



**Parliament of Australia**

**Australian Parliamentary Delegation  
to Kenya and Ethiopia**

**3 to 9 June 2018**

© Commonwealth of Australia 2019

ISBN 978-1-74366-951-8 Printed version  
ISBN 978-1-74366-952-5 PDF version

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Australia License.



The details of this licence are available on the Creative Commons website:  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/au/>.

## **Members of the Delegation**

**Mr Andrew Broad MP**

Member for Mallee  
Leader of the Delegation

**Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP**

Member for Cowper

**Mr Graham Perrett MP**

Member for Moreton

**Mr Tim Watts MP**

Member for Gellibrand

**Ms Julia Searle**

Delegation Secretary



## **Introduction**

This report gives an account of the Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Kenya and Ethiopia from 3 to 9 June 2018.

The delegation comprised:

- Mr Andrew Broad MP, Delegation Leader,
- Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP,
- Mr Graham Perrett MP, and
- Mr Tim Watts MP.

As one of very few delegation visits to Africa in recent years, the overall objective of the visit was to strengthen ties with Kenya and Ethiopia. The visit provided the opportunity to reflect on the existing relationship with each country and to discuss opportunities to strengthen these relationships into the future. The delegation sought to explore issues of common interest in the areas of humanitarian aid, mining, agricultural production, governance, education, trade and investment.

Appendix A outlines the delegation program.

### **Visit to Kenya 3 to 7 June 2018**

Kenya is the second largest economy in East Africa and its capital, Nairobi, is one of the fastest-growing cities in Africa as well as a major regional hub for the United Nations, multilateral organisations and diplomatic visits. Kenya plays an increasingly important regional role on humanitarian, maritime and regional security issues in the Horn of Africa, hosting a large refugee

population and playing an intermediary role in Somalia and South Sudan.

Kenya has one of the most diversified economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. Sectors contributing to economic growth are agriculture, building and construction, infrastructure development, manufacturing, transport and services, tourism and mining.

### **Australia–Kenya relations**

Australia and Kenya established diplomatic relations in 1965. Ties between the two countries include collaboration on agriculture and food security, counter-terrorism and piracy, mining exploration and education.

The Kenyan community in Australia continues to grow with 19,390 people born in Kenya, most having arrived in the last 10 years as skilled migrants. There is a strong Kenyan diaspora in Australia.

Australian aid to Sub-Saharan Africa is focussed on education, agriculture, extractives and governance. The majority of the bilateral program is Australia Awards scholarships. Since 2011, 433 Kenyans have been supported through Australia Awards. In 2017–18, 49 Kenyans were supported to undertake Masters degrees and short courses in Australia.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Australia NGO Cooperation Program and Direct Aid Program support a range of community development programs.

### **Parliamentary relations**

During the course of the visit, the delegation met with the Speaker of the

National Assembly, the Majority Leader and members of the Foreign Affairs Committee. These meetings helped to further political ties between the two countries.

The delegation's first parliamentary meeting was with the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Hon Justin Muturi.

The Parliament of Kenya is a bicameral legislature consisting of the Senate (67 seats) and National Assembly (349 seats). Speaker Muturi is the seventh speaker of the National Assembly and the first since the reintroduction of the bicameral parliament under Kenya's new constitution.

The composition of the National Assembly is established by the Constitution as:

- 290 members elected by the elected voters of single member constituencies,
- 47 women elected by the registered voters of the counties, each county constituting a single member constituency,
- 12 members nominated by parliamentary political parties according to their proportion of members of the National Assembly to represent special interests including youth, persons with disabilities, and workers, and
- the Speaker as an ex officio member.

Following months of discord between the Government and Opposition following the 2017 elections, the President and Opposition Leader agreed

in March 2018 to work together towards unifying the country. This was described to the delegation as a 'handshake' between the government and opposition.

Speaker Muturi welcomed the delegation to Kenya. He described the structure of the current parliament and reflected on the need to bring back aspects of the Westminster system.

Delegation members indicated that they welcomed public commentary about corruption and the stance being taken by the Chief Justice (which had been reported in that day's media). Speaker Muturi indicated that he personally welcomed the Chief Justice's statement and described the problems presented by corruption. He stated that he believed Kenyan law was sufficiently robust to deal with corruption and outlined key aspects of the Constitution and relevant laws that deal with leadership and integrity, and anti-corruption. He explained the appointment of the judiciary, which according to the Constitution, must be done competitively.

Other areas of mutual interest included Australian mining interests, such the current mineral sands project in Kwale, opportunities to share farming and agricultural production experiences from Australia, and the impact of employment laws in Kenya. In terms of trade, it was noted that Australia is Kenya's second largest export market after the European Union for cut flowers.

Delegation members appreciated the opportunity to observe proceedings in the National Assembly with Speaker Muturi in the Chair.



**Delegation members with the Hon Justin Muturi, Speaker of the National Assembly**

The delegation met with the Hon Aden Duale, Majority Leader of the National Assembly.

Mr Duale is serving as the first Leader of the Majority of the National Assembly since the position was introduced under article 108 of Kenya's new constitution in 2010.

