



# Ethiopian News

March 2017

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## CONNECT WITH US



# “Ethiopia and the UK: Going faster together”



## Boris Johnson visits Ethiopia

The Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, the Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, paid a working visit to Ethiopia on 16<sup>th</sup> March, as part of a three-day tour of East Africa and met Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn and Foreign Minister Dr Workneh Gebeyehu.



The Foreign Secretary was warmly welcomed by H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu and the two Ministers held a friendly and productive meeting on wide-ranging issues covering bilateral and consular affairs, domestic issues in their countries, the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, regional cooperation and the UN Security Council – highlighting the breadth and width of the UK-Ethiopia relations. Both countries agreed to further strengthen their cooperation at bilateral, regional and international level.

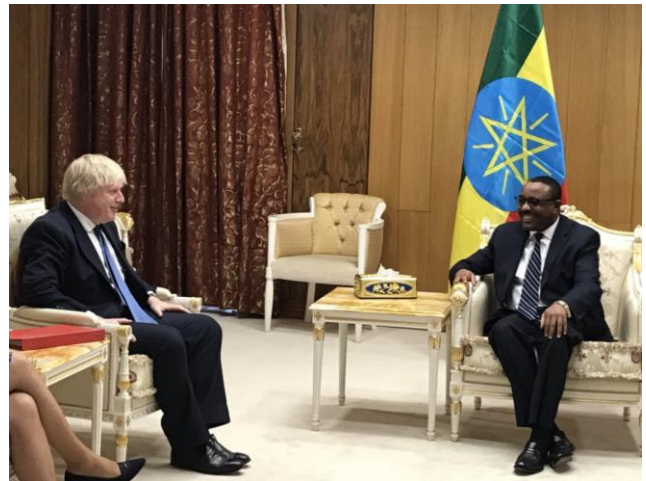


**“The relationship between  
Ethiopia and the UK is  
strategic and exemplary”**

Dr Workneh Gebeyehu

The Foreign Secretary was also received by H.E. Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn and they both agreed that there was great potential for the bilateral relations to advance further, building on existing co-operation. Both welcomed the jobs compact announced during the UN General Assembly meetings in September 2016 as a concrete example of how the two countries can work together to improve opportunities both for Ethiopians and for refugees from the region.

PM Hailemariam and Mr Johnson shared their concern at the drought affecting the Horn of Africa. Both welcomed the relief efforts, including the £11.5m contribution to support Ethiopia, announced by the UK Secretary of State for International Development, Priti Patel, during her visit to Addis Ababa in January. But both recognised that further urgent action is required if conditions on the ground are not to deteriorate further.



They also discussed Somalia and new developments following the recent elections there. Given the UK’s leading role on Somalia in the UN Security Council, and Ethiopia’s role as a neighbour and major troop contributor, including to the African Union Mission, the two countries have a shared desire to work with the new Somali government to respond to the drought, to improve stability and security. PM Hailemariam confirmed his intention to attend the London Conference on Somalia in May, and both governments look forward to this as an important occasion to consolidate a new comprehensive partnership with Somalia for 2018 and beyond.

### ...When Boris Met Lucy



Boris Johnson met "grandmother of humanity", 3.2 million-year-old Lucy, the most complete skeleton of an early human ancestor ever discovered, at the National Museum. "As our common ancestor, Lucy reminds us that our similarities are greater than our differences", he said.

### ...Boris Johnson applauds the airline's growth

While in Ethiopia, the UK's Secretary of State, Boris Johnson, visited EAL's Headquarters and the Ethiopian Aviation Academy, where he applauded the airline's fast growth, saying "Ethiopian Airlines is one of the fastest growing airlines in the world and I am proud to say that the UK is working with Ethiopian Airlines.

I am also delighted to see the partnership developing in action and my visit to Ethiopia is quite instrumental in boosting the existing partnership between the UK and Ethiopia."



**"I've seen today a great African success story with big plans for the future. Ethiopian airlines are just one example of what happens when you combine British engineering expertise with African vision."**

### ...jogs with running legend Haile Gebrselassie



Mr Johnson also took time out for a run with Ethiopian legend Haile Gebrselassie who helps organise the annual Great Ethiopian Run - the biggest running race in Africa.

At the end of his visit the Foreign Secretary said:

***On my first visit to Ethiopia I have been excited to see great examples of the ever-increasing cooperation between our two countries. From Ethiopian Airlines, where British technical and engineering expertise is helping an African business to grow and prosper, to our growing cultural links typified by the Great Ethiopian Run.***

***Together the UK and Ethiopia can work to make our countries and the region stronger, safer and more prosperous, from combating the devastating drought to enhancing security for people in neighbouring Somalia. We have much that unites us and I look forward to continuing and strengthening this relationship in the years to come.***



# Editorial

## Enhancing Ethio-Scottish Partnership

For centuries, Ethiopia and the UK have enjoyed close economic, diplomatic and cultural relations. They provided an important foundation for the recent visit to Scotland of an Ethiopian Embassy delegation, led by H.E. Ambassador Hailemichael Aberra.



Today, Scotland, famed for its dynamic economy and globally admired universities, is an important partner in Ethiopia's journey towards middle-income status. An Embassy delegation travelled to Scotland in early March with the aim of promoting partnership and investment

opportunities to government officials, investors and universities and to the Ethiopian diaspora in Scotland, who were briefed on the role they could play in the overall development activities of the country (see article on page 21).



