



Ethiopian News

Winter 2020

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#STAYATHOME: THINGS TO DO

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#EthiopiaPrevails

Let's build an inclusive, democratic and prosperous Ethiopia in 2021 through unity and consensus



Message from the Ambassador



On behalf of diplomats and staff members at the Ethiopian Embassy in London, my wife, Mekdes, our sons, Samuel and Beimnet, and I would like to extend our very best wishes on the advent of Christmas and the New year to the Ethiopian community and friends of Ethiopia in the United Kingdom.

This period provides us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on the past year, one of the most uncertain in recent memory. For Ethiopia, the global pandemic, coupled with climate extremes, locust swarms and conflict in the Tigray region, meant we had to summon up our reserves of resilience in order to confront challenges to our human and national security.

I was inspired by the efforts of Ethiopians in the United Kingdom who stood in solidarity with their compatriots at home – raising funds, volunteering their time and offering their expertise in the battles against COVID-19 and natural disaster. I can truly affirm that in doing so we once again lived up to the promise of Ethiopian unity bequeathed to us by all who came before us.

Going forward, it is my sincere conviction that 2021 will be a year of optimism. Through our unity and consensus, we can finally get on with the work of building an inclusive, democratic and prosperous Ethiopia. The first free and fair democratic elections in our country's history, set to take place in the Spring, will be key to realising this aspiration.

In the pursuit of this vision, the role of our partners in the United Kingdom cannot be overlooked, as we endeavour to further consolidate our excellent relations and work for the cause of global peace and mutual prosperity. I, personally, look forward to continuing productive discussions with Her Majesty's Government, Parliament and a growing galaxy of British businesses and institutions as we seek to deepen these engagements.

Once again, on behalf of my family and the Embassy, I would like to wish you joy, health, and peace, this festive season and beyond.

H.E. Mr Teferi Melesse Desta
Ambassador



Deputy PM: Ethiopia committed to peace and security

On Wednesday, 25th November 2020, on his debut visit to the UK as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Mr Demeke Mekonnen, met and held discussions with his British counterpart, The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, to deliver a message from the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Dr Abiy Ahmed.

The Deputy Prime Minister was visiting the UK as part of his wider trip to Europe, where he has been briefing officials on the law enforcement operations taking place in Ethiopia.

During the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Demeke outlined the reform process initiated in Ethiopia two and a half years ago and the repeated Government efforts to encourage the TPLF leadership to be part and parcel of the popular democratisation process. However, the TPLF leadership proved unwilling to engage, instead opting to sow instability across the country by unlawfully training, arming, and financing extremist forces.

Deputy Prime Minister Demeke further briefed the Foreign Secretary on the necessity of the law enforcement operation in the Tigray region - on the one hand, emphasising the need to bring to justice the TPLF junta that attacked and killed members of the Ethiopian Defense Forces on 4th November 2020, and on the other, the attention being given to undertake the operation with maximum care to avoid civilian casualties.

The Deputy Prime Minister also underlined the primary responsibility of the Federal Government to maintain the rule of law, ensure the peace and security of the people of Ethiopia, and protect and defend the constitution of the land.

In this regard, he explained that a provisional administration had been set up in the Tigray region to address the urgent needs of the people and to strengthen the existing administrative structures at the district and local levels.

...the government takes its responsibility to safeguard civilians seriously

During his visit to the UK, the Deputy Prime Minister also met with the British Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser and Deputy National Security Adviser, David Quarrey CMG.



The Deputy Prime Minister explained that the Federal Government took its responsibilities to safeguard civilians in conflict areas very seriously and had put in place all necessary measures to ensure minimal civilian casualties. He also confirmed that the Government's preparations to guarantee humanitarian corridors in these areas.

Recalling the indispensable role Ethiopia has played in promoting peace and security in the Region, Mr Quarrey expressed his hope that Ethiopia would continue to be a source of stability going forward.

...historic bilateral relations

Ethiopia's relationship with the UK continues to be among the most dependable, mature and mutually beneficial of any that it enjoys with other countries.

The UK has long been a trusted partner in Ethiopia, and over the centuries, Ethiopia has enjoyed close economic, diplomatic and cultural relations with the United Kingdom. Both countries collaborate on many issues of mutual concern at the regional and global levels.

Both countries also continue to share a common vision of the kind of well-ordered global society that can ensure social justice, peace and prosperity.

PM Abiy addresses Climate Ambition Summit

On 12th December, global climate leaders took a major stride towards a resilient, net-zero emissions future, presenting ambitious new commitments, urgent actions and concrete plans to confront the climate crisis.

Co-convened by the United Nations, the UK and France, in partnership with Italy and Chile, on the 5th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, the Climate Ambition Summit marked a major milestone on the road to the crucial UN climate conference COP26 in Glasgow next November.



75 leaders from all continents outlined new commitments at the Summit - a clear signal that the Paris Agreement - more than ever before the compass of international action - is working to steeply increase climate action and ambition.

In his address, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, highlighted Ethiopia's ambitions of a carbon-neutral and resilient economy by 2030 that takes a whole-of-economy approach that protects people and nature.



“Ethiopia has taken bold leadership on climate action by launching its ambitious Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy that aspires to build a carbon-neutral and resilient economy by 2030.”

“As part of our commitment to the Paris Agreement, we have also launched our 15-year ambitious National Adaptation Plan, aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the country to the adverse impacts of climate change. This plan has identified eighteen adaptation options across the most vulnerable sectors, including agriculture, forestry, health, and transport.”

“We have also recently intensified our commitment in the fight against climate change by launching our flagship Green Legacy Initiative, aimed at planting 20 billion seedlings within four years. During the last two years, we have managed to plant more than 9 billion seedlings. Next year, my government is working to extend the Green Legacy Initiative into neighboring countries,” the Prime minister said.

The Prime Minister concluded by reiterating Ethiopia’s unwavering commitment in the global fight against climate change and called upon all parties to enhance their ambition and scale-up their climate finance support for developing countries.

Dr Sileshi takes part in UK-Africa Renewable Energy Ministerial Symposium

The UK’s Department for International Trade (DIT) on 3rd December 2020, hosted the first ever UK-Africa Renewable Energy Ministerial Symposium to deepen UK-Africa collaboration in the renewable energy sector.

Bringing together British and African leaders, the symposium created a platform to exchange best practices, align objectives, and explore bilateral opportunities in the renewable energy industry.

The virtual symposium brought together several energy ministers, international energy companies, investors and financiers across Africa along with the UK Minister for Exports Graham Stuart MP. Ethiopia’s Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Dr Sileshi Bekele, took part.

Attended by over 300 participants across Africa, with attendees hailing from regulatory bodies, key private sector players and UK companies, the event was received as a great opportunity for collaboration and exploration of the larger opportunities in the sector.

Her Majesty’s Deputy Trade Commissioner for Africa, Alastair Long, opened the event and laid out the agenda which included a country prospect overview from Ministers across Africa, three panel discussions and two presentations.

Giving an opening remark at the symposium, the UK Minister for Exports Graham Stuart welcomed all the participants and highlighted the UK’s collaboration with Africa in the renewable energy industry.

While addressing the ministerial panel, Dr. Sileshi Bekele highlighted Ethiopia’s renewable energy potential and projects that are currently under construction to be completed within five years.

The Minister said that the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and Koysa Hydroelectric Dam have the combined capacity to generate 10,000MW electric power upon completion.

The minister also explained that Ethiopia will increase its power generation capacity to 20,000MW in the coming 10 years.

60% of the Ethiopia’s population currently have no access to energy. This has created major bottlenecks for sustainable development and growth within the country, the Minister said.

The National Electrification Program of Ethiopia plans to incorporate both grid and off grid solutions to provide equitable access to all citizens by 2025, Dr. Sileshi said, adding that it was of paramount importance to have partners like the UK to bridge the financing and technology gaps experienced within the sector.

The reforms underway in the energy sector aim at providing a conducive environment for private sector involvement in the energy sector, especially in power generation, Dr. Sileshi concluded.

GERD to Start First Round Of Power Generation in 2021

In November, Dr Sileshi also took part in a special panel discussion hosted by University College London (UCL) on the acceleration of renewable energy development to meet universal energy access and security objectives in Ethiopia and East Africa.

In the discussion, Dr Sileshi provided a stocktake of what Ethiopia has been doing over the past decade in renewable energy development to drive its social and economic transformation, and what the country plans to do in the coming 10 years.

Minister Bekele's talk also reflected on the critical challenges that countries such as Ethiopia face in meeting their objectives, especially in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his lecture Dr. Sileshi touched upon the major strides Ethiopia is making in the field of renewable energy generation for universal energy access which can be taken as important learning's for other countries.

Dr. Sileshi also talked about the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which is currently under construction and when completed will ensure clean energy to all Ethiopian citizens. He said the GERD will start its first round of power generation in June 2021.

