



# *Ethiopian News*

Summer Issue



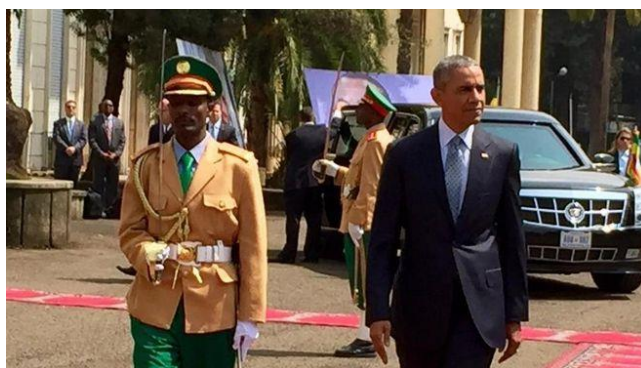
## *Barack Obama is first US president to visit Ethiopia*

Cheering crowds and a 21-gun salute greeted President Obama on his recent visit to Ethiopia, his first as President, and the first ever by a serving US Head of State.

The President spent two days in Ethiopia, beginning his visit on 27<sup>th</sup> July by meeting President Mulatu Teshome and holding bilateral talks at the National Palace with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn.

Prime Minister Hailemariam said the visit “represents a new height in our bilateral relations” allowing for both sides to trade more, encourage people-to-people ties, work together on capacity building, and explore how to take advantage of President Obama’s signature **Power Africa** initiative.

The leaders exchanged views on how the US can champion the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** at the **UN Sustainable Development Goals Summit in New York** in September and on how best to coordinate efforts to combat climate change and work together on global health epidemics. The US is keen to extend support to Ethiopia’s democratisation process, to help strengthen its institutions and build capacity.



On security and peace building, they agreed to continue to work closely on South Sudan, and Somalia - where both appreciate the progress made by AMISOM forces and the Somali National Army - and agreed to intensify the campaign against terrorism in the region, and deepen cooperation in intelligence.

The President praised Ethiopia for the sanctuary it provides for the “hundreds of thousands of refugees who have fled South Sudan and conflicts throughout the region.” Ethiopia is host to over 700,000 refugees.

Prime Minister Hailemariam reiterated the Government’s commitment to deepening the democratic process already underway in the country and welcomed U.S. support to make the system more robust and effective.

President Obama said Ethiopia was playing a leading role in lifting millions of people out of poverty and combatting food insecurity in Africa. He underlined this point on the final day of his visit when he toured the Faffa Food Factory in Addis Ababa and discussed his **Feed the Future** initiative aimed at increasing the productivity of small farms throughout Africa.

The President, appreciating the Prime Minister’s role in the global consensus produced at the recent **International Conference on Financing for Development**, reiterated that “Ethiopia is now helping to shape a new set of sustainable development goals for the world.”

On Monday evening, the President and his delegation attended a State Dinner, hosted by Prime Minister Hailemariam. Speaking at the Dinner, the Prime Minister said that the US had offered powerful inspiration for the promotion of science and technology in Ethiopia as well as for democracy and good governance. He applauded the role of the people of the US as “historic” when the US had denounced Italy’s invasion of Ethiopia. The PM also expressed his gratitude to the US administration and members of Congress for the recent renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act for another decade.

President Obama had visited the 3.2-million year-old bones of ‘Lucy’ that afternoon and in his reply at the dinner, he said “We honor Ethiopia as the birthplace of humankind,” and recalled that Ethiopia, “a symbolic example of freedom and a living expression of the right of self-determination, had played an important role in igniting the imagination of Americans and inspiring African

Americans before they won their civil rights.” He said his visit to Ethiopia was a lasting sign that the two countries could expect “another century of friendship”.

*More information on the visit is available from our press office at [press@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:press@ethioembassy.org.uk)*

### ***President Obama addresses the AU***



*“I believe Africa’s rise is not just important for Africa, it’s important to the entire world.”*

Addressing the African Union (AU) at the Nelson Mandela Hall of the AU Headquarters on 28<sup>th</sup> July, the first US president to do so, Obama said, “I’m grateful for this opportunity to speak to the representatives of more than one billion people of the great African continent,” adding “I stand before you as a proud American.. and as the son of an African.”

The President praised Africa’s progress – “As Africa changes, I’ve called on the world to change its approach to Africa. So many Africans have told me, we don’t want just aid, we want trade that fuels progress. We don’t want patrons, we want partners who help us build our own capacity to grow.”

To a tumultuous applause, the President reiterated that “Africa needs strong institutions.. and one of those institutions”, he said, “can be the African Union. Here, your 54 nations [can] pursue a common vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa.”

The President reflected on Africa as “the cradle of humanity.. home to great libraries and universities” and on its contribution to the world and how it had helped shape America. Africa had been damaged by “the evils of slavery and the impact of colonialism” but had been able to restore its dignity with the resurrection of its national sovereignty and independence.

“Africa is on the move. A new Africa is emerging, propelled by this progress, and in partnership with the world,” he said. Africa has achieved historic gains in health, lifting millions from extreme poverty and “leads the world in sending more children to school.”

“As President, I’ve worked to transform America’s relationship with Africa and there now begins a new chapter of cooperation. He said he had “personally welcomed nearly 50 African presidents and prime ministers to Washington last year,” for the Africa summit. This meeting, the President said, “set up a forum dedicated to beginning a new chapter of cooperation.”

“By coming to the African Union today, I’m looking to build on that commitment,” he said. “The world will not be able to meet today’s challenges, from ensuring a strong global economy to facing down violent extremism, to combating climate change, to ending hunger and extreme poverty - without the voices and contributions of one billion Africans.”

“The most urgent task is to create opportunities for the next generation.. as large numbers of young people with no jobs.. can fuel instability.” Africa needs to end “the cancer of corruption” to unlock its economic potential - the US “would cooperate with the continent to combat illicit financing and ensure transparency”.

At the conclusion of his address, the audience rose as one in a standing ovation.

## *EPRDF Conference concludes*



### *EPRDF conference*

The 10<sup>th</sup> EPRDF Congress concluded on 31 August in Tigray, having brought together a cross-section of representatives from the Tigrayan People’s Liberation Front, the Amhara National Democratic Movement, the Oromo People’s Democratic Organisation and the Southern Ethiopian People’s Democratic Movement.

The 180-strong EPRDF Council also re-elected Hailemariam Desalegn as Chairman of the Front and Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen as Deputy Chair for the coming two and a half years.

The theme of the conference, ‘To live up to people’s trust: utmost growth and transformation’ was also reflected in the 9 point declaration announced at the end of the 4-day conference. Particularly highlighted was the participants’ commitment to fight against corruption and the effects of rent-seeking in Ethiopia. A roadmap for strengthening good governance, preventing rent-seeking and distributing any wealth from rent-seeking fairly towards the creation of a developmental state was produced. Hailemariam also underlined the EPRDF’s willingness to co-operate with opposition parties which operate legally and peacefully.