James Bruce, Scottish explorer who traced the origins of the Blue Nile

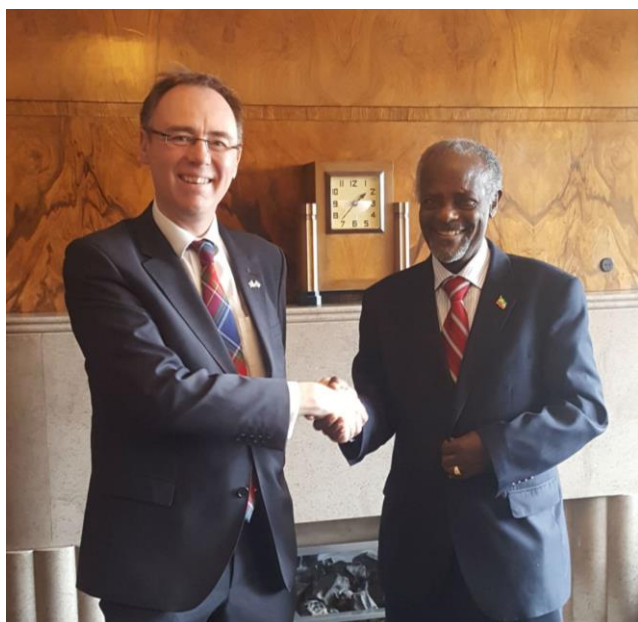
Ethiopia shares a unique historical attachment to Scotland through the 18<sup>th</sup>-century expeditions of James Bruce, the renowned explorer and writer. Bruce explored the Blue Nile Basin and, in February 1770, reached Gondar, then the capital of Ethiopia, where he lived for some years.

The delegation held discussions with **Dr Alistair Allan, Minister for Europe and International Development** in the Scottish Government, on opportunities for further cooperation and on enhancing the burgeoning trade and investment relations. British companies investing in Ethiopia already include Diageo, Pittards, New Age Oil and Kefi Minerals.

Meetings with senior staff at **Glasgow and Edinburgh universities** and the **University of the West of Scotland (UWS)** in Paisley, focused on facilitating new opportunities for research collaboration and partnerships with Ethiopian universities in medicine, engineering, economics, sport, quality assurance and capacity building programmes aimed at 'Training the Trainers'.

In recent decades, Ethiopia has established almost 40 public universities and numerous technical and vocational institutions, to increase technical and scientific capacity at national level. Scottish universities were keen to build partnerships with their counterparts in Ethiopia by strengthening their existing relationships.

Discussions with senior staff at the **Scottish Chamber of Commerce, African Forum Scotland** and the **Scottish Council of Development and**



H.E. Ambassador Hailemichael Aberra Afework with the Scottish Minister for International Development & Europe, Mr. Alasdair Allan MSP

**Industry** (SCDI) focused on the promotion of key growth sectors in the Ethiopian economy, such as manufacturing (textiles, leather, pharmaceuticals, engineering, metal products, and agro-processing), agriculture and hotel construction. Keen interest was shown and a **Trade and Investment Forum** in Glasgow and a **Scottish trade and investment mission** to Ethiopia are planned soon.

Ambassador Hailemichael highlighted Ethiopia's ambitious industrialisation and its new industrial zones which are being built along key economic corridors across the country, and welcome both foreign and domestic export-oriented industries. The Ambassador called on the Scottish government and investors to create new markets for Ethiopian products and said the Government is ready to facilitate and support investors for the benefit of both parties.

At the sidelines of the visit, the delegation briefly met Professor Sandy Stoddart, the Queen's Sculptor in Ordinary in Scotland, at his studio at the University of the West of Scotland. Professor Stoddart is one of the UK's most renowned sculptors.

Meeting staff at Link Community Development, a Scottish NGO, the delegation learnt of their groundbreaking work on girls' education in Ethiopia, where they have impacted the learning outcomes of more than 97,809 children in 164 elementary schools across Rural Wolaita.

The visit's success is evidence of robust Ethio-Scottish relations and would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of **Professor John Struthers**, Ethiopia's Honorary Consul to Scotland, and **Ahmed Abdi**, a member of the Ethiopian community in Glasgow. Our sincere thanks go out to them both.

Video coverage of the Scotland visit can be found on our website at <https://goo.gl/wvE6Az>. Also check out our Facebook and Twitter pages for photos and updates.

## Ambassador Hailemichael at the Commonwealth Africa Summit

The Commonwealth Africa Summit was held in London at the Royal Overseas League from 13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> March under the theme “**Collective Growth**”. Leaders from across Africa discussed how Africa can leverage its shared commonwealth heritage in doing business with Britain post Brexit.



At a panel discussion on 14<sup>th</sup> March on **Africa's Growth Agenda: Strengthening Partnership for Actualisation**, Ambassador Hailemichael shared his views on the Ethiopian Growth and Transformation Plan, and what lessons other African countries can draw from Ethiopia's experience.

Ethiopia is not a Commonwealth member, so it was an honour to be invited to take part in this historic event, the Ambassador said. The next Commonwealth Africa Forum will be held in South Africa in May 2017.

## Prof. Sebsebe's lifelong contribution to Ethiopian biodiversity celebrated in London

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, more than a hundred guests gathered at the Royal Society of Medicine to celebrate Professor Sebsebe Demissew's lifelong contribution to Ethiopian biodiversity.

The Professor, a leading Ethiopian botanical scientist, was last year selected to be the recipient of the prestigious **Kew International Medal**, an annual award given to individuals for distinguished, internationally-recognised work aligned with the

mission of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBGK), a global resource for “plant and fungal knowledge and building an understanding of the world’s plants and fungi upon which all our lives depend.”



In selecting Prof Sebsebe, Kew acknowledges his lifelong work on promoting Ethiopian biodiversity and the direct benefit this has daily for people in his country, and right across Africa.



Prof. Sebsebe with Ambassador Hailemichael and Director of RBGK Richard Deverell

Presenting Prof. Sebsebe with the Medal, H.E. Ambassador Hailemichael Aberra Afework thanked him for his commitment to global knowledge and contribution to Ethiopia’s development efforts in his field.

Following the medal presentation, Prof. Sebsebe gave a lecture on his “Botanical Journey”, detailing his 30-year history on Ethiopian biodiversity.



Prof. Sebsebe’s has been a Professor in the College of Natural Sciences at Addis Ababa University since 1998 and the Dean of the College from 1996-2000. His research documents the plant resources and vegetation of Ethiopia and Eritrea and their use by indigenous communities. He led the Ethiopian Flora Project from 1996 to its successful completion in 2009, involving 91 scientists from 17 countries. He has published over 50 new plant taxa and a species is named in his honour *Aloe weloensis Sebsebe*.

