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Ethiopia Reopens its Embassy in Somalia

Ethiopia has reopened its embassy in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin said the reopening of the Embassy symbolizes the return of peace and security to Somalia and the event marks a turning point in the relations between the two sisterly countries.



**Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin
Hoisting the Ethiopian flag**

"The move is an end of the hostility between the two countries, but the misunderstanding and mistrust of the two countries has nothing to do with the people of the two nations."

"All Somalis and Ethiopians believe that they have only one enemy and that is poverty and underdevelopment."

He noted peace and security has been jeopardized by handful of extremists who professed to be the holy men, but engaged in deeds contradicting the tenets of Islam.

Somali Prime Minister, Ali Gedi, on his part praised Ethiopia for its role in assisting the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia. "The people and government of Ethiopia made ultimate sacrifice that somebody can do to another; we thank them and this is one of the achievement of Ethiopian forces."

Gedi also called up on other countries to follow suit and open their embassies in Somalia.

During his stay in Mogadishu, Seyoum also met Somali clan and religious leaders and urged them to play greater role for the success of the national reconciliation congress.

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Tekeda: Eritrea Endangers the Sub-region, Africa

State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tekeda Alemu, said Eritrea is a potential danger for the stability of the Horn of Africa and the whole continent.

While briefing Ambassadors and resident diplomats of member states of the Arab League, Tekeda said Ethiopia is ready to address the boarder issue through dialogue.



He said Eritrea is engaged in terrorist activities, adding that the regime in Asmara has become the leader of non-governmental actors of all times.

He said "What ever is gained in the security area is useless in Somalia unless the political opportunities are used with wisdom."

Tekeda, who said member states of the Arab League are important partners of Ethiopia, expressed the strong commitment of Ethiopia for close cooperation.

Tekeda briefing the Arab League Member Ambassadors

Ambassadors of member states of the Arab League on their part said they wanted to work together with Ethiopia for a better future of the sub-region.

US, Ethiopia Fight Terrorism

Florida Senator, Bill Nelson said Ethiopia and the United States stand together in the fight against terrorism.

After consultations with Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin, Bill said Ethiopia's successive economic growth over the past few years indicates that the country is on the right track to development.

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Bill commended Ethiopia's effort to bring about change in health and education sectors.

US is pleased with the encouraging political development in Ethiopia, he said.

Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin on his part said the cooperation between Ethiopia and US is satisfactory.

Ethiopia, Tunisia Exchange Instrument of Ratification

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Tunisia exchanged instrument of ratification.

The instrument of ratification, which is a basis for future bilateral relations between Ethiopia and Tunisia, requires both countries to avoid double taxation with respect to taxes on income.



**Ambassador Sahlework Zewde and
Ambassador Mohamed Adel Samasui
Exchange the Agreement**

Ambassador Sahlework Zewde, Director General of the African Directorate General on the occasion said: "the agreement paves the way for the business community of both countries to work together."

Ethiopia and Tunisia shared strong historical relations as members of the OAU and now AU, she said.

Ethiopia would like to further bolster the excellent political relations through economic ties.

Tunisian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Mohamed Adel Samasui, on his part said: "the instrument of ratification is an opportunity to look forward to the future."

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Ambassador Mahdi Says Ethio-Korea Solidarity Symbolic

An official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says the Ethio-Korea solidarity and friendship symbolizes the long standing relations between the two countries.

Upon receiving a donation of 25 computers by the Republic of Korea, Mahdi Ahmed Gedid, Director General of Asia, Australia and Middle East said Ethiopia and Korea enjoy robust and cordial relations.

The donation, a gesture of friendship, depicts the desire of Korea to strengthen bilateral ties and would help address material needs of the Ministry in the ongoing restructuring and capacity building activity.

Korean Ambassador to Ethiopia, Byung Kock Jhung said his country is ready to provide development assistance focusing on family planning and water projects.



Ambassador Mahdi Receiving the Donations

He said Korea is indebted to Ethiopia, a nation which sent a contingent as part of the UN peacekeeping troops deployed to the Korean Peninsula.

Ambassador Kock Jhung told MoFA Newsletter that currently there are 34 registered Korean companies in Ethiopia.

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Residents kick off Reconstruction of Mogadishu

Residents of the Somalia capital, Mogadishu, have started reconstruction and rehabilitation of a number of social services in the sub-districts.

Mohammed Deere, Mayor of Mogadishu told MoFA Newsletter that the metropolitans and the businessmen, women and youth associations and civic groups have undertaken rehabilitation of roads, schools and health centers.

He said the business community has contributed 160,000 dollars for the reconstruction activity, adding that the Mayor's office will shortly start collecting taxes.

Deere called on the international community to lend a hand in the rehabilitation of Mogadishu.

Meanwhile, Speaker of the Ugandan Peoples Defence Force deployed in Mogadishu, Paddy Ankunda said the world should help Africans to move fast and bring more troops to Somalia.

He said "we need to tap the good will of the people for peace."