

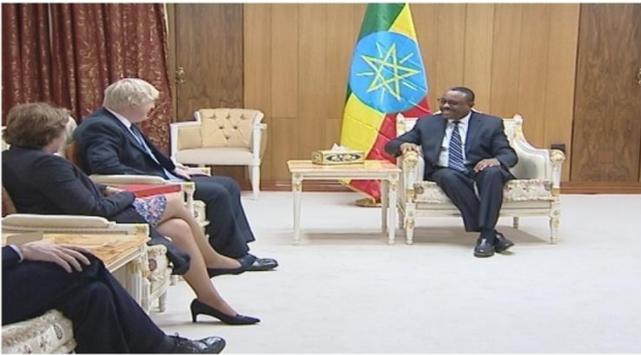


# ETHIOPIA TODAY

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## UK Foreign Secretary Visits Ethiopia



The Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom the Rt.Hon.Boris Johnson,paid a working visit to Ethiopia on the 17th of March 2017.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said his country is interested to promote development and investment ventures with Ethiopia.During his visit he conferred with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn.

The foreign minister said on the occasion that UK wants to work together with Ethiopia by supporting its activities in development and investment.

“We are talking about two great countries, Ethiopia and the UK, and our bilateral relations on development and investments. Ethiopia is a great country with bright future and has a greater capacity in her gifted and talented youth population,” Boris noted.

The Foreign Secretary lauded Ethiopia’s development efforts and said he would make all the necessary efforts in person and in his capacity

as foreign secretary of UK to encourage British investors to come and invest in Ethiopia.

He stated that Britain and Ethiopia would continue collaborating in development, investment, security and on other areas of mutual interest.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn has expressed Ethiopia’s readiness to assist and support British investors who wish to invest in Ethiopia.

The two sides also discussed ways and means of further strengthening mutual diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Mr. Boris Johnson added that Britain would support Ethiopia’s efforts to ensure peace and stability in neighboring countries in her capacity as a non-permanent member of the UNSC.

The foreign secretary finally reaffirmed his country’s support to Ethiopia’s efforts to restore peace and stability in Somalia and South Sudan.

Similarly, the Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson have conferred with H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Foreign Minister of the FDRE, on bilateral, regional as well as global issues of mutual concern.

*The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Ottawa is located at  
1501 - 2 75 Slater Street, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1P 5H9. Tel: 613 565 6637 Fax: 613 565 9175*

*e-mail: [info@ethioembassyCanada.org](mailto:info@ethioembassyCanada.org) , Website: [www.ethioembassyCanada.org](http://www.ethioembassyCanada.org)*



Ethiopia and the U.K have strong diplomatic relations stretching over 70 years. Trade and investment exchanges have exceeded 700 million USD. (ENA)

### **President Mulatu Confers with UN General Assembly President**



President Mulatu Teshome and the United Nations General Assembly President Peter Thomson have discussed on Sustainable Development Goals, peace and security in the continent.

President Thomson said on the occasion that Ethiopia is doing well in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically in industrialization.

He said “Ethiopia has been properly leading the way in Africa in industrialization by building industrial parks across the country.”

“I want to visit an industrial park to see what is happening there. And, I also want to promote the idea of building industrial parks to my other African friends and other developing countries,” President Thomson added.

The president further expressed his gratitude to the government of Ethiopia for its efforts in peacekeeping.

According to him, Ethiopia is also doing great job at the UN Security Council where it is serving as a non-permanent member of the council.

President Mulatu said on his part that Ethiopia will continue to exert efforts to ensure peace and security in the continent as it is key for the development of any nation.

He pointed out that Ethiopia is embarking on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and various development programs of the SDG are in progress. (ENA)

### **President Mulatu Bids Farewell to Outgoing AUC Chairperson**



President Mulatu Teshome bade farewell to the outgoing African Union Commission Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma on March 14/2017 at the National Palace.

During the occasion, the outgoing Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma said that she tried to facilitate the situation to build a better Africa that everybody wants during her tenure.

To create better Africa that everybody wants, Zuma said that she tried her best to carry forward the major program of Agenda 2063 that will enable Africa to become, prosperous, peaceful and integrated Africa.

“Of course, not all things will be achieved in the same time. The priority we are looking at now,

which I hope the AU commissions take with spirit and determination is the issue of the continental free trade area”, Zuma said.