Video coverage of the event can be found on our YouTube page at <https://goo.gl/nd7Md4>.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### State of Emergency extended; some restrictions lifted

On 29<sup>th</sup> March, the House of Peoples' Representatives voted to extend the State of Emergency by four months, passing the bill titled ***“State of Emergency Proclamation for the Maintenance of Public Peace and Security Renewal”***.

The Minister of Defense and Secretary of the Command Post responsible for enforcing the State of Emergency, Siraj Fegessa, told Parliament that the Command Post, chaired by Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, wanted to see the emergency decree extended to reinforce "the peace and stability which has been gained since

Parliament declared the State of the Emergency in October.



The vote this week follows the Prime Minister's statement to Parliament two weeks ago that "the majority of people surveyed by the government wanted to see the emergency law extended."

### ...some restrictions lifted

The State of Emergency has been amended twice since October, following the restoration of law and order in most areas of the country.



The Minister of Defense Siraj Fegessa speaking at a press conference

The prohibition on unauthorized movements around key infrastructure facilities and factories has been repealed. And more recently, restrictions related to searches and arrests without court orders have been lifted, as well as travel restrictions for diplomats.

In addition, the restriction of printing and broadcasting of noxious media content, displaying of placards which were used illegally to incite citizens through the internet, mobile, in writing, on television, radio or any other means of communication have been rescinded.

## Ethiopia mourns Koshe landfill victims

More than 100 people lost their lives and dozens were injured in a landslide at Koshe landfill, near Addis Ababa on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

Many of the victims were women and children who lived and worked at the site – the city's main garbage dump - selling materials recovered from the waste.



Funeral services for the victims have been taking place since the accident. On 13<sup>th</sup> March at the Debrekewakibt Abune Aregawi Church, one service took place in the presence of senior government officials and relatives of the victims.

President Mulatu Teshome, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government Communication Affairs Office and Addis Ababa City Administration all extended their deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones.

While visiting the site of the tragic accident, President Mulatu comforted victims, saying "The government and the public at large stand shoulder to shoulder with them."

Addis Ababa City Mayor Diriba Kuma on his part said, "The efforts of the public in leading a hand to the victims are commendable. Particularly the youth who have actively engaged in rescue efforts...they deserve the city administration's recognition."

### ...three day-national mourning declared

Three days of national mourning began on 14<sup>th</sup> March and flags across the country, on Ethiopian

owned ships and at Ethiopian embassies and consular offices, flew at half-mast.



The Flag at the Embassy at half-mast

The Koshe tragedy is currently under investigation by Addis Ababa University and the University of Texas. It is not yet known what caused it.

### **...Government provides building plots, funds for victims' families**

The victims' families have been relocated and have received funds to rent houses until they can build their own homes. Addis Ababa City Administration will provide one million Birr and building plots.

Ethiopians and investors across the nation have provided support to back the government's efforts and more than 76 million Birr has so far been raised for families of the victims. The Addis Ababa City Administration has also opened an account and has begun fundraising by SMS to increase public participation for support of the victims. It is understood that support has been received from Ethiopians all over the world.

The Koshe site will eventually become a public park and host Africa's first waste-to-energy project.

### **6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Renaissance Dam commemorated**

The sixth anniversary of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam was marked on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.



Speaking at the constructions site, President Mulatu Teshome said that, once complete, the mega Dam will provide "a step towards creating a prosperous Ethiopia" and accelerate development.

The Dam will offer a model for developing countries on resource mobilisation and utilisation, he added.

Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, who is Chairperson of the National Council for Public Participation in the construction of the dam, said the project, which has reached a crucial stage, has created unity among Ethiopians.

A torch-lighting ceremony to commemorate the anniversary took place on 26<sup>th</sup> March at the Millennium Hall in Addis. Speaking at the event, PM Hailemariam said the public mobilization, which was instigated by the lighting of the torch, "lays a new foundation for enhanced participations in the construction of the Dam."

Regardless of their differences in relation to identity, colour, religion, sex and socio-economic classes, the people of Ethiopia have offered support from the start. "The Dam is not only a development project but also a symbol of a strong Ethiopia," PM Hailemariam said, calling on all Ethiopians to continue the support they have been offering to make the Dam a success.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said various programs and side events will be held at Ethiopian embassies and consuls across the world and this, in



turn, is expected to increase the Diaspora's contribution to the Dam.

### ...support from the Diaspora

The Ethiopian Diaspora have sustained their support to the Dam in various ways, so far contributing more than \$3 million.

The Ethiopian Diaspora Association liaises with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enable members of the Diaspora to visit the Dam and contribute their share for its completion.

The late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi officially launched the flagship project six years ago, by laying the cornerstone in the Benishangul-Gumuz State, approximately 500 km North West of Addis Ababa. Upon completion, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is set to be the biggest hydro-electric power project in Africa.

In February, the installed hydropower generation capacity of the Dam was increased to 6,450MW, up from the initial 5,250MW. The generation capacity now matches those of Tekeze, Beles and Gibe-II hydropower plants combined.

### International Women's Day observed



## International Women's Day

Ethiopia joined the rest of the world in celebrating International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March with a range of programmes, including a panel discussion held at the Prime Minister office.

During a discussion held with representatives of women's organisations drawn from a wide cross-section of society, Prime Minister Hailemariam said the government will give due focus to supporting the all-round efforts of women.

To help increase the productivity of women, the government has been working hard to end harmful practices, improve women's health and has provided financial support to them.

Ms Demitu Hambissa, the Minister of Women and Children's Affairs, said the women's development package has been improved by the addition of new

ideas, boosting participation and increasing benefits to women.

The Embassy took the opportunity to celebrate the more than 40,000 Health Extension Workers who are bringing healthcare to the doorstep of rural Ethiopians.

### Ethiopia bids farewell to outgoing AU Chairperson

Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, hosted a reception in honour of the Outgoing Chairperson of the African Union Commission, **Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma**, on 13<sup>th</sup> March at the Hilton Hotel in Addis. Guests included the new Chairperson of the AU Commission, Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat; his Deputy, Ambassador Thomas Kwesi Quartey and the outgoing Deputy Chairperson, Erastus Mwencha, AU ambassadors and other invited guests.



