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BUSINESS

Chinese corruption suspect petitions PM's intervention

2 June 2018
By **Tamiru Tsige**

A Chinese citizen charged and detained in relation to a grand corruption charge has written a letter to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) on May 29, 2018, requesting the PM's intervention so that his case can be reviewed with a separate body.

Yuan Jialin was detained on July 25, 2017, in relation to an alleged corruption committed while he was the head of Omo Kuraz 5 sugar project, contracted to Jiangxi Jianglian International Engineering Co. Ltd (JJIEC).

In a letter that Jialin wrote to the PM, he mentioned that he has been detained since July 25, 2017, and that he has been denied bail as his case proceeds for close to a year now.

Jialin further stated, "JJIEC believes and operates on the highest standard and uses fair and competitive system of procurement and carefully controls projects at hand to be free from corruptive and fraudulent activities."

Jialin said that it was difficult to commit corruption in a strictly monitored purchase process. The project was contracted to a Chinese company in 2016 with an investment outlay of USD 550 million obtained from a Chinese bank ICBC. He mentioned that there has not been any evidence to substantiate the charges brought against him.

Although the company he has been working for has recruited a lawyer to investigate the alleged corruption, Jialin indicated that he was subjected to an inappropriate search which resulted in physical and psychological damages to him. He also asserted that the document evidences presented to substantiate his charges were counterfeit which the Attorney General is using without any doubt.

He also said that the top management of JJIEC assessed the dire situation of the Omo Kuraz 5 project hugely affecting the country and said that it might hamper the bilateral relations between the government and his company. Hence, he requested the Prime Minister to give him a speedy trial. To this effect, he requested for an establishment of a neutral and separate body to see his case, to give him speedy trial inline with the Prime Minister's promise of reform in the justice system.



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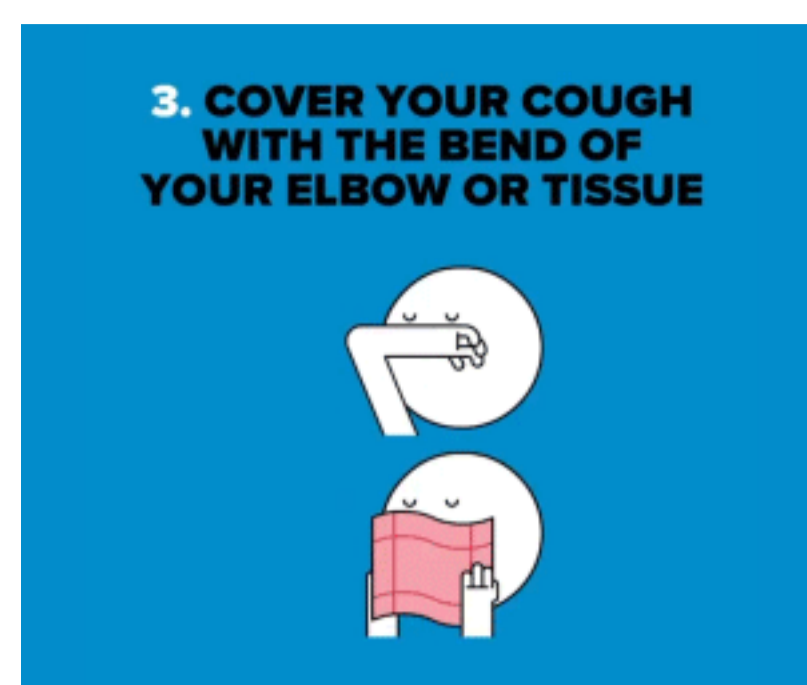