Enhancing intra-Africa trade and single market is going to be very important for Africa, Zuma noted, saying that it will lead to fast economic growth, create a lot of jobs and accelerate industrialization.

According to the commissioner, a lot of improvements have been made in the area of developing agriculture, transport, ICT infrastructure across the continent.

She said that the continent has witnessed a lot of improvement in terms of good governance and democracy, however, there is more to desire in silencing the gun in conflict management in Africa.

“We have also been able to mobilize the youth, women to be part of every area of women endeavor because it is very important that we mobilize all our talent, all our strength in order to move our continent forward”.

President Mulatu appreciated Zuma’s role in the African Union in integrating African countries, strengthening AU and mobilizing countries to bring desired results.

The president urged her to continue in her efforts on the possible ways of strengthening bilateral relationship among the African nations.

During her term as a chairperson, Zuma has been working to ensuring good governance, rule of law and democracy as well as empowering women, Mulatu added.(ENA)

# Business and Economy

## Liberia's President Lauds Ethiopia's Industrial Policy



Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who was on official visit to Ethiopia on from March 3-4/2017 has lauded the implementation of Ethiopia’s industry policy and practice as exemplary process that other nations can replicate.

While visiting the Eastern Industry Zone in Dukam, President Sirleaf said what she has seen is a correct indicator of the viability of the industrial policy of the nation.

The development of the industrial parks and other industrial firms sets a vivid example for other African countries, the president elaborated.

She said the factories located both in Hawassa Industrial Park, where she visited on the 15th of March 2017, and the Eastern Industry Zone display how far Ethiopia is moving ahead in the sector.

The president has appreciated Ethiopia's effort in encouraging foreign investors to invest in Ethiopia and said that her country will share from the country’s experience.

President Sirleaf said the experience and practices she has seen and learnt from Ethiopia would create additional capacity for Liberia’s efforts to develop its economy, noting that the expansion of industries would help to create more jobs.

State Minister of Industry Mebrehatu Meles on his part said the industrial parks that are already constructed and under construction in different parts of the country depict that the development policies of the country are being adequately implemented.

He added that a wide range of incentives provided to both domestic and foreign investors coupled with policy provisions has helped to increase productivity in the sector. (ENA)

## Norfund Invests 7.4m USD in Ethiopian Beef Exporter



The Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries (Norfund) announced an investment of 7.4 million USD in Verde Beef Processing PLC (VBP) which is an Ethiopian beef producer.

The capital provided by Norfund will help VBP become the largest cattle processing operation in Eastern Africa by enabling the construction of a state of the art abattoir and meat processing facility which is underway and also fund working capital for the business.

Managing Director of Norfund Kjell Roland said, “This is our first direct investment in Ethiopia, and Norfund is delighted to contribute to Ethiopia's growth and export through Verde Beef”

“This investment is focused on employment creation and export and fits very well with our strategy to contribute to sustainable enterprises

and economic development in Africa.” Roland added.

While the Chairman and Co-founder of Verde Beef Processing PLC, Scott Friesen said, “We're excited about the partnership with Norfund which will enable us to provide incomes to thousands more families annually, generate 18 million USD of revenues in 2018, reach an export value of 100 million USD annually by 2021, and further develop the important meat sector in Ethiopia.”

“Verde Beef is a critical project that is aligned with the Ethiopian government's focus on job creation, increasing exports and introducing improvements to the agricultural sector.” The

VBP has a significant cost advantage over its international competition, and is expanding its feedlot operation in Ethiopia to capitalize on this; producing high-quality beef for export and local markets.

According to Market Watch, Ethiopia's geographical positioning combined with its livestock population, the largest in Africa and the fifth largest in the world, positions the country perfectly as a potential provider of meat to the rapidly expanding markets of the Middle East and Northern Africa.

The beef farm is located in the Adami Tulu district of the Oromia regional state, Ziway Ethiopia, close to the new railway line to Djibouti.

The company produces premium beef and aims to become the largest cattle processing operation in Eastern Africa with a target output of more than 130,000 carcasses per year.

The company has created over 400 jobs directly on the farm with the upgraded skills needed for competing in the global beef market in addition to the 3500 jobs that are created indirectly through local sourcing of calves and feed inputs.

