



Ethiopian News

October 2011 Issue

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Finnish Minister for International Development in Ethiopia

Finnish Minister for International Development, Heidi Hautala, visited Ethiopia for the first time in October.

During her four-day visit, Minister Hautala met Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, Deputy PM and Foreign Affairs Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, and Minister of Finance, Sufian Ahmed.



Finnish Minister for International Development, Heidi Hautala and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi

With the Prime Minister, the situation in the Horn of Africa and Ethiopia's role in the region was discussed. Minister Hautala lauded the role played by Ethiopia to ensure peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. "Ethiopia has a strategically important location, which naturally increases the

international community's interest in the country," she noted.

On the occasion, PM Meles Zenawi said that Ethiopia is striving to ensure peace and stability in the Horn of Africa with IGAD member states. He commended the support of the Finnish government through IGAD facilitation bureau for the same cause and urged the Finnish government and the international community to further enhance efforts to ensure durable peace in the region.

With the Foreign Minister she discussed foreign policy, the management of water resources and human rights. In addition, Minister Hautala had consultations on the cooperation with the Ministers of Education, Water and Energy, as well as Agriculture.

Deputy PM Hailemariam on his part expressed gratitude for the Finnish government's support and its contribution to secure peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. He said Ethiopia is keen to further enhance its relation and cooperation with Finland and would support Finland in its effort to solicit vote for alternate membership for the UN Security Council for the year 2013-2014.

The Minister also met and held talks with representatives of civil society organisations.

Ethiopia has progressed rapidly in recent years. Over 95% of children are now in primary school; in 1990 the figure was only 32%. Clean water is now available to 68.5% of the population, while in 1990 only 19% of people had access.

Finland has had its own significant role in this development, she said. In the education sector, Finland has supported the raising of education standards, with a focus on disability issues. After the success of previous projects, a strategy for special education was drawn up for Ethiopia.

Finland has also done pioneering work on water issues. During the water supply and environmental programme in the Amhara region (1994–2011), about 1.55 million people gained access to a water point, and to education in hygiene. The model administered by village communities, developed during the programme, is becoming one of the main national financing models.

The objective of the REILA programme launched by Finland this year is to support rural land registration and the creation and improvement of registers, both locally and nationally. During her visit, Development Minister Hautala attended the REILA launching ceremony.

In her speech, she stressed that land use has many links to people's basic and human rights.

"In cooperation between Ethiopia and Finland, the main resource to develop is the human resource."

Where land tenure rights are secured through land registration, people start to invest in land; this leads to increased production and healthier land. "This will improve Ethiopia's food security and will also result in greater climate resilience."

Ethiopia working towards zero carbon emission by 2025: PM Meles

Some 1.4 billion people around the world are devoid of electric power while 2.7 billion others employ harmful traditional energy sources.

The *Energy for All* Conference, held on 11th October in Norway, sought to ensure energy for underprivileged communities in developing nations through providing financial support.

The conference was co-organised by Norway and the International Energy Agency (IEA), and together they invited five countries from the South - Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Liberia and South Africa – to be their partners. Participants from more than 70 countries took part, making the conference a stepping stone on the road to providing energy for all by 2030.



The **Global Green Growth Forum** which took place in Copenhagen between 11th and 12th October brought together 200 global leaders from business, finance and public institutions for in-depth discussions around best practice and policies and how to accelerate green growth.

Ethiopia has rooted its speedy economic development in green growth said PM Meles, and this was greatly appreciated by those present. Green growth is not a matter of choice but of necessity for Africa, he said. Power provision is about ensuring social justice, yet

Africa is still to achieve this as a result of problems related to finance, infrastructure and execution capacity.

The private sector should play an important role in the power supply sector and governments must take the leading role in efforts to provide power for all at reasonable prices, he said.

Ethiopia seeks to increase its clean renewable energy supply fivefold in five years, he said and the nation is working towards zero carbon emission by 2025.

The current 7 billion world population will reach 9 billion after 30 years, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said, and sustained development would be unthinkable without an adequate renewable energy supply.

He said on-going renewable energy development in Ethiopia and Kenya are exemplary and will ensure pollution-free power supplies and sustained green growth.

FAO, IGAD sign MoU to promote food security in Horn of Africa

In an effort to promote food security in the Horn of Africa, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 11th October, outlining their plans to work together to increase investment in Agriculture and Rural Development in IGAD member countries.

