



Ethiopian News

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PM Hailemariam Announces New Cabinet



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn announced 21 new cabinet ministers after he received parliamentary approval from the House of People’s Representatives.

The new ministers were selected based on their knowledge, experience and record on delivery in varying capacities.

Nine cabinet ministers have remained in their previous posts.

PM Hailemariam, in the reshuffle, shelved the role of Advisor to the Prime Minister with ministerial rank as well as the coordinating clusters previously held under the Deputy Prime Minister’s portfolio.

The House also approved the Prime Minister’s proposals establishing a department for democratisation aimed at addressing the legitimate grievances of the public relating to good governance. Additionally, the reshuffle saw the establishment of the department for the coordination of policy and strategic planning.

Cabinet Ministers as of November 1, 2016

1. Demeke Mekonnen Deputy Prime Minister
2. Siraj Fegessa Minister of Defense
3. Kassa Tekleberhan Minister of Federal Affairs and Pastoral Area Development
4. Dr Debretsion Gebremichael Minister of Communication and Information Technology
5. Ahmed Abitew Minister of Industry
6. Getachew Ambaye Attorney General
7. Abdulfetah Abdulah Minister of Labor and Social Affairs
8. Dr Yinager Dese Commissioner of National Planning Commission
9. Asmelash Woldesilasie Chief Government Whip

Newly-appointed cabinet ministers

1. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu Minister of Foreign Affairs
2. Tagese Chafo Minister of Public Service and Human Resource Development
3. Dr Abreham Tekeste Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation
4. Dr Bekele Gulado Minister of Trade
5. Professor Fekadu Beyene Minister of Livestock and Fishery
6. Dr Eyasu Abrha Minister of Farming and Natural resources
7. Dr Engineer Getahun Mekuria Minister of Science and Technology
8. Ahmed Shide Minister of Transport
9. Dr Ambachew Mekonnen Minister of Urban Development and Housing
10. Engineer Aisha Mohammed Minister of Construction
11. Dr. Engineer Sileshi Bekele Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity
12. Motuma Mekassa Minister of Mines Petroleum and Natural Resources
13. Dr Gemedo Dale Minister of Environmental, Forest and Climate Change
14. Dr Shiferaw Tekelemariam Minister of Education
15. Professor Yifru Berhane Minister of Health
16. Dr Girma Amente Minister of Public Enterprise
17. Dr Hirut Woldemariam Minister of Culture and Tourism
18. Demitu Hambissa Minister of Women's and Children's Affairs
19. Ristu Yirdaw Minister of Youth and Sports
20. Kebede Chane Minister of Ethiopian Revenues and Customs Authority
21. Dr Negeri Lencho Minister of Government Communication Affairs Office



Editorial

Since the early 1990s, Ethiopia has been building a democratic federal system which is built on unity in diversity, equality and mutual respect for the aims and interests of all its peoples and of its religious faiths. The 1995 Constitution and related policies launched a genuine democratic process providing peace, stability and development.

Ethiopia's national interests were redefined with a new focus on the country's real political and economic problems. Major threats to its survival included economic backwardness and the desperate poverty of most of the population. There was an urgent necessity for democratic institutions and good governance. Without these, it was clear Ethiopia would be unable to survive.

New policies and strategies provided rapid and sustainable economic development which underpinned democratic change. This has been central to Ethiopia's vision to become a middle-income state within the next decade, building up a carefully structured democratic developmental model. This involves the adoption of a multi-party system, periodic elections, significant devolution of power within the federal system and a favourable business system with real space for the private sector.

Over the last two decades, Ethiopia has achieved remarkable progress, reducing poverty by 33% and meeting all but one of the Millennium Development Goals, while registering major improvements in education and health. It devotes 70% of its budget to pro-poor policies, in education, health, agriculture and food security. For over a decade, its GDP has grown by 10% a year, making it one of the fastest growing economies in the world. A major area of development has been infrastructure, with the construction of telecommunications, railways, roads and hydropower dams providing the basis for developing industry. But it is also central to Ethiopia's policy of development through regional integration, seen in the building of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, the Addis Ababa to Djibouti railway, and the Addis Ababa Light Railway.

But progress has not been without problems, underlined by the recent demonstrations and protests. These raised serious questions over issues of governance, corruption, unemployment, the need for more effective self-administration, inclusive development and fair distribution of resources. The highjacking of some demonstrations by violent elements forced the government to declare a State of Emergency to restore law and order.

This has now been achieved, allowing the government to start to take measures to deal with legitimate concerns raised by the demonstrators.