As the company expands the job it creates is anticipated to reach 2000 employees and supporting over 50,000 livelihoods when the company reaches full operation. (ENA)

## **China Encouraging Companies to Invest in Ethiopia's Industrial Parks**

China is encouraging companies to invest in the industrial parks of Ethiopia with a view to support the country's vision of becoming manufacturing hub, the Ministry of Commerce said.

Department Director of West Asian and African Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce Wang Dong told ENA that the government will continue to play its role in encouraging more Chinese companies to invest in the industrial parks.

China has been encouraging its companies to invest in African countries so as to boost cooperation through its "Go Global" policy.

There is a growing interest from Chinese anchor companies to invest in Ethiopia in various areas and are conducting preliminary assessment to start investment projects, Wang said.

Last year alone, 120 companies from Guangdong Province has paid working visit to Ethiopia and signed more than 20 project agreements with an outlay of over 350 million USD, he noted.

According to data from the Ethiopia Investment Commission, 120 Chinese projects have been licensed, including Jiangsu Company's textile factory, to be built with one billion USD over the previous fiscal year.

Wang noted that Ethiopia has been engaged in extensive development of infrastructure and industrial parks in its second five-year Growth and Transformation Plan, which he said is playing vital role in the development of the country.

In this regard, China will continue to support the development strategies of Ethiopia and encourages the engagement of more Chinese companies targeting areas that comply with the country's plan, he affirmed.

Wang stated that the Eastern Industrial Park built in the Oromia region over an area of 20,000

square meters displays the strong cooperation between the two countries.

Seventeen Chinese companies have officially entered into the park and 13 of them have begun production, creating 8,000 jobs.

Ethiopia is the fourth largest Chinese investment destination in Africa, with 3.3 billion USD foreign direct investments during the previous fiscal year alone, he elaborated. (ENA)

## **Turkey Willing to Further Commercial Ties with Ethiopia**

Turkey is willing to further strengthen its commercial relation with Ethiopia, considering the huge potential the country has, head of Turkish business delegation, which is in Ethiopia to assess potentials said.

During a business to business meeting held in Addis on the 23rd of March 2017, head of the delegation Ali Ozinonou said that Turkey needs to further strengthen its commercial relation with Ethiopia.

The 40 member delegation led by Board member of Turkish Exporters Assembly discussed with local investors.

The business delegations drawn from pharmaceutical companies expressed their interest to engage in Ethiopia in manufacturing of pharmaceutical products and energy development, according to him.

"We have total investment of 2.3 billion USD in Ethiopia as Turkish investment, yet we do not think this is sufficient. We are aware of Ethiopia's potential" he said.

"We believe that we will increase this investment of 2.3 billion USD to 10 billion USD with the upcoming period," Ozinonou said.

"Our foreign trade with Ethiopia has increased by five percent in 2016 up to 440 million USD. Still this number does not reflect our exact potential" he noted.

“Our target in foreign trade is one billion USD with the coming five years,” he pointed out.

Ethiopia comes second in Turkish contract businesses in Africa and the first in contract amount, indicating the growing interest by Turkish companies, Ozinonou said.

“We are not here only to increase our own exports; we would like Ethiopia’s export to Turkey increase as well. We would like to establish strong economic bound between the two countries,” he said.

Solomon Afework, President of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association (ECCSA), organizer of the event, said Turkish trade and investment is growing rapidly in Ethiopia due to Ethiopia’s fast economic growth.

Significant progress was registered during the past years in trade and investment.

He mentioned the growth of Ethiopia’s export to Turkey to 70million US dollar in 2015 from around 17 million USD in 2004, increasing by about 200%.

“We can see that the import –export capacity of Ethiopia and Turkey is growing with Ethiopia exporting sesame seeds, dried kidney beans, including white pea beans, shelled, pickled skins of sheep or lamp and importing iron/ steel bars and rods, hot rolled transformer, textile spinning machines from turkey.”

He also said, “Turkey-Ethiopian Business to business meeting and the side line events can best be taken as good opportunity to further reinforcing the trade and investment.”(ENA)

## Tourism and Culture

### Preps underway to Make Adwa Mountains Top Tourism Destination



The nation is striving to make the chain of mountains on which the battle of Adwa, where the decisive war against colonialism took place, as one of the top tourism destinations, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism said.

