



# Ethiopian News

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### Message from the Ambassador

As we approach the festive season, I would like to reflect on our work over the past 12 months, which has been largely devoted to investment, tourism promotion and strengthening our partnership with the United Kingdom.

There has been an exchange of visits to further build on the fraternal relations which Ethiopia and the UK happily continue to enjoy. Notably, Ms Sarah Macintosh, Director General of Defence and

Intelligence at FCO and Justine Greening (DFID), Mark Lowcock (DFID) and James Sharp, FCO Director Migration. On the Ethiopian side, were the visits of the Minister of Health HE Dr Keseteberhan Admasu, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Dr Tedros Adhanom, both of whom participated in bilateral consultations with their respective counterparts.

During this period, HE Dr Tedros spoke at the world-renowned research institute Chatham House, where he explained the role of Ethiopia in bringing regional peace and stability and what it has accomplished up to now in this regard.



Late this year, an Ethiopian delegation participated in the Khartoum process, which examined areas of cooperation in handling

migration from Africa.

On 21<sup>st</sup> November the second UK-Ethiopia Investment Forum was held and was crowned with success with the participation of over 500 companies keen to learn more about investing in Ethiopia.

On 5<sup>th</sup> November, the Embassy held a cultural evening with Mulatu Astatke, the father of Ethiopian jazz and renowned poet, Lemn Sissay MBE at the celebrated Porchester Hall. This event was also attended by more than 500 people and offered the opportunity for the audience to learn more about the rich and diverse culture of Ethiopia.

Diaspora Ethiopians residing in the UK have created national platforms such as the National Renaissance Council, Ethiopian Diaspora Services, and the Global Knowledge Exchange Forum which are designed to offer the Ethiopian diaspora the opportunity to engage with their country of origin, benefitting themselves and, at the same time, their country of origin. The Embassy is also engaged in diaspora mapping, to learn more of their needs and their professional orientation, to bring about better instruments of engagement between Ethiopia and people of Ethiopian origin living in the UK.

Concerning the promotion of Ethiopia and informing the UK public about the current realities, the Embassy has overseen the dispatch to Ethiopia of more than 70 journalists from the print and electronic media, who reported on the trade and investment climate, on tourism promotion and on the political transformation that has taken place in Ethiopia.

The Embassy also engaged in many other investment fora organised by Diageo, The City UK, Standard Chartered, Chatham House and the ODI, explaining the new investment and trade environment in Ethiopia.

Excellencies, friends, everything has an end. On 7<sup>th</sup> January my wife and I will take a flight to our homeland, as my tenure of office as Ambassador of Ethiopia to the UK comes to an end. As we embark

on our journey home, we will carry your light in our hearts. The end becomes the beginning of enduring solidarity and friendship. We leave with His infinite blessing. My memory of this great country, the United Kingdom, and the friendships that we have developed in my term here, will remain with us forever, and I would like to continue and to build on these relations from Ethiopia. Thank you all for your kindness and support.

Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a splendid festive season to all Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia and their families.

Berhanu Kebede

Ambassador

### **New Addis-Djibouti railway launched**

The new Addis Ababa to Djibouti railway line has opened early. Originally scheduled to open in January 2016, the first train ran from Djibouti to Addis on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November, a journey of almost 800 kilometres.



The new railway joins the recently opened light rail system - the first in sub-Saharan Africa - that crosses Addis Ababa north-south and east-west.

When fully operational trains on the new railway service will take five hours to travel from Addis Ababa to Djibouti, travelling at 120 kilometres an hour. From early 2016, the line will be electrified, using renewable energy from Ethiopia's hydro-electric power stations, but is running diesel trains for the time being. The railway will take the strain

off the thousands of lorries that make the much slower road journey from Addis to Djibouti, which currently takes days.

The first train delivered more than 3,000 tonnes of grain from Djibouti port to areas of Ethiopia suffering from the effects of this year's severe El Niño phenomenon. Chief executive of the Ethiopian Railways Corporation (ERC), Dr Getachew Betru, told the BBC "We decided to open the railway early because of the drought, the worst in decades."

The track, which was built and partly funded by China in partnership with Ethiopia, cost \$3bn (£2bn) using a largely Ethiopian skilled workforce. It gradually rises from the port of Djibouti up to Addis Ababa, which is about 2,500m above sea level.

The line runs parallel to the abandoned Ethio-Djibouti railway which was built by the French a 100 years ago.

