

## Ethiopians in Houston, Texas held a successful Fund Raising Event for the Grand Renaissance Dam

Tsehay Debalkew, April 17, 2013

Patriotic Ethiopians and Ethiopian- Americans residing in and around Houston Metropolitan Area launched a triumphant fund raising event by purchasing bonds a process that has been going on throughout the last nine months channeled towards the building of the Grand Renaissance Dam amounting to the tune of \$ 50, 000 in Houston, Texas last Sunday.

The event which highlighted the all-round participation by Ethiopians and Ethiopian-American domiciling in the Greater Houston Area in the realization of building the Grand Renaissance Dam, Africa's first grandiose 6000 MW Power House attracted an enthusiastic group of more than 200 from the strong Ethiopian Diaspora in and around the area.



Ambassador Girma Birru, Special Envoy, Ambassador Extra-ordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the US and non-resident Envoy to Canada and Mexico, apprised the packed audience of the monumental tasks achieved in the last two years.

The Special Envoy briefed the gathering on the gigantic developments of building the Grand Renaissance Dam. He revealed at the moment close to 20% of the total work of the dam has

already been undertaken. The most intriguing and difficult task of diverting the course from its natural trail is poised to be unleashed in the not too distant future with of course resounding success he grimaced.

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Referring to the tumultuous and timely popular response having continued effect by Ethiopians far and near to sign on the success of building the Grand Renaissance Dam, the Special Envoy praised the compatriots in Houston and surrounding environs as trail blazers for taking the initiative and for acting in a proactive manner to ensure the success of the noble endeavor which an emblematic expression of self-reliance. Ambassador Girma assured the congregation of the determined conviction and commitment of the Ethiopian people and government to realize the huge project without an iota of financial infusion from the outside world.



In the wake of his presentation which galvanized the audience Ambassador Girma engaged them with a robust question and answer session wherein the members of the Diaspora Ethiopian community actively took part. The event stirred the desire and bolstered the determination of Ethiopians in the Houston Metro Area to all the more raise the stake of their involvement until the finish line, it was learnt.

In a separate development Ambassador Girma Birru took part in the business briefing breakfast meeting at the Hilton Houston Post Oak Hotel organized by the Ethiopian Honorary Consul

General in Houston, Mr. Gezahegn Kebede.



The Special Envoy briefed the dignitaries from the US Congress, the private sector and non government agencies on the conducive and inviting investment environment currently obtaining in Ethiopia. The seventeen guests included Congressman Al Green, Senator Rodney Ellis, Texas Senate, Mr. Mike Nassar, Chairman and CEO of Energy Allied International Corporation and Dr. Robert Satcher Jr. Former NASA Astronaut.

Among the dignitaries from Communications, Gas and Oil Industries among others have shown positive disposition towards the all round development undertakings pioneered by Ethiopia.

After the briefing session all have demonstrated a varied of interests in their respective areas of specialization to play their due role in the ongoing development drive and expressed their readiness to visit Ethiopia.