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Prime Minister Hailemariam Makes an Official Visit to the Republic of Sudan



Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, at the invitation of President Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, made an official working visit to the Republic of the Sudan from August 15-18, to review the main topics of their bilateral, regional and multilateral agendas. The two leaders shared their views on international and regional issues of mutual concern and discussed the need to collaborate in response to global and regional challenges.

In their discussions, President Omar Al-Bashir, who extended cordial thanks and appreciation to Prime Minister Hailemariam for accepting his invitation to visit his second country, Republic of the Sudan, underlined the continuous improvements in Ethiopian and Sudanese people-to-people relations. Such gestures of mutual understanding led to a spirit of co-operation and

co-ordination, consolidating the strategic partnership joining the two countries. The President, who praised the constructive and fruitful Parliamentary co-operation between the two countries, stressed the importance of reinforcing their links with continuous exchanges of visits, convening of business fora and the reactivation of the role of public diplomacy. He said their bilateral coordination served their unity of purpose and destiny, and noted that the joint mechanism allowed the two countries to move towards the completion of joint projects notably in railways, banking and economic integration.

Prime Minister Hailemariam who offered his sincere appreciation for the generous and gracious hospitality accorded to his delegation reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to the spirit of cooperation established over many years with the Republic of the Sudan. He described the existing relationship between the two countries as exemplary and said their cooperation enabled the promotion of peace and security in the region. He commended the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for the successful completion of the process of the National Dialogue and expressed Ethiopia's readiness to support it in any way possible. Prime Minister Hailemariam welcomed the partial lifting of sanctions by the United States government and underlined Ethiopia's commitment to end any sanctions within the IGAD and the AU framework.

The Prime Minister raised issues concerning the Horn of Africa with special emphasis on peace

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and security situations. He noted that the region had attracted the attention of different actors and states following the Gulf crisis and stressed that the neutral position taken by both Ethiopia and Sudan to work to seek diplomatic solutions had received approbation from the international community.

Prime Minister Hailemariam welcomed and appreciated the cooperation, understanding and coordination that exist between the two countries regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. He commended the constructive role played by the Republic of the Sudan in the tripartite process in implementing the recommended studies of the International Panel of Experts. He also emphasized the need to enhance cooperation on development of the water sector through the Ethio-Sudan Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC). He said their two Ministers of Water Resources had shown exemplary activity in their consultations and cooperation.

In conclusion, the two leaders highlighted the historical and traditional people-to-people relations binding their two countries together. They underlined their determination to further strengthen cordial relations, relations they described as anchored in respect, trust and shared values. Emphasizing the important role that the various High Level, Steering and Technical committees play in meeting the aspirations of their two peoples, they agreed that the next High Level Committee meetings should take place as soon as possible. They renewed their commitment to work cooperatively through regional and multilateral institutions to support progress towards the prosperity, peace and security of the region.

The Ethiopian delegation also included Dr. Sileshi Bekele, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, and State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Hirut Zemene. Sudan's Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour who held a joint press conference with Ethiopia's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Hirut

Zemene, said Sudan's relationship with Ethiopia went far beyond water issues. Water, of course, was a national security issue for Sudan, Ethiopia and the rest of the Nile Basin countries and it was one of the most important issues under the Nile Basin Initiative, the Technical Committee of the Nile Basin and the water agreement between the three countries, Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan, particularly with regard to the Renaissance Dam. She said the other bilateral meetings between ministers covered issues of security, water, economic cooperation and defense.

During his visit in the Sudan, Prime Minister Hailemariam visited the Bash Pharma Veterinary Drugs Factory and Dal Dairy Farm. Ethiopia's Minister of Government Communication Affairs Office, Dr Negeri Lencho, who accompanied the Prime Minister, told reporters Ethiopia was keen to learn from the best practices of Sudan in the development and effective use of livestock resources. In addition to learning from best practices, Ethiopia was interested to attract Sudanese companies to invest in the sector, he said. Prime Minister Hailemariam also attended the graduation of Sudanese military personnel who had completed military science training on the second day of his visit, and on his final day, he delivered a lecture on the situation in the Horn of Africa at Friendship Hall in Khartoum.

Meles Zenawi, the Mastermind of Developmental and Democracy in Africa



Meles Zenawi, a staunch fighter for the promotion of democracy, a seasoned statesman and eloquent diplomat of the highest caliber, architect of democratic development policies with charismatic personality passed away five years ago on 21 August 2012.

