

Ethiopia Revives Plans for Sub-Saharan Africa's Tallest Skyscraper

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Ethiopia is moving forward with ambitious plans to construct a 62-story skyscraper in Addis Ababa, poised to become the tallest building in sub-Saharan Africa. The estimated \$445 million project will serve as the new headquarters for state-owned Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP), signaling the nation's commitment to economic growth and modernization.

Initially proposed in 2023, the project faced delays due to financial hurdles. However, the re-opening of the bidding process for both local and international contractors marks a significant step towards realizing this transformative vision.

A Visionary Landmark for Addis Ababa

Designed by the renowned consulting firm Dar Al-Handasah, the skyscraper is planned to stand at an impressive 1,074 feet, surpassing Johannesburg's Leonardo tower (768 feet). Located in the Kirkos district, adjacent to Addis Ababa's burgeoning central business district, the 2.8-hectare site will feature a vast floor area of 2,129,167 square feet. This multi-functional space will include offices, a rooftop sky garden, and a restaurant, creating a dynamic hub for business and leisure.

This architectural marvel is more than just a building; it represents Ethiopia's economic aspirations and underscores the strategic importance of energy in the country's developmental agenda.

Navigating Challenges and Ensuring Expertise

Despite previous financial challenges, renewed efforts are focused on attracting experienced contractors with a proven track record, requiring completion of at least three contracts valued at \$370 million or more. The project will proceed under an engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract, with a targeted four-year construction period. The involvement of Dar Al-Handasah, known for its extensive expertise, further strengthens the project's credibility.

Impact on Ethiopia's Urban Landscape and Global Standing

The skyscraper is expected to profoundly impact Ethiopia's urban landscape, setting a new benchmark for architectural and engineering excellence in the region. It is envisioned as a beacon of innovation, attracting investment and signaling Ethiopia's readiness to compete on a global scale. This project aligns with the government's broader objectives of urban transformation and economic development, facilitating improved energy management crucial for sustaining Ethiopia's rapid growth.

With the tendering process now active, global attention will be on Ethiopia's progress as it embarks on this monumental journey. This skyscraper embodies not only architectural ambition but also Ethiopia's potential to emerge as a leader in Africa.