



Ambasciata d'Italia ad Addis Abeba

SERVIZIO NEWS

30.12.2016

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ERA inaugurates Turmi -Namrapuz road

The Ethiopian Road Authority (ERA) has announced that the newly constructed asphalt road from Turmi to Namrapuz, which links Ethiopia and Kenya is completed and is open for traffic.

(29.12.2016 - WIC)

Communication director with the authority, Samson Wondimu, told WIC that the Turumi-Namrapuz road projects is expected to bolster import and export trade between Ethiopia and Kenya, and the people to people relations between the two countries.

According to Samson, the road construction is conducted by Chinese based International Company, CGC oversees and also Gondwana Engineering, the local based company, who carried out the supervision and consultancy activities.

Samson underscored that the road project is built with the cost of over 794.8 mln birr that is fully covered by the government of Ethiopia.

The Authority has undertaken all the necessary supervision and support activities to

complete the road project in accordance with the contractual agreement, Samson underlined. The project is completed in three years as scheduled, walta learnt.

The Turumi- Namrapuz road project has a significance to connect the people found within the Omo zone and speed up the commodity exchange of people residing around the Ethio-kenya border, walta learnt.

Ethiopia: Mekelle Industrial Park to Be Completed by February

Tigray State Trade and Industry Bureau disclosed the first phase construction of Mekelle Industrial Park, one of the industrial park projects being undertaken in Ethiopia, will be completed by the coming February.

(29.12.2016 - 2Merkato)

The state bureau had a discussion on Monday, December 26, 2016 with local investors that plan to enter in to the park. According to Fana

Broadcasting Corporate, more than 150 local investors are expected to enter into the park when the construction is over.

Speaking at the discussion, Dr Adisalem Balema, Deputy Chief Administrator of the State, assured the participants the government would provide the necessary support for investors who are keen to engage in manufacturing in the industrial park.

The Deputy Chief also explained Ba'eher and Raya agro-processing industrial parks, which will be constructed in the future, would create favorable condition and benefit to investors that wish to invest in the agro-processing sector.

According to Adisalem, the construction of Ba'eher industrial park will start next month and it will be finished in 1 year time.

211 Million USD for Ethiopia in 5 Months from Oilseeds and Pulses

During the first 5 months of the current fiscal year, Ethiopia earned 211 million USD from the export of oilseeds and pulses. This was disclosed by Ministry of Trade.

(29.12.2016 - 2Merkato)

The performance shows a 30.77 percent increment when compared to the same period in 2014/2015, Mulugeta Mohammed, Oilseeds and Pulse Marketing Director at the Ministry, explained.

Mulugeta attributed the achievements to price

increases, creation of market link with cooperative unions and support given for them.

In the current fiscal year, Ethiopia is aiming to generate 885.6 million USD from the export of 898,988 tonnes of oilseeds and pulses.

Ethiopia: Nation to Launch Mega Renewable Energy Projects

The country is aggressively working to utilize its renewable energy.

(29.12.2016 - allAfrica)

The Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity recently announced it would launch mega renewable energy projects generating over 5,000 MW in 2017.

Ministry Public Relations Director Bizuneh Tolcha said preparations have been finalized to begin the construction of 19 hydro-

power, solar, wind and geothermal energy projects in Oromia, Amhara, SNNP, Tigray and Somali states.

According to him, the country would generate 3,879 MW from eight hydro power and 570 MW from four geothermal projects. It as well would have the capacity to produce 300 MW and 440 MW from three solar energy and four wind projects respectively in the near future,he added.

Bizuneh further said studies have being conducted to launch the first phase of Aluto Langano Geothermal Energy-II project at a cost of 30 million USD funded by the governments of Ethiopia and Japan as well as World Bank.

Apart from meeting national energy demand, the projects would enable the country east Africa renewable energy hub.

Ethiopia, Turkey Take Practical Cooperation Steps

Ethiopia and Turkey entered new era of cooperation in various sectors.

