



Ethiopian Embassy News

A Monthly Bulletin of the Ethiopian Embassy, Washington D.C.

Year: III

Issue 11

May 2017



Dr. Addisu G/Egziabher presenting the report to the HPR

Contents

<i>Human Rights Commission submitted its Report</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>The 6th Tana High-level Forum on Security in Africa</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Foundation for State-of-the-art Medical Center laid</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Much more than 'land of origins': WTO Secretary-General</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>US companies keen to invest in Ethiopia</i>	<i>6</i>

Human Rights Commission submitted its Report

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has presented its report on the investigation it carried out into the unrest that occurred in some parts of Oromia and Amhara regional states as well as in Gedio Zone of Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples state. The report covered the violence which incurred loss of human lives, destruction and damage on public and private properties from June to September 2016. A total of 669 people, from both civilians and security forces, were reportedly killed in the disturbances that occurred in the stated places.

In its investigation, the commission had talked to victims and their families, elders, representatives of youth, security forces, witnesses, prisoners and read various documents for evidence. The investigation was carried out in 15 zones and 91 woredas of Oromia Regional State and in 6 zones and 55 woredas and towns of Amhara Regional State as well as in 6 woredas in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State.

According to the report, the main causes of the destructive unrest in Oromia were lack of good governance, abuse of rights, unemployment, lack of timely response to public grievances and delays of projects meant for public use. As a result, a number of people have lost their lives and properties, including government institutions and investment enterprises, were destroyed, the report pointed out. The social media and Oromia Media Network (OMN) based abroad had also played destructive role by spreading fake news and information that exacerbated the situation, it was learned. The report from the commission also stated that measures taken by the security forces to control the unrest were both proportionate and disproportionate depending on the situations.

Reporting on the violence in Gedio Zone of Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples State, 34 persons lost their lives and 178 sustained severe injuries. Some 8,450 non-indigenous to Gedio Zone were displaced due to the violence that occurred in the area, the report further revealed. On the other hand, following the unrest in the Amhara Regional State 140 people, including 30 members of the security forces, lost their lives and 376 citizens sustained severe injuries.

In its efforts to investigate the situation, the Commission conducted discussions with the concerned authorities in the areas under investigation, referred to eye witness accounts, reviewed documents relating to the situation, talked to victims and also held investigative meetings with government and private sectors to assess the scale of damage done on property.

It was clear that some media outlets abroad and the social media in particular lost no time for speculations and misrepresentations regarding the violence. They deliberately distorted the number of people who lost their lives and aired doubts on the report. This is certainly a cynical tactic as the death of a single person is regrettable by all standards.

The Commission has already promised to prepare additional reports on the implementation of the recommendations it has forwarded including for instance the rehabilitation of more than 11,000 persons who were internally displaced due to the chaos and havoc that was spearheaded by anti-peace, anti-development forces.

The House of People's Representatives (HPR) approved the report presented by the Commission and backed the recommendations, calling on members of security forces who used excessive force in the unrest to face justice. The report also urged that those individuals who spread the violence in the regional states should be brought to justice.

The 6th Tana High-level Forum on Security in Africa



The 6th Tana High-level Forum on Security in Africa was held on 22 and 23 April 2017 in Bahir Dar, the capital of the Amhara Regional State under the theme: "Natural Resource Governance in Africa".

Every year, the Forum brings together African leaders and stakeholders to engage and explore African-led security solutions to the Continent's problems. The gathering complements formal meetings of African heads of state and government by bringing them in an informal, collaborative environment. The panel discussions, interactions and bilateral talks to share views and experiences in an open manner are fundamental to resolving conflict and transforming societies in Africa. The meeting, therefore, promotes African-led solutions by holding discussions on strategic issues that matter to Africa and to the benefit of the Continent's peoples.

Opening the forum, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn underlined that as Africa was endowed with a wide range of natural resources and their management mattered to bring about growth and development, the theme of the Forum: 'Natural Resource Governance in Africa' is particularly fitting. Natural resource management and governance was important because mismanagement so easily resulted in conflict and contention. The Prime Minister stressed that the Tana Forum, as an interactive and open platform for debate and discussions involving a wide range of stakeholders, offered a real opportunity for African leaders and policy makers to discuss high-level continental issues. The Premier emphasized the need for proper management and governance of natural resources, noting that there was a very direct relationship between governance of natural resources and sustainable economic development. He underscored the importance of fighting against rent-seeking behavior for the protection and governance of sustainable natural resources.

