



ETHIO NEWS

Politics

NORWEGIAN STATE VISIT TO ETHIOPIA



Crown Prince Magnus and Princess Mette-Marit of Norway
Photo: mfa

President Dr. Mulatu Teshome received their Royal Highnesses, Crown Prince Magnus and Princess Mette-Marit of Norway on November 7 at the National Palace. The Crown Prince and Princess were on a state visit to Ethiopia. Following their arrival, the Crown Prince held discussions with President Dr. Mulatu, Ministers and high-level officials of the Ethiopian government. President Mulatu noted that the Crown Prince and Princess's visit to Ethiopia would expand bilateral relations between the two countries and have a significant impact on trade, investment and other relationships. The two sides discussed ways to elevate the historic links between Ethiopia and Norway to a new level.

President Dr. Mulatu commended the number of Norwegian companies actively engaging with development in Ethiopia. These included Norfund, Yara International, Nera and Mester Grønn. The President urged the need to work closely to further reinforce bilateral ties, adding that: "Ethiopia offers outstanding business opportunities in many areas including agriculture, manufacturing, construction, mining and mineral exploration as well as other areas." He expressed his hopes that Ethiopia and Norway further bolster their bilateral relations in a wide range of areas.

Crown Prince Magnus expressed Norway's strong desire to have robust cooperative relations with Ethiopia. He said "Our strong bilateral relationship is built on longstanding friendship between our two countries. Today our mutual interests cover areas such as combating climate change, managing migration, securing access to educa-

tion, investing in health, creating jobs and promoting sustainable and inclusive development". He also highlighted that Ethiopia was an important partner to Norway, noting: "We share a strong belief in a UN-led world order, and in the importance of seeking joint solutions to shared challenges, such as climate change". He reiterated that Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals provided an overarching

ESTONIAN STATE VISIT TO ETHIOPIA



President Kersti Kaljulaid of Estonia

Photo: mfa

President Kersti Kaljulaid made a state visit to Ethiopia on November 14 and 15. Estonia currently holds the presidency of the Council of the EU, and President Kaljulaid's visit, ahead of the EU-AU Summit to be held in Abidjan later this month, was largely aimed at discussing ways of boosting e-governance, strengthening regional and peace and security, and EU-AU relations and the UN Security Council.

On her arrival in Addis Ababa, President Kaljulaid was welcomed by President Dr. Mulatu Teshome, and the two Presidents held bilateral talks on Wednesday. President Dr. Mulatu has expressed Ethiopia's strong desire to further enhance its ties with all members of the European Union including the Baltic States and closely work together in both multi-lateral and bilateral matters. Dr. Mulatu said Estonia's presidency of the EU Council would afford the opportunity for both countries to work closely together on African, global and bilateral issues of common interest. President Dr. Mulatu also explained the immense investment and business opportunities Ethiopia offered for Estonian businesses. He also

underlined the need to support Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to address the root causes of migration through youth employment. Dr. Mulatu suggested that EU-Africa cooperation would be more robust if it could focus more on socio-economic development and use instruments such as Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

Praising the Ethiopian side for the warm welcome accorded to her, President Kaljulaid said Estonia was keen to strengthen its ties with Ethiopia. She noted that scaling up its relations with Ethiopia would also greatly help Estonia forge closer relations with Africa. Mrs. Kaljulaid expressed her country's serious interest in sharing its experiences in IT and e-governance.

Earlier, President Kaljulaid met the African Union Trade and Industry Commissioner, Albert M. Muchanga at the AU Headquarters. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on a wide range of issues, including peace and security and the Continental Free Trade Area, as well as the digital economy and information and communication technologies. The Commissioner praised the partnership between the African Union and the European Union and the continued joint efforts by the two institutions to address common challenges. He looked forward to the successful holding of the African Union-European Union Summit in Abidjan at the end of the month, November 29-30, under the theme "Investing in Youth for a Sustainable Future". Commissioner Muchanga briefed President Kaljulaid on the Continental Free Trade Area, one of the Flagship Projects of Agenda 2063, under its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan.

Discussions also included the ongoing efforts by the G5 Sahel countries to fully operationalize their Joint Force, which offers a decisive way forward for the fight against terrorism and organized crime in the Sahel. The African Union delegation expressed appreciation for the support provided by the European Union and called for further efforts to mobilize additional resources for the Joint Force. A Donors Conference is scheduled to take place in Brussels in mid-December 2017.