(29.12.2016 - allAfrica)

Ethiopia and Turkey take practical steps to intensify economic, trade and investment cooperation signing various MoU here yesterday.

The MoU includes areas of mining, hydrocarbon development, standardization, small and medium manufacturing industries development enterprises, media and electricity sub sectors at the conclusion of Ethio-Turkey Business and Investment Forum.

Opening the forum, Foreign Minister Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu said Ethiopia and Turkey would go a long way in further enhancing their close partnership and historical relations built over the years.

The multifaceted bilateral relations progressing in all

spheres need to deepen and strengthened. He added: "We have created conducive trade and investment environment for the private sector. And Turkey is a strategic partner in our development and transformation drive."

According to the minister, the annual trade exchange between the two countries has grown to 450 million USD from 27 million USD in 2002. "Tens of thousands of jobs have been created by Turkish investment." There is a healthy growth of Turkish investment in Ethiopia, he said, adding: "We are very keen to attract Turkish investment in textile and garment, leather and leather products, construction and aggro-processing as well as industrial parks development."

The foreign minister also stated that the country needs support to access international market and improve balance of trade.

Ethiopia is the only country in Africa where the Turkish International Cooperation Agency opened its country office which shows our strengthened relations, Dr. Workneh said.

Industry Minister Ahmed Abitew said for his part Ethiopia and Turkey have established a joint economic commission to uplift mutual economic development. "Ethiopia has set desks at line ministries to facilitate investment."

Ethiopia has taken substantial measure to develop industrial parks and the manufacturing sector, he said, adding Turkish investors could seize the opportunity.

Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci also said Ethiopia is a country which is registering rapid economic growth. In this regard, Turkey would sign various Foreign Direct Investment agreements after considering some technical details and

procedures. "Our partnership with Ethiopia is successful in various areas."

Turkey-Ethiopia Business Council Chairperson Emre Aykar underlined that Ethiopia is one of Turkish leading business partners in the African continent. He said: " Turkish investment in Ethiopia is now over 2.5 billion USD creating 30,000 jobs."

The chairperson also recommended enhancing investment in the areas of banking, air cargo transport, free trade and payment services, among others.

Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations President Solomon Afework said for his part that Turkish trade and investment and people-to-people ties are increasing rapidly over the years.

He said the government is facilitating industrial sector progress through industrial parks development to address constraints in land, customs, skill and financial matters.

The country is also working to increase its power generation capacity to 15,000 MW when the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam sees its completion,he said.

Ethiopia: Female Tour Operators Forum Launched

Women could contribute a lot engaging in tour operating business.

(29.12.2016 - allAfrica)

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism yesterday launched first ever national female tour operators forum aiming to raise women's awareness towards tour operating business.

Opening the forum , State Minister Meaza Gebremedhin said though tourism and culture sector offers various jobs for women and youth, the number of female tour operators is very few in the country.

According to her, large number of women are employed in less paid jobs including house keeping, reception and sanitary services. But,they could benefit themselves a lot, if they join the tour operating business, she added.

Ministry Women and Youth Affairs Directorate Director Woinshet Hailemariam for her part cited some discouraging factors for female tour operator as the field is exposed to gender abuses and the like.

However, she said, relevant policy and codes are in place to protect women from abuses. "Skill

training will also be offered to help them get rid of abuses."

"The forum or association which is intended to encourage and motivate female tour operators is a step forward to overcome the challenges and ensure female engagement in the sector," the director said.

Organized by the ministry in collaboration with African Women Development Organization, the forum brought together tour operators drawn from various states and tourism students.

Ethiopians in China to Purchase U.S.\$14, 000 GERD Bond

Ethiopians and foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin residing in Beijing, China, have pledged to purchase bonds worth 14,000 USD to finance the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

(29.12.2016 - allAfrica)

In a press release sent to The Ethiopian Herald, Office of the

Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the pledge was made at an event organized to mark the 11th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Day on the premises of Ethiopian Embassy.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to China Seyoum Mesfin said all Ethiopians are determined to support the

construction of the dam thereby to ensuring the country's renaissance and economic development.