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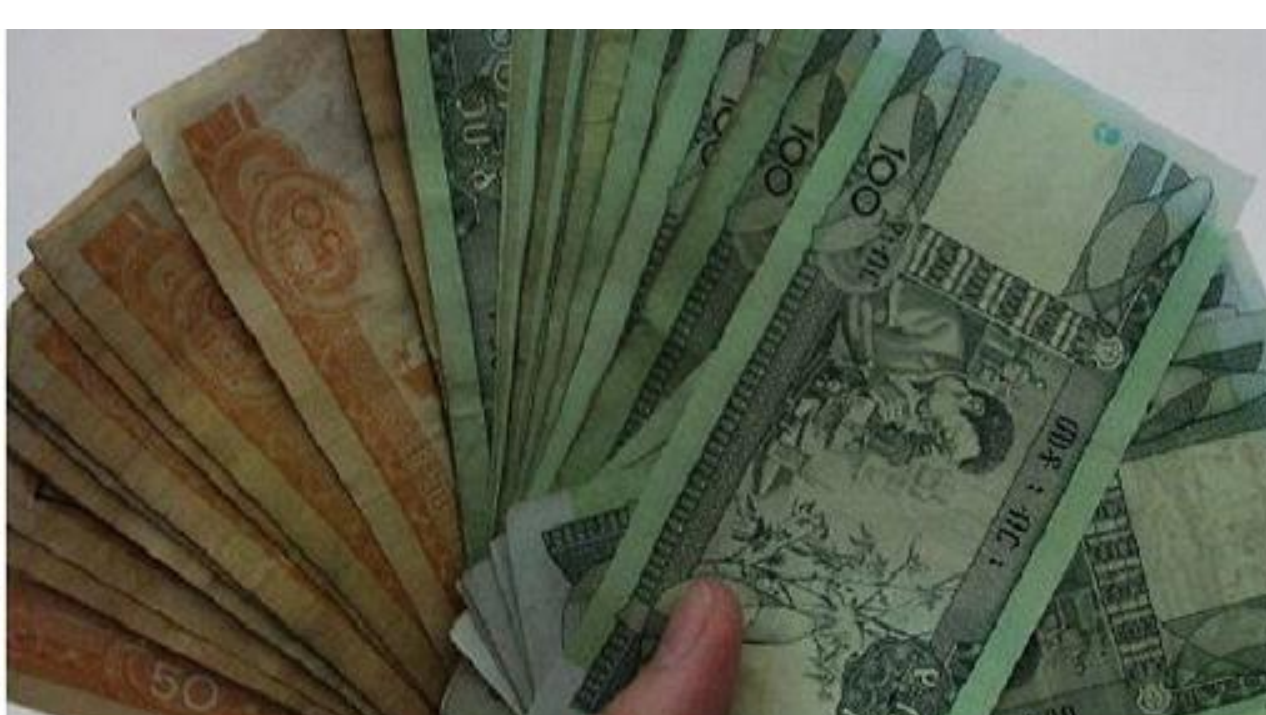
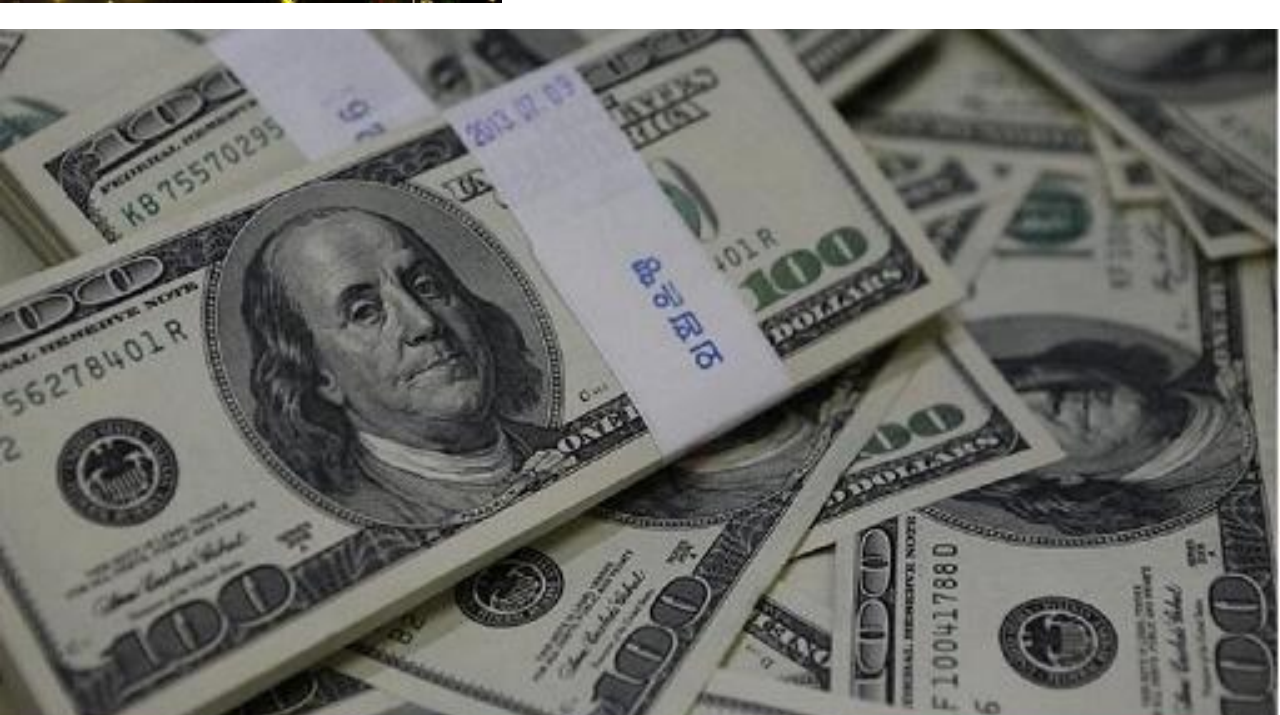
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Ethiopia puts 37 people before court over high-level corruption



ETHIOPIA

By Abdur Rahman Alfa Shaban with FANA BROADCASTING CORPORATE Last updated: 28/07/2017

The Ethiopian government on Thursday put over 30 persons before a federal high court on charges of high-level corruption, the state-affiliated FANA Broadcasting corporate reported.