The thinking behind this project goes beyond bilateral relations between Ethiopia and Djibouti. It is part of Ethiopia's commitment to a shared vision and to peace and development in the whole of the East African sub-region. Ethiopia attaches the utmost importance to its relations with its neighbours and believes that creating the economic conditions for regional integration is vital. The new railway line is just one of the many infrastructure projects, involving road and railway linkages and electricity interconnection, aimed at facilitating regional integration.

Ethiopia plans to build over 5,000km of railway in the coming years, to link Ethiopia to Sudan, South Sudan and Kenya and it will eventually join up with other African railways reaching from Djibouti across to West Africa, bringing both economic benefits – boosting trade and investment - and reaffirming regional integration.

## All hail the new Growth and Transformation Plan – GTPII

Encouraged by the results achieved by the first Growth and Transformation Plan (GTPI, 2010-2015), Ethiopia embarked, in October, upon the implementation of GTPII, which envisions even higher development goals than the first Plan, moving Ethiopia further towards the target of becoming a middle-income country by 2025.

During the second GTP period, industrial expansion will be given priority and huge infrastructure projects, such as the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), will come to fruition. Substantial achievements are also expected in the agriculture and service sectors.

Prime Minister Hailemariam said that "although agriculture would stay as the backbone for the country's economy, GTPII will give more focus to the manufacturing sector than GTPI."

## Quality education – raising standards

Education took centre stage during GTPI, key targets were met and access to education was largely addressed, but there is far more to be done to fill the gaps. Quality education will help bring about fast-track development of the economy.

Under GTPI, the performance of the education sector supported the nation's double digit growth. Access, equity and quality in education were addressed and admission to higher learning institutions rose from the tens of thousands in 1995 to 387,000 in 2015. More than 24 million pupils are in the education system with more than half a million in higher education.

Under GTPII, new education and training programmes and curricula have been honed from past experience and are now under implementation. In the course of GTPII, goals have been set for efficient, effective, knowledge-based,





inspiring education for all - through general, technical & vocational education, training/TVET and higher education - to train the workforce demanded by industry, particularly the growing manufacturing and services sectors.

As Minister of Education, Shiferaw Shigute has stated that, in the last twenty years “the number of higher institutions rose from two to 35 and under GTPII another 11 higher institutions will be added, pushing the overall number to 41.”

A lot remains to be done in adult education and special needs and this will be addressed during the GTPII period, under the Education Quality Management System.

### Health



Ethiopia has received plaudits from around the world for its exemplary health programme in which almost 40,000 health extension workers cover the most pressing health needs of every village in the country. However, this has not engendered complacency, and it is widely acknowledged that there is room for expansion and improvement in health service delivery, quality assurance, leadership and governance and health system capacity.

Under GTPII, the general objective is to ensure provision of equitable, accessible and quality health services, enhance awareness and ownership of health services, and create an enabling environment

for societies to prevent communicable and non-communicable diseases. There is a determination to sustain and strengthen capacity building programmes and the linkage between basic health care and hospital services. Provision of basic health services will be examined in line with communities’ priorities but especially for maternal, children and youth, by providing preventive, curative, emergency care and rehabilitative health services. A healthy life style, at individual and community level will be encouraged. (Smoking in public places was banned under GTPI).

### Agriculture



State Minister at the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Wondyirad Mandefro, launched the second phase of the Ministry’s 12 billion Birr agriculture action plan on 14<sup>th</sup> November, with the aim of maintaining growth. Under GTPII, the ministry will boost agricultural productivity, by building capacity, making full use of technology, utilizing water resources, building more irrigation canals, and by creating additional jobs for women and young people in rural areas. The programme will encourage and facilitate research activities in the field, for which the World Bank is the key sponsor, in four thousand *kebeles* across seven regional states and one city administration.

## Mining

The newly formed Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas said its restructuring will bring better outcomes and streamline the work of related professionals, improve focus and register better results under GTPII. The Ministry will enhance development of the country's wealth including gold, opals, petroleum and natural gas, bringing the Ethiopian Geological Survey and the Ethiopian Energy Authority under one roof. The Ministry has crafted its annual plan and discussed it with its employees and relevant stakeholders so that it is enriched.

## Infrastructure

Ethiopia aims to invest heavily in regional infrastructures development and people-to-people relations with the expansion of road, railway lines and the export of clean and affordable electric power to its neighbours.

Under GTPI, Ethiopia expanded power connections to 5,554 towns, and under GTPII, another 10,205 towns will be connected to the national grid, raising the current 54% rural access to electricity to 90% during the GTPII Period 2015-2020.