The government has promised to bring about inclusive socio-economic and political reforms within the context of a **more effective and democratic developmental state**. Key aspects of this address land ownership, income distribution, poverty levels, anti-corruption commitments, bureaucratic autonomy and ways to provide for an *effective* opposition voice.

The government has created platforms to discuss issues with all segments of the population, including political parties, and will reform the electoral law to include an element of proportional representation in the voting system. Federal and State administrations have already carried out critical evaluations of their performance, to tackle abuses of power and rent seeking. Another central thread will be structural transformation into industrialisation at both urban and rural levels.

Ethiopia is very aware that any transformative developmental trajectory requires international partnerships. These are equally necessary to deal with the most pressing issues we all face: extremism and terrorism, the prevalence of poverty and inequality, disease, the impact of climate change. These all need full international cooperation. It is in all our interests to work towards the realisation of a just, harmonious and peaceful global order. This is exactly what Ethiopia's renewed democratic, developmental paradigm is all about.

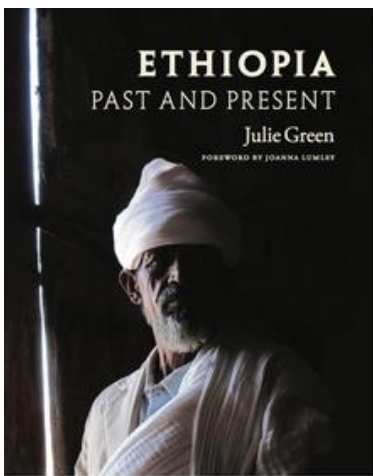


Book Launch with Joanna Lumley

Joanna Lumley OBE, an English actress, author and activist, was guest of honour at the launch of *Ethiopia Past and Present*, a photographic account by Julia Green, beginning with photos from 1969, for which Joanna wrote the foreward.



The Ambassador welcomed over a hundred guests for dinner and drinks and thanked them for their love of Ethiopia. Joanna spoke of her devotion to “fascinating” Ethiopia which she visited while making a TV series about the Nile. She described Julie’s work as “utterly enthralling. Ethiopia reveals her ancient history and traditions, her architecture and above all her people to this sympathetic lens”. She concluded “You may not have been there some of you, many of you will. I think the best thing I can say is let’s all go back next year!”



Julie said the seed for her book “was planted when I visited Ethiopia in 1969 as a young travel photographer, when travel photography was in its infancy.” She has been back many times since.

The book is published by Gilgamesh and the ISBN no is 978-1-908531-42-1

Angela Merkel visits Ethiopia

German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Ethiopia on the last leg of her first African tour in October.



PM Hailemariam welcomes Chancellor Merkel at the National Palace, 11th October

Chancellor Merkel helped inaugurate the new headquarters of the **African Union Peace and Security Council** saying “Germany has been supporting the African Union in its peace and security architecture and early warning system.” The four-storey, state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly building was built with technical and financial support from the German government.

The Peace and Security Council, the African Union’s standing organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, was established to be a collective security and “early warning” arrangement to facilitate timely and efficient responses to conflict and crisis situations.

AU Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma thanked Germany for what she called “a donation” that would facilitate the work of the AU’s Peace and Security Council. “Germany has learned from history to be tolerant and peaceful,” Zuma said. “No surprise it has become a hope for migrants and refugees.”

Merkel earlier met and held discussions with Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam, on immigration, refugees and regional security, with particular focus on African peacekeeping, which has had the support of Germany’s government. They also discussed the current situation in Ethiopia and the recently announced reforms, including amendment of the electoral law.

Merkel said African prosperity is in Europe's best interests and development can help starve terrorism. "Sustainable development will drain the swamp of terrorism and extremism," she said.

For Germany and other European Union countries, the migration problem has been escalating with little or no support to the African countries, as promised earlier by Europe. Ethiopia hosts almost 800,000 refugees from neighbouring countries.

Ethiopia's Prof. Sebsebe Demissew awarded prestigious Kew International Medal

Leading Ethiopian botanical scientist, Prof. Sebsebe Demissew, is the recipient of this year's prestigious Kew International Medal for distinguished, internationally-recognised work aligned with the mission of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.



The Professor was recognised for his lifelong work on promoting Ethiopian biodiversity and the direct benefit this has daily for people both in Ethiopia, and across Africa.

