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Turkish economy minister to visit Ethiopia today

Turkish Economy Minister, Nihat Zeybekci and a delegation consisting of 100 high profile business people will begin a day long visit to Ethiopia today, according to officials.

(28.12.2016 - WIC)

Zeybekci's official visit is packed with high profile engagements.

The minister is scheduled to meet the Ethiopian President, Mulatu Teshome and Prime Minister, Haile Mariam Desalegn. He will also

hold bilateral meetings with the Ethiopian Foreign and Industry ministers, Werknehe Gebeyewu and Abetew Ahmed, respectively.

Spokesperson of the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tewelde Mulugeta, told the Turkish News Agency, Anadolu, that both countries enjoyed multifaceted relations.

"Both countries are determined to deepen bilateral relations, and the visit will boost trade, investment, and bilateral

ties," he added. "Turkey is widely respected for creating jobs and wealth in Ethiopia."

The trade volume between the two countries stood over 420 million USD in 2015. Turkey's exports to Ethiopia amount to 385 million USD while Ethiopia's exports were only 35.7 million USD.

The present visit is not the only high profile Turkish sitting officials to Ethiopia. President of the country has been to Ethiopia almost two years ago. (Anadolu)

Omo-Kuraz-Hana asphalt road inaugurated

The Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA) announced that the Omo-Kuraz-Hana asphalt road that links Omo-Kraz one and two sugar factories with Hana town got completed.

(28.12.2016 - WIC)

Authority's

Communication Director, Samson Wondimu, Told Walta Information Center that the 34.4 km long Kuraz-Hana road took two years for completion.

Eniye construction, a local construction firm, built

the road at a cost 651.1 million birr secured from the government, Samson said.

According to him, 22 km of the road, which extends from Omo-Kuraz one to Hana was previously gravel road while the rest 15 km is a new extension.

He said the road will enable the recently operational Omo-Kuraz one and two sugar factories easily reach out their products to the market.

Besides, cutting traveling time short and save expenses, the road will also connect Bench-maji and Omo zones and revamp the development of pastoralists in the area, he added.

The road project had also a vision from the beginning to link four sugar projects in the area and create communication among dwellers of Bench-maji and Omo zones.

Ethiopia: Nile Insurance Received New CEO

Melaku Sissay, Nile Insurance's CEO for the, resigned from his position that he held since last years. His resignation came a week after the company presented its performance report for its shareholders. The Insurer has also confirmed that the company's board of directors replaced Melaku by the claims manager, Hailu Mekonnen. The board's appointment has also been approved by the National Bank of Ethiopia.

(27.12.2016 - 2Merkato)

The report presented to the shareholder's reveals that the company made 20

million Birr in the last fiscal year. Nevertheless, in 2015 the insurance company made 50 million Birr. The Earnings per share has also decline to 119 Birr. The company's underwriting surplus declined by 25 percent to 56.5 million Birr.

The decline in performance, according to Fortune can be attributed to different factors.

Nile's written gross premiums from general and life insurance businesses increased by 17 percent and reached 433.3 million Birr. Out of this, 12 percent was ceded to reinsurers.

As a result retention rate increase to 89.4 percent

from 87.4 percent in 2015. This is considerably higher than the industry average.

Melaku was first appointed by Nile more than 10 years ago. Right before he was appointed as the CEO of the firm, he was Manager of the Internal Audit Department for more than nine years.

The newly appointed CEO joined Nile as a junior clerk 21 years ago, when the insurance company was established. Ever since then, he has served in different key positions of the insurance industry, including as the acting CEO of Tsehay Insurance in 2013.

Ethiopia: Oromia Insurance Paid 380,000 Birr for Drought Damages

Oromia Insurance Company SC (OIC) disclosed it had paid a total of 380,000 Birr as compensation for farmers. The claims by the farmers were made following the drought Ethiopia experienced last year as a consequence of El Nino phenomenon.

(27.12.2016 - 2Merkato)

The Insurer made the payment to 400 famers residing in 2 kebeles of

East Showa Zone; Kemo Gerbi and Desta Ajata. In the same way, OIC paid close to a million Birr to farmers covered by PAA and JICA projects.

According to Capital, OIC sold 44,479 policies of Weather Index Crop insurance (WICI) in the current year. These policies will cover staple crops such as Teff, Maize and wheat in both projects. OIC is currently

operating in 48 kebeles with regard to WICI.