President Kaljulaid noted that Africa currently has the rather unique opportunity to jump a number of steps in the development of a digital society. These had required Europe to spend a lot of time and energy but now Africa could avoid these. She pledged her country's commitment to share relevant experiences with the African Union, including on digital economy and ICT, adding that e-governance is the highway to development. Ms. Kaljulaid expressed appreciation for the African Union Commission's efforts, and highlighted the importance of continued efforts to enhance co-operation



between Africa and Europe. They agreed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote e-governance would be signed between the African Union Commission and Estonia on the margins of the 5th African Union-European Union Summit.

ETHIOPIAN STATE VISIT TO QATAR



Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim bin Mohamed al-Thani and Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn
Photo: mfa

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn made a three-day official visit to Qatar from November 13-15. The Prime Minister and his delegation, which included Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Defense Minister Mr. Siraj Fegessa, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Dr. Hirut Woldemariam, and Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment commission, Fitsum Arega, was welcomed on arrival at Doha's Hamad International Airport by the Qatar Minister of Economy and Commerce, Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim bin Mohamed al-Thani, Qatar's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Ethiopia's Ambassador to Qatar and members of Ethiopian Diaspora community in Qatar. This high-level visit was primarily aimed to strengthen bilateral ties between Ethiopia and Qatar in the fields of education, health, tourism, trade and investment, and a number of agreements were discussed and signed during the visit.

During the first day of his visit, the Prime Minister met with Ethiopian Nationals in Qatar and held discussions on matters of national development. Commending Ethiopians in Qatar for the prominent support they have given to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, The Prime Minister urged them to repeat such patriotic acts for other development projects back home. He pledged to give all necessary support for Ethiopian communities living in Qatar. He briefed them on the situation in the country ranging National development, illegal hu-

man trafficking, trade investment and social affairs. The Ethiopian community in Qatar commended the economic growth registered in Ethiopia. They asked the government to provide support for the opening of a community school in Qatar, and following a request by Prime Minister Hailemariam, the Emir granted permission for the community in Doha to open a community school for Ethiopians residing in Qatar.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn held talks with His Highness, Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani of Qatar at the Amiri Diwan palace on Tuesday. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani expressed Qatar's keenness to cooperate with Ethiopia on socio-economic matters, adding that Qatar wished to mutually benefit from the growth of Ethiopia by engaging in investment and trade. The Emir lauded Ethiopia's consistent efforts to encourage peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. He noted that Qatar valued the policies based on principle that Ethiopia followed in multilateral affairs. Prime Minister Hailemariam called on the Emir to support Ethiopia's development efforts. These, he said, would benefit both countries and help boost trade ties. In an interview on returning to Ethiopia on November 16, the Prime Minister stressed that Ethiopia and Qatar had agreed to cooperate on advance technology in the agriculture logistics supply sector. The Prime Minister dismissed rumors of Qatar funding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, noting that GERD was a project funded by Ethiopians alone.

FOREIGN MINISTER DR. WORKNEH BRIEFS ADDIS ABABA-BASED DIPLOMATS ON LOCAL ISSUES



Dr. Workneh at the briefing

Photo: mfa

rent-seeking groups who wanted to take advantage of minor conflicts, Dr. Workneh said the government was now working to dismantle the activities of these rent seeking groups along the border between the two regions. The Foreign Minister said the

government had held series of discussions with residents in the affected areas, their community elders and religious leaders, as well as the presidents of the regional states on September 14 and October 4, urging them to work together on the basis of the Federal Constitution and resolve conflicts through dialogue. He said preparations were underway to organize a 'peace conference' soon in the city of Dire Dawa. This would include community elders, religious leaders and the population at large. In addition to these actions, the government had also sent delegations to neighboring countries and states of Djibouti, Kenya, Puntland, and Somaliland to provide details to allow for a clear understanding of what had been happening.

Dr. Workneh referred to the visits by a group of high-level government officials, led by Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonen, to the people who had taken shelter in temporary camps, in Dire Dawa, Harar Hamaresa and Babile. He emphasized that the Government was assisting those displaced and was urgently developing a rehabilitation program Elders and religious leaders in the areas of conflict had reaffirmed their commitment to support the efforts of government to restore law and order, stressing the need for close and continuous collaboration. He said that the government was taking all necessary measures to stabilize the areas affected by the conflict and the situation in the border areas between the Oromia and Somalia Regional States was now getting back to normalcy.

Following earlier incidents that took place along the borders of the Oromia and Somali Regional State border, with killings and substantial displacement of civilians, illegal protests took place in at least in eight towns of the Oromia region causing the death of eight people in Shashemene and Borena areas. The Foreign Minister said the Oromia Regional State had now taken measures against offenders who had targeted civilians as well as against members of the police and the military who had acted irresponsibly.

Dr. Workneh pointed out that the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission was now carrying out an investigation of the causes of any deaths and alleged abuses that had occurred in the areas of conflict. Once that investigation had been completed, the Government would take action in full accordance of all relevant laws against perpetrators of the recent killings and displacements.