Meanwhile, officials of the China Defense University awarded Ambassador Seyom for the role he played in strengthening China- Africa cooperation, it was learnt.

Ethiopia Parliament Approves Loan Agreements With China for Infrastructure Projects

Ethiopia's parliament on Tuesday approved three loan agreements worth over 380 million U.S. dollars made with the Chinese government and the Export-Import Bank of China to finance major infrastructure constructions in Ethiopia.

(29.12.2016 - allAfrica)

The three loan agreements already approved will finance two road construction projects in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa and upgrade the capital's electric grid system, according to Birhanu Abebe, Vice Chair

of the Budget and Finance Affairs Standing Committee of the Ethiopian parliament.

Briefing members of the House of Peoples' Representatives on Tuesday, the lower house, Birhanu said that one of the three projects is a 230-million-U.S. dollar advanced electric grid system installation designed to upgrade and modernize Addis Ababa's electric service provision.

The parliament also ratified two other loan agreements to finance two road construction sites in the capital Addis Ababa,

which will cost 102 million and 50 million U.S. dollars, respectively.

"The road construction project will contribute to mitigating Addis Ababa's transport problem," Birhanu said.

Meanwhile, the advanced electric grid system installation will upgrade the old grid system to a new one. By minimizing the rate of power loss and interruption, the new grid system will bring efficient electric service provision in the capital Addis Ababa, he added.

Berbera port being readied for Ethiopian container traffic: Somaliland FM

The Republic of Somaliland has said that it will open the old port of Berbera, which is currently undergoing renovation to be an alternative port for Ethiopian container traffic within a maximum of 16 months' period.

(29.12.2016 - EBC)

Last year, DP world, Dubai's biggest port developer won a deal to jointly undertake the expansion work for the port of Berbera with Somaliland, at a cost of 442 million dollars.

Somaliland foreign minister Dr. Saad Ali Shire told WIC that the developer redesigned the port to have modern facilities and changed the previously general cargo

terminal to container terminal.

"The port is an excellent opportunity for Ethiopia to use for import and export. Because the distance from Berbera port to Addis Ababa is the same as Addis Ababa far-off from Djibouti port. The road, which links Berbera to Addis Ababa, is an advantage," the minister said.

Though Ethiopia already employed the port, according to him, the volume shuttled is insignificant and it is mainly being used for import of food aid.

"The main barrier is the facility at the port; the port has not been built to handle container traffic. It has been mainly designed

to handle general cargo. And most of the traffic today is containers. That is why the Dubai developer comes in to expand it to be container terminal. We agreed with the developer to make it container terminal and able to handle container traffic from Ethiopia," he explained.

The price of the port will be competitive and based on free market in which any Ethiopian businesspersons could choose Berbera or Djibouti port depending on the "economics", the minister said.

He, however, said Berbera will adjust itself to be competitive to attract container traffic from Ethiopia.

WB funds \$100mln for refugee project in Ethiopia

A new World Bank (WB) funded project promises improved living conditions for refugees camped across five regional states in Ethiopia.

(29.12.2016 - FBC)

The Bank offered 100 million US dollars support for the implementation of "Development Response to Displacement Impact Project (DRDIP) In the Horn of Africa."

Refugees sheltered in Afar, Tigray, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz and Somali states, the five regional states hosting the refugees, and the host community will benefit from a range of development activities implemented by the funding.

The projects are believed to increase the benefit of the community from socio-economic as well as infrastructural facilities, according to Dr. Misrak Mekonnen, State Minister of Livestock and Fisheries.

Speaking during project launching event in the town of Semera in Afar, the state minister mentioned setbacks that emerge from lack of infrastructure in many of the host states and the impact of increasing refugee population on the local community.

The effective implementation of the projects will raise the benefit enjoyed by locals, for which she advised stakeholders to work in close cooperation.