Prof. Kathy Willis, Director of Science at Kew said, "Professor Sebsebe is a highly influential and charismatic leader in the field of botanical science, exactly the type of person who we want to acknowledge with this award. In recognising his vast contribution, we hope to shine a light on the importance of knowing what plants are in any given country but also what needs to be protected and conserved to protect people's livelihoods too. Kew's rich history of collaboration around the world and the dedication to biodiversity relies upon

partnerships like this if we are to jointly address the mounting challenges facing our planet."

Prof. Demissew's has been Professor in the College of Natural Sciences at Addis Ababa university since 1998. He has researched documented the plant resources of Ethiopia and Eritrea and their use by indigenous communities and led the Ethiopian Flora Project from 1996 to its successful completion in 2009 involving 91 scientists from 17 countries. He has published over 50 new plants and a species named in his honour.

"Kew was instrumental in providing the base and technical support for the writing up of the Flora Project" said Professor Demissew on learning of his award. He has worked with Kew for over 30 years. Recent research has included work with the team studying the native *Arabica* coffee plant, its climate resilience and mapping potentially more suitable landscapes for future coffee growing.

Joint work has amassed a wealth of information and assisted in identifying areas of high diversity. Sebsebe has been invited to give a lecture on Ethiopia's flora at Kew in early 2017.

Southampton University celebrates Ethiopia partnership

As part of ongoing research activities, and in celebration of the connections it has with Ethiopia's Addis Ababa, Gonder and Jimma Universities, a range of events were held at the University of Southampton from 10th-14th October.



A 13th October conference organised by THET (Tropical Health & Education Trust) entitled Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Rural Ethiopia was attended by UK specialists including Professor Eldryd Parry, who has worked for many years in Ethiopia, and Ethiopian collaborators Dr Shitaye Alemu (Gondar University) and Dr Yoseph Mamu (THET).

This first conference presented achievements from the first 20 years of work, and discussed how to accelerate progress, following the recent launch of the Ethiopian Ministry of Health's National Programme to Address NCDs.

An introduction to Ethiopia and its health care system was presented by Dr Yoseph Mamo and Dr Shitaye Alemu. The burden of NCDs was presented by Dr Yoseph and Prof. David Phillips and Dr Tom Havelock, and how to tackle them by Dr Shitaye, Prof. Liz Trimble and Dr Martin Prevett.

Professor Parry explained how a new approach to NCDs in Ethiopia can make a difference to the lives of the rural poor and that the Ethiopian government and its partners had made remarkable progress on the socio-economic development path, which can be a model for other developing countries.

A total of twelve main speakers explained their findings, stressing that the Ethiopian government's role in the health sector is immense and that the health system has undergone a huge transformation over the past two or more decades, with dramatically improved access to care through the accelerated expansion of health facilities. The innovative Health Extension Programme had trained and deployed female health extension workers and had institutionalized community health care at health post level, giving priority to primary health care.

To expand care services further, the Government is planning an accelerated expansion of primary hospitals in each *woreda*. THET has committed to covering the costs of a full-time administrator and coordinator to support the various activities, consolidating this group further in a push to raise more funds to advance the various projects. Ethiopia has achieved the MDGs and as one of the fastest growing economies in the world is able to make a real difference.

Ababi Demissie, Head of Public Diplomacy at the Ethiopian Embassy in London, thanked all concerned for their ongoing collaboration.

As a result of exchanges and visits, Jimma and Gondar are now centres of excellence for decentralised NCD diagnosis, treatment and care. This is what twin Universities can do, Ababi said.

There are also developing relations between the faculty of Humanities with collaborative work taking place, particularly within the disciplines of History, Film, Philology and English, funded by the British Academy, the University of Southampton, the Gerda Henkel Foundation and the Wellcome Trust.



Ababi concluded, "our development partnership helps build regional peace and security and aids capacity building and our London Embassy will continue to work with you to explore opportunities and advance towards the goal of even greater innovation and excellence."

Delegates attend IMO meeting in London

An Ethiopian delegation, led by Roba Megerssa, Deputy Director of the Ethiopian Maritime Authority attended the 66th session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Technical Cooperation Committee meeting, from 10th-12th October, in London under the chairmanship of Mr Zulkurnain Ayub (Malaysia).

Kitack Lim, IMO Secretary-General, delivered the opening address and the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) Annual Report for 2015 was discussed. A total of 235 activities were delivered during 2015, including 29 advisory and needs assessment missions, and 115 training courses.

Roba Megerssa provided details of the activities undertaken by the Ethiopian Maritime Authority in producing a competent and skilled maritime workforce, benefitting Ethiopia and Africa as a whole. He highlighted the importance of the IMO technical assistance and called on the secretariat to

streamline and strengthen the programmes, particularly for developing countries.