“We are committed more than ever to strengthen good governance and the front wants to make tangible differences in areas of governance,” Demeke stressed. The Congress also noted that good governance was integral to the economic and democratic development of Ethiopia, which are crucial themes for the government.

Other issues discussed included the importance of strengthening the party’s democracy, the revival of the party’s tradition of criticism and self-criticism

(gingema), the broadening of the party's populist stance and the accountability of government officials.

The congress also highlighted that although Ethiopia is tackling religious extremism, more attention should be given to ethnic radicalism.

### *International Conference on Financing for Development*



Addis Ababa's significance as a host city of major international conferences was once again highlighted with the successful organization of the Third Financing for Development Conference, which opened on 13<sup>th</sup> July in Addis Ababa. The Conference elected Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn as Conference President and Foreign Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom was elected as chairman of the main committee that discussed the outcome document during the course of the four-day event.

In his opening remarks, the PM said the post-2015 development agenda demanded "A world free of poverty... a world that lives within its natural 'safe operating space' where inequality is kept within reasonable limits and eventually eliminated."

The central question was: 'Who will foot the bill to end poverty and tackle climate change?' The aim was to agree funding for global efforts against poverty. Foreign aid plays a part, but aid alone cannot be sufficient and conference delegates sought other ways to increase the finance available to support development.

The Addis Ababa conference established the level and nature of finance for the next 15 years, ahead of further international conferences later this year on development and climate change, in New York and

Paris. The New York meeting in September will agree to a collection of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), identifying international development targets up to 2030. The UN's COP21 summit in Paris in December will be the deadline for governments to agree to a new deal to address climate change.

The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have a wider scope than the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that they will replace, with 169 targets. Options for addressing climate change include a carbon tax and reforming fossil fuel subsidies, and tax reform, nationally and internationally, as well as facilitating increased private investment in developing countries, both from external and internal sources.

The Conference concluded with the endorsement of the outcome document, the draft **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** that will guide international efforts on sustainable development for the next 15 years. It promotes inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment and promoting social inclusion.

The Financing for Development outcome document recognizes the importance of domestic resource mobilization and urges scaling it up, including the **Addis Tax Initiative**.

Closing the Conference, PM Hailemariam called the occasion "historic" as world leaders agreed to work for the betterment of humanity and showed their determination to ensure no one was left behind in achieving Sustainable Development. He said the commitment to a global social compact, with all enjoying access to health, education, social protection, and other basic rights, marked a crucial step forward. But he stressed that there was still much more to be done to resource this commitment and make it a reality around the world, ensuring effective implementation.

He said "We have recognized that official development assistance and other forms of international public finance remain essential, as does the 0.7% target, and the need for least-developed countries to receive a larger share of aid flows." The PM said the private sector had a vital role in providing the drivers for development. He stressed the importance of other forms of financing,

ranging from South-South cooperation to innovative flows, and from climate finance to philanthropy.

The PM said the principle of 'leaving no one behind' was right at the heart of the Ethiopia's **Growth and Transformation Plan**. The country was, he said, "not only making rapid progress on growth and poverty reduction, including the operation of one of the largest social protection systems in the developing world, but also doing so while keeping inequality levels very low." He said: "We bear minimal historical responsibility for climate change, and our per capita emissions are tiny compared to those of many other countries: yet this has not hindered us from playing an important and a leading role globally in addressing the challenges of climate change."



He praised international financial institutions, including the IMF, for its commitment at the conference to extend **US\$400 billion for the Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs). He expressed appreciation for the new **Global Financing Facility** to end maternal and child mortality by 2030, with US\$12 billion already aligned to four countries, including Ethiopia, which were front-runners in progress in this area.

The PM hailed the G7's commitment to lift 500 million people out of hunger/malnutrition by 2030, together with an increase of up to 400 million in the number of people with access to climate insurance.

He also acknowledged the new public-private commitments to sharing **space-data**, to serve disaster-preparedness and other development

needs, the commitment to sustainable energy, and to an expanded network of **Solar Sister Entrepreneurs** and the expansion of **Tax Inspectors without Borders**.

The PM stressed the need to build a **robust monitoring and follow-up system** and to ensure **all promises and commitments were realised in the future**. He specifically mentioned the **International Business Forum** that brought together a wide range of business leaders, underlining the indisputable role of the private sector in the achievement of the SDG, and the Civil Society Forum, both of which voiced important matters addressed during the conference.

Under Foreign Minister, H.E. Dr Tedros, the landmark Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which addresses sources of finance, and covers cooperation on a range of issues including technology, science, innovation, trade and capacity building, was adopted by the 193 UN-Member Summit on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Consensus was reached on making certain that the actions agreed are **implemented and reviewed** in an appropriate, timely and transparent manner.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda stipulates seven Action Areas

- domestic public resources
- domestic and international private business and finance
- international development cooperation
- international trade as an engine for development
- debt and sustainability
- addressing systemic issues
- science, technology and capacity-building

On climate change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda urges developed countries to live up to their commitment to a common goal of raising **US\$100 billion per year by 2020**, to address the needs of developing countries and commits developed countries to discontinuing fossil fuel subsidies.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called the agreement a "milestone in forging an enhanced global partnership" he also said "The results here in



Addis Ababa give us the foundation of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development that will leave no one behind.”

An **International Follow-up Conference** will be held in 2019, dedicated to maximising all elements of international cooperation.

*More information is available from our press office at [press@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:press@ethioembassy.org.uk)*

### ***Ethiopia’s firm commitment to green energy***

The Ethiopian government has demonstrated a solid commitment to combatting climate change by pledging to reduce its emissions by 64% by 2030.

It is also pursuing a climate-resilient economy through a number of environmental and electricity generation projects, vital for the growth of businesses and investment. Several projects stand out, helping Ethiopia provide a model for other countries around the world developing *and* cutting carbon emissions. Recently Ethiopia opened its first major windfarm, taking advantage of the strong winds blowing over the Adama hills, 2,000 metres above sea level. The 153mw wind farm took a mere two years to construct, producing a fast, clean source of energy, which it hopes to exploit further.



*The Adama Windfarm*

The country has also received \$600 million of investment for a 300mw solar power plant and a \$4 billion investment from US-Icelandic company, Reykjavik Geothermal, which will exploit geothermal energy generated from magma beneath

the earth’s surface. Neighbouring Kenya has already exploited this natural phenomenon at a cost of 8.5-9 US cents a kilowatt hour. Ethiopia will be purchasing the electricity from Reykjavik Geothermal for 7.53 US cents, in a deal struck while President Obama was visiting Addis.

Finally, Addis has also pledged to restore 15 million hectares of degraded and deforested land to productivity by 2025. To put this figure in perspective, 15 million hectares represents one sixth of Ethiopia’s total land mass. This project catapults the country to the status of a global leader in the restoration movement with major environmental, social and economic benefits.

