

ME NEWS

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unemployed youths become self-supportive

FICHE (ENA) - More than 1,900 unemployed youths organized into over 170 associations in North Shoa Zone of Oromia State have become self-supportive by engaging in, construction as well as micro and small business activities, the Zonal Trade and Transport Office said.

Office head, Dagne Shibiru told ENA that the youths, living in 12 Woredas of the zone, have been able to improve their livelihoods.

The youths have received relevant capacity building training, Dagne said, adding loan service and plots have also been provided to them.

The head said over 500 of the beneficiaries are females.

The Oromia Credit and Saving Share Company as well as other financial institutions have provided 735,000 birr loan to 28 of the associations, he said.

College graduates 781 students with diplomas, certificates

SOUTH WOLLO (ENA) - The Dessie Teachers Education College graduated 781 prospective teachers with diplomas and certificates.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony college dean Mogus Logaw said that the college graduated students in 10 + 3 and 10 + 1 in continuing education programme.

Handing out awards to outstanding students, the South Wollo Zone education department head, Seyid Beshir said due to the government attention to the education sector, the sector is registering encouraging results.

Some 211 of the graduates are reported to be women.

Office sprays anti-mosquito chemicals on 17,000 houses

MICHEW (ENA) - Anti-mosquito chemicals were sprayed on over 17,000 houses in Saharti Samre woreda of Southern Tigray Zone with a view to preventing possible outbreak of malaria epidemic following the main rainy season, the Woreda Information Office said.

Office Head, Abebe Berhe told ENA that over 37,000 people were protected from the epidemic through the spraying of anti-mosquito chemi-

Donations continue

ADDIS ABABA (ENA/WIC) - Donation in support of flood victims in various parts have continued.

Accordingly, Selihom private limited company donated 16,000 Birr through the bank account opened for the cause under the health science college employees, teachers and students.

The company said it has also completed the necessary preparation to deploy 10 health professionals to the areas.

Similarly, Debrebrihan Trade Sector Associations in North Shoa Zone of the Amhara state handed over 16,000 birr raised by the local people.

Employees of the Save the Children-UK distributed various clothes worth 16,600 birr to flood victims in Dasenech Woreda, the woreda administration said.

Meanwhile, various segments of the society continue providing support for people affected by flood.

Businesspersons in Gambella handed over 17,300 birr to the town's administration council deputy mayor, Jomo Meya yesterday.

The businesspersons said on the occasion that they would continue their support till the flood-affected people rehabilitated and return to normal life.

Similarly, students of Daridi-Boru University College, teachers of Asosa and students of continuing education in Bene-Shangul State pledged 3,500 birr in support of flood victims.

Cabinet members of Gnde-Beret woreda in west Shoa Zone of Oromia State pledged 20 per cent of their salary, while civil servants and members of the police force donated 5 and 3 per

cent of their salaries, respectively.

The government of the Netherlands has also reportedly donated additional 2.4 USD to the United Nations Organization for coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in response to the flood disaster in Ethiopia.

According to a press release issued by the Royal Netherlands Embassy here, the Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation decided to donate the stated sum of money in response to the appeal by the joint Ethiopian Government and humanitarian partners in 25 August for the 2006 flood disaster in Ethiopia.

Prior to this, the Dutch Government has also donated 2.5 million USD to the Humanitarian Response Fund, the press release recalled.

USAID launches 20 mln. USD agri-business project

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a 20 million USD project with a view to supporting various sectors in Ethiopia. The project aims at increasing rural income and employment.

The project, which focuses on the private sector, aims at increasing productivity and competitiveness of Ethiopian products in the international market.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, project coordinators said the project would work in collaboration with various ministerial offices in Ethiopia among other manufacturing and export companies.

The project provides technical support to sectors such as coffee, flowers, fruits and oil seed growing farm-

ers as well as leather manufactures.

USAID-Ethiopia Agri-business and Trade Expansion Director, Steve Hamfraise said the project aims to enable the country get 450 million USD in the first three years and increase the amount in the years to follow.

State Minister of Trade and Industry, Taddese Haile on his part said the fruitful results that the leather and flower industries are making back the implementation and success of the project.

He further expressed readiness on the side of the government to exert the necessary support.

Janet Wilgus of the US Embassy said the project is an indication of the economic partnership between the two

countries.

She said the project would greatly increase the production of flowers and fruits with a view to doubling the country's income from the sectors by seven-fold.

Similarly, the project aims at increasing the country's revenue from hides and skin with 73 percent, while increasing productivity of coffee by 59 percent through increasing its quality and quantity per hectare.

The project also aims at increasing the quality and quantity of sesame, raising the country's income from the sector with 45 per cent.

The project would be executed in Oromia, Amhara, Tigray as well as Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples states.

Agency says participation of all crucial to improve higher education

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency (HERQA) with the Ministry of Education said all segments of the society should participate in the effort geared towards enhancing quality of education at higher learning institutes.

Agency Director General Dr. Tesfaye Teshome told ENA yesterday that the quality of education could be improved through the joint efforts of students, teachers, parents and em-

ployer organizations as well.

Dr. Tesfaye said teams that supervise quality of education at governmental higher learning institutions have been set up, adding the teams supervise activities of the institutions and provide support.

He said currently there are 52 higher learning institutes provided with accreditations and pre-accreditations of which 11 are health colleges.

The agency has prepared a docu-

ment that listed private colleges accredited to offer degree programmes, fields of education they offer, fields of studies they are accredited to, day of accreditation and college campuses, he added.

The director said the agency would shortly distribute the document to private and governmental colleges, universities, state education bureaux, professional associations and other pertinent organs.

Farmers involve in health extension programme

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