Dr. Sileshi added that Ethiopia's intention to not only produce power for internal consumption but also to work with neighbouring countries on an East Africa Power Pool that will provide power for all of East Africa.

The discussion was followed by a response from Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO of Sustainable Energy for All, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy on how SEforAll would make concrete contributions to supporting country efforts, as we look for inspiring ways to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ambassador briefs UK government officials, MPs, media and stakeholders on the situation in Ethiopia

Since the beginning of the law enforcement operation in the Tigray Region, Ambassador Teferi has briefed various government officials, parliamentarians, diplomats and other stakeholders, on the situation on the ground in Ethiopia, assuring them of the Ethiopian governments commitment to safeguarding civilians. The Ambassador has also appeared on interviews, including the BBC.

In November, Ambassador Teferi and the Embassy's Head of Political Affairs, Ms. Fortuna Dibaco, held a virtual courtesy call with the Labour Party Member of Parliament for Cardiff South and Penarth and Shadow Minister for Africa, Stephen Doughty MP.

Their discussions covered the Ethiopian Government's ongoing law enforcement operations in the Tigray region, the progress of tripartite talks over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and the COVID-19 pandemic.

On his part, the Ambassador provided the Shadow Africa Minister with a comprehensive briefing on the genesis of the operations against the TPLF while assuring of the Government's continuing commitment to safeguarding civilians in the Region.

On GERD negotiations, the Ambassador explained the lengths Ethiopia has gone and continues to go to for the sake of trust-building, affirming the fact that it has never been in its interest to cause significant harm on Sudan or Egypt.

He emphasised Ethiopia's commitment to the successful conclusion of the African Union led process, the ideal platform for the three countries to constructively debate and reach consensus on the outstanding issues around the GERD.

Finally, the Ambassador called upon the Shadow Africa Minister to encourage a better understanding of these issue among Labour colleagues and to strengthen support for the AU-led process.

On 6th November, Ambassador Teferi held an introductory meeting with members of the Africa Programme at Chatham House and was briefed

about the Institute’s ongoing research on Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.

The Ambassador took the opportunity to brief the Africa Programme Director, Dr Alex Vines OBE, on current developments in Ethiopia, emphasising the responsibility of the Government to defend the constitutional order and guarantee the peace and security of its citizens.

He assured Dr Vines that the Embassy stood ready to expand its engagements with the Institute and to lend its support to their research output going forward.

On 16th November, Ambassador Teferi held a courtesy call with the High Commissioner of Kenya, H.E. Manoah Esipisu MBS and exchanged views on key issues of mutual interest, including trade and investment, as well as regional issues, and how to enhance them. They also committed to collaborating, going forward, in order to strengthen Ethio-Kenyan bilateral ties.

In their discussions, Ambassador Teferi briefed the High Commissioner on the current situation in Ethiopia and the government’s ongoing law enforcement operations in Tigray, while High Commissioner Esipisu, on his part, assured the Ambassador that “Ethiopia can rely on Kenya to support its national endeavours” and that Kenya is supportive of the government’s measures to ensure a stable and peaceful region.

On 18th November, the Ambassador held discussions with the UK Africa Minister, James Duddridge MP, where he briefed him on the law enforcement measures taken in the Tigray region.



While appreciating the Minister’s concerns about the ongoing humanitarian situation, the Ambassador emphasised that the Government was working to provide vital humanitarian assistance to affected civilians, alongside its operations to restore peace and security in the Region.

The Ambassador also confirmed that the Government is coordinating with the concerned United Nations agencies in liberated areas to ensure humanitarian access and to facilitate the return of displaced people. He urged the UK to stand beside Ethiopia in its efforts to defend the constitutional order and to uphold the rule of law.

On 10th December, Ambassador Teferi gave a briefing to MPs and Peers at the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union, which is chaired by former Africa Minister, Harriet Baldwin MP. Similarly, on 15th December, another briefing was given to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Africa, chaired by Chi Onwurah MP and organised in conjunction with the Royal Africa Society.

In both briefings, the Ambassador outlined the Government’s efforts and actions over the last two years to “keep the peace and avert this costly confrontation” in Tigray.

“In my government’s view the people of Tigray deserve their share in the fruits of Ethiopia’s current transition. Ethiopians yearn to cast away the dreary days of authoritarian rule and division in favour of a future made vibrant by multi-party democracy and a nation united in its diversity.”

“By safeguarding our own democratic transition and ensuring the continuation of our political, socio-economic and judicial reforms, Ethiopia will continue to serve as a bulwark to the transitions in neighbouring Sudan and South Sudan as well as to the fragile state-building and democratisation taking place in Somalia,” the Ambassador said.



The Ambassador's Diary

A brief summary of some of the Ambassador's engagements with UK stakeholders

4th November - Ambassador Teferi met Dr. Stephen Walker from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and was briefed on some of the activities the School is engaged in with stakeholders from Ethiopia on skin health.

The Ambassador thanked the School for its ongoing assistance and affirmed the Embassy's support in strengthening the partnership going forward.

5th November - Ambassador Teferi held a virtual meeting with Professor Matthew Baylis on the University of Liverpool's ongoing partnership with Addis Ababa and Jimma Universities on the One Health Regional Network in the Horn of Africa (HORN) Programme, which focuses on enhancing capacity building in human and animal health.

Ambassador Teferi thanked Prof. Baylis for the commendable work they have been doing in Ethiopia, home to one of Africa's largest livestock, and assured Liverpool University of the Embassy's

full support when its current funding from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) comes under review in 2021.

6th November - Ambassador Teferi met Professors of Chemistry from the University of Nottingham, Sir Martyn Poliakoff, and Robert Mokaya.



Discussions focused on strengthening collaborations between the University and Ethiopia

in capacity building, knowledge exchange, training, and research, especially in Green Chemistry.

10th November - Ambassador Teferi met with the Oxford International Biomedical Ventures (OIBV) team, led by Dr. Charles Pasternak, who briefed the Ambassador on their pharmaceutical project that will help countries in Africa get access to low-cost medication. The project will also help countries in capacity building, knowledge transfer and training.

Ambassador Teferi on his part highlighted the various investment opportunities available in Ethiopia in the pharmaceutical sector, and assured the team of his full support should they consider establishing a centre in Ethiopia.

Also on 10th November, the Ambassador met with representatives of the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, led by Chief Executive Officer, Kate Hampton. CIFF is the largest foundation focused on children in the world and has been working in Ethiopia for over a decade.

The CIFF team briefed the Ambassador on their funding of vital health and water projects in Ethiopia, including their "water for life" programme, which aims to provide 2 million Ethiopians with access to safe water and sanitation.

Ambassador Teferi, on his part, thanked CIFF and their partners for the important contribution they were making to the people of Ethiopia and urged them to further contribute to strengthening the foundations of Africa's future growth.

13th November - Ambassador Teferi held an introductory virtual meeting with officials and partners of THET.

The Ambassador was briefed by the team, which included partners from the University of Southampton, on THET's work and priorities in Ethiopia, which include training of healthcare workers, knowledge and technical transfer, and health partnerships between Ethiopian and the UK institutions.

The team also sought the Ambassador's advice with regards to registering THET's office in Ethiopia and for the Embassy to connect them with members of the Ethiopian Diaspora in the UK who study / work in the health sector.

The Ambassador on his part thanked THET for their ongoing support and work in Ethiopia, which dates back to 20 years, and assured them of the Embassy's full support on their future engagements.

17th November - Embassy staff, led by Ambassador Teferi Melesse, join Ethiopians at home and abroad, in honouring the National Defense Forces.



The day was commemorated to honour and pay our respects to all the brave, courageous, and selfless men and women of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, who are risking their lives on behalf of our country and citizens.

18th November - On the eve of the Booker Prize Ambassador Teferi held a courtesy call with Ethio-American Author, Maaza Mengiste.

On the occasion, Ambassador Teferi congratulated Maaza on making the prestigious 2020 Booker Prize shortlist with her acclaimed second novel, *The Shadow King*.

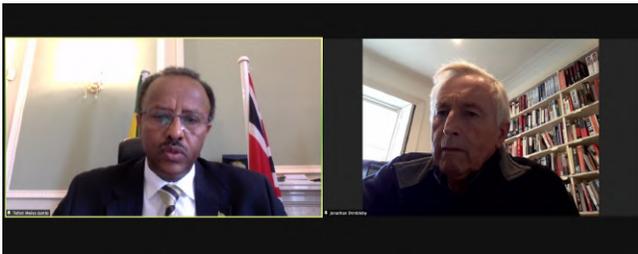


The two also exchanged views on Ethiopian history and the novel itself, which is set in 1935 during Italy's invasion of Ethiopia, and vowed to work together going forward in cultural promotion.

Wishing her the best of luck ahead of the Booker Prize announcement, the ambassador welcomed the opportunity to welcome her to the UK once COVID restrictions have eased.

