

Monthly Press Review

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BY EAGATE FOREIGN TRADE AUXILIARY PLC

Bill Proposes Liberalization of Rail Transport

As the debt of the Ethiopia Railway Corporation (ERC) mounts to a staggering level, a new draft proclamation proposes to issue permit to private railway transportation service providers to be accommodated on the national railway infrastructure.

The draft proclamation entitled “Railway Transportation Administration” was tabled before the House of People’s Representatives for approval on Thursday. Private companies that could pass through the licensing processes will be allowed to participate in the railway transportation services sector, according to the draft bill.

According to the same bill, railway transport service is defined as an activity of transporting passengers or goods from one place to other using trains along a railway infrastructure. Similarly, the bill has defined what Railway Undertaking means. “Railway undertaking means a government or a private institution which holds a relevant license and whose main function is to provide railway transport service to the public”.

Therefore, companies willing or involved in the railway transport can render their services on the already built railway infrastructures such as the Addis Ababa Light Railway as well as the Addis Ababa Djibouti-Djibouti railway infrastructure.

Owners of these already built railway infrastructure are identified by the draft proclamation as the “Infrastructure Manager,” which is an institution responsible for administering of the railway infrastructure, particularly for maintaining the railway infrastructure, directing and controlling train traffics and installing relevant signs and signals along the railway infrastructure.[...] Source: [The Reporter, June 24, 2017]



Ethiopian inaugurates modern cargo terminal II .03

Ethiopian Airlines inaugurated yesterday a modern Cargo Terminal II constructed at a cost of 10 million Euro. The new terminal will raise Ethiopian’s cargo and logistics services annual uplift to 1 million tons.

Ethiopia signs bilateral agreements with China as Belt and Road takes shape .05

The high level delegation led by Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn visited China from May 12 to 21 to attend the BRF and meet investors in China.



International bidding opens for new National Theatre

The Ethiopian National Theater has sent the completed design of the new theater building to the Ministry of Construction in anticipation that an international bid on the project will soon open.

Local and international contractors will be invited to compete for the construction, expected to begin next Ethiopian year.

To complete the design which cost three million birr, Adissu Mebratu Consulting Plce traveled to theater halls in Milano, Italy for inspiration on ways to make the theater more attractive. [...]

[Source: Capital, June 18, 2017].

Kenya subsidizes maize prices, Ethiopian exporters call for corn exports to be im-

The government of Kenya has placed controls on maize distribution in collaboration with millers to put a halt to rising prices. Experts urged the Ethiopian government to work with exporters and expand exports of surplus maize.

Currently the Ethiopian government via the Ministry of Trade (MoT) allowed selected exporters, who have their own farm or work via contract farming with other commercial farmers and government trading enterprises and farmers' unions to export the product to Kenya and other south and east African countries, affected by droughts that occurred over the past two years. [...]

[Source: The Reporter, April 15, 2017]

Addis to Get Second Cardiovascular Hospital

The government of Ethiopia in partnership with the Netherlands government is to build the second dedicated Heart & vascular Hospital in Addis Ababa with a cost of 900 million Br.

Netherlands donated half of the cost of the project while the rest is covered by Ethiopia.

The 100-bed cardiac hospital will contribute greatly to advance better cardiovascular care for patients in the country, adding to the existing Addis Cardiac Hospital in the city, founded in 2006 by Fikru Maru (MD) as the first cardiovascular hospital. [...]

[Source: Fortune, June 25, 2017]

First Smart Parking Goes Operational

Smart Parking, a modern and one of a kind parking lot, was inaugurated in the Megenagna area of Addis Ababa on Friday.

The new 15-level parking space is hoped to address the critical traffic congestion in the capital, where drivers spend a lot of time in search of parking spaces, and this has a direct impact on their driving performance.

Among the solutions the city government has come up to attenuate the perennial problem is to build a modern parking lot equipped with modern devices.

The new parking facility has elevator stops, electric and mechanical technology system that allows vehicles to move up and down between the spaces themselves. So the car's height, length and weight will be taken into account, according to information obtained from the city's transport management office.

Since the parking space uses iron bars and rods, its construction is said to have taken short time.

The surface parking space built next to the Megenagna smart parking lot is designed to accommodate 50 cars. In addition, Bole Wollo Sefer surface parking has the capacity to service 40 vehicles at a time.

The Surface and smart parking spaces alongside of Megenagna, Churchill Street and Anwar Mosque were built with a total capital amounting to 150 million birr.

The city's transport management office further noted that plans are under way to build similar parking spaces at some 60 locations in the capital.

In addition to the surface and Smart Parking, the city administration also revealed that it would build underground and high-rise parking lots.