The minimum premium for the policies is 100 Birr and there is no upper limit to it. The farmers decide how many policies they want to purchase depending on the size of their farmland and productivity of the season.

Ethiopia: Debu Global Bagged 52 Million Birr

Debu Global Bank S.C., one of the late entrants to the banking industry in Ethiopia, registered a 52 million Birr profit in the last fiscal year. The performance is a threefold compared to 2014/2015 fiscal year.

(27.12.2016 - 2Merkato)

The bank did not register profit in the first year of operation. However, in the next 2 years the bank made profits. Debu has

witnessed its income and foreign exchange dealings increasing significantly in the recent years. Earnings per share has also increased by 143 percent and reached 223 Birr.

Debu's president, Addisu Habba, explained the bank focused on 2 important matters to move the bank forward; efficiency in responding to operational shortcomings and

developing a long term strategic plan - to stay competitive in an ever changing banking industry.

In the past fiscal year, Debu also managed to increase its paid up capital to 177.2 million Birr from 127 million Birr. Nevertheless, this is 323 million Birr short of the minimum requirement the National Bank of Ethiopia has set for banks.

US Company Partners With Defense Construction Enterprises

A United States infrastructure development firm, Legendary MegaCorp, has partnered with the Ethiopian National Defense Construction Enterprise and Construction Materials Manufacturing Enterprise to establish a new share company that will engage in the production of modern construction materials with an initial investment of 10 million dollars.

(24.12.2016 - The Reporter)

In a joint press conference held yesterday at the Sheraton Addis, executives of the three companies told local reporters that the new share company dubbed Legendary Defense Products will produce and supply modern construction technologies to the local booming construction sector. 51 percent of the Legendary Defense Products is owned by the American side while the remaining 49 percent share is owned by the Defense Construction Enterprise

(DCE) and Defense Construction Materials Manufacturing Enterprise (DCMME).

The new share company plans to build construction materials manufacturing plants in Addis Ababa and regional towns. At the initial phase the company would build two production lines in the existing manufacturing facilities of the DCMPE.

Hector Reyes, founder and chairman of Legendary MegaCorp, said that his company decided to invest in Ethiopia as the country is one of the fastest growing economies in Africa. Reyes said that the construction technologies that the new company would introduce would save 20-30 percent project cost and 40 percent on construction time. He said that his company has researched and confirmed that the defense enterprises were the perfect local partner to introduce their new construction materials and methods to the greater Ethiopian market due to their high

level of expertise and credibility in the region.

Welday Berhe, general manager of DCE, told local journalists that his enterprise is engaged in construction of buildings and very challenging road construction projects. "We use conventional construction technologies and by partnering with Legendary MegaCorp we hope to have modern techniques and advanced materials to save time and budget while providing a superior product outcome to the end users of the facilities," Wolday said.

Mebratu Lemlem (Capt.), general manger of DMCE, expressed his firm belief that his enterprise would benefit from technology and knowledge transfer.

Reyes said that the new share company would supply modern construction materials to the vast housing development projects in Addis Ababa.

Legendary MegaCorp was created to facilitate holding company operations for several

privately held vertically integrated business units which leverage transformational technologies and advanced material sciences into profitable ventures and partnerships. The company is an international development firm specializing in the

financing, design, build and operation of medium to large scale infrastructure development projects within the public and private sector.

DCE and DCMME were re-established in 2010 by Council of Ministers as public enterprises under a

supervising authority, the Ministry of Defense. The authorized capital of both enterprises is 1.3 billion birr out of which 777,634,298 birr is paid up in cash and in kind. The annual turnover of the enterprises exceeds 2.2 billion birr.

Ethiopia Saves 2.6 Billion Birr Form Fertilizer Purchase

The Ethiopian Agricultural Business Corporation on Thursday announced that it saved 2.6 billion birr from fertilizer purchase for the 2017 harvest year.

(24.12.2016 - The Reporter)

Briefing local reporters in his office CEO of Ethiopian Agricultural Business Corporation, Kefyalew Berhnau, said that the corporation, which was established a year ago amalgamating five state enterprises, has purchased 936,430,000 tons of fertilizer at a cost of 290 million dollars (6.4 billion birr). Compared to last year's purchase the corporation saved 119 million dollars (2.6 billion birr). Kefyalew said the cost reduction was achieved by making amendments on the procurement procedure, increasing efficiency in procurement, bank procedures (letter of credit process) and bidding process.