Dr Workneh said "Dr Dlamini-Zuma has been a torch-bearer of the Pan-African Vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena." Thanks to Dr Dlamini-Zuma, the AU Commission and our Union are on track to realizing the aspirations stipulated in the Solemn Declaration of our continental organization." Dr Dlamini-Zuma had, he said, championed the causes of women's rights, good governance, peaceful co-existence and stronger unity among African states. Dr Workneh commended her efforts to achieve enhanced capacity in preventing and resolving conflicts through mechanisms such as "Silencing the Guns by 2020".

Dr Dlamini Zuma thanked Ethiopia and praised Ethiopia's excellent cooperation with the African Union, and said its development achievements in

industrialization, infrastructure, energy and preservation of cultural heritage should be expanded as best practices on the continent. “I am satisfied with the strong foundation now in place for the realization of Africa’s Agenda 2063 and I wish the incoming chairperson success in implementing and championing the continent’s Agenda”, she said.



**“Very much enjoyed my stay in Ethiopia, the dance, music, food, dressing, the ongoing tremendous transformation... Addis Ababa and Ethiopia, have been good to us and became a second home, thanks to the generosity and friendship of the People and Government of Ethiopia.”**

Dr Dlamini-Zuma was the first ever woman to head the continental organization. She handed over the chairmanship of the AU Commission to her successor, Moussa Faki Mahamat of Chad, on 14<sup>th</sup> March at ceremony the AU Headquarters. The ceremony was presided over by the President of Guinea, current Chairperson of the African Union, Professor Alpha Conde. It was attended by the President of Ethiopia, Dr Mulatu Teshome, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, the Prime Ministers of Swaziland and Algeria, as well as the Foreign Ministers of Chad and Rwanda, members of the Diplomatic Corps, AU Commission staff and partners.

New AU Commission Chairperson, Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat priorities will be structural reforms; prioritising women and youth; a focus on intra-African trade, including acceleration of free movement of goods, people and services; and

strengthening Africa’s voice globally. He will apply “zero-tolerance towards any act that would tarnish the reputation of the Union.”

### **Horn of Africa hit by recurrent drought**

Another severe drought has hit the **Horn of Africa**, the worst in more than sixty years, resulting in food insecurity and high levels of malnutrition. Around 20 million people are severely food insecure and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance - 5.6 million in Ethiopia, 2.7 million in Kenya, 6.2 million in Somalia, 5.8 million in South Sudan and 1.6 million in Uganda.

In Ethiopia, efficient records and previous experience are both available; the country has managed to deal with similar instances of drought over the last quarter of a century. Hit by last year’s El-Nino, the Government acted promptly, mostly using the country’s own resources, and disaster was averted, proof that the country’s rural development is moving in the right direction.

This year, below average rains, caused by the negative Indian Ocean Dipole and La Niña, have led to yet another drought. The government has set up a **National Command Post** and is delivering water and food supplies and health services for humans and for livestock populations.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, commended last year’s efforts and called for solidarity with the government and people of Ethiopia as the country faces this new drought. The government has already allocated \$47 million to the response programme, without affecting the ongoing development programmes.

Ethiopia hosts almost one million refugees from neighbouring countries and the international community’s support to the drought-affected communities of the region is immense. Together we can, once again, avoid fatalities and strengthen resistance to the effects of climate change, a government spokesperson said.

### **Agricultural Extension Strategy launched**

Ethiopia launched its first Agricultural Extension Strategy on 20<sup>th</sup> March, contributing significantly to the attainment of food and nutrition security,

poverty reduction, and wealth creation in the country.

At a workshop organized for the launching of the strategy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Minister Dr Eyasu Abreha said the strategy will use “market-oriented, demand driven and pluralistic practices to create effective agricultural extension systems, to improve agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.”

The strategy will serve as an umbrella for the agricultural sub-sectors, including crops, livestock and fishery and natural resources management.

The new Strategy is facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Agricultural Transformation Agency.

### World Bank signs \$18 million forest action grant

The World Bank has signed a new grant agreement with Ethiopia to improve the environment for sustainable forest management, investments, and emission reductions in Oromia state.



The \$18 million grant, provided by Bank’s BioCarbon Fund (Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes), will support the government’s new **Oromia Forested Landscape Program (OFLP)** – the first of its kind to operate across an entire jurisdiction.

It will support the community’s activities to reduce deforestation and land-use based emissions, and enhance forest carbon stocks in deforestation hotspots in selected sites in 49 districts of Oromia,

setting the stage for improving land use management in the rest of the state.

This preliminary work is expected to unlock a **BioCarbon Fund** commitment to purchase up to 10 million tons of carbon dioxide emission reductions. The purchase agreement would become effective in 2018, for the next 10 years, based on verifiable results in slowing state-wide deforestation.

“Communities are at the heart of the forest resources in the Oromia National Regional State and this grant will enable them to benefit from restoring and maintaining forests that are key to their lives,” said Admasu Nebebe, State Minister for Finance and Economic Cooperation. “At the national level, we hope this innovative approach will serve as a model for scaling up action on forests for poverty reduction, improved livelihoods, better water security and climate change mitigation.”

Oromia state is the size of Italy and home to 30 million people. “Its rich forested landscapes are not only critical for livelihoods and climate mitigating effects, but are vital for water security throughout Ethiopia and in the Horn of Africa region due to their water provisioning and filtering services,” said Magda Lovei, Practice Manager for Environment Group at the World Bank. The OFLP was initiated by the Ethiopian government who sought finance from multiple sources.

“The World Bank is pleased to partner with the Government of Ethiopia. We hope this is just the start of a platform that crowds-in investment from various actors to benefit those who live in rich forests, but often are the poorest,” said Carolyn Turk, World Bank Country Director, Ethiopia.

The grant will support participatory forest management and help align various initiatives on the ground to increase the likelihood of achieving the country’s forest cover targets.

The OFLP is fully aligned with Ethiopia’s second **Growth and Transformation Plan** and **Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy** that aim to reduce poverty while transforming the way rural landscapes are managed. These national plans include ambitious targets to add 5 million hectares of additional forest cover by 2020 and restore 22 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2030.