The signing of the MoU is a giant leap forward in addressing the issue of food insecurity. The FAO and IGAD will implement specific joint projects in areas of crop and animal agriculture including fisheries. The cooperation also includes forestry to promote wealth, employment creation, food and nutrition and food security in the IGAD region.

Ethiopia Committed to Boosting Redbridge-Assela Ties

Ethiopia's Ambassador to Great Britain, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, paid a visit to the London Borough of Redbridge where he met and held talks with the Mayor, the Mayoress and other Council officials on boosting ties with the Town of Assela in Ethiopia.



A team of diplomats led by the ambassador was accorded a warm welcome by Council members and invited Ethiopians.



In mid-October a team from the Tower Hamlets Rotary Club comprising Mayoress Helen Johnson, International Relations Head for the Tower Hamlets Rotary Club, Mr Tony Sharma, and member of the Club and Manager of the Abiy Negussie Humanitarian Organization (ANHO), Abiy Negussie made a successful visit to Assela which was instrumental in reinforcing people-to-people relations. ANHO was marking its 4th anniversary and the group was visiting children supported by the organization.

At the 31st October reception Mr Sharma made a presentation on the trip, in particular its stay in Assela where, he said, the Mayor and the Administration were warmly welcomed.

The team toured a bio-farm, a biscuit manufacturing complex under construction and a school and had streets named after Redbridge and after the Rotary Club. The team is committed to donating a fire engine to Assela town.

In a speech he made at the reception, Mayor Chris Cumming commended ANHO for assisting street children in becoming self-supportive, and urged more engagement to enhance the welfare and education of the children. He called for the deepening of relations.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Berhanu Kebede assured the Borough Council that warm relations between the peoples of Redbridge and Assela would be bolstered. Fraternal relations between Ethiopia and the UK that go back over a century, he said, have now reached a higher level with growing ties in the spheres of development, investment and trade. Citing the visit to Assela as an opportunity to enhance bilateral ties, he announced the Embassy's commitment to seeing the partnership develop into a twinning project.

He appreciated the visit by the group to Assela, Bahir Dar and localities where the Organization for the Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara (ORDA) undertakes a variety of development activities. Tours to ANHO support schemes which are gaining momentum, and the overall socio-economic transformation in the regions the team paid a visit, he said, would positively impact ties already established.

Mayoress Helen Johnson told Council members that she had enjoyed her visit to Assela and Ethiopia, which took her to Lalibella and the Tis Issat Waterfalls on the Blue Nile, describing the natural scenery as "breathtaking". Thanking the people of Assela for their hospitality, she said "Ethiopians are people with an open heart".



Ambassador Berhanu presented gifts from the Assela Town Administration to the Redbridge Mayor and members of the Borough Council.

Earlier, he visited the Council chambers and met with members of the Ethiopian community at a reception graced by the coffee ceremony.

SMS Tech for Health launched in Ethiopia

A pilot project worth around \$370,000 which uses mobile phones to enable health professionals to collect data, has it analysed and gives feedback was launched in October.

The project, led by Technology for Change International, a non-governmental organisation, aims to distribute 1,000 mobile handsets to medical professionals in four regions in Ethiopia – Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and Southern – to collect data on pregnant women. The data will be sent off to a central server which will analyse and send an alert to the data collector regarding any complications and enable them to take appropriate measures.

Also included in the project is a free service called *txt4Enat*, where expectant mothers can subscribe to SMS information sent twice a week with tips and information on pregnancy issues. The first phase is to have 100,000 pregnant women subscribe for the service. Local NGOs will run the project over three years.

WHO coordinator honoured for his outstanding work on TB/HIV



Dr Nils Billo, Executive Director of the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease, presents Dr Haileyesus Getahun of WHO Stop TB Department with the 2011 Union Scientific Prize

WHO “Stop TB Department” Coordinator, Dr Haileyesus Getahun, was awarded the prestigious 2011 Union Scientific Prize for his work on TB and HIV-associated TB. The 41-year-old Ethiopian, who heads the Department's TB/HIV and Community Engagement unit, was honoured at the opening ceremony of the 42nd Union World Conference in Lille, France.

Dr Getahun thanked current and former colleagues for their support and guidance and paid tribute to patient and community groups who, he said, had been a source of inspiration since his arrival at WHO in 2003.