Kefyalew said previously the government used to buy different fertilizers through agents. However, the Ethiopian Agricultural Business Corporation amended the bid document and allowed fertilizer manufacturers to directly participate in the bid. "This has enabled us to get better or lower prices. We also floated the tender early. We hired transporters through open bid that haul the fertilizer from ports to different parts of the country. So, by allowing producers to participate in the bid and increasing our efficiency we managed to save 119 million dollars. The fuel price decline has also contributed to the cost reduction," Kefyalew said.

According to Kefyalew farmers would get the fertilizer with lower prices this year. "Farmers would have 250-300 birr discount per quintal of fertilizer. This is a big amount," he said.

Kefyalew pointed out the need to cut down the long supply chain in the fertilizer market to secure the products at lower prices.

Eighty five percent of the Ethiopian 100 million population depend on farming. Last year the Ethiopian government purchased 852,400,000 tons of fertilizer valued at 385 million dollars. The price does not include transportation, bank and insurance costs.

This year the Ethiopian Agricultural Business Corporation would buy a total of 1.2 million tons of fertilizer at a cost of 400 million dollars (nine billion birr). The fertilizer demand is on average growing at a rate of 20 percent. Out of the total 1.2 million tons of fertilizer required this year 935,430 tons has been already purchased through an open international tender.

Urea (350,000 tons), NPs (193,000 tons), NPS Boron (338,000 tons) and NPS Zinc and Boron (54,430 tons) were purchased. The remaining amount will also be purchased once the corporation opened letter of credits.

Kefyalew told *The Reporter* that the Moroccan fertilizer giant, OCP, would supply 70 percent of the country's fertilizer demand. The remaining 30 percent is bought from various international fertilizer producers.

Global leader in the phosphate industry, OCP Group, has partnered with the Ethiopian government aiming to build a 2.5-billion-dollar fertilizer plant in the eastern part of Ethiopia, near Dire Dawa town. Stretched on

100 acres of land, the plant would have an annual production capacity of 2.6 million tons of fertilizer.

Kefyalew said that at the moment two vessels are unloading fertilizer at the Port of Djibouti and the third Vessel carrying fertilizer will soon arrive in Djibouti. He said due to the congestion at Djibouti port the government of Ethiopia is looking at alternative ports. "We are looking at Port Berbera of Somaliland and Port Sudan. Particularly Port Sudan is viable to import fertilizer to the northern part of our country," Kefyalew said.

As part of this effort a vessel carrying 50,000 tons of fertilizer will arrive at Port Sudan in the coming few days.

Kefyalew said that the country would continue importing fertilizer until it builds its own fertilizer plants. "The government is looking at various options. One of the options is attracting foreign fertilizer giants who have interest in investing in partnerships or by themselves. There is also an initiative to build fertilizer factories locally by the government," Kefyalew said.

The Ethiopian Chemicals Corporation is tasked with building five fertilizer plants. However, Kefyalew said the main contractor, the Ethiopian Metals and Engineering Corporation, did not advance the project as planned.

Bole International Airport Expansion Takes Shape

The Addis Ababa Bole International Airport passenger terminal expansion project is 40 percent completed.

(24.12.2016 - The Reporter)

The Ethiopian Airports Enterprise (EAE) launched the expansion project in January 2015. The project includes the expansion of Terminal 1 and 2 and the construction of a new VIP Terminal. The expansion project aimed at building a new terminal with a floor area of 74,000sqm. The existing terminal has a floor area of 30,000sqm. The new terminal will have three floors—arrival, departure and ground floor. The expansion of Terminal 2 is being undertaken on the left and right side of the existing Terminal 2. On the right side Terminal 2 will be expanded and connected to Terminal 1 (old terminal) where regional and domestic flight passengers are hosted. The VIP saloon is also located in Terminal 1.

The new modern VIP Terminal will be built on the far right side of Terminal 2 or next to

Terminal 1. A bridge and modern car parking is also part of the giant expansion project under way at a cost of 345 million dollars, a loan funneled by the Export Import Bank of China (EXIM Bank of China).

The new terminal is designed by a renowned Singapore architectural firm CGP while the Chinese construction firm, CCCC, is the contractor. ADPI, a French company, is the consultant of the project.

The existing main terminal, which was inaugurated in 2003, has a designed capacity of handling 6 million passengers per year. Due to the increasing passenger traffic the terminal is now handling 8.5 million passengers and the airport is congested in peak hours. When the expansion project is completed the airport can handle 22 million passengers, yearly.