Mr Duale told the delegation about the creation of his office, describing it as a difficult office. He referred to the absence of Ministers in the House – like the US system, Ministers only appear before Committees. Discussion with Mr Duale ranged across the handshake between the Government and opposition leader to the institutions that have been put in place to address corruption. Mr Duale referred to the Office of the DPP, Auditor-General and Director of Criminal Investigation who report to the Parliament. Anti-money laundering and anti-bribery legislation exists as well as parliamentary committees, such as the Committee of Supply, which scrutinises every vote. He noted lifestyle audits are undertaken on key officials in Government.

Mr Duale described the ethnically-based nature of Kenyan politics and the divisiveness of presidential elections.

He noted that there are 290 constituencies in Kenya and described his constituency in Garissa. Delegation members asked about the activities of al-Shabaab, noting the attack on Garissa University in 2015.

Mr Duale also outlined the Constituent Development Fund, whereby 2.5 percent of revenue is divided amongst the constituency for purposes such as education and support for the elderly.



**Delegation members with the Hon Aden Duale, Majority Leader in the National Assembly**

The delegation also met with members of the Defence and Foreign Relations Committee. The meeting was chaired by the committee's Vice Chairperson, the Hon Richard N Tongi MP.

Mr Tongi noted that the Committee has oversight of the Minister for Defence, Minister for Foreign Affairs, National Intelligence Minister and the East African Community Minister. Matters falling within the responsibilities of the committee include defence, intelligence, foreign relations, diplomatic and consular matters, international boundaries, international organisations, agreements, treaties and conventions.

Mr Tongi stated that he appreciated cooperation with Australia in the areas of mining, agriculture, education and the health sector.

Matters canvassed in discussions included Australia's involvement in maritime security, peacekeeping operations, refugees, dual citizenship, terrorism and radicalisation, and corruption.

### Aid and humanitarian issues

Developing countries play a significant humanitarian role. Kenya, together with Lebanon, Jordan and Ethiopia, is home to nearly 90 percent of the world's refugees.<sup>1</sup>

A key focus of the delegation's visit was the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Turkana County in north western Kenya, one of the country's most impoverished and marginalised areas.

The delegation was hosted by the UNHCR Sub-Office Kakuma, led by Mr Tayyar Sukru Cansizoglu. Representatives of the UNHCR and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) accompanied the delegation throughout their visit to Kakuma.

UNHCR Sub-Office Kakuma has two areas of operation: Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement.

Kakuma Refugee Camp was established in 1992 following the arrival of the 'lost boys of Sudan'.<sup>2</sup> During that year, refugees also fled Ethiopia and Somalia.

<sup>1</sup> World Bank Group and UNHCR, 2016, "Yes" *In my Backyard?: the economics of refugees and their social dynamics in Kakuma, Kenya*, Report No: AUS14056, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Between 1983 and 1987, an estimated 20,000 young boys, aged mostly six or seven years old, were driven from their families and villages in southern Sudan by civil war. These boys, many of whom died on the way, walked more than one thousand miles to Ethiopia. In 1991, war in

With an influx of new arrivals in 2014, Kakuma surpassed its capacity by over 58,000 individuals. Land for a new settlement at Kalobeyei, 25km from Kakuma town was identified following negotiations between the UNHCR, the National Government, the Country Government of Turkana and the host community.<sup>3</sup>

At the time of the delegation's visit, there were 186 088 registered refugees and asylum-seekers at Kakuma of a total number in Kenya of 468,910.

The breakdown of refugees and asylum seekers at Kakuma by country of origin was:

- South Sudan, 108,047
- Somalia, 33, 545
- Democratic Republic of Congo, 11,723
- Ethiopia, 10,355
- Sudan, 9,919
- Burundi, 10,024
- Uganda, 1,695
- Rwanda, 616
- Eritrea, 53
- Other countries, 111

In the period from January to May 2018, 5,180 people arrived at Kakuma, with 3,911 originating from South Sudan. Just over 58 percent of the total number of

---

Ethiopia caused them to again flee, and they began 'trickling' into northern Kenya about a year later. Some 10,000 boys, who became known as the 'lost boys of Sudan', lived at Kakuma Refugee Camp for the next eight years. International Rescue Committee, <<https://www.rescue.org/article/lost-boys-sudan>>, accessed 26 July 2018.

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR Kenya, 'Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement', <[www.unhcr.org/ke/kakuma-refugee-camp](http://www.unhcr.org/ke/kakuma-refugee-camp)>, accessed 21 June 2018.

refugees and asylum seekers are aged 17 or under.<sup>4</sup>

Kakuma is divided into four parts (Kakuma 1, 2, 3 and 4) and spreads across 15 square kilometres. The three villages that make up Kalobeyei are about 3.5km (or 16km by road) from Kakuma. Of Kakuma's total population, 38,000 live in Kalobeyei.

Following arrival in Kakuma, delegation members called on the Deputy County Commissioner, Mahamad Dara, and Colonel Kasili Mutambo, Camp Manager–Refugee Affairs Secretariat, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government.

Mr Daha welcomed the delegation, stating he was pleased to see an Australian parliamentary delegation in Kakuma. Mr Daha described the work that has been undertaken over the last five to ten years, during which there has been peaceful relations between the host community and refugees, to achieve social and economic integration with the support of the county government.

