

# The Daily Monitor

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## Kiir Rejects Machar's Return to Juba



Isaias Afwerki has been Eritrea's president since 1993 [Photo File]

By Sisay Sahlu

ADDIS ABABA - South Sudan's rebel leader Riek Machar can move out of South Africa, where he has been in house arrest since fleeing Juba in 2016, after regional bloc, IGAD, suspends his house arrest.

Reports are now saying he may be relocated to a neutral country outside the region as part of a deal to end more than four years of civil war in

the country.

The plan is endorsed by regional leaders.

President Salva Kiir, however, rejected proposals to work together with his former vice-president in any transitional government.

The government in Juba offered to allow a rebel representative to join its government, but ruled out Machar, saying they had "had enough" of the man after five years of

war against his group.

"Machar cannot be part of government", Information Minister Michael Makuei Lueth told a news conference in Addis after President Kiir met Machar here on Wednesday for the first time since a peace deal collapsed spectacularly, leading to the deaths of hundreds of people in the South Sudanese capital of Juba.

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## Italy Backs Ethiopia's Agro-Processing Sector with €30m In Loan Deal

By Yonas Addisu

ADDIS ABABA - Italy agreed on Friday to provide a 30 million euro soft loan to Ethiopia to finance the development of agriculture value chain projects in Oromia, and Southern Nations' and nationalities Peoples' regions.

The finance agreement was signed between Ambassador

of Italy to Ethiopia, Arturo Luzzi, the State minister of finance and economic cooperation, Admasu Nebebe, in Addis Ababa.

The loan would finance a project namely 'Inclusive and Sustainable development of agricultural value chain in Oromia and SNNPR, which will run for 36 months.

Supervisor of the project, Italian Agency for development Cooperation (AICS) said that the initiative "aims at strengthening the quality, sustainability and inclusiveness of agricultural value chain" in the regions.

It will particularly work on wheat and tomato and processing in Oromia, as well as

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## Authorities Unblock 246 Dissident Websites

By Our Staff Writer

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia says it has unblocked 246 websites including and TV channels as reform under prime minister Abiy Ahmed continues.

"Freedom of expression is a foundational right," Prime minister's chief staff Fitsum Arega reasoned for the latest move.

He announced the news on Twitter as Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed continues to open up the East African country after years of anti-government tensions.

The blocked websites included many run overseas in the United States and elsewhere including Oromo Media Network (OMN) and Ethiopian Satellite Television (ESAT).

Watching both these TV was outlawed under last year's state of emergency rule.

"A free flow of information is essential for engaged and responsible citizenry," Fitsum said. "Only a free market of ideas will lead to the truth".

Since Abiy took office in April, Ethiopia also has freed almost all jailed journalists and bloggers and dropped charges against activists critical of the government.

Ethiopians on Saturday are expected to hold massive rallies, including in the capital, Addis Ababa, to show support for the ongoing reforms.

Executive Director of OMN Jawar Mohammed said the TV station would transmit the Saturday's rally "live from the scene" for its views worldwide.

# Italy Backs Ethiopia's ...

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ern SNNP, where the agro-manufacturing enterprises will be located.

Ambassador Luzzi said the initiative "will start in a very significant moment of our bilateral relations".

"Italy has a strong and a consolidated tradition in the agro-industrial sector," he said. "we are eager to share with all Ethiopian counterparts the Italian experience and expertise in this field".

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock resources with FAO's specialized technical assistances.

The loan deal is part of Ethio-Italian 2017-2019 framework agreement signed on September 2017, which allocates over 60 million euro for Ethiopia agro-industrial transformation.

avocado and pineapple processing in SNNP.

The AICS also said project would also support the establishment of the integrated agro-industrial parks in Central-Eastern Oromia and in East-