The 2020 Booker Prize was awarded to Douglas Stuart for his debut novel *Shuggie Bain*.

25th November - Ambassador Teferi held a courtesy call with renowned British broadcaster, Jonathan Dimbleby, where they exchanged views on the current situation in Ethiopia.



Noting that 2023 will mark 50 years since his first visit to Ethiopia - a country "engraved" in his heart - Mr. Dimbleby said he looks forward to visiting the country soon.

27th November – Ambassador Teferi spoke with the directors of BBC Monitoring to seek an explanation on their social post earlier that week that misrepresented the current situation in Ethiopia. The post, which had misquoted Prime Minister Abiy, was deleted four hours later after the BBC realized their mistake.

After explaining how the situation transpired, BBC Monitoring expressed how distraught they were at the failures in the processes associated with the post. They also unreservedly apologised to the Government and people of Ethiopia for their actions and reassured the Ambassador that measures have now been put in place to avoid this happening in the future.

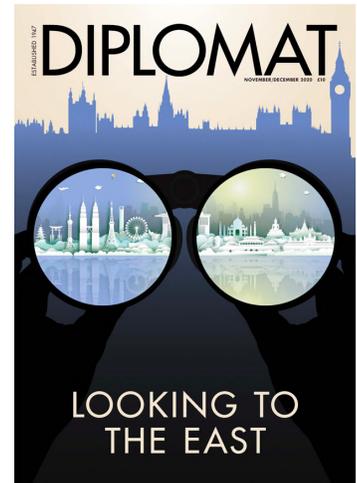
Given the sensitivity surrounding disinformation at this time in Ethiopia, the Embassy strongly urge the media and the public to exercise caution before falling victim to merchants of fake news and clickbait.

On the occasion, Ambassador Teferi requested a formal apology on behalf of the people of Ethiopia.

Ambassador Teferi featured in DIPLOMAT Magazine

Ambassador Teferi is featured in the November/December 2020 issue of London's DIPLOMAT Magazine.

In an interview with the editor, Venetia van Kuffeler, the Ambassador discussed his career in diplomacy and his thoughts on relations with the United Kingdom.



Ambassador Teferi revealed that the most memorable date of his career was "the day he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The second, he noted, was when he learnt he would be assigned to London as Ambassador!

Although it's his first trip to London, the Ambassador said that "This is a great honour. I'm looking forward to being productive and closely working with my colleagues and stakeholders."

Our embassy was the first African embassy in London!... [Ethio-UK] relations are deep, cordial and excellent... [I want] to encourage UK companies and businesspeople to invest in Ethiopia, because Ethiopia can offer them an unmatched opportunity.

Ambassador Teferi arrived in London in September with his wife and two sons.

Read the full article via our website at: <http://bit.ly/AmbTeferi-DIPLOMATMag>.

Embassy hosts webinar on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

On 24th November, the Embassy hosted a high-level webinar on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) tripartite negotiation process, with keynote addresses from members of Ethiopia's GERD negotiation team, Dr Yohannes Daniel and Ms. Lemlem Fisseha. The webinar was jointly hosted in close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ethiopian Embassies in Stockholm and Dublin.



Titled *"The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam: A Briefing on the Tripartite Negotiation Process"*, the webinar was organized to give a general overview relating to Ethiopia's perspectives on the management of transboundary watercourses and in particular to shed light on the ongoing negotiation process on the GERD.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is Ethiopia's flagship project. Built in its own territory, with its own finance while respecting the basic international tenets of equitable and reasonable utilization, the causing of no significant harm as well as the principle of cooperation.

Though the GERD has inspired a decade of unprecedented negotiations among Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt, no agreement has yet been reached to overturn the unjust status quo in the Basin, as championed by some downstream states.

Despite the fact that the GERD is and has always been a national project, Ethiopia, in the spirit of cooperation and good faith, going beyond its obligations under international law, invited downstream countries to review and assess the design documents of the GERD. Furthermore, it later welcomed negotiations as a route to

formulating the guidelines and rules for the first filling and annual operation of the Dam. Yet, further proof of Ethiopia's commitment to cooperation and dialogue in seeking a win-win outcome on the GERD for all countries.

However, agreement has yet to be achieved. Why? What issues remain? What is the way forward? These questions, amongst others, are what the speakers sought to clarify for during the course of this webinar.

The webinar was moderated by Ambassador Teferi Melesse who concluded the webinar by outlining Ethiopia's ambitions and principled positions. Academicians, scholars, government officials and think tanks attended the webinar.

The full recording is available on our YouTube page at: <http://bit.ly/GERDWebinarNov2020>.

#RisingEthiopia campaign launched to promote Ethiopia's potential

On 30th December, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia launched a two-month-long social media campaign - #RisingEthiopia - aimed at promoting the good qualities of Ethiopia, its investment potential and showcase Ethiopia as an emerging tourism destination.



On the occasion, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Tsion Telku described the campaign as timely and underscored its significance in changing the current negative narrative on social media.

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Ambassador Teferi, on his part, emphasized the importance of the campaign in enhancing Ethiopia's image in the international arena and further called on the Diaspora to actively participate in the campaign.

Key themes will anchor the campaign in different phases, including Tourism, Culture, Diaspora Business, Investment, and flagship projects and charities.

The first phase of the campaign which will run until 24th January, will showcase Ethiopia's Tourism potential and attractions.

The final phase of the campaign, dubbed Ethiopia Giving Week, will mobilize the public to raise funds for flagship projects, including the Renaissance Dam and charity causes.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be running the campaign in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the Ethiopian Embassy in London, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Tourism Ethiopia, Ethiopian Investment Commission, concerned individuals, all Ethiopians, and media outlets.

For further information, visit the official social media page for the campaign, **@RisingEthiopia**.

FESTIVE SEASON APPEAL

The Ethiopian Taskforce UK in collaboration with the Ethiopian Embassy in London launched a fundraising campaign on 21st December 2020 in order to support those who have been displaced and affected by the recent conflicts in Ethiopia.

The three-week campaign will conclude with a virtual get together on Sunday 10th January 2021 from 3pm - 7pm. Details will be provided nearer to the event date.

Donations can be made via GoFundMe or via Bank Transfer.

GoFundMe: <http://bit.ly/FestiveAppeal-EEUK>

Account Name: **Embassy of Ethiopia**

Bank Name: **Lloyds Bank**

Account No: **43178968**

Sort Code: **30-65-41**

Reference: **Rehabilitation Fund**

For information, please contact 07931938147 | 07852633710 | 07739704378.

Promotional videos of the campaign can be found on our Facebook page: http://bit.ly/FestiveAppeal_EN

Tigray Situation Update

...Investigation reveals evidence that scores of civilians were killed in massacre in Tigray state: Amnesty International

An Amnesty International investigation revealed that "scores, and likely hundreds", of civilians, were stabbed or hacked to death in Mai-Kadra town in the South West Zone of Ethiopia's Tigray Region on the night of 9th November.

"We have confirmed the massacre of a very large number of civilians, who appear to have been day labourers in no way involved in the ongoing military offensive. This is a horrific tragedy whose true extent only time will tell," said Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International's Director for East and Southern Africa.

Witnesses who spoke to Amnesty International said forces loyal to the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) were responsible for the mass killings, apparently after they suffered defeat from the federal EDF forces...survivors of the massacre said they were attacked by members of Tigray Special Police Force and other TPLF members.

...Government condemns atrocities committed by TPLF in Maikadra

"The findings by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission on the grave human rights violations perpetrated by TPLF forces in Maikadra are heart-wrenching. The report is a confirmation of the earlier report by Amnesty International on the same incident," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

"The world has once again witnessed the atrocious crimes Ethiopia has to endure meted out by the TPLF criminal clique."

As reported by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, these are "grave human rights violations which may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes."

"We call upon the international community to condemn these atrocious acts of crimes against humanity and its perpetrators in no uncertain terms. The Government will spare no effort in bringing the perpetrators to justice."

Work to #RebuildTigray has commenced with teams on the ground undertaking repair work on damaged infrastructure to restore essential services. Our humanitarian assistance efforts will also continue strengthened to attend to the vulnerable. We will restore, rebuild and develop.

~Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

...Humanitarian assistance in Tigray

A high-level committee to oversee humanitarian assistance in the Tigray region, led by the Ministry of Peace, was established since the beginning of the law enforcement operation. The committee was set up to coordinate all national and partner efforts in the mobilisation and delivery of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities directly affected by the law enforcement operation.

Following field technical assessments made by the committee, initial dispatch of food and non-food items were made to areas within the Tigray region that were under Federal command.

By mid-November 2020, an initial round of humanitarian relief items, including medical items, were sent to Dansha, Welkait, Kafta/Humera, and Debarq areas.

