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Ethiopia: Hailemariam Visited Omo Kuraz I and II

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn visited 2 sugar projects in Ethiopia. The Premier visited Omo Kuraz I and Omo Kuraz II sugar factories and farming activities around them.

(21.12.2016 - WIC)

During his visit, Hailemariam said the factories will commence production shortly. He also noted the need to

benefit pastoralists and farmers. The country shall also benefit from animal rearing and farming by using sugar by-products, he furthered.

The Prime Minister also extended his invitation to investors to engage in agriculture, particularly in vegetable and fruit processing. He also recommended for the investors to engage in the development of hot-

weather resistant crop species.

Ethiopian Sugar Corporation's Chief Executive Office, Endawok Abte, on his part said the construction of both sugar factories reached more 90 percent completion rate.

When the 2 factories go operational, they would produce 12,000 quintals of sugar by crushing the same amount per day.

Sika Abyssinia Opened Ethiopia's First Concrete Admixture Plant

Approximately one year after its national subsidiary was founded in Ethiopia, Sika is opening the first concrete admixture production plant in the country. Sika is the first-ever international company to manufacture its products locally, and the move creates a base from which to build up business activities in the growth market, which has a total population of approximately 100 million.

(21.12.2016 - WIC)

Paul Schuler, Regional Manager EMEA: "The new factory in Ethiopia is part of the systematic implementation of our Africa strategy. We are playing a pioneering role in setting up local production, and this will bring us significant competitive advantages. Customers will benefit from local product formulations that are perfectly adapted to the raw materials and local requirements, as well as from shorter delivery times. This step creates a foundation for further growth in this promising market."

By establishing its factory in Addis Ababa Sika is positioning itself in a megacity. Ethiopia is the second biggest economy in sub-Saharan Africa in population terms, and the fourth biggest in terms of economic output. One of the factors benefiting the construction sector is the government's Growth and Transformation Plan. According to forecasts, construction is set to grow by approximately 11% annually in the period up to 2025 and thus more strongly than other countries in the sub-Saharan region.

Ethiopia to Have a Second Paper Factory

Ismael Toure Business PLC along with other shareholders is going to set up a new factory dubbed Pure Wood Pulp Paper and Packing PLC, which will manufacture pulp, paper and packaging materials. The factory is going to be in Dukem Eastern Industry Zone and it is the second of its kind in Ethiopia.

(21.12.2016 - WIC)

The shareholders of the new manufacturing company are Ismael, foreign investors from China and Ethiopian diaspora investors. The factory is said to have a production capacity of 32,000 tons of paper per annum.

The factory is going to be set up on an area of 68 hectares and it is expected to create job opportunities for 700 individuals.

The construction of the factory is scheduled to be finalized in 11 months time. Once the factory starts manufacturing its products, it will join Ethiopian Pulp Paper Packaging PLC in the sector.

Ismael Toure is said to have been in the Ethiopian business for the last 3 decades.

Ethiopia bids to become wind capital of Africa

After a decade of rapid growth, Ethiopia's bubble is not bursting.

(21.12.2016 - WIC)

Dubbed the 'African Lion' by economists, Ethiopia is the home of booming industry, new infrastructure, and showpiece summits. It has become a powerful force in the region and beyond.

To maintain this golden age, the East African state is pressing ahead with ambitious development plans, and renewable energy is core to the mission.

Ethiopia was among the most daring signatories to the Paris Agreement on climate change, committing to cut carbon emissions by 64% by 2030. The government has ploughed billions of dollars into hydropower megaprojects such as the Grand Renaissance Dam -- which will be the largest dam in Africa -- and the freshly-inaugurated Gibe III Dam.

The next target is to become the wind power capital of Africa.

Ethiopia inaugurated one of the continent's largest wind farms in 2013 -- the \$290 million, 120-megawatt (MW) Ashedoga plant. This was followed by the even larger 153 MW Adama II facility in 2015.

But wind accounted for just 324 MW of Ethiopia's total output of 4,180 MW at the end of 2015, with the vast majority coming from hydropower.

This picture is set to change with the government's second "Growth and Transformation Plan," which will see total output pass 17,000 MW by 2020, and a vastly increased share from the air.

The government has plans for at least five further wind farms, and potentially many more, aiming to deliver up to 5,200 megawatts from wind power within four years. The cost is officially calculated at

\$3.1 billion, although other estimates place it over \$6 billion.

"We are conducting research and studying the data to see the number of plants we can connect (to the National Grid)," says Misikir Negash, head of communications for the Ethiopian Electric Power company. "It is important to have different energy sources for a reliable system. Wind is a big focus and we need it."

The target of increasing wind output by more than 1,000 percent within four years has been greeted with skepticism in some quarters, but there are reasons to believe.