Under GTPII, the Ethiopian Road Construction Corporation (ERCC) will boost the government's market share in road construction to 50%. Its new business plan will also support an increase in the government's role in road maintenance from its current share of nearly 55% to 70%. ERCC is currently engaged in 13 federal road construction projects, and local and private contractors are involved in 54 projects. ERCC looks forward to laying down 1,600 km roads under GTPII when the new business plan permits international companies to work jointly with ERCC. "Our efficiency will improve through time; we are aware that we face several problems and we will do our best under GTPII to solve these problems," a spokesman said.



*Ethiopia's light railway opened this autumn*

## Additional industrial parks to open



In the coming year, about eight industrial parks, currently being built in main regional towns, will go operational. "The parks will increase the competitiveness of local and foreign investors", Tadesse Haile, Industry State Minister said. Industrial parks are central to Ethiopia's plan to build an industrial base and effectively exploit the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Under GTPII, more effective use will be made of AGOA, a nonreciprocal trade preference programme that provides duty-free treatment to U.S. imports of certain products from eligible sub-Saharan African.

World Bank Group President, Dr Jim Yong Kim, recently said "Ethiopia is playing a leading role in Africa by building environmental sound industrial parks that contribute to sustainable development.



### **Cement production to expand**

Cement factories in Ethiopia have a production capacity of 15.1 million tonnes a year, yet actual production is currently only 10 million tonnes. As a result of huge demand, the capacity is expected to reach 27 million tonnes by the end of GTPII. Dangote Cement is to invest a further \$450 million and double its current production capacity to five million tonnes a year. Its new factory, near its first factory in Muger, will employ 1,300 people.



*Dangote cement factory*

### **Tourism**

In 2014, the Ethiopian Tourism Organisation estimated arrivals at more than 800,000, with a goal of boosting that number to more than one million by the end of 2015, with much faster growth in the following four years or so, as Ethiopia has become a must-visit for travellers world-wide. State-owned Ethiopian Airlines, has recently won yet another award for its unrivalled services.

### **Diplomacy & the Diaspora**

Foreign Minister Dr Tedros stressed that GTPII needed the unreserved effort of all members of the public and also of the Diaspora. The latter can form a range of organisations, according to their expertise, to help Ethiopia develop. He cited the Diaspora medical personnel from the USA who are building a state-of-the-art hospital in Ethiopia, and encouraged others to engage in similar initiatives.

Dr Tedros said that under GTPI Ethiopia’s diplomacy built up strategic partnerships, economic diplomacy, image-building and Diaspora affairs, turning the country into an attractive place for business, investment and for tourists, developing people-to-people ties to win the hearts of peoples in the region and beyond with its win-win approach, shared benefits and insistence on equality.

This nurtured collective security which has created a favourable regional and international environment for Ethiopia’s renaissance, elevating Ethiopia’s voice in global fora. A cooperative approach brought success in hydro-diplomacy, winning Ethiopia trust and understanding from the Eastern Nile Basin countries and its peoples.

Over the last five years, the country has managed to attract 370 billion Birr of foreign direct investment capital. However, despite considerable technology transfer, GTPI did not fully achieve in terms of getting members of the Ethiopian Diaspora to provide capital inflows, technology, knowledge and skills transfers and to facilitate business, trade and investment to their homeland. Indeed, given the disappointing lack of progress, FDI will be strengthened through aggressive investment promotion activities and through providing support to investors under GTPII.

### **Fighting corruption**

Under GTPII, the Commissioner of the Federal Ethics & Anti-Corruption Commission (FEACC) Ali Sulaiman Mohammed says Ethiopia will establish a separate unit to retrieve national wealth taken through corruption and embezzlement.

“Corruptors think that they can own what they have corrupted after they are released from jail. We have to break this mind-set to prevent further corruption,” he said. Many mega projects are underway, with billions of birr allocated by the government and with huge procurements, so it is



mandatory to strengthen the fight against corrupt practices. Corruption is on the increase, “Our focus so far was on catching corruptors and taking the necessary legal measures. We shall focus more on retrieving corrupted national wealth and this shall be more effective to contain this national malice.”



*Anti-corruption commissioner, Ali Sulaiman Mohammed*

## Employment

Under GTPI, employment rates in small and medium sized enterprises increased by over 4 million with over 2 million created in the construction sector. The Addis Ababa Micro and Small-Scale Enterprises Office generated over 900,000 jobs, for young people - of which 35% were for women - and founded more than 34,000 enterprises in which more than 292,000 people now work. The Office plans to increase this amount by 50% during the GTPII period. University and Vocational and Technical institute graduates have benefited from the job opportunities.

## Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn attends Valletta Summit on Migration

On 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November Malta hosted the Valletta Summit on migration which provided a platform for EU and African leaders to discuss the problems posed, and opportunities offered, by the

high levels of migration experienced by Europe this year. It came about after the deaths of 800 migrants off the coast of Libya in March. So far Europe has received 800,000 migrants and a further 3,440 have lost their lives crossing the Mediterranean.

At the Summit a European Fund to stem the flow of irregular migration onto the continent was announced. The £1.2 billion fund is aimed at 23 potential African countries including Libya, Sudan and Eritrea and hopes to tackle economic and social problems pushing migrants to leave their own countries for a new life in Europe. It is also hoped the fund will persuade African countries to take back failed asylum seekers.



This comes alongside Ethiopia’s own efforts to tackle factors which are pushing some Ethiopian citizens to migrate, such as creating jobs for unemployed youth, adopting poverty alleviation policies and supporting thousands of small- and medium-sized enterprises. It is also taking tougher legal and administrative measures against human trafficking, working with partners across the continent and globally.

The EU and Ethiopia signed a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMP) at the Summit, demonstrating the EU’s understanding of the importance of Ethiopia as a key country of origin, transit and destination of and for migrants and refugees. The CAMP was signed by Jean-Claude Juncker, the President of the European Commission, Jean Asselborn, the Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Luxembourg minister of Foreign Affairs and Acting European Council President, and Prime Minister Desalegn.



The CAMM came about after intense talks between EU Commission officials and Ethiopia, led by Dimitris Avramopoulos (Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship), culminating in final talks between the prime minister and Federica Mogherini on 10<sup>th</sup> October in Addis. The agreement encourages co-operation on issues including international protection and refugees' needs, legal migration and mobility, irregular migration, human smuggling and trafficking, and development policy. There will be annual meetings between Ethiopia and the EU on these topics, alternating between Brussels and Addis Ababa. Nigeria also signed a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility with the EU, while Tunisia, Morocco and Cape Verde each signed Mobility Partnerships with the bloc.

### **World Energy Leaders Summit, Addis Ababa, 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October**

In the run-up to the **Paris Climate-Change Summit** the World Energy Council Executive Assembly and World Energy Leaders Summit took place in Addis Ababa.

Organised by the World Energy Council and Ethiopia's Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, the Summit was attended by Ministers and senior government energy officials from across Africa and the world, and hundreds of energy company executives and energy sector pioneers.

The aim was to bring the energy sector into the framework of regional integration and global experience-sharing partnerships. Best experiences in renewable energy development were discussed including solar, hydro, wind and low-carbon-economy approaches.

The Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, Motuma Mekasa, said "Major power generation projects are being built with the intention of realising regional integration."

Ethiopia shared its energy sector experiences with participants under the theme a **Green Climate**

**Resilient Economy, the key to sustainable development.** Hydro is already the major source of energy and Ethiopia is working to ensure energy efficiency, conservation, sustainability and natural resource conservation to build a fully green economy by 2030.

Participants at the Summit appreciated Ethiopia's efforts to bring about regional integration through the provision of cheap power and expansion of transmission lines to neighbouring countries and beyond. There was general agreement that other developing nations should follow suit.

In addition to hydro, Ethiopia is developing wind, geothermal, solar, bio-mass and waste-to-energy, to increase renewable energy diversification. Major power sector development projects now under construction include the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam that will add 6,000 MW to the grid and the Genale Dawa III for 254 MQ; the Aluto Langanu Geothermal Expansion project and the Malka Sedi Diomass. The Gilgel Gibe III Dam, with a capacity of 1,870 MW, began generating power in October this year.

With regard to waste-to-energy, Cambridge Industries will start generating power from its landfill-to-energy project near Addis by mid-2016, and is expected to generate 50MW. The MD of Cambridge Industries in Ethiopia, Samuel Z. Alemayehu, said the new facility also has the potential to offset annual carbon emissions of 1.5 million tonnes, which will reciprocally enable the country to generate revenues between \$15 and \$30 million from carbon trade.

