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TDP urges TPLF to stop crying foul over aid delivery

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – Tigray Democratic Party (TDP) disclosed that although food aid and medicine are entering Tigray, the terrorist TPLF is using them for political gain.

TPLF's claim that aid is not entering the

state is untrue, it added.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), TDP Public Relations Head Mulubirhan Haile said, his party has full information that relief supplies are entering Tigray. But the aid is not reaching the target

people in the state.

As to him, the people of Tigray are now in dire straits because of the terrorist, and his party believes that the suffering of the

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Terrorist group diverts humanitarian aid to feed combatants: IDPs

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA – The terrorist TPLF has been diverting the humanitarian aid from the needy people of Tigray to feed its combatants so as to enhance the war efforts, according to IDPs who have escaped from the criminal faction.

Dozens of Tigray people who rejected the rebellious group have been fleeing to Amhara State to get humanitarian support.

Approached by local media, one of the IDPs said: "I have fled to Amhara State to save my life from the chronic starvation caused by the TPLF and the faction has been diverting the aid to its soldiers."

Applauding the support that the Federal government and Amhara people provided



for them, he called on TPLF to end hostility against Ethiopian people especially against the people of Amhara.

The other escapee said on his part that currently the terrorist TPLF has been

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Authority readies bill to regulate internet-media

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News



Zemedeneh Nigatu

Global wheat exports fall Turning point to Ethiopia's wheat self-sufficiency

BY MULATU BELACHEW

ADDIS ABABA- The price of commodities and services have soared immensely around the globe since the opening of Russia-Ukraine War, a renowned economist said, claiming that the encounter could be a 'silver lining' for Ethiopia towards self-sufficiency.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, an economist and Chairperson of the Fairfax Africa Fund Zemedeneh Nigatu stated the Russia-Ukraine War intensifies Ethiopian inflationary pressures, because it has repercussions of food and energy following oil price hike. The global GDP growth has shown a closer to one percent decline as a result of the war.

According to Zemedeneh, food shortage and supply disruption would increase inflationary pressure on the local economy, especially in emerging economies like Ethiopia. However, Ethiopia has to take the situation as a silver lining avenue since it has planned to stop importing wheat within the next three years. Also, the condition might foster Ethiopia's status of being the largest wheat producer in Sub Saharan Africa.

"Hence, Ethiopia has to convert external shocks into opportunities to accelerate its plan of becoming self-sufficient within the shortest time possible. The external condition there may be 'a bright spot' as an Ethiopian can think of what I call the 'silver lining'. It's a self-sufficiency strategy. Accelerating the self-sufficiency strategy already rolled up, increasing domestic production and nurturing import substitution is a timely and viable strategy."

Ethiopia's energy from clean renewable sources can be implemented so as to bring about change in all spheres.

"International organizations including the IMF, the World Bank and others should provide financial support for developing nations including Ethiopia," he noted, adding that the developing countries economic difficulty has been intensified due to the Russia-Ukraine War.

It was learned that the World Bank is planning to allocate 177 billion USD over the next 12 months to support developing countries so as to help them counter internal perplexities and the external shock caused by the ongoing warfare.

H.R.6600 systematic tool for twisting Ethiopia's arm: political analysts

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA— A political analyst stated that H.R.6600 bill of some U.S. senators is nothing to do with humanity, democracy and rights, but U.S. would like to uses it as a systematic deterrent to control Ethiopia under the guise of humanitarian affair.

Speaking to local media, Lawyer John Philpol said that the sanction is an attempt to twist Ethiopia's arms producing unfounded as well as emotional allegations devoid of fact.

He said that when terrorist TPLF forces perpetrate untold crimes, massive killings, genocide and other inhuman treatments, U.S. didn't utter even a word about the issues except erroneously criticizing the federal government.

Author and entrepreneur, Tibebu Assefa on his part said that the bill is not absolutely connected with situation in Ethiopia; rather it is politically driven intention even against

the US' core foreign policy principles which rely on peace, development and mutual benefit.

As to him, the bill favors terrorist TPLF and endangers the Ethiopian government and its people especially section 5 to 7 of the bill prevent the country from getting international loans, financial supports and security assistance.

He stressed that first and foremost it was illegally pushed by political will of the two members of the congress.

