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Price adjustment on fruit, vegetable exports to go effective soon: MoA

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

ADDIS ABABA- The new selling prices for Ethiopian fruits and vegetables exported to neighboring countries will be applicable beginning the end of the transitional period, disclosed the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, MoA Horticulture Investment and Export Support Director Mekonnen Solomon said the last time Ethiopia set the lowest selling price of fruits and vegetables was some 50 years ago, there has been no adjustment since.

Taking advantage of the gap, some unlawful
See Price adjustment... Page 3



Ethiopian fruits and vegetables exported to neighboring countries



Photo: Hadush Abraha

Investigation report recounts TPLF's atrocities in Amhara, Afar

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA- The Ethiopian Institution of the Ombudsman (EIO) disclosed that because of the incursion of terrorist TPLF into Amhara state, over 1.8 million people in the state are now in need of permanent support.

The report added that over 1,217 women were sexually assaulted in Amhara state.

See Investigation report ... Page 3

Senator urges U.S. to deepen ties with Ethiopia

• Says work to get Ethiopia back to AGOA

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- U.S. senator from Virginia stated that U.S. should advance its diplomatic efforts with Ethiopia in a bid to press on humanitarian and economic initiatives.

In his twitter page, Senator Mark Warner

said that Ethiopian government effort to expand access to the Tigray state has shown a positive progress as humanitarian organizations are providing the needy with the required aid.

Similarly, the senator expressed his positive view on Ethiopia in the first week of April

See Senator urges U.S.... Page 3



Senator Mark Warner

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4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Gov't urged to file complaint over Deir Sultan ill-treatment

Page 3

Using 'Made in Ethiopia': A viable avenue for change

Page 6



Tel. +251 118 223300
+251 52255555
E-mail: info@goldencatering.net
Web: www.goldencatering.net
Abyssinia Building 1st Floor

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News



Assistant Professor Adem Kamil

Eid to Eid helps Ethiopia's special place in Islam getting proper place

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA- Marking Eid to Eid is instrumental in informing the global Muslim Community Ethiopia's special place in Islam and its welcoming of Companions of Prophet Mohammed and allowing them to practice their religion free from persecution even before Saudi Arabia, the noted Islamic scholar said.

Speaking to The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), the scholar Adem Kamil (Assistant Professor) stated that that the event would have paramount importance to inform Muslims across the globe that Ethiopia's contribution received due recognition from Prophet Muhammad. Followers of the Prophet have also a remarkable history of peaceful co-existence with their non-Muslim brothers and sisters while religious conflicts continue around the globe.

The renowned Ethio-Arab history researcher further noted that Ethiopia's status of being the first country to peacefully embrace Islam has not been getting a proper place among the global Muslim community. So, the program would significantly promote Ethiopia's deep attachment with Islamic history. Likewise still now there are a lot of agents that have been disseminating false narratives to harm Ethiopia's relations with Muslim countries. Ethiopian Islamic institutions should discharge their responsibility to counter these false narratives.

As it is part of the Great Homecoming Program, the Eid to Eid event would help to promote Ethiopia's peace and stability to the international community and counter the corporate media's coordinated smear campaign. All relevant stakeholders, notably the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council should work diligently to promote Islamic attraction sites including Al-Nejashi, Harar, Bale and Jimma historical mosques that aged centuries of years, Adem emphasized.

Ethiopian to use telebirr for domestic passenger ticket sale

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian Airlines and ethio telecom inked bilateral agreement to sell passenger flight ticket via telebirr.

Ethio telecom also announced that millions of Birr have been collected from the Airlines' customers since it introduced telebirr application.

Launching the online flight ticket payment service via telebirr, ethio telecom CEO Frehiwot Tamru yesterday said that the agreement is to ease the payment integration system to customers of the Airlines.

"The payment system integration agreement signed between the two giant companies will have key roles to play, particularly it would enable the Ethiopian Airlines passengers to have access to easy, fast, convenient and secured telebirr based flight ticket online purchasing service at any time and everywhere as a mode of payment option."

According to her, the current number of telebirr users has reached over 17.6 million,



Ethiopian Airlines and ethio telecom inked bilateral agreement

so, the agreement would enable the Ethiopian Airlines customers to purchase domestic flight online tickets via telebirr.

"As a case in point, through the online ticket sales testing level launched on 14 April 2022 until yesterday, Ethiopian Airlines could manage to sell domestic flight tickets worth 6.67 million Birr via telebirr. As of the day before, the platform would run regularly," she added.

Likewise, Ethiopian Airlines Chief Commercial Officer, Lemma Yadechaon his part said that the agreement would help Ethiopian to reach customers easily.

"We are really proud of ethio telecom. Now, we have signed the payment system integration agreement that could help us ease procedures for domestic customers, he said.

The airline has served more than 2.5 million passengers only in one year... [] the number of digital payment users is also surging unexpectedly; hence the agreement is vital to extend digitalization more, he added.

As to him, the Airlines has 22 destinations nationwide so far and the number of institutions integrated with telebirr has also reached 52 plus institutions, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

University aspires to make Harar medical tourism center

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIER

ADDIS ABABA- Capitalizing on the availability of modern and large-scale medical institutions in the Harar town, a medic aspires to grasp the attention of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Health to make the town a center of medical tourism.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Haramaya University College of Health and Medical Science Chief Executive Director Dr. Yadeta Dase stated the establishment and expansion of medical facilities would help Harar to become the fourth site of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's gran tourism plan next to Koysya, Wenchi and Gorgora.

"The penetration of advanced medical service in Ethiopia is at an unsatisfactory level and I aspired to catch Premier's attention to translate the project into a reality," he said, expressing optimism that Abiy would be greatly interested in the development of such projects. "Looking at the great ambition of the Prime Minister for the development of the tourism sector, I am very sure that he would be interested in the realization of this project."

"I am working to make this project a center of attention at the Prime Minister Office, in a very strategic way. The first step is to accomplish the hospital under construction. The overall project is 85 percent done and mainly electromechanical work left. We are now working day and night to



Dr. Yadeta Dase

complete the hospital. The medical center is the largest in the eastern Ethiopia with an accommodation capacity of 1000 beds. It is also serving patients coming from the neighboring countries of Djibouti, Somalia and Somaliland."

In the historic Harar town, where the Haramaya University, College of Health and Medical Science as well as the Hiwet Fana Comprehensive Specialized Hospital existed, energetic medics have been providing support to patients from the vast eastern part of Ethiopia. The medical facilities also give treatment to patients from neighboring states. By the same token, Harar's status of being a home of some of world's famous attraction sites gives the town ample opportunity to advance health

tourism.

Dr. Yadeta, who is also Chief Executive Director of Hiwet Fana Comprehensive Specialized Hospital, said his dream to the medical center "We are specifically doing human capacity building as Haramaya University. So far, for example, in the last four years, we are able to train more than 200 specialists at different levels. Along with the civil work, due attention has been given to the development of the hospital's software that is professional and able personnel. And on top of that, the hospital has not only limited its horizon in this country and developed an international perspective to attract people from any part of the region.

Noting Haramaya University has been partnering with peer institutions of Cuba and some Middle East countries, the physician highlighted that this kind of partnership would greatly enhance the service delivery. "Once you think this medical service should play at the level of a medical tourism center, you need to have advanced medical equipment. So for the last two or three years, the college has been working to have the advanced MRI, CT scan and other ultramodern hospital equipment."

The medical college has been closely working with government agencies to realize the grand vision of making Harar a medical tourism center and the State Chief administrator and other officials in various levels are on board to this end, Dr. Yadeta remarked.

Africans needs to take lesson of Ethiopia's cloud seeding technology

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA-African countries are urged to take Ethiopia's practices of cloud seeding technology, said Regional Office Director for Africa of World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Ethiopia is using cloud seeding technology in addition to the heavy rains received and Afrixcan countries needs to take practice of Ethiopia's cloud seeding technology, said

Amos Makarau (PhD), Director Regional Office for Africa of World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

"Recently Ethiopian prime minister has launched weather modification program "cloud seeding" which is really very important and commendable step. There about 17 landlocked countries in the continent including Ethiopia experiencing different natural disasters and Ethiopia is at

a better position to showcase to increase the amount of rainfall not only for agriculture but also for other purposes."

In Africa there are many least developed countries that are vulnerable to disasters like drought and flood including Ethiopia and the meeting is aimed at finding out and come up with best practices on how Africa can deal with disasters which are increasing from time to time. The challenges are not

only about drought and floods there is also locust invasion in some African countries, he said.

Likewise ,the government of Ethiopia has launched satellite and WMO needs to assist other countries that are far behind so as to cop up with the challenges facing African countries. The involvement of national meteorological institutions is critical. He

See Africans needs to ... Page 3

News

Gov't urged to file complaint over Deir Sultan ill-treatment

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA-Ethiopians in Israel urged the Ethiopian government to file complaint over the ill-treatment of their religious community at Deir Sultan Ethiopian monastery by some Egyptians apart from closely following up what has recently happened between Ethiopians and Egyptians at the monastery.