On 8th December, 44 trucks carrying 18,200 quintals of food aid dispatched by the Federal Government reached the town of Shire for distribution to other parts of the region. The dispatch also included 4 trucks carrying 5,500 quintals of food to Alamata. Similarly, 30 trucks carrying 12,500 quintals of food supplies have reached Mekelle, with an additional 7000 quintals of wheat flour dispatched to Mekelle. 3 trucks of medical supplies have also reached the city of Mekelle for distribution. 7 trucks of medical supplies to Shire and Adigrat towns have also been dispatched.

In coordination with federal Ethiopian authorities, a convoy of 18 trucks delivered nearly 250 metric tons of corn soya blend, grains, pulses and vegetable oil to local humanitarian partners for distribution to 13,000 Eritrean refugees in Mai Ayni camp, on 28th December. Another nearly 240 metric tons of food were delivered to Adi Harush refugee camp to support 12,170 refugees there. The supplies were distributed by the UN World Food Programme (WFP), UNHCR, and Ethiopia's Agency for Refugees and Returnee Affairs (ARRA).

...Government takes its responsibility to citizen safety and well-being seriously

On 29th November, the Federal Government signed an agreement with the United Nations that outlines collaboration for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Agreement for an *Enhanced Coordination Mechanism for Humanitarian Access in Ethiopia's Tigray Region* sets out the coordination mechanism's specific objectives and scope, its guiding principles, central commitments, and coordination arrangements, and its major stakeholders and their respective roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities.

The agreement signed with the United Nations recognises that the Government of Ethiopia at federal and regional levels has "primary responsibility for meeting assessed and potential humanitarian needs in the country" and that the delivery of assistance lies within a coordination framework under the Federal government's overall authority.

It also recognizes that "given the likelihood that UN and other humanitarian organizations will be delivering assistance in insecure environment, the Government of Ethiopia will be responsible for ensuring the safety and security of staff of UN agencies and humanitarian partners."

Suggestions that humanitarian assistance is impeded due to active military combat, in several cities and surrounding areas within the Tigray region, is untrue and undermines the critical work undertaken by the National Defence Forces to stabilize the region from the attacks waged by the belligerent clique. Sporadic gunfire exchanged with the retreating remnants of the militia and efforts to apprehend the criminal clique on the flee, need not be misconstrued as active conflict. However, as the Federal government is responsible for ensuring that humanitarian support and actors are protected while operating in an insecure environment, access will be coordinated in consultation with the Federal government as stipulated in the agreement.

The Federal government takes its responsibility to citizen safety and well-being seriously and is committed to ensuring that vulnerable communities in the Tigray region are provided the necessary humanitarian assistance. Reports to the contrary are results of a misinformation campaign by those that are bent on undermining the Federal government.

...Government urges humanitarian workers to follow security guidelines

Following reports of a shooting incident of UN staff who travelled to an unauthorized area, the Ministry of Peace issued a statement to set the record straight.

“On 6th December 2020, a convoy carrying UN staff without authorized travel permits, ignored the repeated warning and pleas of security officials, in breach of the agreement between the Government and the UN on humanitarian access. Law enforcement personnel had to stop the vehicle and escort the UN staff to a place of safety.”

“As per the Agreement, it is important that all humanitarian workers follow the security guidelines set out by the Government of Ethiopia.”

“The Government takes its obligation to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian workers and supplies seriously. We wish to once again remind all humanitarian workers to respect the agreed safety protocols and follow the advice of the law enforcement personnel. While the government recognizes the need by international humanitarian organizations to urgently get aid supplies across the Tigray region, it maintains a position that proper authorization is required from federal authorities.”

“The Ethiopian Government reaffirms its readiness to work closely with the United Nations pursuant to the Agreement concluded on 29 November 2020. The people and Government of Ethiopia are grateful for the critical assistance provided to our vulnerable citizens in this time of need.”

...Senior UN Officials briefed on latest Developments in Tigray

On 15th December, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Demeke Mekonnen, briefed senior UN officials on the latest developments in the Tigray region.

Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Vera Songwe, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia, Catherine Sozi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the AU, Hanna Tetteh, and Special Envoy

of the UN Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa, Parfait Onanga attended the briefing.

DPM Demeke informed them the interim administration in Tigray had started discharging its responsibilities in re-establishing the bureaucratic structure, conversing with the community, and facilitating the restoration of basic services to the people in the region.

He said a major part of the law enforcement operation is now over and what remains is the police work of apprehending the fugitives. The main focus of the government now is on rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure, he added.



Regarding the humanitarian issues in the region, DPM Demeke underscored Ethiopia’s firm commitment to address concerns about internally displaced people, Ethiopian refugees in Sudan, and Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia.

He expressed hope that the humanitarian situation will significantly improve soon with the stabilization of the peace and security of the region coupled with the ongoing restoration and rehabilitation works.

He also assured them that the government is closely studying the concerns raised about Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia in order to provide appropriate response.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UN officials said the Secretary-General believes that Ethiopia is an anchor of peace in the region and that stability in Ethiopia means stability for the Horn of Africa.

...PM Abiy visits Mekelle

On 13th December, Prime Minister Abiy travelled to Mekelle where he met with commanders of the National Defence Force and the cabinet of the Interim Administration of Tigray.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed stated that the National Defence Force has completed the offensive as per the set plan and extended his appreciation to the army for its role in the law enforcement operation.

The Prime Minister also stressed need to speed up the operation underway to bring the culprits to justice and return to routine development works.

...Tigray Provisional Administration Cabinet takes office

The Cabinet of the Provisional Administration of Tigray took office on 13th December.

Briefing the media on 12th December, Dr. Mulu Nega, Chief Executive of the Provisional Administration of Tigray urged government employees to return to work.



The government, in collaboration with partners, has been undertaking activities to restore services in all public institutions and private business organizations in the region, Dr. Mulu noted.

He said the provisional administration is exerting efforts to ensure that all service rendering organizations are open to the public and residents return to their daily activities safely.

Most of towns of Tigray including Mekelle city have returned to normalcy, said Dr. Mulu calling all business entities to start operation.

He also urged any armed individuals in the region to disarm and handover their weapons to nearby office of government security bodies.

...Restoration of telecom, electricity, banking services

Following destruction to infrastructure by the criminal clique's militia, which resulted in a communications and electricity blackout in the Tigray region, the relevant Federal stakeholders have been on the ground repairing the heavy damages sustained.

As of 12th December 2020, Ethio telecom has restored mobile services in Mekelle and Maiyechew, in addition to Dansha, Humera, Maikadra, Turkan, Maystsebri, Korem, and Alamata.

As of 13th December 2020, Ethiopian Electric Power has restored electricity to Mekelle city and its vicinity. Power has also been restored in the north-eastern part of Ethiopia, specifically Metema, Humera, and Welkayit.

Both service providers continue to undertake repair work to enable unhindered service provision in the region.

As of 28th December, banking services have resumed in Mekelle city following successful coordinated efforts carried out by the city administration and the people of the region.

...Flights to Mekelle resumed

Ethiopian Airlines has resumed flights to Mekelle city after weeks of suspension due to law enforcement operation.

Ethiopian resumed flight on 15th December to the capital city of Tigray following the successful accomplishment of the operation.

Ethiopian airplane landed in Mekelle Alula Aba Nega International Airport carrying passengers from Addis Ababa. Flights will continue twice a day to the city.

Covid-19 Situation Update

...cases surge past 120,000

As of 31st December, Ethiopia has reported 124,264 cases with 112,096 recoveries and 1,923 fatalities.

So far, 1,800,236 tests have been conducted.

Ethiopia is the fifth-highest case country in Africa after South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt.

...More donations sent to Ethiopia from the UK

In response to the call for Ethiopian nationals to support in the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in Ethiopia, 50 medical oxygen concentrators were donated in November by the Ethiopian Community of Bristol and Bath in the United Kingdom; Ethiopian Medical Doctors Association in the United Kingdom (EMDAUK) and the Ethio-American Doctors Group, Inc. (EADG Healthcare).



The donations were received by the Ministry of Health and were to be distributed to hospitals and clinics.

It is also hoped that the devices will continue to benefit patients once the Coronavirus crisis is over.

...Ethiopia reaffirms commitment to COVID-19 global response

The United Nations General Assembly hosted a landmark two-day virtual Special Session in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on 3rd December. This was the first-ever special session to address a pandemic and provided a platform for world leaders, UN officials and experts to discuss key aspects of COVID-19, including vaccines as a global public good and socio-economic recovery.

In his remarks, H.E. Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, underscored the need for global solidarity to effectively respond to the unprecedented crisis and reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment in this regard.



He further noted the encouraging progress in the development of the COVID vaccine and expressed Ethiopia's full support for the COVAX initiative.

DPM Demeke also indicated that Ethiopia subscribes to the growing international consensus that the vaccine should be indeed a global public good — accessible and affordable to everyone, everywhere.

