

## TDA-Europe Festival Kicks Off in London

24<sup>th</sup> August 2013



The Tigray Development Association (TDA) Europe Festival kicked off in London on Saturday (24<sup>th</sup> August) as Chapters of the TDA in Europe launched their reports, in the presence of a high level delegation led by H.E. Abay Weldu, President of the Tigray Regional State.

The various Chapters are members of the TDA International. TDA International is a non-profit community based development organization with more than 800,000 members all over the world, mainly in the Tigray region.

The two-day annual festival is organized by TDA-UK and its supporters.



The delegation arriving at the venue led by H.E. Ato Abay Weldu, President of the Tigray Regional State; H.E. Kidusan Nega, Speaker of the Tigray Regional Council; and H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede.

In a report at the gathering, Executive Director of TDA International, Dr. Tadesse Hagos, elaborated on the development projects carried out by the organization in the areas of education, health and the construction of other social facilities, which have contributed to the improvement of the livelihood of the people of Tigray.

In a discussion that followed, participants appreciated the increased role of the Association in the provision of basic services to the society, that are central to the improvement of the quality of life of the people of the regional state.



The members of the association vowed to implement projects and programmes with commitment and dedication to ensure the overall development of the region.

Speaking at the meeting, President of the Tigray Regional State, H.E. Ato Abay Weldu, paid tribute to the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, the pioneer and leader of the economic and social transformation that has taken place in Tigray and across Ethiopia. The people of Tigray, now masters of their destiny, are enjoying the fruits of the economic and social development made possible through the implementation of successive poverty alleviation programmes and the current five-year Growth and Transformation Plan.

A number of higher learning institutes, health posts and clinics, thousands of kilometers of road, irrigation schemes, small and medium enterprises, communication networks, electricity and potable water supplies, were constructed as part of the pro-poor programmes, instrumental for the betterment of the living conditions of the people of Tigray, he said.

He commended the contribution of the TDA Chapters in Europe for the realization of development activities, and called on members to remain seized in the fight against poverty.



Addressing participants at the meeting, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK and Scandinavian countries, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, noted how crucial the role of the Diaspora has been in the nation-building endeavour and urged members of TDA to further intensify engagement in mobilizing resources and transfer of knowledge to foster development of the Tigray Regional State, and the nation at large, with particular focus on education, health and other social facilities.

He expressed gratitude for the support rendered by the Association in the UK and beyond for the success of the popular cause and urged for more of the same in future undertakings for the implementation of the mega projects both at the national and regional level.

He called on TDA members to rise with more vigour for the realization of the vision of the Great Leader, the Renaissance of Ethiopia. Appreciating the GERD bond sale and the funds raised by TDA-UK, he urged participants to march forward for yet more successes in building a vibrant and prosperous Ethiopia.





Earlier at the event, Chairman of TDA-UK, Ato Kelem Laike, made remarks regarding the contribution of the Association which focused on mobilizing resources and material for development projects being undertaken in the Tigray Regional State.

As per the programme of the annual meeting, a presentation on the overall political, economic and social activities in the region will be delivered by the head of the Regional Customs and Revenue Bureau.

H.E. Kidusan Nega, Speaker of the Tigray Regional Council and member of the high level delegation that presided over the meeting will hold discussions and consultations with Tigray women on issues of development and major achievements in improving the living conditions of the people.

As part of the festival, renowned artistes will stage concerts and there will also be an assortment of activities including discussions with professionals and association supporters.



A minute's silence was observed in memory of the Great Leader and compatriots who paid their ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty serving the cause of the people.

**---ENDS---**

For further information, please contact the Press Office on 02078383880/3; [info@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:info@ethioembassy.org.uk).