The Deir Sultan Ethiopian monastery superintendent Aba Zebe'Aman Samuel told local media that the problem created at the worshiping area was principally provoked by Egyptians merely to oppose Ethiopians not to celebrate Easter there bedecking tents with Ethiopian flag.

As to him, Egyptians in Israel have mystified Ethiopians there as they would like to expand their area at the expense of Ethiopians' perpetual part for worshipping.

"We Ethiopians annually celebrate Easter in that area at the vicinity of the monastery as our churchyards are too narrow to hold chorus and hymn. This has been allowed for us since Turkey administered the area and we all the time fly our flag high over the tents and celebrate holidays such as Easter," he added.

According to Aba Zebe'Aman, it is a usual activity, not new of course. However, as of last year Egyptians started opposing the Ethiopian flag flying over the tents, and

they continued doing so this year. "Worst even, this year they painted our door with Egypt flag at night and we have found this when we wake up in the morning."

As to him, when they took the issue to concerned bodies like police and area administration officials, these bodies told them to get the flag down and Egyptians will erase what was painted then.

"Though we told them as the ritual is not new and we are not doing something irregular, the policemen and other officials are not willing to listen to us rather have shown a partisan stance," he added.

He further said following this, many Ethiopians in Israel have rally against the

wrong deed what Egyptians did close to the Deir Sultan monastery of Ethiopia in Israel. Israel security forces have even given hard time to Ethiopians.

Asked about the measures they have planned to take next to get the source of the conflict dried well, Aba Zebe'Aman said as the issue is fueled by the government of Egypt to make Ethiopians devoid of the area and expand Egyptians' for worshipping, it needs to be scrupulously probed.

"We have applied for the Ethiopian embassy in Israel, Israel's heritage management Agency and for other many concerned bodies," he added.

Senator urges U.S....

2022, and urged the U.S. to firmly strengthen and improve its trade relation between Africa specifically with Ethiopia.

"We do that carefully since there are numerous Diaspora Ethiopians in Virginia and others. I hope we can improve the relation between the two countries and do all our best to get Ethiopia

back to AGOA."

He said he requested the senate about the return of Ethiopia to AGOA as the country has exhibited various improvement in several aspect. It is also stated that many have considered his appeal for Ethiopia to be back to AGOA as convincing.

As mentioned several times, the sanction is affecting many small businesses, low paid workers and the poor across the country.

Moreover, other members of the senate also expressed ideas about impact of the termination of AGOA on the livelihood of many Ethiopians.

Ambassador FitsumArega thanked Senator

Mark Warner for his effort to support peace and diplomacy in Ethiopia that can contribute to strong Ethiopia-U.S. bilateral relations, and his acknowledgement of the commitment of Ethiopian government to address the humanitarian challenge thereby coming up with lasting peace and economic progress across the nation.

Price adjustment...

businesspersons in the sector are making huge profits.

Accordingly, the floor price of banana exporters told to Banks is 8 Birr per Kg which is by far lower than the minimum price of domestic selling price - 35 birr.

The malpractice distorted the trade balance between the two countries which ultimately forced the ministry to revise the selling price of fruits and vegetables exported to neighboring countries. Accordingly, the floor price of banana in neighboring countries is set to be sold at 37 Birr, he stated

Indicating that members of the same family are engaged in export and import trade residing in Ethiopia and neighboring

countries making it hard to supervise the selling price of these products.

According to Mekonnen, the price adjustment has been extended for 45 days as it may violate previous contracts he said, adding that a circular has already been issued to all banks through the National Bank of Ethiopia to make it practical as of the stated period.

Some media outlets, however, have disseminated fake reports as if Djibouti forced Ethiopia to revisit the floor price of fruits and vegetables.

Djibouti and other neighboring countries are not offering cheap services to Ethiopia, he noted. "We should work hard to exploit our comparative advantage."

Africans needs to take...

firmly believes that the opening of the office in Ethiopia is paramount for Africa member countries to closely follow the environmental issues.

Global warming and unfavorable climate change are the critical concerns of today's world and countries needs to cooperate and work together to avert the challenge. Studies and data managements of metrological findings are critical for socio-economic development and handling the natural disasters facing countries.

At the event, Ethiopian National Meteorological Agency (NMA) Director General Fetene Teshome said that the issue of climate is a continental issue and countries needs to work together to overcome the challenges. The meeting is timely and

important so as to discuss and set future plan in how to overcome challenges.

Three years ago, WMO opened its office in Ethiopia representing the continent and it is really a great achievement for the country as well as for Africa to closely follow and discuss on continental issues. It opens space for countries to scientifically analyze and use the metrological data and information for the overall development.

The Regional Office for Africa from WMO's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, was relocated to Addis Ababa and the office is playing key roles in enhancing the capacities of meteorological agencies and services, including Ethiopia, in providing timely, reliable and accurate weather, climate and hydrology-related services.

Investigation report...

And also property worth over 800 million Birr destroyed in Afar state.

The Institution has released an investigation report on atrocities of the terrorist TPLF in Amhara and Afar states.

During last Tuesday's press conference regarding the issue, Institution's Women, Children, Persons with Disabilities, and the Elderly Affairs Director Seblework Tariku stated that a survey was conducted in seven war zones in the Amhara state. In Amhara state, a total of over 1.8 million people have been displaced due to various reasons and are in need of immediate support.

In addition to the displaced, she also reported, women and children have been victims of sexual violence. In North Gondar 56, South Gondar 89, North Wollo 548, Wag Himra 111, South Wollo 342, North Shewa 119, and the Oromo Special Zone 8, a total of 1,217 mothers, girls and the elderly were sexually assaulted.

As to Seblework, the public, private, and religious institutions in the seven zones of Amhara state were severely damaged.

During the conflict, education, health, and other facilities were used as camps. In addition, the facilities were robbed and deliberately set on fire by the terrorist group, she further noted.

Seblework also indicated that federal government, regional states, development partners, Ethiopians at home and abroad,

and religious institutions have been providing humanitarian support to the war-affected community since the areas were liberated from the group.

Efforts have been made to rehabilitate the damaged facilities and to provide regular government services, she said, adding that extensive support is needed to alleviate the suffering, health problems, and similar problems caused by the war.

She reiterated that psychological supports need to be provided as the community is vulnerable to psychological instability, depression and anxiety. The rapid rebuilding of the damaged properties and the quick implementation of basic services are issues that need to be addressed, she added.

The Institution's Administrative Abuse Prevention Director Adane Belay on his part said that the damage to education, health and government institutions, private homes and religious institutions in the two zones of Afar state was estimated at more than 800 million Birr.

As to him, although the damage in various woredas of Afar state has been reported to the concerned parties, there has been a lack of budget-based response at the federal and regional levels.

The failure of the public and private service providers to fully provide services has deprived citizens of access to basic services, including medical care.

Opinion

Africa can create real wealth through the development of the Physical Economy

Presentation by Lawrence Freeman

This presentation by physical economist and Africa analyst, Lawrence Freeman, was part of an international conference entitled 'Solutions for African Economic Development' hosted by Christophe Ndayiragije and PD Lawton. You can find more from Lawrence Freeman at his website: lawrencefreemanafricaandtheworld.com. "Now people don't understand that the purpose of an economy for society is the development of human beings. There is no contradiction between the development of human beings and the development of the physical Universe. Human beings are governed by a creative mental process and the Universe is governed by a creative process. And therefore the Universe is there to be intervened upon by the human mind for the advanced propagation of the human race, itself."

I call myself a physical economist because I am trying to change the conception that people have of an economy in their minds. One of the biggest problems we face in the world, in the West, as well as in Africa, is that people have a very poor, if totally erroneous conception of what wealth is.

People think wealth is money, making money on Wall Street, derivatives, stock trading, day trading, and this really is not wealth at all, from my standpoint. A financial system is not wealth. A financial system is necessary, although I would term it more appropriately, a credit system. But the system itself which is necessary to facilitate aspects of the physical economy is *not* the economy.

What is the economy?

Well, most people say it is to do with free trade, buying low, selling dear, and all beginning with Adam Smith. In fact the original conception that Smith has comes from Bernard Mandeville, who wrote a poem about bees. And basically his theory was that the interaction of all these bees, which are equated to human beings, desiring pleasure and avoiding pain, by all their individual pain and pleasure reactions, they serve the greater good. And this supposedly is the Invisible Hand. Of course the Invisible Hand is always there to steal your money. But idea is that the Invisible Hand is somehow the interaction of various human beings in seeking pleasure and avoiding pain, is how an economy operates. And of course there is no truth in that whatsoever.

An economy is actually the self organization, determined by human beings to organize their society in such a way that it continues to perpetuate itself. And it will perpetuate itself if it is a successful economy. The criteria are that you will produce an increase in the standard of

living for your population and you will increase the number of people. So you have two criteria which are connected; the increase in total wealth and the increase in total population, and this is what a productive economy should be able to do. And we are talking about tangible wealth, physical wealth in terms of what has just been presented [previous presentation by Knox Msebenzi], in energy, railroads, agriculture and physical, tangible products that society needs.

