

**Closing Remarks**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Regional Seminar for Labour-Based Practitioners**  
**Addis Ababa, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

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Your Excellency, Ato Ahmed Shide, Minister of Transport of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,

Excellencies Ministers & Commissioners,

Distinguished members of the Diplomatic Community,

Heads of Government Institutions and other Government Officials,

Representatives from workers unions and the Private Sector,

Distinguished participants of the 17th Regional Seminar for Labour-Based Practitioners,

Invited Guests,

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- As we come to end of this five day Seminar - let me take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Transport, Ato Ahmed Side for finding time to grace this occasion.
- I also wish to recognise your dedication during the five days. The objectives of the seminars are to facilitate sharing, learning and expanding of knowledge in the spirit of south-south cooperation and international solidarity. I am told these have been achieved with distinction.
- With a total of 17 high-level papers were presented; and you had a chance to visit few of public employment programmes in Ethiopia, that are engaging thousands of youth (women and men) in gain full employment. I understand that many of you were very impressed by the high participation of women at the development programmes you visited.
- The variety of projects demonstrated the application of EIIP in diverse sectors including manufacturing, social housing, road construction and maintenance, etc.

- These experiences should, no doubt, widen your networks and able to share your knowledge and experiences and most of all you are able to benchmark your own progress.
- All these could not have been achieved without the support from the host Government and people of Ethiopia. Allow me to convey, through you Minister, our deepest gratitude to the Government and to His Excellency Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and honourable Ministers and representatives from various participating countries for gracing the conference with their presence and issuing a strong positive Ministerial Statement.
- The unmatched hospitality of the people of Ethiopia needs special mention. I am very sure you will keep the memory for a long time and come back again.
- I also wish to thank seminar organising committee and subcommittees constituted by members mainly from ERA, selected government institutions and social partners, and supported by ILO for their unrestrained efforts in the successful execution of the seminar programme including site visits;
- Most of all I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all experts and facilitators for the interesting presentations and substantive discussions and the conference delegates for their active participation, fruitful deliberations and constructive Addis Statement, which I hope all of you strive to put to fruition.
- ILO values the continued cooperation and friendship with the ERA, MoT and wishes to congratulate them for the job well-done
- The ILO CO-Addis pleased to have taken part in organizing and conducting such a meaningful and fruitful international event of great value and wish all the delegates a safe journey to their respective countries.
- Thank you.

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