# Dr. Tedros Adhanom

*The Director-General that the  
World Health Organization needs.*

<http://drtedros.com>

## **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 shortlisting. 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 2 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.

On International Women's Day, I called for much 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 on 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 assistance, I am confident that we will be successful in the final election in May at the World Health Assembly.



## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

### Dr Workneh attends 5<sup>th</sup> Africa CEO forum; addresses “Doing Business in Ethiopia”

Dr Workneh Gebeyehu led an Ethiopian delegation, joining CEOs from the largest African and international companies, political decision makers from over 40 African countries and the most active bankers and investors on the continent at the **Africa CEO Forum** held in Geneva on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March.

Dr Workneh welcomed panellists to the session and took note of the numerous business and investment opportunities in Ethiopia.



*The Foreign Minister opened the Panel on “Doing Business in Ethiopia” - a key side-line event.*

The Minister said Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing non-oil economies, with huge and growing market potential, massive investment in infrastructure; vast energy potential, and political and social stability in the country - the second most populous nation in Africa.

He said the Tariff and Quota-Free access to global markets like COMESA and AGOA; and its Strategic location between Europe, Asia and Africa has made Ethiopia a favoured investment destination.

The Government of Ethiopia has prioritized strategic sectors of investments which, he said, include agribusiness, leather production, textiles and garments, horticulture, energy, construction, pharmaceuticals and food and drinks.

Sessions included Dr Yinager Dessie, National Planning Commissioner, with the Rank of Minister

on “Ethiopia’s Second GTP”; Dr Mebrhatu Meles, State Minister of Industry on “Ethiopia’s Integrated Agro-industrial Parks”; Mr Fitsum Arega, Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission on “The investment climate in the country”; Eng Azeb Asnake, CEO of Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) on: “Ethiopia’s massive power development projects” and Mr Zemedeneh Negatu, of Fairfax Africa LLC and other companies, who spoke of their investment experience and successes in Ethiopia.

During a panel discussion on the kind of economic model Africa should pursue to build a new economy, Dr Workneh said, you need African solutions to African Problems, to invest in Energy provision, that’s why Ethiopia is investing in energy harnessing, he said.

The AFRICA CEO FORUM, organised by the Group *Jeune Afrique* and *rainbow unlimited*, in partnership with the African Development Bank, has become the foremost international event dedicated to the development of the private sector in Africa.

### Special Adviser Arkebe attends DFID Investment forum

In mid-March, the Department for International Development (DFID) hosted a 3-day event with **Dr Arkebe Oqubay, Special Adviser to Ethiopia’s Prime Minister on industry** and author of **Made in Africa**. It was held in Westminster, in the presence of the World Bank and over 200 companies including Unilever, Pittards Leather and other British companies who have invested in Ethiopia.



Dr Arkebe shared platforms with Department of International Trade (DIT) Minister Greg Hands and DFID Secretary of State Priti Patel who, along with World Bank

President Jim Yong Kim, opened the second day plenary session.

In his first plenary, Dr Arkebe addressed the topic Why Africa? challenges and opportunities, about global apparel buyers starting to source from East Africa. M&S, Tesco and H&M already source from

Ethiopia. He shared a platform with clothing company PVH, makers of Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger brands, and the World Bank. Issues covered included “Can Africa replicate the South-East Asia manufacturing success?” Arkebe highlighted the many advantages of investing in Ethiopia, such as the impressive new infrastructure, the very low-cost electricity, the new railway to Djibouti - with more to follow to all areas of the country and beyond - industrial parks and tax incentives. The World Bank is funding a development centre to provide skills and job training in key sectors.

Dr Arkebe later spoke at a ‘garment networking session’ on manufacturing opportunities where Ethiopia was described as “Africa’s future manufacturing hub and investment destination”.

In his keynote speech, DIT Minister Greg Hands said Ethiopia will be “a pilot country for the DIT’s Overseas Direct Investment and Economic Horizons initiatives “. The ensuing discussion explored the nature of the investment that Ethiopia is seeking.

Oxford University Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Paul Collier led a discussion on the “Marshall Plan with Africa” which mostly covered industrialisation.

Other delegates were from Ethiopian companies, the Ethiopian Investment Commission, the London College of Fashion and Associated British Foods PLC who are exploring further investment in Ethiopia. Unilever opened a factory in Ethiopia’s Eastern Industrial Zone in 2016, producing soap and potentially food products and explained its future plans. Key suppliers such as JV also shared their experience of operating in Ethiopia. Primark, New Look, George at Asda and Sainsbury’s also attended.

Dr Arkebe attended a bilateral with Secretary of State Priti Patel and later visited CDC’s headquarters and Starbucks.

In conclusion, Minister Greg Hands said the DIT will fully support Ethiopian manufacturing and is seeking to take a future UK trade delegation to Ethiopia. The focus is likely to be on infrastructure in areas such as rail, airports and electricity generation, he said.

## Ethiopia becomes AIIB member



Ethiopia is now a member of the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a new multilateral financial institution founded to bring countries together to address the daunting infrastructure needs.

The Bank’s Board of Governors has adopted resolutions approving 13 applicants to join the Bank, bringing its total approved membership to 70. This is the first time AIIB has welcomed new prospective members to the Bank since its inception; the approved applicants include five regional and eight non-regional prospective members. Sudan is among the new members.

“The interest in joining AIIB from around the world affirms the rapid progress we have made to establish the Bank as an international institution,” said Jin Liqun, President of AIIB. “I am very proud that AIIB now has members from almost every continent, and we anticipate further applications being considered by our Board of Governors later this year.”

## Third agro-industrial park inaugurated

A third integrated agro-industrial park (IAIP), developed within the framework of UNIDO’s Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) for Ethiopia, was inaugurated in March.



Located in Yirgalem, in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People’s (SNNP) region, it will

focus on agro-industries to drive rural industrialization and job creation and will create around 134,000 new jobs in the region.

Prime Minister Hailemariam led the cornerstone laying ceremony, marking the start of construction, saying "IAIPs will play a crucial role in advancing the country's economy, reducing rural poverty and creating a better environment for investors in agro-food and allied sectors". He thanked UNIDO for its continuous support.