Denouncing the bill, he said that it does not promote peace rather it will destabilize the Horn of Africa as Ethiopia is a very strategic Horn nation. Hence, destabilizing Ethiopian economy has literally a serious repercussion on regional security.

Regarding the northern conflict, Chairperson of Ethiopian American Council Deacon YosephTefari said that the bill requests the

state department to categorize Ethiopia as a state which either committed genocide or crime against humanity. However, it is far from reality as the veracity on the ground doesn't reflect that fact.

As to him, literally the bill forces Ethiopia to surrender at the expense of its sovereignty allowing impartial investigators to come to Ethiopia and have an unfettered access to conduct their investigation.

He stressed that the bill is criticizing the government of Ethiopia irrationally and rejects the measures of the government to bring about sustainable peace and real growth.

He called on the Western powers to encourage national dialogue in Ethiopia and play a constructive role in pushing Ethiopia forward instead of throwing poisons stones to break its arms thereby getting country's progress back.

Ministry conducts extensive deliberation with key U.S agencies

•Meets with IMF, World Bank officials

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian delegation led by Finance Minister Ahmed Shide has conducted extensive deliberation with key U.S. agencies, the Ministry of Finance said.

The discussion has focused on the political and economic developments in Ethiopia and the region at large. Ethiopia strongly values its partnership with the U.S., it said.

During the meeting held on the sidelines of the ongoing spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, Ahmed discussed how the government is confronting the challenges of impacts of conflict, climate change and rising inflation fueled by global supply constraints.

The delegation led by the Minister of Finance Ahmed Shide has conducted extensive deliberation with key the U.S government agencies such as the U.S Treasury, USAID, the special envoy for Horn of Africa and others on historic, strategic and vitally important bilateral relations.

The delegation had discussed with Melinda, Co-Chair and Founder of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on the Foundation's support



to health, agriculture and digital sectors of Ethiopia on the sidelines of the 2022 WB-IMF Spring meetings. The Minister met with World Bank Country Director Ousmane Dione and discussed a range of issues, including impact of the current challenges, growth and World Bank support.

The Minister and Country director have also discussed the progress of reforms, the Bank's portfolio performance and on how to strengthen cooperation between the World Bank and Ethiopia.

State Minister of Finance Eyob Tekalign

(PhD) for his part tweeted that the resilience of the Ethiopian economy despite multiple shocks and the quick rebound was astounding. Ethiopia has capacity to attract more investment both in debt and equity.

Ahmed expressed gratitude to the World Bank for the recent support extended to the Response-Recovery-Resilience for Conflict-Affected Communities Project. The Country Director has reaffirmed his commitment to the delivery of pipeline projects which are keen to help the government have a sustained focus on the medium-term development priorities.

Millions of livestock affected by drought in Oromia

BY MULATU BELACHEW

ADDIS ABABA- Oromia Early warning and Disaster Risk Reduction disclosed that over 14 million livestock are affected by drought in the region.

Exclusively approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, Early warning and Disaster Risk Management Director, Begna Duressa said of the over 14 million drought-affected livestock, 1.3 million livestock died amounting to over 26 billion birr loss.

The director said that currently over 2.6 million livestock are in urgent need of food and water.

Due to the drought, about 8 zones in the state are highly affected by drought and the people and livestock have highly faced acute food and water shortage. However, the government and

other national and international supporting organizations have been helping the state address the crises.

Though the government has been providing some ten percent assistance for the affected livestock, the livestock in Borana, Eastern Bale and Guji Zones are severely facing the drought. The Belg rain might somehow reduce the impact unless it is going to be smaller than the regular one as climate forecast has shown, he said.

He said: "Though many are displaced due to security problem, they are assisted, rehabilitated and helped to return home. There is resource limitation in the areas, but stakeholders are helping the affected people and livestock in the state."

Some 10 zones are faced water shortage, he

said and some 4.5 million people have faced food shortage. Out of this figure, some 3.2 million people are faced food shortage due to drought. The state along with the federal government and other regional and international collaborators is working to address the problem and has provided over 2.2 million people with food assistance, he elaborated.