### ***Ethiopia recovers over 11mn hectares of land***



The Ministry of Agriculture recovered 11.74 million hectares of land during the first Growth and Transformation Plan 5-year period. The land will be planted with crops including pulses and oilseeds.

Natural resource rehabilitation is underway on degraded land to facilitate rapid growth in the agricultural sector. Large-scale watershed development campaigns across Ethiopia have also helped restore eroded land. The activities will

improve the eco-system and increase productivity in animal rearing.

### ***Over 30% growth in crop production***

Ethiopia has registered 31.4% of growth in cereal production, which amounts to a 7.8% annual growth rate over four consecutive years during the first GTP period.

Over 250 million quintals of crops were produced, exceeding the GTP target which was 245.2 million quintals.



### ***Ethiopia to double sugar planting in 2016***

Ethiopia will become Africa's biggest sugar producer and exporter by doubling its large-scale sugar estates to six by November this year.

Industry Minister Ahmed Abtew said more than 500,000 hectares of land has been identified as suitable for large-scale sugar planting.

Sugar production currently stands at less than 300,000 tons a year at three plantations, which cover about 70% of local demand. The new plantations will allow Ethiopia to satisfy domestic consumption, reducing its sugar imports. It will also save foreign exchange currently spent on fuel imports by producing up to 44,000 metric cubes of ethanol – a by-product of sugar processing - which can be blended with gasoline.

“The sugar industry is vital. We are planning to earn around half a billion dollars from these three projects,” the Minister said. “Sugar production is a



key part of our growth and industrialisation plans. We will continue to expand the sector.”

Eleven plantations with processing units will be built in all, bringing the total sugar production to two million tons. Ethiopia will become Africa's lead producer and exporter of sugar as well as other commodities.

### ***Agricultural hotline a hit with farmers***



Ethiopian smallholder farmers now have access to a highly popular agricultural hotline, launched last year, which provides free agricultural advice.

State Minister of Agriculture, Wondirad Mandefro, said it signals "a huge opportunity" to assist smallholder farmers, using digital technology to provide them with key information to help them increase their agricultural productivity and improve their livelihoods. It also illustrates farmers' ability to make use of new technology.

A collaborative effort between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural



Research (EIAR), Ethio Telecom, and the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), the hotline, the first of its kind – an 8028 call-in system – has more than one million registered callers, who by June had made nearly 6.5 million phone calls.

ATA says the hotline is revolutionising traditional agricultural extension services by providing smallholder farmers with direct access to "best practice" agronomic advice.

"Hitting the one million caller mark in under a year is a tremendous endorsement of the 8028 system," ATA CEO, Khalid Bomba said.

The hotline currently provides free access to information on cereal, horticulture, and pulse and oilseed crops, as well as a wide range of general agriculture-related activities.

Automated and voice-recorded information on pre-planting, planting, crop protection, harvesting, fertiliser application, processing, and irrigation is accessible to callers through 90 service lines.

The system also notifies extension workers and smallholder farmers of any relevant agriculture issues. Farmers can retrieve practical, real-time advice available in their regional language by calling 8028 as often as they like.

At the same time, the hotline administrator can "push" customised content - such as in cases of drought, pest and disease - to callers based on crop, geographic or demographic data captured when farmers first register to use the system.

"Over 100,000 SMS messages have already been sent out, said Andualem Admassie, CEO of Ethio Telecom, "along with 400,000 IVR messages, explaining how to identify disease and protect crops against wheat rust and maize necrosis."

Traditionally, farmers accessed information from periodic engagement with development agents. Khalid explained that "Now, this knowledge is a phone call away for one million Ethiopian farmers." Ethio Telecom says these one million registered callers are averaging 17,500 daily calls.



### *Crop insurance helping Ethiopia's farmers*

A growing number of Ethiopian farmers now have access to crop insurance to cover them in cases of inclement weather and disease.



Farmers have been paying into weather-index based crop insurance for over two years and some have received pay-outs after drought ruined their crops. Some believe that premiums need to rise - to keep up with changes in the value of the Birr –as do pay-outs. One farmer in the Oromia regional state, said he had already been paid 250 birr (\$12.50) on the 100 birr (\$5) premium he pays every season," but because the Birr has devalued in the last three years, pay-outs don't quite cover all of his costs.

Some farmers believe the insurance needs to expand. But the Oromia Insurance Share Company (OIC) says micro-insurance is for the benefit of the low-income population and some farmers have difficulty even paying the current premium. But OIC does plan to scale up insurance premiums and compensation in the coming three to four years in more affluent areas.



Three farmers' cooperatives and 1,870 households in the Oromia region paid for crop insurance in 2013; by the end of 2014, this had risen to five cooperatives and 5,720 households.

Freeing farmers from the worry of crop failure has positive impacts. "We used to suffer from persistent drought, but this insurance scheme has assured people and motivated them to deal with climate change," he said. "They can now focus on other activities such as planting trees in deforested areas."

### ***Villagisation program benefits over 300,000 households***

Ethiopia's villagisation programme has benefited about 317,000 households of pastoralist communities in the last five-year GTP period.

General Director of the equitable development programme with the Ministry of Federal Affairs, Samuel Negussie, said the Ministry was able to resettle 317,000 households, who are moved on a voluntary basis.

The villagisation programme was implemented in Benishangul Gumuz, Afar, Somali and Gambella Regional States, and the people now settled in 552 villages have access to clean drinking water, education and health services.

There are 1,654 new water installations, 645 schools and 482 health centres providing services in the new villages. In addition, residents have begun harvesting three times a year using new irrigation systems.

### ***Ethiopia building Coffee Museum to help brand its coffees***

Ethiopia is building a coffee museum in Bonga in the Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Regional State, the birthplace of coffee, 460km from the capital, Addis Ababa. It will help build the brand for its coffees.

Some of the world's finest coffees, among them Harrar, Sidamo and Yirgacheffee, the three most

famous trademark fine coffees, originated here.



The museum will be an asset, says Dr Hassen Said, archaeologist and head of the ethnographic museum at Addis Ababa University, who has been part of the project since its inception.

The nation and the locality in particular will benefit from tourism, and visitors will have the opportunity to find all types of coffee beans on one site. The flow of tourists to the area is expected to increase following the completion of the museum which will incorporate a research centre, said Dr Hassen.

Ethiopia, Africa's leading coffee producer, is trying to increase the revenue it earns from coffee which is Ethiopia's largest foreign exchange earner, generating about 24% of total foreign exchange earnings - \$4 billion during the past five years.

The nation's heritage coffees command very high retail prices in the international market but the earnings which come back to Ethiopia are low, as most of the profits are shared by distributors and middlemen involved in the marketing of the coffee.

Ethiopia is branding and trade-marking its fine coffees to change this. "Ethiopia is the country that introduced coffee to the rest of the world, but we do not benefit as expected so far," Dr Hassen said.

