

EEP startup to current status

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Electricity is a discovery that plays the biggest role behind the results of research and technology that have simplified and modernized the daily life and work of human beings. It has contributed the most to the development of the world in space research, industrial construction, telecommunications, media, transportation, medicine, etc. It has assisted the world's most powerful countries to put their people to work and grow their economies by igniting the industrial revolution.

Consequently, electricity is the backbone of world civilization, economic growth, and the glow and splendor of cities. Many activities are interrupted when electricity is broken up. When we see this, we understand how important electricity is in our daily lives.

Although it is necessary to discuss the basic idea about the benefits and importance of electricity, this article mainly deals with: When did electricity start to be used in Ethiopia? What kind of processes did the current Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) go through to reach the level it is today?

These key questions are reacted to by Ethiopian Electric Power Corporate Communication Director Moges Mekonen besides the information obtained from the documents of the institution and the years are in Ethiopian calendar.

Electricity utilization was started in Ethiopia in 1890 from a small diesel generator that the German government gave to Emperor Menilik II. When the generator began to provide benefits, the palace was freed from the light from firewood and stoves.

At the same time it was transformed into an electric light that identified the palace from the ordinary village causing great joy among the people of the palace and the officials.

Later, following the introduction of similar generators into the country, the electric power that was confined to the palace began to spread in Addis Ababa and other cities.

[Ethiopia's Electric Power Startup Process](#)

In 1890, the first diesel generator was introduced in the country and in 1896 the Emperor bought and installed the second generator to help him to mint money in his image. And in 1904, the 3rd generator was installed to establish an ammunition factory.

As well, in 1919, the 4th generator was purchased for the Abujedi Cloth Factory. Later in 1920, some well to do residents of Addis Ababa bought their own private generators.

Later, when Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1928, diesels began to be used in the cities it controlled, including Addis Ababa and other towns: in 1929: in Nazareth, Dredawa, and Dese while it was used in Harar 1930. Plus, the colonizers started providing electric services to the cities of Gondar and Jima in 1931, from the generators installed.

At the end of 1928, Connell, an Italian Company, was given the right to generate and sell electricity that it began selling electricity to consumers for the first time.

When Italy left Ethiopia in 1933, the right to generate and sell electricity was given to the "Enemy Property Office" the name given to the Italian property administration as Italy had ruled the nation. And in 1940, "Showa Electric Power" was put in charge of the electrical work.

In 1948, a legal entity called "Ethiopian Electric Light and Power Authority" was established by charter. This official office was functioning until 1989, then changed its name to a corporation and was functioning until 2006 when it was divided into two institutions with different roles, namely Ethiopian Electric Power and Ethiopian Electric Utility.

The main activities of Ethiopian Electric Power are to build and operate power generation stations, to lay out, build and manage transmission lines from 132 to 500 KV, to produce power and to provide bulk power to the Ethiopian Electric Utility, high power users and neighboring countries.

The following table shows the amount of energy the facility produces from water, wind, diesel, geothermal, and biomass, the name of the power station, and the year it was put into operation.

Electricity, which started with a small generator in Emperor Menilik II's palace in 1890, has grown and today it has reached a power generation capacity of more than 5000 megawatts.

No.	Power Plant	Hydro	Diesel	Geo thermal	Wind	Biomass	Total	In-service date (G.C)
1	<u>Koka</u>	43.2	0.12	-	-	-	43.32	1960
2	Awash II	32	0.1	-	-	-	32.1	1966
3	Awash III	32	-	-	-	-	32	1971
4	<u>Finchaa</u>	134	0.2	-	-	-	134.2	1973/2003
5	<u>Meleka Wakena</u>	153	-	-	-	-	153	1988
6	<u>Tis Abay I</u>	11.4	-	-	-	-	11.4	1964
7	<u>Tis Abay II</u>	73	-	-	-	-	73	2001
8	<u>Gilgel Gibe I</u>	184	-	-	-	-	184	2004
9	<u>Aluto Langano</u>	-	-	7.3	-	-	7.3	1999
10	<u>Kaliti</u>	-	14	-	-	-	14	2004
11	<u>Dire Dawa</u>	-	40	-	-	-	40	2004
12	<u>Awash 7 killo</u>	-	35	-	-	-	35	2004
13	Tekeze	300	-	-	-	-	300	2009
14	<u>Gilgel Gibe II</u>	420	-	-	-	-	420	2010
15	<u>Beles</u>	460	-	-	-	-	460	2010
16	<u>Amerti Neshi</u>	95	-	-	-	-	95	2011
17	<u>Gilgel Gibe III</u>	1,870.00	-	-	-	-	1870	2015
18	<u>Abasamuel</u>	6.6	-	-	-	-	6.6	2016
19	<u>Genale Dawa</u>	254.1	-	-	-	-	254.1	2020
20	<u>Adama I</u>	-	-	-	51	-	51	2012
21	GED	375	-	-	-	-	375	2022
22	Ashegoda	-	-	-	120	-	120	2012
23	<u>Adama II</u>	-	-	-	153	-	153	2014
24	<u>Rappie Waste</u>	-	-	-	-	25	25	2019
25	<u>Dire Dawa (mu)</u>	-	3.6	-	-	-	3.6	1965
26	Axum	-	3.15	-	-	-	3.15	1975/1992
27	Adwa	-	3	-	-	-	3	1998