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according to Ministry of Finance.

The total projects to be constructed by Public Private Partnership (PPP) are reportedly 16 and bids have been prepared for the six mega solar projects.

Speaking to journalist, Finance State Minister Teshome Tafesse said feasibility studies for all the seven hydropower, six solar and three road projects were conducted and both local and international companies invited to bid for the solar projects.

The solar projects will be implemented in Oromia, Tigray, Afar and Somalia regional states, it was learned.

According to Teshome, a governing board comprised of seven members from public and two from private sector has been established

to enforce the PPP Proclamation and facilitate the identified projects.

Since it has become very difficult for the government to meet the growing demand for infrastructures through public organs alone, it is highly committed to consolidate the PPP framework, he said.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has recently provided USD 1.7 million support for the PPP program, including hiring of international consultants to the identified mega projects, it was indicated.

ETHIOPIA EMBARKS ON ELECTRONIC TRADING SYSTEM FOR SOYBEAN, CHICKPEA



Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX) embarked on electronic trading system of soya bean and chickpea to enhance foreign trade transaction.

The system enables institutions to undertake the transactions in the electronic center that the previous transaction lacks.

The new system would enhance ease of access to provide more



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service to farmers, suppliers, corporate and exporters.

These agricultural commodities are needed at the international market and the system just developed will help to promote foreign exchange earnings for the country.

Ethiopia earned over 91 million USD from soya bean and chickpea last year.

According to Central Statistics Agency (CSA), on average 439,000 tons of chickpea and 76,000 tons of soybean have been produced, of which 54 and 58 thousands are exported respectively over the last five years.

In enhancing its accessibility, ECX opened regional electronic trading center in Hawasa and pledged to open more centers and branch offices across the regions in the

future.

Horsebean and nigerseed will join the electronic trading system in the next months, it was learnt.

The modern trading system launched officially at the presence of Trade and Industry State Minister.

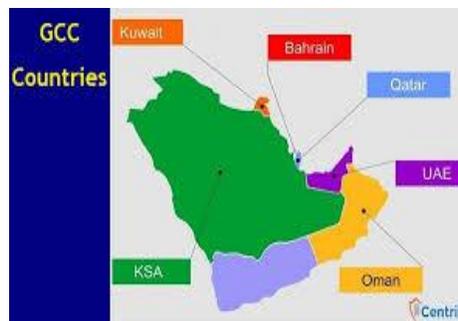
Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity has signed MoU with Gulf Electricity Interconnection Authority and the International Energy Linking Organization (GEIDCO) to start feasibility study of electricity link between Ethiopia and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

The MoU was signed on Saturday, January 12, 2019 in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Water, Irrigation and Electricity Minister Engineer Sileshi Bekele said on the occasion the interconnection of energy between countries, regions and continents is one of the most important ways to unite people for mutual benefit and economic prosperity.

UAE Energy and Industry Undersecretary and member of the

**MOU FOR FEASIBILITY
STUDY OF ELECTRICITY
LINKAGE BETWEEN
ETHIOPIA, GCC COUNTRIES
SIGNED**





Board of Directors of the Gulf Electricity Interconnection Authority Matar Al Nayadi said the link with Ethiopia is part of the strategy approved by the board to contribute to the creation of electricity market and the promotion of electricity exchange.

He pointed out that the linking projects aim to spare the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) electricity networks for any partial or total interruption by 100 percent by providing instantaneous support for the required power transmission via the electrical connection network directly.

The Gulf Electricity Interconnection project is one of the most important infrastructure projects approved by the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to

enhance energy security and raise the level of reliability and safety of the Gulf electrical systems.

CHINESE COMPANY STARTS EXPORTING PRODUCTS FROM NEW INDUSTRIAL PARK



Antex Groups, a Chinese textile manufacturing company, has officially started exporting its products, making it the first company to export from the recently inaugurated Adama

Industrial Park.

From its first export to Europe, a container of swimwear, the company is expected to generate 100,000 U.S. dollars, Antex Chairman, Qian Anhua said.

The Chairman said that the company has created jobs for 1,500 individuals. The number is expected to reach 10,000 when it goes fully operational.

Antex started its investment with five million U.S. dollars has later increased its capital to 50 million U.S. dollars. It is working on eight sheds that it rented within the park.

Officials from the investment commission and industrial parks development corporation (IPDC) attended the ceremony organized to celebrate the first export from the park.



CEO of IPDC, Lelise Neme lauded the company for starting to export products within a short period of time.

She added that Adama Industrial Park is exemplary for others for starting export within few months. The park was officially inaugurated in October this year.

Two companies including Antex are already started operation, while three others are in the pipeline, she said.

Adama industrial park is among the industrial parks that Ethiopia has developed over the past few years in order to stimulate industrial development by attracting anchor companies.

Adama Industrial park, approximately 93km southeast of Addis Abeba in Oromia regional

state, was inaugurated in early October by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

The first phase of the park that lies on 102 hectares, built at a cost of 147 million dollars was commissioned by the Industrial Parks Development Corporation.

