

Patriotic Ethiopians in Chicago, ILLINOIS undertook a successful Fund Raising Event for the Grand Renaissance Dam,

Tsehay DeBalkew, April 29, 2013

Patriotic Ethiopians and Ethiopian- Americans residing in and around Greater Chicago undertook a resounding fund raising event by purchasing bonds to be channeled towards the building of the Grand Renaissance Dam/ GRD / amounting over \$ 60, 000 last Saturday.

It is to be reminisced that the strong Chicago Ethiopian Diaspora community purchased GRD bonds with the financial outlay amounting to the tune of One hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars. The community has again reaffirmed its pledge to redouble its effort to meet the same amount after the conclusion of the fourth quarter of the year.

The event which triggered a sharpened and an all-round energetic urge for participation by Ethiopians and Ethiopian-Americans domiciling in the Greater Chicago Area sent a strong message of love of Ethiopia.

The occasion practically demonstrated to friends and detractors alike that the Diaspora Ethiopian Community does not succumb to the very few ill wishers' empty rhetoric.

The Guest of Honor 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 gathering of the gigantic strides made and the concomitant results achieved thereof in the last half journey of the Growth and Transformation Plan.

Focusing on the Grand Renaissance Dam the Special Envoy updated the congregation on the current stage of development 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 near future with impressively sonorous success, he grinned.

In reference to the far reaching and continued galvanization created as a result of the onset of GRD the Ambassador commended the compatriots in Chicago and nearby environs as torch bearers in the pious endeavor of extending their support and infusing the needed partnership.

The Special Envoy guaranteed the audience of the determined conviction and commitment of the Ethiopian people and government to realize the huge project without single penny of any sort 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 Chicago Metro Area to all the more boost their participation until the consummation of the noble project, it was learnt.