Regarding the issue of reform of the country's electoral process, Dr. Workneh referred to the productive talks under way between the country's national parties. He said a number of different proposals had been put forward among the ruling EPRDF and fifteen national opposition political parties aiming to create a wider democratic space. At the end of last week, they agreed to reform the country's electoral system and



scrap the simple majority vote system. Under new electoral rules, Ethiopia will have a hybrid electoral system with 80% elected by simple majority vote and 20% by a proportional vote system. The parties also agreed to increase the number of federal parliamentary seats from the current 547 to 660 to accommodate the changes.

The Minister responded to questions from members of the diplomatic community. The diplomatic community commended the Government's deep commitment to respond swiftly to any challenges and its efforts to transform challenges into opportunities and use them as tools to hone the capacity of the country.

AFFIRMATION OF GERD AS A PAN-AFRICAN PROJECT



Meles Alem on November 23

Photo: mfa

Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Ato Meles Alem, told the local media on November 23 that Ethiopia's commitment to utilize the Nile was based on accepted norms and international laws: on the principles of equity and reason, justice, and no-harm-to-others, principles which will always best serve the people of the country. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) was being built by Ethiopians and for Ethiopians but it also benefited other riparian countries. Its role for integration made it a Pan-African project. He stressed Ethiopia's commitment to work with Sudan and Egypt on the basis of the Declaration of Principles

MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC STAFF OF THE EMBASSY VISITED UKRAINE

Diplomatic staff of Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin visited Ukraine between 23 and 25 of November 2017. During their stay the diplomats had a meeting with different government official, Member of Parliament, Ethiopian Community residing in and around Kiev and different private business companies, who are interested to do

business in Ethiopia. During their meeting with government official and Member of Parliament they have exchanged ideas on the possible ways of strengthening the bilateral relation between the two countries mainly through investment and trade exchanges. The discussion with Ethiopian Diaspora was mainly an introductory one since the Embassy of Ethiopia in Berlin is accredited to Ukraine recently. Very strong and active members of the Diaspora participated on the meeting and showed great interest to contribute to the development of their country. In the discussion with business

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community, the investment and trade opportunities in Ethiopia are presented in detail.

DR. AKLILU MEETS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GERMAN- AFRICA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



Dr. Aklilu at the Afrikaverein

Photo: mfa

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Aklilu Hailemichael met with Dr. Stefan Liebing, the Chairman of the German- Africa Business Association at his office on November 2, 2017.

Commending the Chairperson for his deep-seated commitment and unreserved efforts in bringing German investment into Africa and Ethiopia Dr. Aklilu noted these efforts got hand in hand with Ethiopia's commitment in making the investment easier and better for foreign investors. Dr. Aklilu invited the Association to further look on investment priorities enlisted by his Government like manufacturing, renewable energy, chemicals, pharmaceuticals.

Dr. Stefan Liebing pointed out the importance of enhancing the cooperation between the two countries giving particular emphasis on the energy sector adding that the discussion on the issues will further elevate the cooperation to a higher gear. On the following day Germany signed an agreement to continue cooperation in sustainable land management, strengthening drought resilience and enhancing agricultural productivity,

including agricultural mechanization and technology for small-holder farmers. It will provide a total of €212.6 million to support implementation of agriculture, education and biodiversity projects and programs in Ethiopia. Germany's Sub-Saharan Africa Director-General Dr. Stefan Oswald said Ethiopia was a positive example in implementing Agenda 2063 of the African Union, and underlined the importance of mobilizing and releasing the strings on the private sector.

Sport

THE 2017 GREAT ETHIOPIAN RUN IN ADDIS



Over 44.000 participants, professionals and amateurs alike

Photo: mfa

The 2017 Great Ethiopian Run, the largest road race in Africa, was held in Addis Ababa on November 26 for some 44,000 participants, as well as 500 elite athletes and 400 foreign runners. The mens' race for the elite athletes was won by Ethiopia's Solomon Berega, winner of the 3000m title at the World Under 18 Championships in Nairobi in July; and the womens' race winner was Ethiopia's Zeyneba Yimer, a cross-country bronze medalist at the World Under 20 Championships. The run, in its seventeenth year, attracted thousands of observers and tourists, and has become a major street festival. Next year, the organizers plan to increase numbers of participants to 50,000. The Great Ethiopia Run was started in 2001 by long-distant running legend, Haile Gebreselassie, the current president of the Ethiopian Athletics Federation. In addition to Addis Ababa, the Great Ethiopian Run will be organizing 14 races in Addis Ababa and the different regional states this year.