The museum consists of a coffee research centre, permanent and temporary exhibition areas, and displays that promote cultural coffee ceremonies

and a park with types of coffee beans from every part of the country which will attract researchers.



### ***SNNP doubles its coffee production***

During the first five-year GTP period, coffee production has doubled in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State.

Deputy Head of the Agricultural Office, Mesfin Kere, said “at the beginning of the GTP period 383,932 hectares were planted with coffee, but this has risen to 858,952 hectares currently.

Coffee production was 5.2 quintals per hectare five years ago but has now reached 12 quintals, and among model producers 20 quintals a hectare, as a result of the consolidated effort of the regional state in providing training, investing in capacity building and in using advanced coffee seedlings. Coffee production has created job opportunities for more than 3 million people.



### ***Ethiopia's transforming into Service-led Economy***

Ethiopia is making a healthy transformation from an agriculture-led economy to a service economy, according to Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture. The share of both the service sector and the industrial sector has been growing steadily in the last 10 years.

The service sector has been growing by 18% whereas agriculture and industry sectors grew by 7% and 9.5% respectively in the past five years.

State Minister of Agriculture, Wondyirad Mandefero, said the industry and service sectors play a leading role in developed countries. The structural transformation Ethiopia has been making is therefore healthy, he noted.

The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency Climate Change and Sustainable Environmental Development Director, Wegayehu Bekele, said the huge desire by farmers to use technology has made possible the transformation of agriculture and has accelerated the structural change of the economy.

### ***Ethiopia announces record \$11bn national budget***

In July, Parliament approved a 223.4 billion birr (US\$11 billion) budget for the fiscal year which began on July 8, submitted by Minister of Finance, Sufian Ahmed. The budget was nearly 20% higher than the previous year to allow for increased spending on development.

The budget sets aside 84.3 billion birr for capital expenditure (37.4%) and 50.2 billion birr (22.6%) for recurrent expenditure, including administrative, economic and social services. Another 34.7% provides subsidies for the regional states and another 5.4% is allocated for achieving sustainable development goals. The proposals provide 32.9 billion birr for expenditure on education, up from 24.5 billion in 2014-15, and health spending will increase from 5.1 to 6.3 billion birr. More than 2.3 billion birr is allocated for urban development including housing. Another 33.1 billion birr is

allocated to the Ethiopian Roads Authority, up from 29 billion birr this fiscal year, to allow for expansion of the road network to 136,000 kilometres by the end of the year.

The budget will be used economically and fund-raising systems will be put in a place to speed up ongoing development projects including the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam project over the Blue Nile. The draft budget was approved by both the Council of Ministers and Parliament.

Though there were positive results, more needed to be done to improve performance in the export trade sector. Ethiopia was witnessing rapid, sustainable, widespread and equitable growth in agriculture, services, manufacturing and industry and the 5-year GTP period had seen significant economic growth.

Progress in the manufacturing sector was promising but there was a long way to go before the sector becomes the economic leader. The per capita income of Ethiopian citizens has grown steadily and in 2014 stood at US\$632 (it is now \$700). The level of poverty had been dramatically reduced, to 29.6% in 2012. He noted that inflation had been kept to single figures. He said efforts to encourage investors to become involved in financial institutions were bearing fruit and he encouraged the public to save more.

The Minister noted the country's successes in social service development, particularly health and education. [A number of environmental conservation and natural resource management and infrastructure development projects were coming to a conclusion this fiscal year.] The Minister said the draft budget would enhance the structural transformation of the country's economic and social growth. Improved taxation and revenue collection mechanisms will play a crucial role in fulfilling the objectives of the budget.



*Ethiopian Parliament*

### ***Moody's supports Ethiopia's existing Bond Rating of B1***

Rating agency Moody's reports that Ethiopia's favourable growth and debt burden prospects and low debt burden supports its continuing B1 Stable rating.

Moody's said the rate is supported by Ethiopia's strong growth prospects, prudent fiscal management and large stable donor inflows, adding "we expect public sector investment to continue to drive economic expansion in the near-term, with growth averaging around 10% in real terms over the next two years." 60% of government expenditure was on public investment projects such as health, education, agriculture and transport.

Moody's concluded that the government needed to implement more effective revenue-enhancing measures. The analysis was based on Ethiopia's economic strength, institutional strength, fiscal strength and susceptibility to event risk, the four main analytic factors in Moody's Sovereign Bond Rating methodology.

## *Ethiopia - European Investment Bank opens an office*



The European Investment Bank has opened an office in Ethiopia, where the economy is expected to grow by 10 percent this year.

Pim van Ballekom, Vice President for Sub-Saharan Africa at the EU member state-owned EIB, said in a statement that the office would also manage relations with the AU commission and other international organisations based in Addis Ababa.

The bank will lend to water, energy and other state-run projects, as well as to the private sector in a country whose 96 million people mostly rely on agriculture.

Ethiopia is expanding its modest industrial base and invests heavily in new roads, railways and hydro-electric power plants to draw in investors.

The EIB has joined the Standard Bank of South Africa, Germany's Commerzbank, pan-African lender Ecobank, Export-Import Bank of India, the National Bank of Egypt and the Bank of Africa, who all have branches in Addis Ababa.

## *Ethiopia increases efforts to tackle human trafficking*

Ethiopia has enhanced its efforts to protect its citizens both at home and abroad from the effects of illegal human trafficking. Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen said the government was drafting a new law on the subject, holding individuals and groups affiliated with human

trafficking to account. The law will also advise on how to punish those found guilty of this crime and how to treat victims.

Furthermore, Ethiopia is soon expected to sign a Labour Agreement with Saudi Arabia. According to the Liaison Officer at Saudi Arabia's Ethiopian Embassy, the agreement will address the working situation of Ethiopian citizens in Saudi Arabia including timely salary payment, the right to take leave and protection from domestic abuse and human rights violations by their employers. If this deal is signed it will ensure that both the Saudi government and Saudi employers are jointly accountable for the treatment of Ethiopian workers. With an estimated 500,000 Ethiopians living in Saudi Arabia, this deal is an important move forward in relations between the two countries.

## *Ethiopia hosts 700,000 refugees*



Fighting in South Sudan has caused a new influx of refugees to cross Ethiopia's borders with figures rising to over 200,000. The majority of the new arrivals originated from Longechuk (Mathiang), Nasir, Ulang Maban and Akobo counties of South Sudan and come with stories of walking for months with little or no food or water and few belongings. A majority are women and children. They join the ranks of **over 700,000 refugees in Ethiopia**, Africa's largest refugee-hosting country with

refugees from not just South Sudan but also Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia.

Some 47,000 of these refugees have been successfully relocated from the flooded Leitchuor and Nip Nip camps on the South Sudanese border. It is reported that South Sudanese refugees continue to cross into Gambella state in Ethiopia at an estimated rate of 400 a day.

### ***Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan make progress in GERD talks***

In the past few months Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan have made major progress in talks on Ethiopia's Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile. The 6,000 megawatt project is due to be finished by 2017 and will be the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa.