Now the production of wealth is done by a productive labor force that is within the entire workforce of an economy, there is a section of that workforce that actually performs what we would call productive labor. There are many other occupations which are necessary, complimentary and essential like education, scientific development, and classical education development. But the actual labour force is involved in acting on the physical Universe, to transform the physical Universe in to producing the existence for Humankind.

And that, therefore, what we are primary concerned with in physical economy is how do we make improvements to raise the productivity of the productive labour force. This is our main concern that we are involved in, is acting on the physical Universe to produce more wealth from one production cycle to the next production cycle.

Now how do you produce more wealth from one period to another?

And this brings in the essential questions of science and technology. Each economic mode of production, for each production cycle, is governed in a sense by the level of education and scientific knowledge and technology available for that production cycle. If we change the dynamics of that production cycle then we can change the outcome.

How do we change the dynamics?

It is through science and technology. The human mind is the only force we know in the Universe that can actually discover new physical principles embedded in the Universe. And as we discover those physical principles, the results are seen to us in new technologies. We bring in a new technology into a current mode of production, current economic system, and we find that we can produce more wealth with the same or less effort. For example what the previous speaker brought out.

If the African continent, the nations, would begin to proliferate nuclear energy in their economies, which is something Cheik anta Diop discussed 60 years ago! But if

the African nations were to do that, we would not only see an increase in energy production, but we would see an increase in the entire physical economy. And we would see an increase in the level of education, skill labour, science centers, because you would be mastering a new technology that is not new to the world but is not being applied in Africa. This would be an upgrade or an up shift of the entire economy.

Now how does this work?

The human mind makes a discovery in the physical Universe which is then transformed by other humans into a technology. How does that technology then change the economy? For example: machine tools. Machine tools produce all other machines. If you change the technology of machine tool design, you change all other forms of production in your economy because you would be producing those new machines based on a new design of machine tools which are the essence of an industrialized economy. How many machine tool plants do we have in Africa today? Just like how many nuclear energy plants, we know we have one in South Africa.

The other area where we change the economy, improve the economy is through infrastructure. Again as you bring in a new technology, again such as fission or let's say more advanced, such as fusion, that new technology embedded in your infrastructure platform changes the total productivity of every member of your society.

Every farmer becomes more productive when he is surrounded by density of energy, by a density of clean water for society, by a density of railroads. So the density of infrastructure and the technological level of the platform of infrastructure are fundamental ways you actually change the economy. You bring in something new that has been discovered by man for the economy.

Now people don't understand that the purpose of an economy for society is the development of human beings. There is no contradiction between the development of human beings and the development of the physical Universe. Human beings are governed by a creative mental process, and the Universe is governed by a creative process. And therefore the Universe is there to be intervened upon by the human mind for the advanced propagation of the human race, itself.

And therefore in changing and improving the physical economy we are not only increasing the physical output

of goods but we are actually increasing the power of each individual member of that society. Even if the majority members of society do not partake in the productive process, they participate in an economy of a rising standard of living and of an improved technology and scientific capability.

Now this also begs another question that is involved in physical economy; which is your scientific, cultural and educational level. Is a society producing the scientific level that is necessary for new discoveries? Is the educational level of the population sufficient for the members of the population to assimilate that new technology, that new scientific level, and are they able to transmit that?

So by looking at the physical economy from the standpoint of the mind of man, you see that the entire society should be organized to promote this quality of development, of the human being, which leads, and is completely connected to the quality of development of human life itself.

Now many people think Africa is overpopulated, I had this problem with many of my friends who are somewhat ignorant on the issue, over the last 30 years I have been travelling to Africa. Africa is not over populated; there are not too many people. There are not enough people. There's entire parts of Africa that are completely underdeveloped. There's entire parts of Africa where agriculture is completely underdeveloped. So it is not a question of population. It is a question of development.

And what we need to do is we need to have African leaders begin implementing, as was discussed earlier with the question of Ghana and other nations, have to begin understanding the coherence of one concept of a physical economy in a society and promoting those policies that will actually raise the level, qualitatively and quantitatively. Now this also has very serious implications for education. This has very serious implications for security. Because we are approaching the security question in many cases, all wrong. So therefore, what I think about and what I suggest what other leaders think about is what inputs do we make in the long-term which then reflect in to what we have to do in the short term that actually change, improve, advance the physical economy as part of the entire development of society.

Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald

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General Manager

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

Advertisement and Dist.
Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew
email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city
Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama
Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

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Editorial

The light at the end of the tunnel

Despite the conflict at home, economic pressure, as well as the political meddling from abroad, the government is diligently undertaking development activities that determine the bright future of the nation. Executing the development objectives under such baffling circumstances shows the government's commitment to work for the transformation and prosperity of the nation at any cost.

Peace is important for everything. Especially development is unthinkable without peace, stability and harmony. In addition, it is well known that registering even a slight level of growth requires many other actions like putting in place the right policy framework, soliciting finance, applying the right technology among others. To anybody's surprise, the government and the people at home and abroad have championed encouraging progress by pooling their resources. It is rather a miracle to realize development feats at a time that the country has been dragged into war-of all sorts.

The challenges that the government is facing at the moment are formidable. There is no doubting that they need a lot of effort and resource to rectify them. Side by side fighting tooth and nail with the terrorist TPLF, and getting the upper hand over the heinous element, it is also doing a lot of its homework in the field of economic development that the country aims to achieve in the end.

The actions include formulating relevant and sound policies, strategies and legal frameworks. It has been taking these fundamental actions since four years ago and is putting them on firm ground as part and parcel of the nationwide reform.

Building up on the policy and legal frameworks, it is also taking

practical actions to realize the plans from paper to the ground. Accordingly, the government has successfully completed the construction of various projects that were delayed due to different reasons.

It has also launched new development projects and is making all the necessary follow up and supervision to make them effective as planned. Can you imagine the completion of a grand development project at a peak of war with the terrorist? While some western elements and their media were throwing all their weight behind the TPLF, Ethiopians have fought and won the war—in all the battle, diplomatic and development fronts.

Indeed the government and people were busy fending off the terrorist occupation at home as well as the meddling of foreign powers in the internal affairs of the country. This has been shown in practice that safeguarding the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of a country is a high priority emergency issue. But the outstanding and unrelenting objective of the government and people is to work hard under all the odd circumstances, bring about drastic change and realize prosperity.

Of course the path they passed through is not easy. Yet there are indications for the success of the government developmental goals. For instance, a recent forecast by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) shows that Ethiopia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate is estimated to be 5.7 percent in 2023 from 3.8 in 2022. The country is just seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

To realize the overall objective, the public, business and academic community should work hand in hand with the government.

Opinion

What is the extent of citizens-centered diplomacy?

BY EPHREM ANDARAGCHEW

Economic migrants from the Horn of Africa are increasingly moving out of the region in search of better job opportunities. Most of them are taking the Eastern route to reach Saudi Arabia by crossing war-torn Yemen.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the migratory route between the Horn of Africa and Yemen is one of the busiest, most complex and most dangerous in the world. The region is an important source of migrant workers for the Middle East and it is characterized by complex migration dynamics with a long history of intra-regional and inter-regional population movements through both regular and irregular channels.

Both Intra and inter-migration in the region have been fueled by issues such as political, social, economic conditions, and environmental factors. The region is also characterized by mixed migration flows, with different categories of people on the move, such as economic migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and unaccompanied minors.

Ethiopia, the most populous country in Africa, accounts for the largest number of migrant movements in the Horn of Africa. As stated by IOM (2020) report, in 2019, around 79 percent of all migrant observations along the Eastern route were migrating towards Saudi Arabia, 20 percent were headed to Yemen, and only one percent to other countries on the Arab Peninsula.

Ethiopian migrants are increasingly migrating through the Eastern route which has long been

an important migration route. The estimation of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs indicates that around 1.5 million Ethiopians had left the country without appropriate documents between the years 2008 and 2014. During this time, about 480 thousand Ethiopians moved to the Middle East including Saudi Arabia by fulfilling the proper documents.

Until Ethiopia lifted a ban on domestic workers moving overseas in October 2018, there were no legal options for labor migration overseas. This in turn has increased irregular labor migration, which in turn increases migrants' vulnerability to irregular migration and human trafficking, as well as routine deportation from Saudi Arabia and other countries.

However, Ethiopian migrants travel to Saudi Arabia for better job opportunities, but life is difficult for them since they are employed as low-skilled domestic workers, cleaners, laborers, and construction workers. Irregular labor migrants, apart from facing various challenges, have been suffering in the Middle East, especially in Saudi Arabia's prisons. Taking the suffering of Ethiopian migrants in Saudi Arabia prisons into account, the government of Ethiopia has been taking several measures to protect its citizens via citizens-centered diplomacy which includes repatriating them.

According to the Ethiopian Diaspora Agency, undocumented Ethiopian labor migrants have been put behind the bar being caught violating the law of the land of Saudi Arabia. Hence, the government has given due attention to return them as fast as possible.

Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson (EMoFA) Ambassador Dina Mufti said that

Ethiopia has discussed with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the situation of Ethiopian migrants on several occasions and both countries agreed to facilitate the smooth repatriation of undocumented Ethiopian citizens.

On the basis of this, the Government of Ethiopia had set up a national committee drawn from various ministries and headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to repatriate citizens that have been in a difficult situation in Saudi Arabia. Currently, Ethiopia has repatriated some citizens from Saudi Arabia and the repatriation program is being carried out by the government.

The government's concern, commitment, initiatives, and efforts in partnership with pertinent bodies to repatriate Ethiopians from Saudi Arabia via citizens-centered diplomacy deserve appreciation. IOM registered a total of 351,870 returnees between April 2017 and November 2020. More recently, the Coronavirus pandemic has heightened the repatriation of Ethiopian migrant workers from the Gulf and Middle Eastern countries.

Over the past three years, the government of Ethiopia has been closely working with countries in the Middle East and Africa to repatriate its stranded citizens, as part of its newly unveiled "citizen-focused diplomacy," Ambassador Dina added.

What is the extent of citizens-centered diplomacy? Does it include rehabilitating tasks or not? These are questions that need concrete answers. Speaking of citizens-centered diplomacy there is a misunderstanding among people and even scholars. They think that citizens-centered diplomacy is the use of diasporas' accumulated capital, knowledge, and experience for the development of the nation

which is not always true. Because citizens-centered diplomacy requires making sure that Ethiopians overseas should not only be expected to contribute to the development of the country. Rather, the government has to also work harder to respect their rights, interests, and dignity. Besides, activities should be designed to enable Ethiopians to be active in their own affairs and to protect their dignity and rights while living abroad.

Furthermore, since the government has given special attention to the Diaspora community since the start of the reform, some have been using citizens-centered diplomacy as a synonym for repatriating migrants from overseas especially, in Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, repatriating alone is not enough. Upon return, migrants face several complex and interrelated challenges. Return migration is the movement of emigrants back to their homeland to resettle. It is just one stage of the migration process, but not necessarily the final one.

Hence, return should be properly understood as a diversified process according to the time it takes place, the completion of the migration project, the level of constraint the migrants experience, and the preparedness of the migrants, their families, and the institutions involved. Therefore, efforts should be made to permanently rehabilitate the returnees in their respective regions and to answer the extent of citizens-centered diplomacy.

Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Using 'Made in Ethiopia': A viable avenue for change

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Most Ethiopians are devoid of confidence to buy products imprinted 'made in Ethiopia,' as they have developed the negative attitude towards local products, perhaps because they think the products are low in quality. However, buying locally produced products is equivalent with being heroic as this measure helps back the effort geared towards safeguarding national sovereignty and declaring independence.

Needless to state, these days battlefield patriotism is not that caring than economic patriotism which is quite indispensable for fostering poverty alleviation and helping proclaim self-sufficiency. Ethiopia will be potentially capable of defeating poverty if citizens are committed to work hard in all spheres of their engagement and have given priority to local products thereby helping the country come up with economic and political hegemony. Definitely, all Ethiopians should stand for Ethiopia now, and later on Ethiopia shall stand for Ethiopians.

The *Ethiopian Herald* had a short stay with Melese Endeshaw, a graduate of economics from Wollo University. He said, "Political and social advancements follow economic advancement, and economic advancement is not a miraculous phenomenon rather it is an upshot of a collaborated effort of various stakeholders such as policymakers, institutions, companies, universities, and above all citizens of all walks of life. In an economy where the natives could hardly develop interest in purchasing locally produced goods, services and homemade items, there is no way in which domestic industries, companies, factories and local businesses show progress and multiply."

Frankly speaking, he said the quality citizens have aspired for long can be secured via attaching due emphasis to the input provision, process and outcome revealing procedure at all levels and highly prioritizing local products quality improvement. If this is so, the durability, quality and fondness towards homemade ones can be many times better. Plus, the satisfaction that comes from local products is much more rewarding in terms of pushing the country forward and making the business of local actors and entrepreneurs as well.

He said, "Gloomily, we are behind the ability to do for ourselves. Self-sufficiency is becoming a lost knack as far as citizens' attitude towards their mother's property is concerned. We all need to embark on the skills and wisdom we have learned from the past generation and pass down them to the generations to come."

As to Melese, with a population of more than 115 million people, Ethiopia has ample opportunity to get prospered and well reinvent its economy.

"Whenever a given country is economically independent, no one or no country won't have the gut to twist its arms, and its citizens can confidently run any activity wherever they happen and in what means they would



love," he added.

According to him, let alone these days when all sorts of products are getting improved quality wise and preferred well, Ethiopians were benefited when they bought locally formed products earlier.

The birth of a number of industries regarding home grown businesses or these which are venturing with foreign ones could be a turning point for Ethiopia's economy like what played a key role in fueling industrial revolutions in England and Germany in the second half of the 18th century, he opined.

Yes, he said the expansion of various industries in Ethiopia is considered the most potential to increase exports, create job opportunities, provide model know how for other sectors and will be able to facilitate skill development through training, experience sharing and technology transfer.

Another economics expert, Meimuna Jafar from Meda wolabu University stated that providing local products with due emphasis would be of paramount importance in buttressing Ethiopia's economy.

To the surprise of everyone, she said the market experience in Ethiopia has so far been conversely treated. "Look! We export raw materials and sometimes semi-finished supplies such as leather, and import finished products like shoes, jackets from those countries we sent our exports to. This detrimental trade relationship has to be altered and the trajectory needs to be well

tilt down to the country," she said.

Hence, we all have to embark on creating experts, professionals, skilled human power, technicians and guides who can confidently help the country renovate import substitution.

"I can confidently say that we are as a consequence import-dependent. As learnt from reports, Ethiopia's import is 5 or 6 times larger than the export. We should bear in mind concerning quality is that market expansion and qualified labor help attain all standards. Hereafter, we all have to focus on how to improve the quality of local products and raise public awareness regarding recurrently utilizing them," she added.

Yes, Ethiopia has time and again dealt with the assignment of altering citizens' mind set up and help them develop sense of belongingness as no one can come and act accordingly to help our country make a difference. To your surprise, most people, especially city dwellers, tends to associate the intake of imported materials, goods, services and products relating it with status and prestige, which could practically by no means be source of pride, she underlined.

Meimuna further stated, "Rather it can be considered as lack of knowledge of the modern sense of economic patriotism. All colonizers came to Africa not looking for its sunshine, golden inhales; it is for resources to satisfy their economic interest. We have to be well aware of that those who failed in political colonization have relentlessly attempted to finally succeed in the economic colonization.

As to her, consumers buying locally-produced goods have a positive effect on the industrialization process apart from other economic policy actions of the government. Pure economics discourages import and encourages export. "We shall invest in our own future and the future of our own children by increasing demand for locally produced goods and services. Our bold histories on the battlefield have to be repeated again and again, but this time the battlefield is the local market and our

weapons are the locally-produced goods and services."

'Made in Ethiopia' has to be well furnished and widely used as it is of paramount importance in helping the country not only economic independence but it is also a viable weapon to defeat modern colonizers, she underlined.

She further stated that the economic success of widely utilizing 'made in Ethiopia' will contribute significantly to the endeavor geared towards meeting other important development determinations. As has been witnessed so far, Ethiopia has just begun its way to industrialization in various sectors, the vast use of locally produced wealth would be a feasible step to get the economy of the country developed.

She said as Ethiopia is the oldest independent and the fastest developing African country today, it could be considered as a latecomer in the manufacturing sector in Sub-Saharan Africa, and 'Made in Ethiopia' consumption presents an overall socio-economic advantage to the country and is the right moment for the governance to ponder about consumption and mass production from both the ends of the value chain.

As learnt from Meimuna, "Pride is an emotion that plays an important role in many aspects of our lives, including our consumption experiences. We feel proud when we graduate from University, or when we receive a job promotion. Pride is not only the emotion that drives our consumption, but also an emotion that is elicited by consumption. We shall give priority to local products marked 'Made in Ethiopia!'"

Purchasing locally also means that people know a bit more about quality control; they also know that certain goods have been produced in a way that meets stringent regional and national standards. When purchasing goods from out of the country it can be difficult to know the manufacturing processes and potentially harmful chemicals and byproducts might involve. Furthermore, it reduces the transportation costs associated with goods and services people would love. True, local items are also more likely to be fresh compared to items that are transported long distances from abroad. Buying local products also presents a special networking opportunity among businesses.

Local manufacturing with bigger budget can function more effectively to contribute a lot to the national economy.

Meimuna said, "Buying locally produced items, goods and services as well as wealth can be a great way to inspire small business and promote economic growth in our own communities. It can be a practical means, though not all the time, that can confidently contribute a great deal to the effort exerted towards declaring economic independence thereby doing away with uninvited political pressure. Thus, we all have to develop confidence to buy and prefer local products to imported items, at least more than half percent."