The 37 persons were arrested on Tuesday for their involvement in deals that allegedly led to the embezzlement of an estimated 1.1 billion birr - which translates to over \$47.2 million.

The detained persons include senior government officials, business people and brokers. The court denied all of them bail and granted police prosecutors 14 days to collect additional evidence.

The bail denial was based on the ability of the accused persons to tamper with sensitive documents. The case will next be heard on August 9 according to the trial judge.

State entities whose officials are involved include: Addis Ababa Roads Authority, Ethiopian Roads Authority, Ethiopian Sugar Corporation and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation.

Some individuals are also being held including one Gi Yon, manager of a Chinese firm. Owner of another construction firm is involved as well as former manager of the Addis Ababa Road Authority.

Ethiopia's economy continues its upward trajectory with good reviews from global finance institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The latest anti-corruption push will go a long way to enhance business credibility for the East African giant.

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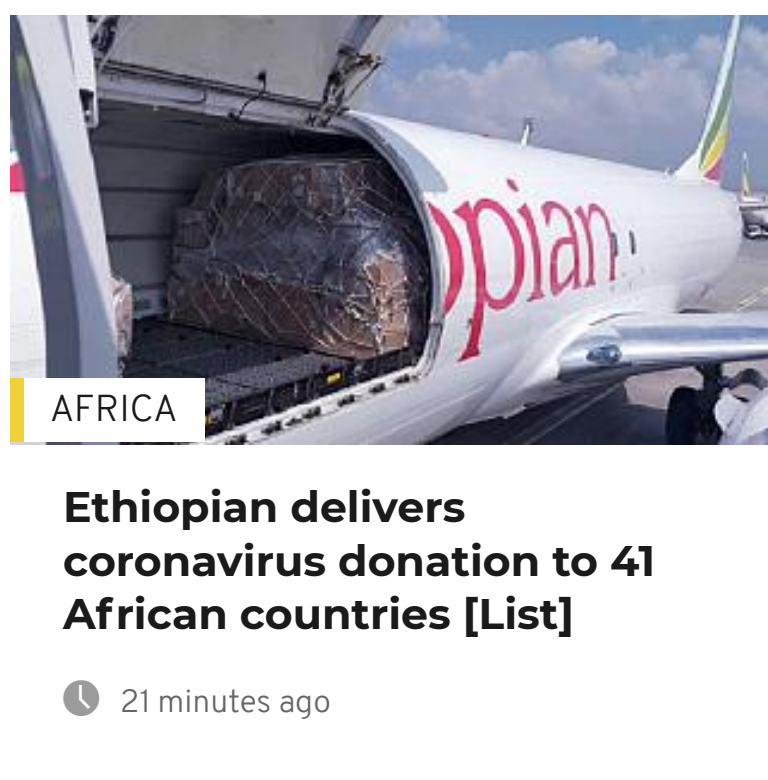
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Number of detainees in Ethiopia's biggest anti-corruption sweep reaches 55

Source: Xinhua | 2017-08-12 02:39:20 | Editor: Mu Xuequan



Xinhuanet App 

ADDIS ABABA, Aug. 11 (Xinhua) -- The number of detained senior Ethiopian government officials, businessperson and middlemen, who were arrested in connection with an alleged large-scale corruption scandal, has increased to 55 on Friday.

Ethiopian roads authority Communications Director, Samson Wondimu, is the latest Ethiopian government official detained on Friday in connection with the large scale anti-corruption investigation in Ethiopia's modern history.

While the number of suspected government officials and their associates could still rise as the investigation is still underway in the east African country, investigators have on Thursday frozen the assets of 210 individuals and 15 companies that have link with the recently arrested individuals.

Majority of the 54 defendants have so far appeared before an Ethiopian court, including the former Manager of Addis Ababa Roads Authority, Fekade Haile, former Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation, Alemayehu Gujo, and former head of Ethiopian Roads Authority Zayid WoldeGebrel.

Other senior government officials from the Ethiopian Roads Authority, the Addis Ababa Roads Authority, the Ethiopian Sugar Corporation and foreign nationals were also arrested as part of the large-scale corruption scandal.

The Ethiopian government has cited bad governance and corruption as among the major reasons for the preoccupations of the public back in late 2016.

The ongoing arrest of senior government officials, businessperson and middlemen is said to be part of the Ethiopian government's reform process, which was started at the end of 2016 to provide a concrete answer to the preoccupations of the public.

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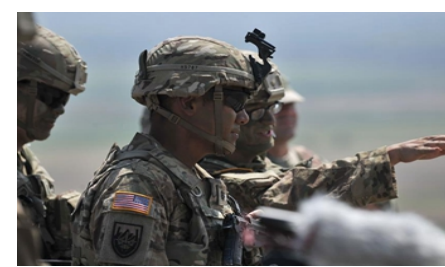
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