He recalled that Africa has been urging G20 countries to provide an effective economic stimulus package that includes relief and deferred payments underlining the pandemic's detrimental economic effects.

...Ethiopian Pharma Wing ready to distribute COVID-19 vaccine

Ethiopian Airlines announced the readiness of its Pharma Wing to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine across Africa and the rest of the world.

The Airline was instrumental in facilitating the flow of medical supplies, including PPEs, across the globe in support of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic by deploying its state-of-the-art cargo terminal, which is the largest in Africa.

Ethiopian Group CEO Tewolde Gebremariam said:

“Ethiopian Pharma Wing will repeat its remarkable and globally recognized success in leading the fast delivery of PPE few months ago with similar delivery speed, professional handling and maintaining the cool chain during the forthcoming global distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccine.”

“We are the major cargo partners of WHO and WFP donor governments and philanthropists in facilitating the flow of essential medical supplies owing to our massive cargo facility including our Pharma Wing, our large, dedicated freighter fleet and well-trained manpower,” the CEO added.



It is to be recalled that Ethiopian demonstrated remarkable agility in its response to the increased cargo demand in the wake of the pandemic by reconfiguring around 25 passenger aircraft into freighters using its own internal MRO capabilities besides deploying all its 12 dedicated cargo aircraft.

WFP made Addis Ababa cargo terminal a distribution hub for all humanitarian aids considering the industry standard resources and capabilities of Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services and the super-efficient service delivery demonstrated during the distribution of medical supplies provided by different donors including Jack Ma Foundation, WHO, among others.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, Ethiopian operated over 360 charter flights to transport PPE's over 100 countries across five continents.

...THET receives funds for COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Project in Jimma and Gondar

The Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) - a British specialist global health organisation that educates, trains, and supports health workers through partnerships, strengthening health systems and enabling people in low and middle-income countries to access essential healthcare - has received a substantial grant of £44,000 from Global Giving, which will be used to help hospitals and health centres in Gondar and Jimma respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The **“COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Project”** will be launched in January 2021. Initially expert trainers in Jimma and Gondar will be trained in emergency preparedness with a special focus on managing the disease in patients who also have co-existing conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure – known and important risk factors for COVID-19.

Subsequently the trainers will cascade their skills to primary care hospitals and health professionals based in health facilities in rural areas.

The funds will also support a pilot project to provide consultations for rural patients using mobile phones. This will particularly focus on those patients who live far away from health centres or hospitals and cannot afford to access appropriate health care and treatment.

#STAYATHOME:

THINGS TO DO

With parts of the UK now under Tier 4 restrictions, we have come up with some ideas to keep you busy and make the most of the 'stay at home' order... from cooking to virtual marathons and new books, we have you covered.

Keep fit at home



Staying at home is the best way to stop Coronavirus spreading and keeping your physical and mental fitness levels up has never been more important!

Great Ethiopian Run virtual 10k

The 20th edition of the Great Ethiopian Run is set to take place in Addis Ababa on 10th January 2021.



File photo

However, due to challenges of international travel caused by COVID-19 as well as limits to the number of people who can take part, the Great Ethiopian Run will also be offering international participants the chance to take part in the run virtually.

The deadline for registering is Wednesday 6th January 2021. All finishers will receive a race t-shirt and race medal sent directly to their home.

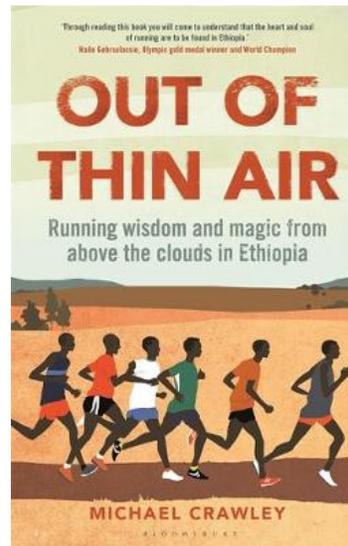
For further information, visit the event website at www.ethiopianrun.org/en/international or contact Richard Nerurkar richard@ethiopianrun.org.

Read a new book



Reading is on the top of many people's lists, as we look into more productive ways to spend time at home. Reading has many benefits and has been proven to help reduce stress and boost wellbeing.

Out Of Thin Air: Running Wisdom and Magic from Above the Clouds in Ethiopia



If you cannot take part in the Great Ethiopian Virtual Run, you can at least read about running!

Since Abebe Bikila's heroic barefoot victory in the marathon at the Rome Olympics in 1960 – the first gold medal won by a sub-Saharan African – running has been part of the Ethiopian psyche and a huge

source of national pride. In spite of this the Western world knows very little about the lives of those for whom 'running is life.' High performance sport is increasingly about measuring, calculating limits, and disenchantment. In Ethiopia, though, runners believe that mysterious, incalculable forces have a huge part to play in their success.

Michael Crawley spent fifteen months in Ethiopia training alongside (and sometimes a fair way behind) runners at all levels of the sport, from night watchmen hoping to change their lives to world

class marathon runners, in order to answer these questions.

By immersing himself in the culture of Ethiopian running, learning Amharic and following in the footsteps of runners as they zig zag through the high-altitude forests of Addis Ababa, Bekoji and Gondar, Michael Crawley has written the beautiful *Out of Thin Air* taking you on a search for 'special' air, on midnight runs through the city, and into encounters with hyenas and witchcraft.



'Through reading this book you will come to understand that the heart and soul of running are to be found in Ethiopia. I welcome everyone to experience the Ethiopian love of running'

Haile Gebrselassie, 2x Olympic champion and 27-time world record-breaker

Why does it make sense to Ethiopian runners to get up at 3am to run up and down a hill? Who would choose to train on almost impossibly steep and rocky terrain, in hyena territory? And how come Ethiopian men hold six of the top ten fastest marathon times ever? Follow Michael on his journey into the forest as he attempts to keep up and get to the heart of their success.

Michael Crawley is a 2.20 marathon runner who has competed internationally for Scotland and Great Britain. He is Assistant Professor in Social Anthropology at Durham University. *Out of Thin Air* is his first book and can be purchased on: [Amazon](#), [Bloomsbury](#) and [Waterstones](#).

Cook Ethiopian



Cooking is wonderfully therapeutic. Take your culinary prowess up a level by learning how to cook Ethiopian food. Not only is Ethiopian food delicious, it is also unique!

In her stunning debut e-cookbook, Helen Mebrate (@ethiopianfoodie) shares a fully plant-based and gluten-free selection of Ethiopian recipes. The eBook, *Ethiopian Home Cooking: Quick and Easy Homemade Vegan Recipes*, covers the full range of Ethiopian dishes to help you create the perfect vegan beyaynetu (a mix of vegan dishes) served on a plate of injera



There are recipes for injera, Shiro Tegabino (roasted chickpea flour stew), Firfir be'Gomen (torn injera soaked in a tomato and kale sauce), Ye'Metbesha miser (red lentil stew), and much more.

To celebrate the launch of her eBook, Helen has shared one of her recipes from the book. For more information about the book, visit www.ethiopianfoodie.co.uk.

Ye'Duba Wot

Oven roasted squash stew

Serves: 4



This recipe is Helen's take on a traditional squash wot, locally known as Duba Wot. Traditionally, the squash is cooked in the sauce until it is fork tender.

For this recipe, Helen roasted the squash in the oven first and only added it at the rest of the dish at the end. The texture as well as the taste is slightly different.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of diced onion
- 2 tablespoons of salt & pepper
- 1/4 cup of vegetable oil + 1/4 cup of olive oil
- 2 tablespoons of garlic & ginger paste
- 1 tablespoon of tomato paste
- 3 tablespoons of berbere
- A sprig of fresh rosemary & thyme each
- 1 cup of diced cherry or plum tomatoes
- 1 small sized squash peeled and diced
- 2 - 3 cups of water

Optional:

- Tikur qimmem, Abish, Korerima, Mekelesha
- Qibbeh

Note: The squash can easily be substituted with sweet potatoes or even cauliflower.

Method:

Season the diced squash with salt, pepper, and olive oil. Roast for 20 minutes in a 180C pre-heated oven.

To a medium sized pot, add diced onions, salt & oil and cook until onions are browned. Add the garlic & ginger paste, followed by the tomato paste and cook for 5 minutes.

Add the berbere, all or any of the optional spices except mekelesha and cook for 20 minutes stirring frequently. Add a splash of water to prevent sticking and allow the flavour to develop.

Add the fresh thyme & rosemary leaves, the diced or cherry tomatoes, and cook for an additional 5 minutes.

Add mekelesha, a tablespoon of qibbeh, the roasted squash, and toss gently until all the pieces are covered in the sauce. Lower the heat and finish cooking the squash until it is fork tender without adding any water. This will allow the flavours to penetrate the squash. Stir frequently and gently to avoid burning.