Art & Culture

Mamo and Maxwell Perkins- two legendary publishers

The Ethiopian book industry is one of the least developed sectors even by East African standards. Ethiopia has a long history of literary development stretching back to millennia even though this fact is seldom appreciated. Worse still, Ethiopia's literary heritages have not so far lived up to the challenges of building a strong literary tradition able to compete with other countries in the quantity and quality of literary output. Ethiopia may boast of being the first country to import modern publishing machines at the turn of the 20th century when emperor Menelik ordered the launching of the first Amharic newspaper in the country with machineries imported from Europe.

According to one study, "It is generally believed that modern printing was started in Ethiopia in the last half of the 19th century around the port town of Massawa, now part of Eritrea. Available historic evidence also suggests that Europeans first introduced printing in the north of the country. In 1865, a certain Lorenzo Bianchi had printed a book on Amharic language method in Massawa. And in 1880, Lazarist missionaries had published a book of Ge'ez and Amharic grammar in Keren. And around 1886, Swedish missionaries had set up a printing press at a place called Monkulo in Eritrea."

The publishing industry in Ethiopia could not develop for many reasons. Economic development in general was slow to come and the literacy level of the general population was very low. Publishing as an industry was inconceivable at a time when even the rudimentary requirements were not present. The little progress that could be achieved could only come as a result of the personal initiatives and visions of the emperors and pioneering minds. Even now, a publishing industry in the full meaning of the term has not yet appeared in Ethiopia although hundreds of books are published and distributed every year. Thus, Ethiopia boasts of a long history of literary production but not yet of a history of publishing in its modern sense.

We have to wait until the mid-20th century before even a quasi modern literary publishing house appeared. The Ethiopian revolution of 1974 had created opportunities for the growth of the reading culture as many books were imported from abroad while many Ethiopian authors started to look for publishers after they produced their literary works. The Ethiopian Book Centre which was established sometime in 1975 was the first such modern publishing house that encouraged writers to bring their works and publish at the cost of the publishing company.

We had to wait another change of government to witness the birth of another publishing house that was organized under the leadership of the then ruling EPRDF party that controlled official publishing and printing enterprises. The Mega Printing Enterprise subsequently appeared doubling both as a printing and publishing house and encouraged selected authors and books to see the light of the day.

The Ethiopian Book Centre was the first privately owned publishing house while Mega still is the first biggest party/state owned printing and publishing enterprise. The fate of the Ethiopian Book Centre was not however one of success. It went out of business after publishing so many fiction and non-fiction works by so many established and new writers until it went out of business for quite unknown reasons.

The contributions made by the Ethiopian Book Centre towards the growth and development of Amharic literature were nevertheless considerable if not unforgettable. Although it went out of business under mysterious circumstances that need no further elaboration.

When one speaks of the Ethiopian Book Centre, one is inevitably drawn to its creator, operator and legendary editor Amare Mamo who left a thriving career at the defunct Voice of the Gospel radio station to assist the birth of a publishing house. Amare Mamo studied literature at a college in Norway and returned to his country to pursue a literary career. He ended up taking the respected chair of editor at the publishing house where he started a long and laborious work of bringing Ethiopian writers and their works to the public. The book centre was initially successful in bringing its objectives to fruition but government pressure coupled with a poor book market decided its fate in the long run.

Anyone who has a close acquaintance with the publishing world both here at home and abroad must be acquainted with two outstanding publishers. The first is of course Amare Mamo from Ethiopia and the second is Maxwell Perkins from the United States. I came to know Perkins after reading about his celebrated talent as an editor and publisher.

As one of his biographers later on wrote, "After working as a reporter for *The New York Times*, Perkins joined the publishing house of Charles Scribner's Sons in 1910 as an advertising manager, before becoming an editor. At that time, Scribner's was known for publishing older authors such as John Galsworthy, Henry James, and Edith Wharton. However, Perkins wished to publish younger writers. Unlike most editors, he actively sought out

promising new authors; he made his first big find in 1919 when he signed F. Scott Fitzgerald. Initially, no one at Scribner's except Perkins had liked *The Romantic Egotist*, the working title of Fitzgerald's first novel, and it was rejected. Even so, Perkins worked with Fitzgerald to revise the manuscript until it was accepted by the publishing house."

There is some parallel between Amare Mamo and Maxwell Perkins; the two coming to the publishing and editing world in their respective countries after leaving careers in the media and journalism respectfully. There is also a striking similarity between the two legendary editors and publishers for choosing young writers over established ones and for bringing fresh talents to their respective offices.

We know that celebrated Ethiopian writer Bealu Girma could not have become the author he became later on without meeting Amare the editor who read all his works and made drastic editorial interventions, so that they could assume the form and content the Ethiopian reading public is now popular with. Bealu's original manuscripts, together with their edited versions were displayed at one of the publishing house's sales outlets at Arat Kilo back in 1991 when the Derg regime left the political scene. It should be noted in passing that Bealu lost his life under the Mengistu regime for writing his book entitled "Oromay" and allegedly criticized the war that was going on in Eritrea, which was the then part of Ethiopia.

As Amare Mamo subsequently collaborated with many young writers in the editing and production process of their works and had a good sense of identifying fresh talents as well as turning authors into his personal friends. By the same token, Maxwell Perkins was a great influence on the literary genius of Tom Wolfe, the great American writer and author of "Of Time and the River". A masterpiece of modern American fiction a film entitled "Genius" was recently released in Britain depicting the life and work of Maxwell Perkins. There is an interview between a former assistant of Maxwell at Scribner's, the publishing house where he spent half of his life, after the release of the film, part of the interview goes as follows:

Is it fair to say that he was not a co-author but a collaborator in Wolfe's work?

He would never say he was a collaborator. I think in retrospect if you start to examine all the work he did, especially with Wolfe, I think it dips into collaboration. I think it's fair to say that those books first of all would not have been published without Max Perkins and they certainly would not look like the way they look, they wouldn't read as they do were if not for Perkins.

But there is many a book editor today who does as much with some writers. You would never know but some writers get completely rewritten.

So, Perkins, Like Amare was not only a great editor but also a great collaborator who made things happen and helped young writers achieve fame if not fortune. Yet, there is a difference between Amare and Perkins in that the former was also a remarkable writer and translator while the latter spent his literary career editing books that went to become bestsellers and earned money to the publishing house and fame to the editor Maxwell Perkins.

Maxwell's legacy and personality continue to attract public and professional attention as well as become inspirations for new artistic works such as the movie, "Genius" based on his life and work. As one of his biographers put it, Maxwell's favorite book was "*War and Peace*", which he read and re-read during times of trouble; he often sent a copy to one of his protégés. Although professional boundaries were blurred when it came to his friendships with authors, he was the steadfast rock upon which they could lean. His contemporary, John Hall Wheelock, said that Perkins did not prefer one type of writing over another, but was «simply devoted to talent.» Another friend said, «If Max is to be remembered...it was largely because of his sympathetic understanding and because of the standards he maintained.»

As far as our knowledge of Amare Mamo is concerned, his favorite book must be the Bible from which he got not only religious instruction but also used it as a source of literary inspiration. Amare once published a one-page poster-like reading materials that contained insightful sayings on life. He called it *Desiderata* and in those times one could see it on walls of restaurants and libraries. Amare Mamo once told me quite humorously that "*Desiderata*" was his bestselling "masterpiece" as far as commercial success was concerned.

There may be a lot of convergence between the careers of Amare and Maxwell; both being legendary editors in their respective countries. The sad fact is that Maxwell Perkins is celebrated as a genius while Amare did not enjoy such a status. Perkins died at the age of 64, while Amare passed away relatively later at the age of 84. Maxwell had a family and children, while Amare Mamo had one daughter, and an adopted son and many books. Maxwell lived in the glare of fame and celebrity status while Amare's life came to light relatively lately and remains largely unknown, although both share the status of legendary editors who made a difference in the literary development in their respective countries.

Coordinated efforts to curb common threats

Situated in the strategic location of the world, the East African region is caught between ample opportunities and pressing challenges. The volatile region remains prone to natural and manmade calamities posing security threats to the entire region. With the member countries going through different political changes and mishaps, the region is becoming increasingly hotbed for terrorism, human trafficking, and other illegal activities.

With Ethiopia and Sudan going through transitional periods and South Sudan and Somalia walling in years of crisis and powerful nations increasing their military activities, the region is facing emerging security issues. The region because of its enormous strategic geographic space has always attracted powers from within and from without the region for controlling it but no one has ever been able to master it as history shows.

No wonder the region remains one of the most volatile parts of the world, producing some of the greatest numbers of refugees in the world and causing many conflicts to continue and soldier on.

The internal developments coupled with external factors are behooving the member countries to cement their cooperation in security and military spheres. There have been different initiatives among the countries to bolster bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Lately, the East African military intelligence institutions have agreed to work together on the security issue in the region.

East African Defense Intelligence Forum was held in Addis Ababa with the participation of Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, and Djibouti, reported Ethiopian News Agency.

The countries agreed to work together on border protection, cyber, social media, social issues as well as environmental protection, youth and unemployment, and fighting terrorists and anti-peace forces with a view to building a peaceful and stable Africa.

