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NEWSLETTER

December 2022, Vol 2 No.12

Dear <<First Name>>,

This last month has been a triumph for AEPAC and the entire American Ethiopian community.

Peace Agreement

Let me start with the peace agreement signed in Pretoria, South Africa between the Government of Ethiopia and the TPLF. It was the news we had all hoped for but believed to be impossible after two years of a brutal conflict. The TPLF's war devastated communities across the Northern regions. The suffering has been felt by all Ethiopians, at home and abroad. If there's a chance at a lasting peace it should be grasped.



AEPAC consistently called for the disarming of the TPLF, an increase in humanitarian aid, and the restoration of services to impacted areas in Afar, Tigray, and Amhara. All of those have been incorporated in the peace agreement. The African Union's leadership is also to be welcomed, there should always be African solutions to African challenges.

Ethiopia now has an opportunity to turn its focus back to the progressive program of social, democratic, and economic reform started in 2018, further finding solution to the inherently corrupt ethnic based governing system established by the TPLF. It is our hope the White House and Members of Congress will see the peace agreement as an opportunity for the United States to play a positive role in Ethiopia's future. That can only happen if the basis for relations is on mutual respect and trade, rather than condemnation and sanctions. I believe this is also time to focus on refining and implementing a 21st century US-Africa policy as recently outlined by the state department.

The Ethiopian people deserve the hard-earned peace, with hard work they will secure lasting peace so that the country can recover and start to fulfil its enormous potential.

Midterm Elections

What a night! This year's election was a turning point where the Ethiopian diaspora proved it is a powerful and engaged voting bloc: 32 of the 35 candidates that AEPAC endorsed won their races and we now have friends of Ethiopia in legislative offices all across the United States. From the US Congress to local councils, AEPAC members rallied around candidates who supported our community by donating their time and attention to the conflict being waged by the TPLF and combatting disinformation.

AEPAC can only do this because of you. Your engagement, votes, and donations make massive victories like these possible. Thank you.

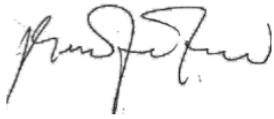
AEPAC will continue engaging legislators on issues that is important to American-Ethiopian community, pushing for positive policies that will help our families and businesses here and abroad, and strengthening the historic relationship between the US and Ethiopia.

Gala Dinner

Finally, I'd like to remind you to join our celebrations on December 10th at the AEPAC Annual Black Tie Gala in Arlington, VA. [Click here for tickets.](#)

Given the peace agreement and midterms success, I think everyone deserves to celebrate their hard work. I hope to see you there!

God bless the peoples of the United States and Ethiopia.



Mesfin Tegenu, AEPAC Chairman

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How You Can Help

- **Follow. Share. Donate.**

AEPAC ACTIVITY UPDATE

AEPAC Endorsed Candidates Win Elections

AEPAC Congratulates Our Elected Endorsees



AEPAC and its partners have succeeded in endorsing 55 candidates that ran for offices ranging from US Senate and House of Representatives to Governor, Mayor, County Executive, State Senator, State Controller and County Council offices. With the exception of two, all those endorsed won by significant margins. AEPAC sent congratulatory messages to the elected candidates and will follow up with one-on-one engagement where these elected officials can collaborate on a common agenda that is pro-Ethiopia and pro-US-Ethiopia enhanced relations. This effort of endorsing and campaigning for friends of Ethiopia by AEPAC and its partners not only encouraged Ethiopian/Eritrean American to turn out to vote, the results have encouraged them to be more active players in the civic process in the future. A high-point in AEPAC’s effort in this midterm is not only the success of getting candidates elected, but also in the loud and clear message to candidates, like former Rep. Malinowski the author of the punitive HR6600 sanctions bill, who sought to unjustifiably sanction Ethiopia.

AEPAC Interfaith Peace for Ethiopia Prayer Meeting



The North America Ethiopian Interfaith Forum and AEPAC Joint Coordination Committee organized a Prayer for Peace in Ethiopia event on Saturday November 5, 2022 at Annadale United Methodist Church in VA. This event, attended both in-person and virtually, was graced by the presence of faith leaders from different denominations – Orthodox, Catholic, Islam, Evangelical, Seventh Day Adventist— as well as by AEPAC representatives. The prayer program was for peace in Ethiopia and advocacy for its sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as promoting the US midterms, endorsed candidates, and pro-Ethiopia and pro-US Ethiopia initiatives that will contribute to peace and stability in the horn of Africa.

This will not be a one-off event. Rather this marks the beginning of a continuous initiative with the participation of a cross section of Ethiopian and Eritrean interfaith and community members.

MEDIA HITS

November was a busy month for the media team.

Just before the peace agreement was secured, we worked with former US Ambassador Tibor Nagy to place an opinion article in The Washington Examiner. The piece was an effort to remind the public and US decisionmakers of the TPLF's role in starting and prolonging the war.