"The government has already taken on far bigger projects," says Zekarias Amsalu, director of Ethiopia Operations at market research group Asoko Insight, referencing the \$6 billion Grand Renaissance Dam project. "I don't doubt it can be achieved."

Amsalu says that three factors are driving Ethiopia's shift to wind; the devastating droughts that have diminished the value of hydropower energy, the falling cost of wind power technology, and growing evidence that Ethiopia is blessed with ideal sites for harvesting wind.

The government has enlisted the Danish Energy Agency (DEA) as a partner, the Danish government agency that serves as one-stop shop for large-scale wind projects across the world, and special advisor Henrik Breum agrees that Ethiopia has vast potential.

"Their capacity should enable them to be a dominant wind nation in the region," he says. "They have very good winds in

the dry season which is normally when you would like to top up electricity production...From a wind perspective this is one of the most promising countries in the continent."

"We have different departments working towards parallel goals," Misikir says. "We have a program to provide 90 percent of people with (electricity) access within five years."

Wind power is also expected to deliver wider benefits for struggling communities through training and job opportunities around the new sites.

Further, the plants are likely to strengthen Ethiopia's position in the region through trade. The country is already an

exporter of energy to neighbors such as Sudan and Kenya, and wind power will offer new options.

"They can use wind to feed their local grid and export from their hydropower resources," says Amsalu. "Most of these are on the border so they are (ideal) for exports and gaining foreign currency."

Ethiopia's partners are hoping that the successful adoption of wind will drive a wider trend in the region.

"I think Ethiopia can be a very good showcase for renewables," says Breum. "Hopefully this can show neighboring countries that low carbon development of the power sector is possible."(CNN)

Ministry undertakes development schemes over 2 billion ETB

The Federal Affairs and Pastoralists Development Ministry said it is undertaking developmental projects in 113 woredas where pastoralists dwell by allocating over 2 billion 98 million ETB.

(21.12.2016 - WIC)

Pastoralist Society Project Head with the Ministry, Seid Omer, told WIC that 113 woredas in Afar, Solamali, Oromiya and SNNP regional states are identified in the third phase of the developmental projects for implementation.

He noted that supporting the pastoralists in health, education, small scale irrigation and trade are among the focus areas of the project that need priority in this regard.

The Ministry has targeted to implement 1,078 different projects in the identified woredas. 50 percent of the work is expected to be finalized until January 2017.

Seid added that the pastoralists are expected to contribute 5 percent of the project cost so as to strengthen sense of ownership in the projects.

Despite the fact that the ministry has targeted to undertake 763 projects last year, 615 projects are accomplished and have started delivering services to the pastoralist society.

It was noted that over 6,000 developmental projects are being undertaken with 4 billion ETB from 2003 to 2018.

So far 4.5 million pastoralists have become beneficiaries at national level from a total of 10 million pastoralists, Walta learnt.

Ethiopia joins group of biodiversity-rich countries

Ethiopia has joined the group of world's top biodiversity-rich countries, Megadiversity Countries, during the UN Biodiversity Conference held in Cancun, Mexico.

(21.12.2016 - FBC)

The meeting was held last week under the theme, "Mainstreaming Biodiversity," said Dr Gemedo Dale, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change in a press conference he gave here

yesterday in connection with the conference.

The conference, which attracted ministers from around the world, passed 37 decisions which allow to integrate biodiversity in forestry, fisheries, agriculture, and tourism sectors, he indicated.

During the conference, Ethiopia showcased its best practice in the sector as well as the activities underway to improve the livelihood of the people by conserving natural

resource and restoring degraded lands, he said.

According to the Minister, the conference unanimously approved the application which Ethiopia had submitted in 2014 to join the Megadiversity Countries.

Dr Gemedo said benefits of being a member of Megadiversity Countries are financial and technical supports. The number of Megadiversity Countries has currently reached 19.

Ethiopia, Qatar vow to strengthen bilateral ties

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn received and held discussion with Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohamed Jasin Al Thani about further strengthening the bilateral ties of the two countries.

(21.12.2016 - FBC)

During the occasion, the two sides also exchanged ideas on regional, international and common interests.

According to Ethiopian Ambassador to Qatar Mesganu Arga who attended the discussion, the two countries have reached agreement to work together in rural investment and

infrastructural development.

They also agreed to work together in peace and security issues as well as stability in the Horn of Africa

Similarly, Prime Minister Hailemariam received a message from Senegalese President Macky Sall.

Senegalese Minister of Labour, Social Dialogue, Professional Organizations and Relations with Institutions, Mansour Sy said he came to deliver an invitation message from President Macky Sall to Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn to visit Senegal.

After the discussion, Mansour Sy told reporters that it was a friendly message to express the president's appreciation for the good relationship between Ethiopia and Senegal.