Hailu Lemu, chief engineer of the project, told *The Reporter* that 40 percent of the expansion project is completed as of December 11. Hailu said 98 percent

of the concrete work is completed and the steel structure work is being undertaken. “Forty percent of the steel structure work is completed. We will soon launch the curtain wall work and then start the electro mechanical work,” Hailu said.

Hailu said that various airport specialized equipment like baggage handling system, fire fighting system, boarding bridges and access control system are being manufactured and assembled in the UK and China. “After completing the curtain wall and roofing work we will start the electro mechanical work,” Hailu told *The Reporter*.

The terminal will have a large shopping area, café and restaurants, business class lounges, IT center and offices.

The expansion project is scheduled for completion for January 2018. Tsegaye Gebreab, deputy head of the expansion project office, told *The Reporter* that the passenger terminal expansion work is being

undertaken in accordance with international airport construction standards. "The terminal can withstand earthquakes and fire accidents to a certain degree. The quality of all the construction materials is inspected. For instance, the building blocks are fire rated in China," Tsegaye said.

Wondim Teklu, communication director with EAE, told *The Reporter* that when completed the terminal will be able to comfortably handle the growing

passenger traffic for ten years. Wondim believes that the expansion project will make the Addis Ababa Bole International Airport one of the leading airports in Africa. The passenger traffic is growing at a rate of 22 percent on average. The domestic passenger traffic alone is growing by 22 percent, yearly. "This is directly related to the country's fast economic growth. The expansion project would augment the growth of the national airline," Wondim said.

Currently, EAE is undertaking five airport development projects in the regional towns. The enterprise would soon inaugurate Semera, Jinka, Shire, and Robe airport projects. "The private airlines engaged in general aviation sector can also benefit from the ongoing airport development projects in the country," Wondim said.

Firm To Commercialize Animal Feed, Pesticide Extracted From Abyssinian Mustard

Privatized eight years ago, the Ethiopian Spice Extraction Factory, now owned by a local entrepreneur is set to commercialize animal feed and pesticide extracted from a toxic plant seed technically known as Abyssinian mustard, an Ethiopian mustard variety, or locally termed as Senafich.

(24.12.2016 - The Reporter)

In an effort to substitute the cost of animal feed that is believed to constitute some 70 percent of the poultry farms' investment, the new extract dubbed, "Detoxified and Defatted Ethiopian Mustard Mill" is said to have a competitive leverage and potential to reduce protein deficiencies sustained in the livestock and poultry sector. This in turn has a negative effect on the productivity of both the

livestock and poultry industries in Ethiopia.

Feleke Sibhatu, general manager of Ethiopian Spice Extraction PLC, told *The Reporter* that firms that extract and process oil out of *Abyssinian mustard* for long have been dumping the expeller cake, which the spice extracting firm is now using to develop marketable animal feed and pesticide in bulk. By Feleke's estimates, most of the oil crushing houses in Ethiopia that process and extract oil from mustard have been dumping 400,000 to 500,000 quintals of expeller cake, annually. In some remote cases, the byproduct has been used as fuel.

Due to its toxicity and anti-nutritional elements, the expeller cake was not considered as an essential byproduct so far, Feleke explained.

After years of research, Feleke, who is an economist and a chemical engineer by profession, has managed to synthesize the expeller cake as a major source of input to process animal feed. The research team Feleke led also found out that the toxic nature of the mustard cake is potentially viable to process and manufacture pesticides suitable for farmlands is progressing for large scale manufacturing in the foreseeable future.

During a poultry sector meeting which was held on Wednesday, the new alternative feed which is said to have some 46 percent protein has received a warm welcome by the feed experts and poultry farm owners. Yet, the company has been urged to ensure quality and adequate supply of the detoxified and defatted feed to the sector. The company is processing to obtain

patent right and register the two products in the country's Veterinary Drugs and Feed Administration and Control Authority soon.

Ethiopian Spice Extraction Factory is one of the sister companies owned and

managed by Akalu Geleta, who also have stakes in Akakas Logistics PLC, one of top logistics company in Ethiopia, Ertale Salt Work PLC, a salt mining company in Afar region, Solutions PLC, a modern stone crushing plant around Addis and

Essential Farm, a 450 hectare commercial farm that cultivates both maize and soy beans. The Spice Extraction Factory produces edible oil and wheat flour in addition to processing different varieties of spices.