It was indicated that Ethiopia is home to more than 733,000 refugees originated from Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia.

Project Coordinator Abdu Suleiman for his part indicated that the implementation of the project will help expand social service providing centers, with plans to raise income of the community and promote environmental conservation activities.

More than one million people will benefit from the project which will run for five years beginning from 2017.

Ethiopian Premier's Special Envoy hands over message sent to Bahrain PM

Ethiopian Premier's Special Envoy, Dr. Tedros Adhanom, handed over a message sent to Bahrain Prime Minister from his Ethiopian counterpart, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, pertaining to relations between the two friendly countries, and ways to bolster bilateral cooperation in various fields, especially at international gatherings.

(29.12.2016 - FBC)

Deputy Premier, Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, received the letter on behalf of the Prime Minister, in the presence of the Health Minister, Faeqa bint Said Al-Saleh.

The deputy premier welcomed the visit of the Ethiopian Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the kingdom, highlighting its importance in enhancing bilateral relations and cooperation.

Shaikh Ali affirmed Bahrain's keenness on consolidating the existing bilateral cooperation in various fields to enhance the ties between the two countries and their friendly peoples, as well as to increase coordination between them at international gatherings.

Dr. Tedros on his part expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the Bahraini leadership and

people for their interest in developing relations with his country.

He lauded the efforts exerted by HRH the Prime Minister to advance Bahrain in various fields, as well as his keenness to enhance relations with Ethiopia at all levels.

He praised the progress boom witnessed by the kingdom in various fields, including health, affirming his country's keenness on strengthening cooperation with Bahrain.

He expressed hope that the cooperation between the two friendly countries will flourish in the coming period.

Saudi, Indian investors eye power generation, livestock investments in Ethiopia

Saudi and Indian investors have shown interest to engage in Ethiopia in power generation and livestock investments.

(29.12.2016 - FBC)

In an interview with FBC, representative of the Saudi electricity company and president of India's meat processing plant Allanasons said Ethiopia has favorable situations which make it preferable for investment than other African nations.

Afzal Latif, president of Allanasons Ltd, said his company has engaged in meat processing in Ethiopia by taking into account the country's livestock resources.

Allanasons has been investing widely in meat

processing in Ethiopia. In its plant built at Modjo, Oromia Regional State, it created employment opportunities for more than 300 people.

The company will also inaugurate its second huge meat processing plant in Adami Tulu, the same regional state, in 2017.

According to Latif, Allanasons is planning to establish additional plant. "From my experience as an investor in Ethiopia, the country has favorable investment policy which makes it preferable than other African countries," he said.

Established in 1865, Allanasons is India's largest exporter of processed food products

and agro commodities to over 85 countries.

With annual revenue of 3.5 billion US dollars, Allanasons has more than 8 plants in India.

Representative of Saudi electricity utility company, Raidl Artif, said Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to attract foreign companies in power generation investment is encouraging.

"We will make more efforts to let Riyadh companies invest in Ethiopia," the representative said.

Established 16 years ago, the Saudi company obtains 38.5 billion Saudi riyals on average annually.

Ethiopia: Why Foreign Investment Is Still Flowing to Ethiopia

By all accounts, Ethiopia has had a tough year. The effects of El Nino were deeply felt across the country. Agriculture was impacted. So was the life of millions of Ethiopians earning a living from it. Global mainstream media reported the return of drought to Ethiopia. These negative stories tested the rapidly improving image of the nation. Further, governance issues spilled into the streets and the nation went through a turbulent few months. Normally, these issues should be enough to deter investors from any country.

(27.12.2016 - allAfrica)

Nevertheless, the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) announced that more than half a billion dollars in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) entered the country in the last three months. Even more interestingly, 3.5 billion dollars worth of foreign direct investment

from 124 investors was being processed. So how do we reconcile these two seemingly irreconcilable events?

