



Happy Ethiopian New Year

2008

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EPRDF re-elected Hailemariam Dessalegn Chairperson

The ruling party, Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) on its 10th Congress held in Mekelle City, Tigray Regional State re-elected Hailemariam Dessalegn, who is the current Prime Minister of Ethiopia to lead the Party as Chairperson for the next two years. The Party has also elected Demeke Mekonen as Deputy Chairperson of the Party.



The Congress being held under the theme” **To Live up to Peoples' trust: Utmost Growth and Transformation**”,has also elected members of the executive committee.

In a nine-point declaration issued at the culmination of the four-day congress, the participants vowed to team up efforts with the public and sustain the ongoing speedy economic growth of the country. In his closing remark, Hailemariam Dessalegn urged participants of the Congress to discharge their responsibilities to the utmost when they return to their

respective areas. He also called on to the public to do their part for the successful accomplishment of the decisions passed by the Congress. Hailemariam further reiterated EPRDF's readiness to cooperate with opposition political parties willing to operate legally and peacefully.

The 11th Organizational Congress of EPRDF will be held in Hawassa town, after two years.

Ethiopia to continue its role in peacekeeping operations: President



President Mulatu Teshome said that Ethiopia will continue playing an “active role” in international peacekeeping operations to promote peace and stability in the African continent. Speaking at the African Regional Meeting on Peacekeeping Operations, the President said Ethiopia has been actively participating in UN peacekeeping operations and will continue to do so. Hosting the meeting under the theme “Enhancing Rapid Deployment Capability”, is a clear testimony of Ethiopia’s unwavering commitment to

continue playing active role in peacekeeping missions in the years and decades to come, he said.

This meeting is instrumental in creating a platform for the sharing of experiences in peacekeeping operations among troop contributing countries from Africa, he added. “We have a major stake in strengthening the role of peacekeeping” said Mulatu noting that the majority of the UN peacekeeping operations are in Africa. The country ranks fourth in troop, police and military experts contribution to United Nations peacekeeping missions, having 7,807 personnel serving in peacekeeping missions around the world.

Chief of Ethiopian Defense Force, Major General Samora Yenus said that Ethiopia has a long and proud history of supporting UN peacekeeping operations. “It has been demonstrated on a number of occasions that Ethiopia’s peacekeeping forces have been discharging their responsibilities with high level of professionalism, dedication and courage”, he said. Ethiopia's cooperation with the UN and AU peacekeeping missions has emanated from the strong belief and commitment of the country to shared stability.

Ethiopia has a contingent of peacekeeping officers serving in Darfur with UN Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). It also has officers serving in UN Missions in Liberia and South Sudan. UN Military Advisor, Lieutenant General Malsood Ahmed said that Ethiopia has been playing great roles in international peacekeeping missions. Capability readiness and rapid and effective responses to crisis are the challenges peacekeeping operations faced, he said calling upon regional and international organizations to work collectively and address the challenges. The history of Ethiopia’s peacekeeping contribution to the UN went back to 1950 when Ethiopian contingent deployed to Korea guided by the principle of collective security. Since then, Ethiopia has participated in Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Liberia and currently in Darfur and Abyei.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn in New York to attend the 70th United Nations General Assembly.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the 193 UN member states during the three-day High Level Summit of the UN General Assembly.

More than 150 world leaders, attended the Summit, which preceded the annual gathering of world leaders at the UN beginning September 28. The SDGs consist of 17 goals and 169 specific targets. They replaced the United Nations' expired Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000.

It is to be recalled that Ethiopia has adopted the Millennium declaration of the 8th of September 2000 and the process of perusing the MDGs formally started in January 2003. Ethiopia first submitted its interim Poverty Reduction Sustainable Program (PRSP 1) in November 2000 and the preparation of a full Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP) was finalized in July 2002. The SDPRP was designed to cover the years, 2002/3-2004/5.