An October 2015 report from the World Energy Council said the energy community was increasingly concerned about the slow progress and level of ambition in the negotiations ahead of the COP21 meeting in Paris. The World Energy Council's message from the Executive Assembly affirmed that the energy sector across the world is



ready to respond to “**a strong signal from Paris to accelerate the energy transition.**”

The Council called for a clear pathway from Paris that will end the growing uncertainty that has cast a shadow over the energy sector for many decades. The energy community urgently needs a clear carbon pricing scheme, in line with the global objectives, that will allow all to make efficient economic decisions. This should be the key priority, along with **predictable policy and balanced regulatory frameworks** to unlock the needed investment for affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

It said the addition of the **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions** track to the negotiations was an important step, but translating the international objective to the national level for energy requires an **Energy Trilemma** approach, which balanced the needs of energy security, environment and the social agenda.

The World Energy Council noted that the increasing number of extreme weather events was already affecting critical energy infrastructure. Extreme events had quadrupled over the past 30 years and would continue unless decisive and extensive mitigation and adaptation measures were taken.

### **African leaders call for climate-change pact at COP21**

In mid-November, a group of African leaders and UN experts called for an agreement on climate change at the Paris COP21 conference that would tackle the continent's urgent need to address this issue.

“Africa needs to have a comprehensive agreement focusing on the issues of mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology transfer... Climate justice means that developed countries, which have caused climate change with its related damage, should also provide the means to address

its consequences on the rest of the world,” a statement said.



In order to formulate a common position ahead of the Paris conference, African stakeholders met on 6<sup>th</sup> November under the auspices of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa. The African Union Commission, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), members of the diplomatic corps, religious leaders and representatives of African civil society joined together to issue a statement on the importance of helping Africa cope with climate change. A statement, released on 9<sup>th</sup> November, called for: “A fair, equitable and legally binding agreement during the Paris Conference.”

“COP 21 would be an opportunity for the continent to claim its right to sustainable development and ensure that the African common positions are featured in the final text,” Ayele Hegena, director of Law and Standards at the Ethiopian Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said.

Paris should produce an agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol of Dec. 11, 1997, which currently governs world climate change efforts.

Ethiopia is vigorously pursuing a green economy strategy whose goal is to achieve a carbon-neutral economy by 2030. It is promoting a renewable energy programme for which it is seeking partners and has been playing a leading role in Africa in this regard. Ethiopia’s bilateral and multilateral development partners are fully aware of the extent of its commitment to clean and green energy. Having submitted its INDC in June 2015, Ethiopia is looking forward with optimism to the outcome of

the ongoing climate summit in Paris which kicked off as we went to press.



### **China and the US to provide food assistance during El Niño**

Earlier this month, Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce, Qian Kerring and Abdulaziz Mohamed, Ethiopia's Minister of Finance and Economic Co-operation, signed an agreement for China to provide Ethiopia with \$7.93 million of food aid. The Ethiopian Minister commended China's quick response saying:

"Ethiopia attaches high value to the Chinese government's immediate response to the current situation. China is discharging its global obligation to address humanitarian problems."

China's Vice Minister noted that "El Niño and climate change is beyond our control but I believe our friendship will play a positive role." The agreement took place as part of a 4-day visit by a Chinese business delegation to Ethiopia. USAID also announced that it would be providing \$97 million in additional food assistance. This will amount to 154,000 tonnes of emergency food assistance for Ethiopians and refugees from Somalia, South Sudan and Eritrea currently hosted by Ethiopia. Ethiopia is home to over 750,000 refugees.

The finance minister also stated that the 10% growth forecast for the 2015/6 fiscal year will not be affected by the drought. Resources have not been diverted from other parts of the budget so far and the minister underlined that there was no intention

of diverting resources in the future. The money needed to tackle this phenomenon has been sourced from funds set up directly for this purpose. The government did, however, state that ongoing projects would be delayed if the scale of the drought intensified, and all transportation means necessary would be used to deliver procured grain.

The government has also responded with other policies. For instance, the Afar state will be providing grain for 777,000 people and fodder for animals; a school feeding programme has been introduced so as not to disrupt education; and drilling activity for water is underway in the north Wollo zone with new wells expected to be operational within two months.



### **29<sup>th</sup> IMO Assembly held in London**

At the end of November, London hosted the 29<sup>th</sup> International Maritime Organisation Assembly, attended by Embassy staff and representatives from the Ethiopian Maritime Authority. Mr Mekonnen Abera, the Director General of the Ethiopian Maritime Authority and head of the Ethiopian delegation, gave a speech stating that 'Though Ethiopia is a landlocked country, it has its own National Carrier. The Ethiopian Merchant fleet engaged in international trade has reached more than 400,000 DWT lifting capacity'. He said 'To cope with the ever growing demand for skilled expertise

in the maritime domain, Ethiopia has established a higher education centre and started producing competent and qualified seafarers; thousands of young Ethiopian seafarers are working globally in renowned shipping companies.”