Serve with injera or any other flat bread or grain of your choice.

LOCAL NEWS

President Sahle-Work among Forbes 100 Most Powerful Women'



President Sahle-Work Zewde is in Forbes list of the 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' of 2020.

At number 96, President Sahle-Work is the only African to be included in Forbes' annual list and is

noted for being Ethiopia's first female president and the only serving female head of state in Africa.

In October 2018, Sahle-Work Zewde became Ethiopia's first woman president and the only serving female head of state in Africa...In her first address to parliament, Zewde promised to be a voice for women and stressed the importance of unity.

A seasoned diplomat and veteran of the United Nations, President Zewde was appointed with a unanimous vote by parliament, after being nominated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

In her first address to parliament, she promised to be a voice for women and stressed the importance of unity.

The appointment joins a series of unprecedented shifts as part of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's reforms focused on easing government control.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel retained the top spot for the tenth consecutive year, followed by Christine Lagarde, head of the European Central Bank in second place and Kamala Harris, Vice President-elect of the United States in third place. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-reigning monarch in British history ranks 46th.

2021 Elections to be held in June



The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) announced that the national elections will be held on 5th June 2021.

While outlining the schedule of activities for the polls, the Board disclosed that 45,000 polling stations across the country are expected to be opened in January and that training of poll workers will take place throughout February.

Voter registration will take place between 1st – 30th March 2021 and the final results will be announced between 6th – 28th June 2021, the Board announced.

The elections were postponed from 29th August 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

...Discussions held with Political Parties and Civil Society Organizations

On 2nd December, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed held discussions with political parties and civil society organizations in the presence of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE), to discuss the upcoming elections.

The discussions are preceded by a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders and an overview of electoral systems.

The highly anticipated and historic election which will be held following the reform of critical democratic institutions is noted as the most consequential election in its demonstration of Ethiopia's democratization journey initiated in 2018.

Participants of the discussion raised a number of issues including:

- not rushing to elections without putting the necessary foundations in place
- creating an enabling environment
- ensuring the primacy of rule of law preceding the elections

- placement of an election code of conduct for stakeholders including election observers
- stocktaking of legitimate political parties
- engagement of political parties according to the 'rules of the game'

...local CSOs invited to observe upcoming elections

The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) has invited local CSOs to submit their interest to the board to observe the upcoming general elections.

NEBE said the invitation to CSOs took into consideration that their participation would significantly contribute towards making the sixth general elections free, fair and transparent.

The board said local CSOs who meet the requirements specified under observers' code of conduct can submit their interest within 15 working days starting from 11th December.

Ethiopia Officially Takes Over ETRSS-1 From China

On 4th December, Ethiopia officially took over its Remote Sensing Satellite-1 (ETRSS-1) from China. An official handover ceremony took place in the presence of Ethiopian Ambassador to China, H.E. Teshome Toga and Chinese Ecology and Environment Vice Minister, Liu Hua.

At the ceremony, held under the auspices of China Academy of Space Technology in Beijing, Ambassador Teshome said Ethiopia is grateful to the government of China for relentlessly supporting the country's aspirations to see a better future with the utilization of advanced technology.

The Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment of China Mr. Liu on his part commended Chinese and Ethiopian professionals for their efforts to see the satellite project succeed and meet its objectives.

ETRSS-1 contributes a lot in gathering data and supporting studies conducted by Ethiopians on climate change, agriculture, forest and water resources and other related issues.

Ethiopia launched its first satellite into space on 20th December 2019.

Construction of Africa CDC begins

The ground-breaking and unveiling ceremony to launch the beginning of the construction work of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Headquarters Building Project (Phase I) was held on 14th December in Addis Ababa.



The event took place in the presence of representatives from the AU Commission, the Government of China, and the Government of Ethiopia.

Dr Lia Tadesse, Ethiopia's minister of health, thanked the African Union and China for seeing the project off, adding that the Africa CDC is an important institution that strengthens Africa's capacity to build resilient health systems for a healthier and stronger Africa.

The landmark project, covering an area of 90,000 square meters and with a total construction area of nearly 40,000 square meters, is expected to be completed within 25 months.

When completed the building will include an emergency operation centre, a data centre, laboratory, resource centre, briefing rooms, training centre, conference centre, offices, and expatriate apartments, all to be constructed, furnished and equipped by the Government of China.

The headquarters building is expected to become one of the best-equipped centres for disease control in Africa, allowing Africa CDC to play its role as the technical institution coordinating disease prevention, surveillance and control in the continent in partnership with the national public health institutes and ministries of health of Member States.

The future headquarters of the Africa CDC will be another landmark avenue to Ethiopia's capital, which also hosts the AU headquarters.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Ethiopia fastest-growing economy in Africa despite COVID-19

According to data compiled by Bloomberg, African economies outperformed the rest of the world during the coronavirus pandemic. Seven of the world's ten fastest-growing economies are in Africa, with Ethiopia taking the top spot.

“Africa has held off the Covid-19 assault better than many developing regions. The coronavirus had receded by mid-November in some of the continent's largest countries — South Africa, Nigeria and Ethiopia — to their lowest levels since April or May, according to data compiled by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.”

“In contrast, Mexico earlier this month became the fourth country to exceed 100,000 confirmed Covid-19 deaths behind the U.S. (257,929), Brazil (169,485) and India (134,218) amid a recent global virus resurgence.”

“The economies of Ethiopia, Uganda, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Ghana, Rwanda and Kenya withstood the economic impact of the pandemic so successfully that they were among the world's 10 fastest-growing in 2020.”

“At least five of them are expected to remain in that elite growth club through 2022, according to forecasts by economists compiled by Bloomberg during the past three months. Two years ago, Africa included only three of the best performers and in 2015 it had four.”

“The global pandemic is everyone's problem. It's proving to be a profit opportunity in Africa.”

Seven Out of Ten

World's fastest-growing economies in 2020, year-over-year percentage growth

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Bangladesh	6.0%	6.1%	6.6%	7.1%	7.3%	7.9%	8.2%	5.0%
Ethiopia	9.9	10.3	10.4	8.0	10.2	7.7	9.0	3.0
Vietnam	5.4	6.0	6.7	6.2	6.8	7.1	7.0	3.0
China	7.8	7.4	7.0	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.1	2.1
Uganda	3.9	5.7	6.8	0.4	7.3	6.1	6.7	2.1
Ivory Coast	9.3	8.8	8.8	7.2	7.4	6.8	6.5	2.0
Egypt	3.3	2.9	4.4	4.4	4.1	5.3	5.6	1.9
Ghana	7.2	2.9	2.2	3.5	8.1	6.3	6.1	1.3
Rwanda	4.7	7.3	8.9	6.1	4.0	8.6	10.0	1.3
Kenya	5.9	5.4	5.7	5.9	4.8	6.3	5.6	1.0

Source: Bloomberg

All 2020 data and 2019 figures for Vietnam and Rwanda are projections.

Enhancing Ethio-Scottish links through trade, investment and partnerships



DOING BUSINESS IN ETHIOPIA

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE, INVESTMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR SCOTLAND

For centuries, Ethiopia and the UK have enjoyed close economic, diplomatic and cultural relations. With Scotland in particular, Ethiopia shares a unique historical attachment through the 18th-century expeditions of James Bruce, the renowned explorer and writer. Bruce explored the Blue Nile Basin and, in February 1770, reached Gondar, then the capital of Ethiopia, where he lived for some years.

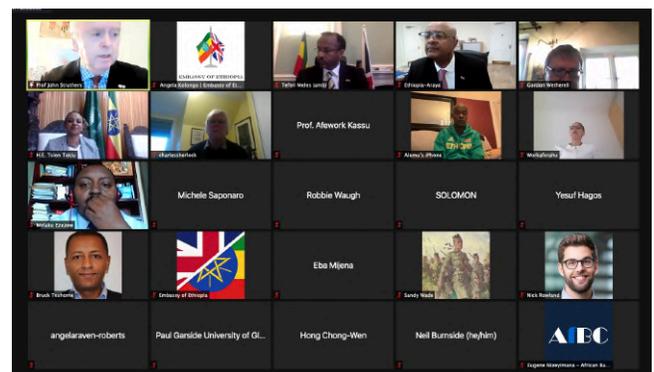
These relations have provided an important foundation for the Embassy to host the first of its kind webinar on 10th December 2020, in conjunction with the Honorary Consul for Ethiopia in Scotland.

Titled, *Doing Business in Ethiopia: Opportunities for trade, investment and partnerships for Scotland*, the webinar included a range of panellists and delegates - from government officials, to chambers of commerce, to universities, associations and private businesses – and aimed to showcase the various opportunities that Ethiopia offers for the Scottish market, and the support available.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Ambassador Teferi Melesse, highlighted the ambitious economic roadmap of economic and educational reform that Ethiopia has embarked on over the last two and a half years, which are aimed at energising private sector growth, attracting greater FDI and stimulating the country's nascent knowledge economy.

