



Last Thursday, members of the opposition paid a visit to Et Highland Flower Farm. The floriculture sector is under heavy criticism by environmentalists for the use of chemicals in its production process. In the right corner is Tsegaye Asfaw, president of the Ethiopian Horticulture Producers and Exporters Association (EHPEA) briefing the opposition about the sector. He is a shareholder of Et Highlander Flower Farm. Standing next to him is Emebet Tesfaye, general manager of the farm. The floriculturalists seem to have succeeded in swaying members of the opposition, who viewed the sector with some skepticism, about flower farming's positive aspects. Attentively taking notes in the middle is Gebru G. Mariam (MP-

UEDF). Between Emebet and Gebru is Gebeyehu Ayato (MP-CUDP), while at the far left is Kadim Bedhaso (MP-OFDM).

"We have confirmed that all the negative allegations against the sector are not real," Gebru told *Fortune*.

The organizer of the visit, Gebru claims that his party had invited EPRDF and UEDP-Medhin officials to take part in the visit, but no representatives showed from the two parties. Abdurahman Ahmedin (MP-UEDP), however, stated that his party did not receive an official invitation. Et Highland Flower Farm is in Sebota, 24Km from Addis in the Oromia Regional State.

Restructuring Hammer Strikes Again

■ An additional 37 Employees sent on forced leave at RCuA

By YOHANNES ANBERBIR
FORTUNE STAFF WRITER

The implementation of the Business Process Reengineering (BPR) study has continued to rock employees of the newly established Revenue and Customs Authority (RCuA). The restructuring has, for the second week in a row, impacted on an additional 37 employees who were given forced leave.

The study, which earlier led to merger of the three revenue collecting institutions - the Ethiopian Customs Authority, the Federal Inland Revenue and their regulator body, the Ministry of Revenue into a single authority - has also unseated two directors of the authority, sending a warning signal to almost the entire staff.

Before the three institutions were combined, they used to have close to 3,000 employees in total.

G. Mariam Fanta and Goitom G. Tsadik were appointed a month earlier as directors in the Tax Collection Department, but on August 15, 2008, a notice was posted up that stated that the two new appointees, along with 35 other employees, were to go on forced leave.

They were also requested to hand over all the authority's properties within six days, before going on annual leave. The

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