The legacy of the late Meles is compounded with a major paradigm shift in the transition from neo-liberal and liberal thinking which was considered as the only and the highest level of democracy in the world to a philosophy of developmental democracy as a viable alternative for Ethiopia and Africa.

Meles' personal and organizational contribution was exhibited through his dynamic leadership in the EPRDF in developing the first democratic constitution of the country conspicuously stands out a cornerstone for the establishment of a new political system in Ethiopia.

The developmental democratic policies were without doubt the brain children of Meles Zenawi. For the first time in the history of Ethiopia, full-ledged policy and strategy documents in which the developmental democratic priorities of the country are explicitly charted out were prepared during his time.

During the Transition Period, Meles came up with a strategy document on Agriculture Development Led Industrialization (ADLI), a masterpiece document which showed a viable alternative and a blue print for the transition to industry.

Among the policy documents produced, is the Foreign Policy and National Security Policy and Strategy. Meles was the originator of the nation's foreign policy that emanated from the domestic policies of the country.

The reciprocity between the nation's foreign and domestic policies introduced a new shift from personal charismatic diplomacy to institutionalized economic diplomacy that paid off.

Meles argued that democracy and development are linked internally because without poverty

reduction development program, it is unthinkable to put in place an inclusive democratic system from which the peoples of Ethiopia would benefit. He called for participatory, representative and human rights oriented democracy from which all would benefit.

He expounded on the major principles and strategies of developmental democratic state in which the sovereignty of the peoples of Ethiopia is assured.

The proper use of public property was a priority area. He masterminded the establishment of Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to defend against misuse of public property.

Meles' contribution in voicing Africa's interest on various international arenas and his ability in forecasting the future development of Africa has won him a global recognition and admiration.

As the leader of a nation with history of thousands of years, Meles personally shouldered the responsibility of ascertaining sustained peace not only in the country but also in Africa. He led the national struggle against terrorism in all fronts and charted out strategies for peace and security in Africa.

The major credit in initiating the energy policy that promoted the development of renewable energy sources goes to the foresights of Meles Zenawi. He originated the very idea of the construction of GERD based on the ownership, finance, skills and multi-faceted resources of the peoples of Ethiopia.

Major leaders of Africa are paying frequent visits to Ethiopia to see how the strategies have been implemented. Some countries have already started to bench mark on sectoral development programs of Ethiopia.

Meles was a dedicated son of not only Ethiopia but also Africa at large. He charted the way for Ethiopia which led the nation to assume a respected position at the international level. Today, Ethiopia has become a priority country for regular and conference tourism. The country is

already engaged in linking Africa with air and land transport and hydropower grid.

As the nation marks the fifth year of the passing away of Meles, the peoples of Ethiopia once again vow to take the vision of the great leader right to the end. The rapid transformation of the country will continue and the visions of Meles Zenawi will certainly be accomplished.(ENA)

Hailemariam Atends Kagame's Inauguration in Kigali



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn has arrived in Kigali,Rwanda on the 18th August 2017

to attend the inauguration ceremony of President elect Paul Kagame.

The high level delegation led by Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegen who has been in Sudan on a state visit will preside over the inauguration ceremony to be held at Amahor Stadium in Kigali. Some 20 leaders from various countries have attended the inauguration.

President Kagame was elected for the third term in a landslide victory in the presidential election held two weeks back. He has led Rwanda since 1994.

The Premier has earlier sent a congratulatory message on behalf of the peoples and government of Ethiopia to President Kagame on his re-election. Diplomatic ties between Ethiopia and Rwanda started with the opening of Rwandan embassy in Addis Ababa in the 1970's.

Ethiopia which opened its embassy in that country in April of this year, had deployed a contingent of peacekeeping force in 1994 in lieu of restoring peace in the country following the genocide which led to the death of 500,000-1,000,000 Rwandans within 100 days. (ENA)

Business and Economy

Textile, Garments Factories in Hawassa Industrial Park Earning About 1.5 Mln USD in a Month



Up to 1.5 million USD is being earned in a month from export of produces of the textile and garments factories that have started production at Hawassa Industrial Park, according to Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute.

One fourth of the over 400 million USD foreign currency Ethiopia expects to obtain from export in the sector this fiscal year would be covered by the park, it was learned.

Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute Director-General Sileshi Mamo on August

18/2017 told ENA that most of the factories engaged in the park have started production.

