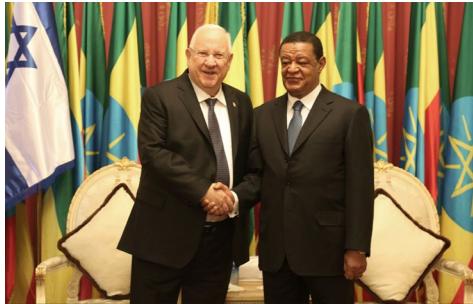




ETHIO NEWS

Politics

ISRAELI STATE VISIT TO ETHIOPIA



President Reuven Rivlin meeting with President Mulatu Teshome

Photo: mfa

Israeli president Reuven Rivlin arrived in Ethiopia on May 1 for a three days historic official visit, the first by an Israeli President to Ethiopia. He arrived on board an Ethiopian Airlines flight and described his flight with a "very good airline as very pleasant".

Before President Rivlin held bilateral talks with his host, President Dr. Mulatu Teshome at the National Palace, the two sides gave press briefings to domestic and international media. Dr. Mulatu Teshome stressed the ties between Ethiopia and Israel, dating back 3,000 years when the then Ethiopian Queen of Shebna, Makeda, visited King Solomon in Jerusalem, were "legendary, eclectic, sentimental and excellent". During their bilateral talks President Mulatu noted that President Rivlin's visit marked a new chapter for the two countries in their long-standing relations. Extending his warmest congratulations to the President and citizens of Israel as the country celebrates the 70th anniversary of its independence, Dr. Mulatu welcomed the President to his "second home" where a diplomatic foundation had been laid three thousand years ago. The President also noted the unique ties of more than 140,000 Israelis of Ethiopian origin, Beth-Israels, now residing in Israel.

Dr. Mulatu stressed the two countries had charted new areas of cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, agriculture, science and technology and other areas. The President noted the trade volume between the two countries had reached to more than US\$160 million and said dozens of Israeli companies were exploiting one of the most attractive investment schemes in the continent. Equally, calling

for more Israeli investment in Ethiopia, Dr. Mulatu emphasized the need to fully utilize the untapped potential of cooperation in science and technology, agriculture, education, health and other sectors to further boost the growing ties.

President Reuven Rivlin, extending his gratitude for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation, stressed the historical ties between the two countries could reach new heights as the two countries were now in a better position to explore the opportunities, utilize them and invest in a better future. President Reuven noted that the visits by the two countries' Prime Ministers last year and his own visit this year indicated the high importance the two countries attached to their ties. The President pledged his Government's continued commitment to support the remarkable reforms the government of Ethiopia was undertaking to ensure peace and prosperity in the country. The President said that as he was coming on behalf of King Solomon and "witnessing the warmest welcome" he had received in Ethiopia, he had now extended his invitation to Dr. Mulatu to accept the hospitality King Solomon accorded to the Queen of Sheba in Israel.

ETHIOPIAN STATE VISIT TO KENYA



PM Abiy Ahmed and President Uhuru Kenyatta

Photo: mfa

Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed arrived in Nairobi on May 6 for a two-day official state visit to Kenya. He was welcomed at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by Kenyan Cabinet Secretary of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ambassador Monica Juma and other high-ranking Kenyan government officials. The Ethiopian Ambassador to Kenya, Ambassador Dina Mufti, and members of the Ethiopian community in Kenya also warmly welcomed the Premier. This official state visit was the Prime Minister's third such visit, following

visits neighbouring Djibouti and Sudan. During bilateral talks in Nairobi, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and President Uhuru Kenyatta discussed bilateral, regional, and global matters while also emphasizing the importance of strengthening their cooperation for the prosperity of the peoples of the two countries. The two sides restated their commitment to shared infrastructure and trade development, including a major transport corridor and a power supply project. The two leaders stressed "the great historical foundation on which the two nations have continued to build their bilateral relations" and agreed that the vision of the forefathers should point to a future of shared values, culture and tradition.