PM LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE BUSINESS CLIMATE



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed launched an initiative to improve

Ethiopia's business and investment climate.

The initiative is an integral part of Ethiopia's Action Plan for Jobs, according to Office of the Prime Minister. The initiative is expected to make Ethiopia a competitive place to start and grow businesses. PM Abiy said Ethiopia ranks 159 out of 190 in "Ease of Doing Business" and described the environment as inefficient, bureaucratic and cumbersome.

The national program will have 80 distinct actions to be delivered across 10 government agencies.

Abiy said Ethiopia has untapped investment opportunities, but weak system. "So the system and law need to be reviewed within the next 100 days."

The revisions will include trade law,



banking and credit system, tax collection, power supply and others, it was indicated.

ETHIOPIA RE-ORGANIZES CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ROADMAP



A directive roadmap has re-organized to manage chemical industrial development in Ethiopia, Chemical and Construction Inputs Industry Development Institute said.

The roadmap has been restructured with a fund from United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Speaking at the consultation with stakeholders on the roadmap, Deyesa Leta, Director of the Institute said preparation has been undertaken one year ahead of the restructuring of road map with an outlay of 400,000 USD which granted from UNIDO.

According to him, the finding of the research has being shown vast technological and expertise gaps in Ethiopian chemical industry.

The Director added the roadmap has also suggested sustainable solutions for identified setbacks in the sector, he said adding that universities and vocational colleges

have to revise their training approach.

The roadmap further directed on how the industry could harmonize with the country's green reliance economic policy, Deyesa pointed out.

Moreover, he stated that less technological advancement in the chemical industry is undermining Ethiopia's competency in the global market.

THREE YEARS NEEDED FOR ETHIOPIA TO DEVELOP PETROLEUM RESOURCE





The Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas disclosed that the country needs additional three years to develop its petroleum resources in the Ogaden area.

The nation has announced in June that it has discovered a huge crude oil reserve in the Ogaden area, eastern part of the country.

Ketsela Tadese, Petroleum Licensing and Administration Director at the Ministry told ENA that there are activities that need to be done before entering into the production process.

Drilling of hundreds of additional wells as well as development of various infrastructure facilities that are important for the production process need to be done in order to develop the resource, he added.

According to him, these activities

could take up to three years.

Besides the resource in Ogaden, the country is working to explore other potential areas, Ketsela said.

So far, five areas in different parts of the country are being explored. The Rift Valley, Abbay, Mekelle, Metema and Gambella basins are where the explorations are being undertaken.

INDIAN COMPANY SET TO INVEST IN ETHIOPIA WITH 200 MILLION USD



Indian Trident Group Limited

Company set to invest on plant producing Trident Copier Paper with 100-200 Million USD capital in Ethiopia.

Company CEO, Navel Jindal said the company is keen to produce an eco-friendly Trident Copier and Writing Paper in the country.

The company produces environment friendly paper from agro residue materials and manages non-utilized resource and rain-fed harvesting to further moving towards green manufacturing for a clean environment.

He added that "Trident offers a unique advantage of saving the plants by using eco-friendly copier paper which is directly helping the farmers through sale of agro waste which was earlier burned as



economic benefit that cause air pollution.”

This eco-friendly Trident Copier and Writing Paper saves over 1.5 million trees per year that were used for paper manufacturing, he noted.

The per capita paper consumption in Ethiopia is remains low as paper consumption of the country is 2.5 kilogram per year which is against world average of 55kilogram per year, he indicated.

Trident Group is a 1 Billion USD Indian Business Conglomerate and a major player in business segments having a growing customer base over 100 countries across the world.

ETHIOPIA TO SET-UP OVER 7,800 SMALL, MEDIUM MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES



The government of Ethiopia has planned to set-up more than 7,800 small and medium scale manufacturing industries in order to sustain the ongoing development.

The establishment of new manufacturing industries and strengthening of existing ones is part of the government's efforts towards realizing structural transformation, Small and Medium

Manufacturing Industries Development Agency said.

The new industries will expect to create jobs for more than 195, 000 people, Genet Aregawi, head of policy planning and project management at the Agency said.

In order to make the industries effective, a market link worth of two billion Birr and 194.5 million US dollars will be created locally and overseas, respectively, Genet said.

A total of 14.7 billion Birr is needed to establish the new industries and strengthen the existing industries, which are close to 3,000.

Metal and wood work, textile and garment, leather and leather products, agro processing, construction inputs and jeweler are some of the industries that are going to be established.



ETHIOPIAN MARITIME TO MODERNIZE CARGO LOGISTICS SERVICE



Ethiopian Maritime Affairs Authority (EMAA) has launched software that modernizes cargo logistics service.

EMAA Director-General Mekonnen Abera said the logistics service is engulfed with a number of problems as the authority depended on manual operations.

Among the problems that challenged EMAA included transport delay due to wrong truck dispatch, difficulties to track cargo,

high demurrage due to delayed updates and poor reporting system.

The software will make the authority efficient as it changes manual stick operation into computerized operation, it was learned.

The Director General believes that the software will address the problems that EMAA has been facing.

The software is developed by Addis Ababa Advanced Information Technology Plc.