Ethiopia plans to construct at least 17 Integrated Agro Industrial Parks and all regional states will benefit. In the second Growth and Transformation Plan, emphasis is given to manufacturing and industrialisation, to provide the basis for economic structural change. A central element in this strategy for transforming the industrial sector is the development and expansion of industrial parks and villages around the country.

### Investors information demand draws company to Ethiopia

Asoko Insight, a corporate data and information provider on African investment activities, recently launched a research and data collection office in Addis Ababa to meet their rising investors' demand for exploring Ethiopia's investment climate.

The launch coincided with the prestigious **African Business Forum** event which took place in Addis in March and was attended by investors, senior Ethiopian Government officials and the broader business community of Ethiopia.

Asoko Insight Ethiopia Director, Zekarias Amsalu, said "We've been operating in Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana for the last three years and have been studying international investment organizations looking to move their manufacturing facility and expand their business in Africa - 63% of the companies are desirous of getting information about Ethiopian investment opportunities so Asoko has opened its office in the country."

The vast investment potential and market opportunities, coupled with the incentives Ethiopia attaches to investors, are nowhere to be found in Africa, he said. Investment friendly policies and cheaper inputs are also attracting attention, he said.

## TRAVEL AND TOURISM

### Ethiopian Tourism brands in Amharic



During the 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Tourism Transformation Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, PM Hailemariam, who is Chair of the Council, launched the new Amharic version of Ethiopia's tourism brand, *'Midre Kedemt'*, which will be used side by side with the English version, *Land of Origins*.



Despite huge tourism potential, Ethiopia is not benefiting enough from the sector, the PM said, which was why we established the Tourism Transformation Council."

All stakeholders, including federal and regional states, are expected to play their part in increasing tourism, which is vital to improve the image and economy of the country.

Dr Hirut Woldemariam, Minister of Culture and Tourism, highlighted the need to address the bottlenecks in Ethiopia's tourism industry, adding that the industry needs modernising.

Members of the Council raised their concerns about problems keeping originality during refurbishment of heritage sites.



The Council recognised HabteSelassie Tafesse, the Father of Ethiopian Tourism, for his lifelong contribution to Ethiopia’s tourism development.



Habteselassie Tafesse coined Ethiopia’s previous tourism brand *‘13 months of sunshine’*.

### **First cycling holidays to Ethiopia launched**



**“One of the most memorable rides I’ve ever done”**

Pete Muir, *Cyclist* magazine

Looking for a new challenge? Brighton-based Tadele Travel has launched the first-ever organised road cycling holidays in Ethiopia, taking advantage of unique landscapes, newly-built tarmac roads and Ethiopia’s rich tradition of road cycling.

During the holidays, in the Tigray Region, cyclists will pass through the ancient city of Axum and the scenic Gheralta Mountains.

Thanks to warm sunshine and undulating, almost car-free roads, the surrounding area has long been established as the country’s cycling hub and is the

birthplace of current UCI World Tour rider Tsgabu Grmay of the Bahrain-Merida team.



Home to some of the Ethiopia’s iconic sights such as the rock-hewn churches of Tigray that date back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century, it also has excellent tourism infrastructure and a network of international-standard hotels.



Tours will be led by Tadele Travel co-owner Richard Nerurkar. Richard, a former GB marathon runner and ex-race director of the Great Ethiopian Run, will be joined by Alemayehu Sitotaw who has a 35-year history as a competitive cyclist in Ethiopia.

**“With the completion of many new tarmac roads and the opening of a number of quality lodges and hotels, now is the perfect time to introduce cycling tourists to Ethiopia.”**

Richard Nerurkar

“I’m really excited about offering these holidays to adventurous cyclists looking for a unique cycling experience in a stunning location,” Richard said.

Ethiopia’s UCI World Tour rider Tsgabu Grmay said: “For me Ethiopia is the perfect place to train and prepare for my big races. The new roads are excellent, the people here love cycling and the guys at Tadele Travel really understand the country and its cycling history. I love training here and I’m sure tourists will too.”

Pete Muir, Editor of *Cyclist* magazine, one of the first to experience a cycling holiday with Tadele Travel,



said: “Ethiopia is a truly unique and beautiful place to ride a bike, with excellent roads, friendly people and incredible scenery. Richard was the perfect host for our trip, thanks to his intimate knowledge of the country and language, and I can't fault the quality of the ride support. It has to be one of the most memorable rides I've ever done.”

For more information, visit the Tadele Travel website at [tadeletravel.com](http://tadeletravel.com)

### Hope for endangered Ethiopian Wolves

Rare Ethiopian wolves are beginning to recover from three tough years in their stronghold in the Bale Mountains.

Wolf packs in the Web Valley, Sanetti Plateau and Morebawa in the Bale Mountains of southern Ethiopia are thriving, with 60 pups recorded. The last three years have been hard for these packs, following deadly outbreaks of rabies and canine distemper virus, as well as a serious drought.

There are fewer than 500 Ethiopian wolves remaining in the world in a handful of mountain enclaves, of which the Bale Mountains is the largest.

The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme, supported by Born Free Foundation, has been protecting the species for more than 20 years.



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These highland wolves are so fragile, and yet so resilient. **Perched on the roof of Africa, they are a flagship for the protection of these special Afroalpine habitats and many other wild animals found nowhere else.**

### Historic Adwa Mountains to be top tourism destination

The Ministry of Culture & Tourism plans to make the chain of mountains on which the battle of Adwa was fought and won, a top tourism destination.

Building a pan-African university, a memorial and museum are among the planned projects.

The Adwa victory 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 which took place during the Scramble for Africa.



Expansion of parks and infrastructure in Adwa and attempts to attract private investors to work on projects that will facilitate a viable tourist destination, are currently underway.

### Ramada Addis Ababa opens

Wyndham Hotel Group and ADM Business, a privately-owned Ethiopian company, opened the Ramada Addis in March.

Conveniently located near Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, shopping malls, embassies and international organisations, the hotel features 136 individually air-conditioned rooms, both high-speed wireless and wired internet access and offers guests single, double and suite accommodation.