The two leaders re-committed themselves to the development of Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor, the Northern Corridor including road network between Isiolo, Moyale through to Addis Ababa and the railway from Addis Ababa to Nairobi. Kenya agreed to facilitate the acquisition of lands in Lamu Port for the Ethiopian government to be developed for logistics facilitation. They also agreed to jointly supervise and inspect the Lamu-Garissa-Isiolo-Moyale and Moyale-Hawassa-Addis Ababa road networks. Both sides agreed to finalize the Ethiopia-Kenya interconnection transmission line, as well as identify other potential areas for engagement pledging to continue improving the business environment and maximizing incentives. These were mentioned as essential elements for successful commerce between the two countries. They also agreed to strongly encourage members of their respective private sectors to identify potential areas for engagement and pledged to continue improving the business environment and create maximum incentives for successful commerce.

President Kenyatta and prime Minister Abiy identified cross-border security challenges, exacerbated by vulnerable communities, as obstacles to sustainable peace. They agreed to focus on promoting inclusive economic growth of the border regions. They reiterated the need for strengthened cooperation in shared trans-boundary resources use, based on the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization. They agreed on an exchange of prisoners and directed the urgent formulation of modalities to ensure implementation within the next seven days.

Among other topics, including greater agricultural cooperation, an agreement was also made for greater cooperation between the two countries' national airlines, Kenya Airways and Ethiopian Airlines, to



increase frequency of flights between the two countries and allow greater freedom for both airlines.

The two leaders noted that the various agreements and memoranda of understanding signed between the two countries provided a critical foundation for enhanced Kenya-Ethiopia bilateral ties. They agreed on the need to work on the implementation of the Special Status Agreement. The leaders further agreed that the implementation of some of the instruments required better coordination. The leaders therefore introduced an implementation framework and a Mid Term Review Mechanism of the Joint Commission to facilitate robust monitoring and evaluation of the agreed areas.

ETHIOPIAN STATE VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UAE



PM Abiy Ahmed arriving in Saudi Arabia

Photo: mfa

Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed arrived in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for a two-day state visit on May 17. The visit followed an invitation from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saudi, and his trip, which also took him to the UAE, was his first outside Africa after three visits to the neighboring countries of Djibouti, Sudan and Kenya. On arrival at King Abdulaziz International Airport, accompanied by a high-level delegation, the Prime Minister was warmly welcomed by high ranking Saudi government officials and Ethiopia's Ambassador to the Kingdom, Ambassador Amin Abdulkadir.

The Prime Minister held talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual concern. They also discussed further strengthening of cooperation in the areas of tourism, agriculture, investment, labor relations as well as energy. The Crown Prince said Saudi Arabia would provide support for Ethiopia's development efforts and he pledged to encourage Saudi investors to invest in Ethiopia. The two sides agreed to strengthen the people-to-people ties as well as boost agricultural and energy cooperation between the two countries. They also agreed to exploit and develop Ethiopia's tourism potential and to conduct studies to realize electricity intercon-

nnection between them.

Upon the request of Prime Minister Dr. Abiy, up to a thousand Ethiopian prisoners were also released.

During his visit to Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Dr. Abiy also met with representatives of the Ethiopian Community in the Kingdom and discussed ways of further facilitating and bolstering their continued participation in the development endeavors of Ethiopia on various fronts. He also visited Mohammed Abdul Aziz Yahya, a 16-year-old Ethiopian, paralyzed and in a coma since 2006 after a failed operation, and met with Mohammed's mother, Halima Muzemil.

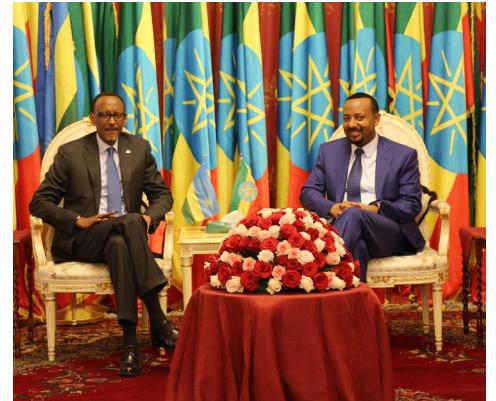
After his successful visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Dr. Abiy and his entourage went on to the United Arab Emirates where he met with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. During their meeting, the two leaders considered ways of boosting ties of friendship and cooperation and discussed the latest regional and global issues of mutual concern. They also explored the prospects of bilateral cooperation across the economic, trade and investment fields for the mutual interests of both countries.