As the peace agreement was announced, AEPAC issued a statement that was covered in diaspora media. The Chairman's comments were referenced together with 'world leaders' in IOL - South Africa's main online news website. The Star Tribune in Minnesota also covered AEPAC's position and interviewed one of our local chapter members.

We continued our AGOA campaign with a sense of urgency as the decision on Ethiopia's reinstatement is due imminently. Congressman Don Beyer worked with AEPAC to draft a letter to Ambassador Tai at the United States Trade Representative (USTR) calling for Ethiopia's reinstatement now peace has been secured. This was covered in trade news outlets such as Inside Trade and International Trade Today.

Finally, on the Midterm Elections, the Chairman wrote an opinion article for Borkena on the significance of AEPAC's success encouraging the community to vote as a bloc.

Links

<https://insidetrade.com/daily-news/rep-beyer-calls-tai-reevaluate-ethiopia%E2%80%99s-agoa-status>

<https://internationaltradetoday.com/news/2022/11/22/Beyer-Asks-USTR-to-Reevaluate-Ethiopia%E2%80%99s-Eligibility-for-AGOA-2211220052>

<https://borkena.com/2022/11/11/midterm-election-results-major-milestone-for-us-ethiopia-relations/?amp>

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/peace-in-northern-ethiopia-looking-for-the-end-of-the-rainbow>

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/world-leaders-hail-au-led-ethiopia-peace-agreement-83e88e00-b893-46cf-88a0-dbde23c1933d>

<https://m.startribune.com/ethiopian-minnesotans-watching-war-from-afar-hope-fragile-peace-pact-holds/600225440/?clmob=y&c=n&clmob=y&c=n>

DIGITAL ADVOCACY

This month's digital efforts came in the form of promoting AEPAC's endorsed candidates running in the 2022 Midterm Election, which included organic and paid digital ads to specifically target American-Ethiopian communities in key areas. AEPAC used social media advertising on Facebook and Instagram to reach over 44,000 voters in key races and these ads were seen over 200,000 times.

From the US Congress to local councils, AEPAC members rallied around candidates who supported our community by donating their time and attention to the conflict being waged by the TPLF and combatting disinformation, and all these efforts were promoted on AEPAC's digital channels.

The most effective content this month that celebrated the remarkable outcomes

of the 2022 Midterm Election.



The American-Ethiopian Public Affairs Co... @AmericaEt... · Nov 18 ...
The 2022 election was a turning point for the Ethiopian diaspora: 32 of the 35 AEPAC-endorsed candidates won their races. We now have friends of #Ethiopia in legislative offices across the US.

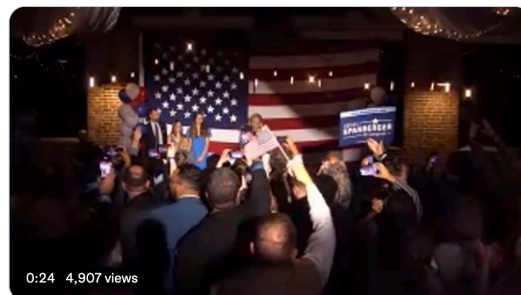
Congratulations to you all for a job well done!



34 319 589



The American-Ethiopian Public Affairs Co... @AmericaEt... · Nov 9 ...
We are delighted to announce that AEPAC endorsee, Abigail Spanberger @SpanbergerVA07, has been re-elected to Congress. Thank you for your allyship & concern for the issues your voters care about. We look forward to continuing to work with you over the next 2 years. #ElectionDay



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NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

Republicans Control the House and Democrats Control the Senate

In the US 2022 Midterm Election, all 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives and a third of the 100 seats in the Senate, including 36 gubernatorial seats, were up for grabs.

The 2022 U.S. Midterm Election that was held on November 8 has the democratic party controlling the Senate and the republican party controlling the House in the 118th Congress that begins its official work on January 1, 2023.

The issues that drove the votes in the 2022 Midterms in order of priority were: inflation, abortion, gun policy, crime and immigration with inflation and abortion representing about 60% of the polls.

Congress remains divided, with the Republican and Democratic parties controlling one chamber each: The Senate control will give Democrats the ability to stop Republican legislation originating from the House. More importantly, the Senate control by the Democrats allows them to confirm President Biden's nominees and judicial appointments. Losing the House will make it difficult for President Joe Biden and Democrats to pass laws during the

next two years of his term of office.

In a related news, Donald Trump declared that he is running for the president in 2024. A defeated former president running for election again while facing potential criminal indictment is unprecedented in U.S. history. He is the only former-president to be impeached twice, and the only one impeached by a bipartisan vote.

The Next US Speaker of the House

The 82-year-old Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) who has led congressional Democrats for two decades has decided to step aside as leader at the end of the 117th Congress. This decision is expected to pave the way for a new generation of Democratic leadership while Pelosi plans to remain in the House as a lawmaker. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), 83, and Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-SC), 82, also indicated they will follow Pelosi's lead and step away from their leadership roles while remaining in Congress.