*Aro Mekonnen Abera speaking at the Assembly*

The EMA is responsible for ship registration and issuing competency assurance certificates to seafarers; assessing the competency of training of seamen and issuing assurance certificate; conducting maritime safety and security inspections; protecting the marine environment from pollution; and facilitating inland marine transport. Ethiopia has ratified the following International Conventions :

- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78)
- Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-Keeping for Seafarers
- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea
- International Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence against the safety of Maritime Navigation
- Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea
- International Convention on Load Lines
- International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships
- UNCLOS, which has been adopted as the constitution of the sea transport sector; and
- The African Maritime Transport Charter

During the Assembly, My Kitack Lim of the Republic of Korea was also unanimously endorsed as the new Secretary-General of the IMO with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

### **All-female Ethiopian Airlines crew for Addis-Bangkok flight**



On 19<sup>th</sup> November, Ethiopian Airlines Addis Ababa-Bangkok long-haul flight made history for the air carrier by being crewed solely by women.

Not only were the crew on board women, but so were the ground staff including cabin operations, airport operations, flight dispatcher, land controller, ramp operations, ticket office staff, catering and air traffic controllers. This was a first for the airline, demonstrating their commitment to ‘Women’s Empowerment for Sustainable Growth’.

CEO of Ethiopian, Tewelde GebreMariam, said the company was fully dedicated to increasing the number of women in decision-making roles in key operational, managerial and technical areas. “This is an ample opportunity to inspire young African female students to believe in their dreams and embark on filling the skills gap for aviation professionals. Women are the continent’s greatest untapped resources,” he said.

### **Dashen - most advanced brewery in Africa**

In November, Dashen Brewery -co-owned by Vasari Global, UK-based asset management firm Duet



Group and TIRET, an Ethiopian endowment fund - inaugurated the largest brewery in Ethiopia.

The plant has a total production capacity of two million hectolitres of beer a year which, with Dashen's facility in Gondar, will triple the capacity of the company to meet growing consumer demand. The design of the plant also represents leaps forward in terms of consistent quality and efficiency as well as lowered operating costs and minimal environmental impacts.



Located in Debre Birhan, a mere 100km north-west of the capital and connected to Addis by a new government-built high-quality road, the plant has direct access to the most densely populated part of the country. Debre Birhan was designated for economic development under the Growth and Transformation Plan, but has evolved into a major industrial town in its own right. The plant will generate several hundred new jobs in the area as well as new jobs along the supply chain, including in farming. It was also designed with the potential for on-site expansion.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn attended the inauguration and remarked that the achievement by Vasari, TIRET and Duet Group demonstrated "that UK businesses can successfully engage in joint venture undertakings with Ethiopian businesses in Ethiopia."

Vivien Imerman, CEO of Vasari Global stated "We have brought the most advanced brewery in Africa - and one of the most advanced in the world - to Ethiopia. This is a clear sign of our confidence in Ethiopia and it complements our growing portfolio

in the country, which includes spirits business Super Eagle, and biscuits and pasta factory Ahadukes."

Devlin Hainsworth, Dashen CEO, said "Our consumers have been asking us to ensure they can enjoy Dashen wherever and whenever they choose. I'm delighted to say that we've listened and from today, we can deliver."

### **Ambassador Konjit Sinegiorghis recognised as one of Africa's longest-serving diplomats**

The current permanent representative of Ethiopia to the African Union, Ambassador Konjit Sinegiorghis, was awarded an honour by the AU in a ceremony on 16<sup>th</sup> November as Africa's longest serving diplomat.

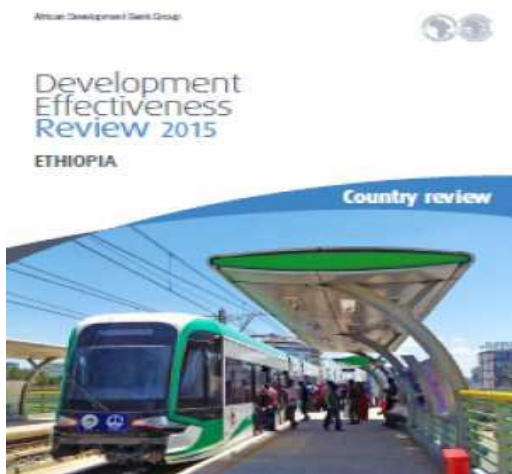
Her Excellency has served in Ethiopian diplomacy for the last 52 years and was given an award by the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2013 for being the longest serving diplomat in the history of the Ministry. She began life in public service as officer in charge of decolonisation at the Ethiopian Permanent Mission to the UN, and has been working on African diplomatic affairs from before the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity.



