



Embassy of Egypt
WASHINGTON, DC

Newsletter – January 2015

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1- Zakat House:

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi issued a decree to establish Zakat House as a legal entity that enjoys financial and administrative independence. It will be overseen by Al-Azhar Grand Imam. Zakat House aims to accept alms, donations, gifts, bequests and charity subventions to be spent in a manner legally prescribed according to its priority. In addition, Zakat House will have a Board of Trustees consisting of a number of public figures who have experience in religious science. [read more...](#)



2- President El Sisi congratulates the Egyptian community in USA on the occasion of the birth of prophet Mohammed, peace be upon him, and on the occasion of the Coptic Christmas:

President El Sisi sent a congratulatory telegram to Egyptian and Muslim communities across the United States on the occasion of the birth of prophet Mohammed, peace be upon him, and on the occasion of the Coptic Christmas. [read more...](#)

3- Information for requesting new National Identity Cards:

The embassy is preparing to host a delegation from the Egyptian Civil Affairs Authority to issue and renew I.D cards for members of the Egyptian community. We urge all community members who expressed their interest in obtaining a new I.D. card or renewing their I.D. cards to send their requests and contact information to: IDrequest@egyptembassy.net. [read more...](#)

4- Parliamentary elections:

The supreme Elections Committee (SEC) announced the dates for the Parliamentary elections as follows:

-Parliamentary elections first stage

- March 21-22, 2015 vote takes place abroad
- March 22-23, 2015 vote takes place in 14 governorates in Egypt
- March 31-April 1, 2015 : possible runoff abroad
- April 1-2, 2015: possible runoff in Egypt

-Parliamentary elections second stage:

- April 25-26 vote takes place abroad
- April 26-27 vote takes place in 13 governorates in Egypt
- May 5-6 possible runoff abroad
- May 6-7 possible runoff in Egypt. [read more...](#)



5- NGOs Monitoring for next Parliamentary elections:

The Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) issued two decrees including regulations for NGOs that wish to monitor elections. Human rights and democracy promotion NGOs will be allowed to monitor the elections. NGOs must have a good reputation, be neutral and transparent and have previous experience observing elections. Monitors can observe procedures for listing candidates, distribution of electoral material, the casting and counting of votes and the announcements of results. Registration to monitor the elections is open from 12 January to 21 January, 2015. Please see the relevant decrees on [the SEC official web-site](#).



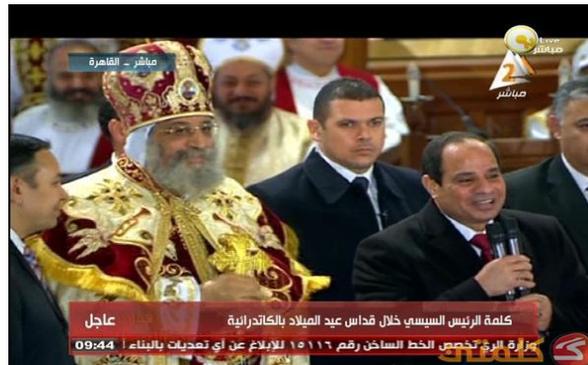
6- President's speech on the occasion of the birth of prophet Mohammed, peace be upon him, 1 January 2015:

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi began the New Year with a dramatic call for tolerance and the renewal of religious discourse in two historic speeches. Speaking at the eminent Al Azhar University on January 1, the President called for a “religious revolution” that rejects extremist misinterpretation of Islam. [read more...](#)



7- President El Sisi calls for end to sectarianism in historic speech at Coptic Christmas mass 6 January 2015:

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi attended Coptic Christmas mass at Abbasiya Cathedral in Cairo Tuesday evening, making history as the first Egyptian president to personally attend the ceremony. President El Sisi made an impromptu speech calling upon Egyptians to unite as “one hand”, put aside sectarian divides and set an example for the rest of the world. [read more...](#)



8- Fitch upgrades Egypt’s credit rating to ‘B’:

On 19 December, Fitch Ratings Agency upgraded Egypt’s rating to ‘B’ saying its outlook is stable. In announcing the decision to upgrade, Fitch said, the “government has embarked on a policy course designed to tackle some of the serious structural weaknesses that have emerged or intensified in recent years. Fuel subsidy cuts and tax hikes have been implemented as part of a clear five-year fiscal consolidation strategy. Power shortages are being tackled, overdue payments to oil companies reduced, investment laws revised and disputes with foreign investors settled. The measures appear to have strong political backing.” [read more...](#)

9- Egypt Launches the National Anti-Corruption Strategy:

The Egyptian prime minister launched the National strategy for fighting Corruption on December 2014 please find a translation in English of the strategy [on this link](#).

10. Minister of Investment paid a visit to Washington D.C. and New York City from 20 to 24 of January 2015:

In the context of promoting investment in Egypt, and in advance of the Egypt Economic Development Conference to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh from 13 to 15 of March 2015, Egyptian Minister of Investment paid a visit to Washington D.C, and New York City from 20 to 24 of January 2015. The Minister met with several United States companies to encourage them to increase their investment in Egypt. He also briefed officials from both the Administration and Congress about the positive economic developments taking place in Egypt. [read more...](#)