In addition to security issues, participants have exchanged experiences in the field and visited the Defense Forces Headquarters, Information Network Security Agency (INSA), and the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute.

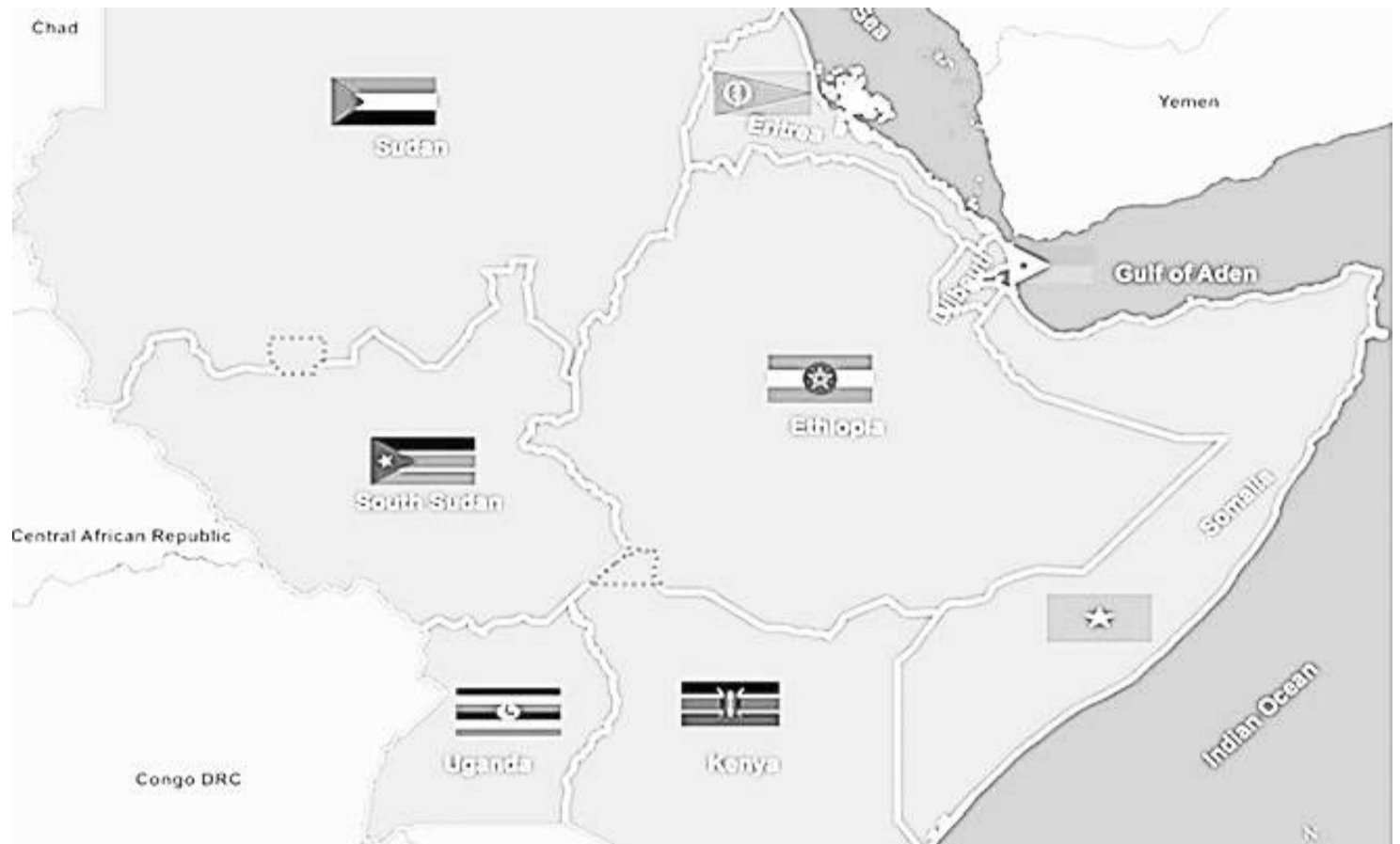
The participants have acknowledged the success and contributions of Ethiopia in hosting the forum.

It is to be recalled that a similar bilateral agreement was signed between Ethiopia and Kenya to bolster their cooperation in the security area.

The emerging threats are arguably a privilege for neighboring countries to cooperate in many fields Ethiopia and Kenya have lately agreed to boost their joint cooperation in security to prevent cross-border threats.

Ethiopian Federal Police Commissioner General Demelash Gebre Michael held talks with his Kenyan counterpart Hillary Nzioki Mutyambai.

The two sides discussed ways of working together to combat terrorism along with the border areas.



The two countries needed to further strengthen this cooperation on security as terrorist groups such as Al-Shabaab, OLF shene, and others continued to be a threat to the border area and the country as a whole.

The two countries seem to have given deserving focus to the weight of the matter as they are exchanging visits, discussing, and establishing cooperation at different levels. For a step forward in this cooperation, Kenyan Inspector General of National Police Service Hilary Mutyambai has been here in Addis Ababa this week.

The Kenyan Inspector General Hilary Mutyambai met his Ethiopian Counterpart Federal Police Commissioner General Demelash Gebremichael and discussed issues of mutual concern.

They said the two agreed to launch a joint operation against al-Shabaab and Shene groups to stop hostile activities by the two organizations. Briefing journalists, the two have reiterated strong security cooperation to fight cross border terrorism thereby ensuring peace and stability in the area.

Commissioner General Demelash heightens the timeliness of the cooperation as terrorist groups such as OLF-shene and Al-Shabaab are threatening to exploit the border area for their evil causes.

“There is a situation that OLF shene is getting training and penetrating through the Kenyan border. So, our cooperation is vital to foil OLF shene and Al Shabaab terrorist attacks. We will control these criminal groups through joint operations. We have agreed to work together and make the border area peaceful and enable developmental activities. We will also have an agreement to increase information exchange between the policies of the two countries. Exploiting the information, we can carry out effective operations.”

Inspector General Hilary Mutyambai said the cooperation is with respect to the

longstanding relationship between the two countries.

Mutyambai stressed the MoU will enable to development of the capacity of policies of the countries and thereby ensure cross-border peace and security. “Ethiopian Federal Police and National Police Service Kenya have prepared a memorandum of agreement. The first is on information exchange and carrying out a joint operation that is based on mutual support. The second is on training.

The two policies will build capacities and sharing of experience and skills. We have also reached an agreement to work together in different areas.” For the effectiveness of the joint operation, the policies of the two countries are expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Kenya in less than a month’s time.

Commissioner-General expressed commitment to work on the effectiveness of the operation and the two countries’ trade exchange and developmental integration to happen peacefully and legally. “When individuals commit crime go to other countries, this connection helps us to work together and extradite criminals. We have made a deal on this and we believe the effectiveness of this cooperation has a positive contribution to countries’ peace, stability, and benefit of people living adjacent to the border.

On the other hand, Kenya has suffered attacks from Al Shabaab and wants to keep itself safe by stopping the penetration and smuggling of the groups into its territory. Therefore, the agreement would be in the best interest of the two sides.

As per the agreement, the two sides can achieve their objective by sharing intelligence between the two agencies among others.

A statement from Mutyambai’s office said: “They discussed various matters, including a joint effort in the fight against regional and transnational crime and cooperation between

our two police services geared towards capacity building.” Kenya is preparing itself to open its police institute.

Ethiopian which already has a police institute vowed to share its experience and provide all necessary support including skilled human power to its neighbor Kenya.

Other technical, operational, and communication linkages are anticipated to feature the cooperation.

The Ethio-Kenya economic integration is expected to rise higher than what it is at the present time given the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) corridor and Ethiopia’s purchase of land at Lamu port.

The area will be intensified with transport and infrastructure projects. Highways, standard gauges, oil refineries, and airports are some of the projects already under construction.

Given the large investment and transactions happening and to happen soon between the two countries, strengthening security cooperation would be mandatory.

Ethiopian and Kenyan policies hence are tasked with building strong cooperation and carrying out successful operations against OLF shene, Al-Shabaab and others.

Ensuring peace and stability mean realizing economic integration and thereby the two countries achieve development. Since Jomo Kenyatta- pan African and first leader of the Kenyan Republic, Ethiopia, and Kenya have had strong and fruitful diplomatic relations.

Over the years, the ties have been growing in different areas such as economic integration, security, and others.

The two countries are also supporting one another on international stages. Kenya proved its neighborliness at the United Nations Security Council meeting saying Ethiopia has the wisdom and capacity to solve its internal issue by itself.

Law & Politics

Terrorist TPLF's crimes cannot be whitewashed by its foreign wings

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Since the onset of the TPLF provoked war, the terrorist group has been perpetrating unspeakable against civilian communities on purpose. The group's action is tightening the window of opportunity for peace with some swayed groups laying the blame at the doorsteps of the federal government.

Rather than lifting the lid on the evil deeds of the criminal clique, the international community largely continues to remain tight-lipped. The group itself is not in the position to save the day except ratcheting up conflicts.

