



# ETHIO NEWS

## Politics

### THE STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS ENDED



International diplomats are being briefed on the recent decision to lift the nationwide state of emergency  
Photo: mfa

Following the early August decision made by the House of Peoples' Representatives to lift the Decree of the State of Emergency put in place on October 9 last year, Addis-based ambassadors and diplomats were briefed on the government's decision on August 7 by Dr. Negeri Lencho, the Minister for the Government Communication Affairs Office, and State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Hirut Zemene.

Dr. Negeri looked back at the reasons for declaring the State of Emergency last October following unrest in some parts of the country, the measures taken in response, the ongoing political reforms and the grounds for lifting the State of Emergency. He recalled that during the unrest in Oromia and Amhara Regional States, hundreds of lives had been unnecessarily lost, including women and children and even members of the security forces. Close to fifty investments had been affected by the unlawful acts of anti-peace elements. The promulgation of a State of Emergency was, therefore, the Minister noted, to restore law and order and ensure peaceful conduct of day-to-day activities for the public.

Minister Negeri also reminded his listeners that important sections of the State of Emergency had been revised within a matter of months following improvement of the security situation. These included the lifting of the partial curfew and travel restrictions on diplomats, the release of over twenty-one thousand detainees and full restoration of Internet activity. He also mentioned the measures taken in due course to redress the genuine concerns of the public, mentioning among other steps the detailed three-phased investigations by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, the voluntary reporting of the government's actions to the UN Human Rights Commission, the facilitation of visit by

UN Human Rights Commissioner, responding to any destruction caused to investments, and the rigorous training and rehabilitation for over 21,000 youth, whose genuine calls for reform were cause for concern, had been high-jacked by anti-peace elements. He also referred to the wide range of consultation with the various members of the public, the serious and ongoing investigations into corruption and the inter-party dialogues now underway in a bid to widen political space. Dr. Negeri, reiterating the details of the report of Mr. Siraj Fegessa, the Head of the Secretariat of the Command Post, to the House of Representatives on August 4, added that the government's decision to lift the State of Emergency could be ascribed to the restoration of law and order in the country. With the exception of a few places, the situation had now been resolved and the normal local administration and security mechanisms were able to deal with any problems.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Hirut Zemene thanked the diplomatic community for the patience and confidence in the country's leadership that it had shown during the course of the State of Emergency. She emphasized the importance of the series of consultations and town-hall meetings with the different segments of the public, including women, youth and civil societies, the setting up of the 10 billion birr Mobile Youth Fund, the inter-party political dialogues, and the government's commitment to deal with the problems of mal-administration and stem corruption. These, she said, were all part of the process to advance sustainable and equitable development and social equality, and to ensure democratic governance and the respect of human rights. Taking stock of the proposed reforms of the country's electoral law and the ongoing inter-party political dialogues, the State Minister said: "We are optimistic that we will manage to bring more people on board in the extended political space."

### ETHIOPIAN STATE VISIT TO SUDAN



Al-Bashir and Hailemariam at an earlier event in Addis

Photo: mfa

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn,

at the invitation of President Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, made an official working visit to the Sudan on August 15-18, to review the main topics of their bilateral, regional and multilateral agendas. The two leaders shared their views on international and regional issues of mutual concern and discussed the need to collaborate in response to global and regional challenges. In their discussions, President Omar Al-Bashir, who extended cordial thanks and appreciation to Prime Minister Hailemariam for accepting his invitation to visit his second country, the Sudan, underlined the continuous improvements in Ethiopian and Sudanese people-to-people relations. Such gestures of mutual understanding led to a spirit of co-operation and co-ordination, consolidating the strategic partnership joining the two countries. The President, who praised the constructive and fruitful Parliamentary co-operation between the two countries, stressed the importance of reinforcing their links with continuous exchanges of visits, convening of business fora and the reactivation of the role of public diplomacy. He said their bilateral coordination served their unity of purpose and destiny, and noted that the joint mechanism allowed the two countries to move towards the completion of joint projects notably in railways, banking and economic integration.