Pulp, Paper Factory To Be Set Up With USD 60 Mln

A newly-established joint venture Purewood Pulp, Paper and Packaging PLC is said to have invested USD 60 million to set up a manufacturing plant on a 68,000sqm plot located inside the Eastern Industry Zone, the first Chinese built and owned industrial park in the country.

(24.12.2016 - The Reporter)

Mahir Ismail, general manager of Ismail Ture Business PLC, the local partner of the joint venture with 45 percent share, told *The Reporter* that the new pulp factory will have an installed capacity of manufacturing 10,000 tons of toilet paper, 15,000 tons of Kraft paper and 7,500 tons of cartons per year. According to Mahir, the pulp, paper and packaging project is said to utilize recycled papers, bagasse (sugar cane residue) and pulp as input raw materials. The ultimate target of the project will be directed towards manufacturing

jumbo roll pulp and papers with a possible expansion to printing papers. Out of the 68,000sqm plot, currently, the 38,000sqm has been acquired from the Eastern Industry Zone management with a land lease agreement worth 15 million birr, Mahir said. The rest of the land is expected to be handed over once the Industry Zone finalizes the expansion project it has been undertaking. Planned to be operational in 11 months' time, the pulp and paper manufacturer is expected to export 35 to 40 percent of the total production. The Chinese Neo Glory is the majority shareholder of the pulp and paper company that would employ state-of-the-art the technology in the field.

Ismail Ture Business (ITB) has been in the import and export, wholesale and distribution, and cement manufacturing sector since 1976. Until consolidated in 2013 to form ITB, Ismail Ahmed

Ture and Sara Ismail Ahmed were the two sister companies engaged in running the family line of business for a while. ITB solely imports and distributes products of major Chinese companies such as Excellent, Yong Fa, Safewell (maker of fire proof safe boxes and filing cabinets), Wipro brands, Kama diesel generators and the like. In addition to the pulp and paper factory, IBT is contemplating to set up a recycling plant via its sister company, ECOTOPIA Recycling Industries PLC. The plant is said to recycle waste tires and plastics and to produce diesel that can be utilized as furnace oil, carbon black, steel wire and gas fuel. Accordingly, the 180 million birr project is nearing completion of its construction phase. At the launch of operations, the project will contribute by substituting some three percent of the country's fuel consumption.

Disease Haunts Poultry Farms

During a forum organized by the Ethiopia-Netherlands Trade for Agricultural Growth (ENTAG) held on Wednesday, poultry farms have expressed concern over the prevalence of severe chicken disease and the debilitating shortages of vaccines and effective drugs to combat the spread of diseases in the country.

(24.12.2016 - The Reporter)

According to Fenta Terefe (PhD), president of the Ethiopian Poultry Producers and Processors Association, the inaccessibility and minimal-efficacy of drugs and vaccines have been challenging the sector recently. Troubled by the emerging globally recognized chicken diseases such as Marek's and Gumboro, some poultry farms in Ethiopia were forced to suspend their operation and close down their businesses, Fenta said.

For instance, Qelebet Agro-industry is one of the poultry farms which has fallen victim to the

prevalence of chicken diseases and was forced to close down its operation since it has lost all of its parent stocks (the original chicken stock from which all chicken in a poultry farm are bred), Fenta said.

According to literature, Marek's disease is a highly contagious viralneoplastic disease mostly found in chickens. It is named after József Marek, a Hungarian veterinarian. Occasionally, it is caused by an alpha herpesvirus known as 'Marek's disease virus'. Gumboro disease, on the other hand, is a viral disease affecting young chickens having a worldwide prevalence which have entered into Ethiopia a decade ago.

According to the Ethiopian Veterinary Drugs and Feeds Administration and Control Authority, some 40 importers have been licensed to import various vaccines and drugs. However, Fenta argues that only one importer is currently active in the supply chain supplying most sought after vaccines. Considerable shortage is hampering the business activities of

commercial poultry farms in the country, Fenta said. Fenta called on agencies to work on resolving the problem and should ensue sustainable supply of pharmaceuticals to the sector.

Essayas Gelaye (DVM), Research and Work Process Owner at the National Veterinary Institute (NVI), said that the shortages of vaccines and drugs in the country is not that severe as amplified by the poultry farms. Admitting that there are some shortages in the availability of Marek's disease vaccines, NVI said that it has been able to develop 22 drugs and vaccines which are also applicable to the wider livestock sector.