The successive medium-term development plans of the country being implemented since 2005 have been designed on the basis of the MDGs. The achievement of MDGs has been integrated in the Plan for accelerated and Sustained Development to end poverty (PASDEP, 2005/6-2009/10) and the first Growth and Transformation Plan (2010/11-2014/15). The PASDEP was the first five year phase of Ethiopia's ten years MDGs plan. Due to this well planned, integrated and executed Program Ethiopia achieved almost all MDGs.

UN Secretary-General nominated Mr. Tewolde GebreMariam to co-chair his High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon nominated Ethiopian Group CEO, Mr Tewolde GebreMariam, to serve as a co-chair on his High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport (HLAG-ST).



The Advisory Group, which is expected to serve for a period of three years, provides policy recommendations and global messages on sustainable transport by working with governments, transport sector, businesses, financial institutions, civil society and other stakeholders. The Group will also promote the integration of sustainable transport in intergovernmental processes, including making recommendations on the initiation and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. Mr. Tewolde will co-chair the United Nations High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport which comprises of prominent individuals with diverse capabilities from civil society, private sector and government officials of member states. It is also an appreciation of the leading role being played by Ethiopian Airlines to foster sustainable air transport development in Africa

through the continuous tailoring of appropriate strategies and adoption of latest technology and best work practices. Tewolde GebreMariam began his career at Ethiopian Airlines in 1985. He served in different positions and capacities in the airline including as Regional Director of India and South East Asia, Area Manager of Saudi Arabia and Area Sales Manager for North East USA and Canada based in New York, Chief Operating Officer and from January 1, 2011 as CEO of Ethiopian Airlines. Mr. Tewolde has won multiple awards including “The African CEO of the Year-2012”, “The Best African Business Leader of the year 2012”, In July 2013, he became the first African Airline CEO to receive “The Airline Strategy Award for Regional Leadership” in the award’s 12 year history, “Planet Africa professional Excellence Award” in 2013, “2015 - International Grand Prix Special Award” and others. In addition to his duties as CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, he also serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the International Air Transport Association (IATA); an Executive Committee member of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA); a Board member of the Airlink Advisory Council; a Board member of Ethio-Telecom, a Board member of Ethiopian Railway Corporation; a Board Member of Commercial Bank of Ethiopia; and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ethiopian Tourism Organization (ETO).

Source:-Air Transport News

Addis Ababa Light Railway service becomes Operational

The construction of the Addis Ababa Light Rail Transit (AA-LRT) that has been underway by China Railway group (CREC) with 475 million U.S. dollars started giving service on Sunday September 20, 2015. The electrified railway project, with two lines of total length of 34 kms, has been carried out in accordance with the country's first five year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-1).

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of Transport, Workneh Gebeyehu hailed the project a historic achievement to modernize the City and address transportation problem in the City. The Addis Ababa Rail Transit Project covers a total length of 34.25 kilometers, running eastwest and north-south across the city. While the north-south section opened on Sunday, the east-west line will start next month.



The trains will have the capacity to carry 80,000 passengers across the capital of the continent's second most populous nation. It is said to be a major step to deal with Addis Ababa's traffic jams and will provide an indirect boost to an already booming economic development.

Another railway along the main trade route to neighbouring Djibouti may begin early in 2016. Ethiopia is also going to build Africa's first railway academy that provides sufficient qualified manpower for big railway projects

to be build during the second GTP period. Economic Affairs Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Dr. Arkebe Equbay said agreement was reached with the Chinese Government for the construction of the training centre.

Ethiopia to manufacture automobiles for the first time



Ethiopia is set to manufacture automobiles, as well as some military hardware, the head of the Ethiopian Power Engineering Industry (EPEI) said. EPEI General Manager Major Assefa Yohannes said that production would begin within two months. EPEI is part of the state-owned Metals and Engineering Corporation (METEC), one of the 17 companies in that group. With a population of 94 million, there are only 587,400 cars on the road, according to the Ministry of Transport. That number increases by about 10 percent each year, the ministry said.