A party organised by the East African Group and the AU Commission attracted the top echelons of the diplomatic service. Dr Tedros Adhanom, Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs, described how Her Excellency "taught us all the pride and dignity of

public service”. She was known for her diligence, readiness to carry out any duty and her frank but well informed advice. In a moving speech, the Ambassador said “My career has been my life and I sacrificed everything for it. That is why I feel emotional as I retire after all these years of diplomatic service. I have to be honest with you, Excellencies and Friends. I really wish I was a bit younger to participate during this exciting period when both Africa and my country, Ethiopia, are making so much progress... There’s no greater honour than serving one’s own country to the fullest. God bless you... Long live Africa.’

### AfDB report praises Ethiopia’s progress



The African Development Bank launched its Development Effectiveness Review on 18 November in Addis Ababa. The review examines Ethiopia’s development challenges, while assessing how the Bank has responded to them, and how effective its operations and organisation has been in Ethiopia.

The Review highlights Ethiopia’s tremendous economic growth over the past decade, averaging 10% a year, making it one of the fastest growing economies in the world. This growth has enabled the government to pursue an ambitious national development agenda, resulting in 2.5 million people being lifted out of poverty over the last eight years.

On top of this, the proportion of those living below the poverty line has fallen to below 30%.

Over the last 40 years, the AfDB has been involved in 118 projects in Ethiopia, totalling \$4 billion. The publication follows the performance of the Bank’s projects against the goals and targets outlined by the AfDB’s Results and Measurements Framework. In Ethiopia the Bank’s portfolio is more selective with fewer but larger projects than compared with elsewhere. This allows the Bank to achieve high levels of impact.

### 15<sup>th</sup> edition of Great Ethiopian Run takes place



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Great Ethiopian Run took place in Addis Ababa. Over 40,000 people, including diplomats and athletes, participated in the 10km race, which started and finished at Meskel Square in the capital.

Mamitu Daska won the women’s race and Tamirat Dola the men’s; both received 50,000 birr in prize money. World-famous athlete Haile Gebrselassie, who has retired from competitive running, was also honoured at the end of the race with an award.

### Refugee influx into Ethiopia sharply declining, says UNHCR

The numbers of South Sudanese refugees crossing the border has decreased by a significant amount since late October, according to the UNHCR office in Addis Ababa. UNHCR’s senior public information officer, Kisut Gebregzabiher, told press that there was an average of six South Sudanese arriving at the border each day, in stark contrast to last year when



2,000 people a day were arriving. This decline is a consequence of the peace deal signed between the fighting parties in August.

Ethiopia currently hosts the largest number of South Sudanese refugees, taking in 290,000 in the last year alone, to join the tens of thousands who arrived before the fighting began in 2013.

### **EthioTelecom wins award for Quality Business Management**

In November, EthioTelecom were awarded the 'International Europe Award for Quality' in the service sector in recognition of the company's commitment to quality business management. The award was given by the Global Traders' Club, an association of companies with more than 7,500 members from 95 countries.

The CEO of EthioTelecom, Andualem Admassie, received the award in Paris. He said that the company was currently engaging in its own organisational re-structuring and infrastructural expansion as well as expansion of services to remote areas. There are currently 50 million mobile phone subscribers in Ethiopia and this number will rise to 113 million under GTP II. Broadband internet subscriptions are expected to rise from 1.4 million to 39 million in the same period.

The company experienced setbacks under GTP I and has a way to go to satisfy customer demand for uninterrupted connection, but has a strong vision for the future.



## **Trade and Investment:**

### **Ethiopia Commodity Exchange launches traceability system**

The Ethiopian Commodity Exchange launched an IBM-enabled traceability system in November which encompasses over 5 million small-holder farmers growing multiple commodities.

The scheme will be piloted purely for coffee and will be in place in time for this year's coffee harvest. It is expected that both high-quality exports of coffee and market access for coffee will increase as a direct consequence. Consumers all over the world now demand more information about the quality, consistency and safety of the products they purchase and their supply chains. This system will allow consumers to trace the primary market from where the product has been purchased, the processing mills that were involved and which farms and farmers took part in the production. This will be achieved through a new tagging system which will link bags of coffee traded through the ECX with one of at least 2,500 geo-referenced washing, hulling and cleaning stations in Ethiopia's coffee regions. It is also hoped that such traceability will allow for greater understanding of operational challenges in the supply chain, such as where the bottlenecks are. As a result, supply chains can become more efficient, which is crucial in Ethiopia where lack of available trucks for moving goods can be a major hindrance.