"This award recognizes the important work that has been done over the years to save the lives of people co-infected with TB and HIV. It also underlines the commitment and achievements of WHO, its partners and its member states, on reducing the burden of TB/HIV through effective collaboration. It is a great honour to have been nominated and awarded the Union Scientific Prize", said Dr Getahun.

The Director of the WHO Stop TB Department, Dr Mario Raviglione, said the award was deserved: "This is a major achievement and honour for my colleague, Dr Getahun and his Department. This

award reflects his solid leadership on TB/HIV and his on-going successful collaboration with major partners and key stakeholders."

Dr Getahun's main area of work at WHO is focused on helping develop evidence-based TB/HIV policies to prevent, diagnose and treat TB among people living with HIV. He also coordinates the TB/HIV Working Group of the Stop TB Partnership and played a critical role in raising the profile of TB/HIV especially among HIV stakeholders and researchers.

He began his professional career as a medical officer in a rural north-western district of Ethiopia. After completing his training as a doctor in Ethiopia, he studied for a Masters and PhD in Public Health at the University of Ghent and Institute of Tropical Medicine in Belgium.

Ethiopia set to introduce vaccine against pneumonia

Ethiopia has joined a list of developing nations introducing vaccines against pneumococcal disease, the leading cause of pneumonia and the biggest infectious killer of children under five in Ethiopia and around the world.

Globally, pneumonia is responsible for 4,300 child deaths every day or one every 20 seconds. Children with HIV/AIDS are up to 40 times more likely to contract pneumococcal disease than HIV-negative children.

The Ministry of Health began the largest introduction of pneumococcal vaccines in a developing country to date on 16th October, as part of its national immunisation programme. This is part of an ambitious global roll-out plan funded by the GAVI Alliance which aims to reach more than 40 countries and immunise 90 million children against pneumococcal disease by 2015. This will avert approximately 700,000 deaths by 2015 and up to seven million deaths by 2030.

“In Ethiopia under-5 mortality has declined dramatically in the past 5 years. The introduction of pneumococcal vaccine will help us cut child death further and achieve MDG 4 by 2015,” said Ethiopia’s Minister of Health, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “This introduction represents a big step forward for our nation and I would like to express my sincere appreciation of GAVI’s continued support.”

“No child should have to die of a disease that we can prevent with vaccines. The introduction of these pneumococcal vaccines is extremely significant because it means children in Ethiopia and other developing nations are getting access to the best technology available at the same time as children in richer countries,” said Seth Berkley MD, GAVI’s Chief Executive Officer.

The roll-out of the pneumococcal vaccines in developing countries, which began in Nicaragua in December 2010, has been made possible through an innovative finance mechanism pioneered by GAVI called the Advance Market Commitment (AMC).

With US\$ 1.5 billion from Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, the Russian Federation, Norway, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and a commitment of US\$ 1.3 billion from GAVI, the AMC allowed the acceleration of production capacity by the manufacturers who currently produce the pneumococcal vaccines.

Ethio-Djibouti railway project unveiled

Ethiopia recently unveiled plans to build a \$1 billion railway line linking Addis Ababa directly with the coastal city of Djibouti, connecting Ethiopia to the port, improving transport times and facilitating trade with its neighbours.

The project, new and the first of its kind in Ethiopia, will be vital for Ethiopia’s economic growth. The railway project is one of eight routes the Ethiopian Government has planned to construct in the next five years as part of the

Growth and Transformation Plan; Ethiopia will construct more than 3,000km of railway lines across the country, connecting 50 urban towns and all neighbouring countries.



Station of the Djibouti-Ethiopia Railway in Dire Dawa

The first phase of the project, to be completed in three years, will cover 670km and is expected to cost \$1.2 billion.

Leading Chinese railway construction company – China Railway Engineering Corporation – will oversee the project.

Ethiopia and Djibouti have been linked by rail since the colonial period of the 19th century but the route is no longer efficient. The new project meets modern standards, unlike the old single track route.

Nearly 50% of Gilgel Gibe III Hydropower project completed

Over 47% of the Gilgel Gibe III hydroelectric power plant has been completed and most of the water pipeline cave excavation works are complete.

The project will help meet the demands of Ethiopia’s fast growing economy. At the end of the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan, power generation capacity will grow from the current 2,000MW to 10,000MW. The €1.5 billion Gilgel Gibe III project will generate 1,870MW.