The House Speaker is elected by a majority of all members of the chamber. In the House, Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) handily won party leadership but still needs to line up enough votes to secure 218 votes needed to succeed Pelosi for an outright majority of the chamber in January 2023. Another contestant for the Speakership is Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), 52, who is supported by the democratic leadership.

AU-led Peace Deal Signed



The Africa Union-led peace talks mediated by AU envoy Olusegun Obasanjo to help resolve the conflict in Tigray was signed on November 2, 2022 in Pretoria, South Africa. The Ethiopian party was led by Ambassador Redwan Hussein and the TPLF party by

Major General Tsadqan Gebretensae. The deal calls for the cessation of hostilities, restoration of humanitarian aid, the re-establishment of federal authority over Tigray and the disarming of TPLF fighters. Both sides said they were committed to the declaration, stressing it was the only way to restore peace and stability. Under the agreement, Tigrayan forces have 30 days to

completely disarm, a process that was set to begin on Nov. 15, [Reuters](#) reported. The Ethiopian government will assume control of highways and airports as well as preside over the Tigrayan capital of [Mekelle](#). The Ethiopian federal government has since lifted the designation of TPLF as a terrorist entity, while the AU remains responsible for monitoring the peace agreement.

A press release from AU reads: “The African Union (AU) High Representative for the Horn of Africa, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, together with the other members of the High-Level Panel for the AU-led Ethiopian Peace Process, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, former President of the Republic of Kenya, and H.E. Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, and member of the AU Panel of the Wise, are pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the Ethiopian Peace Talks in Pretoria, South Africa. The Talks, between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF), which were launched on 25 October 2022, sought to secure a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement between the parties, paving the way for the restoration of peace, security, and stability in the Tigray Region”.



Following the signing of the peace deal, the two military leaders, Field Marshal Berhanu Jula, Chief of Staff of the Ethiopian Armed Forces, and General Tadesse Werede, Commander-in-Chief of the Tigray Rebel Forces, met in Nairobi, Kenya and signed a disarmament deal which has started to be implemented though there remain challenges on the modalities.

This deal has helped facilitate unhindered humanitarian access, provided security guarantees to aid workers, ensured the protection of civilians, and catalyzed the rehabilitation of utility, telecommunication, and banking services etc.

Ethiopia Begins Exporting Electricity to Kenya

Ethiopia has started exporting electricity to neighboring Kenya following a week of testing of a new transmission line. The \$500 million line has a capacity to transmit 2,000 megawatts of electricity, potentially earning Ethiopia as much as

\$100 million annually. Kenya signed a 25-year power purchase deal with Ethiopia to import 600 megawatts of electricity from Ethiopia through the 1,045km long electricity highway line, a component of the \$1.26 billion Kenya-Ethiopia Electricity Highway Project.

Ethiopia has signed power purchase agreements with Kenya, Sudan, Djibouti, Somaliland, Tanzania and South Sudan. Last year, Ethiopia earned \$95.4 million from electricity exports to Sudan and Djibouti. Ethiopia will become the second biggest source of hydropower to Kenya. Ethiopia has been investing billions of dollars in building hydropower plants in a bid to become the region's leading power exporter.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Attends 27th Conference on Climate Change in Egypt



Egypt convened the UN 27th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP27). The Summit was held in Egypt's city of Sharm El-Sheikh. Over 100 leaders and Heads of States attended the conference, among them Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed who delivered a speech. In his statement, the Prime Minister

said, "My government is committed to developing climate-resilient regenerative agriculture and food system transformations that will increase food production, promote health and nutrition, safeguard our valuable land and natural resources, and protect the most vulnerable communities. We are transforming our difficulties into opportunities...We have made rapid and significant progress in combating climate change through ambitious climate action and a green pathway for growth and prosperity... In the spirit of advancing partnership and collaboration, Ethiopia has been exporting green energy sources to neighboring countries, demonstrating our commitment to connecting countries through the East African Power Pool's emerging interconnected grid."

PM Abiy also stated that "we are working hard to diversify and expand the energy mix to include other renewable energy sources such as geothermal, wind, and solar, with the goal of achieving universal access by 2030 through on-grid and off-grid technologies. Four years into the Green Legacy Initiative's implementation, we have planted 25 billion seedlings, which equates to 250

seedlings per Ethiopian. The Green Legacy has fostered a flourishing national green culture, tripling the number of nurseries to over 120,000. Ethiopia's wheat production program has also been a success this year. During the dry season, the climate SMART irrigation system produced approximately 2.5 million tons of wheat. We intend to cultivate 2 million hectares during the dry season alone in 2023, paving the way for food self-sufficiency and wheat export the following year."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Follow Us

To keep up to date with AEPAC, follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).
Check out our website - www.aepact.org

Share

Want to help push the voice of American-Ethiopians to the audiences who matter? Then please share these Tweets so that AEPAC's message is seen by more people across social media: [AEPAC Mission Video](#)

Contact

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