Ethiopia stands 170th out of 176 countries in terms of cargo logistics service efficiency.

ENTERPRISE INITIATES REFURBISHMENT OF DRY PORTS



Ethiopian Shipping and Logistic Services Enterprise starts refurbishment of local dry ports to accommodate import-export commodities right through Assab and Massawa ports, according to the CEO.

The Enterprise Chief Executive Officer, Roba Megersa told ENA that Komlbocha, Mekele, Semera and Wereta are among the dry



ports under revamp for the services.

“We have Mekele dry port which is near to Masawa port, but it needs some expansion, so we are expanding the dry port for material storing and transiting services. And we have got a place from Wereta city administration, so we will continue our effort to construct a dry port in the city,” he said.

The CEO added that the Semera and Kombolcha dry ports can be the best options to accommodate the import export market through Assab corridor, accordingly the enterprise is preparing to expand the services in the dry ports.

He pointed out that when Ethiopia starts to use the Eritrean ports of Assab and Massawa for import-export, containerization of cargo

will substantially increasing steadily.

Therefore, the dry ports have to respond that demand by the development of a new multi-purpose terminal with space for the handling and storage of containers, including refrigerated and hazardous goods, he said.

Roba explained that the dry ports are expected to contribute towards reducing transport costs, transit frequency and congestion at ports as they are very close to both corridors.

The under renovation Semera dry port is comparatively near to Assab port with only 290 km, Kombolcha dry port 390 km to Asseb, and 235 Km from Mekele to Masawa.

He said that the port are also expected to provides services for

the handling and temporary storage of the services.

On the other hand, the enterprise is exerting efforts to work with several local and international logistic companies to further modernize the services quality in the ports, he added.

In this regard, he stated that it is preparing partnership and agreements with potential companies that can accelerate the services in the corridors and local dry ports.

“Now, preparations are in good progress,” he said and adding that the Ethiopian government is set to start full service deliveries in the coming six months.

“We are preparing to begin full mannered services in less than six months. Because we already



started infrastructural developments so we planned that the infrastructure development will be completed within three months,” Roba said.

The ports of Masawa and Assab were the major gate for Ethiopia’s import-export trade until the border war that broke out between the two countries in 1998.

After then, Ethiopia has been primarily using the port of Djibouti to access the international market; 95 percent of Ethiopia’s imports and exports have been transacted through the port of Djibouti.

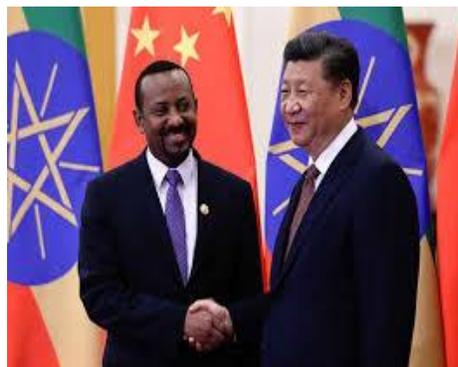
Yet, the recent rapprochements between Ethiopia and Eritrea have led the way for the reinstatement of warm relations including port services, transportation.

Ethiopian Airlines has already

resumed flights to the capital Asmara, and is planning services to Massawa and the Southern port city of Assab soon.

Recently an Ethiopian commercial ship with the brand name “Mekelle” with the length of 166 meters and 27 meters heights was docked at the port of Massawa to be icebreaker after two decades.

CHINA EXTENDS THE DEBT REPAYMENT FOR ETHIOPIA



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said

that China has agreed to extend debt repayment period for Addis Ababa-Djibouti cross-border railway.

According to him, China has pledged to extend debt repayment period for a loan it has acquired to construct Ethio-Djibouti railway from 10 to 30 years.

Mentioning that Ethiopia has received huge amount of loan and investment from China, the two countries held extensive discussions on ways of balancing the trade volume between Ethiopia and China, he stated.

Prime Minister Abiy had a bilateral dialogue with Chinese officials particularly, the two sides agreed on extending loan payment, revising interest rates and identifying options that enable to



shift from loan to development assistance, he indicated.

ETHIOPIAN SHIP DOCKS AT PORT OF MASSAWA AFTER TWO DECADES



Ethiopian commercial ship, which docked at the Port of Massawa, is heading to China after Two Decades.

The ship with brand name “Mekelle” with the length of 166 meters and 27meters heights, is now crusing to China with 11,000

tons of export commodities from Eritrea.

The vessel is sailing from Saudi Arabia to dock at the Red Sea port of Massawa.

Ethiopia has 12 Cargo and two container ships and they are named after the seats of the regional states.

Ethiopia, which uses 90 percent of its import-export trade through the port of Djibouti, is waiting for the re-opening of two roads connecting Ethiopia and Eritrean Ports to recommence services.

Prime Minister Ahmed Abiy offered to make peace with Eritrea after taking office in April as part of a series of reforms that has turned politics on its head in his country and the region.

It was learnt that Prime Minister

Abiy paid an official visit to Eritrea last July to sign a peace accord to end the 20 years stalemate.

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