The Ethiopian Prime Minister highlighted the strong and special ties between Ethiopia and the UAE, expressing his confidence that the bilateral ties would see steady growth. He described the UAE as a 'successful role model' in the region thanks to the wisdom and far-sighted vision of the late founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan, and the keenness of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to pursue this model of prudent leadership. Sheikh Mohamed expressed his hope that the working visit of Dr. Abiy Ahmed to the UAE would contribute towards furthering UAE-Ethiopia's cooperation ties in a manner that met the aspirations of the friendly leadership and peoples in both countries. Sheikh Mohamed emphasized the UAE's firm policy of expanding its ties with friendly countries based on mutual respect, confidence and understanding and the delivery of mutual benefits. He said: "The UAE and Ethiopia are maintaining good, evolving ties within the framework of the two leaderships' keenness to further solidifying these ties and cooperation." The UAE has developed successful clusters in tourism, health care, and the science and technology sectors which have attracted significant investments to serve as growth drivers. The two sides agreed to create a platform to attract high quality investment in these sectors.

The Prime Minister also visited Masdar City, Abu Dhabi's flagship sustainable urban community, and the Eco-Villa, which showcases practical and affordable solutions in residential building design. He took a ride in one of the city's Personal

Rapid Transit vehicles and was briefed on the locally designed and manufactured Eco-Bus as well as visiting selected laboratories of the Masdar Institute, part of the Khalifa University of Science and Technology.

RWANDAN STATE VISIT TO ETHIOPIA



President Paul Kagame and PM Abiy Ahmed

Photo: mfa

President Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and current Chairperson of the African Union, arrived in Addis Ababa on May 25 for a two-day state visit to Ethiopia. Upon arrival at Bole International Airport, he was warmly welcomed by Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed.

Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed subsequently received President Paul Kagame at the National Palace. The welcoming ceremony in honor of President Kagame included presentation of a bouquet of flowers followed by the salutations of the National Guard of Honor, the performance of the national anthems of Rwanda and Ethiopia, followed by a 21-gun salute and a musical performance by a cultural troupe from Ethiopia's National Theatre. Following this, Prime Minister Dr. Abiy and President Kagame held private discussions on ways of further enhancing the diverse, longstanding, and historic relations between Ethiopia and Rwanda, against the backdrop of the existing strong and close people-to-people ties. The two leaders made a commitment to strengthen relationships in key sectors, including defense and air services. Ethiopia and Rwanda signed 11 bilateral agreements across multiple sectors last year during the visit of Ethiopia's former Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, to Rwanda. Following a visit to the Hawassa Industrial Park, the Ethiopian and the Rwandan delegations held a working dinner in honor of President Kagame at the Haile Resort. The ceremony was embellished with mutual exchange of gifts and the performance of a folk music from different parts of the Region. Speaking on the occasion,



Premier Dr. Abiy expressed his personal appreciation for President Kagame, who he underscored, is not only the President of Rwanda but also an influential African leader with far-reaching contributions such as peace and security. He described the President as "a freedom fighter, great gift for the people of Rwanda and for the continent. After fighting for freedom, it is difficult to establish institutions, but when you go to Rwanda you can see how this leader has changed the country" Touching upon the affinity that binds Ethiopia and Rwanda together, the premier underscored, that the peoples of the two countries have common beliefs and cultures with an intertwined future. President Kagame, who expressed his gratitude for the warm hospitality accorded to him on his visit, noted the visit was marked by the way people from both countries connected at the level of heart-to-heart links.

