



ETHIO NEWS

Politics

DR. ABIY AHMED SWORN IN AS THE NEW PREMIER



Abiy Ahmed Ali

Photo: mfa

Dr. Abiy Ahmed (42) is appointed as Ethiopia's new Prime Minister by the House of People's Representative (HPR) on April 2.

In his acceptance speech, Dr. Abiy noted: "Today is a historic day. We bear witness to a peaceful transfer of power. Today our situation presents us with opportunities and challenges," adding: "Taking lessons from our mistakes, we should work to bring about political stability, build a better and united Ethiopia."

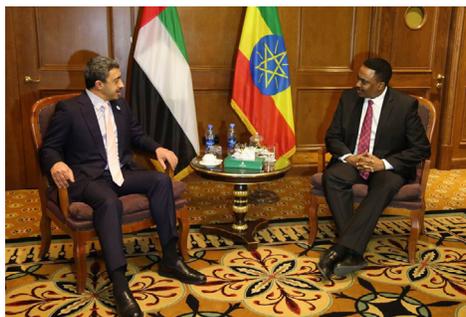
The new Prime Minister promised to prioritize moving forward the country's economic growth, building democracy, enhancing unity in diversity, forging national consensus, fighting corruption, improving quality of education as well as maintaining rule of law among others. He also expressed his readiness to work with Ethiopians abroad and opposition political parties.

Mentioning Ethiopia as the founder of Pan-Africanism, the seat for the African Union, a prominent name among the founders of international organizations as well as a key player in regional, continental and global issues, Dr. Abiy noted that his Government will further commit to its foreign policy that undoubtedly reckons these facts and celebrates its underpinning principles of equality and mutual interest. He added: "We will stand by our African brothers in general and our neighbors in particular, during good and bad times." He

also expressed his Government's readiness to resolve differences with Eritrea, noting that the peoples of the two countries are "not only intertwined in interests but also in blood".

The new Prime Minister also thanked the outgoing Premier Hailemariam Desalegn for his decision to step down from his post as Prime Minister so as to become part of the solution for the political instability occurred in the country. This showcased a peaceful transition of power, which he said is, "exemplary to our continent."

UAE FOREIGN MINISTER IN ADDIS



UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah

Photo: mfa

Sheik Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates arrived in Addis Ababa on March 7 to attend the 2nd Ethio-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission meeting which commenced March 5-7. He also met with President Dr. Mulatu Teshome and Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn as well as Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu.

Sheik Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan met with President Dr. Mulatu Teshome on March 7 at the Jubilee Palace and the two discussed on the outcome of the Joint Ministerial Commission Meeting and the need to finalize and conclude further agreements and MoUs to strengthen the mutual cooperation and engagement between the two countries. Taking note of the JMC and high level meetings to be a reflection of the high bondage between the two sides, both underlined the need to scale up the trade and investment ties, emphasizing that the current trade volume is far less as compared to the existing huge potentials within the two countries. Sheik Abdullah bin Zayed expressed UAE's strong desire and commitment to expand areas of cooperation and explore the relations further. He said the UAE Embassy in Addis Ababa is the first UAE mission in Africa, and expressed his country's will to double its mission and increase its presence in Africa.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn met

Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE, Sheik Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan on March 07; discussions covered ways of strengthening cooperation on bilateral and regional issues. Both sides stressed on the importance of scaling up the cooperation on investment, trade, and tourism sector.

The UAE Foreign Minister also met with Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu and the two ministers jointly opened the 2nd Ethio-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission on March 7, during which, Minister Workneh noted that a new dynamism in strengthening cooperation had been witnessed since the two countries established a formal diplomatic relationship in 1973. The establishment of the Joint Ministerial Commission in 2015 and the subsequent meeting that was held in Abu Dhabi, he said, had culminated in the signing of six bilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understandings.

Dr. Workneh further mentioned Ethiopia's mix of opportunities, which he said, could attract more UAE investors, while also underlining the need to redouble efforts to further enhance engagements in trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people interactions with a view to deepening and solidifying the bilateral cooperation. Though UAE's total investment in Ethiopia reached 10.9 billion Birr with 135 active projects running, he added, "much remains to be done," and called for Emirati investors to expedite more on the sectors of real estate investment in Ethiopia. On aspects of regional peace and security, Dr. Workneh highlighted that Ethiopia and the UAE should create mechanisms that enable them to work closely to deal with emerging security threats of terrorism and extremism in the region.

Earlier on March 6, the 2nd Ethio-UAE Joint Technical Committee Meeting was held where senior officials and experts drawn from both countries worked out areas of cooperation, including aviation, agriculture, energy and renewable energy, port and logistics, tourism, customs, economy, trade and investment, livestock and fishery, science and technology, justice, labor agreement and consular issues. Ambassador Suleiman Dedefo, Director General of the Middle East Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs recalled the long standing commercial, cultural and people to people ties between Ethiopia and the Arabian Peninsula that dates back to the Aksumite Kingdom and praised the plenty of potential areas of cooperation as well as mentioned the number of achievements witnessed in the last few years, which he said, demonstrated the commitment of the two sisterly countries. He reiterated the several common objectives Ethiopia and UAE shared on regional and international issues related to peace, security and development, and their collaboration in



a range of multilateral fora, including at the United Nations. He further stressed the importance of the growing trade relations and investment ties between the two sides, while also noting that there has been an increase in the number of Emirati investors now reaching more than 98 with a combined capital of over 10 billion Birr.

REX TILLERSON: THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE ITS "ALL WEATHER RELATIONSHIP"



Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh
Photo: mfa

US Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, landed at Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport this week at the start of a five-nation tour taking him to Chad, Djibouti, Kenya and Nigeria as well as Ethiopia. He was welcomed by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu and other high ranking Ethiopian government officials. And during his visit to Addis Ababa he held meetings with Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, and Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh, discussing issues of trade, investment, regional and global peace as well as counter terrorism. He also held talks with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Moussa Faki Mahamat, at AU headquarters.

At a joint press briefing with Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh on March 8, U.S. Secretary of State Tillerson said the U.S supported the considerable reforms being carried out by the Government, "all of which we know you will succeed in achieving." He added that his Government recognized, and shared the concerns, expressed by the Government of Ethiopia on the ongoing situation in the country. It would, he said, continue to commit itself to the "all-weather relationship even when clouds and storm gather."

At the briefing, Mr. Tillerson, noting Ethiopia as an important country to start his visits to Africa, said the century-old relationship would be supported more than ever in the mapping out of new areas of cooperation as well as invigorating old ones. He described Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn's resignation as "a first ever voluntary transfer of power" and as a "symbol of the strength of this young democracy." Mr. Tillerson added: "We have also seen Ethiopia's Journey towards democracy. It is a young democracy. And as I've indicated democracy is challenging. It is not easy. It is not easy to take a country forward as demo-

cratic. And we are here to support Ethiopia's journey towards democratic society and institutions." Referring to recent events in Ethiopia, Mr. Tillerson called on the government and other stakeholders to refrain from violence. He said, "We encourage the Ethiopian people as well to maintain patience, to maintain support for your Government through this change." "Violence", he added, "is simply not a solution".

Recalling his discussions with Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh, he said the two sides had discussed in depth ways of further bolstering issues of mutual interest in the areas of health and peace and security as well as given particular emphasis to the economy. During the discussion, the U.S. noted that it would support Ethiopia's economic reforms to open up more business in the country and provide for other institutions that would help further accelerate the growth in the country. Mr. Tillerson said that his Government would continue to assist the nearly one million refugees residing in Ethiopia and praised the Government for its efforts in this direction. He also commended Ethiopia's efforts as the largest contributor to Global peace keeping as well as its unflinching support for regional peace and stability.

Thanking the U.S. Government for its efforts to understand the situation on the ground at this critical time, Dr. Workneh called his talks with the US Secretary of State, "cordial, candid and very fruitful." He reiterated the Ethiopian Government's continued commitment to work with the U.S. in areas of economic development and in the promotion of peace and security. Mentioning the significant steps forward the two countries have been making in the area of peace and security, Dr. Workneh urged the need to reinforce ties in economic and development. The Minister called on U.S. investors to take advantage of the attractive business and investment schemes the Government has put in place.

Following a meeting with the AU Commission Chairperson, Mr. Tillerson described their talks as "fruitful". Mr. Tillerson and Commission Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat, discussed reform of African Union and the AU's efforts to fund itself through member states' levies as well as ways to fund the AU's G5 Sahel force. Mr. Tillerson underlined U.S. appreciation of the AU's leading role to ensure peace in the continent, to establish intra-Africa trade, and to fight against terrorism and corruption as well as its efforts to ensure good governance and transparency. He also praised the African Union for its strong statements over South Sudan and its major role in the fight against terrorists in Somalia.

Before leaving for Ethiopia, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson gave a presentation on US policy at the George Mason University in Washington. He said planning for this trip had originated back in November following a ministerial of 37 African nations and the African Union hosted at the State Department. The discussions then had focused on counterterrorism, democracy and governance issues,

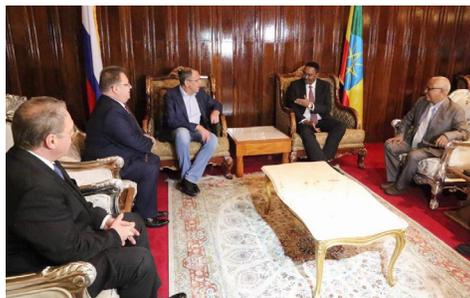
and strengthening trade and investment ties with the continent. These were all themes that remained highly relevant. He was firmly convinced that there was ample opportunity on the continent for economic growth, for greater prosperity, and for responding to global challenges through mutually respectful partnerships. He said he was looking forward to returning to Africa and building on a strong foundation of U.S.-Africa relations. He stressed that last October, he had announced that the United States would contribute more to these regional efforts, including the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership and the Partnership for Regional East Africa Counterterrorism, or PRACT. Since 2016, the United States had contributed more than \$140 million to help partners prevent terrorists safe havens and the recruitment through these partnerships and mentioned in particular the role of AMISOM in Somalia.