The three countries have reportedly reached accords on many controversial issues recently, even agreeing on the methodology of the studies to be conducted by French Company BRL Group and Dutch company Deltares.

They have also come to an agreement on establishing a permanent trilateral forum to discuss general mutual grievances without focussing completely on the GERD. This represents genuine

progress for the region and highlights that Ethiopia's public diplomacy is garnering positive results. Such cooperation between the countries promotes strong relationships based on trust which has knock-on effects on other topics such as security and trade.

### ***Deputy PM lauds the generosity of Ethiopians' donations to the GERD.***

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is not just a government energy project but a national endeavour Ethiopians have rallied around. The dam has been funded by the Ethiopian people living in the country and abroad.

On 24 June Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen expressed how significant this contribution was from the Ethiopian public, which has come in the form of buying bonds and offering professional support. Mobile texting mechanisms alone generated 84 million birr and the diaspora has contributed US\$30 million.

### ***Ethiopia launches construction of tallest building in East Africa***

In June the construction of the new headquarters of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia was launched. The 46-storey building, the tallest in east Africa and the second tallest structure on the continent, is expected to cost \$200 million and reach a height of 198 metres. The four basement structure will be built by the China State Construction Engineering Corporation, which has already entered into a contractual agreement with the CBE.



*The New Commercial Bank of Ethiopia Headquarters*

## *Ethiopia strengthens and diversifies infrastructure*



In recent months Ethiopia has made major progress in strengthening and diversifying its infrastructure networks, both connecting different parts of the country with each other and with its neighbours.

In June Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh cut the ribbon as the last ceremonial track of the 756km Ethiopia-Djibouti railway was laid. Financed by China and built by the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation and the China Railway Group, the electrified track is expected to run its first journey in October. It will cut the journey time between land-locked Addis Ababa and the port capital of Djibouti to less than 10 hours, compared to the two days it currently takes for heavy goods vehicles to drive the distance on congested mountain roads.

"The construction and completion of this railway project will revamp the already existing strong bilateral relationship between our two countries and will guarantee the realization of our dreams of integration not only of our two economies but also the economies of East and Horn of African region," said Ethiopia's transport minister, Workneh Gebeyehu, at the ceremony.

The success of this project comes alongside developments in the railway and road network across Ethiopia. As part of a plan to connect Cairo and Cape Town by road, two road projects are underway in Ethiopia lead by Egypt's Arab Contractors Mohsen Salah. The first road will be 94.5km in length between the towns of Yabelo and

Hagere Mariam, costing \$54.5 million. The second road will connect Hagere Mariam and Igrachefe and at 72km long it will cost \$56.5 million. The construction company has said that 90% of the labour on the projects will be Ethiopian.

Further to improving the train connection to Djibouti, Ethiopia is looking to widen its links with different ports in order to reduce its dependency on this port. Currently, over 90% of Ethiopia's imports and exports pass through Djibouti despite the presence of Mombasa Port in Kenya, Berbera Port in Somaliland and Port Sudan.

In November 2014, a 12-member Ethiopian delegation visited the port and storage facilities in Somaliland. The expansion of Mombasa Port is expected to benefit exports from Southern Ethiopia. Widening its trade routes to include the Mombasa Corridor will also further integrate Ethiopia with the East African Community, enhancing regional trade and cooperation. Roadworks are under way to connect Kenyan and Ethiopian roads as well as widen the Mariakani-Mombasa road from four lanes to six lanes.

## *Bringing Ethiopian power to Kenya*

Progress has finally been made regarding the use of Ethiopian electricity in Kenya. After major delays from 2006 when the 1,045km line was agreed upon, Ethiopia has recently signed a contract with China Electric Power & Equipment Technology Company for \$120 million. They will be constructing the Ethiopian section of the Ethiopia-to-Kenya power transmission line, which is financed overall by the World Bank and the African Development Bank. It will provide much-needed electricity to Kenya a country suffering from power shortages and high costs of electricity which have been major impediments to development.

The overall cost of the project is estimated \$1.26bn, and includes two connector stations in each country.

## ***Hungary designs Ethiopian tram***

Hungary is one of the latest countries showing interest in Ethiopia. Dunai Repülőgépgyár Zrt. (DR) has built a tram with an Ethiopian firm and is participating in the development of Addis Ababa’s public transport network. The Hungarian company provided the experts necessary for the project and trained staff in Addis. Currently discussions are taking place with the state-owned Ethiopian company Metals and Engineering Corporation (METEC) regarding the construction of a test track for the tram. It has also been disclosed that the Hungarian interest in Ethiopia has attracted interest from neighbouring Kenya.



## ***Ethiopian Airlines earns \$2.39 billion in revenues this fiscal year***



Award-winning Ethiopian Airlines - ‘the sixth among the 22 most dependable airlines in the world’, ‘Airline of the year award winner’, ‘ATW best regional Airline in the world’ among many

other awards this year alone, has exceeded its revenue and profit targets for the fiscal year that ended in June.

CEO Tewolde Gebre-Mariam said the airline had planned revenue of 43 billion Birr by 2015, but in the last fiscal year, the figure stood at over 49 billion Birr. IATA (the International Air Transport Industry) is anticipating that the other African airlines will barely gather \$100million in collective profits, while Ethiopian Airlines announced a profit of \$175 million at the end of the Ethiopian fiscal year 2014/2015, this at a time when other African airlines are loss-making. The company has more than 40 aircraft on order and aims to expand to new destinations including Ho Chi Min City, Indonesia and aspires to amass \$10 billion in revenue by 2025.

## ***Trade and Investment Update***

### ***H&M’s Ethiopian Supplier Invests in Factory to Boost Revenue***

Almeda Textiles, which sells clothes to Swedish fashion chain H & M, plans to increase revenue by 50% to \$30 million a year by 2018 by upgrading factory equipment and training staff at its Adwa factory. Almeda, which set up in 1998, will supply H&M with more than 4,000 t-shirts a day next year and has been supplying H&M since 2013. Its sales will probably be \$20 million in the fiscal year ending July 7, up from annual revenue of about \$15 million in the two previous years.

Arkebe Oqubay, a special adviser to Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, said the government will invest about \$1 billion a year in export-focused industrial parks that will contain textile factories and other manufacturing sites.



### ***New leather industry village planned***

The Leather Industry Development Institute is planning to build a new Leather Industry Village with more than 17 factories, at a cost of \$80 million. General Director of the Institute, Wondu Legesse, said that in the second GTP period, the institute will aim to build a Leather Industry Village on 200 hectares in Mojo. Construction is expected to be completed within 3-5 years and will include market malls, banks and schools. In the first GTP period, the institute has earned over \$135 million from leather and leather products. Thirteen second degree graduates and six PhD trainees have joined the industry which has created 18,000 jobs opportunities so far.