At the launch event, held in Hawassa, the objective, scope and function of the system was explained to representatives from the Ministry of Trade, Agriculture and Natural Resources, as well as to suppliers, exporters, development agencies and the private sector.

The system has been part-funded by the ECX which has contributed \$1.4 million to the \$4.5 million project, while the rest of the money has been funded by USAID, Nestle, Jacobs Douwe Egberts, Mother



Parker's Coffee and Tea, and the Sustainable Trade Initiative.

### Ethiopia to export sugar in 2016

Ethiopia is looking to stop importing sugar and become one of the world's 10 biggest exporters by 2023, by adding 10 new plants. This move comes as delayed Chinese and Indian backed projects have been recently finished.



Under GTPI Ethiopia had hoped to become self-sufficient by 2013 and to export \$661million of unrefined sugar last year, though financing delays meant this could not be brought to fruition. It is hoped that Metals and Engineering Corp will finish a factory at Kuraz, in the south of the country, and two plants in Beles Valley, in the Amhara region, by the end of the year, though only trial cultivation will occur. The China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China have committed more than \$1 billion for Chinese contractors to build two other processors at Kuraz and Kessem.

Acknowledging that Ethiopia would not be able to meet the standards of refined sugar produced in developed markets, Spokesman for state-owned Sugar Corps., Zemedkun Tekle, stated that Ethiopia would initially export the raw variety. The ecology of Ethiopia means plantations are relatively productive and cost-efficient, though improvements can be made, said Zemedkun.

### 130 investment projects with 12 billion capital given the go ahead

Last month the Ethiopian Investment Commission said it had already offered licences for 130 investment projects, amounting to a registered capital of 20.02 billion birr in the first quarter of this financial year alone.

Key points concerning the projects include:

- 107 are brand new projects
- 23 involve expansion of existing projects
- 101 are from foreign investment
- 29 will be funded by domestic investors
- 45 will be funded by the Chinese
- 8 were granted to Indians
- 5 will be funded by Indonesians

During the whole of the last financial year, 65 investment projects were licenced, with capital of 3.39 billion birr. These projects have created 4,396 permanent jobs and 1,331 temporary ones. This year these figures are clearly set to soar.

### Commercial Bank reserves exceeds 375 billion birr



The government has decided to promote favourable conditions for doubling the number of Central Bank branches in the next five years, in order to narrow the gap between investments and savings.

At an event in November, the National Bank of Ethiopia discussed its activities over the past five

years with stakeholders. Aster Mamo, Deputy Prime Minister for Good Governance and the Reform Cluster and Minister of Public Service and Human Development, said that banks have played a significant part in Ethiopia's economic growth. She also called on the banks to maintain this momentum from GTPI into GTPII and beyond.

## Ethiopia in the News

### World Bank reports on Ethiopian Female Entrepreneurs

<http://goo.gl/MWYgB7>



Women can often face harder challenges than men when starting up or expanding businesses. They are less likely to have assets such as land or a house that can be used as collateral and indeed in some countries there are discriminatory laws and women are less likely to have a good education.



Research by World Bank economists Francesco Strobbe and Salman Alibahi suggests that investments in women-owned businesses can generate some of the "highest return opportunities available in emerging markets". Female unemployment is also terribly high but women often employ other women helping to drive these statistics down.

In Ethiopia the World Bank is working with the Development Bank of Ethiopia and selected micro-finance institutions to supply a special line of credit for female entrepreneurs. Between January 2014 and September 2015, 768 million birr was disbursed to 3,227 entrepreneurs resulting in an average loan of 219,605 birr. Furthermore, while 76% of recipients have never received a loan before the payback rate is as high as 99.4%.

Zinabu Hailu, a female entrepreneur in Addis Ababa said: "Women are becoming very much empowered and involved in business. It is a must to get involved in economic development."

### BBC 100 Women 2015: Ethiopia's Unsung Heroine

<http://goo.gl/0Juf18>



The BBC have included Misraa Jimaa, one of 38,000 health workers in Ethiopia, in their 2015 list of 100 women.

Ms Jimaa is the only health worker in her area for 19 miles and provides ante-natal and post-natal care, disease prevention, nutritional advice and immunisations among other care.

The BBC list of women recognises inspirational women from around the world. This year the list has focused on octogenarians sharing life lessons, nurses, entrepreneurs and film-makers.