The director said, "In the state, there is a high malnutrition problem in all areas where drought occurred. Because of security problem, a lot of schools are closed and hundreds of thousands of students dropped out schooling," he added.

Of the 958,000 new displacements due to security problems, some close to 200, 000 have returned home, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

News

Authority readies bill to regulate internet-media

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian Media Authority (EMA) disclosed that it has prepared a draft bill to regulate internet media as the existing proclamation alone does not enable the Authority to carry out its regulatory mandate.

EMA Director-General Mohammed Edris told The Ethiopian Herald that the Authority has already prepared the draft law to regulate internet Medias. The Authority is mandated to regulate the internet media by its reestablishment proclamation.

As to him, the draft bill is now on the table



EMA Director-General Mohammed Edris

of the Ministry of Justice, and it will come into force upon executive stakeholders'

approval following extensive discussion.

An additional law was needed, because the existing proclamation had limitations in terms of making the Authority effective to perform its regulatory mandate.

Meanwhile, Mohammed said that the Authority has recently started registering religious media institutions. Accordingly, there are religious media organizations that have started the process to be registered.

As to the director-general, although various activities have been carried out in terms of creating awareness on Media, professionals, activists, and other stakeholders to prevent and control the

spread of false information and hate speech, a lot remains to be done in this regard.

He also urged the media institutions to refrain from anything that could negatively affect the National Dialogue.

The media institutions need to be more responsible than ever before to enable the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission to be effective, he further insisted.

The media organizations' contribution to the successful completion of the sixth general national election needs to be replicated for the success of the National Dialogue too, as to him.

Malaria remains public health, dev't challenge: WHO

BY MULATU BELACHEW

ADDIS ABABA- World Malaria Day was marked yesterday to focus global attention on malaria, and its devastating impact on families, communities and societal development, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In her message sent to The Ethiopian Herald, WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti announced this year's theme: "Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives", aligns with her call to urgently scale up innovation and the deployment of new tools in the fight against malaria.

While advocating for equitable access to malaria prevention and treatment, within the context of building health system resilience, the past year has seen significant breakthroughs in malaria prevention and control.

Landmark recommendations on the use of the first vaccine against malaria – RTS,S – were released by the World Health



**WORLD
MALARIA
DAY** APRIL 25

Organization late last year. This vaccine will be used to prevent malaria among children aged six months to five years, who live in moderate to high-transmission settings, however the new tools to fight this disease with the potential to save millions of lives, supplies are currently limited, it was learnt.

Malaria remains a significant public health and development challenge. In the last year, about 95% of the estimated 228 million cases occurred in the WHO/AFRO Region1, along with 602 020 reported

deaths. Six of our countries 2, the worst impacted by malaria in the Region, are reported to have accounted for up to 55% of cases globally, and for 50% of these deaths.

"Despite some slowing of progress to reduce malaria cases and deaths, and the disruptions to health services caused by COVID-19, we are still much further ahead than we were in 2000. We need to reignite that momentum, and build on the recent advances."

The ultimate goal is to reduce the number

of people catching and dying from malaria. This requires a focus on research and on leveraging available evidence to ensure that targeted interventions are an efficient use of resources, which produce measurable results.

"We also need to work on drug and insecticide resistance, as well as focus on new strains of malaria arising in the Region, which are more difficult to detect, and treat. Malaria affects households and communities, and these communities need to be empowered to play an active role in the fight against this disease."

World Malaria Day is an occasion to renew political commitment and encourage continued investment in malaria prevention and control she said calling on countries and communities affected by malaria to work closely with development partners to advance our countries along the road to elimination, while contributing to the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals and aimed to achieve a malaria-free Africa.

TDP urges TPLF...

people of Tigray will continue as long as terrorist TPLF exists.

Mulubirhan reported that food aid and medicine sent to the needy people of Tigray are being given to the militants and sold to merchants.

He added that many new private pharmacies have been opened in Tigray and the medicine that has been sent to Tigray by the federal government and international partners is being sold to these pharmacies.

He further stated that in addition to preventing the people from getting humanitarian assistance, the terrorist TPLF group is forcing the people of Tigray to give food and money, and also parents to send their children to war.

"The people of the world must understand that what the TPLF is saying and doing is extremely opposite. I think the Ethiopian people understand this very well," he also

indicated.

