

My recent trip to Ethiopia

Tsehaye Debalkew, Washington D.C November 4,2016.

Addis Ababa is completely transformed. The city has been enormously changed. Now it deserves to be the capital city of Africa, indisputably. The city not only has gigantically grown in size but also in style and taste too. When I say Addis Ababa has gigantically grown in size is that, the city has quadrupled, and the off-shoot of high rise buildings that mushroom everyday is mesmerizing, to say the least. In some instances I had to rely on my brother who was driving me around for information about some places I thought I knew. For example, I recall asking him about BOLE MEDHANIE ALEM, I thought I was somewhere in New York city in the center of Manhattan or down town Chicago city. These buildings belong to individual dwellers of Addis. Most of the International hotels are in this vicinity.

All of the buildings are privately and solely owned by individual Addis Ababaians. Another thing that captured my whole attention was that, literally everybody that I saw in the streets of Addis had a cell phone regardless of gender or class. One thing that I observed was that there exists now a cultural change as compared to past generations. For example I was puzzled and dumbfounded when I met two college students one of them was a second year sophomore student and the other girl was a third year student who were hired for the summer / kiremt/ until school opens in my friend's home.

The government condos are buff ling beyond my comprehension. Located in all over the city and in clusters, they have changed the livelihood of hundreds of thousands. And I hope the new government will certainly give room to private investors in this sector.

Talking of style Addis Ababa is turning into the second Paris as the center of fashion. The taste of Addis is gradually attracting many foreign cousins. The already existing night clubs, music centers, centers art and aesthetics and a host

of privately owned radio and television stations not to mention privately held Newspapers, talk volumes of a changing Addis Ababa for good in style and taste.