*General Director of the Leather Industry Development Institute: Wondu Legesse*

### ***Leather goods manufacturer Pittards acquires £3.6m tannery***

World-class leather goods manufacturer Pittards has purchased a purpose-built tannery in a bid to speed up its expansion plans. The Yeovil-based company was established in 1826 and produces high quality leathers for gloves, footwear, luxury leather goods, sports equipment and accessories, using advanced new leather technologies and supplies FootJoy, Nike, and Brasher Berghaus among others. The business also manufactures in Ethiopia, where it benefits from significant access to its primary raw material for leather gloves, the hairsheep. It also runs several glove factories in Addis Ababa.



### ***'Be Connected Industrial' inaugurated two garment factories at \$2.5 million***

Be Connected Industries, a multi-national Belgian-Dutch company, has opened a garment printing and a labelling factory costing £2.5 million at the Eastern Industrial Zone. *The 7,000sqm factories make printed fabrics and labels for textile manufacturers and exporters respectively and can manufacture 80,000 pieces of garment prints and one million labels a day.* They employ 400 workers to date. The new factory will save both foreign currency and the time consumed in printing and labelling abroad, Mebrahtu Melese, state minister for Industry said at the inauguration ceremony.

### ***Nigeria's Dangote Cement expands to Ethiopia with \$500 million plant***

Nigeria's Dangote Group has opened a \$500 million cement plant in Mughher, Oromiya, 85km from Addis Ababa, which will help ease the country's cement shortage. Dangote is expanding across Africa and hopes to reach an annual production of 62 million tons by 2017. It will initially produce 2.5 million tons. The owner Aliko Dangote said "We're going to double this plant" adding that he was attracted to invest to Ethiopia by its reliable power source.



## ***Addis Ababa University graduates over 10,000 students***



### ***Addis Ababa University Alumni***

In July, Addis Ababa University (AAU) graduated the 64<sup>th</sup> batch of students - 10,218 in total - who had completed undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

University President, Dr Admasu Tesgaye, said as the pioneer higher education institution in the country, AAU had introduced a new system to produce highly competent teachers and researchers. In its 22 educational and research institutions, AAU trains over 51,000 students in 245 undergraduate and 70 post graduate programmes and the quality of its programmes is rising. Currently, over 16,000 and 2,000 trainees are pursuing their education in second and third degree programmes respectively.

Among 10,218 graduates, 3,173 graduated with second degrees while 232 became PhDs of whom 25.1% were women. AAU research has been published in renowned journals, which shows that the institution is becoming a centre of excellence at the African level, he said.

The University has been engaged in building the capacity of teachers coming from various other higher learning institutions. Special emphasis has also been given to studies on wind energy, the GERD, fertilizer projects, leather projects, the transport sector, urban development, tourism and

the environment, biodiversity and building a resilient green economy.

The intake of foreign students attending first degree and post-graduate programmes has risen, with 93 international students from 19 countries attending current courses, of whom nine graduated with the present batch.

AAU will increase enrolment in postgraduate studies but space has been an obstacle. However, Ababa City Administration has now approved its expansion plan and AAU is seeking financial support from the government.

The advancement of science and technology is decisive for the country's development programmes and in this regard the responsibility of the AAU is clear and in the coming years will continue to train and produce more skilled human power.

## ***African Union inaugurates Pan-African University Council***

The African Union (AU) has inaugurated a Council for a Pan African University (PAU) which will revitalise higher education and research in Africa, by exemplifying excellence.



The AU Commission said the flagship programme seeks to ensure that science and technology is handled by centres of excellence at the highest level.

The Council, a 28-member governing body, will issue all PAU rules and regulations and will approve

the University's strategic and operational plans, agreements, programmes and budgets.

Tolly S. Mbwette from Tanzania is its President and Paulo Horácio de Sequeira e Carvalho from Angola is its Vice-President. The members, who serve a three-year term, include representatives of the AU Commission, member states, regional economic communities (RECs), the University Rectorate, staff, students, host universities, partners, academia, the private sector, the African diaspora and civil society.

PAU also encourages high-level research and innovation as well as collaboration among Africans towards building capacity in critical areas of development.

The AU mobilises resources for the project from the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union Commission and a range of governments with other partners.

A key strategic objective is the development of institutions of excellence in key areas of science, technology, innovation, humanities, social sciences and governance, which would constitute the bedrock of an African pool of world-class higher education and research, said AU.

This would usher in a new generation of African leaders with capacity to optimally harness available human and material resources towards a peaceful, prosperous and integrated Africa, added the pan-African bloc.

The headquarters of the Pan African University will be located in Cameroon, but a number of institutes will be hosted in a range of countries across the continent.

## ***Addis Ababa University inaugurates female student resource centre***



Addis Ababa University has inaugurated a Female Students' Resource Centre aided by African AIDS Initiative International (AAII). The centre, consisting of a pool of 50 computers with internet connections and a reading room, was set up with financial and technical assistance from UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

Mr Faustin Yao, UNFPA Country Representative, said "improving access of students to context specific and gender sensitive reproductive health information and services was critical to enable them to overcome the challenges related particularly to HIV/AIDS and Sexual and Reproductive Health issues."

"The establishment of this resource centre is reflective of the fact that female students are at a disadvantage and are facing quite a number of challenges related to Sexual Reproductive Health. The Centre will increase their access to information and related services to empower them," he said. The centre is expected to benefit around 1,500 female students.

## ***Ethiopia achieves its GTP/MDG health goals***

Ethiopia has achieved all of its health goals in the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) as well as in

the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Health Minister Dr Kesete Birhan has announced.

Maternal and child mortality, HIV transmission, malaria and TB have all been radically reduced as a result of tremendous efforts exerted by the government, health practitioners and the people of Ethiopia.

Maternal and child mortality decreased by 90% achieving the Millennium Development Goal three years ahead of the schedule. The target for reducing new HIV cases by 50% was surpassed as a 90% reduction was achieved.

Ratio of doctors to patients reached 1:10,000, which was 1:40,000 at the beginning of the GTP period, said the Minister, adding that the country now has 9,000 doctors including recent years' graduates. There are over 45,000 midwives and over 38,000 health extension workers in 400 hospitals, 3,500 health centres and 16,000 health posts.



There is a lack of skilled manpower in the domains of repairing medical equipment, record-keeping and medical tourism. Medical diagnosis could also be improved and all will be major focus areas in the second GTP.

### ***Ethiopia encourages investment from India***

Land will be offered to Indian entrepreneurs who wish to set up hospitals and other healthcare facilities.

Ethiopia is offering attractive facilities to Indian investors which will enable them to acquire concessionary land and other incentives.

Ethiopia's Ambassador to India, Her Excellency Gennet Zewide, said, "Many patients travel from Ethiopia and other African countries for super critical care facilities." The new health centres would mean Ethiopians could be treated without having to leave the country.