Prime Minister Hailemariam who offered his sincere appreciation for the generous and gracious hospitality accorded to His delegation reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to the spirit of cooperation established over many years with the Sudan. He described the existing relationship between the two countries as exemplary and said their cooperation enabled the promotion of peace and security in the region. He commended the Government of the Sudan for the successful completion of the process of the National Dialogue and expressed Ethiopia's readiness to support it in any way possible. Prime Minister Hailemariam welcomed the partial lifting of sanctions by the United States government and underlined Ethiopia's commitment to end any sanctions within the IGAD and the AU framework.

The Prime Minister raised issues concerning the Horn of Africa with special emphasis on peace and security situations. He noted that the region had attracted the attention of different actors and states following the Gulf crisis and stressed that the neutral position taken by both Ethiopia and Sudan to work to seek diplomatic solutions had received approbation from the international community. Prime Minister Hailemariam welcomed and appreciated the cooperation, understanding and coordination that exist between the two countries regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. He commended the



constructive role played by the Sudan in the tripartite process in implementing the recommended studies of the International Panel of Experts. He also emphasized the need to enhance cooperation on development of the water sector through the Ethio-Sudan Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC). He said their two Ministers of Water Resources had shown exemplary activity in their consultations and cooperation.

In conclusion, the two leaders highlighted the historical and traditional people-to-people relations binding their two countries together. They underlined their determination to further strengthen cordial relations, relations they described as anchored in respect, trust and shared values. Emphasizing the important role that the various High Level, Steering and Technical committees play in meeting the aspirations of their two peoples, they agreed that the next High Level Committee meetings should take place as soon as possible. They renewed their commitment to work cooperatively through regional and multilateral institutions to support progress towards the prosperity, peace and security of the region.

During his visit in the Sudan, Prime Minister Hailemariam visited the Bash Pharma Veterinary Drugs Factory and Dal Dairy Farm. Ethiopia's Minister of Government Communication Affairs Office, Dr Negeri Lencho, who accompanied the Prime Minister, told reporters Ethiopia was keen to learn from the best practices of Sudan in the development and effective use of livestock resources. In addition to learning from best practices, Ethiopia was interested to attract Sudanese companies to invest in the sector, he said. Prime Minister Hailemariam also attended the graduation of Sudanese military personnel who had completed military science training on the second day of his visit, and on his final day, he delivered a lecture on the situation in the Horn of Africa at Friendship Hall in Khartoum.

## ETHIOPIAN STATE VISIT TO RWANDA



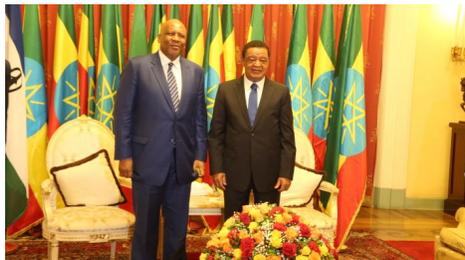
Prime Minister Hailemariam arrives in Rwanda

Photo: mfa

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn arrived in Kigali, Rwanda on August 18 to attend the inauguration ceremony of Rwanda's President-elect Paul Kagame. On behalf of the people and government of Ethiopia, the Prime Minister congratulated Kagame on his

re-election as President this month. Mr. Kagame won a third, seven-year term on August 4.

## LESOTHO STATE VISIT TO ETHIOPIA



State Minister Hirut welcomes the Yemeni Delegation

Photo: mfa

King Letsie III of Lesotho arrived in Addis Ababa for a four-day official visit to Ethiopia and to the African Union on August 21. The King, who was appointed the Special Ambassador for Nutrition for the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) last year, is also the AU Nutrition Champion, appointed by the AU Heads of State and Government in 2014. On arrival he was welcomed by Dr. Kaba Urgessa, State Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources. During his visit he held talks with President Dr. Mulatu Teshome and with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn as well as with the AU Commission Chairperson.