The answer lies in Ethiopia's emerging global competitiveness in light manufacturing industries, particularly garments and leather products. You don't have to take my word for it. McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) recently noted that Ethiopia's "unit labor costs for the manufacture of polo shirts are 0.14 dollar per unit, less than half the level in China and Vietnam. In the case of leather loafers, its unit labor costs are one-third those in Vietnam and one-fifth those of China.

As a result, the country has become a competitive global exporter of labor-intensive goods. For example, the value of its footwear exports has increased at an annual rate of 38pc from 2004 to 2014, and the value of apparel exports at 22pc a year over that period".

MGI further states, "Ethiopia's success has been based not simply on low labor costs, but also on unit labor costs that are competitive when productivity is taken into account." This is a very big deal!

The nation has been furiously implementing a strategy to become the world's most competitive country in light manufacturing industries. As Michael Porter, the renowned Harvard professor puts it, strategy is essentially about choice. It is about deciding to do one thing and not another things, and therefore a trade off. Strategy therefore requires careful thinking, decision, and courage to implement. Ethiopia's insistence on an industrial strategy was not popular from the start. Still Ethiopia implemented courageously.

During the past 20 years, China achieved efficiency in light manufacturing previously unseen in

human history. Unable to compete, many countries in Africa, deindustrialized during China's rise. Regardless, Ethiopia still stuck to its strategy and implemented furiously. The result of this single-minded implementation, helped by rising production costs in an increasingly wealthy China, is Ethiopia's emergence as the world's single lowest cost production country for the migrating industries of light manufacturing. This is indeed a big deal. Its impact is much more long term and pervasive than meets the eye. It puts Ethiopia in a powerful position to utilize its young population and drive fast growth for decades to come. Globally, the textile and garment sector is one of the biggest markets with a reported 3.03 trillion U.S. dollars value in exports alone between the years 2011-2015. World trade in leather - one of the most widely traded commodities - is currently growing and is estimated at over 100 billion U.S. dollars a year. In 2014,

leather footwear and apparel accounted for about 68pc of that figure, amounting to U.S. 68 billion dollars. These two global markets are powerful engines for job creation and a magnificent opportunity to pull millions of people out of poverty through job creation. Of course, they are both currently dominated by China.

But rising costs in China means that more than 80 million jobs there are set to migrate to other countries. The vastness of China means that no one single country can by itself absorb all this job opportunity. Given Ethiopia's current cost leadership, the nation is a clear candidate to attract many of these jobs. If the Government's admittedly ambitious targets for the next 10 years are to be met, this industry will create up to two million direct jobs.

With jobs come salaries. With salaries comes increased consumption of daily needs. The two million direct jobs even at

a very low salary of 100 dollars a month on average mean an annual salary income of 2.4 billion dollars. This doesn't even include the plethora of ways such investment will increase job opportunities.

The so called Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) industry, supplying everything from food and beverage to cleaning items, is set to grow rapidly on back of this jobs expansion. Another round of FDI is thus attracted to Ethiopia, eyeing a rapidly growing middle class in the 13th largest population of the world. It will remain a magnate for further FDI for years to come.

The major driver of Ethiopia's FDI surge is thus its success in taking the crown of competitiveness from China in light manufacturing. So now what? Do we sit and celebrate this magnificent progress? Absolutely not! There is much more remaining to be done compared to what has

been done already if Ethiopia is to achieve prosperity. While the effort in attracting FDI must be kept up, there are a few areas that require similar zeal if Ethiopia is to reap the full benefits of its industrial revolution.

Of course, Ethiopia is especially well suited for verticality. It has the largest livestock population in Africa and eighth largest in the world. Livestock and related activities account for up to a quarter of national earning. And with more than 80pc of Ethiopia's rural population operating in a mixed crop-livestock agricultural model, livestock can play a crucial role in turning Ethiopia into a middle-income country. The likes of Hujian and Georges Shoe Company, some of the largest shoemakers in the world, are opting to make shoes from their base in Ethiopia. These companies will need millions and millions of square meters of hides and skin and processed leather.