### ***Ethiopia to host high level ministerial meeting on health***

A High-Level Ministerial Meeting on Investing in Human Resources for Health in Africa was held in Addis Ababa in July, where African countries with good experiences shared their successes, and lessons were learnt to help the continent re-commit to concrete and tangible actions for human resources health development.

Investments in Human Resources for Health are largely low in Africa, with a huge gap between the health workers supply and demand affecting the quality of service provision. Research has indicated that over 1.8 million health professionals are needed to curb the health constraints in Africa.

Addis Ababa was chosen to host the meeting as the country has registered notable results in addressing health problems and expanding health extension programmes that are exemplary. The one-day ministerial meeting will be followed by a field visit which will showcase good practices in Ethiopia in investing in human resources for health at community level.

### ***Ethiopia health ministry distributes 32mn bed-nets***

But as malaria prevalence increases following the rainy season, the Ministry is distributing the bed-nets, with priority given to malaria-prone areas. 17.3 million bed-nets have so far been distributed and the rest are scheduled to reach households by September, Hiwot Solomon, Coordinator of the National Campaign of Malaria Prevention, said.



Communications director of the Ministry of Health, Ahmed Emano, said the Ministry will be implementing a range of further strategies to eradicate the disease from the country in the next five years.

### ***Ethiopia Dominates Athletics***

This summer Ethiopian athletes have dominated at Diamond League meetings and at the World Championships in Beijing.

At Eugene on May 30 Genzebe Dibaba became the fourth fastest woman in history for the 5,000m, a list topped by her sister, three times Olympic medallist Tirunesh. Although she had her sights set on breaking the world record for the distance (currently 14:11.15 and also held by her sister), she was delighted with her performance and said:

"I am pleased to get a victory though it was short of my dream that is breaking the world record. I am sure that is within my reach,"

Eugene also saw a win for Yomif Kejelcha in a time of 13:10.54, which he went on to better in Rome smashing 5,000m in 12:58.39. This time meant Kejelcha was the first runner to run 5,000m in fewer than 13 minutes this year. Imane Merga, from Tulo Bolo, also completed the race in fewer than 13 minutes, claiming fourth position.

Success for Genzebe Dibaba did not stop here, with the athlete winning the 1,500m gold title at the World Championships in Beijing this August. Claiming her maiden major outdoor title, Dibaba lead the race in the final two laps and outpaced the field, winning in 04:08.09.



Mare Dibaba also won the marathon event, stealing the race by a second from the Kenyan Helah Kiprop, to win in 2:27:37.

Ethiopia completely stole the show in the 5,000 metres, dominating the podium, taking gold, silver and bronze. Almaz Ayana cruised to gold in 14:26.83 while second and third was fought over by Senbere Teferi and Genzebe Dibaba, with Teferi just coming out on top in a time of 14:44.07 compared to 14:44.14.

This was Teferi’s first senior World Championships demonstrating the influence she will likely have on the senior Athletics scene in the future. Kenyan Viola Jelegat Kibiwot finished fourth in the race meaning that Ethiopian and Kenyan athletes have taken the top four places at the IAAF for the last ten years.

## ***Ethiopia in the News***

THE LANCET <http://goo.gl/NtPEfn>

### ***Ethiopia sets impressive carbon reduction target***

The Lancet reports that “Ethiopia's new carbon reduction plan, released ahead of the UN climate change meeting in Paris later this year, has been applauded by health experts.”

Sharmila Devi writes “Ambitious plans announced by Ethiopia to slash carbon emissions by two-thirds in the next 15 years would have a substantial impact on health in the developing country, say health experts.” The carbon-neutral target will be presented to the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris that begins in November.

“[Ethiopia’s] plan, announced last month, relies on a combination of major infrastructure projects, such as dams to increase renewable energy, and cleaner policies in agriculture, transport, construction, and forests.”

“Using renewable energy in households, hospitals, and clinics will have an enormous impact on the health of our people”, **Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopia's ambassador to the UK**, told *The Lancet*. “But we expect support from the international community. Our contribution to global carbon emissions is very small.”

Ethiopia's plan, known as the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), indicates that full implementation of its goals would require spending and investment of more than US\$150 billion by 2030.

Ethiopia hopes to become a net exporter of energy, says **Ambassador Kebede**. It already sells hydro-generated electricity to Sudan, Djibouti, and Kenya. In the near future, it will supply South Sudan and, in the medium- to long-term, it will sell to Egypt, Tanzania, and other African countries.

**theguardian** <http://goo.gl/PGd3FZ>

*Drinking an ethical cup of coffee: how easy is it?*



As the number of ethical coffee products grows so does the scrutiny of them. Ethical Consumer’s Tim Hunt gives his lowdown

Selling an ethical cup of coffee has become big business. Likewise, the continued growth of guilt-free cappuccinos is one of the biggest recent success stories of the ethical consumer movement.

The coffee market appears to be heading the same way as the market for tea, where you’ll now struggle to find a tea brand that doesn’t carry some type of ethical accreditation. Research by Ethical Consumer has shown that nine out of 10 tea brands carry some kind of ethical accreditation, while seven out of 13 brands of coffee bean are ethically accredited.

As the prevalence of ethical products grows so does the scrutiny of them, and rightly so.



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*What’s driving Ethiopia’s remarkable improvements in nutritional health?*

Since 2000, Ethiopia has been doing something right in early childhood nutrition. Under-five child stunting rates have dropped from 58 percent to 40 percent, child wasting has dropped below 10 percent, and the prevalence of underweight in young children has declined from 41 to 25 percent.

What lies behind these impressive gains? According to experts from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Transform Nutrition, possible drivers include improvements in infant and young child feeding practices, improved agricultural performance, advances in empowering women, stronger social safety nets, and better roads and infrastructure.

“The reasons are still unclear, but the Ethiopia of 2000 is a stark contrast to the Ethiopia of today,” said Derek Headey, a senior research fellow at IFPRI. “Much of the improvement stems from larger birth sizes and hence better maternal nutrition, but

we’re still trying to figure out exactly what’s driving these changes.”

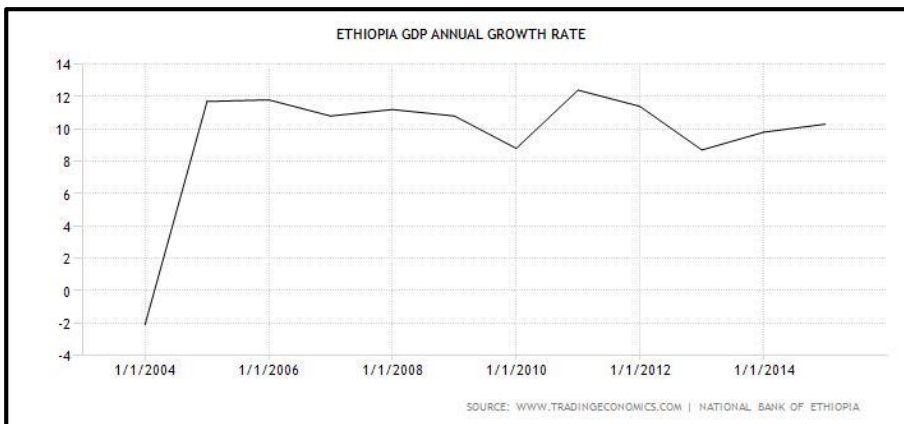


<http://goo.gl/e4p1rf>

### *Ethiopia: From Famine to Feast*

A nation once characterised by land-locked isolation and poverty, Ethiopia has emerged as Africa's 'newest Lion economy' and continues to accelerate in the global economy. With a population of 70.7 million people, Ethiopia has enjoyed a period of rapid economic growth by about 10% a year since 2004.