The Prime Minister also said that proper governance of natural resources would help Africa to maximize the developmental benefits that should amass from exploiting the continent's rich natural resources. Calling for specific national policies to ally with effective and proper management, he said natural resource

governance should be governed by the right orientation, developmental orientation, for it to bear the required results, make it sustainable, and allow it to serve as the necessary source of economic transformation and 'leapfrogging'. The Prime Minister called on African leaders, statesmen and policy makers to focus on transforming the political economy of the African continent as the basis for a long-lasting solution to African economic and political economic problems.



H.E. Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn addressing the forum

In the pursuit of transforming the continent's agrarian economies to emerging industrial economies, the Prime Minister underlined the need to focus on agriculture, and particularly to small holding farming. At the same time, encouraging leaders to work towards economic leapfrogging, Prime Minister Hailemariam noted the importance of transforming Africa's economy from rent-seeking political ventures to effective developmental political economy.

Other speakers included former Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo, co-author of "Making Africa Work: A hand Book for Economic Success," with Greg Mills, the Director of South Africa's Brenthurst Foundation, who described Ethiopia as one of the few African countries doing things in the right direction. He called on other countries to follow suit. He also encouraged Ethiopia to offer technical support to fellow African nations. Dr. Obiageli Ezekwesili, senior advisor, Africa

Economic Development Policy Initiative, Nigeria, said Ethiopia's policy stability, clarity, continuity and political commitment were the secret to Ethiopia's economic success, particularly in attracting foreign direct investment. With highly-admired policy autonomy, Ethiopia attested the importance of proper management of resources in Africa through prudent policies. Salil Shetty, Secretary-General, Amnesty International, UK welcomed the way Ethiopia linked security with human security, and welcomed Prime Minister Hailemariam's clear message about the strong link between natural resource management and human resource management.



Prime Minister Hailemariam Laying the cornerstone

Foundation for State-of-the-art Medical Center laid

Corner stone was laid in Addis Ababa for the first center of excellence hospital, to be built by Ethio-American Doctors Medical Group, an association of health care professionals of Ethiopian origin, at a cost of 110 million U.S. dollars.

The mission of the project is to build an economically sustainable center of excellence hospital that will deliver internationally accredited standard care and become the catalyst of change in how health care is delivered in Ethiopia, the region, and beyond, according to the Ethio-American Doctors Group.

The medical center will rest on 150,000 m² of land around *Ayat* Area. The first phase of the project will include a 300-bed hospital with full diagnostic center, operating rooms, labs, outpatient medical office building with 80 consultation rooms and a center for cancer treatment. The center will also provide a full complement of services with clinical focus on cardiovascular, neurological and oncology services with range of invasive procedures, and is expected to go fully operational by 2020.

Laying the cornerstone, Prime Minister Hailemariam noted that the hospital would support the government's multifarious activities in the health sector. Reiterating that Addis Ababa is one of the top world cities in hosting huge number of diplomatic missions, the prime minister said the hospital would serve as a healthcare center for both Ethiopians and foreign nationals residing in the city. The construction of the hospital in the city also supports the country's economy by helping retain foreign currency spent for medical treatment outside the country, the Premier said, adding that it provides support in capacity building activities in the health sector, said the prime minister. "When this hospital goes fully operational, I have firm belief that it will help retain foreign exchange outflow from the country," said Prime Minister Hailemariam.

Chair of the Group, Dr. Girma Tefera said that "now is the time to contribute to our society through our profession and experiences which we gained abroad." The project is the clear showcase that Ethiopians can work cooperatively to materialize collective goals, Dr. Girma underlined.

EADG largely consists of a group of over 260 health care professionals of Ethiopian origin residing in the U.S. Canada, Europe and Africa.

Much more than 'land of origins': WTO Secretary-General

The fifty-ninth meeting of the United Nations World Tourism Commission for Africa and the High-level Meeting on Chinese Outbound Tourism to Africa were held from 18 to 21 April 2017 in Addis Ababa. Attending were 37 African Tourism Ministers and high level delegations from World Tourism Commission member states, as well as representatives of the tourism and media industries. During the meeting, participating delegates also visited the city of Gondar in the Amhara Regional State, the capital of Ethiopia during the mid-17th to 19th centuries, the residence of Emperor Fasilidas (1632-1659) and his successors as well as the palaces and castles in Gondar and Debre Berhan Selassie church which stand with their notable 17th century paintings.

