

Nation working to be textile industry hub: Ministry

• • African Sourcing and Fashion Week 2016 Exhibition opens

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

ADDIS ABABA -- The Ministry of Industry said the country is working to be hub for textile industry for it is core for value addition, foreign currency generation, creating job opportunities and technology transfer.

Opening a three-day African Sourcing and Fashion Week 2016 Exhibition at the Millennium Hall yesterday, State Minister Tadesse Haile said to further develop the manufacturing sector in general and textile industry in particular, the government is exerting maximum effort to expand and develop the necessary infrastructure.

The State Minister said capacity building and reform programmes are also being

implemented to improve service delivery thereby strengthening the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector.

He further said that development of industrial parks is also one of the key interventions to speed up industrialization in the country.

State Minister Tadesse said such exhibition is also expected to foster cooperation rather than competition between and among the exhibitors in promoting both local and international investment. The exhibition is aimed at creating friendly business environment in Africa at large.

According to him, Africans are still heavily dependent on agriculture for their livelihood and thus boosting the performance

of the sector is central to poverty reduction.

"We strongly believe that Africa in general has abundant resource to be converted to value adding products and services. It is endowed with untapped resources and large population size," he said.

Textile Industry Development Institute Director General Seleshi Lemma said that as part of its mission, the Institute is striving to provide meaningful support for investors engaged and seek to involve in the manufacturing of textile products and accessories along the value chain.

"We strongly believe that Ethiopia is considered a textile destination and hub as all elements and factors of production are available in full. By all standard, Ethiopia is

a country to do textile business at low cost and be competitive anywhere."

Ethiopian Garment Manufacturers Association President Fasil Tadesse said that Africa should work now complementing to one another and not competing more to each another. The opportunities are massive but vigilance to exploit these opportunities are weaker. "Recognizing the critical role manufacturing sector plays for the development of country, we are more than ready to accept all investment in the sector."

German-based Textiles and Textile Technologies Company messe frankfurt Vice President Olaf Schmidt said: "We share a vision to establish a focal point for East African textile industry's future growth. It is

our common target to present a knowledge sharing platform for everything textile related."

East Africa Trade and Investment Hub Trade Promotion USAID Coordinator Finn Holm-Olsen said that the global apparel industry is transforming to meet the needs and values of its customers.

The Coordinator said East Africa is at the forefront in this transformation. Ethiopia and Kenya recently made the short list of future sourcing in apparel industry survey. "We are working with our partners, governments and stakeholders in the region to actively promote trade and investment through policy support, investment facilitation and events."