The underground parking is to be built around Shebelle and Beer Garden.

Similarly, a five-story parking space is planned to be erected around Sholla area along with two underground levels. When completed, the space is expected to accommodate 1,000 vehicles at a time.

[Source: The Reporter, June 3, 2017]





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Ethiopian inaugurates modern cargo terminal II

Ethiopian Airlines inaugurated yesterday a modern Cargo Terminal II constructed at a cost of 10 million Euro.

Innaugurating the facility, Prime Minister Hailemariam Des-salgen said the cargo terminal would boost Ethiopia's floriculture and horticulture exports.

The prime minister further stated that the facility would also help to keep the quality of footwear, leather and medicine products export.

Stating the significance of the cargo in addressing Africa's logistic and cargo shortcomings, Hailemariam called on the continent's airliners to make use of the facility.

Ethiopian Airlines CEO Tewolde Geberemaiam said on the occasion that the cargo terminal puts Ethiopian among the 10 world's best airlines in cargo and logistics services.

The terminal has facilities such as dry cargo terminal warehouse, perishable cargo terminal with cool chain storage, office building, apron area which accommodates 5 additional big freighter aircraft and sufficient truck parking apron.

It is also fitted with different climate chambers for storage and handling of temperature sensitive products such as fresh agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, life science products, among others.

The new terminal will raise Ethiopian's cargo and logistics services annual uplift to 1 million tons.

Ethiopian cargo and logistics services operate 8 dedicated freighters to 39 global freighter destinations in Africa, the Gulf, the Middle East, Asia and Europe.

Built on 40,000 square meters of land, the new cargo would raise Ethiopian's cargo and logistics services annual uplift to 1 million tons.

Ethiopian has recently won 'Cargo Airline Award for Network Development' at Brussels; 'African Cargo Airline of the Year' and many more, according to Fana Broadcasting Corporate.

[Source: *Eth. Herald*, June 30, 2017]

European Bank Allocates 6 bln Br to Shore up Small Businesses

Small business across Ethiopia will benefit from a new 6.4 billion Birr, approximately 247 million Euro lending and leasing program to be managed by the Development Bank of Ethiopia announced on Thursday

The new initiative backed by the European Investment Bank and World Bank represents the first international support in the Ethiopian financial sector.[...]

“This new initiative will support the local entrepreneurship and the creation of manufacturing jobs by hundreds of companies across Ethiopia”, Pim van Ballekom, EIB Vice President, said.

The new fund he said, “demonstrates the European Union’s clear commitment to help unlock sustainable economic activity in this country.”

EIB says it has unique technical and financial experience that is helping to improve infrastructure and private sector investment across Ethiopia.

“The new Leasing and Lending for SME initiative will help to strengthen the economic resilience of vulnerable communities and reflects Europe’s commitment to help Ethiopia improve access to finance,” confirmed Chantal Hebberecht, European Union Ambassador to Ethiopia. [...]

[Source: *The Daily Monitor*, June 30, 2017]

PVH ET AL Begin Export from Hawassa Industrial Park

The US-based Philip Van Heusen (PVH), a company which dominates the global textile and apparel market, has started exports of t-shirts made in the newly erected Hawassa Industrial Park.

Having recently secured a 40 percent investment stake at Wuxi – a Chinese textile firm which makes various textiles – PVH is said to have exported t-shirts to the US. Belachew Mekuria (PhD), deputy commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) told reporters last Friday that PVH along with a handful of manufacturing firms at Hawassa Park have entered into the export market.

Operating small size units in Kenya and Egypt, PVH has now established a joint venture with an Indian company, Arvind, in Ethiopia and has secured 15,000sqm manufacturing shed in the park to create 800 jobs. The export volume and value PVH has launched two weeks ago remains undisclosed. PHV operates the likes of Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein brands globally and the coming of such a globally reputed company, which commenced production nearly for two decades, has been seen as paradigm shift to the ill-fated textile sector of the country.

The Hawassa Industrial Park, which is solely set for textile and apparel productions, has attracted 16 specialized companies so far. Hydra Mani, one of the anchor companies next to PVH, has been able to export textile worth USD one million on a monthly basis. Ontex, a Belgian manufacturer, has commissioned production recently is set to export sanitary pads and baby diapers to the local and global markets. [...]

[Source: *The Reporter*, June 3, 2017]



Ethio-Djibouti Water Pipeline Inaugurated, Salt Port Opens for Busi-

Ethiopia has started providing drinking water for Djibouti as the trans-boundary water project was inaugurated in the presence of top officials from the two nations.

It is the first time something like this has been done in the region. Groundwater around Ethiopia’s Adi Gala town, Shinile Zone will be piped 320km to Djibouti’s key towns of Ali-Sabieh, Dikhil, Arta and the Capital. [...]