Mr Mutambo commended Australia for its efforts to resettle refugees and described the current population of the camp, noting a significant number of arrivals from South Sudan. Sixty seven percent of people within the camp have arrived within the last five years and 87 percent in the last ten years, with the impetus for people to leave their home countries usually being a combination of factors. Mr Mutambo also referred to

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR, Statistical summary as of 31 May 2018, pp. 2–4, <<http://www.unhcr.org/ke/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/06/Kenya-Statistics-Package-May-2018.pdf>>, accessed 21 June 2018.

facilities within the camp, including primary schools and training centres, and indicated that refugees were allowed to travel outside the camp for services.

Mr Mutambo talked about social and economic integration, indicating that a fifteen year program to guide integration is in place. He also stated that there are economic opportunities within the Turkana County that are as yet unexplored.<sup>5</sup>



**Meeting with County Commissioner Mahamad Daha and Colonel Kasili Mutambo**

The delegation then travelled to the UNHCR Compound for briefings on the UNHCR's work at Kakuma and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). Many people arriving at the camp have experienced multiple displacements and often don't realise that they have crossed borders.

The delegation heard about the support that is provided to refugees from their arrival at the reception centre, including

<sup>5</sup> A joint 2016 World Bank and UNHCR report analysed the impact of the refugee camp upon the local host community, finding that it is an 'integral part of Kakuma's social, cultural and economic fabric' with a significant role in the projected socio-economic development of Turkana County. World Bank Group and UNHCR, 2016, "Yes" *In my Backyard?: the economics of refugees and their social dynamics in Kakuma, Kenya*, Report No: AUS14056, pp. 2, 7.

food assistance and supplementary feeding, medical treatment, and English language programs. Representatives described the different approaches that are being taken at Kalobeyi settlement to stimulate the local economy. This includes providing refugees with cash to enable them to work with the local community to construct housing. Similarly, instead of providing a monthly distribution of food and some cash as occurs in Kakuma, refugees at Kalobeyi are provided entirely with cash to spend on food and other supplies with the intent of stimulating a market economy.

It was explained that, once in the camp, any hostilities from a refugee's home country must be put aside. Representatives described the unifying effect of the Kakuma football league from which the best players are drawn into Kakuma United FC. It was also noted that half of the Olympic refugee team at the 2016 games originated from Kakuma.

Members were informed that immediately following the delegation's visit, the first TEDx event hosted in a refugee camp would be taking place at Kakuma, with speakers to include current and former refugees.<sup>6</sup>

The delegation then visited the camp for briefings on key areas of operations.

The delegation was briefed on the registration and documentation process for new arrivals at the camp and, with the consent of those people being interviewed, observed the different stages of this process. Most of the people arriving have either a mobile phone or sim card, or access to a phone.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ted.com/tedx/events/21032>.

During the registration process, they are given a unique identifier, their details are recorded in the protection tool KASI,<sup>7</sup> and biometric information is collected (either fingerprint or iris scan). They are then provided with documentation containing all of this information and confirmation of their refugee status. Ninety eight percent of those arriving at Kakuma are found to be refugees.

The process includes a protection interview, where refugees asked what outcome they seek, for example, to return to their homes or to be resettled.



**Registration and documentation interview at Kakuma Refugee Camp**

UNHCR is working with the Kenyan Government to transition responsibility for reception, registration, documentation and refugee status determination to the Government's Refugee Affairs Secretariat.

At the hospital facilities, the delegation was briefed by International Rescue Committee (IRC) and UNHCR representatives. IRC partners with UNHCR to provide hospital facilities at Kakuma.

Barefoot to Boots, an Australian-based private sector NGO that supports

<sup>7</sup> Kiosk to Access Services and Information (KASI). KASI is also one of the tools used by refugees to access key information in their files and schedule their own appointments.

refugees living in camps and their neighbouring host communities, provides the entry point for Australian support to the hospital. Representatives of Barefoot to Boots also briefed the delegation during the hospital tour.

The delegation visited the paediatric ward, which has 42 beds. About 4,000 babies are delivered at the hospital each year – around 10 to 12 each day. Around 12 percent are by caesarean delivery. The ward now has two incubators, provided by Barefoot to Boots.

In May 2018, 89 patients were admitted to the hospital with a recovery rate of 81.3 percent. Reasons for admission included non-oedema, oedema, pneumonia, malaria, gastroenteritis, anaemia, kala azar, and tuberculosis.

The delegation heard about the operational challenges facing the hospital, which include staffing gaps, increased numbers of consultations, reduced funding, lack of critical equipment, limited funds for buildings and walkways, and water supply. The highest priority needs were identified as a new Emergency block, x-ray services and accommodation for staff. Patients are bused to the nearest x-ray services, which are 100km away.

In the period from October 2017 to April 2018, there were 147,614 consultations undertaken. 42,516 of these were for children aged under five. Around 10 percent of the hospital's services are targeted to the local host community.

The delegation also visited the Support Centre, which provides support for women who have experienced gender-

based violence (GBV).<sup>8</sup> Representatives spoke about preventative and case management work that occurs through the centre, as well as a women's protection and empowerment program that is teaching life skills. The centre aims to be a one-stop-shop that also addresses the stigma associated with GBV. One of the challenges faced by the support centre is addressing GBV that has occurred across the border – the delegation heard that about 60 percent of people coming into Kenya have experienced GBV before arriving.