In a subsequent interview, Dr. Taleb Rifai, Secretary General of the UNWTO said that the enormous variety of tourist destinations that characterized Ethiopia, particularly the different styles of the castles in Gondar were impressive. Ethiopia, he said, with its diverse tangible and intangible heritages and its historic and cultural tourist destinations was much more than merely "the land of origins". He said in Gondar there were the same kinds of stone and building techniques, but "the styles are completely different. That is what really fascinates me." Dr. Rifai further said: "I know you can come up with the tag line 'the land of origins', but Ethiopia is by far more than this. It is a land that can accommodate its essence and souls that are beyond the world's description." He added: "The branding exercise has not yet been finished."

Describing Ethiopia as not only the land of origin and diversity, but also a land of unity, where all aspects of life were unified under one umbrella, the Secretary-General said: "I think this visit completes my dictionary and my vocabulary on the cultural aspects of Ethiopia, he added. He further noted that Ethiopia had invested largely in infrastructure development, and this, coupled with the thriving hotel service industry, had the potential to generate more than ten times the current tourist numbers.

At the same time, however, the UNWTO Secretary-General said there is still a real need for collaboration and enhanced synergy between the private sector and government to provide better growth for the tourist industry, and to further attract the world to the unique sites Ethiopia had to offer. He said he would like to see much more effort, resources and capacity dedicated to the areas of promotion and marketing strategies. He promised that UNWTO would help Ethiopia in further positioning itself on the international tourist stage.

Ethiopia has an amazing variety of rich cultural, historic, religious and natural attractions registered by UNESCO as tangible World Heritage Sites. These are the obelisks at Axum in Tigray Regional State (1980), the Fasil Ghibi (Compound) in Gondar Zone of Amhara Regional State (1979), the Fortified historic city of Harar Jegol (2006), the Konso cultural landscape in the SNNP Regional State (2011), the Lower valley of the Awash (1980) and the Omo prehistoric sites (1980), the Rock Hewn Churches of Lalibela in Wello zone of Amhara Regional State (1978), the Semien Mountains National Park in Gondar Zone (1978) and the Tiya monuments in Oromia Regional State (1980).

There are also three items listed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list: The commemoration of the Finding of the True Cross (the Meskal festival), the Gada system, and Fiche Chamballa, the New Year of the Sidama people. UNESCO only began to list intangible heritage in 2013, and there are a number of other festivals and celebrations around the country which are being considered as possible intangible heritage listing, among them the celebration of Ethiopian Timkat (Epiphany) and the traditional festival of Shadey/Ashenda, both of which have already been submitted to UNESCO. Indeed, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism aims to get another dozen or so inscribed on the UNESCO list during the current GTP. Alongside the global recognition this will bring, the plan underlines the importance of ensuring saving and transferring the nation's ancient values and heritages to future generations.

US companies keen to invest in Ethiopia



A US business delegation met, on 13 April 2017, with State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Aklilu Hailemichael in Addis Ababa. Welcoming the companies' initiative to invest in Ethiopia, the State Minister briefed the delegation on Ethiopia's investment opportunities which has considerably been getting momentum, particularly with the country's growing infrastructure development. The delegation also visited different places in Ethiopia and expressed their desire to take part in different infrastructural investment schemes in the country apart from their main Paramedical Project. The State Minister further said that the Ministry, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, would do all it can to support the companies while investing in Ethiopia.

The US business delegation which comprises Mr. Reddy N Apoori, President of Aerogenics Inc, and Dr. Gaddam Shachinder Reddy, Chairman of Pharma Project was accompanied by Berhane Kidanemariam, Consul-General at the consular office in Los Angeles and members of the Oakland-based Hidassie Ethiopian Disapora Committee.

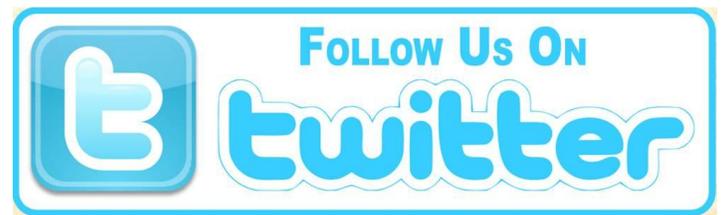
Connect with us:



<https://www.facebook.com/ethembassy>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/ethembassy>



<https://www.twitter.com/ethembassyUS>

Contact Us:

EMBASSY OF ETHIOPIA

3506 International Drive, NW

Washington D.C., 20008

Email: ethiopia@ethiopianembassy.org

Tel: 202 364 1200

Fax: 202 587 0195

www.ethiopianembassy.org