Ethiopia elected to UN council for economic, social affairs

The UN General Assembly voted in 18 new members to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), among them was Ethiopia. New members will begin their three-year term on 1st January 2012.

Others elected include Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Lesotho and Libya, elected to fill the African vacancies in the Council.

ECOSOC is the coordinating body for the economic and social work of the UN's agencies and funds. It serves as a forum for discussing related policy matters and makes recommendations. At any given time, 54 nations serve on ECOSOC, and are elected for overlapping terms based on geographic groupings to ensure that a diversity of regions are represented.

Ethiopia set to secure \$2.63 billion from manufacturing sector by 2015

The Ministry of Industry said that Ethiopia is striving to obtain \$2.63 billion revenue from the manufacturing sector at the end of the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) period, with the industry set to take over the lead from the agriculture sector.

The \$2.63 billion would exceed twenty-three fold the revenue gained from the previous 5-year GTP period. The industrial sector will double its current 10% growth in four years' time.

Foreign firms invest over \$6 billion in potash



The Ministry of Mines has announced that five foreign companies have invested \$6.5 billion in the Ethiopian potash mining industry.

In Ethiopia there are large deposits of potash, which is used primarily as an agricultural fertiliser and is a source of soluble potassium, one of three primary plant nutrients.

Allana Potash, BHP Belton World Exploration Ethiopia, G and B Central Africa Resource Ltd, NOVA Potash and Saynic Potash – all based in Dalol, about 1,000km north of Addis Ababa - mine potash in Ethiopia.

Canada and Ukraine are the leading producers of potash in the world, while Brazil imports 90% of its potash and is expected to be a prime buyer by 2020, which augurs well for Ethiopia.

Nyota Minerals make three new gold discoveries in Ethiopia



East Africa-focused gold miner, Nyota Minerals, made three new discoveries within the 3,200-square kilometre area of its Northern Block exploration zone in Western Ethiopia.

The company made the two discoveries at the Bendokoro North Prospect and one within the Boka Sirba Prospect, approximately 100km north of their flagship gold project Tulu Kapi in western Ethiopia. Nyota considers these three targets to be 'drill ready' and a multi-purpose drill rig has been allocated to them.

The company noted that further exploration and drilling will commence at the end of the wet season, while reconnaissance exploration will continue over the substantial number of additional targets.



Nyota, a UK-Aim-listed company, holds six explorations licences and has other applications



pending. The four licenses (Tulu Kapi, Yubdo, Billa Gulliso and Ankore) are in the Tulu Kapi area (281km²) and a further two licences, Brantham and Towchester (3,147 km²) are located approximately 100km north.

The Ethiopian Government estimates that gold production could rise to 40 tonnes a year given sufficient investment. The primary gold mine, Legedembi, which has been transferred from public to private ownership, is the largest gold mine in the country. There are also several mines in the Gambella, Somali, Tigray, Amhara, Gambela, Benishangul and Southern region of the country.

Ethiopia earned a total of over \$360 million in 2010 from gold exports. Revenue is set to increase as the price of gold is growing in the international market and the number of companies engaged in exploration is increasing.

Foreign investment in the mining sector reached \$1 billion in 2009. Foreign companies already investing in Ethiopia’s mining sector come from all over the world including the UK, China, South Africa, Canada, USA, Guyana, Italy and Norway.

Tourism to secure \$511 million this year

Ethiopia has announced plans to secure over \$511 million in revenue from tourism this year. The amount will exceed last year's by \$194m.

Ethiopia secured over \$300 million in revenue from tourism in 2010 with over 551,000 tourists visiting different tourist sites.

Infrastructural development around tourist sites and prevailing peace and security in the country were among the major factors for the increases.

Tourists from America, England, Canada and Germany are the leading visitors to Ethiopia.

Sports

Haile Gebrselassie wins Great Birmingham Run; eyes Tokyo Marathon to qualify for 2012

On 23rd October, legendary long distance runner, Haile Gebrselassie competed in the first ever Bupa Great Birmingham Run winning the 13.1 mile course in 1 hour 1 minute and 29 seconds.

Qatar's Essa Rashed came second and Abderrahime Bouramdane took third place.