In the afternoon, the delegation travelled to Kalobeyi Integrated Settlement, where construction of permanent shelters is ongoing. As previously noted, Kalobeyi is designed to support refugee self-reliance and greater refugee-host interactions by stimulating a local economy from within. Refugee-owned businesses within the settlement also serve host communities.

Kalobeyi has 60 traders. The delegation met with one trader and viewed her shop which, in addition to food, stocks a range of non-food items sought by the local host community. This trader has been at Kalobeyi for two years, before which she sold fruit in Kakuma. She told delegation members that she tries to stock fresh produce, with maize and rice being her highest selling items.

---

<sup>8</sup> Services that can be provided by UNHCR in response to GBV include health care, psycho-social support, legal aid and support for reintegration into the community if required. Support is intended to 'overcome the immediate effect of the violence inflicted as well as to address the trauma and stigma associated with such incidents'. To reduce and mitigate such violence, UNHCR and its partners also implement a prevention strategy. <http://www.unhcr.org/ke/protection>.



**BWAA General Shop, Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement**

The delegation also visited a recently constructed two storey house, built of stone with a corrugated iron roof, in the settlement, which will accommodate a family of 14. This house was one of many constructed using cash to obtain materials and services from the local community. The delegation heard that training in masonry and carpentry is increasing within the camp to help facilitate this process.



**An impromptu photo opportunity with children at Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement**

Another project designed to promote integration is sorghum farming, a project that has been running for several months with the local community over 188 hectares with 744 farmers.

Delegation members heard about the role that Australian aid plays in helping

both the UNHCR and the WFP support refugees living in the camp. UNHCR and WFP representatives emphasised the importance of foundational funding like that provided by Australia.

UNHCR considered that in the response to asylum seekers, developed countries also have a critical role to play in peace building.

The following day, the delegation returned to the Kakuma camp to visit the Reception Centre, which is jointly operated by the UNHCR and the Kenyan Government.



**Delegates with UNHCR, WFP and Barefoot to Boots representatives at Kakuma Reception Centre**

Members heard that new arrivals spend two to three weeks in the centre as their needs are assessed. The centre can house 2,000 people (or up to 3,000 using tents). At the time of the delegation's visit, there were 798 people in the centre. The delegation was informed that around 20,000 asylum seekers (or 300 per week) were expected each year. At the time of the delegation's visit, around 5,000 people, mostly women and children, had arrived. The delegation observed and participated in the supplementary feeding program being run by the WFP. AusAid provides funding to support this complementary feeding.



**AusAid supported complementary feeding program provided by WFP**

At the conclusion of the delegation's visit to Kakuma, Mr Watts delivered to Barefoot to Boots a donation of football boots, keeping gloves, balls and jerseys from his electorate.

### **Australia Awards**

The delegation attended a reception at the High Commissioner's residence with the Australia Awards Alumni in Kenya.

The stated aim of the Australia Awards is to build people-to-people linkages at the individual, institutional and country levels, and to develop capacity and leadership skills so that individuals can contribute to development in their home country.

The program consists of both long-term and short-term awards. Scholarships are provided on a bilateral basis in line with priority sectors identify by each country program and are for long-term vocational, undergraduate, Masters or PhD level study at Australian institutions. Australia Awards Fellowships are short-term training targeted at senior officials and mid-career professionals, who are in a position to advance key regional development policies and increase the

institutional capacity of developing countries.

In 2018, DFAT offered 4,031 awards to 60 countries at an estimated cost of \$320 million, of which 1,620 are long term and 2,411 are short term awards. Around 12 per cent of awards were offered in Africa.<sup>9</sup>

Meeting Australia Awards alumni gave the delegation the opportunity to observe the enduring value to the Australia-Kenya relationship of Kenyan students' experiences living and studying in Australia. Two recipients, Mr Moses Njiru Njeru and Ms Angella Ndaka spoke about their experiences.

Mr Njeru obtained a Masters degree in Mining Engineering from the University of New South Wales and is the Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Chamber of Mines.

Ms Ndaka obtained a Masters of Public Policy from the Australian National University. She currently lectures at Kenyatta University and consults on public policy for the Kenya School of Government.

The delegation had the opportunity to engage in informative discussions with other attendees about their involvement in the Australia Awards and subsequent career pathways.

### **Australians in Kenya**

The delegation was pleased to have the opportunity to visit AusQuest farm at Athi River. Stuart Barden and his family

---

<sup>9</sup> Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Information Brief: Australia Awards, 20 July 2018.

moved to Kenya in 2012 to establish AusQuest, which farms approximately 1,000 acres 'using modern machinery and an emphasis on low-input technologies and methods such as "zero till". The farm is also used in part to conduct field trials and research on new varieties of crops as well as testing the efficacy of pesticides.



Delegation members with Stuart Barden at AusQuest

The delegation toured the farm to inspect the crops, including mung beans, chickpeas and forage sorghum, discussed agricultural production techniques and heard about some of the challenges working in Kenya, including logistics and employment laws. The Barden's farm is adjacent to and some of the crops are grown on land leased from the adjacent conservancy.

The delegation also attended dinner with Australian business and private sector representatives at the High Commissioner's residence. Attendees represented a range of industries including mining, resources, infrastructure, rail infrastructure, education, engineering, investment, consulting and finance.

## Challenges and opportunities

The delegation enjoyed informative discussions on political, economic and human rights issues in East Africa with representatives of humanitarian groups at a lunch hosted by the High Commissioner.

Discussion included corruption and the challenges associated with elections and governance across the East African community and the lack of faith in statehood resulting from poor governance. It was agreed that there was disillusionment among young Kenyans who have been impacted by economic management, with many wanted to leave the country rather than build a better country. It was seen that there was an opportunity for Australia to be more engaged in supporting election and governance processes.

Discussions also included opportunities such as those in the mining sector, where similarly, it was considered there were opportunities for Australian companies to contribute expertise and increase transparency.

Opportunities also exist for investment in fast growing economies, which would lead to improved lives for the population.

Discussion ranged across various issues concerning Ethiopia. It was generally agreed that Ethiopia had done some 'impressive things' in the months preceding the delegation's visit, including economic reforms and the return of disputed territory to Eritrea. It was considered that Ethiopia would benefit from assistance in developing its democratic processes.

Kenya and Ethiopia have been instrumental in regional disputes, but it was argued that Kenya needs to take a stronger regional leadership role within the East African community. Kenya should see itself as the big brother in the region, however due to the lack of a well defined regional policy, it doesn't see that it has responsibilities.

On the subject of terrorism, the collaboration and links between al-Shabaab and Islamic State were of concern, particularly because of the shift from regional to global issues.

It was considered there was a need for a more proactive role in relation to South Sudan and Somalia.

### **Visit to Ethiopia 7 to 9 June 2018**

The delegation participated in a range of meetings in Ethiopia, including with State Ministers and members of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Opportunities to strengthen links between Australia and Ethiopia featured in the delegation's meetings.

At more than 100 million people, Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa and one of the fastest growing economies in the world. It has a year-on-year GDP growth rate between 8 and 12 percent and significant untapped natural resources, including water, gold and rare earth materials. In recent years there has been heavy investment in infrastructure and hydropower.

Ethiopia is the seat of the African Union and plays an influential role in mediating African conflicts, such as South Sudan and Somalia. It is a leading contributor to

peace-keeping missions, contributing to 10 missions since the 1990s. It has also had an increasing role in international affairs.

Agriculture represents 43 percent of GDP and 90 percent of exports.

The delegation notes that the Indian Ocean is an emerging strategic space, and that Ethiopia, whose airline flies throughout this region, is an important part of this system.

### **Australia – Ethiopia relations**

Australia and Ethiopia celebrated 50 years of diplomatic relations in 2015. Trade between Australia and Ethiopia is currently small with coffee being Australia's largest import from Ethiopia, significantly ahead of other imports and exports. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade notes that Ethiopia is endowed with mineral resources and is keen on bilateral investment and sharing expertise.

Ethiopia is consistently one of the largest recipients of official development assistance. Organisations like Hamlin Fistula Hospital and the Fred Hollows Foundation, established by Australians, have delivered much needed medical services in Ethiopia over a long period of time.

The Ethiopian diaspora in Australia is over 13,000 people. Approximately 3000 people settled in Australia in the period from 2000-2005.

### **Parliamentary relations**

The delegation's first meeting in Ethiopia was with Dr Eyasu Abraha, State Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Dr

Abraha is an agricultural specialist with more than 25 years' experience.

The agricultural sector is central to the lives and livelihood of most Ethiopians. About 12 million smallholder farming households account for an estimated 95 percent of agricultural production and 85 percent of all employment.<sup>10</sup> As noted above, agricultural commodities are key exports.

Discussion with Dr Abraha ranged across key Ethiopian agricultural industries, including the country's two biggest exports: coffee and oil seeds. Dr Abraha outlined the Government's commitment to moving forward through knowledge transfer, capacity building and technological development, but noted that Ethiopia was still a developing country in need of support. It was noted that Australia is a benchmark for dryland agriculture and management.

Dr Abraha referred to Ethiopia's second five year plan and noted there was need for greater private sector involvement, including incentives.

The government has developed a second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) for the period 2016–20. The overarching objective of GTP II is the realisation of Ethiopia's vision of becoming a middle income country by 2025. In GTP II, the agriculture sector is considered to be one of the major sectors driving growth. The plan focusses on improving agricultural production and productivity and commercialisation, reducing degradation of natural resources,

<sup>10</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), *Ethiopia at a glance*, <<http://www.fao.org/ethiopia/fao-in-ethiopia/ethiopia-at-a-glance/en/>>, accessed 28 August 2018.

reducing vulnerability to disaster and building disaster mitigation capacity via ensuring food security.<sup>11</sup>

The delegation met with the Chairperson, Tesfaye Daba Wakjira, and members of the Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs. Discussion included areas of economic similarity and joint interests, such as agriculture, resources, mining and security, as well as opportunities for closer ties between Australia and Ethiopia.

The Chair noted that the Ethiopian economy has a strong dependence on the agricultural sector, with 85 percent of the population involved in farming. He recognised the strength of the government-to-government relationship between Australia and Ethiopia and noted Ethiopia's interest in Australian investment. Chinese investment in Ethiopia was also noted.

Some of the challenges facing Ethiopia include its diversity as well as corruption and governance, which it was noted are being addressed by the Prime Minister.

Discussion included water and Ethiopia's dam construction on the Nile River. The Chair outlined Ethiopia's position on the dam and noted the Comprehensive Framework Agreement for the Nile.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> FAO, *Ethiopia at a glance*, <<http://www.fao.org/ethiopia/fao-in-ethiopia/ethiopia-at-a-glance/en/>>, accessed 28 August 2018.

<sup>12</sup> More information is available at Nile Basin Initiative, 'Comprehensive Framework Agreement', <<http://www.nilebasin.org/index.php/nbi/cooperative-framework-agreement>>, accessed 6 August 2018. The Nile Basin Initiative is an intergovernmental partnership of 10 Nile Basin countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South

Opportunities for Ethiopian students were also discussed, including the need for employment for the increasing number of students in schools and universities.



**Meeting with Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs**

The delegation met with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Professor Afework Kassu.

The State Minister noted the well-established people-to-people and government-to-government relations between Australia and Ethiopia, including collaboration on global peace and security. He also noted that Australia had supported Ethiopia's bid for a UN Security Council seat.

The State Minister welcomed opportunities to strengthen business and investment, identifying agri-processing, textiles and pharmaceuticals as areas of investment opportunity. He stated that the Government is moving to strengthen the private sector through public private partnerships.

The State Minister noted local Ethiopian investment in infrastructure, including railways. At the time of the delegation's visit, Ethiopian Airlines had just taken delivery of its one hundredth aircraft.

---

Sudan, The Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, established in 1999. The Comprehensive Framework Agreement opened for signature on 14 May 2010 and is yet to enter into force.

The State Minister further noted that Ethiopia is an ancient civilisation of immense natural and cultural beauty that seeks to promote tourism. The Minister and delegation discussed opportunities that a direct flight from Ethiopia to Perth might facilitate across economic and tourism opportunities.

The Kefi minerals investment in Ethiopia was noted.

Discussion also included shared values between the two countries and the opportunities that growth provides for young people, noting that 70 percent of Ethiopia's population is under 30.

### **Trade and investment**

The delegation met with Dr Belachew Fikre, Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission.

The Ethiopian Investment Commission is the key body outside the Prime Minister's Office advising the Prime Minister on the investment climate and investment options in Ethiopia.

According to the Commission, for the past 10 consecutive years Ethiopia has been identified as one of the fastest growing economies in the world, with consecutive GDP growth rates of over 10.5 percent. There has been a significant increase in the volume and size of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows as well as the number of projects initiated or implemented. The Commission's website states:

The high level of economic growth, the provision of better infrastructure, the successive growth of market sizes and the government's openness for FDI contributed to high profile investors targeting Ethiopia in the past few years.

In 2014–15, Ethiopia recorded a 100 percent change in FDI flow and was included in the top-10 destinations in Africa. It also doubled its registered growth in manufacturing projects. FDI inflow to Ethiopia has showed a continuous increase of more than 12 percent per annum, which the Commission attributes to the country's favourable investment climate.<sup>13</sup>

In discussions, Dr Fikre referred to Ethiopia's economic and population growth, noting that the country is a stabilising power in the region.

Dr Fikre described growth in investment in the manufacturing sector and cited total FDI investment of US \$4.2 billion last year. The Ethiopian Government has provided infrastructure through the recent construction of almost 25 specialised industrial parks. The parks have specialised design for sectors such as textiles and pharmaceuticals, and are surrounded by other infrastructure, including airports, railways, dry ports and universities.

Dr Fikre considered it was time for more private sector involvement in infrastructure and described the lifting of the state of emergency that occurred immediately prior to the delegation's visit as significant from a FDI viewpoint. He also noted passage of a Public Private Partnerships bill.

Discussions included opportunities for Ethiopia to be a regional hub, noting, for example, that Ethiopian Airlines provides links throughout Africa. It was

---

<sup>13</sup> Ethiopian Investment Commission, Economic Indicators, <<http://www.investethiopia.gov.et/index.php/why-ethiopia/economic-indicators.html>>, accessed 23 August 2018.

considered that opportunities were affected by the lack of a services sector to support production. Opportunities such as a services sector for mining and direct flights to Australia were discussed.

### Women in Ethiopia

The delegation was pleased to gain the perspectives of a diverse group of Ethiopian women on the empowerment of women and the involvement of women in political life and government.

Attending the lunch meeting with the delegation were:

- HE Ambassador Woineshet Taddese, Permanent Representative to the African Union
- Mulu Solomon, General Manager of Right Vision International
- Sara Tabit, Pan-Africa Office Girls Advocacy Alliance Manager, African Union Liaison and Pan-Africa Program Office, Plan International
- Samrawit Assefa, producer and business correspondent
- Liya Girma, Senior Business Process Analyst, World Food Programme (and Australia Award alumni)

The delegation heard about the great improvement in the number of girls attending school, right up to the tertiary level, over the last twenty five years. However, women were described as being mostly represented in the lower echelons of the workforces, with few in the highest echelons, and it was considered that the pace of improvement has not met expectations. While the number of students has

improved, it was generally agreed that more work needs to be done on the quality of student outcomes.

There was consensus across the group that women's empowerment starts at home within the family.

Discussion ranged across:

- food security, and the importance of women's control of food at a household level,
- changes in the way in which girls are being raised when compared with past experience,
- maternity leave and family planning,
- women's access to financial institutions,
- inequality in pay between the Government and private sectors, and differences between law and implementation, and
- the representation of women in Parliament.

It was considered that progress is still to be achieved on maternal health and gender equality, and that rural women in particular remain vulnerable.

### **Addis Ababa Hamlin Fistula Hospital**

The delegation was privileged to have tea with Dr Catherine Hamlin AC and tour the Addis Ababa Hamlin Fistula Hospital.



**Delegation members with Dr Catherine Hamlin AC**

It is estimated that in Ethiopia around 9,000 women each year develop obstetric fistula, which leads to incontinence, physical impairment, shame and marginalisation. Reducing the number of women who experience obstetric fistula, which is almost unheard of in western societies due to effective maternal healthcare, is complicated by prolonged and obstructed labour among young, poor and undernourished women, and a lack of skilled attendance at birth.

With her husband, Reginald, Dr Hamlin established the hospital in 1974. The hospital has treated around 55,000 women, and has the capacity to treat more than 2,500 new cases of obstetric fistula in Ethiopia each year. The hospital also provides care for 50 long-term patients. Services are provided free of charge through three key institutions:

- Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital and five regional centres,
- Hamlin College of Midwives, established in 2007 to train midwives subsequently deployed in Government health centres close to the regional facilities, and
- Desta Mender Centre, which provides rehabilitation, training and long-term support for post-

operative women with incontinence.

### Humanitarian issues

The Ambassador hosted dinner at his residence, attended by representatives of UNICEF, UNHCR, Plan International Ethiopia, World Vision Ethiopia and Save the Children.

The delegation heard about the range of humanitarian issues facing Ethiopia. It was noted that Australia provides core funding to agencies, allowing agencies to respond to crises based on need.

Discussion ranged across the following topics:

- Ethiopia has been in humanitarian crisis mode since 2015, with drought and disease having a significant impact,
- Too often the humanitarian development response has to pivot to an emergency response, making it difficult to focus on long term development needs and on building resilience,
- The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework,<sup>14</sup> and Ethiopia's new Refugee Law that provides freedom of movement for refugees,
- Ethiopia's refugee population, many of whom have been in Ethiopia for up to 25 years; the high number of children in groups from some countries; and social and economic integration with local communities. It was noted that in regions such as Gambella, the ethnic balance has been distorted creating a high potential for conflict,
- Around 1.7 million internally displaced persons (IDP) are living in the Oromo/Somali region, with 225 IDP camps along the border. IDP represent a long term challenge for Ethiopia and have suffered from a lack of government attention to conflict IDP,
- The importance of good governance and political stability, and
- The need to improve educational outcomes, not just attendance, with a greater focus at the primary and vocational levels.

### Lalibela World Heritage Site

The delegation appreciated the opportunity to travel to Lalibela, located in a mountainous region 645km from Addis Ababa, to reflect on Ethiopia's history at the world heritage listed rock-hewn churches of Lalibela.

Dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, there are 11 medieval monolithic cave churches at the site, which also includes an extensive system of drainage ditches, trenches, ceremonial passages, hermit caves and catacombs. The churches were hewn from the rock into monolithic blocks. These blocks were further chiselled out, forming doors, windows, columns, floors

<sup>14</sup> Ethiopia was one of the first countries to apply the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, which was officially launched in Ethiopia on 28 November 2017. The Ethiopian Government has made nine pledges relating to employment, schooling, land availability, integration and social services to improve the lives of refugees. More information is available at CRRF Global Digital Portal, 'Ethiopia', [http://www.globalcrrf.org/crrf\\_country/eth/](http://www.globalcrrf.org/crrf_country/eth/), accessed 6 August 2018.

and roofs. Some of the interiors, such as in Biete Mariam (House of Mary) are decorated with mural paintings.

The churches are preserved within their setting in the village and are surrounded by traditional, two storey circular village houses with internal staircases thatched roofs. The 'holy city of Lalibela' was a symbol of and substitute for the holy places of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and has had considerable influence on Ethiopian Christianity. The churches are home to a community of priests and monks, and remain a place of pilgrimage and devotion today.<sup>15</sup>

During the visit, delegation members engaged with local people within the town and were informed of the contribution that tourism has made to the economic growth of Lalibela. There has been significant Chinese investment in road construction in the vicinity of the town. The broader region has a population of over 20 million, with most people living an agricultural subsistence lifestyle. At the time of the delegation's visit, preparations were underway for sowing in late June.

### **Acknowledgements**

The delegation would like to thank all those who contributed to the visit program. The delegation greatly appreciated the effort that went into producing such a productive visit and the hospitality that was extended to the delegation in each country.

The delegation thanks High Commissioner Alison Chartres in Kenya,

Ambassador Mark Sawers in Ethiopia and their staff for their significant support to the delegation's visit and their work in ensuring the visit proceeded as smoothly as possible.

A particular highlight of the delegation was the visit to Kakuma Refugee Camp. The delegation would like to thank representatives of the UNHCR and WFP for facilitating the visit to Kakuma and Kalobeyei, for the comprehensive briefings and access to the camp, and for hosting the delegation overnight at the UNHCR Kakuma compound. The time spent at Kakuma provided valuable insights, especially for delegation members with significant diaspora communities in their local electorates.

Discussions with parliamentary colleagues were open, broad-ranging and constructive. It is clear that Australia, Kenya and Ethiopia share many common values and interests, and that opportunities exist to build and strengthen our relationship with these countries.

**Andrew Broad MP**  
Delegation Leader

---

<sup>15</sup> UNESCO, Rock-Hewn Churches Lalibela, <<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/18>>, accessed 26 July 2018.

## **Appendix A**

### **Delegation Program**

#### **Saturday, 2 June 2018**

- Depart Australia

#### **Sunday, 3 June 2018**

- Arrive Nairobi
- Dinner and briefing with Head of Mission and Deputy Head of Mission

#### **Monday, 4 June 2018**

- Depart Nairobi for Kakuma
- Arrive Kakuma
- Call on Deputy County Commissioner
- Briefing at UNHCR Compound
- Briefings and inspections at Kakuma Refugee Camp
- Lunch at UNHCR Compound
- Briefings and inspections at Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement
- Dinner at UNHCR Compound

#### **Tuesday, 5 June 2018**

- Briefing and inspection of Kakuma Reception Centre
- Depart Kakuma for Nairobi
- On arrival, transfer to Athi River
- Briefing and inspection at AusQuest farm
- Depart Athi River for Nairobi
- Reception of Alumni of Australia Awards at High Commissioner's residence

#### **Wednesday, 6 June 2018**

- Informal meeting with Australian High Commission staff
- Depart for Parliament
- Meeting with the Hon Justin Muturi, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya
- Meeting with the Hon Aden Duale, Majority Leader of the National Assembly
- Lunch with:
  - Mr Rashid Abdi, Project Director, Horn of Africa, International Crisis Group
  - Dr Hassan Khannenje, Director, The HORN Institute
  - Ms Ivy Kihara, Deputy Director, InformAction Kenya
  - Mr Samuel Kimeu, Executive Director, Transparency International Kenya
  - Mr Murithi Mutiga, Senior Analyst, Horn of Africa, International Crisis Group

- Mr Felix Odhiambo Owuor, Executive Director, Electoral Law and Governance Institute for Africa
- Attend National Assembly proceedings
- Meeting with Deputy Chairman and members of the National Assembly Defence and Foreign Relations Committee
- Dinner with Australian business and private sector representatives:
  - Mr Aref Adamli, Finance, Competiveness and Innovation Global Practice, World Bank
  - Mr Francois Bosch, Director Business Development, Worsley Parsons
  - Professor Rhonda Breit, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Aga Khan University
  - Mr Kym Fullgrabe, Senior Trade Commissioner, Austrade
  - Mr Stephen Kuria, Chairman, Kenya Australia Chamber of Commerce
  - Mr Tim Smyth, Executive Director, Eastgate and Founder and CEO, 1 Degree South (IDS) Fund
  - Mr Chike Uchendu, Africa Regional Deputy Director, SMEC
  - Ms Brenda Wabule, Regional Manager, Austrade
  - Mr Simon Wall, External Affairs Manager, Base Titanium
  - Mr James Woodward, Head of Infrastructure in Kenya, KMPG
  - Mr Derel Wust, Managing Director, 4Tel Pty Ltd

#### **Thursday, 7 June 2018**

- Depart Kenya for Ethiopia
- Meeting with Dr Eyasu Abraha, State Minister for Agriculture and National Resources
- Meeting with Dr Belachew Fikre, Commissioner, Ethiopian Investment Commission
- Lunch with Ethiopian women leaders:
  - HE Ambassador Woineshet Taddese, Permanent Representative to the African Union
  - Samrawit Assefa, producer and business correspondent
  - Mulu Solomon, General Manager of Right Vision International
  - Liya Girma, Senior Business Process Analyst, World Food Programme (and Australia Award alumni)
  - Sara Tabit, Pan-Africa Office Girls Advocacy Alliance Manager, African Union Liaison and Pan-Africa Program Office, Plan International
- Meeting with Hon Tesfaye Daba MP, Chair, Hon Ayele Negeri MP, Deputy Chair and members of the House Foreign Relations Standing Committee
- Meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Professor Afework Kassu
- Tour of Hamlin Fistula Hospital and afternoon tea with Dr Catherine Hamlin
- Dinner with humanitarian, UN and NGO leaders at Ambassador's residence:
  - Daniel Abbott, Save the Children
  - Abadi Amdu, Head of Programme Operations/Interim Country Director, Plan International Ethiopia

- Matthew Crentsil, UNHCR Deputy Representative to Ethiopia
- Otto Farkas, Director, World Vision Ethiopia
- Gillian Mellsop, Country Director, UNICEF

**Friday, 8 June 2018**

- Depart Addis Ababa for Lalibela
- Tour of Lalibela World Heritage Site

**Saturday, 9 June 2018**

- Depart Ethiopia

**Sunday, 10 June 2018**

- Arrive Australia