According to Djibouti Ports and Free Zones Authority, the project consumed USD 64 million.[...]

[Source: *Capital*, June 25, 2017]



New Bottled Water Hits Market

Tamire & Family Plc, a distributor of beverages in Addis Abeba, unveiled Alpha bottled water with an investment cost of 83 million Br. The product hit the shelves of outlets on May 30, 2017, following the completion of the water bottling plant by the Company.

Originating from Chacha town in Amhara Regional State, Alpha, a purified mineral water, will be packaged in a bottle and targeted to be sold throughout the country. It is currently being distributed to towns located in all four directions of Addis Abeba including Harar, Wolita, Hawassa, Wellega and Bahirdar. [...]

[Source: *Fortune*, June 4, 2017]

Ethiopia Signs Bilateral Agreements with China as Belt and Road Takes Shape

The one belt one road forum for International Development (BRF) held in Beijing from May 14 to 15 is already making a difference for Ethiopia as three bilateral agreements with the Chinese government were completed.

The high level delegation led by Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn visited China from May 12 to 21 to attend the BRF and meet investors in China.

During the evaluation held at Sheraton Addis sponsored by the Chinese Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives lauded the significance of the BRF for Ethiopia and Africa.

PM Hailemariam was the only African leader to deliver a speech at the BRF.

Tsegab Kebebew, who directs the Asia and Oceania Affairs division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the two nations also agreed to increase cooperation and production capacity, human resource development, tourism, aviation and other endeavors.

Hailemariam invited companies to invest because of the financial support that will be given by the Belt and Road Initiative encouraging strong companies to go global through Ethiopia, according to Tsegab.

The Road and Belt Initiative, launched four years ago, works by improving the world's connectivity using five pillars.

The five pillars of the initiatives are policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, trade, investment, and people to people exchanges.

“We all know about importance of laying down basic infrastructure for an economic takeoff, which was the experience of many European countries in the 17th and 18th centuries and the Asian miracle countries,” La Yifan, Ambassador of China, said.

The purpose of the forum was to provide a platform for representatives from 130 countries in a diverse array of backgrounds to share ideas. [...]

[Source: *Capital*, June 4, 2017]

BGI to Launch Beaufort in Burgeoning Beer Market

As Ethiopia is becoming used to a large selection of beers, Les Societes Anonymes des Brasseries du Cameroun (SABC), a company that is partly owned by Heineken and BGI, which the later owns 75 percent of all shares, is set to launch a new beer in the country, through BGI Ethiopia – Beaufort beer. BGI, one of Ethiopia's leading brewers of the St. George, Amber and Castle brands has placed sleek advertisements throughout the capital to introduce its latest acquisition. Bottled in Heineken-like bottles in rich green, the beer is described as a “blonde lager” and is set to make its debut a week after the Ethiopian New Year in September. [...].

SABC is headquartered in Cameroon and one of its major shareholders is the President of the Central African nation, Paul Biya.

Known for owning and sponsoring football teams in the country, it has more than 75 percent of the beverage market in the country. It is also involved in the production of non-alcoholic product, including Coca Cola and locally made products.

The company was established in 1948 and has been brewing beers in Cameroon since 1952. It is also heavily involved in the exportation of beverages to more than 20 countries. Beaufort pale lager is considered a light-beer at an alcoholic rate of only 4.6 percent. [...] [Source: *The Reporter* June 10, 2017]



Upcoming Events



Africa and Middle East Association for Gastroenterology Congress (8th AMAGE)

Dates: 05 – 09 July 2017 | Venue: UN Conference Centre Addis Ababa

The 8th AMAGE is a 5 day scientific program that focus on key clinical developments and features lectures from the world experts with a theme “Challenges facing Gastroenterology in Africa and the Middle East”.



The AHRD Conference Employability and Skills Development

Dates: 30 – 31 August 2017 | Venue: Addis Ababa

The conference will cover areas like employ-ability and skills development, building systems at national and enterprise levels.

Making Payment Digital Fuels Inclusive Growth: Kifiya’s CEO

The Ministry of Industry is looking into a Kifiya Financial Technology Plc has announced its new remit pay service, launched on Wednesday in partnership with MasterCard for international. The digital solution has enabled Ethiopians in Diasporas, estimated to be close to 3 million, to pay bills for their loved ones at home. The Chief Executive Officer of company, Munir Duri, tells with The Daily Monitor how this new service works and the company’s new partnership with Mastercard experts. [...]

[Source: The Reporter, June 10, 2017]



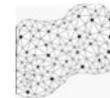
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UNDERSTAND



NETWORK



ACT



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