According to Fenta, currently, some 200 commercial poultry farms in addition to huge number of smallholder farmers are engaged in the business. The annual production, the commercial farms generate is estimated to reach at 2.3 million chickens in the country. Five years ago, half of the stated amount was produced; much of the

growth is owed to the fast
evolving food chains

businesses across urban
centers.



S. Sudan rebels detain county commissioner, confiscate money

South Sudan rebels arrested a senior government official who flew into the armed opposition controlled area without permission, multiple sources and officials told Sudan Tribune Tuesday.

(27.12.2016 - Sudan Tribune)

Gatkoi Beliew Doar, the Nyal county commissioner was reportedly arrested after his chartered plane landed in the rebel territory.

A close ally of South Sudan president, Salva Kiir, Doar had flown into his home town in Payinjiar county, located in the oil-rich Unity State.

Accompanied by his wife, the commissioner was immediately disarmed by the rebels when the plane landed at Ganyiel airstrip.

The rebel-appointed commissioner of Payinjiar country, Brig. Gen. John Tap Puot confirmed Tuesday's arrest of the government official.

He further said the armed opposition forces confiscated from the Nyal county commissioner three boxes that contained South Sudanese Pound (SSP), claims Sudan Tribune could not easily verify.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that Doar was in Ganyliel to sensitize the population on the 2015

peace agreement and to encourage people in the area to support First Vice-President, Taban Deng Gai.

Some reports have also suggested that members of parliament from Payinjiar county in the newly-created Liech state and those allied to newly appointed first vice president, were behind the move to struck another peace deal with the armed opposition forces in the area.

Payinjiar county remains one of the armed opposition's major strongholds, despite several attempts by government to recapture it.



Un haut responsable du fonds saoudien s'entretient avec le Premier ministre

En visite de travail à Djibouti, le numéro deux du Fonds saoudien, Fowzi Bin Alyan Al Saoud, directeur des Opérations du fonds pour Djibouti, a été reçu samedi dernier par le Premier ministre Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed.

(27.12.2016 - La Nation)

L'entretien a porté sur l'état d'avancement des projets financés par le fonds à Djibouti et a été marqué par une distinction remise au visiteur par le Premier ministre AKM.

Entre le royaume d'Arabie saoudite et la République de Djibouti, il existe des relations anciennes et solides caractérisées par la solidarité. C'est sous le signe de l'amitié et de la fraternité que fut placé l'entretien qui a eu lieu samedi à la primature entre le Premier ministre Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed et le numéro

deux du fonds saoudien, M. Fowzi Bin Alyan Al Saoud, Ce haut responsable du fonds saoudien est le directeur des Opérations du fonds pour Djibouti. Et ses discussions avec le Premier ministre ont été centrées essentiellement sur les projets financés à Djibouti par le fonds saoudien dans le cadre du programme

d'Investissement national (PIN). La rencontre a eu lieu en présence du ministre de la Santé, Djama Elmi Okieh, du secrétaire-général de la primature, M. Naguib Abdallah Mohamed et de l'ambassadeur de Djibouti à Riyad, Dya-Eddine Saïd Bamamakhrama.

Pour le Premier ministre AKM, ces projets financés par le Fonds saoudien sont vitaux pour le développement économique du pays. Il l'a souligné avec force samedi lors de cet entretien avec le haut

responsable saoudien. Ce dernier a pour sa part vivement remercié le Premier ministre pour son accueil chaleureux et a indiqué que le fonds saoudien était disposé à soutenir davantage le développement économique du pays. Les deux hommes ont largement discuté de l'avancement des projets.

A l'issue de l'entretien, le Premier ministre a élevé le visiteur au rang de chevalier dans l'ordre national du 27 Juin, une distinction qui témoigne de l'importance qu'accorde la RdD à son partenariat avec le royaume.

Après son entretien avec le Premier ministre, le directeur des opérations du fonds saoudien a participé avec le secrétaire général de la Primature à une réunion sur le PIN en présence de l'ensemble de l'équipe en charge de ce programme. L'état d'avancement des projets

financés dans le cadre de la subvention du royaume de l'Arabie saoudite (50 M USD) ainsi que les modalités de son décaissement étaient inscrits à l'ordre du jour

de cette importante réunion de travail.

Pour rappel, le FSD a été créé par décret royal le 1er septembre 1974 en tant qu'organisme à travers lequel le Royaume

d'Arabie Saoudite accorde une aide bilatérale aux pays en développement afin de soutenir leurs mesures d'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations.