



ERI-NEWS



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Cabinet of Ministers Deliberated on Priority Programs for the 2018 Budget Year

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The Eritrean Cabinet of Ministers in its meeting held on 11 November 2017 extensively discussed the paper presented by President Isaias Afwerki regarding the structural adjustment and revision of the existing budgetary allocation in relation to priority development programs.

President Isaias referred the experience accumulated in the past 26 years in the implementation of large scale developmental projects and budgetary allocations and underlined the need for appropriate structural review of the methodologies used so far for more effective utilization of resources.

energy and electricity power supply, ensuring the supply of fuel and basic consumer goods, investment on livestock and marine resources, supply of water for households consumption, agricultural and industrial developments, boosting the machinery and modern production materials, restoring the environment, development of dams and irrigation systems, construction and renovation of roads, ports and airports, construction of residential houses, improvement of transportation and communication services, increasing educational and health services, securing supply of medicines as well as importing of basic raw materials and construction equipments.



In this vein, President Isaias stated the parameters and procedures followed for budget preparation require adjustment and improvement.

The President underlined that the priority of priorities in the 2018 budget is salary increment for employees in the public service.

The other priority development programs are the expansion of renewable

The Ministerial Cabinet then discussed the large scale development projects for 2018 and the indicative budgetary allocation as well as source of funding; and the plans to increase revenue, reduce expenses and strengthen investment.

The Cabinet also discussed political, diplomatic, and security developments in the region.

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Address by H.E. Mr. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea, during the 8099th Meeting of the United Nations Security Council, New York, 14 November 2017

Mr. President,

From the outset, I wish to congratulate you and Italy for assuming the presidency of the Council for the month of November.

I have the honor to address this meeting of the UN Security Council on behalf of the people of Eritrea who for over half a century has been at the forefront in the struggle for peace and human dignity in the Horn of Africa.

Mr. President,

Again today, the Security Council has missed another opportunity to rectify its transgression against the people of Eritrea, and positively contribute to the security in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea, which for long has been suffering from the debilitating effects of the scourge of conflict, poverty and terrorism.

The Monitoring Group has for five years, including this year, asserted that there is no evidence of Eritrean support to al-Shabab in Somalia, the principal justification invoked to impose the sanction. This should have never come as a surprise as Eritrea's record in combating terrorism in the region is a matter of historical record.

With regard to Djibouti, it is unprecedented for a Council to sanction one party without any symmetry, especially when the dispute is under a mutually agreed mediation. The skewed manner in which the UN Security Council has been handling the dispute continues to breed a sense of no obligation on the government of Djibouti and to pursue a policy of provocation aimed at stirring tension, when in fact the border between the two countries remains calm.

Moreover, Eritrea finds it ironic that the Council has chosen to remain silent on Ethiopia's illegal occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories for 15 years, while it harasses Eritrea on account of a putative border dispute with Djibouti.

The message from those who supported this resolution to the people of Eritrea is loud and clear: Eritrea has done no wrong; nor has it violated UN Security Council resolution, yet the sanctions will be kept



with the mere purpose of targeting Eritrea. Equally, the message for the citizens of the region is clear: there is no willingness from the Council to address the core issues that are undermining peace and security in the region. The emphasis by some Council members about alleged support to armed group is inappropriate, double standard, and unacceptable. It will reward, aggression, occupation, policy of destabilization and regime change; and provocation. It will encourage the perpetuation of zero-sum games.

This is unfortunate. More importantly, it will be viewed as discredit to this organ which is mandated the critical task of maintaining international peace and security.

Mr. President,

The Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region remains volatile and fragile. Eritrea is making its modest but significant contribution to stabilizing the region. However, it is critical to examine whether the sanction that has been in place for the past eight years against Eritrea is abating conflicts or fueling them. Evidently, the sanction has worsened the situation by rewarding an aggressor and breeding a sense of impunity on Ethiopia. It meant the continuation of the conflict with its resultant heavy price on the peoples of Ethiopia and Eritrea as well as complicating the regional security situation. Eritrea once again calls on the Council, in the interests not only of Eritrea, but also Ethiopia, the sub-region, Africa and the Red Sea, to redress this wrong.

Mr. President,

Regional peace and security in the Horn of Africa and

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the Red Sea is first and foremost the responsibility of the countries in the region. Eritrea will continue its constructive engagement and contribution towards ensuring a peace, amity and progress in our region. Eritrea's conviction stems from the belief that a conducive environment is essential to its all-inclusive

and people centered development.

I wish to conclude by thanking those delegations who did not support this politically motivated and counter-productive resolution that the Council just adopted.

I thank you Mr. President

**Press Release - Ministry of Information
Unwarranted Sanctions on Eritrea Must be Rescinded**

The UN Security Council has been discussing, in these past days, the "renewal of the sanctions on Eritrea". A draft resolution, which will essentially extend the unwarranted sanctions against Eritrea for another year, has been worked out although it contains a caveat for "review of the resolution" sometime during the year.



AU Charters and the Algiers Peace Agreement that was brokered and guaranteed by the UNSC itself.

As it will be recalled, the sanctions on Eritrea were imposed in December 2009 under trumped up charges of "Eritrea's support to Al-Shebaab in Somalia". That this allegation had no basis in law and fact was known to the principal architects of the resolution as well as to vast members of the UN system. Nonetheless, Washington was doggedly wedded at the time to a political agenda of "punishing Eritrea". As it happened, it used its diplomatic clout to ram through the resolution under dubious circumstances on Christmas Eve that year.

The Algiers Agreement contains explicit provisions that stipulate the invocation of Chapter VII of the UN Charter by the UNSC to impose punitive measures on the recalcitrant party. And, the UNSC knows full well that Ethiopia has indeed violated the Algiers Agreement and the related Arbitral (EEBC) Award to occupy the sovereign land of its neighbour and create a grave threat to regional peace and security.

It is almost eight years now since these sanctions have remained in force to inculcate considerable damage to Eritrea. Virtually all member states today acknowledge, without ambiguity, that these accusations are hollow indeed. Yet the UNSC continues to invoke irrelevant and tangential issues to maintain the illicit sanctions.

But under relentless pressure from the US, the UNSC has chosen to close its eyes to date to this flagrant violation of international law. On the other hand, the UNSC continues to maintain the sanctions regime imposed on Eritrea that was originally concocted by Washington in order to eviscerate Eritrea's legal and moral case and deflect attention from Ethiopia's flagrant violations of international law.

What is additionally appalling is the UNSC's duplicitous decision to invoke Chapter VII of the UN Charter and impose sanctions on Eritrea while it has shirked its responsibilities on a grave situation that really merits its action.

Even at this late hour, what is morally and legally incumbent on the UNSC is rectification of this injustice; not the extension of the unwarranted sanctions under procedural and/or other untenable ruses.

Ethiopia continues to occupy, for more than 15 years now -sovereign Eritrean lands in violation of the UN/

Ministry of Information
Asmara
13 November 2017

Hirgigo Power Plant Expanded with \$98.6 Million Investment

The electric power generation capacity of the Hirgigo Power Plant has been augmented by 60% with a project worth 98.6 million dollars. The project that was implemented by the Chinese SFECO Company will upgrade the electric power supply by 46 mega watts.

At the handing over ceremony conducted on 15 November, in which Mr. Abraha Asfeha, Minister of Public Works, Mr. Hagos Gebrehiwet, Head of PFDJ Economic Affairs and other senior Government and Front officials were present, Gen. Sebhat Efrem, Minister of Energy and Mines, said that the installation of the generators is part of the huge investment the Government is making to ensure power supply in the country.

Gen. Sebhat also commended the Chinese company for the timely implementation of the project and for maintaining the existing generators in partnership with Eritrean experts.

The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Yang Zigang, indicated that the installation of the two new generators attests to the growing cooperation between the two countries.

The General Manager of SFECO, Mr. Chen Yu, on his part, stated that the Company is proud for participating in the development programs in Eritrea and commended the support they received from the different stakeholders.



Eng. Abraham Woldemicael, General Manager of the Eritrean Electric Corporation, indicated that the installation of the generators coupled with the ongoing other projects will contribute in augmenting the capacity of power supply at national level.

Broader Prospects for China-Eritrea Friendly Relations

Excerpts from an article by H.E. Mr. Yang Zigang, Chinese Ambassador to Eritrea, published on shbait.org on 11 November 2017

“From October 18th to 24th, the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was successfully convened in Beijing. The Congress is of great significance as it was held during the decisive stage in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and at a critical moment as socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. The congress reviewed the work of the Party over the past five years, outlined new plans for China's future development, revised the constitution of the CPC, and elected new central leaders of the Party, with Mr. Xi Jinping being re-elected as the General Secretary.

“President Isaias forwarded two congratulatory letters to General Secretary Xi Jinping, conveying His Excellency's congratulations for the Congress and General Secretary Xi's re-election respectively. Well informed through media broadcasts such as TV coverage, the Chinese people have deeply perceived the friendship of President Isaias, People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ), the Eritrean government as well as its people.

“China and Eritrea, the CPC and the PFDJ, and the peoples of our two countries enjoy solid traditional friendship. The two sides embrace a high level of mutual political trust, constantly expanded economic and trade cooperation and increased people-to-people and cultural exchanges. All the achievements have brought tangible benefits for the two peoples. China's development has entered a new era, and this will defi-

Broader Prospects for China-Eritrea Friendly Relations ...Contd. from page 4

nitely in new opportunities for enhancing China-Eritrea friendly cooperation with broader prospects.

“In recent years, China-Eritrea exchanges and cooperation in extensive areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, education, energy and mining, medical care and capacity building have constantly achieved substantial progress. However, they have not reached a certain level to fulfill people’s expectations. We have to work harder to ensure that our friendly cooperation will develop on more platforms and at a higher level.

“Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the China-Africa ‘Ten Cooperation Plans’ during the FoCAC Johannesburg Summit Meeting held in 2015, which aims to assist African countries to realize industrialization and agricultural modernization. The plans cover vast areas of China-Africa cooperation such as infrastructure, trade and investment and poverty alleviation. The “Belt and Road Initiative” proposed by President Xi in 2013 has become the largest and most open cooperation platform in the world through construction after several years’ construction. We are glad to see that more African partners have partici-



Ambassador Yang Zigang

operation under the two frameworks of FoCAC and ‘Belt and Road’.

“As socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, I have seen new development prospects for China-Eritrea friendly cooperation. We are ready to march on hand in hand with our Eritrean friends, to embrace a brighter future of our two countries.”

The full text can accessed from: <http://shabait.com/categoryblog/25162-new-era-of-chinas-development-broader-prospects-for-china-eritrea-friendly-relations->

‘Cooperation between Eritrea and Turkey Expanding’: Turkish Ambassador to Eritrea

Excerpts from the Remarks by H.E. Aykut Kumbaroğlu, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, during the celebration of the 94th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of Turkey, on 29 October 2017 in Asmara.

“Turkey and Eritrea established diplomatic relations immediately after Eritrea gained independence. The Turkish Embassy in Asmara was opened four years ago in 2013. We share deep rooted historical, cultural and social ties. Upon this heritage, exchanges in many fields are expanding rapidly. I am very happy to see that our cooperation is being enhanced in many sectors and getting diversified. One of the most important among them is the increasing exchanges between our people. Within the framework of Türkiye scholarships, dozens of Eritrean students are

continuing their university education in Turkey. Thousands of Eritreans are visiting Turkey every year thanks to direct flights by Turkish Airlines between Asmara and İstanbul.

“I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the city of Asmara for being listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. I am also happy to express that Turkey has given her full support for this project.

“In conclusion, I would like to reiterate, as the Ambassador of Turkey to Eritrea, my commitment to contribute to the further strengthening and development of the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between Turkey and Eritrea and I wish happiness and prosperity to the people of Eritrea.

“Long live the Turkey-Eritrea friendship.”

The full text can be accessed from: http://50.7.16.234/hadas-eritrea/eritrea_profile_01112017.pdf

Eritrean Community Festivals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Eritrean Community in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held its annual Festivals in Jeddah and Riyadh from 1-3 November, and 9-11 November 2017, respectively. The Festivals featured, among others, seminars on national and regional issues, artistic and cultural shows, and sport competitions.

A senior delegation comprising Mr. Alamin Mohammed Seid, Secretary of the PFDJ, and Mr. Woldemicael Abraha, Minister of Local Government, conducted seminars at the Festivals on the objective situation in the homeland, and regional and global developments.

The delegation provided extensive briefings on the efforts made and progress achieved in nation building and nationalism; foreign relations; development programs; and the contribution of citizens as well as strengthening the PFDJ and other issues of relevance.

The delegation reaffirmed that the Eritrean people have ensured the security and political stability of the nation as well as laid strong economic foundation; and called on the citizens in the Diaspora to augment their participation in the national development endeavors and in nurturing youth with all rounded capacity.

Eritrean Community Festival in Jeddah, 1-3 November 2017



Eritrean Community Festival in Riyadh, 9-11 November 2017

