, H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede and Mr Abiy Berhane, Minister Counsellor for Public Diplomacy at the Embassy visited Canterbury Christ Church University where they met Professor Rama Thirunamachandran, Vice Chancellor and Principal, and his team to discuss possible cooperation.

With almost 18,000 students, the university is looking to set up an international cooperation programme with Ethiopia, training teachers in



primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as technical and vocational training.

An agreement has been reached between the university and the Embassy for submission of their proposal which will eventually develop into a regional project.

### ***Host Country Agreement for the Finance for Development conference signed***

Ethiopia and the United Nations signed, on 4<sup>th</sup> June, the Host Country Agreement for the third International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD3) due to be held in Addis Ababa from 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015.



Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the UN, signed the Agreement with Mr Wu Hungbo, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations for Economic and Social Affairs.

Ethiopia attaches great importance to the organization of this Conference whose outcome is critical to the implementation of the next generation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be adopted during the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly. Ethiopia has established a National Committee of relevant stakeholders to ensure that the conference is a resounding success.

### ***Ethiopia celebrates Patriots' Day***

Ethiopia celebrated the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Patriots' Victory Day, which marks the end of Italian occupation, on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

The day was commemorated at the Victory Monument, in Addis Ababa, in the presence of high-level officials, patriots and residents.

After laying a wreath at the Victory Monument, President Mulatu said the Patriots' victory against

the invaders is the victory of all African freedom fighters.

Ethiopia, which has fought invaders at various times, is now fighting the major enemy – poverty – he said, urging the public to work together to eradicate it.

### ***Safe drinking water coverage reaches 79%***

The Water, Irrigation and Energy State Minister, Kebede Gerba, says safe drinking water coverage has reached 79% following activities undertaken during the past four years of the GTP period.

More than 33 million people have gained access to safe drinking water, above the projected target of 32.5 million people as the ministry has striven to meet the increasing demand for potable water in rural and urban areas.

According to Kebede, safe drinking water coverage in urban and rural parts of the country has currently reached 86 and 78 per cent, respectively.

Ethiopia has already met the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target for drinking water supply, he said, adding “49,000 new water facilities that will benefit 15 million people are under construction this budget year.

9,000 water facilities that benefited 3.6 million people have already gone operational in the budget year, he said.

### ***Over 12 million hectares of land to be seeded***

Activities are underway to cover over 12.6 million hectares of land with seeds, including sorghum, maize and other main food crops, during the current harvest season.

The Ministry of Agriculture said that in order to increase farming productivity, 2.5 million metric tons of fertilizer and 3.6 million quintals of select seed will be distributed.

269 million quintals of agricultural outputs were raked in during the 2006/7 harvest season and the output is expected to increase in the 2007/8 season.



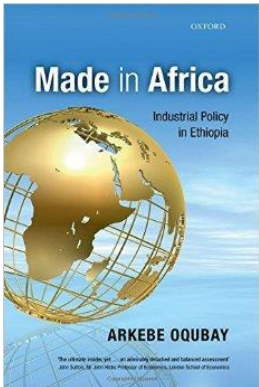
Agricultural productivity in the 2006/7 harvest season was up 31.9% compared to the 2002/3 season, showing a 7.87% annual growth during the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) period.

## BOOK REVIEW

### *Made in Africa, Industrial Policy in Ethiopia* By Dr Arkebe Oqubay



In July, Oxford University Press will publish a book by Dr Arkebe Oqubay, former Mayor of Addis Ababa and current special adviser to the Ethiopian Prime Minister.



Entitled “**Made in Africa, Industrial Policy in Ethiopia**”, it presents the findings of original field research into the design, practice, and varied outcomes of industrial policy in a range of sectors in Ethiopia. It explores how and why the outcomes of industrial policy are shaped by particular factors in these industries, and examines industrial structures and associated global value chains to demonstrate the

challenges faced by African firms in international markets. The book seeks to learn from the successes and failures in the three sectors. It argues that an effective industrial policy requires a more interventionist state than most development economists would accept, including those recently claiming to champion a 'new industrial policy'. It argues that attempts will founder in the absence of a clear understanding of the political economy of each sector.



Save 30% when you order online from [www.oup.com/uk](http://www.oup.com/uk) use promotional code AAFLY7 at the checkout. (Valid until 31/12/2015)

## ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

### *Doing Business in Africa ONE DAY in Addis Ababa*



Lutz Hartmann, a corporate lawyer from Germany, writes about his experience in setting up a subsidiary for a German holding in Ethiopia.