In turn, the millions of Ethiopians who earn their living from rearing cattle, growing animal feed, providing services in animal health and reproduction, the whole chain of activities are suddenly linked to a powerful web of forces that link them to magnificent global demand. The many current initiatives in the livestock sector thus must be lead with this end goal in mind. They must be treated with the same national zeal that created global competitiveness of light industry. While Ethiopia has a number of high profile initiatives to develop its livestock subsector, less could be said for cotton. Ethiopia has more than 3.2 million hectare of land with suitable climate for cotton cultivation. A significant portion of this land is found under smallholder farmers. In Amhara region alone, there are up to one million small farmers who own suitable land for cotton production. Unfortunately, less than 10pc of this land is currently producing

cotton. The driving factor for low production is price.

As a global commodity with unstable prices, small farmers see cotton as a risky crop. Recent ill conceived Ethiopian policy of cotton export ban and price control did not help matters. Further, many governments, including the U.S. subsidize their cotton farmers while Ethiopia does not. The net result is that Ethiopia's small farmers mainly produce cotton for the purpose of crop rotation. The time has come for Ethiopia to set minimum prices and offer a guaranteed market for cotton produced in country. Any attempts in improved utilization of better seeds, use of BT Cotton, increased irrigation, and good agronomic practices must first consider better and more stable pricing mechanisms.

Domestic production of cotton will also have far higher positive consequences. Currently, Ethiopia is not globally

competitive in the manufacturing of fabrics. A major reason is that most of its factories are operating far below capacity due to a lack of abundant supply of cotton. This makes a focus on cotton even more crucial for Ethiopia to sustain its emerging lead in global competitiveness in the apparel business. Creating an attractive domestic cotton market will lead to further industrial value addition and job creation opportunities up the chain. Investments in ginneries, spinning and textile making are a better ground for apparel making in general. In other words, a focus on smallholder cotton will allow Ethiopia to achieve verticality.

Ireland is one of the great economic success stories of our times. Its approach is loosely similar to that of Ethiopia with its industrial parks development. Ireland is a small country of a few million inhabitants. It correctly inferred that its best positioning in the global economy is as a

base to serve the gigantic European economy next door. Given its highly educated workforce, it incentivized and attracted the companies who control the global supply chain in high tech industries.

Ireland's success is now the stuff of legend. The only thing that could cap its stellar rise to the upper echelons of prosperity would be strong large domestic enterprises who would stick with it through thick and thin. While interlinking with the global economy is a source of strength, Ireland also lives in higher risk that changes beyond its control could derail its economic footing at a moment's notice.

Ethiopia is a large country of almost 100 million people. It is also located strategically within an emerging Africa, next door to the Middle East, and on the sidelines of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. It has much better opportunities to create a domestic private sector the likes of which

Korea, Taiwan, and China have created. Much like Ireland, Ethiopia's uptick in garment and leather industries investment is a direct result of its ability to attract firms like PVH, H&M, and VF with solid positions within the global supply chains of apparel. This brilliant market led strategy can easily be repeated to create opportunities to link thousands of Ethiopian SMEs to global supply chains. The cardboard box maker gets to supply its much needed packaging product to manufacturers in industry parks.

Enough demand created here may mean attractive grounds for an investment in paper mills that utilize Ethiopia's vast eucalyptus and bamboo wealth. Those producing leather, fabric, buttons, clothing hangers, etc. can all find big markets in their backyard. Professional services firms as well as banking receives fantastic stimulus to grow and reap the benefits of a global supply chain. The small investor with a cotton ginnery, who takes his raw material

from a small cotton farmer, sees their products sold in the high value markets of Western Europe and America. This is not a fairy tale. It can and must happen in today's Ethiopia. To gain the full benefits from its breakthrough with FDI, Ethiopia needs to create jobs outside of industrial parks. With about 50pc of citizens under the age of 15, job creation is a matter of urgency. So, the country will need to ensure that FDI is not kept by the walls of the parks. Technical and managerial know how must be ensured to spill over into the rest of its economy. The chain of activity that leads to the final product of our manufacturing industry is to a high degree produced by local SMEs.