#### **Ethiopia - GDP Annual Growth Rate 2004-2014(%)**



**theguardian** <http://goo.gl/13pKmi>

### *Lessons in global health: let poor countries run their own programmes*

“The recent progress report on neglected tropical diseases confirms what all development actors know yet few do: country ownership leads to success and sustainability

Motivated by growing evidence of the impact of NTDs (Neglected Tropical Diseases) on child development and productivity (and as a result on economic growth) 26 endemic countries met in

December 2014 to sign the Addis Ababa NTD Commitment, in which they agreed to increase domestic investment for NTD programme implementation. The Addis commitment was an initiative of **Ethiopia’s minister of health Kesetebirhan Admasu**. Explaining why more governments are showing interest in this work, Admasu said: “NTDs are not only a health agenda, but a development agenda too, for which the poor pay the highest price.”

These country-owned programmes come in different guises but at the heart of every successful one is an integrated, multi-sectoral approach. Ethiopia for instance requires that every partner working on trachoma implement the full SAFE strategy – Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial Hygiene, Environmental Improvements – and not just the ‘S’ or ‘A’, on which development programmes tend to focus.

**The Telegraph** <http://goo.gl/AT7fLX>

### *The best of Ethiopia*

The Daily Telegraph’s Stanley Stewart praises Ethiopia’s ancient heritage, mosaic of cultures and its wildlife parks – “This is the most fascinating country in Africa”, he says.

From Lalibela’s ancient churches to Gondar’s palaces and Tigray’s mountain hideaways, magical Ethiopia awaits.



In a gorgeous region of forest and rolling uplands, of alpine lakes and fortress-like escarpments, Bale Mountains National Park is teeming with rare wildlife, including the endemic Ethiopian wolf.

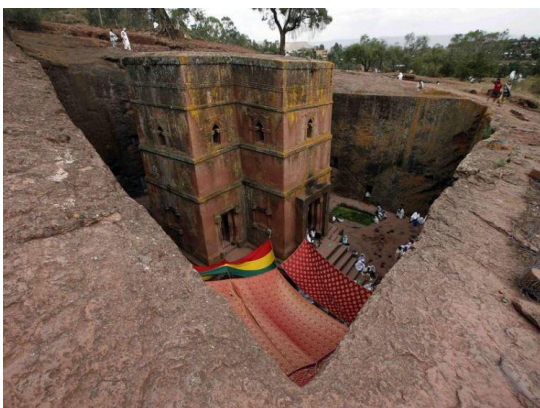
**CRUX** <http://goo.gl/WXdqik>  
Covering all things Catholic

### *Pilgrimages from Assisi to Ethiopia*

The Vatican and the Holy Land might be the first two destinations that come to mind when you consider faith-based travel. Dig a little deeper, however, and you'll find memorable pilgrimages to all corners of Europe, even Ethiopia.

Located in the northern highlands of Ethiopia, Lalibela is named after King Lalibela, whose greatest legacy are the 11 stone churches he had built as his re-creation of Jerusalem.

Constructed of red volcanic rock from the top down, these exquisite structures in Lalibela, Ethiopia, are no mere caves, but an incredible architectural accomplishment now protected as a UNESCO World



Heritage Site. The churches are built in a variety of styles from a series of blocks, chiseled out to create walls, doors, roofs, and windows. The iconic Church of St. George was built in a shape of a cross.

**JOVAGO** <http://www.jovago.com/>

### *Fascinating: New data on who most travels to Ethiopia, and where its 90 million-plus locals visit*

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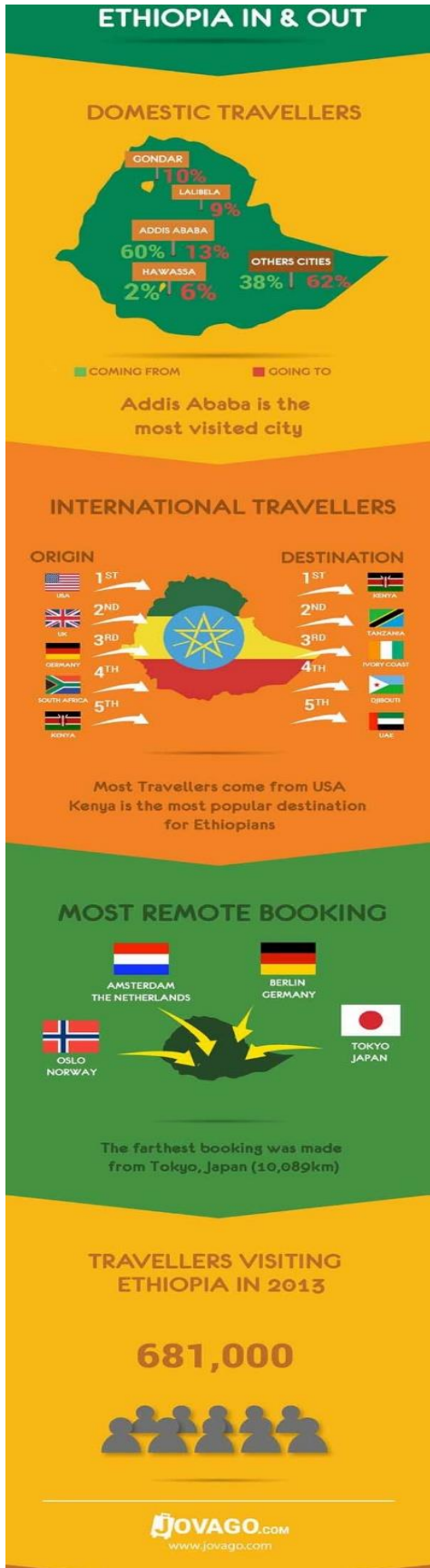
Eden Sahle reports on a recent Jovago report on Ethiopia's growing tourism industry which is "adding tailwind to the Horn of African country's burgeoning economy."



### *Ethiopia is an increasingly popular destination for travellers*

MORE than 96 million people are counted as Ethiopian, making the country the 13<sup>th</sup> most-populated globally. It is as diverse as it is populated, home to cross-cultural civilisations from North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, giving it a rich heritage and enticing visitors from all over the world.

Hotel booking website Jovago recently surveyed Ethiopia's travellers. Some of the findings are fascinating.



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