“Scottish investors can look forward to the prospect of investing in a country that even in the era of the Pandemic, has continued to register growth at a rate that most countries would only dream of.”

“In fact, I am pleased to report that, in 2020, Ethiopia has once again beaten the odds, emerging as the fastest growing economy in Africa and the second fastest in the world,” the Ambassador said.



The Ambassador concluded by reaffirming the Embassy's and Honorary Consul's guidance and support for those who wish to invest and partner with Ethiopia.

The State Minister for Economic Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ms Tsion Teklu, said, that Ethiopia has

deepened reforms with a view to improve ease of doing business in the country and that numerous opportunities are available for the Scottish business community to invest in priority sectors such as leather and leather products, textiles and garments, horticulture, construction and infrastructure development, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, tourism, as well as power generation.

H.E. Ambassador Mesganu, State Minister at the Ministry of Trade and Industry noted that the webinar was an important forum to enhance economic relations between Ethiopia and Scotland.

“Ethiopia is currently undertaking deep political and economic reforms to encourage more trade and investment to the country, so it’s the right time to engage with Ethiopia...The government is committed to improving the ease of doing business in Ethiopia in order to attract foreign direct investment.”

The State Minister concluded by calling upon the private sector in Scotland to increase their investment in Ethiopia and assured of the Ministry’s full support in doing so.

...Ethio-UK trade on the rise

Trade between Ethiopia and the UK has been steadily growing over the last few years. Also among the distinguished keynote speakers was the newly-appointed British Prime Minister’s Trade Envoy for Ethiopia, The Rt Hon Lord Bates, who noted that Ethiopia was one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

Lord Bates said that **in the first quarter of 2020, the total value of trade of goods and services between UK and Ethiopia was £1.2 billion – a 59.2% increase compared to the previous year. Exports increased by 50%. Imports from Ethiopia increased by 73.4%.**

“This demonstrates that this is a fast-growing economy but also a very important trading partner for the United Kingdom,” Lord Bates said.

Lord Bates also announced that the **British government will be doubling the amount of UK Export Finance available to UK companies doing business in Ethiopia from £1 billion to £2 billion.** He concluded by announcing that the UK-Africa Investment Summit will take place virtually on 20th January 2020, which will provide another opportunity to enhance Ethio-UK partnership.

The webinar was divided into three sessions which explored opportunities for trade and investment in Ethiopia, practical advice and support for investors and exporters, and finally partnerships in science and higher education.

The webinar also presented opportunities for Scottish counterparts to highlight the range of sectors in which Scotland excels, and which would align with Ethiopia’s ambitions, such as renewable energy, education, oil and gas, and agriculture.

At the conclusion of the webinar, Professor John Struthers, Ethiopia’s Honorary Consul in Scotland said:

“This very constructive webinar today raised awareness of the tremendous opportunities in Ethiopia for trade, investment and partnerships between Scottish companies, chambers of commerce, and universities. There are so many complementary areas of economic interest between the two countries including oil and gas, energy, construction, textiles, and of course food and drink. I look forward to helping these collaborations to flourish.”

The full recording of the webinar is available at: <http://bit.ly/Ethio-Scottish-Investment>.

‘Ethiopia is OPEN for BUSINESS!’

Ethiopian avocados successfully exported to UK

"Huge export potential for Ethiopian produce"

Durabilis – an international impact investment company, and the owner of fresh produce importer FairFruit in Belgium – announced the successful arrival of trial Hass avocado exports from Ethiopia. The first container arrived in the UK on 20th September 2020, followed by a second shipment on 5th October 2020.

The vast majority of the GlobalGAP-certified fruit has been sold to two leading importers who mainly serve UK retailers. Trial volumes have been offered to customers in Belgium and the Netherlands also. Separately, two trial airfreight shipments have been received positively in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.



Evert Wulfrank, CEO of Durabilis, said:

“Considering the agricultural potential of Ethiopia, this successful test with avocados creates a whole new perspective for a series of Ethiopian products that qualify for export to Europe. The 750km refrigerated railway connection from Modjo Dry Port in Ethiopia to the Port of Djibouti means exporting Ethiopian produce by sea freight has become a real option.”

“The train offers a regular, reliable service lasting 30 hours, compared with two-to-three days by truck. Overall, the transit time from Ethiopia to Europe is now less than 30 days approximately, and there is the potential to reduce that to 24 days in the future.”

Wulfrank added, “This is important for buyers that are looking for new and competitive sources of fresh fruits and veggies, and who, so far, have disregarded Ethiopia as a feasible option because the country lacked sea freight connections. We are looking for more avocado buyers in the UK, Europe and the Middle East because our projected production volumes will grow substantially, and we will have a range of sizes.”

Ethiopia has considerable agricultural potential thanks to its fertile soils, a temperate climate, competitive labour costs, and plenty of available water within the Koga region (south of Bahir Dar) where Durabilis is working with smallholder growers in conjunction with its local subsidiary Koga Veg Agricultural Development.

Jan Michielsen, General Manager of Koga Veg in Ethiopia (owned by Durabilis), said: “At this stage, our primary focus is to establish a commercially-viable business model, sourcing from smallholder avocado growers and supplying their fruit to the international market via a reliable logistics link. Already, these growers have adopted environmentally-friendly production methods that meet the quality requirements for the ready-to-eat sector in Europe, for which they receive a fair price. In the future, we’d like to invest further in more sustainable methods, efficient water usage, and, ultimately, in organic-certified production.”

The first of the two refrigerated containers carrying Ethiopian Hass avocados left Koga Veg’s packhouse on 21st August 2020, travelling by train from Modjo Dry Port to the Port of Djibouti before reefer shipment to Italy, and onto the UK by truck. Both loads contained 22.4 tonnes.

Ethiopia a very important business partner: Pittards

Ambassador Teferi and the Business Diplomacy Department recently held a virtual meeting with the CEO of Pittards Plc, Mr Reg Hankey, who briefed the Ambassador on their work in Ethiopia.

Ambassador Teferi and Mr Hankey exchanged views on issues of mutual interest including Ethiopia's investment climate, how to expand Pittards' footprint in Ethiopia, and how they can add value to Ethiopia's leather industry.

“Ethiopia is a very important business partner...Opportunity for Africa exists, and Ethiopia has massive advantages... [Pittards] is totally committed and optimistic about Ethiopia.”

~ Reg Hankey, CEO, Pittards UK

Pittards is a British company that make finished leather goods and has operated its tannery in Ethiopia since 2005, which processes both hides and skins in the manufacture of leather for gloves (including premium sports gloves), footwear and footwear linings.



Leather glove manufacturing at Pittards Ethiopia

The majority of its products are shipped overseas to the manufacturing facilities of worldwide brands, making it the leading leather exporter in Ethiopia – but is also an important local supplier.

Introducing ABOL Coffee - Superior Ethiopian Coffee Bags

On 15th November, the Business Diplomacy Department met with Kedist Shambel, founder of ABOL Coffee Company - an Ethiopian Coffee brand based in London.

Discussions focused on branding, promoting Ethiopian coffee and coffee culture in the UK, sourcing single-origin coffee direct from smallholder farmers in Ethiopia, and how to increase the import of Ethiopian Coffee in the UK.



Kedist presents her coffee to the Head of Business Diplomacy, Mr. Araya Kidane.

Introducing her brand, Kedist said she founded Abol Coffee Company to help raise awareness of premium Ethiopian coffee and give it the acclaim it so richly deserves so that more people can enjoy it.

Speaking to the Embassy, Kedist said, “Abol Coffee grew from a bright idea while visiting a place with no cafetières, filters or brewing equipment. We had brought our delicious Ethiopian coffee with us but had no way to make it!”

With a mission to make it easy for people to enjoy coffee, Abol Coffee Company uses coffee bags, similar to tea bags. All you need to do is just add hot water and stir. No need for a cafetière!

“In Ethiopia, we celebrate the quality of our beans with a coffee ceremony held three times a day. It's a great social event where family and friends gather to witness the beans being prepared to be served as fresh coffee. The first cup of the ceremony is called Abol. It's the strongest of the three, bursting with flavour,” said Kedist.



“Abol is the ideal cup you yearn for in the morning. It’s bold and rich with a heady aroma. It’s the coffee we have lovingly put in our coffee bags for you to enjoy,” Kedist added.

Abol Coffee is currently available as a single origin Sidamo. Next year, they will launch their second coffee, Yirgacheffe, and plan to expand to UK supermarkets. For more information, visit www.abolcoffeeco.com.

Embassy hosts webinar on the future of Ethiopian coffee in the UK

On 19th November, the Embassy, in collaboration with ETHIOCOFFEE Importers & Distributors, co-hosted a webinar on Ethiopian coffee in the UK and ways to increase its market share.