As good news is in short supply in the northern part of the country due to the kneejerk actions of the criminal enterprise. TPLF's acts have already left the civilian communities in Afar and Amhara states impoverished and with unhearing trauma. Worse still, as the group time and again plays a victim card and cries foul, the low-rated international media outlets, stooges, rights groups, and other actors stand by the side of the group.

Though the international community knows the whole lot going on behind closed curtains, they pin the blame on the incumbent provided that they do not want to stand with the truth and take the bull by the horns.

Albeit the incumbent pulled out all the stops to get to the bottom of the predicaments in an orderly fashion, the desired goal has not been achieved yet seeing that the group has been masking its problems and bracing itself for major assault in Afar and Amhara regions.

As far as this, the group has not made an effort to resolve the problem. It is on the contrary escalating war of words through its spokesperson and intensifying animosity against the two communities.

In a similar manner, it is quite disappointing to see the terrorist TPLF group instigating conflict in various parts of the Amhara and Afar regions. What's more in the history of the country, in some areas the group managed to carry out unprecedented attacks and make many fall into deep waters. Above and beyond, in place of leaving no stone unturned to smooth the progress of humanitarian disasters, the group has been intensifying catastrophes by launching fresh attacks in Amhara and Afar states.

Notwithstanding the fact that the federal government has been keeping a cool head with an eye toward putting on a normal footing the circumstances in the besieged area, the terrorist TPLF group has been given the cold shoulder. It is



important to recall that the group has turned health stations, hospitals, schools, higher learning institutions, and other infrastructures into ashes.

The onslaught of the outlawed group has thus far left 1.3 million citizens with immediate food aid in Afar state only.

The citizens in need hail from 21 districts while more than 645,000 were displaced from their living areas due to TPLF's belligerence. Out of the total displaced 645,000 citizens, 336,000 of them have been living in 16 refugee camps while the remaining ones are living in the community, said the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC).

The rebellious group has caused immense damage in six districts, namely Aba'ala, Megale, Koneva, Dalol, Erbiti, and Berhalie of Kilbeti of the Afar State. Particularly, the flaring up of sporadic conflict in Aba'ala and Erbiti districts are the main causes of increasing the displaced citizens, as NDRMC Public Relations Head, Debebe Zewde told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA).

"The conflict is not only increasing the displaced citizens but also the main hindrance to providing the necessary humanitarian support to the needy."

The group's cruelty has not been confined to the aforementioned states only, the people of Tigray who have long been suffering at the hands of the arrogant clique is now facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

The self-proclaimed Tigray liberators who have been preaching themselves as the one and only redeemers of the Tigray people have long perpetrated disgusting carnages against civilians. Needless to say, the terrorist TPLF group and its accomplices have been lining up their pockets with no thought for the underprivileged mass.

The iron fist rule of the terrorist TPLF

group has been taking a big toll on the people of Tigray who have been battling with a vast number of life challenges.

Shamelessly, the group is now using the much-needed humanitarian aid to feed its armed groups depriving of the starved civilian communities. The terrorist clique is using the humanitarian aid that the federal government destined for the needy people in Tigray to feed its combatants.

The TPLF is hijacking the food and non-food supply and deliberately starving the people of Tigray. Due to the blockade of aid by the TPLF, the people of Tigray are facing misery and leading difficult lives, said one of the group's armed men who recently and peacefully surrendered to Ethiopian forces.

On the other hand, young people are forced to join the army because of the blockade of aid by the TPLF. According to him, the blockade is aimed at tarnishing the image of the federal government as the federal government is deliberately starving the people of Tigray and most of my partners in the army and civilians are exposed to severe problems. TPLF shifted the aid to soldiers rather than delivering aid to the needy people, he indicated.

He said that TPLF is working to deny the fact that the government of Ethiopia has done a number of efforts to reach the needy people by blocking and diverting aid from reaching the people. "The peoples are forced to contribute for the soldiers from the aid they received, unless the leaders take what they have at all. To be frank, the aid which is intended to be delivered to the needy people is diverted to the fighters and the possibility of reaching the people is very low and people are facing the severe problem", he noted.

TPLF told the people of Tigray as the federal government blocked the aid and if the aid reached the people passing through difficulties they told them the federal government deeds it by the force

of the international community.

Contrary to the group's true identity, some of its agents living abroad are trying to sugarcoat the group's activities misleading the global community.

In breach of the main intents of the United Nations, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom has been making common cause with the terrorist TPLF group now and again by concealing crimes committed by his former bosses.

Likewise, the Director has been making the most of his distinguished positions by emboldening acts of terrorism time and again. Just as though his foregoing criminal behaviors are not satisfactory, the Director has now continued playing a part in unlawful practices and darkening the future of noncombatants.

Although the government of Ethiopia has been making every effort to restore peace in the northern part of the country, the Director-General has been endeavoring to add fuel to the fire by working hand in glove with the terrorist TPLF group.

In condemnation of Tedros, a growing number of Ethiopians are also demanding his removal.

The WHO head is accused of telling white lies about the conflict in Ethiopia and shunning the integrity that is expected from him as the leader of a global entity to protect its TPLF friends.

A sizable number of Ethiopians are denouncing the WHO Chief's false accusation of the Ethiopian government and his blind support of TPLF. Ethiopian social media users have just begun campaigns insisting the UN remove Tedros from WHO leadership due to his avert political affiliation with a terrorist clique.

Accordingly, in her recent Twitter post, the renowned journalist Hermela Aregawi said, she has seen no one that is more symbolic of how deeply and boldly corrupt the international system is than Tedros. "The WHO Chief is a member of and actively working for TPLF; which is ethno fascist terrorist organization in Ethiopia."

Another twitter actor named Mahmude Mohammed also opined that, Tedros is backing apartheid on the basis of ethnicity. The TPLF regime's Health Minister used to conduct horrifying crimes against ethnic Amharas. "Why have not any of these been remembered? The Western media is complicit in the significant crimes."

Women in Focus

“Strong women aren’t simply born; but made by the storms they walk through”

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

Eyerusalem Negash is the first captain of the Ethiopian Women National Team. She is also the founder and Executive Director of *Enquwa Tabra* Women Empowerment, local nongovernmental organization (NGO). She has served as an Assistant Coach of the Ethiopian Women National Team (Lucy).

She was born and raised in an area named Le Gare, Addis Ababa. She has earned her first degree in counseling. She is married and a mother of two.

Eyerusalem is known for her boldness and firm stance to achieve the goals that she aspired for. She never slides any opportunity that leads her to her dreams.

As a quick learner as she had been while she was growing up, she used to enjoy playing football, studying and supporting her families.

Though she was privileged to be the last and spoiled girl in her extended family and enjoyed a better opportunities compared with her older siblings, she was not fortunate to follow her passion and do what she had aspired.

Given society’s blurred perception towards football profession, her families were more interested if she had chosen to become doctor or engineer rather than a football player. Thus, she was not allowed to join any football team in her surroundings.

Nonetheless, almost her entire childhood memories were filled with football. She fell in love with the career even before football was not more popular among her peers.

Unfortunately, the road to her childhood dream was not a bed of roses. She had to encounter so many challenges to join the national football team. If she had taken the path that her peers chosen, she would not have faced such challenges.

Her passion for football had never impressed let alone her families but also the people around her. However, instead of focusing on those pulling factors, she used her desire as well as her ability as a drive to push her to her dreams.

Since football is considered as male profession and there were no women who used to take trainings, she has sacrificed a lot. Though being the only women available on the training field felt special, she said that it has undesirable aspects as well.

At that time, people would assume that female football players should look and act manly. Due to this, she was forced to wear men clothes. Not only this, but Eyerusalem had to cut her hair and performed as how masculine act.

It is through such and beyond sacrifices that she became the first Women National Football Team Captain at the age of 17.

Going through all the difficulties by herself and becoming the team’s captain was the hardest but the proudest journey of her entire life, as to her. The success did not come by opportunity; she reached that point



Eyerusalem Negash

in her life and her career through hard work.

Though, she had been chosen as best football player and goal scorer for three consecutive years, her teachers were concerned that it would influence her academic performance in the long term.

Unfortunately, the concern of her teachers was not in vain. Since Eyerusalem gave her all to her success in football, she fell short on her academic performance and she could not score the pass mark in the entrance exam to University.

To the worst of the situation, she got badly injured while playing for Ethiopian Coffee Sport Club. Sadly, she had to say good bye to her childhood dream during the Ethiopian Millennium.

Leading her life that was only surrounded by football coupled with her masculine characteristics influenced her communication with her female friends and gets her problems off her chest. The 19 year-old Eyerusalem finally faced with the world where she could not hide herself behind football. She felt as if the world was crumbling in front of her; and felt lonely.

Though it was not too late, she regretted not giving equal priority to her education. She finally learnt how she was left out of other social lives and realized she could have led both her passion and education at the same time.

After she quit football, she made a habit of going to religious places. That is where she met the love of her life and the father of her two children. He was a pastor in the church she used to attend. After long time of companionship, they were able to get married for 12 years.