Located in the city of Mekele – 770 kilometers (478.4 kilometers) north of the capital Addis Ababa, the engine manufacturing plant will produce a number of different types of engines for light and heavy duty cars and tractors," Yohannes said. "As Ethiopia finds itself on the path of fast-tracked economic growth, such industries will be vital to sustain the economic gains being registered." "The Mekele engine manufacturing plant will be one of the key

production facilities, and we will not end there," he added. Import substitution is a major objective of the engine industry, Yohannes explained, and to become competitive, the factory

will be producing quality engines of the Euro-three to Euro-five emissions standards," he said, adding the factory has a license from largest Chinese engine manufacturing company – Yuchai. "The engines to be manufactured will be sold mainly to the Bushoftu Automotive Industry (BAI) enabling it to become the first auto maker in Ethiopia," he said. It will also supply engines, including industrial ones, to other factories and car assembly companies operating in Ethiopia. So far, the multibillion Bushoftu Automotive Industry (BAI) has been engaged in the assemblage, overhaul and upgrading of autos for civil use (both light and heavy duty), as well as armored vehicles and tanks. The light-duty automobile production line has a capacity of producing 60 vehicles per day, BAI spokesman Lieutenant Amanuel Tsegaye said. The output capacity of the heavy-duty vehicle production factory is 24 vehicles daily. Buses are being assembled according to need assessment. So far, the factory had handed over 210 buses to the Addis Ababa city bus enterprise, while it is assembling 350 other buses upon order. "The African Union and the United Nations also have some armored vehicles made by BAI for their peace keeping operations in Africa," he added.

Representatives of Giant U.S. Companies Visited Ethiopia

Some 10 giant US companies visited Ethiopia to assess conditions that would enable them to invest in the country. The main objective of the visit is reportedly part of the plan to expand American investment expansion in Africa. Representatives of the companies are expected to discuss investment opportunities with high government officials. The visit would help to increase the investment flow of USA in Africa. Some 100 U.S. companies are expected to engage in investment activities in Sub-Saharan African

countries. U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, Patricia M. Haslach said Ethiopia is at the forefront of Africa's economic development; and it is proving its commitment to growth by implementing the Growth and Transformation Plan.



The American government and the business community see Ethiopia as a good business partner, she pointed out. Haslach added that President Obama's visit to Ethiopia was an important sign of how much the United States values Ethiopia as a partner and its positive thought to the country. U.S. Senior Commercial Officer, Tanya Cole, said many U.S. companies are looking forward to doing business in Ethiopia due to the stable economic growth, low corruption, and geo-position of the country. The delegation will next travel Angola, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, and South Africa for similar mission, it was learned. The Commerce Department and Embassy teams expect to facilitate about 400 total business-to-business meetings during the trade mission.

Ethiopian Orthodox Christians celebrated Demera



Ethiopian Orthodox Christians celebrated 'Demera', the finding of the true cross, which is part of the Meskel celebration, on Monday September 28/2015 by torching a big bonfire.

The feast commemorates the discovery of the true cross upon which Jesus Christ was crucified, by the Empress Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great.

Meskel, the spiritual holiday of Orthodox Christians in Ethiopia has been celebrated for the last thousands of years, has inscribed by UNESCO on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The inscription could enhance the visibility of intangible cultural heritage and promote inter-cultural dialogue among the multi-ethnic population of Ethiopia as well as other communities internationally.

According to religious leaders, Helena then gave pieces of the cross to all Orthodox churches, including the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church claims to have its own piece in Gishen Mariam monastery, hidden from the public's view.

Followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church celebrate the Meskel celebrations, which lasts for two days, by building a big bonfire, known as a Demera.

In the capital Addis Ababa, followers attend Demera, on the eve of the main holiday (Meskel) at Meskel Square where a Large bonfire torched by the Patriarch.

The practice is said to have originated in the fourth century with St. Helena. Following a vision that came to her in a dream, St. Helena created a huge fire, infused with frankincense and let the smoke guide her to remnants of the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified.

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Ethiopian Consulate General Office

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