



## Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

PMO Newsletter | June 2021 Issue

### Key Activities of the Month:



**On 2 May 2021,** Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and First Lady Zinash Tayachew celebrated Easter by sharing lunch at the Unity Park with the elderly, the disabled, and vulnerable youth.

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**On 8 May 2021,** Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed inaugurated the Mojo-Meki and Meki-Batu roads, which are part of the 10,000 km long Trans-Africa highway. The inaugurated roads cover a total of 92 km as part of the first phase of the Mojo-Hawassa expressway. The Mojo Meki 56.4 km road is a joint venture between the government and the African Development Bank, while the 37 km Meki-Batu road is built in collaboration with Exim Bank. Completion of the road will create market and urban linkages, increase tourism flow and strengthen industrial parks. It will also increase Ethiopia's economic, social and political benefits at continental level.

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**On 11 May 2021,** Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed welcomed President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo and his delegation at his Office. During the discussions Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed reiterated that Ethiopia continues to be committed to African Solutions for African Problems and to an African Union led process under the facilitation of the current Chair of the Union. He further emphasized Ethiopia's firm position that the GERD can be an icon of cooperation and mutual development among the downstream countries, with a commitment of no harm to both. Ethiopia affirms its desire for an agreement that works for all parties in accordance with the Declaration of Principles.

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**On 11 May 2021,** Ethiopia launched 'Telebirr' - a mobile money service that allows Ethio Telecom mobile customers to send, store and receive money by just using their telephone number. 'Telebirr' aims to extend mobile services to our financially excluded sections of society. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed commended Ethio Telecom and all other stakeholders that enabled the realisation of this project within a very short time period. By launching the service, a mere short week after receiving the operational license, Ethio Telecom has demonstrated early preparedness.

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**On 13 May 2021,** Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed visited the Bilalul Habeshi Center on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr. The center is working to solve challenges faced by Ethiopians, help the less fortunate and spread knowledge with local support. In particular, the Bilalul Habeshi Community Museum, which is dedicated to the collection and exhibition of Ethiopia's long-standing Islamic heritages, is one of the sites that should



be visited. Prime Minister Abiy expressed his belief that the institution has the capacity to perform even more.

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**On 14 May 2021,** Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his delegation arrived in Djibouti on an official visit and to attend the inaugural ceremony of the President of the Republic of Djibouti.

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**On 15 May 2021,** Semera industrial park was inaugurated. Located in the Afar Region and completed in 10 months, the Semera Industrial park aims to attract investments in textiles, apparel & leather manufacturing, among many others. The inauguration of the park is a catalyst for accelerated trade along a key import/ export corridor for the country.

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**On 16 & 17 May 2021,** Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed convened Regional leadership for a meeting covering national and regional geopolitical issues to discuss and plan activities to be undertaken as a government within the next three months.

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**On 17 May 2021,** A follow up meeting was held with the Chair of the National Electoral Board as well as leadership of Regions and the city administrations with the aim of evaluating electoral preparedness. Each region shared their level of logistical preparedness, polling stations set up, voter registration and security apparatus readiness to enable peaceful and safe elections. Regional reports indicate an overall progressive increase in number of voter registration, training and readiness and election police.

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**On 18 May 2021, Ethiopia's** third round Green Legacy planting initiative was officially launched by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed together with high level Federal and Regional government officials. This year's planting takes place under the motto "Let's Adorn Ethiopia". Following the planting of 5 billion seedlings last year, Ethiopia will plant 6 billion seedlings in this round. An additional 1 billion seedlings will be sent to neighboring countries to start a regional effort towards a green Africa. Restoring the country's greenery, eliminating erosion and pollution, reducing conflicts that arise due to environmental degradation and reduction of natural resources, supporting the agricultural sector, and the economy are among the benefits of the initiative. Prime Minister Abiy called on all Ethiopians to come in unison in covering the nation Green, seeing each other beyond lines of division.

As part of the launch week, briefing was held for foreign investors residing in Ethiopia, artists, the sports family, the diplomatic community, media executives, and federal communications professionals in the following days.



**On 19 May 2021, 'Ethiopia Week'** - a showcase of cultural diversity, history and national assets - was opened to the public at the Sheger Park - Friendship Square. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed encouraged all to visit and learn of the national wealth.

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**On 22 May 2021, The** Ethiopian Communications Authority provided a very detailed review of the new telecom license bidding process in the presence of the telecom privatization advisory council. The meeting provided a transparent account of the process and solicited inputs for the Council of



Ministers to weigh in making a decision that puts Ethiopia's vision for prosperity and growth aspirations at the forefront.

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**On 22 May 2021, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed** convened religious leaders, business community and academics from the Tigray and Amhara regions to discuss on ways and means of cooperation to support the return and rehabilitation of displaced persons in the Tigray region. A 14-person committee comprising Federal & Regional officials plus representatives from both groups will undertake work to facilitate the process.

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**On 23 May 2021, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed**, during the launching ceremony for the construction of Amhara Cultural Center, said Ethiopians need to not only look at their fortunes and our multifaceted culture, but also work together to make a great use of them. He reiterated the need to come together in the spirit of love, forgiveness, cooperation and Medemer to make Ethiopia an African beacon of prosperity.

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**On 24 May 2021, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed** commended the work the Ethiopian Standards Authority is undertaking in its new compound to promote urban agriculture. The Authority's vertical farming sample is a good model for uptake by other institutions and households to contribute to food security through urban agriculture. It is crucial that cities develop their capacity to be able to at least partially feed themselves.

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**On 30 May 2021, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed** launched the construction of

the Adama - Awash 60km expressway which is part of the Ethiopia-Djibouti Transport Corridor.



**On 31 May 2021**, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed welcomed Senator Jim Inhofe of the US Senate.

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## Press Releases and Statements

*Categorizing TPLF + Shene as Terrorist Groups*

1 May 2021

<https://bit.ly/2SFLr9S>

*Statement on Electoral Preparedness*

4 May 2021

<https://bit.ly/3yLpYwZ>

*Situation update on Tigray Region*

8 May 2021

<https://bit.ly/3oPgT1k>

*Cabinet Decisions*

22 May 2021

<https://bit.ly/3vl2igG>

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## Quote of the Month



*“The Green Legacy Project is not one that will bear fruits immediately. Rather, we will see the results in the next generation. We will farm for our daily bread and we will plant seedlings for our children. Our children will inherit a lush and prosperous Ethiopia.”*

**– Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed**

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## Photo of the Month



*Council of Ministers has unanimous and historic decision granting new nationwide telecom license to the Global Partnership for Ethiopia.*

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