He writes, “The reaction of my friends and colleagues was: This will be complicated, long-drawn-out and full of obstacles – and you will surely be asked for money right, left and centre. None of their misgivings came to pass...In the end, I left Frankfurt, Germany on a Monday night at 11 p.m. and was back the same week on a Wednesday morning at 5:30 a.m. with a company created, a bank account opened, a tax identification number issued and the investment licence application delivered...Yes, doing business in Ethiopia is possible!”

**LinkedIn** <https://goo.gl/18sslN>

### *Ethiopia predicts record \$1.5bn overseas direct investment in 2015*

Ernst and Young's Addis Ababa Office predicts that Ethiopia will rank among Africa’s top 4 manufacturing hubs by 2025 with FDI averaging \$1.5bn each year for the next 3 years.



“Ethiopia is fast becoming the ‘must-visit’ destination for virtually all private equity funds with an emerging market focus... Ethiopia is Open for Business.” - Zemedeneh Negatu, E&Y.

<http://goo.gl/y5rHcg>



### ***'Made in Ethiopia' Now Means Luxury***

Open a box of Enzi shoes and this is what you'll read on the inside:

*You have not just purchased a pair of shoes. You have contributed towards the development of sustainable leather production in Ethiopia.*

*You have invested in improving the livelihoods of skilled Ethiopian factory workers. You have helped to raise the profile of East African design.*

*You have added your voice to a growing chorus of people around the world who are ready to see Africa in a new light.*

*The shoes also happen to be really nice.*

*Enjoy them responsibly.*

Read how ENZI footwear are turning the spotlight back on Africa, and Ethiopia in particular, for its manufacturing facilities and tanneries.

"Most people don't think of Ethiopia as having the highest quality leather in the world," says Founder, Sam Imende. "They think of stereotypes established decades ago...We saw a lot of potential, creativity and enterprise in the region."



Ethiopia offers the best manufacturing facilities with surprisingly good tanneries. The best thing about quality Ethiopian leather is how beautifully it ages and Enzi's entry leather sneakers...are a serious fashion investment.

**RealLeaders™** <http://goo.gl/c0wsrI>

### ***Three supply nations for buyers to watch: Ethiopia, Vietnam and Uruguay***

Ahead of The London Produce Show & Conference, John Giles highlights three supply nations for UK buyers to watch: Ethiopia, Vietnam and Uruguay.

"[Ethiopia] is a very different country to what it was 30, 20 and even 10 years ago. The horticulture industry is now booming and becoming increasingly impressive...Ethiopia has had a sustained period of economic growth - 5-10% per

annum - and its economy is booming [it's the largest economy by GDP in East Africa and Central Africa]"



### ***Q&A: Why Ethiopia 'just cannot be ignored anymore'***

With a GDP growth of 10.3% in 2014 - one of Africa's fastest growing economies, if not the world - Ethiopia cannot be ignored anymore...a lot of FMCG multinationals are investing huge resources in Ethiopia...It's just a very exciting time.



### ***New species of ancient human found in Ethiopia***

Researchers have found a new species of ancient human in the Afar region of Ethiopia.



The jawbones and teeth, belonging to four individuals, date between 3.3 million and 3.5 million years old, meaning they were alive at the same time as several other early human species, including the famous Lucy, who lived between 2.9-

3.8m years ago, and was initially thought to be our direct ancestor.

Lead researcher Dr Yohannes Haile-Selassie, curator of physical anthropology at Cleveland Museum of Natural History in the US, said the new species has very robust jaws and smaller teeth.

The new species has been called ***Australopithecus deyiremeda***, which means "close relative" in the language spoken by the Afar people.

The study is published in the journal *Nature*.

***A TRAVELER'S TREAT: Glamorous camping at the Lalibela Hudad ecolodge***

The well-trodden path from the holy city of Lalibela to the mountain plateau of the Hudad is a traveler's treat...this route provides a beautiful beginning to a truly authentic experience of life in Ethiopia's highlands.



The Hudad is set on a tabletop plateau 3,300 meters above sea level, offering 360-degree views of the magnificent hills and lush valleys below...Visitors to the lodge stay in cone-shaped huts called tukuls, built by local artisans from stones hand-mined from the plateau itself. Upon arriving, we find extra

sweaters, hats, gloves and traditional clothing laid out on the beds — signaling the cold nights ahead. No running water or electricity exists here, but solar torches are provided and hot water is available by request. Warm water in beautiful earthenware pots awaits us outside our huts every morning, and hot water bottles warm our beds at night. Some have called this experience "glamping" (glamorous camping), but I just call it heaven. I haven't slept so well in years.

**Selamta** <http://goo.gl/W1XX9w>

***Divine Ethiopia***

Its landscapes are biblical and its rituals haven't changed for centuries. But amid the cave churches are new lodges – and helicopters (or donkeys) to reach them.



