

Thank you dear diplomats

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Washington dc USA is not a huge cosmopolitan city like New York, Los Angeles, Miami or even Chicago. But it is a seat of many governmental, federal non-governmental and some 200 or so embassies, and diplomatic representations from all over the world. If I am not mistaken, almost all countries of the planet earth are represented in the US capital with the possible exceptions of North Korea, Iran and some officially unrecognized entities. Most of the embassies, diplomatic missions, chanceries and consulates are located in the north west sector of the city of Washington DC in the Connecticut avenue or Massachusetts avenue, commonly known as MASSAV. Many embassies of important nations have huge premises and compounds and in many instances it shows the country's associations with the US and the state of their healthy and ever growing diplomatic state of affairs .For example the embassy of say Nigeria, Thailand or Brazil in Washington DC, is way bigger and much more recognizable than say the embassy of Congo, Sri lanka , and even Libya for that matter and I am sure the wise reader knows the reasons behind the shabby diplomatic mission, and depleted building with some three or four employees only, with no ambassador so far of the country commonly known as the "North Korea Africa". The embassy of Issias's Eritrea in washington DC looks like an average one bed room apartment without any exaggeration No further comment!

By contrast the embassy of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia is a huge complex in the prime real estate area of the city known as down town Connecticut avenue North Wes Washington, district of Columbia . The FDRE embassy and diplomatic mission to the world's sole superpower stands tall and is located near other embassies of nations and countries with good reputation, stable regimes and developing economies from all over the world. Entrance to the embassy premise is not an easy task, for explicable reasons but it might be of a little annoyance and problematic for the first time visitor like the writer of this article.

Few years ago some anti-peace and anti-development rogue elements among the otherwise peaceful and patriotic Diaspora, tried to invade the Embassy and create havoc and some diplomatic mess between the US and Ethiopia. Their ill willed attempt was foiled by vigilant embassy staff, security detail and skilful diplomats from both sides. After such kind of incidents and because of very few nihilist like elements among the large Ethiopian Diaspora in North America, it is obvious and to be expected to take some security and safety measures. Even though entry to the embassy grounds might not be easy, the friendly and dedicated diplomatic staff of the Ethiopian mission makes for a memorable and pleasant experience for the visitors of all kinds of purposes', from the first time tourist visa seeker to the seasoned traveller ,business explorer to the holiday maker etc. The security liaison officer at the gate, Mister Tsuruy is a highly professional person with amenable character and friendly demeanour. He was of great help to the otherwise confused and a little perplexed visitors or guests whose purposes of coming to the embassy is for varied and several reasons. From the American school kid who wants to know more about Ethiopian coffee for his school project to the media people, from the marriage visa seekers to Ethio /American investors, the list is long and needs a qualified personnel to handle the demand and pressure.

Once inside the embassy premises, you will meet the highly specialized and friendly courteous embassy staff whose eagerness to help and assist and answer all kinds of questions and inquiries is really commendable. The writer wants to mention and thank one of the few women employees and diplomats of the Ethiopian embassy Mrs, woizero, MERESIEET, who was not only very skilled and knowledgeable of all the intricacies and demands of the day to day issues of the visitors, but she was also very polite, helpful, avid listener and problem solver type of person dedicated to her career and the nation and people she is representing. If I am not mistaken, she was a former freedom fighter TAGAY during the armed struggle to overthrow the DERG regime. Special mention and thanks to the head of consular department Mister DINEKA CORMA whose assistance and speed of doing things is a unique one, rarely seen among many consular heads and even any other employees of any office be it an embassy department or company. Mister Corma is one of the less bureaucratic persons to put it plainly.

Other embassy staff whose name I can't remember, are doing their best in promoting their country, government and people's agenda and portray positive image of the Federal republic. Working in an embassy and diplomatic mission of the world's most powerful, influential and prosperous nation has its own challenges and trials diplomatically speaking at least. Adding to that task is not only dealing with the ever growing large Ethiopian Diaspora and immigrant population and others and their demands and issues but also facing some hostilities and even threats, as I have mentioned above in the article. Ardent enemies of peace and progress in Ethiopia have been targeting the embassy and its activities for a while now. Even though they are few and minuscule compared with the vast and ever growing HABESHA Diaspora, it is good to take all the necessary measures and fight their campaign of lies and confusion with truth and the realities on the ground and the country. As a suggestion, the Ethiopian embassy in the US might need to publish monthly or so newsletters or use other media outlets, as it is done in some embassies and consulates of some nations. It is not that far during the DERG/ESAPA regime of the colonels and the sergeants, that Ethiopia and the United States had the worst and lowest diplomatic relations. With no ambassadors in ADDIS and DC, it was tantamount to no diplomatic relations at all. Today Ethiopia is well represented with flourishing diplomatic. Commercial, Cultural, military, scientific and other relations not only with the US but with many other nations of the world, from Asia to Africa, the Pacific to Australia and more.

News reports suggest that a seasoned and respected diplomat, Ambassador KASSA TECLEBRHAN will be the new Ethiopian ambassador to the US. I wish the ambassador and all the Ethiopian embassy staff happy new year, success and fruitful time in the years ahead and THANK YOU, ENAMESGNALEN, YEQENYELNA, GELETUMA