



Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

PMO Newsletter | September 2024 Issue

New Horizon of Hope

Key Activities of the Month

On August 1, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed while briefing various stakeholders on Macro-Economic Reform Program Policy, stressed the importance of understanding the Macro-Economic Reform Program Policy holistically rather than in isolation. “We have thoroughly evaluated what needs to be done to bring about development in Medemer. Our approach is pro-poor and focused on supporting the most vulnerable,” the Prime Minister posted on X.



In the early hours of August 3, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed received Hakan Fidan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye. Discussions centred on continued bilateral ties between Ethiopia and Türkiye.

On the same day, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed wrote on his social media pages that seeing the Borena area, which was hit by famine a year ago, now with an abundance of wheat production, shows that our hope is real. “If we work hard, we can change our country and ensure food sovereignty,” the Prime Minister stated.

On August 5, 2024, Office of the Prime Minister underscored that social welfare is a key pillar of Prime Ministerial initiatives, with a focus on the annual renovation and construction of homes for the elderly and economically vulnerable. This ongoing transformation in the Aware area of Addis Ababa aims to ensure a decent lifestyle for the intended beneficiaries and is a cornerstone of similar efforts undertaken by government actors at both the Federal and Regional levels. This year’s program was launched in May by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, and since then, the construction process for affordable housing for the indigent has continued to accelerate.

On the next day, August 6, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed shared that that the transformation of the Aware area through our housing scheme for the elderly and economically vulnerable has been underway for the past six years. This year’s construction progress exemplifies a shift in work culture, merging quality with speed, he said. The premier added that beyond mere housing, the green areas under development aim to foster community and dignified living.

On August 10, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed extended his congratulatory messages to Ethiopians following Tamirat Tola’s marathon race victory at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. “At the Paris 2024

Olympics, heroic athlete Tamirat Tola raised our flag once again by winning gold in the marathon,” the Prime Minister said.



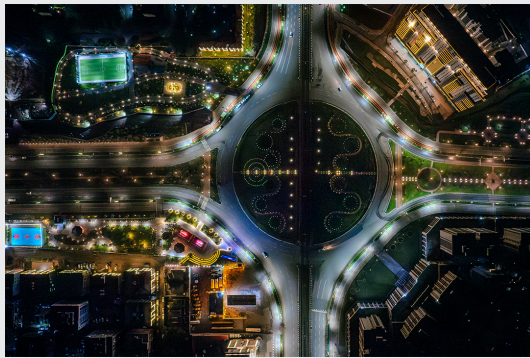
On the same day, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed *presided over the* forum that was organized to foster a shared understanding between the National Defence Force and the highest levels of government leadership. This forum focused on the journey of the National Defence Force through the ongoing reform movement, the Prime Minister wrote on his social media page. He added discussions were productive, and successfully aligning the military's mission with the government's vision for the country's future. According to the Prime Minister, "Those who have sacrificed for their country earn deep respect."

Ethiopia's history is deeply rooted in the strength of its military, which has always been more than just a force—it is an institution driven by a higher purpose, he added. The Ethiopian military embodies sacrifice and commitment that go beyond the confines of individual villages, aiming instead at the broader mission of protecting and preserving the nation.

The premier further highlighted the challenges encountered by the National Defence Force at various levels have provided opportunities for growth and transformation. These difficulties have enabled the force to rebuild itself with enhanced standards and improved capabilities. Prime

Minister Abiy elaborated it now possesses the potential to serve the nation with even greater dedication, commitment, and love.

On August 11, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan held a phone conversation. The leaders discussed enhancing bilateral ties, particularly focusing on doubling trade volume. The two leaders also addressed strengthening regional cooperation. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed expressed appreciation for President Erdogan's support in facilitating a resolution to the misunderstanding between Ethiopia and Somalia. He emphasized the importance of providing Ethiopia, a nation of 120 million people, with access to the sea through a mutually agreeable approach.



On the same day, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced that the CMC route is now open to the public, part of the ongoing Addis Ababa corridor development. “Our corridor development work that is being done with the help of the residents and the management is expanding and we have opened the media CMC line to the public today. Our work will continue because seeing broad things makes us think broadly,” he revealed.

On August 12, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said that: “Corridor development is not only enhancing the beauty and comfort of Addis Ababa but also significantly increases the city’s green cover.”

On the same day, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed called on everyone involved in skill-building in Ethiopia—incubators, accelerators, universities, and others—to fully embrace the 5 Million Coders initiative. “To all students on

break, young professionals, and those eager for personal growth and making a positive impact locally and beyond: the 5 Million Coders initiative has been launched to help you stay ahead, regardless of your career stage or goals,” the Premier encouraged.

On August 13, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed shared on his social media channels that fruit cultivation through our Green Legacy efforts is yielding impressive results, demonstrating significant progress. To build on this success, the Prime Minister underlined that it is essential that we continue to enhance our practices, invest in innovative techniques, and engage with our community to further advance our environmental and agricultural objectives.