Currently, eight factories have started exporting and all of the 18 companies will do same as of next month, he said.

According to him, 18 factories that have installed machines in the park have already started operation.

The eco-industrial park, built in record time of less than one year, has attracted 18 leading global apparel and textile companies from USA, China, India, Sri Lanka and six local companies.

Of the companies that are engaged in the park, the Hong Kong-based TAL Apparel, is one of the world's largest clothing manufacturers.

The Director-General stated that the institute is working closely with the factories to boost export of the products.

The institute has been creating conducive opportunities to companies so that they can operate in full capacity and ensure increased foreign exchange earnings for the country, Sileshi added.

When all companies in the park are fully operational, they will employ about 60,000 individuals. (ENA)

UNIDO Lauds Ethiopia's Move in Promoting Agro-processing Industry

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) appreciated Ethiopia's efforts towards promoting agro-processing industrial parks across the country.

In an exclusive interview with ENA on the 17th of August 2017 UNIDO Country Director Gustavo Aishemberg said "Ethiopian government really assumed this responsibility to drive the movement of promoting agro processing industries in the whole country".

Ethiopia has engaged in the development of integrated agro-industrial parks (IAIPs) following

the feasibility studies that identified 17 agro-industrial growth corridors (AIGC).

One integrated agro-industrial park is planned to be developed in each of the identified corridors. In the first implementation phase, four pilot parks are set to be developed in Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples states.

While the construction of the IAIPs in Amhara, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples states have already launched, preparations are finalized to launch construction in Oromia.

Noting that agro-industries are important for countries like Ethiopia with huge agricultural potential, the Director lauded the commitment of the government to utilize this potential.

"I have never seen this kind of strong commitment of the government in the developing countries toward an industrialization agenda", he said.

UNIDO is working with the government of Ethiopia in the establishment of those industrial parks through its Program for Country Partnership (PCP) for Ethiopia. It focuses on agro-food processing; textiles and apparel; and leather and leather products.

"Agro-industry makes the agricultural production sustainable because it guarantees a flow from farm to the market. It is also a big motivation for rural population to get engaged."

As integrated agro-industrial parks will enable to establish backward and forward linkages; foster strong linkages between agriculture and agro-industry; and increase value addition and reduce wastages, they will help to improve farmer's quality of life.

"The only way to bring development to the whole population is through agro-processing industry, to add value to the farm production and this is the only way to drain the wealth and possibility."

Noting that building competitive industries should comply with environmental standards, Aishemberg acknowledged that the practice is already started in Ethiopia.

Alongside the development of IAIPs, Ethiopia has given priority to the environmental standards that the parks should comply with, said Mebrahtu Meles, State Minister of Industry.

"All the industrial parks that we are building in the country have to be environmental friendly and consider social compliance. At the moment environmental and social studies are underway".

Through the parks, the nation has set target to ensure backward and forward linkage, improve export of value added products thereby realize its vision of becoming middle income economy by 2025.

By developing agro-processing parks, Ethiopia has aimed to drive structural transformation, reduce rural poverty and create a better environment for increased investment in agro-food and allied sectors. (ENA)

Ethiopia Registers Fast Progress in Remittance Flow: Study



Ethiopia has made fast progress in remittance flow in recent years, Developing Market Association (DMA) CEO and specialist on remittances Leon Isaacs said.

A study funded by European Union and supported by Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, showed that Ethiopia has registered impressive increase in remittance from 141 million USD in 2003 to 4 billion USD in 2015/16.

Presenting the study on the 4th of August 2017, DMA Chief Executive Officer Leon Isaacs said

the growth over the years represents more than 5.3 percent of the country's GDP.

He said subsequent directives such as zero charge tariff on transfer services issued by the National Bank of Ethiopia (NEB) to improve remittance flow has supported the country to increase remittance flow.

Despite the success, 78 percent of the total remittance was sent through informal channels, according to the researcher.

Lack of access to services in sending and receiving markets, high direct or indirect costs associated with formal channels, illegal migration and the existence of parallel market exchange rates have contributed to the high level of informal transfer, he added.

Isaacs recommended the introduction of multi-stakeholder working group related facilitating productive remittances.

Among the recommendations include improving irregular migrants' access to formal remittance by addressing the issue of identification.

"Undocumented migrants in many of the key sending countries to Ethiopia are prevented from accessing the formal remittance system," the CEO said, adding that "overall it is estimated that 60-70 percent of migrants travelling to Gulf States are undocumented."