ETHIOPIA VISIT BY GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER HEIKO MAAS



Heiko Maas (right) in Ethiopia

Photo: mfa

State Minister Hirut met with the Foreign Minister of Germany Heiko Maas and his delegation on May 03 and discussed on aspects of bilateral relation and regional issues of common interest. Mrs. Hirut expressed her gratefulness for the Minister's visit and noted the frequent visits and meetings made so far at different levels, which she said, showcased the importance both sides attached to their bilateral cooperation. Mrs. Hirut further expressed her gratitude for the Government of Germany for its support and continued engagement in the region.

Culture

AFRICA DAY AND "THE YEAR OF COMBATING CORRUPTION"

Africa Day was celebrated on May 25 under the theme "The Year of Combating corruption; a sustainable path to Africa's



HE Badr Abdellatty opening Berlin's Africa celebration, held in the Egyptian embassy.

Photo: emb

Transformation". Africa Day is the annual commemoration of Africa's independence, freedom and liberation from colonialism. The continental body, the Organization of the African Unity, now the African Union, held its founding conference, hosted by Emperor Haile Selassie in Addis Ababa on May 25 1963. The African Union was officially launched in 2002 at the Durban Summit, tasked with accelerating and deepening the process of economic and political integration.

The meeting in 1963 brought together more than thirty African nations and established a charter to improve the livelihood of member states across Africa. The 1963 conference also called for the observance of African Freedom Day once a year to mark, "The onward progress of the liberation movement, and to symbolize the determination of the People of Africa to free themselves from foreign domination and exploitation."

Africa Day celebrates the launch of the OAU in Addis Ababa 55 years ago by the Heads of State and Government of independent African states and witnessed by leaders of African liberation movements. It allows Africa to celebrate significant political, social and economic achievements since the establishment of the OAU. It offers the opportunity for people to pay tribute to the heroes and heroines of Africa who sacrificed their lives to defeat colonialism and apartheid and provide for the protection of sovereignty and human dignity. It presents all Africans with an occasion on which to reflect on the state of the continent and the individual as well as collective roles each must play in the efforts for the realization of Africa's integration.

ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATED

Ethiopia celebrated its National Day on May 28, Ginbot 20, with strong messages from President Dr. Mulatu Teshome and Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed urging Ethiopians at home and abroad to renew their commitment to address contempo-



Guest of Honor, HE Ralph Timmermann of the German Federal Foreign Office, speaking at the Ethiopian National Day celebration in Berlin

Photo: emb

rary challenges in their country. National Day this year was the 27th anniversary of Ginbot 20 marking the final defeat of the previous Derg regime, and the theme of this 2018 anniversary was "Enhanced National Consensus and Democratic Unity for Enhanced National Success."

President Mulatu Teshome congratulated Ethiopians at the closing of a ceremony of the celebration attended by high-level government officials, the diplomatic community and invited guests. Dr. Mulatu said, "Ginbot 20 is a day on which the foundation of democratic unity was laid in the country," adding, "We should seize the moment of the celebration as a good opportunity to renew our commitment for more national consensus and growth." The President said the government would be doing more to protect the rights of Ethiopians living abroad and widen the political space for competing political parties inside Ethiopia. He said: "Parties which have been operating outside the country joined us in today's celebration and this testifies that national unity is growing in the country." The victory of Ginbot 20 was the result of the sacrifices paid by the nations, nationalities, and people of Ethiopia who wanted to build a democratic system, said the President. It laid the foundation for the new Ethiopia. The President called on all Ethiopians to stand united to build Ethiopia's peace and stability on firm foundations. In his congratulatory message, Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, urged Ethiopians to extend love and forgiveness to others while celebrating the victory day. He also called on the public to show their commitment for reading, cleansing their environment and protecting national values during the celebration.

Different Ethiopian Embassies and other bodies in different parts of the world have also colorfully celebrated the occasion along with Ethiopian nationals, diplomats and personalities of different countries. The Berlin Embassy celebrated in the usual fashion: brief speeches by the Ambassador and the Guest of Honor, followed by a lavish display of Ethiopian cuisine.