She said her marriage has brought incredible things to her life. One of such things; she was able to achieve the thing that she could not do in the past. Eyerusalem were able to retake the national exam and passed.

Being committed to her education, she also earned her first degree in counseling field and became the third year student of Evangelical Theology College. The fact that her husband believed in her, helped her to

from her spirit of struggle and courageous character that she developed through her football profession, the saddening story she saw, laid a foundation for the establishment of *Enquwa Tabra* Women Empowerment organization.

Though she understands how women are mistreated in her country, especially compared with the rest of the world, she believes that she can do something about the problem. What she learned from her experience that would unveil the obstacles that most women go through was making male part of the solution as well as empowering women to follow their passion.

While *Enquwa Tabra*: ‘let the pearl shine’ has two meanings, in which the first meaning is taken to signify allowing women to follow their dreams and life call, the other meaning is to indicate women to empower themselves and become a ladder for other women.

At *Enquwa Tabra*, number of trainings is provided on social, gender and other essential issues. Under the program entitled ‘let us be a relative for Enquwa’, various programs would also be hosted to support economically weak women on special events such as holidays, she noted.

According to her, there is also another program called ‘*Night of Enquwa*’ which strong and constructive discussion that aims to identify challenges and provide sound recommendations is carried out. Moreover, talks are also hold as to how to engage their male counterparts in the process.

Enquwa Tabra prioritizes national issues and challenges of Ethiopian women and strives to address the existing challenges. “We boldly oppose those unrealistic extreme feminism stands and try to alleviate the hurdles of women.”

She went on saying: “Though most of us are made to believe establishing a family is a final destination in life, women should not restrict themselves from following their dreams whether they get married or not.”

She said she believes that fighting for the things that one believes in, educating oneself, not being afraid of failure and following passion are the best life principles that can shape and change one’s life for the better.

Her dream is creating visionary women who follow their passion and beam a ray hope for other women. By establishing *Enquwa Tabra* Women Empowerment, she has made her first moves towards it.

Though addressing 50 million women is her set plan, she has started her journey by empowering the women around her and those who take part in the company.

Finally, she expressed her appreciation for the people who have a great contribution to where she is today. More importantly, she expressed her deepest and heartfelt gratitude for her life partner for the unwavering support and encouragement he gave her to this day.

“Though most of us are made to believe establishing a family is a final destination in life, women should not restrict themselves from following their dreams whether they get married or not”

accomplish her education, she said.

As to her, her marriage is a blessing that showers her with plenty of marvelous things. She said those 12 years of her marriage takes the lion’s share for the success she has achieved today.

Eyerusalem used to watch a crime investigation stories on local media, accidentally, she was deeply touched by one of the stories that was broadcasted. Aside

Society



Food sharing program at Unity Park

Photo: MoFA



Street Iftar program at Jigjiga City

Photo: Somali State Communication Bureau

Well-established culture: Supporting each other

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia has a long historical and cultural connection to both Christianity and Islam. The country is also a land where Christians and Muslims have been coexisted peacefully and harmoniously with mutual respect and understanding; sense of fraternity and attachment, togetherness and cooperation, cherishing the religious values and creeds of one's faith in many areas of life.

Owing to these well-established values and peaceful coexistence, seeing Muslims and Christians celebrating religious or cultural festivals together with the sense of belongingness; togetherness; of course in a manner considering own religious creeds and tagged norms, is a common practice for both faiths. It is also unsurprising to see Muslims taking part in church construction and Christians in the building of mosques.

Following the fasting seasons of the two faiths, the Great Lent (*Abiy Tsom*) that is observed by followers of the Orthodox Church; and the noble Month of Ramadan Kareem – 1443 Hijri, the month which is observed by the Muslim community, this deep rooted culture of the community (unity, solidarity and togetherness) is reflected in various ways.

Ranging from preparing street Iftar program to sharing food to unfortunate individuals who are in need of others support, the people are observing the days with greater spirit of belongingness, compassionate and care. In fact, the core creeds of both festivals (Easter and Ramadan) are these rules.

Bearing this principle in mind, and in relation to the upcoming Easter and Eid al-Fitr festivals, recently Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed conducted food sharing program for over 200 low income citizens, - elders, disabled ones and children- drawn from the capital at the Unity Park.

Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister Abiy said that sharing what we have is the longstanding culture of Ethiopians that

had been there for long, it is here now; and it should also be a value that should be further strengthened and sustained in the future.

As to the Premier, being rich and having too much is not always an important matter to share what we have; rather, it demands kind heart and sense of integrity.

“Kindness and thoughtfulness rewards in course of time. If we support each other, there will not be any challenge which become beyond our capacity or which we cannot overcome it. By sharing and bearing the loads, we have to beat the challenges that we are entangled now as a nation. Let everyone share what he/she has, even it is too small,” the Premier remarked.

According to the Premier, we can pass this demanding moment through sharing what we have in accordance to our culture, and taking part in the effort exerted to root out the cause of our problems. However, while sharing what we have is a short-term solution, participating in the struggle is a long term tactic that enables to create a better future in the long run.

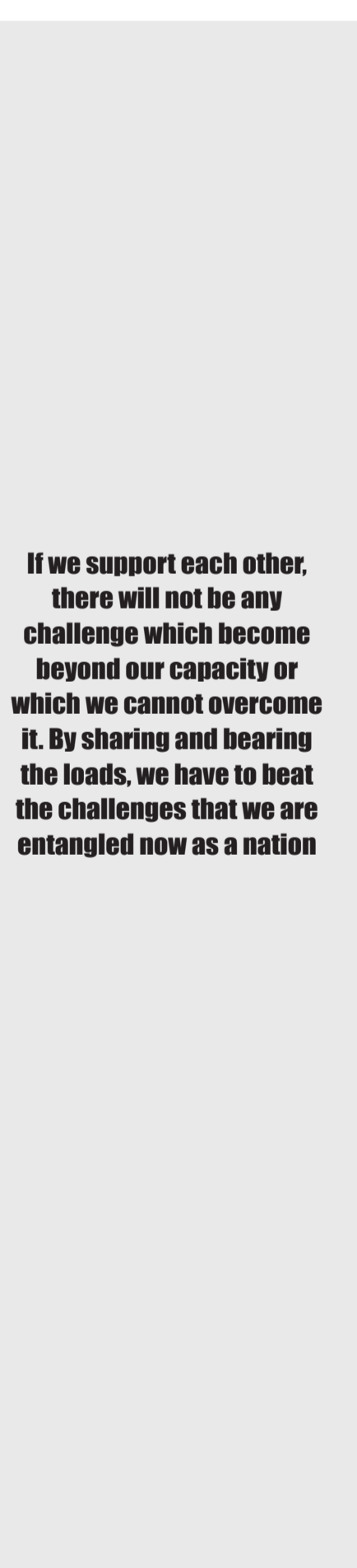
On the occasion, various food items including teff, edible oil, macaroni, sugar, semolina flour is delivered to elders.

The food sharing program which was held in relation to the Easter and Ramadan festivals was the continuation of Prime Minister Abiy's initiation which was launched in 2020, as PMO stated.

Meanwhile, a street Iftar program that was organized by members of the Diaspora community from the Somali State was held recently in Jigjiga City.

In the program, prepared in collaboration with the Diaspora community, Somali State Investment and Industry Bureau and Jigjiga City Administration and held at the main streets of the City was attended by more than 600 people.

As Somali State Communication Bureau posted in its social page, the program is part of the Eid al-Fitr-to-Eid al-Adha Great Home Coming Initiative, launched by Prime Minister Abiy's for the Muslim Diaspora community to celebrate Eid



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al-Fitr-to-Eid al-Adha at home thereby build the image of the country through promoting religious coexistence.

According to the Bureau, vulnerable groups, who are residing in the city, have received Iftar support.

Speaking on the program, Head of the Somali State Security Bureau, Mubashir Dibad Rage has commended the activities of members of the Diaspora community saying it is exemplary. Extending his gratitude for all entities who took part in the program, he called on them to further strengthen and continue their support to the vulnerable segments of the society.

In relation to Ramadan fast, the Ethiopian Airlines also held Iftar program.

Attending the program, President of the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council, Mufti Haji Omar Idris said that the Muslim community should celebrate Ramadan with a sense of togetherness and unity; in accordance with the command of the Creator.

“We have to sustain our deep-seated culture of supporting each other through sharing what we have with those who are unfortunate. He also urged the people to keep this age-old culture- culture of supporting each other.

Meanwhile, CEO of the *Ethiopian Airlines* Mesfin Tassew said that the Airline has made a 20 percent discount for those Ethiopians returning home respecting Prime Minister Abiy's national call for Eid al-Fitr-to-Eid al-Adha Great Home Coming Initiative.

Mentioning that the Airline has a well-established amity with its Ethiopians and Africans customers during the Hajj and Umrah trips, the CEO said, Ethiopian will further strengthen its ties and services in the future, ENA reported.

At Airline's Iftar ceremony, Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Dina Mufti, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ethiopian Airlines Girma Wake, Airline Executives, religious fathers and followers of Islam, as well as ambassadors of various countries were present