On August 14, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed launched the construction of “Addis Tomorrow Special Economic Zone” in Addis Ababa city’s Gotera area.

Following the launching event for the construction of the special economic zone, Prime Minister Abiy underscored that since work is the only path to realizing our dreams, our sole political ideal is dedicated to labour. “Thus, we have initiated the construction of the Addis Tomorrow Economic Zone, which will showcase the future vision of our city,” he revealed.

On August 16, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed called on Ethiopians to make history by planting 600 million tree seedlings and break their own previous planting record. He also urged the public to put their legacy across Ethiopia with a unified spirit, adding that “when we come together, we can achieve more.” Accordingly, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed called on adults to plant over 20 saplings each and teenagers more than 10.

On August 18, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed posted on his social media pages that forests are vital for the planet’s health and human well-being. According to him, they provide oxygen, store carbon, and regulate the climate, helping to mitigate climate change. Noting that forests are also home to a vast array of biodiversity, the premier indicated that it offers habitat to millions of species. Let’s protect our existing forests and continue increasing our forest coverage by planting, Prime Minister Abiy urged.

On August 19, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said the National Defense Forces (ENDF) play a crucial role not only in ensuring the sovereignty and peace of the nation but also in contributing to its development. The ongoing efforts in wheat production, agriculture, #Green Legacy Initiatives, and various industrial outputs are vital in advancing our development and laying the foundation for prosperity, the Prime Minister shared. According to the premier, the defence forces are not just a source of peace but also a source of development and innovation. The progress being made in this regard is promising, and it is essential to continue and strengthen these efforts, he stated.

On August 20, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed revealed that a significant milestone in our Digital Ethiopia journey has been achieved with Ethio telecom, in partnership with Visa Inc., launching the country’s first wallet-based Virtual Visa Card and enhanced remittance services via Visa Direct and telebirr Remit. The Prime Minister hoped that this Visa Direct facilitates easy money transfers to Ethiopia from over 190 countries by using a Telebirr virtual card number. This partnership supports over 47.55 million Telebirr users and advances Ethiopia’s digital financial services, he

pointed out. Prime Minister Abiy also lauded EthioTelecom for its success in this regard.



On the same day, the Prime Minister reviewed the productivity of the Bounty of the Basket initiative in Hawassa city of Sidama region and took part in planting Green Legacy seedlings ahead of the 23rd August 2024 National Planting Day.



On August 23, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and First Lady Zinash Tayachew accompanied by other senior government officials gathered in the city of Assosa, *Benishangul-Gumuz* for the historic day of tree planting event, which the region is known for its natural abundance, mineral wealth, and fertile lands.



On the same day, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and First Lady Zinash Tayachew inaugurated a bread factory in Assosa with a capacity of producing 300,000 loaves per day, built through the Office of the First Lady. In the Benishangul Gumuz region, her office has also constructed two high schools. Nationally, over 30 high schools and more than 12 bread factories have been built through the Office of the First Lady, with financing secured from various partners and collaborators. On the occasion of the one day planting, the Prime Minister and First Lady also planted seedlings within the compound of the bread factory.

Also on the same day, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed thanked the Ethiopian public for planting an astounding 615.7 million saplings in a single day tree planting program. “This is a testament to the incredible solidarity and perseverance of Ethiopians. Our gratitude goes out to the leaders, professionals, and media institutions who played key roles in planning, monitoring, and ensuring the success of this initiative,” he said. In total, 29.1 million citizens planted saplings across 318.4K hectares of geospatially mapped locations, the Prime Minister pointed out.



On August 25, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed unveiled the 3rd and 4th turbines of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). And he added the rest of the units are proceeding as planned.

According to him, more good news has emerged from Guba for the lower Abbay basin countries. Along with the uninterrupted flow of the river, the dam's spillways have been opened, releasing an additional 2,800 cubic meters of water per second, the premier stated.

The Grand Renaissance Dam plays a crucial role in managing water flow, mitigating flood risks, and ensuring that downstream nations receive a steady supply of water, particularly during droughts. This carefully regulated release will significantly enhance agricultural productivity, boost power generation, and improve resource utilization throughout the region.



On August 31, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed officially launched Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) with the Information Network Security Administration. Speaking on the occasion, the premier stated that securing virtual data is essential for protecting national sovereignty and this will facilitate reliable and secure digital data exchange.

On the same day, Prime Minister Abiy gave recognition to the leaders of Addis Ababa corridor development, institutions and individuals who contributed to the successful implementation of the projects. “I want to extend my appreciation to everyone involved in developing our corridors. Today’s recognition reflects the hard work and dedication you have shown in creating a better urban environment for our people,” he underscored.

His remarks at the occasion, Prime Minister underlined the need for preparing Ethiopia’s cities for the future with a focus on dignified living for the country’s citizens.

Video of the Month



Benishangul-Gumuz: Flowing Rivers and Endless Green

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