Panellists of the webinar included various stakeholders in the coffee industry from Ethiopia and the UK, with keynote addresses from H.E. Ambassador Teferi Melesse, Dr Adugna Debela (Director General of the Ethiopian Coffee & Tea Authority), Mr José Sette (Executive Director of the International Coffee Organization), and Mr Gizat Worku (General Manager, Ethiopian Coffee Exporters Association).

The first session of the webinar focused on importing coffee into the UK, how to alleviate barriers importers face and how to add value to the supply chain. While the second session focused on sustainability and discussed how stakeholders in Ethiopia can continue to add value for an increase in market share in the UK and what support they needed, and how best to promote Ethiopian coffee in the UK.

Full coverage of the webinar is available via our YouTube page at: <https://youtu.be/KJQThhp0qnl>.

Request for proposals for two new telecom licences launched

The Ethiopian Communication Authority (ECA) has launched a request for proposals to award two new telecom licences in the country. The move is part of Government’s effort to open the telecom market and award two nationwide full-service telecom licenses through a competitive bidding process.

ECA launched the request for proposals targeting world-class telecom operators to become the new license holders within Ethiopia’s rapidly growing economy.

The Proposal will remain open for a period of three months allowing more telecom operators to participate in the bidding process. ECA plans to award two telecom licenses by April 2021 in order to expand reliable and accessible communications for all Ethiopians.

\$770 million earned from export in first quarter

According to the Ministry of Finance, Ethiopia earned \$769.9 million from export during the first quarter of this Ethiopian fiscal year – a \$46.9 million increase compared to the same period last fiscal year.

Presenting a three-month performance report to Parliament, the State Minister of Finance, Dr Eyob Tekalign, said the export performance in particular and the country’s economy in general have registered growth during the past two consecutive fiscal years.

The economy has been registering double-digit growth over the past few years, and it achieved 6.1% growth in 2019/20 fiscal year, despite COVID-19.

The ongoing Homegrown Economic Reform and fiscal policy adjustment significantly contributed to the growth in this regard, Dr Eyob said, adding that the reform program has created enabling environment for tax revenue collection improvement and the reviving of export revenues.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM



Addis Ababa among Condé Nast's 'Best Places to Go in 2021'

Ethiopia's vibrant capital, Addis Ababa, is among Condé Nast's exclusive list of best places to go in 2021.

"After a year marked by grounded planes, closed borders, and mandatory quarantines, it felt key to have a 2021 list that is equal parts realistic and inspirational," the editors wrote.

"Ethiopia's profile has risen in recent years. The introduction of an e-visa in late 2017, which made it easier to visit, boosted tourism by 48.6 percent, while Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed caught the world's attention when he was awarded the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. But even as visitors flocked to Ethiopia's nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites, its historic capital city remained a mere stopover. Green spaces in the city were non-existent and outdoor activities sparse—until now."

"A multifaceted museum complex, Unity Park, opened in October 2019, stretching across 40 acres of the former 19th-century Imperial Palace grounds. Visitors can now walk alongside vibrant murals framing native plant and sculpture gardens

and explore cultural pavilions showcasing Ethiopia's nine regions. The "Faces in the Shade" exhibit provides a deeper look at the country's history and details the Red Terror era, during which the communist Derg regime overthrew Ethiopia's monarchy. And at Entoto Park, a ground-breaking new eco-recreational and wellness space set amid 3,200-acre eucalyptus tree forests, just a 20-minute drive north of the city, activities include hiking, biking, horseback riding, archery, paintball, go kart, and Ethiopia's first zip line. Spend the night at the new Kuriftu Resorts, located inside the park, where you can glamp under a star-filled sky."

"Visiting Addis Ababa also means passing through the world's first contactless terminal at Bole International Airport, designed with an eye toward biosafety, and exploring Ethiopia's rich Muslim heritage at Bilal Habashi Community Museum, which opened in May. The city's momentum is set to continue, with additional parks under way."

**"For the first time in decades,
Addis Ababa is living up to its
name: New Flower."**

Ethiopian Airlines receive Airbus award for Agility and Resilience During the global COVID-19 Pandemic

Ethiopian Airlines Group, the largest Aviation Group in Africa, received an award from Airbus, the largest aircraft manufacturer, for the unique agility and resilience it displayed amid the global COVID-19 crisis.



Receiving the award, Mr. Tewelde Gebremariam, Ethiopian Group CEO said, “We at Ethiopian are immensely delighted that one of the top companies in the world, Airbus, has recognized the efforts of the management and employees of Ethiopian Airlines unique agility and resilience amid the COVID 19 global crisis.”

“We were there when the world needed us most. I would like to express my gratitude to the over 17 Thousand hardworking Ethiopian employees and management team.”

Mr. Hadi Akoum, Airbus Vice President, Sales Africa and Levant Customer Affairs on his part said, “This is to express the admiration of Airbus executive management and Airbus whole employees for the unbelievable achievement of Ethiopian Airlines in this unprecedented epidemic.”

“While other airlines were just trying to figure out what to do, Ethiopia Airlines was aggressively pressing ahead finding solution, creating solution converting their passenger aircraft to freighters. Ethiopian Airlines is the first one to do it on Airbus A350 and continue to fly and create even new business. This is something unique all over the world.”

“Today, Ethiopian Airlines is able to maintain the operation of all fleet where others are at 10% of their capability, and many airlines have just simply gone bankrupt and people have lost their jobs. This has been done because of the visionary leadership, Mr. Tewelde Gebremariam. Ethiopian Airlines today is showing the example to the whole world in resilience and visionary thinking of the leadership. Thank you very much, it is a real admiration that we express at Airbus for your leadership and for Ethiopian Airlines Employees,” Mr. Akoum added.

Ethiopian Airlines is the first global airline that converted A350 passenger aircraft to cargo to transport the much-needed medical supplies to combat the spread of COVID 19. The Airline is now operating 16 A350 aircraft in its network.

...Ethiopian Airlines celebrates two years of Manchester to Addis Ababa

11th December 2020 marked two years since Ethiopian Airlines launched its service to Manchester Airport. Manchester is Ethiopian Airline’s second UK destination, connecting the north of England to over 60 destinations across Africa. The Ethiopian route has unlocked a huge number of African destinations for passengers from Manchester, via its Addis Ababa hub, including Kenya, Zanzibar and Seychelles.

SPORTS

Great Ethiopian Run to take place in January; COVID-19 precautions in place

Great Ethiopian Run race organisers have announced plans to stage the 20th edition of the race on the new date of Sunday 10th January 2021, eight weeks later than originally planned.

The delay was enforced by the global COVID-19 pandemic, but organisers are now confident that they will be able to stage the race employing a raft of measures protecting participants from the virus. To date there have been just 1,923 deaths in Ethiopia directly attributed to COVID-19.

Participant numbers for the race have been limited to just 12,500, almost 30,000 fewer than the number that completed the race in November 2019. The participant limit follows a directive given by Ethiopia's Ministry of Health that total participant numbers should not exceed 25% of projected maximum capacity.

Participants around the world will also be able to take part in a virtual 10km run - many charity runners who normally come to Ethiopia to participate in the race are expected to join the run virtually.

The race will employ a wave start with the waves setting off in 15-minute intervals. Each wave will be segregated into smaller groups of runners to allow for social distancing by participants as they line up before the start. The wearing of masks will also be mandatory at the start and after participants exit from the finish. Temperature checks will also be carried out as participants arrive at Meskel Square.

For further information and to register, contact Richard Nerurkar on richard@ethiopianrun.org or visit www.ethiopianrun.org/en/international.

Tirunesh Dibaba voted "The Greatest"

Ethiopia's distance-running queen, Tirunesh Dibaba, has been voted "The Greatest" by Athletics Weekly readers.

Dibaba has enjoyed a number of highlights during what has been a distinguished distance running career. "The

Ethiopian, who possesses one of the silkiest running styles and deadliest kicks in history (and subsequent biggest smiles), won three Olympic golds and nine world titles."

In terms of track world titles, Dibaba won the 5000m and 10,000m double in 2007 with respective last laps of 58.2 and 58.4, as well as winning the 10,000m title in both 2007 and 2013 and the 2017 10,000m silver. Between 2005 and 2012, she won 12 successive races over 25 laps.



Derartu Tulu elected President of Ethiopian Athletics Federation

Africa's first female Olympic gold medalist, Derartu Tulu, has been elected as the president of Ethiopian Athletics Federation and will lead it for the next four years. She has been serving as vice-president for the past two years.

In 1992 Derartu Tulu became the first black African woman to win Olympic gold, pulling off a spectacular victory to triumph in the 10,000m final at the Barcelona Games. She since had a stunningly successful Olympic career - 10,000m gold in 1992, the same again at Sydney 2000, and a bronze at Athens 2004. In a strong field, she remains one of the most popular athletes in Ethiopia's history.

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