Mr. Tillerson also underlined that for security, trade and investment and economic development to sustain itself effective and accountable government institutions were required. Peace and prosperity were only possible in a democratic society, he said, allowing media freedom, open communications, religious freedom, and a vibrant civil society to foster creativity, ideas, and the human energy for economic growth. He said: "Africa has much to gain by creating stronger, more transparent, democratic institutions that reflect their citizens' voices that reject corruption, and protect and promote human rights", adding that the US strongly supported the African Union's Summit's highlighting and encouraging efforts on "Winning the Fight Against Corruption." He said "We hope this year's theme is only the beginning of a more sustained, long-term focus on anti-corruption. In support of this theme, the United States will continue its work with African countries to strengthen their democratic institutions. Last month, the State Department requested \$137 million from Congress to support democracy, human rights, and government programs to create more transparent, less corrupt institutions that value consensus building over conflict." He also noted that democracy required transitions of power through free and fair elections, a vibrant civil society and independent media to help inform citizens and keep them connected to their government. He said the US kept good governance initiatives in mind when it came to development, and through its Millennium Challenge Corporation the US was able to incentivize good governance, including greater transparency, by tying it to development assistance. Overall, he underlined the US pursued and developed sustainable growth that bolstered institutions, strengthened the rule of law, and built the capacity of African countries to stand on their own two feet. In sum, "we partner with African countries by incentivizing good governance to meet long term security and development goals." He concluded: "The United States sees a bright future in Africa. We have an opportunity to be part of Africa's journey to a



stable, prosperous future for its people. Each of these priorities, trade and investment, good governance, respect for human rights, combatting terrorism and instability, have the same guiding principle in mind: to help African countries build the capacity to take care of their own people.”

RUSSIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER ON A WORKING VISIT TO ETHIOPIA



Sergei Lavrov in conversation with Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu
Photo: mfa

Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, who is on a working visit to Ethiopia, met with Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu on March 9. Dr. Workneh noted that the official working visit of Mr. Lavrov to Ethiopia is a special occasion “as this year marks the 120th anniversary of the establishment of official diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Russia and the 122nd anniversary of the

Victory of Adwa, which was a bitter struggle for African independence.”

Underscoring the longstanding and multifarious relations between Ethiopia and Russia that spans 120 years, Dr. Workneh said, “Ethiopia will attach very strong feeling to cherish this historic relation with the people of Russia. We remember that despite the huge physical distance that separates Ethiopia and Russia, Russia has supported our epic African struggle for sovereignty and independence. That is why we say our ties are irreplaceable.” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, reaffirming Dr. Workneh's statement, expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and reiterated the fact that “the relations between our two countries, indeed, are rooted in decades and decades of friendship and solidarity.”

The two ministers deliberated in depth on ways of further bolstering Ethio-Russian diplomatic relations in the areas of trade and investment, education, nuclear energy, humanitarian affairs, people to people relations and aviation diplomacy through Ethiopian Airlines, as well as coordination of their common efforts in international organizations.

Touching upon the economic relations between Ethiopia and the Russian Federation – trade and investment, in particular, Dr. Workneh, told Mr. Lavrov that “Ethiopia appreciates the economic support of the Russian Federation, which includes the cancellation of huge of debt in the past.” He added that the two countries should work closely to increase the trade and investment volume in a way that it ensures that there are more Russian companies investing in Ethiopia.

With regards to the enrichment of nuclear energy in Ethiopia, Dr. Workneh, recapitulated the fact that the two countries have recently agreed to cooperate on the utilization of nuclear energy for development. He stressed that this endeavor is geared towards ensuring the energy security of the nation. This, Dr. Workneh underscored, is an epitome of the intergovernmental commission created recently to accelerate the pace and range of cooperation between the two countries. Attesting to this very fact, Dr. Workneh reasserted that “Ethiopia and the Russian Federation have advanced a commanding relationship, and Ethiopia appreciates Russia's steadfast support in science and technology.” At the center of the people to people ties, took note of the Pushkin Center – the Russian Center for Science and Culture in Addis Ababa. “The Pushkin Center,” Dr. Workneh emphasized “remains relevant to bridging the people to people relations between our two countries.”

As Ethiopia is a non-permanent member of the UNSC and the Russian Federation one of the permanent members of, Dr. Workneh said the two countries could work closely in humanitarian issues, peace and security as well the fight against the scourge of terrorism. Paying due attention to Ethiopia's time-proven capacity in effectively combatting the looming threat of terrorism as well as peace keeping and building initiatives in its neighborhood, Dr. Workneh drew attention to Ethiopia's significant roles in the promotion of regional peace and stability. It is to be recalled that Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh had also visited Moscow in June last year.

Tourism

ETHIOPIA ON THE ITB 2018