Gebrselassie said: “It was a fantastic race for me



except for the wind and it was really hard between 11 and 12 miles...this helps me in preparation for next year's Olympics where I still have to get the qualifying standard. That means to get one of the three places in the Ethiopian team I

will have to run around 2:05.”

Gebrselassie is eyeing the Tokyo Marathon in Japan in February to qualify for the 2012 London Olympics.

Gebreselassie owns two 10,000m Olympic gold medals won in Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000. He has won four World Championship 10,000m golds and four World Indoor Championship golds – three at 3,000m and one at 1,500m.

Mergia wins BUPA Great South Run

Ethiopia's former World Half Marathon runner-up Asselefech Mergia won the women's race at the BUPA Great South Run on 30th October in 52 minutes 55 seconds, closely followed by Kenyan pair, Doris Changeywo and Irene Jerotich.



The co-director and lead actor Rasselas Lakew will be present for a post-screening Q&A on Thursday 10th November, at The Ritzy in Brixton. *The Athlete* is also screening on Monday 7th November at The Rich Mix, followed by Film Africa LIVE! with the Krar Collective and Mashasha & Sam.

Events

**Experience some of the best cinematic work
from Ethiopia at Film Africa 2011**



Film Africa 2011 will feature some of the best of Ethiopian cinema and culture as part of an exciting programme, showcasing more than 50 of Africa's strongest films, past and present.

"Melding breathtaking archival footage and live action, *The Athlete* is the extraordinary story of the triumphs and tragedies of a man considered by many to be the greatest long-distance runner in history: Ethiopian marathon runner Abebe Bikila. The son of a shepherd, he became an overnight sensation when he won the 1960 Olympic marathon running the streets of Rome barefoot, becoming the first African to win an Olympic gold medal. But a tragic accident was to present this remarkable champion with his greatest challenge yet..."

Another film to be showcased will be *Nothing But the Sea* - a portrait of the island Lampedusa, off the coast of Italy, through the eyes of Ethiopian filmmaker Dagmawi Yimer, who first showed up on its shores illegally. With a post-screening discussion by Dr John Campbell (The Ritzy, 09.11.11)

Twilight Revelations: Episodes in the Life & Times of Emperor Haile Selassie goes behind the myth of Ethiopia's last emperor, Haile Selassie, asking us to confront our assumptions about this defining figure in history. *Screening with Deluge...* A brother disappears, a best friend executes: this is the director's complex and moving personal story of the Ethiopian student revolution of the 1970s, and brutal military dictatorship that followed. With a post-screening discussion (Rich Mix, 10.11.11).

Lezare is an intricately and beautifully crafted film about a homeless boy living in a small village in southern Ethiopia. The multi-award winning film raises powerful, prescient questions about local and global priorities in the face of global warming, drought, and widespread poverty. (*Screening with Garagouz, Pumzi and Zebu and the Photo Fish*, The Ritzy, 07.11.11)"

Krar Collective to play at Rich Mix

Film *Africa Live!* brings you a night of exuberant music from the fast-rising stars, the Ethiopian Krar Collective.



Led by Temesgen Taraken, a former star pupil of Ethiopian jazz legend Mulatu Astatke, Krar Collective perform a rootsy yet contemporary take on traditional music from Ethiopia based on other-worldly modes and driven by hypnotic rhythms. Accompanied just by drums played by Robel Tesfaye and fronted by the stunning voice of Genet Asefa, Krar Collective create a surprisingly full band sound, leading one critic to name them 'The Ethiopian White Stripes'.

The band developed through Genna Ethiopian Arts and Theatre (GEAT) and has performed regularly at Celebrating Sanctuary festival as well as at other festivals and venues in the UK.

They will play at Rich Mix Cinema on 7th November at 8.30pm. Buying a ticket to see 'The Athlete' will gain you free entry to the gig.

Addis Ababa to Host 13th World Congress on Public Health

The 13th World Congress on Public Health will take place in Addis Ababa from 23rd – 27th April 2012.

The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) will host the congress where approximately 2,000 public health researchers, academics, scientists, educators, programmers, policy makers and student representatives from around the world are expected to take part.



The theme of the Congress is ***“Towards Global Health Equity: Opportunities and Threats.”*** Since the target year of 2015 is fast approaching, the achievement of the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be among the main topics to be debated and discussed. The achievement of the MDGs will require intensive efforts and increased equitable and sustainable access to health services for poor and marginalized populations.