The Director of TCD announced that a reform to the structure of the regional presence scheme was under consideration and a proposal would be presented to the next committee meeting in 2017.



On the margins, Roba Megerssa (2nd left), Captain Getnet Abay, Chief Nautical Advisor (R.) and Asmelash Bekele, Deputy Representative to the IMO (L), met International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) Director General, Mr Moin Ahmed (2nd from rt) and discussed Ethiopia's membership of the IMSO assembly, which is the inter-governmental organization that oversees public satellite safety and security communication services.

Ethiopia has already set out a roadmap to design, construct and launch its first communications satellite into space, over the coming few years. Its first space station was established in Entoto (near Addis Ababa) in 2013.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

New project to support youth, women launched

A new programme to promote youth and women entrepreneurship has been launched in Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian government, the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) has

launched Youth and Women Entrepreneurship Promotion (YoWEP).

The project will help the country achieve its objectives of improving the opportunities of productive work for young people and women through the creation of small and medium enterprises and through developing strategic industrial sectors such as agro-food, leather and leather products and textiles.

The project's budget of 900,000 Euros over three years. "The YoWEP project aims to support the effort of the government addressing the challenges of unemployment among youth and women and the consequent economically driven migration", Li Yong, director general of UNIDO said.

East African Metals applies for Licence



Canadian mine development company East African Metals has applied for a licence from the Ethiopian government to start extracting gold and silver.

The company has actively been involved in gold exploration in Ethiopia since 2011 and owns 70% of the Harvest Tigray Gold project, near Shire town, Tigray. Back then, the company discovered 17,000 ounces of gold and 812,000 ounces of silver. East announced in August that the total amount of mineral resources in the licensed area is estimated to be 1.12 million tonnes.

Cement, Flower, Shoe Firms Set Up Shop

US private equity groups KKR and Blackstone have announced their interest in Ethiopia's infrastructure and floriculture sectors. Dangote Cement of Nigeria and one of India's largest paint-makers, Asian Paints, have both been established. The latter entered the market through the acquisition of a local manufacturer in 2015. Unilever is building a factory and Chinese shoemaker Huajian Group set up shop in the country four years ago.



Ethiopia offers investors in the horticulture sector Customs duty exemptions of up to 100 per cent on imports of capital goods for eligible areas of investment; income tax exemptions for up to nine years; a duty drawback scheme and loss carry forward for businesses that suffer losses during the income tax exemption period for half of the tax exemption period.

...Many Opportunities in Forestry

Forestry can yield attractive returns and contribute substantially to Ethiopia's development and environmentally and socially conscious investors are actively exploring the opportunities.

As a land-based asset, it is low risk and less volatile than other assets. It offers capital appreciation and the timing of harvests is flexible. There is evidence of market inefficiencies and there is a demand and supply imbalance for pulp so investment is key. The demand for industrial and construction woods is also growing sharply, for housing, wooden furniture and other products.

The Ethiopian Privatization Agency (EPA) says an estimated of 2.5 million hectares of natural forest remains in 58 designated National Forest Priority Areas (NFPA). Of these, 13 are managed under integrated forest management systems, with about 80,000 hectares of industrial forest for sustainable exploitation. Tax exemption Investment projects in forestry development are exempted from income tax for up to nine years depending on locations.

...LINKING UP AFRICA

Sudan to build power transmission line from Ethiopia's GERD

Sudan's Minister of Electricity and Water Resources, Mutaz Musa, has announced that Sudan intends to build a 3,000mw power transmission line from the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) to link Ethiopia and Sudan electricity networks, increasing imported electricity from Ethiopia from 200 to 300mw.

"The cooperation with Ethiopia is a model for regional integration in East Africa," said Mutaz. Sudan suffers power shortages especially in the summer - late April to the end of July. During this period every year there are power cuts for nearly eight hours a day.

The GERD is being built in Benishangul Gumuz region's Guba locality, a vast, and arid land some 40km from the Sudanese border. This dam and others are built in Ethiopia to generate power covering not only the needs of land locked country but the whole region.

In Addis for the joint Ethiopian Sudanese Advisory Technical Committee in October, Mutaz said Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt are committed to cooperating on GERD. Ethiopia's then Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Motuma Mekasa [now Minister of Mines Petroleum and Natural Resources] said that Sudan's strong position on the GERD is driven by the desire to achieve the mutual interest of Nile Basin countries.

