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

## New Horizon of Hope

The Office of the Prime Minister will be issuing the monthly ‘New Horizon of Hope’ digital newsletter as of this edition. The newsletter intends to entertain summary of issues and undertakings of each month with paramount significance to the people and government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

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## Rule of Law: The Epitome of State Continuity

“It is not for lack of adversaries and traitors who have tried to sow division and animosity that Ethiopia still stands as a symbol of independence, sovereignty and pride in Africa. It is due to the strength of the bond among Ethiopians with different ethnic heritage and the patriotism of most Ethiopians that transcend ethnic identities that Ethiopia still stands.”

[Read the full Editorial](#)

## Key Activities of the Month



On **December 2, 2020**, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed met with political parties and civil society organizations in the presence of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia, to discuss the upcoming elections now scheduled for June 5, 2021.

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On **December 9, 2020** Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and President Uhuru Kenyatta inaugurated the one stop border post in Moyale. The inauguration of the border post is expected to facilitate trade between the two countries by cutting down inefficiencies at the Moyale border. The two leaders also inaugurated the Hawassa - Moyale 500km asphalt road, which is the Ethiopia component of the Cape to Cairo Trans - Africa highway. Together with the one stop border post infrastructural investment, both aim to boost Ethiopia-Kenya trade ties.

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On December 13, 2020 Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, with their respective delegations, held a bilateral meeting at the Office of the Prime Minister. Both sides expressed the long-standing relations between the two countries as a basis for further strengthening bilateral cooperation. The Sudanese side reiterated their solidarity with the government of Ethiopia in the law enforcement operations it has been undertaking, with Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok recalling the support of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in particular, and the Government of Ethiopia during Sudan's time of need. The discussions between the two leaders concluded with an understanding on several issues of mutual interest.

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On December 13, 2020 Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed went to Mekelle city this and conferred with commanders of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces and the Provisional Administration of Tigray. This was his first trip to Mekelle after the National Defense Force took control of the city from criminal elements.

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On December 20, 2020 Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed attended the 38th IGAD Extra-Ordinary Summit in Djibouti. The summit agenda included a briefing on Ethiopia's Rule of Law Operations in Tigray Region. The AU Chairperson issued a statement sharing that “the federal government took bold steps to preserve the unity, stability and respect for the constitutional order of the country; which is legitimate for all states.”

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## Featured Article

In a deeply personal and heartfelt op-ed, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed recounts the multiple efforts that he initiated to resolve the differences that the government had with the TPLF criminal clique. Regrettably, all the persistent efforts to avoid conflict were taken for weakness by the clique, making the use of force the only tool of defense to ensure the continued survival of the nation. He writes that his primary responsibility as a prime minister and commander in chief is to protect the nation and its people from internal and external enemies. In the law enforcement operation, he argues truth ultimately won and prevailed.

[Read the full article](#)

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## Legislative/Policy Updates:

In its 92nd regular meeting, the Council of Ministers on December 11th approved the 10year National Perspective Plan and the draft media proclamation. The former is expected to position the country as an African beacon of prosperity by capitalizing on its high growth trajectory. The draft media proclamation governs print and broadcast media with a new legal framework introduced to regulate online media. The media proclamation is expected to further bolster freedom of expression and press freedoms.

In its 93rd regular meeting, the Council of Ministers on December 22nd approved the draft proclamation on establishment of a stock exchange, regulation on insurance mechanism for bank deposits and the amended national defense force

proclamation. The capital market proclamation enables companies to easily finance long-term and risky but productive projects, increase financial savings by providing alternative ways of saving and hence, reduce our dependence on foreign finance by investing in domestic savings. The regulation on insurance mechanism for bank deposits allows establishment of a strong "transparent" deposit insurance system which accelerates the return of finances to a large number of depositors and increase public confidence in the financial system. The amended defense forces proclamation is aimed at introducing new practices where members and officers of the army can receive special promotions and rewards based on their qualifications.

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## Policy Matters:

Anchored in Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's November 30<sup>th</sup> parliamentary address, the four-part special 'Policy Matters' series delve into key issues raised by the Prime Minister on criminality, rule of law, security sector reforms and overall national policy reforms.

- **Part 1** with Mustefe Omer, President of the Somali Regional State:  
<https://bit.ly/37Y7Cxn>
  - **Part 2** with Gedion Timothewos (PhD), Attorney General:  
<https://bit.ly/34OXLlg>
  - **Part 3** with Tesfahun Gobeza, Former National Security Advisor, PMO:  
<https://bit.ly/34RQd7m>
  - **Part 4** with Mamo Mihretu, Senior Policy Advisor, PMO:  
<https://bit.ly/3poH4Lw>
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## Quote of the Month

*Ethiopia has only one government. Ethiopia has a government that functions on the principle of the rule of law. It has a government accountable to the law. A government that respects its citizens. As much as possible, it will build a democracy that looks like*

*Ethiopia. It will not flail attempting to look like so and so.*

*– Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed*

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## Photo of the Month



ENDF commanders receive Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed at  
Mekelle airport on December 13, 2020



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