Having Ethiopia and EPHA host this international Congress will create an opportunity for concerned organizations and individuals to gain a greater understanding of international public health issues, approaches and strategies. It will further contribute to building the capacity of EPHA to host similar international events. More importantly, it will promote Ethiopia in general and EPHA in particular at the international level. It will also facilitate closer collaboration and partnership between EPHA, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector at national and international levels and improve networking and partnership among Public Health Associations in Africa, the Americas and Asia.

Health professionals working in a range of agencies in Ethiopia will participate in the Congress and interact with their international counterparts on overcoming the challenges to achieving the MDGs.

News in Brief

Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK presents credentials to Iceland president

On 25th October, newly appointed Ethiopian Ambassador to Iceland, Berhanu Kebede, presented his credentials to the country's President Dr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson.

On the occasion, the Ambassador said that he will work to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries and will strive to bring home the best practices of Iceland on wind power generation.

The President on his part said his country has been engaged in geothermal energy development in Ethiopia and that Iceland is ready to work in collaboration with Ethiopia to develop this resource.

The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in London is accredited to Iceland.

Modjo dry port project nearing completion

Construction of the Modjo Dry Port Project launched on 8.6 hectares of land at a cost of 270 million Birr is nearing completion according to the Water Works Construction Enterprise (WWCE).

The construction is expected to be fully completed within three months and the port will have the capacity to accommodate 5,000 containers at a time.

New fibre optic network being installed

ZTE, the Chinese telecom company, plans to complete work on a new fibre optic network next year at a cost of \$1.5 billion.

Networking problems will greatly ease when the new network is operational and it will be much

stronger and less susceptible to disruptions caused by construction and accidents.

Dan-Kira win Best Dance Act at the 2011 BEFFTA Awards



Last month we announced that UK-based International Ethiopian dance group, Dan-Kira, had been nominated to receive a BEFFTA (Black Entertainment Film Fashion Television and Arts) award for their contribution to dance. In a glamorous ceremony on 22nd October, black and ethnic personalities in entertainment, film fashion, television and arts were celebrated.

Dan-Kira was nominated alongside Akai, Flawless, Diversity, Definitives, Rhimes Lecointe and Boy Blue Entertainment.



Dan-Kira with the Ethiopian Ambassador, H.E. Berhanu Kebede (4th from left)

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GRAND RENAISSANCE DAM

EXPRESSION OF ETHIOPIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE NILE BASIN



Ethiopian Diaspora in the UK raises 2 million Birr for Construction of the Renaissance Dam

On 29th October, Ethiopians and foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin residing in the UK raised about 2 million birr, through bond purchases, pledges and gifts, on the first ever Bond Selling Day to be held in London.



Members of the Ethiopian community had already pledged close to one million birr, making a total of close to 3 million.

The Council, comprising of Ethiopians from a variety of civic and development associations, religious groups, artist groups, professional associations, business organizations, renowned personalities, academics, youth and women associations and other pertinent groups, was launched on 8th October during its first meeting at the Ethiopian Embassy in London.



Launching the Bond Selling Day in the presence of over 300 community members, invited guests and friends of Ethiopia, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, called on the Diaspora to rise to the occasion and mobilize resources for the construction of the Renaissance Dam, which symbolizes the bright future and reawakening of Ethiopia.

Having carried out a number of grand projects like that of the Tekeze dam by their own efforts, Ethiopians are now assuming even greater responsibilities, with a growing self-reliance that will see the transformation of the nation. Its desire to join the community of middle-income nations will definitely materialise.



Ambassador Berhanu said Ethiopia has been growing at a rate of 11 per cent on average for the last eight years. But Ethiopians should stand shoulder to shoulder to increase the pace of development, for the realization of the Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan, at the core of which lies infrastructure development including the mega power generating scheme of the Renaissance Dam.

Enjoying the documentary film 'Kuchit', national cuisines, music by UK-based Ethiopian performers, a recital of poems, drama and socializing at the event, members of the Ethiopian community displayed commitment to the Government's development strategies which has lifted millions out of poverty.



Participants at the event called for more initiatives to solicit funds for the construction of the Renaissance Dam and pledged to actively engage in all fields of endeavour including investment, trade, and tourism and transfer of skills and knowledge, in the national drive to beat poverty and ensure sustainable development and a democratic order.