But local SMEs face a business environment among the most difficult in the world. Ethiopia is ranked 159 in the World Bank's doing business rankings. Its position in the all-important "starting a business" category is an appalling 179th in the

world. It also does poorly in other key metrics such as Getting Credit (170th), and trading across borders (167th). The result is that Ethiopia is creating fewer jobs than it should. It is creating fewer SMEs than it could. Subsequently, large FDI firms coming into the country find it cheaper and faster to import their inputs rather than buy them locally.

This is a great missed opportunity. By contrast, Rwanda worked to improve its doing business rankings from 143rd to 56th in the world. Its immediate priority was to provide gainful employment to millions of people. Its efforts led to about 72,000 new ventures, almost entirely consisting of two- and three-person operations, which in a decade tripled exports and reduced poverty by 25pc.

Peter Drucker, is widely credited for creating management as a formal modern discipline. In the middle of the last century, he lamented that

American regulators' mistaken understanding of the role of a business in society was responsible for the difficult environment for business. He debunks outright that the idea of profit maximization as the purpose of a business "is not only wrong but also irrelevant". The business enterprise, as a part of society, serves to solve societal problems and create opportunity.

Far from being a side concept, profits are a validation that the business enterprise is serving the biggest needs in society. People vote with their wallets. Unfortunately, Ethiopian society today resembles that which existed during Drucker's writing about America. Improving the business ecosystem in Ethiopia is thus not simply an exercise of going through small changes in reform. Small changes, while very important, must be based on a modern understanding of business as a problem solver for society, not merely a

modality to enrich the few.

Ethiopia must charge a full court press to improve its ecosystem for small businesses. It can and must be done. Ethiopia must ensure that its budding industrial revolution and the

corresponding surge in FDI pulls its entire economy into the modern age. President-elect Donald Trump complains that the U.S. is off shoring too many jobs to China and Mexico. Ethiopia will join the list soon.

Henok Assefa Is the Managing Partner At Precise. Precise Is a Leading Economic Development and Investment Advisory Firm Working to Revolutionize the Way Business Is Done in Ethiopia.



S. Sudan's presidency says arms embargo "double standard"

South Sudan presidential spokesperson has commended countries whose representatives at the United Nations Security Council failed to approve a vote seeking to impose arms embargo and targeted sanction on the young nation.

(28.12.2016 - Sudan Tribune)

Ateny Wek Ateny, who speak for President Kiir described the proposed resolution to impose an arms embargo as "double standards". He denied reports of atrocities being committed by the government.

He was reacting to last week's vote at the Council where 15 of its members

failed to reach consensus on whether they should impose arms embargo and targeted sanctions.

Seven votes went in favour of the proposal while eight other countries including Russia, China and Japan abstained. Nine votes and no veto are required for a resolution to be adopted by the Security Council.

If it were approved, the country would have been denied an opportunity to buy and acquire weapons advocates and critics say are used to kill her own citizens pushing for reforms and democratic process.

The approved proposal would also have restricted

travels of key figures in the government and armed opposition, including its leader, Riek Machar.

The chief of general staff of the South Sudanese army (SPLA), Paul Malong Awan, an ally of president and an architect of the conflict with information minister, Michael Makuei Lueth are among the officials who would be placed on a global watch list.



IPC à Djibouti : Un repli de 0,4% en novembre 2016

L'indice harmonisé des prix à la consommation (base 100 en 2013) a enregistré une baisse de 0,4% au mois de novembre 2016, en raison du recul des prix des « produits alimentaires et des boissons non alcoolisées », des « boissons alcoolisées, tabac et stupéfiants » et des « Meubles, articles de ménage et entretien courant du foyer ».

