



ETHIO NEWS

Politics

ETHIOPIAN DIASPORA RESIDING IN GERMANY DISCUSSED THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THEIR COUNTRY

On the 12th of November 2016, the Ethiopian Embassy in the Federal Republic of Germany held a discussion with the Ethiopian Diaspora community in Berlin and Leipzig on the current developments in Ethiopia.

Ambassador Kuma Demeksa Tokon, who chaired the discussion in Berlin welcomed the participants and thanked them for the initiative taken and their determination for an open discussion in the middle of confusion created by some extremist members of the diaspora with regard to the situation back home.

The Ambassador briefed the participants on the situation in Ethiopia that started as a small protest and later turned into a full-scale violence. The violence later led to the declaration of emergency law.

The Ambassador noted that the protest in its early stage was triggered by legitimate concerns of citizens who were frustrated

by slowed service delivery by government institutions and did not benefit from the growing economy. But some groups with the intention to undermine the constitutional order in the country seized the legitimate question and turned it to hate speech and bigotry. The violence ranged from road blockades to burning and vandalizing public and private properties, from looting local governmental institutions to seizing weapons from local security forces and resulted in the loss of lives both from security forces and civilians.

The Ambassador assured the participants that the government of Ethiopia is committed and capable to ensure that law and order prevail in the country. He further noted that the declaration of the emergency law coupled by the active involvement of the public played a very crucial role in controlling the violence targeted at attacking major investments and public infrastructures in some parts of the country. The participants of the meeting appreciated the action taken by the government in stopping the destruction of properties, especially the foreign investments and public infrastructure that would serve millions of people. They further called on the public

back home to democratically present their demands to the government. They also noted that the government should urgently address the grievances of the people that lead to the demonstrations.

Tourism

SAFE TRAVEL ON ALL MAJOR ROUTES

All major tourism destinations in the Amhara and Oromia regions can be travelled without security concerns.

European Travel agencies, local law enforcement and the Federal Government in Addis Abeba ensure that all tourism destinations in the Amhara and Oromia regions are safe. Especially well known destinations like Bahir Dar, Gondar, Lalibela, Dire Dawa and Arba Minch are safe to travel and can be experienced without any constraints or restrictions, as the state of emergency does not negatively impact tourism.

On the 9th of November 2016, the Government of Ethiopia lifted the travel restriction on diplomats, which was imposed following the state of emergency declared in the country. Similarly, the German Federal Foreign Office revised its travel advisory positively.

Economy

PRESENTATION BY THE CONSUL GENERAL OF ETHIOPIA IN ESSEN

The Consulate General of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Frankfurt in collaboration with Schiller Institute has organized an event in Essen City, of Germany on October 21, 2016. The event titled "The chances of Germany with the new Silk Road" was organized to discuss the relevance of China's one Belt, one Road policy to Ethiopia's economic development plan.

Accordingly, Consul General Mr. Mehreteab Mulugeta made a presentation about



H.E. Kuma Demeksa Tokon takes notes, as a member of the Ethiopian Diaspora in Berlin illustrates a point.



Consul General Mehreteab Mulugeta addresses the participants of the Silk Road event in Essen.

the current economic development of Ethiopia in general and the contribution of the new railway system and establishment of industrial parks in particular to the economy.

The Consul General further gave a comprehensive overview of the Ethiopian economy which is driven by infrastructure development, over the past 25 years, with striking successes. He explained China's crucial assistance to Ethiopia in funding infrastructure projects in Ethiopia and transfer of technology which includes, low interest loans. He announced the inauguration of the first electrified system linking Addis Ababa the Capital City of the Country to the port of Djibouti. The Addis-Djibouti railway will shorten the delivery time for Ethiopian imports and Exports by sea from 7 days to 10 hours. This is just the first leg of a nation-wide rail network that is to connect Ethiopia with all of its neighbouring countries. Other infrastructure projects, including power generation and road construction, has served not only to develop Ethiopia, but to integrate the economies of the region through increased connectivity.

During the question and answer session that followed the presentation a discussion was held, on the role of Europe in the economic development of Africa. It was suggested that Europe and China should

coordinate their involvement in Africa is the only way to effectively stop the migration to Europe with its high death rates. The proposal was put forward by Jacques Cheminade, who was Presidential candidate in France. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, president of the Schiller institute added that Italy, whose Prime Minister Renzi has recently endorsed the New Silk Road policy, should be prominently included in the effort. Shi Ze, Counsellor at the Chinese embassy in Berlin proposed that, given the lack of any such institutional cooperation for the moment, a new "mechanism" should be developed to facilitate the new orientation. Mr. Mehreteab supported the proposal, and commented that Africa is no longer interested in "aid" that comes with strings attached to it. He said that Africa needs investments, technology transfers, and training for capacity building. "Do not give us the fish," Mr Mehreteab said, quoting an old saying, "but teach us how to catch the fish." He added that Europe should follow the example of China, which is offering investment, technology transfer and low interest loans.

Cheminade pointed to the fact that an urgent project is already on the table, which Europe and China could jointly help finance and realize, namely, the replenishment of Lake Chad. The most efficient means to do so is through the Transaqua

project, diverting a small portion of the waters from the Congo Basin up to Lake Chad. The participants expressed their resolve to act on the proposal in the near future.

Sport

AFRICA'S BIGGEST ROAD RACE IN ETHIOPIAN CAPITAL



Thousands of participants crowd the streets of Addis during the event.

Addis Abeba successfully hosted the 16th "Great Ethiopian Run", the biggest road race in Africa, on the 20th of November 2016 with a record turnout of 42,000 participants from more than 20 different countries.

More than 500 local and foreign elite athletes participated on the 10-kilometre international race. Ethiopian athletes dominated the race in both the men's and women's categories. A Kenyan athlete finished second in the men's category, the best result for a non-Ethiopian athlete in the competition's history.

Abbe Gashaw won the competition in the men's category and Foten Tesfaye won in the women's category.

Observers hailed the successful completion of the sporting event after the recent wave of violence and while the country is in a state of emergency law. Some said this is a clear indication that the situation in the country is coming back to its normalcy. The Great Ethiopian Run was founded in 2001 and has successfully organized over 100 sporting events in all parts of the country; the current one is the 16th edition of a series of annual events in the capital.