



ISSUES IN BREIF



Ethiopia Cabinet Reshuffle: Part of a series gov't reforms to address concerns

The Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn has reshuffled his cabinet, appointing 21 new members.

The Ethiopia's parliament has unanimously approved 21 ministers .

The new ministers, the prime minister said, were picked for competence and commitment.

The appointees include a new minister of foreign affairs, Workneh Gebeyehu, who replaces Tedros Adhanom, currently vying for World Health Organization's top post.



The Public in Ethiopia welcomed the prime minister's move, saying it was a step forward in addressing the grievances of the people.

The Premier scrapped the previous posts designated as cluster coordinators with a Deputy Prime Minister Portfolio and the post of advisors to the Prime Minister.

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The state of emergency declared to create favourable condition;

The Ethiopian government has declared a state of emergency effective starting from 8th of October 2016.

The declaration of a six-month state of emergency was following a thorough discussion by the Council of Ministers on the loss of lives and property damages occurring in the country.

The state of emergency was declared to respond to the questions of the people and to create favorable condition, not to suppress the questions raised by the community.

It is in the public knowledge that some groups who have their own objectives took advantage of the questions of the people and targeted demolishing the Constitutional order. Their actions affected Ethiopians' age-long culture of tolerance and living in harmony. In order the government to carry out the responsibility bestowed by the people ,it should maintain peace and order in the country . To this end declaring the state of emergency for short period of time was necessary .

Ethiopia's six-month state of emergency could be called off before that period is over.

Further to this the government is committed to make the structural reform. The ministerial reshuffle and new appointment was also part of the reform.

Announcing the appointees, the prime minister told parliament that the reshuffle was made in line with government promises for such measures as electoral reform and good governance. The government made public that it wants to reform the electoral system where the voices of those who are not represented can also be heard in the Parliament.



Ethiopian Community discussed the current situation ,SA



Ethiopians from Pretoria and Johannesburg , was held with a view to discussing the current situation in the country.

His Excellency Ambassador Mulugeta kelil ,Ethiopian Ambassador to the republic of south Africa on Sunday briefed Pretoria-Johannesburg based Ethiopian community on current situation in the country ,particularly on state of emergency ,declared by the government of Ethiopia.

The organized attack against people, individuals, groups, Businesses and mostly targeting the kind of success stories that Ethiopia has been credited for Ambassador said ,And more importantly, this an attack which is being orchestrated at the command and with the support of foreign elements so it requires extraordinary measures. These, according to the briefing, are the reasons for the state of emergency.

During the event the paper was presented by Mr.Yetneberk Belayneh,diplomat in the embassy of Ethiopia, highlighting the chronology of the situations up to the decision of the state of emergency.

He shared detailed accounts on the situation of the incidents, the causes and the cautious efforts undertaken by the Government of Ethiopia to manage the situation. He mentioned on his presentation that the series of unrecognized demonstrations in parts of Oromia and Amhara had legitimate concerns.

The legitimate concerns of the protestors were lack of good governance, slow and sluggish government response towards public concerns, and a huge number of unemployed youth.

However, these legitimate questions were taken over by anti-peace elements, he noted; the demonstrations were openly marked with violence and an act of lawlessness which amounted to loss of lives. It is the fact that the government has constitutional obligation to stop the ongoing violent activities .To this end using the ordinary mechanism has been found to be extremely daunting because the kinds of threat that the country faced couldn't be easily addressed through ordinary means of law enforcement, according to Yetneberk's presentation.



With regard to the ongoing government efforts in responding to the situation, Mr yetneberk noted that the government is conducting series discussions with different segment of the people and reforming the government structure at all level.

The Discussions, questions and answers based on the briefing given and presentation made was part of the meeting.

Scene on the current situations in Ethiopia; By Medias in SADC region

Mail and guardians

Mr. William Davison, writer on mail and guardian , in the article he wrote on 11th Oct 2016 under the title “Ethiopia's state of emergency could end sooner” quoted the prime minister answer given during the interview that was held in Addis Abeba . “I think it can quickly settle down and we don’t even need six months of the emergency period that’s been set,” Mr William further referred PM Hailemariam response “We are pretty sure that we can regain it very quickly because Ethiopia has a solid ground, a solid foundation, it cannot be shaken by these kind of things.”

Swazi observer



The Article in sawazi observer published on 5 November 2016 recalled the readers that Ethiopia with nine UNESCO world heritage sites and an archeological history that goes back to the first humans, Ethiopia’s ancient treasures named the world’s best tourist destination by the European Council on Tourism and Trade in 2015 , and recently Lonely Planet ranked the country among the best to visit in 2017.

Mr. Will Coldwell, the writer of the article has also reflected his concern if the state of emergency could affects the ever-growing number of tourists.

But he mentioned that he couldn’t find any reasonable ground to conclude that the number will decline and be affected by the current situation at all.



Ato Andinet Feleke, cited by Mr. Will in the article, who runs Jacaranda Tours and is a board member of the Ethiopian Tour Operators Association, added: “Tourism has never stopped and significant number of visitors are having trips in all tourist destinations. We had a group on the dates when protests had escalated and none of them encountered a problem. I hope foreign governments will have a balanced approach and align their responsibility to protect their citizens with the impact their decision will have on the livelihood of millions here.”

Mr. Will also made reference on the wording of MS Eliza Richman of Go Addis Tours “None of the tourist sites in Addis has been affected: our tours there are running normally,” said Eliza Richman. She further said “Our bookings for October were roughly the same as last year, but people are mostly booking tours at the last minute.”

He also reflected in the article the views of the local operators “Ethiopia’s main tourist sites are well away from the regions seeing the disruption, the risk to tourists is low”.



Ethiopian Airlines enters Namibia and Comoros



Ethiopian Airlines, the fastest growing and the largest African airline, commenced services to Windhoek, Namibia, via Gaborone, starting from 4th October, 2016.

Windhoek is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Namibia, headquartering most of the national enterprises and cultural institutions.

The Pan-African airline, Ethiopian, apart from pioneering in aviation systems and technologies, is the leading airline in its vast network in the continent.

Group CEO Ethiopian Airlines, Mr. Tewolde GebreMariam, said, “As a Pan-African airline, it has always been our source of pride to connect Africa together and to the rest of the world. The addition of Windhoek to our ever expanding network brings our African destinations to 53, the largest coverage unrivalled by any other carrier.

“I believe, the commencement of this flight will surely give our customer more convenient option to travel to Namibia. We will continue to expand our reach in our home market in Africa with a view to support to the continent’s socio-economic integration and development.”

Ethiopian deployed the Boeing 737 on the route. The aircraft is configured with 15 Cloud Nine seats and 138 Business Class seats.

Ethiopian Airlines enters Comoros

Ethiopian Airlines commenced flights to Comoros on 2 November, an island some 300 kilometres off the east coast of Africa, level with the Tanzania-Mozambique boarder



The airline will operate between **Addis Ababa** (ADD) and **Moroni** (HAH) thrice-weekly (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays), with current schedules showing that the route will be an extension of its morning flight on its current Dar es Salaam route on the days stated, with the 737-800 being the aircraft of choice for the Star Alliance member.



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