(29.12.2016 - La Nation)

En variation trimestrielle le niveau général de prix a décliné de 0,2% et en variation annuelle¹, les prix à la consommation ont progressé de 3,7%.

Les prix des produits alimentaires et des boissons non alcoolisées ont enregistré une baisse de 1,0% en rythme mensuel, sous l'effet d'un repli des prix des « pains » (-6,6%), du « poisson frais » (-1,9%), du « Boeuf » (-

1,1%), et des « légumes frais » (-0,9%). En variation trimestrielle les prix à la consommation des produits alimentaires ont reculé de 0,5% tandis qu'en variation annuelle les prix de la fonction ont progressé de 6,7%.

Les prix des « boissons alcoolisées, tabac et stupéfiants » ont régressé de 0,3% par rapport au mois d'octobre 2016, en liaison avec la baisse de 5,0% des prix des « tabac à priser ». Les prix de cette fonction ont évolué de 1,8% en variation trimestrielle et de 1,9% en glissement annuel.

Les services « Meubles, articles de ménage et entretien courant du foyer » ont enregistré une baisse de 0,2% par rapport au mois d'Octobre 2016. En variation trimestrielle les prix de la fonction ont diminué de 0,3%. Leurs prix ont enregistré une hausse de 0,8% par

rapport à la même période de l'année précédente.

Les autres fonctions n'ont pas enregistré des variations significatives durant le mois de Novembre 2016.

Au cours de la période sous revue, l'inflation sous-jacente (Classification permettant de suivre le niveau de l'inflation qui serait obtenu en dehors des phénomènes perturbateurs que sont les produits frais et les produits énergétiques) a enregistré une baisse de 0,3%. En variation trimestrielle, elle n'a pas connu de variation alors qu'elle a enregistré une hausse de 0,9% en glissement annuel.

Le niveau général des prix des produits frais a enregistré une diminution mensuelle de 1,3% et une augmentation de 19,5% en variation annuelle.

Banques & Finance : La CAC International désignée « Banque de l'année 2016 - Djibouti », selon le Financial Times

Le magazine financier The Banker, du groupe Financial Times, a décerné le prix de « Bank of the Year 2016 - Djibouti » à la Banque Internationale CAC .

(28.12.2016 - La Nation)

The Banker, publication de référence du monde de la finance éditée par le Financial Times, attribue chaque année ses prix récompensant les meilleures institutions financières. Composé d'une centaine de professionnels du secteur financier, le jury se base sur les performances et les principaux accomplissements qu'elles ont réalisés au cours des douze derniers mois. Ainsi donc c'est pour la seconde année consécutive que la CAC Bank, se voit attribuée le trophée de «

Meilleure banque de l'année 2016 » à Djibouti.

« Nous sommes très heureux que notre banque, nos bonnes performances et la qualité de notre projet d'entreprise soient reconnues par des experts du secteur. C'est grâce au professionnalisme de chacun de nos collaborateurs et à la qualité des services que nous proposons à nos clients que nous avons pu décrocher ce prix. C'est un encouragement à redoubler nos efforts,» a déclaré Ahmed Hameed Aldeib, Directeur général de la banque CAC international. Pour cette édition du prix « Bank of the Year», le jury a porté une attention particulière au contexte difficile du secteur bancaire et aux initiatives stratégiques mises en place par les institutions financières,

alors que la concurrence ne cesse de croître et que la clientèle est de plus en plus exigeante.

Pour rappel, la CAC Bank (Cooperative & Agricultural Credit Bank), a ouvert ses portes en 2009, et, a réalisé ces dernières années une importante modernisation, faisant appel aux nouvelles technologies avec l'e-banking, le mobile banking, les distributeurs de billets, les cartes de crédit.

Au cours des dernières années, la Cac Bank a su évoluer pour ainsi devenir l'une des principales institutions de la place financière de Djibouti et a étendu une large gamme de produits et services innovants pour couvrir tous les services bancaires commerciaux à la fois pour la clientèle d'entreprise et de détail.