Foreign Affairs State Minister, Hirut Zemene said foreign exchange earnings from remittance is close on the income from tourism sector.

However, she added that the country is not earning the amount of money that it could get because of illegal money transfer.

She said the government will seriously consider all the recommendations by the study to increase remittance.

The flow of remittance to Ethiopia was 1.9 billion USD in 2010, USD 2.4 billion in 2012/13, USD 2.9 billion in 2013/14 and USD 3 billion in 2014/15

Tourism and Culture

Ethiopia: Ashenda for UNESCO



Ashenda Girls Dancing

Every year Ethiopian young girls eagerly awaits for the great day that dawns 'Ashenda'-a colorful festival. Young girls young ladies especially teenager girls go euphoric on this day because it is the day they are allowed a green light to go out to the street singing and dancing with friends and peers for a week .They chant songs and show their grooving styles to their hearts content attired with eye catching costumes.

Ashenda is also the most beautiful and colorful time of the year in northern part of Ethiopia widely and in some parts of Amhara like Sekota and wag Hemra.

The celebration of the Ashenda festival started colorfully on the 26th of August 2017 in Mekelle city. A huge influx of tourists and domestic visitors as well as members of the diaspora community had

attended this unique Ethiopian beautiful cultural event. What makes this year's Ashenda different is it is due to be inscribed as intangible heritage at the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural organization UNESCO in order to get recognition protection and treatment at international level.

Just like Meskel and Feche Chambalala ,with a great number of visitors, Ashenda is one of Ethiopia's intangible heritages that the ministry of tourism is striving to make it recognized and registered at the UNESCO bringing to the limelight Ashenda has cultural, religious and economic importance, and encourages industriousness.

Ashenda is both cultural and religious holiday and traditionally it is largely considered girls' festival, Ashenda girl don't wear common clothes on this much-awaited event since it's her special day she would wear a special and colorful dress with unique hair styles and jewels on her neck as well as ornaments hands ears and feet. On this year's Ashenda many tourists had been witnessed wearing the costumes and aping the hairdos looking happy to be part of the celebration. Ashenda is ever flourishing and gaining widespread recognition and popularity year after year.

Ethiopian orthodox faithfuls marks the Ashenda holiday after16 days fasting 'tseome fseleta' to honor virgin Marry's migration. the word 'Ashenda' comes from the name of a tall grass that the girls make in to

a skirt and put it on around their waist as a decoration.

Ashenda girls early in the morning gather on their neighborhood adorning themselves with array of beautiful Jewelleries. After seeing to their unique hairdos and dress they go to the river side first to pick Ashenda grass and making a miniskirt like dress tie it on their waists. Then after beating their drums and signing they tour house to house to collect treats .It is customary for people to give them money, food and drinks and other items for their efforts. They continue the whole day going from house to house and occasionally stopping in a village or city center and singing and dancing for a while before they go on again on their tour. Young boys accompany Ashenda girls wearing cultural costume usually they grab a stick as body gurd to the Ashenda girls.

A week or so after the celebrations started, the event comes to an end with all the girls from the village or the town coming together in the center of the town or a village singing and dancing until the moonlight.(Ethiopian Herald)

Body of Habteselassie, Father of Ethiopia’s Tourism Laid to Rest



Habteselassie Tafesse, the man known as 'the father of Ethiopia's tourism' was laid to rest on 13 August 2017 at the Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Habteselassie is known for promoting Ethiopia's tourist heritages by introducing the logo of “Thirteen Months of Sunshine”.

Born in Addis Ababa in 1919 from Fitawrari Tafesse HabteMichael and Mulatua Belayneh, he moved to Greece at the age of two.

The late Habtesilassie had attended primary and secondary school in Greek.

Before he went to the U.S. in 1950 to attend his college education, Habtesilassie attended college education in Egypt for two years.

Returned to Ethiopia in 1954, he established the first tourism organization. He served as assistance and later Director-General of the organization.

Habteselassie has discharged his responsibility in promoting Ethiopia's tourist heritages globally till his death.

He received a national award from Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn in 2017 for his contribution.

He also had received awards from different governmental and non-governmental organizations for his contribution and achievements of promoting the country's tourism industry.

Habteselassie Taffese has survived by his three children. (ENA)

The Current Tourism Logo of Ethiopia is;

