On June 4 2015, Ethiopian National Day, the 24th Anniversary of the Downfall of the DERG and the 50th Golden Jubilee of Ethio-Australia bilateral relations were colourfully celebrated at an event held by the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Canberra. The event was graced with the presence of Parliamentarians, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Government Officials, Representatives of International Organizations and Ethiopian Diasporas.

During this vibrant event, Australian Government Representative Ms. Robin Stern toasted to the president and people of Ethiopia. His Excellency Arega Hailu Tefera, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia delivered a speech to highlight the significance of the event.

His Excellency noted that "when we celebrate the 24th year of the downfall of the military junta, it is in the dawn of a new era of peace, democracy and development", and that in the current era, "all nations, nationalities and peoples are recognised in the constitution equally, without any sexual, religious or cultural discrimination. As a result, the country's political, social and economic environment has changed tremendously".

His Excellency also discussed the strong performance of the Ethiopian economy since the downfall of the military junta, stating that "economic development has seen Ethiopia become the 6th fastest growing economy in sub-Saharan Africa, lifting the shadow of poverty from the lives of many". His Excellency praised a "peaceful, fair, free and credible election" and remarked that "at this juncture, we would like to congratulate the people for their big turnout, and we congratulate the winning party - EPRDF. We believe that the winning party will continue to enhance peace, democracy and development and realise the vision of the nation to graduate to a middle-income country in the near future".

His Excellency then described the importance of the Ethio-Australia bilateral relationship. He stated that "Our diplomatic relationship started in 1965 and has been fruitful in areas such education, health and
agriculture" and that recent growth in bilateral merchandise trade was "just the beginning of what promises to be a significant trade and investment relationship". His Excellency also said that "Short, medium and long-term scholarships have assisted Ethiopia's capacity building program. Health sector support has facilitated child and maternal health improvements, whilst joint agricultural research under ACIAR has to helped create diversification and productivity improvements. Additionally, Australia's contribution to regional and continental peacekeeping is greatly appreciated".

His Excellency concluded the address by saying "we would like to thank the Australian Government and the relevant authorities for their contribution to the aforementioned sectors. Thank you Australia. We hope these relations will be taken to even greater heights, through partnership in fighting terrorism and by enhancing trade and investment. We sincerely thank all of our international development partners. Each and every one of you stands beside the Ethiopian people, and your contribution to our country is greatly appreciated. Finally, to the Ethiopian people and Ethiopian Origins in Australia and New Zealand, we say thank you. Thank you for your contributions to the peace, stability and prosperity of your homeland. You play an invaluable part in determining the future of our beautiful nation".

In turn, Ms. Jeannie Henderson, Director of the East African Section of the Australian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade, congratulated Ethiopia on its National Day. Ms. Henderson praised the warm partnership that existed between Ethiopia and Australia, and expressed an appreciation for Ethiopia's contribution to peacekeeping in the region. Ms. Henderson congratulated Ethiopia on conducting a peaceful election and said that she looked forward to further developing the bilateral relationship in the future.