The message will also reinforce the bilateral relation between Ethiopia and Senegal and mobilize the private sector of the two sides in order to accompany the good political relationship to higher level, the minister added.

He stated that the premier was very receptive to the message.



Khartoum and Juba discuss oil agreement, joint cooperation

South Sudanese Petroleum Minister Ezekiel Lol Gatkouth Sunday arrived in Khartoum for talks with his Sudanese counterpart on the oil transit fees, as result of the collapse of oil prices.

(18.12.2016 - Sudan Tribune)

In August 2013, South Sudan agreed to pay to Khartoum \$9.10 for the oil produced in Upper Nile state and \$11 for that of Unity region. Also Juba agreed to pay the Transitional Financial Assistance (TFA) to the average of the agreed oil transportation fees.

Despite the rise in oil prices recently to over \$54

for the barrel, they remain far from the over 100 dollar per barrel when the two countries signed the oil deal in 2013.

Leading a delegation including officials from South Sudan central bank, finance and oil ministry, and the Nilepet, Gatkouth is expected to sign an new agreement Monday.

The official news agency SUNA reported that oil Minister Mohamed Zayed Awad held a meeting with the visiting minister to discuss the renewal of the oil agreement which will expire by the end of the year.

The visit comes after a meeting of joint technical

committees chaired by the undersecretaries of oil ministries in the two countries on the review of oil fees to cope with the falling oil prices.

Minister Awad said his ministry is willing to provide Juba with all the data related to oil blocks in South Sudan. Also, he reiterated readiness to train South Sudanese oil workers.

According to SUNA, Gatkouth called to strengthen joint cooperation as they plan to resume oil production in the Unity region outside Bentinu. He added that such cooperation will benefit to the two countries.



Djibouti : Appui de la croissance et création d'emplois

La Banque mondiale accorde un financement supplémentaire de 5,1 millions de Dollars US.

(18.12.2016 - La Nation)

La République de Djibouti a obtenu mercredi 14 décembre dernier l'approbation du Conseil des administrateurs de la Banque mondiale pour le déblocage d'un financement supplémentaire, d'un montant de 5,1 millions de dollars américains, destiné à appuyer ses efforts pour favoriser l'émergence d'un secteur privé dynamique qui puisse devenir un moteur de création d'emplois et de croissance au profit de tous.

Selon le communiqué officiel publié à cet effet par l'institution financière sur son site web, « ce nouveau financement, alloué par l'Association internationale de

développement (IDA) - le fonds de la Banque mondiale pour les pays les plus pauvres - a pour objectif de maintenir la dynamique des réformes engagées pour rendre plus favorable l'environnement des affaires et développer un secteur privé encore embryonnaire, en améliorant le secteur financier et le système de paiement. »

Toujours selon la Banque mondiale, ces ressources additionnelles permettront d'étendre la portée du Projet sur la gouvernance et le développement du secteur privé, qui a notamment déjà permis de mettre en place des mesures réglementaires pour faciliter la création d'entreprise. Dans ce cadre plus étendu, le projet s'attachera à créer les conditions nécessaires aux réformes réglementaires et juridiques, ainsi qu'à soutenir la modernisation

du secteur financier par le biais de l'instauration d'un système national de paiement.

Pour Atou Seck, représentant résident de la BM à Djibouti, « cette opération vient appuyer les efforts menés par le gouvernement de Djibouti pour jeter les bases d'une croissance tirée par le secteur privé et réduire des taux de chômage élevés, conformément à la stratégie de long terme adoptée par le pays dans le cadre de sa 'Vision 2035'. »

« Avec de bonnes réformes pour améliorer l'environnement des affaires, ce projet pourra être un catalyseur de changements dans le paysage économique djiboutien et contribuer considérablement à la lutte contre la pauvreté », a-t-il dit.

Il est par ailleurs précisé dans ce communiqué du Groupe de la Banque

mondiale, que « la mise en place d'un système national de paiement opérant favorisera le développement économique et financier du pays, consolidera sa stabilité financière et élargira l'accès aux services financiers, grâce à l'amélioration de la qualité et de la rentabilité de tous les types de paiement, y compris les

transferts d'argent en provenance des travailleurs émigrés. »

« L'amélioration du climat des affaires aidera les petites et les moyennes entreprises, qui sont les moteurs de la croissance, à quitter le secteur informel pour entrer dans l'économie officielle, ce qui facilitera leur accès aux financements et aux marchés publics », a

expliqué pour sa part Mehdi Benyaghoub, responsable du projet à la Banque mondiale.

Rappelons enfin que le portefeuille du Groupe de la Banque mondiale à Djibouti comprend actuellement 10 projets dans divers secteurs pour un engagement total de 97 millions de dollars (IDA et fonds fiduciaires confondus).