Mekasa noted that the GERD is 54% complete and pledged to accelerate the construction process to complete the project within the set timeframe. Technical teams from Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt signed additional studies agreement in September, which will safeguard the water quotas of the three riparian states. The multi-billion-dollar dam is being constructed on the Blue Nile, about 20km from the Sudanese border, with a capacity of 74 billion cubic metres and generation capacity of up to 6,000MW.

Ethiopian Airlines launch new route

Ethiopian Airlines, the fastest growing and the largest African airline, launched a new flight route - to Moroni, Comoros, on 30th October, using the latest B737-800 New Generation with Sky Interior. Moroni passengers will find convenient connections to 95 cities across five continents.



CEO Tewelde GebreMariam, said "We believe our flights to Moroni and elsewhere on our beloved continent, Africa, contribute positively to the overall development of the continent and serve as a critically essential vehicle for the flow of investment, trade and tourism."

The capital city Moroni is the seat of the government of the Union of the Comoros, a sovereign archipelago nation in the Indian Ocean. The flights to Moroni will operate three times a week with stopovers in Dar es Salaam.

EAL has taken delivery of a second of 14 Airbus A350 XWBs, the first African carrier to use this aircraft. "Our A350 and Boeing 787-8s are next-generation aircraft," the CEO said.

Ethiopia to build 120 million passenger airport

Plans are afoot to build one of the biggest airports in Africa, the Ethiopian Airports Enterprise (EAE) has announced. It will handle 120 million passengers annually.

"The French consulting company, ADPI, studied locations for alternative airport construction and selected seven sites, suggesting three of them as potential locations for the new airport.



A spokesman said the decision was informed by ever increasing traffic at Bole International Airport, which was undergoing expansion. "Even if we expand the capacity of Bole, it will be crowded again after 10 years," he said.

Financing and other preparations will be concluded this year to enable the commencement of the construction of the new airport, a capacity equivalent to Dubai and Heathrow, and should serve for 50 years without expansion.

EAE has allocated \$300 million for its activities this year, which include infrastructure improvement and the construction of new airports. Ethiopia currently has a total of 20 airports. The government plans to increase the number to 30 in the coming five years, with 25 of them to international standard.

TOURISM

Simien Lodge wins tourism award

Simien Lodge, the highest lodge in Africa at 3,260 metres, gained first prize in this year's Skål International Sustainable Tourism Awards. Skål is the oldest tourism association in the world and was set up in Paris in 1932.



The Lodge came top in the **rural accommodation** category for its support of local communities in the



Simien Mountains. Skål was impressed with the Lodge’s restoration of the Saddick Amba monastery, with the support of the local villagers who carried bags of sand and cement around the cliff face. The monastery is suspended from the northern face of the Simien escarpment. The Lodge also organised the manufacture of hundreds of school desks for primary schools and donated a 25-seater bus to the community for travel to market and hospital. In addition, the Lodge organised an annual race for 3,000 participants who were given tee shirts and medals bearing the message “protect wildlife”.



Skal International Awards are given annually to those companies considered the best sustainable tourism projects of the year. This year, over 450 delegates came together from 49 countries to meet at the International Congress in Monaco between the 29th October and 2nd November. Skal is present in 82 countries in the world and has 15,000 members. There was a Skal club in Addis in the days of the Emperor and following the Lodge’s success there are plans for a new club.

Ethiopia to gain 14 new UNESCO heritage sites

Ethiopia aims to have a further 14 world heritages added on UNESCO list during its second Growth and Transformation Plan GTP-2 period, said the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The next five-year plan aims at preserving the nation’s ancient values and heritage for coming generations. Timket (Epiphany), Shadey/Ashenda and the Oromo Geda system are mentioned among the proposed intangible heritages to be registered during the reported period.

Gezahegn Abate, Public and International Relations Director at the Ministry said the major goal of registering heritage sites at national and international levels is to transfer “our forefathers” values for the new generation and keeping them safe.

Bon Hotel Ethiopia to open in 2017



Africa’s hospitality company Bon Hotels is set to launch a new hotel in Ethiopia the first quarter of 2017, to tap into the growing demand for hotel and conference facilities there. The hotel will be located about 10 minutes from Addis Ababa Bole International Airport and the city centre and will offer facilities for corporate, leisure, and conference travellers. The first phase of development is complete and the hotel will have 48 rooms, full facilities and meeting rooms and will offer contemporary, all-day dining prepared by international chefs.

CULTURE

Ethiopian films featured at Film Africa 2016



Film Africa, the Royal African Society’s annual film festival, returned for its sixth edition, bringing London audiences the best contemporary cinema from across Africa and its diaspora.

This year’s festival featured, three Ethiopian films:



Scene from Shashamane

Shashamane, about the Rastafarian community in the town of the same name, south of Addis Ababa, was screened at the Ritzy, Brixton on 1st November. The UK premier of *Roaring Abyss*, “a musical road movie which takes the viewer across Ethiopia, a nation of eighty different languages. Full of field recordings of all forms of traditional music, traditional pieces, using scales different from Western music” was screened on 5th November.

Finally, *Asmarino*, about Ethiopian and Eritrean communities in Italy was shown on 2nd and 3rd November.

SPORTS

Ethiopia wins Dublin City Marathon



This year's Dublin City Marathon was won by Dereje Tulu, who led an Ethiopian 1-2-3, crossing the line in 2 hours 12 minutes and 8 seconds followed by compatriots, Dereje Beyecha and Asafa Bekele.

In the women's race, EHITE Gebireyes finished in second place.

Tirunesh Dibaba wins Great South Run



Tirunesh Dibaba made her 10-mile debut at the Great South Run on 23rd October on the roads of Portsmouth and Southsea.

Clocking 51:49, three-time Olympic gold medallist Dibaba beat her fellow Ethiopian Senbere Teferi by more than a minute on a sunny and blustery morning. With this being Dibaba's last race for 2016, the 31-year-old had been keen to finish on a high note.

“The run was good but it was a bit windy,” said Dibaba, who was returning to action after the calf strain which prevented her from racing at the Bank of Scotland Great Scottish Run earlier this month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bole Lemi, Ethiopia's thriving industrial sector

Ethiopia's Bole Lemi Industrial Zone, covering 156 hectares, is designed to help companies such as agro-processors, pharmaceutical and textile manufacturers produce and sell value-added goods and boost revenue from exports. The industrial zone already has close to 9,000 workers. Manufacturing represents 5% of the country's GDP.

Broadcasting Authority issues Satellite TV Licences

The Ethiopian Broadcasting Authority (EBA) has issued satellite television licences to Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC), Walta Information Center (WIC) and Arki Broadcasting Service, the first time that such licences have been given to private institutions. One Love Broadcasting, Arki

Broadcasting Services and Ed Stelar Tradings were also granted licences to begin operating as new commercial FM radio stations. There are now eight analogue and nine satellite TV stations in Ethiopia.

EBA also signed an agreement with Tana Communication Plc and Metals and Engineering Corporation to manufacture digital set-top boxes locally. As EBA is transitioning from an analogue to a digital system, the manufacturers are expected to start providing the set-top boxes to the market within 11 months.

The transition will improve quality of transmission. Producing the boxes in Ethiopia contributes to technology transfer and allows the product to be sold in the country at an affordable price.



Signing at the Sheraton Addis Hotel, 19th October

Deputy PM Dr Debretsion Gebremichael was present and stressed that the government gives prime attention to the digital television broadcast technology. He called on all those that were given broadcasting licences to carry out their job with responsibility and in a way that will advance the country's developmental goals.

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

How Ethiopia's major growth sets a new standard for Africa



The Voice's Carl Palmer interviewed Ambassador Hailemichael Aberra at the Africa in the Square celebrations in Trafalgar

Square on 29th October. His Excellency spoke about Africa's vision for 2063 – an Africa united.

“Ten years ago not many people would have liked Africa as it then was. Now, many other investors are coming to Africa. Times are changing in Africa and Africa is rising in many, many ways.

“Whether regarding trading and investments, education and health, they're coming together, as are improved relations between African countries. It's amazing to see the changes taking place in Africa right now. The future is bright for Africa.”



“We have the railway from Addis to Djibouti, and Addis has the light railway system. Investors are coming to Ethiopia and poverty has been reduced to below 20%. Education, health and the social infrastructure are growing and improving. The economy is one of the fastest-growing economies not only in Africa but in the world. The UK is also changing, its neighbours are changing, so there's quite a lot of cross cooperation we share. “This leaves Ethiopia heading towards economic integration – regionally at first – then with the rest of the continent.”

His Excellency added: “I am confident that all of this can be sustained because there is no other way in a globalised world. Africa should learn and change, and feed its people, educate and maintain the health of its people. We are in a world where there is a lot of competition, and I have no doubt whatsoever that Africa will keep on managing business very well.”

