



## **AACCSA set to manage Meskel square project**



By Metasebia Teshome -March 9, 202101063

The Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association completed its preparation to take the management of one of the mega projects in the city, the Meskel square project which is part of the beautifying Sheger Project.

The project which has been under construction for the past nine months is said to be completed until the end of this month, March, 2021. Various modern constructions from Meskel square to Piassa city administration that will beautify the city which is carried out by 2.5 billion birr is expected to significantly contribute to the city's landscape. The project is constructed by the Chinese construction giant, China Communications Construction Company (CCCC).

The Meskel Square project sees the construction of state of the art integrated facilities, incorporating an underground parking lot enough to accommodate about 1,400 vehicles at once, six LED advertising screens, toilets, more than 70 shops and space for electric bike rides.

According to Tilahun Tadesse, Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Exhibition Center and Marketing Development Enterprise, the Addis Ababa chamber has prepared its administration structure and feasibility study. To this end, the CEO highlighted that they are waiting for the official acceptance from the city administration.

The City Chamber had submitted its interest to the city administration last year in May (2020), before the start of construction on the project and further conducted its feasibility study on June 2020 as Tilahun said. "Since it is near to the Exhibition center and more focused on entertainment it is a good decision for the chamber to take over the administration of the project," he elaborated.

Tilahun echoed that when it starts providing services, the project will create job opportunities for more than 300 peoples directly and for thousands more indirectly. "Since the project is huge with regards to its importance to the city, it has to be managed by an acknowledged institution for its profitability and long life /longevity/," said the CEO.

Initiated by the Prime Minister, 'Beautifying Sheger Project' was launched aiming to lift the image of the capital city, create jobs and increase urban tourism. The three-year project is expected to cost 29 billion birr and further aims to enhance the well-being of city dwellers by mitigating flooding and pollution through the creation of public spaces and parks, bicycle paths and walkways along the riverside. It features open space for recreation, artificial lake, and wedding venues. The project was kick started on June 2020 and was set to be completed in four months for the celebration of Meskel festival, however, the global pandemic and the foreign currency crunch has delay the project.

According to engineer Gurmesa Reta, Meskel square project coordinator, 98 percent of the civil works has been completed of which remainder is just the finishing. The engineer said that the project will be completed and be made ready for the public in one month, until the end of March, 2021. Speaking to the cabinet affairs on the six month performance of the city, deputy mayor Adanech Abebe at the beginning of the budget year explained that the project has been progressing from the 31 percent state at the time to 91 percent,

“We have built a number of mega development projects that are already on the pipeline as well as others that are up-coming. The great progress of the square project should be viewed as a lesson for others in terms of its quality and swift progress,” she expressed.

Also according to the city administrations six month performance, The Adwa Zero Kilometer Museum project has an Adwa Center building with a capacity of more than 2,000 people and three small halls with a capacity of 400 people, as well as a cinema and theater.

According to the report, the Municipal building which is over 50 years old will be renovated without changing the modern and historical form. The report also cited that the Construction performance has increased from 13.9 to 40 percent. The construction of Addis Ababa City Public Library has also increased from 19.2 to 70 percent whereas the construction of the palace parking lot has reached 71 percent, as per the report. Addis Ababa Chamber is also an Organizer of different Local and international trade fairs, exhibitions is also managing the exhibition center which is one of the development agency of the city. By Metasebia Teshome

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