“More people are travelling than ever before and are seeking out new and exciting destinations, such as Ethiopia...These travellers want the security of staying with international brands they know and trust,” said Ignace Bauwens, regional vice president, Middle East & Africa, Wyndham Hotel Group.

“We are thrilled to add Addis Ababa to the long list of cities where Ramada hotels can be found.”



# Ethiopia

LAND OF ORIGINS



## Ethiopian Airlines spreads its wings with three new destinations



Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's largest airline group, has launched flights to three new destinations – Victoria Falls, Oslo and Antananarivo in March, further strengthening the airline's leadership on the continent and connecting more cities in Africa to more cities in the world than any other airline.

Heralding the launch of new destinations, Group CEO Mr Tewolde Gebremariam said, "Three new flights to three new destinations is one of the greatest expansions in Ethiopian's long and illustrious history."

EAL already does 28 weekly flights to 4 destinations in China, 20 weekly flights to the Americas, 72 weekly flights to Asia, 65 weekly flights to Middle East, 400 weekly flights to 53 cities across Africa and 54 almost daily flights to Europe.

EAL started flights to Conakry in February and, before July, will start services to three destinations in Asia: Chengdu, Singapore and Jakarta and envisages reaching 120 international destinations.

The airline is implementing a 15-year strategic plan called **Vision 2025** that will see it become the leading aviation group in Africa with seven business centres: Ethiopian Domestic and Regional Airline; Ethiopian International Passenger Airline; Ethiopian Cargo; Ethiopian MRO; Ethiopian Aviation Academy; Ethiopian In-flight Catering Services; and Ethiopian Ground Service. It has won multiple awards, registering average growth of 25% in the past seven years.

## ...goes green for St. Patrick's Day

On 17<sup>th</sup> March, Ethiopian's Airbus A350, the first of its kind in Africa, went green for St. Patrick's Day as part of the annual Global Greening initiative by the Irish Tourism Board.



This "greenification" of a commercial airliner is believed to be a first.

The airline's CEO said, "We are proud to join the world global landmarks for St. Patrick's Day greening Africa's first A350 XWB; our latest and game changing flying machine. This collaboration is a continuation of the long standing social, cultural and economic collaboration between Ethiopia and the People of Ireland. I wish all a happy festivity."

Ethiopian Airlines launched the first and only direct air route linking Africa with Ireland in 2015.

## ...another month, another award!



Ethiopian Airlines Cargo won the 'Network Development Award' at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Brussels Airport Aviation Awards on 9<sup>th</sup> March. In

just 6 months, Ethiopian has become the largest cargo airline at Brussels Airport.

Ethiopian Cargo is currently the largest cargo airline in Africa. In line with the Vision 2025, Ethiopian Cargo is building one of the largest and most modern cargo terminals in the world with an annual capacity of 1.2 million tons and planning to serve 47 destinations. This will make Addis Ababa one of the best cargo hubs in the air cargo industry.

## SPORTS

### 90,000 Addis Ababa residents participate in race for Renaissance Dam



More than 90,000 residents of Addis Ababa displayed their support for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam project by taking part in a race held on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

The 6km run was organized in connection to mark the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Renaissance Dam and International Women's Day.

The number of people participated in the race exceeded the plan by 30,000, the organisers said. Other towns across the country held similar races.

The runners demonstrated their commitment to supporting the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

### Haile Gebrselassie to organise South Sudan peace race

Running legend, Haile Gebrselassie, will participate in the inaugural **Great South Sudanese Run** to be held in Juba on 8<sup>th</sup> April, organised to promote peace and stability in war-torn South Sudan.

The race is organised by *Ethiopian Great Run*, of which Haile is a founding member, and an Ethiopian investor in South Sudan.



Held under the theme “Fundraising for famine and fighting poverty” it will help thousands of South Sudanese nationals affected by the current famine.

The South Sudanese Ambassador to Ethiopia said the Run promotes peace, and supports the South Sudan government’s efforts to bring unity and reconciliation among its citizens.

Organisers said the Run provides additional support for the peoples of South Sudan who share blood, religion, culture and a long border with Ethiopia enjoying flourishing ties and a long history of collaboration and partnership.

Some 5,000 South Sudanese are expected to take part in the Great South Sudan run.

### Fikadu Kebebe Wins 3<sup>rd</sup> Rabat International Marathon



Fikadu Kebebe Debele won the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Rabat International Marathon on 4<sup>th</sup> March, held under the patronage of HM King Mohammed VI, completing the distance (42.195 km) in 2:09.37, followed by Kenyan Kigen Sammy (2:09:39), and Ethiopian Samuel Getachew Demie (2:09:44).

Ethiopian, Alemu Worknesch, secured victory in the women's race in 2h:30.04, ahead of Kenyan Jeptoo Eunice (2:33.41) and Ethiopian Bekelu Beji Geletu (2:34.05). The Marathon brought together around 9,000 athletes from countries around the world.

### **Ethiopia successfully hosts CAF General Assembly**



Ethiopia successfully hosted the 39<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) on 16<sup>th</sup> March - a "historic and unique" occasion.

Juneidin Basha, President of the Federation, said holding the meeting in Ethiopia, the founding member of CAF, was appropriate, as it coincides with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CAF.

Ethiopia hopes to host the 2025 African Cup of Nations.

## **DIASPORA CORNER**

### **Embassy delegation holds discussions with the Ethiopian Community in Scotland**

A delegation led by Ambassador Hailemichael Aberra met with members of the Ethiopian Diaspora in Scotland on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Briefing them on what Ethiopia has achieved in the past 15 years, he mentioned the extensive socio-economic progress, the ongoing democratisation processes and peace and stability.

Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and this progress has impacted positively on people from all walks of life. H.E. said the achievements have created a demanding society, with a great desire for more inclusive development.

The Ambassador tackled the weaknesses and challenges and the need to make sure that development should cater even more effectively to people's needs. It should strongly address inclusivity, encourage peace and strengthen our democracy. The government has undertaken a thorough assessment and is working with the people to address the challenges. The Ambassador explained the reasons for the State of Emergency, its implementation and outcome, the envisaged political reforms, and the implications for the economy. The government had handled human rights concerns very carefully throughout the implementation of the state of emergency. The situation is now calm with the country back to normalcy. The government is undertaking reform programmes to address the challenges of unemployment, corruption, maladministration, and rent-seeking behaviour.