In his talks with President Mulatu, King Letsie noted Ethiopia's best experience in the course of eliminating malnutrition, which he said showcased the government's strong political commitment. In this regard, he said, Ethiopia could also be a model to other countries. He also commended Ethiopia's efforts for the successful activities registered in FAO, which were helpful to save the lives of children and other needy people in the country. President Mulatu said King Letsie's visit would further strengthen the relationship between Ethiopia and Lesotho as well as enhance cooperation with FAO. The President emphasized since malnutrition was one of the main indicators of poverty, the Government of Ethiopia had focused on ensuring inclusive and sustainable development in the country, thereby improving the nutritional status of all its citizens. King Letsie also met with Prime Minister Hailemariam and congratulated Ethiopia on the remarkable results achieved from the efforts made to ensure food security and improve the nutritional status of the people.

During his visit the King also visited the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State where he saw the child feeding program underway in Arbogona district, in Sidama zone. He also visited the Bole Lemi industrial park in the outskirts of Addis Ababa and Ethiopian Airlines Aviation Academy, and was briefed by representatives of FAO about the organization's activities in the Horn of Africa.

In his capacity as AU Nutrition Champion, King Letsie visited AU Headquarters and met with AU Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat on August 22. He called on African leaders to invest in nutrition in order to address the chronic hunger and malnutrition challenges in Africa, pointing out that Africa was the only region in the world where the number of stunted children had actually increased over the past 20 years. He noted this underlined "the urgent need for increasing resources to improve nutrition as a vital ingredient to social development", adding, "Ending malnutrition and giving children the best start in life requires more integration and sustainable investment from different sectors of our society." The King reiterated his commitment and determination to continue advocating adequate investment for the nutrition sector in Africa.

AU Commission Chairperson Mahamat agreed that improving nutrition status was a priority area which, he said, required urgent policy attention to accelerate socio-economic development across the continent. He noted that that malnutrition was still prevalent widely in Africa and it remained a severe threat to Africa's socio-economic development. He pledged that food security and nutrition would remain high on the African Union agenda.

Amira El Fadil, the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, highlighted the role and work of the AU Nutrition Champion and presented the 3-year Work Plan for the Nutrition Champion, which she said aims to advance implementation of the revised Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy and provides a roadmap for its implementation. The AU Nutrition Champion is meant to promote the AU's Africa Renewed Initiative for Stunting Elimination (ARISE) and advocate for increased investment in nutrition, allowing private sector engagement in nutrition initiatives. The AU Champion also provides support to the AU Commission Chairperson's initiative to address nutrition in areas of conflict and the Commission's "Sustainable School Food and Nutrition Initiative" in order to scale up continental school feeding programs in partnership with FAO, as well as assist with humanitarian needs.

## YEMENI STATE VISIT TO ETHIOPIA



State Minister Hirut welcomes the Yemeni Delegation

Photo: mfa

Yemen's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abdulmalik Abduljalil



Al-Mekhlafi, headed a delegation on a visit to Ethiopia on August 14 for a three-day visit. It was welcomed by State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Hirut Zemene and in discussions, the State Minister mentioned the long-standing ties between Ethiopia and Yemen.

Mr. Abdulmalik Abduljalil also met with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn and briefed the Prime Minister on the current situations in Yemen. According to Office of the Prime Minister, the Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister also sought Ethiopia's all-round support to help bring peace to his country and to the region in general. He said Yemen wanted to learn from Ethiopia's federal system to provide a sustainable solution to its problems. Prime Minister Hailemariam, who also underlined the historic people-to-people, cultural and religious ties between the two countries, said Ethiopia would do all it can to bring peace to Yemen as the problems there were affecting all the people in the region, including Ethiopia, directly and indirectly. Equally, as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Ethiopia had the responsibility to voice its concerns and positively contribute to maintain peace and find ways to bring a peaceful end to conflicts. The Prime Minister said that once the current crisis in Yemen was resolved, the two countries needed to work together to transform the livelihoods of the people in both countries. A government crisis and civil unrest have been straining the country's infrastructure since 2011 and the WHO has expressed worry over the current state of Yemen's healthcare system.