Read more here <https://goo.gl/dyg1zt>

Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway signals new era of Chinese aid in infrastructure construction

Global Times covered the October launch of the new Chinese built railway



Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway, launched on 5th October (Photo: Zhu Xiaolei/GT)

From the steward's uniforms to the design of the train tickets and the train's interior decor, the newly launched railway linking landlocked Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa to the Red Sea nation of Djibouti closely mimics Chinese standards.

The electrified Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway was built by Chinese companies and launched early on a trial basis this month. This railway is often compared with the Tanzania-Zambia Railway, built by China between 1970 and 1975. It was the first railway built by China in Africa and is seen as a monument to Sino-African friendship and the starting point of bilateral cooperation.

Read more here <https://goo.gl/PO7xYe>

Five cities leading on climate action

The DW website wrote "With more of the world now living in urban as opposed to rural areas, the need for sustainable infrastructure has never been greater. Some cities are rising to the challenge in interesting ways." Addis Ababa was one of the five.

Addis Ababa has grown rapidly in a short time, doubling in size over the past 15 years. A quarter of Ethiopia's population lives here. That's 3.3 million people. The city's growing population is placing huge pressure on infrastructure. A further problem is air pollution. The city is full of old, inefficient cars, factories spew smoke skyward and most homes use wood to cook and heat.



Many of the cars in Addis Ababa are old and heavy polluters

But Ethiopia's government is trying to tackle Addis Ababa's environmental problems and the effects of climate change with its green economy strategy, published in 2011. The aim is to achieve economic growth - but not at the expense of the environment. Under the plan, Addis Ababa has boosted public transport with a light-rail transit system and "energy-friendly" express buses. Ethiopia's capital has also made commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, a network of the world's megacities taking climate action.

Read more here <https://goo.gl/xHbZ5U>

Star economies shine amid gloomy Africa outlook: IMF

Conflict and low commodity prices in several countries across Africa have slowed growth significantly in 2016, according to revised GDP forecasts from the IMF. Despite the challenging climate, there are some strong performances in Africa. Côte d'Ivoire (7.98 %), Tanzania (7.17 %), Senegal (6.64 %) and **Ethiopia** (6.49 %) lead the region in terms of GDP growth. Africa as a whole is predicted to grow by 2.1% in real terms in 2016, below the global average of 3%. In 2017, growth will accelerate to 3.36%, still slightly trailing the world average of 3.44%.

In Ethiopia, tin-roofed shacks make way for high-rises

MailOnline Surrounded by the rubble of her former neighbours' homes, Getnesh Amare hangs her laundry in the shadow of

the high-rise offices and hotels taking over the once insalubrious centre of Ethiopia's capital.

"They have come many times to force us to move quickly. I'm not happy, but it's a must. I have to move," the mother-of-four, a housekeeper, told AFP.



The neighbourhood of Kazanches, once a byword for dodgy bars and prostitution, has been singled out as the new business centre of Addis Ababa by authorities determined to rid the capital of slum-like residential areas.

Read more here <https://goo.gl/7eH6y>

Ending Female Genital Mutilation in Ethiopia

Journalist Amy Yee wrote about female genital mutilation (FGM) "which affects 200 million girls and women worldwide. But in Ethiopia, Bogaletch Gebre's NGO KMG has reduced FGM in one region from 97% to 3% by working within communities."



This pioneering work helped reduce the incidence of FGM from 97% to 3% in her home region of

Kembatta Tembaro. This happened through on-the-ground outreach and working within communities.

KMG is now expanding its work to other parts of Ethiopia. This project looks closely at KMG's work and why and how it was successful. It also tells the stories of girls, mothers, fathers, community leaders and others who made this change possible.

Read more here <https://goo.gl/6e3vxD>

Agriculture investment yields growth and nutrition gains for Africa

MailOnline African countries that took early action in the past decade to invest in agriculture have reaped the rewards, enjoying higher economic growth and a bigger drop in malnutrition, a major farming development organisation said on Tuesday.

In a report, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) said: "After decades of stagnation, much of Africa has enjoyed sustained agricultural productivity growth since 2005."

That has helped push down poverty rates in places like Ghana, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso, it added.

Countries that adopted the policies promoted by the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) not long after it was created by African Union governments in 2003 saw productivity on existing farmlands rise by 5.9 to 6.7 % per year, the report said. That helped spur a 4.3 % average annual increase in gross domestic product (GDP).

By contrast, states that sat on the sidelines saw farm productivity rise by less than 3 % a year and GDP by only 2.2 %, said the Africa Agriculture Status Report 2016.

"The last ten years have made a strong case for agriculture as the surest path to producing sustainable economic growth that is felt in all sectors of society - and particularly among poor Africans," AGRA President Agnes Kalibata said in a statement.

Growth in agriculture is more effective at cutting poverty than growth in other sectors in sub-

Saharan Africa because farming is a main source of income for more than 60 % of the labour force, and will continue to be a major employer in most countries for a decade or more, the report noted.

On malnutrition, countries that were quick to put the CAADP into practice experienced an annual average decline of 3.1 %, while those that did not sign up saw a drop of only 1.2 %.

The countries adopting the programme early - between 2007 and 2009 - were Benin, Burundi, Cape Verde, **Ethiopia**, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Togo, according to the report.

Read more: <https://goo.gl/tvZb3v>

Water Availability and Crop Production May Increase In Ethiopia Due To Climate Change

..wrote Elaine Hannah, citing a new *Science Daily* report, because "Ethiopia is different from other nations affected by climate change. The study was led by researchers from Virginia Tech who speculated that "water availability in the Blue Nile Basin may augment in the coming decades because of climate change. This may boost the crop production, hydroelectric power projects and promote irrigation."

The team used acclimate and hydrologic models to foresee the impact of climate change on water availability and sediment transport in the Blue Nile Basin. The results showed that there is 20 to 30% more streamflow available in the area in the coming decades. There will also be an increase in sediment transport in the rivers because of the increased water flow.

The Blue Nile Basin is about 5,000 feet in elevation. This would potentially be good for agriculture, water availability and low disease and pest pressure.

Read more here <https://goo.gl/a3FgZD>

Volcanoes in Ethiopia Shook Up Early Human Evolution

Lightning might have jumpstarted Frankenstein, but volcanic activity set our earliest relatives on

their evolutionary path. Dramatic and rapid changes from volcanic activity in Ethiopia appear to have set the stage for the emergence of *Homo sapiens* around 200,000 years ago, where explosive volcanic activity was dramatically changing the landscape and environment, according to new research published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

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

World's most inhospitable place could help in search for ALIEN LIFE as scientists move in

SCIENTISTS are investigating the Danakil Depression in Ethiopia, one of the lowest and hottest places on Earth, to find out more about the possibility of life on other planets, writes Laura Mowat in the Express.


Scientists are investigating any life in the extremities of the Danakil Depression This geological depression, which has a unique moon landscape, has water at almost boiling temperatures, high salt concentrations creating multi coloured structures and sulphur vapour.



Dr Felipe Gómez of the Astrobiology Centre in Madrid, who led an expedition in April to the site, said: "Any microorganisms living here will be extremophilic microbes of a major interest to astrobiologists."

The area, which has resulted from the joining of three tectonic plates in the Horn of Africa, is of great interest to researchers investigating life on other planets.

World's most dedicated Christians? Thousands climb steep cliffs to reach hidden churches

 **EXPRESS** THOUSANDS of dedicated Christians clamber up sheer cliffs to pray in hidden rock-hewn ancient Orthodox churches in Ethiopia, writes Laura Mowat in the Express

The sandstone cliffs of Gheralta in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia, which are 2580m tall, are the home to 35 hidden churches, some of which date back to the fourth century.

The climbs to reach the churches carved out of solid rock are arduous and involve near-vertical cliff faces at times and steep 300-metre ledges, particularly to reach the Abuna Yemata Church.



Although tourists occasionally use harnesses and ropes to help with the strenuous climb, the locals do not.

Read more here: <https://goo.gl/ujT77x>

Ivanka Trump Shoes: Made In China, Move To Ethiopia?

Dimitra DeFotis writes “Quartz reports that Ivanka Trump’s shoe manufacturer in China could move jobs to Ethiopia.

“Neither locale means jobs in the good ol’ USA. And it’s a question: Can Trump’s father and Republican candidate for president Donald Trump bring jobs back to the United States? Trump has talked about undoing bad trade agreements with China and Mexico.



Ivanka Trump sandal, stamped Made in China, Bloomingdale’s, NY Dimitra DeFotis/Barron’s

The head of a Chinese shoe manufacturer that produces for Ivanka Trump, Zhang Huarong of Huajian Group, said “My goal is to create 30,000 jobs in Ethiopia by 2020, with exports reaching \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion.” Zhang is building a ‘light industrial city’ complete with production facilities, dorms, and its own hospital in Addis Ababa ...”

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Published by the Press Office, Embassy of Ethiopia, London SW7 1PZ

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