Following the discussion, in a Q & A session, diaspora members commented on the bureaucratic hurdles and corrupt practices they had faced during investment operations in various parts of the country. They urged the government to take serious measures to speed up the issuing of new passports and Yellow Cards for Ethiopians.

Ambassador Hailemichael expressed his sincere appreciation to the coordinators and all Diaspora members for a successful meeting. The Federal government is working hard to encourage diaspora engagement in the country's socio-economic development and will facilitate investment and the transfer of technologies and skills, he said. It would like to continue to work together with diaspora to promote the true image of Ethiopia and help maintain the country's national security. The participants re-committed to supporting the country's overall development endeavours.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### First batch of 40/60 condominiums inaugurated



The first batch of apartments built on two sites in Addis Ababa under the 40/60 housing programme – so-called as they are available to those who offer 40% of the cost of the flats - have been inaugurated.

The 1,292 flats are some of more than 39,000 being built on 13 sites in Addis Ababa – are part of a government initiative to ease housing shortages in the capital and major towns.

### Meet Ethiopia's newest Guinness World Record holder dubbed the "human water-fountain"



24-year-old Kirubel Yilma was awarded the Guinness World Records title for *Longest time to spray water from the mouth!* With a record of 46.86 seconds to beat, he smashed the record with an impressive new time of 56.36 seconds.

"I am a second-year medical student at Addis Ababa University so I have the knowledge of how to use my muscles effectively so as to break the record," he said. He hopes to raise the record to one minute in the future. Watch this space!

## ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

### Eight Days in Ethiopia

**COUNTRY&TOWN HOUSE** Monthly luxury travel magazine, Country & Town House, featured an 8-day itinerary to Ethiopia in their March issue.

Although not on the high-end traveller's trail yet, it is possible to see this most majestic of countries in the limited lap of luxury, says Caroline Phillips.



**"This is perhaps the most intriguing country in Africa. A place of scale, biblical beauty, canyons and chasms. Of historical treasures aplenty. And, above all, of a colourful, gracious and welcoming people."**

Read more at <https://goo.gl/8RF8Uh>

### Ethiopia's Dallol salt dome could reveal how life first formed on Earth



Dallol may look like a hellish environment, but the conditions here are the same as those before life dominated our planet, writes Pauline Bock.

Scientists from France's National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) are trying to find out if life can develop in the most extreme conditions on Earth. This has led them to the first scientific expedition into the Dallol salt dome in the Danakil Desert in Ethiopia. At 128 metres below sea level, the site sits on a two-kilometre-thick layer of salt, the remains of an evaporated arm of the Red Sea.



Life - in the form of single-celled organisms - appeared on Earth around 3.8 billion years ago, during the Archean eon, as the Earth's crust first began to poke out of the sea. In this hot, acidic and volcanic environment, geology prevailed over biology - much like it does in Dallol. "The very special environmental conditions of this site might resemble those of the early Earth," says López-García.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/Vmh79V>

### Where the World's Only Grass-Eating Monkeys Thrive



A protected, high-altitude savanna in Ethiopia is helping 'bleeding heart' geladas survive, thanks to efforts by the local community.



Local villagers run the [Menz-Guassa Community Conservation Area]. A complex communal system determines where livestock grazes, who cuts grass, and when. Nearly a quarter of Ethiopia's endemic mammal species live here including one of the

world's most endangered canids, the ginger-furred Ethiopian wolf, klipspringers, civets, African wolves, and hyenas. They live much as they have for thousands of years.

From the April 2017 issue of *National Geographic* magazine. Read more at <https://goo.gl/v57YIH>.

### The Houses of Halaba

**Selamta** "In the small, southern Ethiopian farming community known as Halaba, residents don't just wear their hearts on their sleeves — they adorn their homes accordingly."



*Selamta* magazine covers some stunning photographs by Eric Lafforgue of the Houses of Halaba. For years, most buildings in the town have been painted to display what individual townspeople hold most dear — from professions and faith to even dreams for the future.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/YSwesK>.

### Hawassa Rising

**The fast-growing, southern city exemplifies Ethiopia's development potential**

**Selamta** Flying into Hawassa, the southern Ethiopian city presents itself as a giant Lego board of sorts, with identical gray blocks adorned with teal and red detailing. Upon closer inspection, the "blocks" become a cluster of massive steel factories recently built on a 300,000-square-meter plot of land outside of the city. This is the **Hawassa**

**Industrial Park**, which is transforming the face of the city and repositioning Ethiopia as a globally competitive hub of light manufacturing.



It will eventually encompass 1.3 million square meters — making it **Africa's largest manufacturing park, and the only one dedicated solely to textile and garment manufacturing.** It will employ up to 60,000 workers and generate a total export value of US\$1 billion.

Over 15 major international manufacturers have already pledged to set up factories in the facility, including H&M and PVH and the US firm that owns the Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger brands.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/8HGkpm>

### **Investing in girls and women - the smartest thing we can do**

**H** Writing for the Huffington Post for International Women's Day, WHO-Director General Candidate, Dr Tedros Adhanom says, "Investing in girls and women is the smartest thing we can do...With equal access to education, healthcare, employment and representation, girls and women are a force that will build the resilient societies and sustainable economies we wish to achieve."



**I want to salute and honour women and girls across the world for their courage, strength and perseverance.**

Dr Tedros

Read more at <https://goo.gl/jvTwer>

### **Opinion: Putting people first at the WHO — from ill health to public health emergencies**

Dr Tedros also wrote for Devex on his WHO bid :



"If I am asked why I am in this race, my answer is simple: Because I care. **I care about people as individuals, I care about communities, and I care enough about the world to want to make a positive difference.** As an outsider to the WHO bureaucracy — and a person who comes from the developing world — **I will ensure that the human faces behind the issues are front and center at every discussion.** I will strive to instill a mindset change where meetings and conferences never forget that it is about the who (pardon the pun) more than the what or the how.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/KiGgRK>

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