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*Dr. Tedros Adhanom, the new Director General of WHO*

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### ***Dr. Tedros of Ethiopia becomes first African to lead the World Health Organization***

Member States of WHO elected Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as the new Director-General of WHO on May 23, 2017.

President Dr. Mulatu Teshome and Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn congratulated Dr. Tedros Adhanom on his election and all Ethiopians at home and abroad and all Africans as well as friends of Ethiopia, on the victory. Prime Minister Hailemariam referred to Dr. Tedros' victory as one more proof of Ethiopia's notable and growing role in socio-economic and political issues on the international stage.

Foreign Minister, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, recalling Dr. Tedros' achievements in his tenure as his predecessor as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, dubbed the victory as a part of Ethiopia's diplomatic success in the Global arena. He also underlined that his success was "an African Victory."

Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission, who wished Dr Tedros a successful tenure at WHO, robustly working towards a better, healthier future for all people around the globe, said, "The world has chosen a consummate global health statesman with a strong track record of embedding global public health and health security as a vital cornerstone of human development." In January 2016, the Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union unanimously endorsed Dr. Tedros Adhanom's candidature for the next election of the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). The AU's choice as the sole African candidate played pivotal role in his historic victory becoming the first African to lead the top UN health post.

Prior to his election as WHO's next Director-General, Dr Tedros served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia from 2012 to 2016 and previously as Minister of Health of Ethiopia from 2005 to 2012. As Minister of Health, Dr Tedros led the comprehensive reform efforts of Ethiopia's health system, including the expansion of the country's health infrastructure. He was responsible for creating 3,500 health centers and 16,000 health posts; for expanding the health workforce by 38,000 health extension workers; and by initiating finance mechanisms to expand health insurance coverage.

The campaign for the Director-Generalship was going on for eighteen months or so. This election was more open and transparent than any previous one. Traditionally, WHO's Executive Board (34 individuals, nominated by member states on a 3 year tenure) decided on the position of Director-General. This time, after the Board had reduced the candidates to a short list of three, Health Ministers and representatives of 186 WHO's member states voted.

The three finalists were Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (Ethiopia), Dr. Sania Nishtar (Pakistan), and Dr. David Nabarro (UK), and the three each set out their vision for WHO in the future. In the first round of voting Dr. Sania Nishtar, a cardiologist and expert in non-communicable diseases, was eliminated after getting 38 votes. In the third round of voting, Dr. Tedros obtained 133 votes, sufficient to easily defeat Dr. David Nabarro's 50, with three abstentions. Dr. Tedros replaces Dr. Margaret Chan (China) who had been Director-General of WHO since 2007.

When setting out his vision for WHO, Dr. Tedros said: "Let's prove the impossible is possible." He said that he envisioned a world where everyone, regardless of who they are or where they live, can lead healthy and productive lives. He said achieving universal health coverage will be his top priority. He further said the primary focus at WHO would be rebuilding confidence of member states and the global health community. The challenges WHO now faced, "including achieving universal health coverage, managing the triple burden of communicable and non-communicable disease, combined with health emergencies, and addressing the health effects of climate change", required bold action, Dr. Tedros underlined.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom was warmly welcomed upon his arrival home at Bole International Airport after his election. He was received cordially by high government officials, diplomats, artists and renowned persons. Dr. Tedros expressed his gratitude to those countries, organizations, different stakeholders, and individuals that supported him.



## ***Prime Minister Hailemariam attends the G7 Summit***

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn attended the 43rd G7 Summit that took place on May 26-27, 2017 in Taormina, Italy. Beside Prime Minister Hailemariam, President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya; President Beji Caid Essebsi of Tunisia; President Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger; Acting President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo of Nigeria; President Alpha Conde of Guinea, Chair of the African Union; and Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission; have attended the Summit to discuss Africa's problems and potential.



The agenda on the summit were: foreign policy, including discussion of Syria, Libya, North Korea and Ukraine; terrorism; the global economy; inequalities; gender equality; trade; human mobility; Africa; food security and nutrition; climate and energy; innovation, skills and labour; and health.

Ewnetu Blata, special assistance to the prime minister, said that the G7 Leaders' Summit Outreach Session deliberated on ways of consolidating the relationship and ties between Africa and G7 countries was fruitful as the countries pledged to enhance cooperation and support. The outreach session held in 27 May 2017 discussed mainly on ways of enhancing ties between G7 countries and Africa as well as supporting the continent's development. Poverty reduction; infrastructure, energy and human resource development and innovation among others were the major agendas. The session discussed on ways of realizing Africa's poverty reduction programs and speed up the continent's economic transformation, Ewnetu said.

The G7 countries have agreed to boost the ties with Africa at bilateral and multilateral level and to focus on cooperation areas to build effective partnership. In their communiqué, the leaders pledged to strengthen the partnership with Africa and support to the development of the continent. "Our goal is indeed to strengthen cooperation and dialogue with African countries and regional organizations to develop African capacity in order to better prevent, respond to and manage crises and conflicts, as regards the relevant goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" the G7 countries said in the communiqué.

Noting that a stable Africa means a stable environment for investment, the countries pledged to launch by the EU of the External Investment Plan (EIP) to boost investment in the continent.

Ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture are also set to be crucial goal for the G7. In this regard, the leaders pledged to lift 500 million people in developing countries out of hunger and malnutrition by 2030. They also decided to raise support for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa through an array of actions, such as increasing Official Development Assistance, better targeting and measuring interventions, backing efforts to attract responsible private investments and additional resources from other development stakeholders.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn briefed the session on challenges and opportunities in the continent based on Ethiopia's experience, Ewnetu said. At the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister Hailemariam met with leaders of different countries and international organizations. Prime Minister of Canada, President of Kenya, Secretary General of the UN and Director General of IMF are among the leaders who discussed with the Ethiopian Premier.



## ***The 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the overthrow of the military dictatorship***

The 26th anniversary of May 28, marking the demise of the Derg regime, was celebrated nationwide as well in Embassies abroad through various public programs.



President Dr. Mulatu Teshome in his message to the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' of Ethiopia on May 28 underlined that this was the day on which a firm foundation was laid to build a democratic and prosperous country. It was a day that had completely changed Ethiopia's image and allowed the people of Ethiopia to build constitutionally guaranteed democratic unity. It had enabled the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' of Ethiopia, following their approval of a Constitution which defined their participation, to own sustainable peace, a democratic system that cherished diversity, and a fast growing economy. He noted that the country's economic growth, in addition to improving the lives of citizens through creation of jobs, had crafted a context for Ethiopia to be seen as a favourable investment and trade destination by global transboundary companies and investors.

The President also noted that the country's internal strength was the basis for the success of Ethiopia's diplomacy. He said "When a nation is strong internally, its strength would also be reflected in its foreign diplomacy." This had been reflected this year by Ethiopia's election to the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member of the Council, and even more by the choice of former Foreign Minister, Dr. Tedros Adhanom as Director-General of the World Health Organization, the first African to hold this post, the president underlined.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn described the victory of Ginbot 20 (May 28) as the foundation for the prevailing rule of law and the right to development in Ethiopia. The Prime Minister, speaking at a celebration held at Millennium Hall to mark the event, said the victory was a point when the roadmap for the renaissance of the country was designed. He said it was a day which opened a new era for Ethiopians to build democracy and a federal system to ensure durable peace, bring rapid growth and exercise their religious and gender equality. Even more, it paved the way for the country to conduct democratic elections and put in place a multi-party system. He emphasized that the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) was doing its level best to bring about good governance, ensure sustainability of ongoing development and to create employment opportunities for the youth. The public should join hands with the government to ensure success for its efforts. The Prime Minister also called on the people to fight against rent-seeking, which he described as the main impediment in the efforts to pull the country out of poverty.



*Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn addressing the event held at the Millenium Hall*

## Ethiopian Economy to Grow Faster than Any Country in Africa in 2017

Ethiopia's economy is forecasted to grow faster than any country in Africa in 2017, the World Bank reported. According to the World Bank report, Tanzania, Ivory Coast and Senegal are expected to register next highest growth in Africa.

The global finance outfit *Global Economic Prospect* report released this month has stated that "Ethiopia is forecast to expand by 8.3 percent in 2017, Tanzania by 7.2 percent, Ivory Coast by 6.8 percent, and Senegal by 6.7 percent, all helped by public investment.

World Bank further noted that growth in non-resource intensive countries was anticipated to remain solid, supported by infrastructure investment, resilient service sectors, and the recovery of agricultural production.

While projecting a generally stable economic performance for most Sub-Saharan Africa economies, the report titled, "A Fragile Recovery," forecasted that economies will on average "pick up to 2.6 percent in 2017 and to 3.2 percent in 2018, predicated on moderately rising commodity prices and reforms to tackle macroeconomic imbalances."

This forecast becomes the second stamp of approval on the Ethiopia economy. The IMF report released in April 2017 states "Non-resource-intensive countries, such as Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Senegal, generally continued to grow robustly, benefiting from strong domestic demand and high levels of public spending, though in some cases, growth eased from 2015," Ethiopia's annual economic output (GDP) reached \$72.52 billion last year, up from \$64.68 billion in 2015. It is expected to reach \$78.3 billion this year. The IMF report shows Ethiopia's strong performance exceeded projections for last year by about \$3 billion. It emphasizes that this growth is largely fuelled by public-led spending on infrastructure and robust domestic demand. On the basis of these figures, Ethiopia is now the largest economy in eastern Africa ahead of Kenya with a GDP for 2016 of \$68.91 billion, up from \$63.62 billion in 2015. It is expected to reach \$75 billion this year.

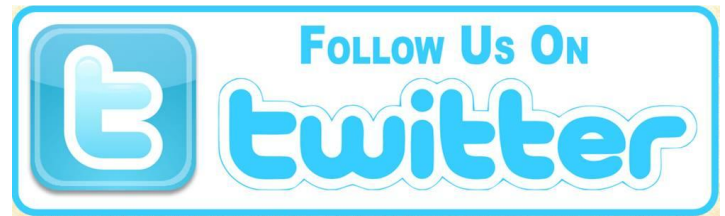
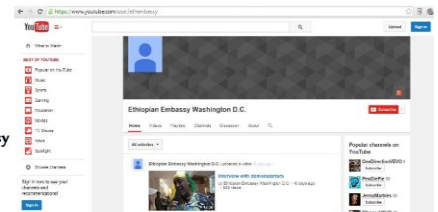
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