## Climate

### DROUGHT RELIEF IN ETHIOPIA

The mid-year review of humanitarian requirements was released this week. The Government-led, multi-agency belg (spring) assessment involved some 200 staff from Government, UN, NGO and donor partners, and was carried out over three weeks in June. Overall, the humanitarian situation countrywide was compounded by below average spring rains, the third consecutive season of poor/failed rains in the southern drought belt. The assessment found that poor belg rains had affected household food security in the belg-dependent woredas of Oromia and SNNP regions. In the pastoralist areas of Somali region and pocket areas of other spring rain-dependent areas, an increase of livestock mortality and deteriorating body condition of remaining animals, normally a key source of nutrition and livelihood in those areas, was also found. In fact, southern and eastern Ethiopia continue to battle the impact of the Indian Ocean Dipole-induced drought, exacerbated by disease outbreaks, large scale loss of livelihood assets and displacement. As a result,

the number of people requiring relief assistance to meet basic food needs has risen to 8.5 million, up from 7.8 million in April and from 5.6 million in January.

The latest assessment also notes that the national 'hotspot' classification, updated in early July, showed a slight increase in the number of priority woredas (districts) from 454 to 461, nearly half of which (228 woredas) are now classified as 'priority one' (very severe). It also notes that water scarcity continues to be a driver of displacement and this encourages the continued spread of Acute Watery Diarrhea. The numbers displaced by drought are expected to be compounded by floods resulting from the current kremt (winter) rains. These will have a disproportionate impact on women and children. Displacement, flood-damage to schools and families' financial constraints also result in increased teacher and student absentee rates and an increase in reported negative coping strategies such as child marriage, migration and labor. The National Flood Task Force has analyzed early warning data provided by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission and the National Meteorological Agency forecast and calculated that at least 1.5 million people could be affected by flooding during the kremt season and as many as 500,000 displaced.

The Humanitarian Requirements Document notes that a government-led, well-coordinated and managed response is already underway across affected areas of the country. The response is focused on support to the major relief pipelines, for food, emergency nutrition and health supplies; and technical capacity support to national service providers in the areas of greatest need. Efforts have been made to strengthen coordination and sector leadership at sub-national level, to ensure real time, evidence-based decision-making in the continual targeting of assistance.

## Sport

### SUCCESSFUL ETHIOPIAN ATHLETES IN LONDON



Congratulations to Ethiopia's athletes raising Ethiopia to the 7th place in the medals' table of the IAAF World Championships in London on August 4 until August 13. Ethiopia achieved two Gold Medals: Almaz Ayana in the 10,000m Women and Muktar Edris in the

5000m Men; and three Silver Medals: Almaz Ayana in the 5000m Women, Tamirat Tola in the Men's Marathon, and Tirunesh Dibaba in the Women's 10,000m.

## Culture

### ETHIOPIA AT "MAMA AFRICA" IN UKRAINE



Ethiopia has been well represented on the Ethno-Cultural Festival "Mama Africa" in Ukraine.

The festival took place between the 4th and 6th of August in the Art Village Obyruk. The Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin, in collaboration with the Ethiopian diaspora residing in Ukraine presented a traditional Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony, Ethiopian Cuisine and an exhibition of Ethiopian traditional dresses, which attracted hundreds of visitors to the Ethiopian village. The festival was attended by dozens of Media organizations and the wide Ukrainian Society.

### ETHIOPIAN COFFEE CEREMONY AT THE FMECD



The smell of freshly roasted coffee beans pervaded the air on the main stage at the FMECD  
Photo: emb

Visitors at the Open Day of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development on August 26 were able to enjoy a special treat. Among different cultural performances they were able to sample traditionally prepared Arabica coffee during the course of a full Ethiopian coffee ceremony, organized by the Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin.