

Minister Tedros Urges Ethiopians in the UK for More Engagement in Nation Building

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Ethiopian Foreign Minister, H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom, met with members of the Ethiopian Diaspora in the UK where he discussed timely and relevant issues focusing on the GTP and highlighting gains made in investment, trade and infrastructure development that are paying dividends to Ethiopians at all levels.

Dr. Tedros was in London for a two-day official visit.

Halfway through the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), he said, we are on the right track and there is the goodwill and commitment to achieve the goals which include doubling agricultural production and ensuring the structural transformation is a launching pad for yet a faster economic growth.

Generation of up to 8,000 MW of hydropower, the construction of a network of roads and railways, expansion of education and health facilities, further improvement of good governance and consolidation of democratic institutions would remain the core-preoccupation of Government and the people at large.

In the next few years, major focus will be put on:

- raising productivity in the agricultural sector
- preparing the ground for industry to take the lead in the economy through the promotion of agro-processing industries and establishing engineering and metallurgy industries
- promoting export revenue and enhance import substitution; as well as
- developing micro and small enterprises that generate employment to the youth through the provision of credit and market linkages.



During the Q&A session which followed, the Minister gave details and elaborated on government policies and actions taken to address problems encountered by women in some Middle-Eastern countries. He said measures were being taken to train and raise awareness of possible challenges, in addition to agreements reached with the host countries.

Commending the collective effort and determination by scores of medical professionals based overseas to establish modern world-class hospitals in Ethiopia, Dr. Tedros outlined the potential Ethiopia has to become a hub for medical tourism as the country is endowed with the

conducive environment for natural recuperation.

In his response to a query about voluntary associations, he urged Ethiopians in the Diaspora to organise themselves as they see fit, be it professionally or in self-help form, or in development associations, but underlined that the final say should rest with the membership and emphasized the role they could play in promoting the nation-building endeavour in all economic and social sectors.

He also dwelt at length on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and the rationale for it, ICT development, extremism and its dangers, the sale of the *Hidase* bond, improving the capacity of the leadership at *woreda* level, addressing the gap between policies and their implementation and a host of other issues and comments.

Underlining how crucial power generation could be for the economic transformation of Ethiopia, he expressed appreciation to the Diaspora for their contribution in the purchase of the GERD bond but called for intensified action to see the mega project through.

Ethiopia will always stand for a win-win solution and equitable share of the waters of the Nile and this principled stance, he said, should be the basis for peace and sustainable development in the riparian countries.

Minister Tedros urged Ethiopians to stand united to protect and ensure its national interests and denounced those bent on obstructing the construction of the GERD, which he said is an illness and treason against the security and interests of the Ethiopian people. "People might differ in their political persuasions but undermining national interests and thereby national security is completely unacceptable."

Asked about the dislocation of Amhara nationals from some parts of the Benishangul Gumuz Regional State, the Minister said he was sad and disappointed by what has happened but assured participants that the political system has and will never allow an incident like that to happen and all the necessary legal measures have been taken to address the problem. He said no one would tolerate such an act and condemned those with ulterior motives and bent on preaching discord and inciting hatred among the peoples of Ethiopia.



H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK and Scandinavian Countries, expressed gratitude to participants for their keen interest and engagement. Present on the occasion were Ethiopian Diaspora professionals, leaders and members of various development associations, religious and community leaders.

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