



EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

# Concluding Remarks by His Excellency Ambassador Berhanu Kebede

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at the UK - Ethiopia Investment, Trade and Tourism Forum

**LONDON**

**9<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

Excellency....

Ministers and Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

The day-long Ethiopian Investment Forum in London has achieved the goals it has set to secure. The Ethiopian Government and partners in development have together explored investment, trade and tourism opportunities with all the incentives on the table for the private sector and businesses decidedly interested in investing in Ethiopia.

The new Ethiopia has only one real foe and that is poverty. All endeavours by the Government and peoples of Ethiopia are deployed to uproot backwardness and ensure the actualization of its potential for the benefit of the people, owners of the transformation in the making.

It has been now almost a year since the coming into force of the Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan, the blue print for sustainable development in the years leading to 2015. At the heart of the programme are education, health, infrastructure ,roads, dams ,factories, promotion of investment and trade, the source of revenue for further economic growth which subsequently would change the quality of life of citizens empowering them to be masters of their destiny.

I believe, the deliberations we had throughout the day, are instrumental for forging robust relations based on collective understanding of the procedures, rules and regulations governing investment and trade and accompanying incentives, crucial in the interaction between pertinent Government agencies and businesses and investors interested in starting or expanding existing ventures.

Excellency,

Ministers and Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

In the course of the day, we have seen a great deal of networking and one-to-one talks that could open up communication links between Government and development partners which will foster future engagements in all the sectors including mining, agriculture, agro-processing and tourism.

Now that we have forged a relationship, we have to redouble our efforts to make it durable with returns for all of us to cherish while supporting and engaging in the battle to defeat poverty.

Excellency,

Ministers and Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

As the London Ethiopian Investment Promotion Forum comes to its successful culmination, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the UK Government and the various Agencies, for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to the high level Ethiopian delegation.

I would like also to pay tributes to Africa Matters, DMA, and WAFA Promotion for their diligence and efficient management of the successful deliberations that reflected their superb organizational skills.

I am delighted to announce the successful conclusion of the London Ethiopian Investment Promotion Forum which brought together senior Government officials, the private sector and partners, both active and prospective, and other stake holders to discuss future engagements in Ethiopia , an emerging investment destination in Africa.