There are moments when Ethiopia seems to belong to an atlas of the imagination – part legend, part fairy-tale, part Old Testament book, part pulling your leg. In this land of wonders there are medieval castles of a black Camelot, monasteries among Middle Earth peaks accessible only by rope and chains, the ruined palace of the Queen of Sheba and the original Ten Commandments in a sealed box guarded by mute monks with killer instincts.

The Telegraph  
**LUXURY** <http://goo.gl/z3kL2F>

***Chester Higgins's Homage to Ethiopia***

Having travelled to Africa every year since 1971 as a way to meditate, disconnect and examine his life, Chester Higgins Jr., says that through the experience of photographing new people and places, his art both shapes and reflects his narrative. And nowhere



is that truer for him than in Ethiopia, a place that has long enchanted him.

"The stars are right on top of you at night...Only in Ethiopia do you feel you can reach up and touch the floor of heaven. Parts of it look like the Grand Canyon. Other parts are up in the clouds."



<http://goo.gl/BPj4je>

### *11 of the Most Stunning Aerial Safaris in Africa*

At number 3 - A helicopter tour through Ethiopia



Simien Mountains

"With both mountains and lowland, Ethiopia has a number of ecologically distinct areas. Ethiopia's highest peaks, The Simiens, rise to a lofty 4,543 meters, while the salt pans and acid lakes of the Danakil Depression lie below sea level. On multi-day helicopter tours get a bird's-eye view of this spectacular landscape by flying from the capital Addis Ababa. Venture along the Blue Nile Gorge to Lalibela, a town that's known for its rock-cut churches, then by following the course of the Tekeze River, continue on to the majestic Simiens - home to endemic species like the Ethiopian wolf - and the Danakil Depression where you might catch sight of the nomadic people leading their camels across the land. Finally, witness the active volcano Erta Ale as it bubbles over with molten lava."

HUFF POST <http://goo.gl/F7fTQy>

### *The 10 most surreal landscapes in the world*

"Resembling the scenery of a video game or sci-fi film, Dallol's volcanic landscape in the Danakil Depression is a geological phenomenon. Its luminous, otherworldly appearance is a result of

acidic hot springs, sulphur, gas geysers and spectacular salt formations.



However, a note of caution to those planning a visit to this extraordinary crater: the climate in Dallol registers the hottest temperatures of any inhabited area on earth, with average summer highs of 46C."



<http://goo.gl/E4804B>

### *Ethiopia, risen from the ashes*

A safe country for tourists, well managed with a young educated workforce and a culture that runs much deeper than old headlines suggest.



"I'm crazy about Ethiopia. It's exciting and elegant and stuffed full of history and drama. It offers vast distances between its remarkable tourist sites so, for a traveller like me who wants to get lost in the journey, it's a fascinating place to visit and one that's rapidly changing...The whole world seems to want to be here right now," writes Gary Quinn.

THE IRISH TIMES <http://goo.gl/beCz16>

# *Visit Ethiopia...a tourist paradise*





***Why your next food porn will come from Ethiopia***

Ethiopian food may still be a niche cuisine across the globe, but that might not be the case for long. From Washington, D.C. to London, Ethiopian restaurants are earning awards and accolades. Inside the country, the traditionally hearty cuisine is also being given a gourmet twist.



Photo: Gourmet Ethiopia

Antica Restaurants & Farm in Addis Ababa is one institution that has started experimenting with Ethiopian ingredients. Chef Yohannes Hailemariam has created several fusion dishes, including a lasagne made from teff.



<http://goo.gl/i2k7sP>

***Seven International Prisons that Put Rehabilitation before Punishment***

These prisons around the world are finding inventive ways to prepare prisoners for life after their release.

***Financial Literacy for Prisoners in Ethiopia***

Young men and women at Mekelle Prison in northern Ethiopia are provided with microfinance and insurance loans to start cooperatives based on business ideas developed in educational and vocational classes offered while they're behind bars.

Currently, the prison has supported the start of 31 different co-ops in construction, textiles, and agriculture. The program, run through the International Labour Organization, an agency of the United Nations, aims to prepare prisoners with financial literacy and sustainable skills in everything from masonry to weaving that will help them contribute to the economy both during and after their incarceration. The program prides itself on working to empower women in particular, and to promote gender equality by investing in their business ideas.



Prisoners at Mekelle Prison in Ethiopia learn valuable skills that create sustainable livelihood opportunities. (Photo courtesy International Labour Organization)

“I have been amazed to discover how prison life is like a university,” said 23-year-old prisoner Almaz Gebriel. “I have earned certificates in plumbing, woodwork, pig rearing, and beauty salon training. The cooperative experience has allowed me to earn an income while in prison.”

**takepart** <http://goo.gl/1N9tXL>



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