Building pan African university and museum that would help to vividly demonstrate that the Battle of Adwa are among projects to make Adwa a top tourism destination, the Ministry said.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, Public and International Relations Director at the Ministry, Gezahegn Abate said that since it is a historic battle ground related to the identity of the peoples of Ethiopia, a memorial and museum should be prepared.

The victory of Adwa was a historical demonstration of the national identity of the peoples of Ethiopia and the pride of Ethiopia and Africa in the period of colonialism and scramble for Africa.

The place is a new destination with unique historical significance as the victorious battle in the world fought to repulse an unwarranted aggression from a colonial power armed with modern weapons. It stands to reason therefore that Adwa should become an important tourist destination.

According to him, preliminary activities like expansion of parks and infrastructure development in the area and attempts to lure private investors in the area to work on projects that would facilitate a viable tourist destination at Adwa is underway.

*“Establishing museum would mean visiting Ethiopia in a miniature. Various opportunities are available to recreate the Battle of Adwa through paintings, photos, graphic arts, literature and several other means, he added. (ENA)*

## **Premier Emphasizes Need for Institutional Capacity Building, Dev’t of Tourism Destination**



Institutional capacity building and development of tourist destinations should be given the necessary attention so that the country can benefit from tourism, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn said.

The Ethiopian Tourism Transformation Council held its fourth regular meeting on 22nd of March 2017.

Chairperson of the Council, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn said on the occasion that Ethiopia has a huge potential in tourism but the country has not benefited much from the resource. To secure the desired benefits, attention should be given to institutional capacity building and development of tourism destination.

Encouraging private businesspersons to engage in building hotels, lodges, recreational areas and other infrastructure for tourists is essential, he noted.

He further noted that creating ownership mentality among farmers is crucial and efforts should be exerted towards that direction.

Culture and Tourism Minister Dr. Hirut Woldemariam said collaborative efforts will be made

in the future as the sector needs the integrated cooperation of stakeholder.

She stated that people-to-people visit program organized in order to increase local tourism revenue.

During the forum it was indicated that due attention should be given to preserving heritages and tourist destinations by developing, protecting and introducing them. (ENA)

## **Embassy Attends Ottawa Travel & Vacation Show**



The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Canada participated on the Ottawa Travel & Vacation Show which took place from 25-26 March 2017 in Ottawa Canada.

The Ottawa Travel and Vacation Show was well attended by tour operators and travel agents and the general public.

Embassy of Ethiopia's stand, offering presentations on Ethiopia's tourist destinations and a traditional coffee ceremony, has attracted a lot of visitors. It was a good opportunity to promote Ethiopia's tourist destinations as well as to convince tour operators and travel agents to include the country in their tour packages.



### **From the Desk of Dr. Tedros**

First and foremost, I would like to thank my friends and colleagues for your unwavering support. I am honoured to be one of three candidates left in the election for Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). I am pleased our campaign received 34 votes in the first round of voting, which means every country on WHO'S executive Board endorsed my candidacy. I am also grateful to have received the highest number of votes in the second round of the short listing. I know that transforming WHO requires effective engagement with Member States, So I am heartened by this strong display of support from each region. Countries must be at the table, as full and equal partners, to guide and make the decisions that will affect the health of their populations.

Over the next two months, I look forward to continuing our conversation about how to make a tangible, positive impact on the health and lives of people everywhere. I am confident that if we maximise inclusive partnerships and ensure collective priority setting, we will build a stronger WHO fit for the challenges of the 21st century.

On International Women's Day, I called for such needed global actions and investments to support countries' advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women. Despite all the progress we have made, millions of women and girls continue to face challenges ranging from access to education and employment opportunities, to early marriage and lack of access to reproductive health services. Investing in girls and women is the smartest thing we can do, and it will help us improve opportunities for all people. Leading to gender equality is among my five leadership priorities for WHO. All of this builds on the support from you.

These discussions and experiences have energised me and reaffirmed that we can and will build WHO into a more effective, transparent and accountable agency that is independent, science and innovation-based, results-focused and responsive. Please see my vision statement for more about my leadership priorities for WHO at [www.drtedros.com](http://www.drtedros.com).

With your stance, I am confident that we will be successful in the final election in May at World Health Assembly.