The people of Tigray are fleeing to the Amhara state in protesting TPLF's atrocities in Tigray, he said, adding that the atrocities that the TPLF is committing against the people of Tigray are hard to hear.

He also said that in light of the group's long history of bad behavior, the people of Tigray cannot live in peace as long as the group exists.

Ethnic-Tigrayan Diasporas and elites must stop their efforts to save the terrorist TPLF the one that is tormenting the people of Tigray, Mulubirhan urged. Adding that, they have to influence the group to disarm. "If they continue to support the TPLF, they are making a historic mistake."

Mulubirhan also called on the people of Tigray to fight against the group more than ever.

Terrorist group...

intentionally blocking humanitarian aid to enforce the starved ethnic Tigray youths to join its military without their interest. "Tough TPLF has been working to expand hostility between Tigray and Amhara people; the latter welcomed and have been serving us without any discrimination."

TPLF's ex- soldier who peacefully surrendered to federal forces also said the TPLF is hijacking the food and non-food supply and is deliberately starving the people of Tigray.

Also, the Tigray youth were forced to join the army because of the blockade of aid by the TPLF. The blockade is aimed at tarnishing the image of the federal government and accusing the latter of deliberately starving the people of Tigray.

As to the ex-soldier, TPLF is working to

undermine the Ethiopian government and its number of efforts to reach the needy people by blocking and diverting aid from reaching the people. "The people are forced to share the aid they receive to TPLF soldiers otherwise they will face severe consequences."

It is to be recalled that federal government has been undertaking a lot of measures to facilitate the state of humanitarian delivery to Tigray state through opening the way for international donors and allowing them to use air transport to speed up the flow of the aid. However, terrorist TPLF has been hijacking the aid trucks and use them as war logistic. In the past seven months out of the 1,111 trucks that were loaded with humanitarian supplies and entered Tigray only 242 trucks had been returned and the remaining 869 trucks were hijacked.

Opinion

The value of National Dialogue

BY GETACHEW MINAS

National dialogue is a valuable and essential tool for the preclusion of escalation of political crisis in countries that are in a political transition. It takes place among national governments, opposition parties, civil society groups and armed movements. Diplomatic groups and donors are also closely involved in the facilitation of a national dialogue. Despite the need for it, there is scarcity of resources to offer sound assistance and practical support for those who aspire to engage in national dialogue. There may be inadequacy and insufficiency of instruments to break political deadlocks, to prevent divisive conflicts, and to achieve peaceful transition in Africa. Attempts are being made to surmount these obstacles through gathering insights, experience and expertise from developing countries that have been engaged in national dialogue.

Despite efforts to sustain national dialogue, there is a continued aggression of rebels in Northern Ethiopia. However, in many parts of the country previously occupied by rebel forces, the government is engaged in rehabilitation efforts. There is a reign of peace finally emerging in the urban areas of the country. After declaring victory, the government of Ethiopia, expressed its intent to engage in a new endeavor of national dialogue. This is believed to lead to a national consensus that maintains the integrity of the country. To achieve this, the Ethiopian parliament declared a proclamation for establishing a Commission for National Dialogue.

Generally speaking, the concept of national dialogue is a nationally designed political process. The national dialogue is aimed at generating full hearted consensus among national stakeholders of all types. It is conducted during or after political crisis and in war situations or during political transitions. Depending on the need of the country, a national dialogue can be used as a tool for crisis prevention and management. It may be a shorter-term strategy undertaken as a tool to resolve or prevent armed violence. It is useful for breaking political deadlocks and restoring a political consensus. It brings fundamental change with a long-term vision to establish society and government relations. The national dialogue is an instrument for creating new social relations through legal and institutional changes. It is believed to be only one means of addressing political crises and conflicts. It helps in guiding change processes, such as mediation and negotiation.

The main features of a national dialogue are its process, its type and level of participation. It should involve different layers of the Ethiopian society. Attention should be focused on its organization and process. In reality, any means of finding solutions in the country demands a combination of relevant methods and processes. The dialogue process may move through an agreed stage of preparation and move on to negotiations at critical moments. It may also take place before, after or together with a negotiated process.

The Ethiopian national dialogue may develop its peculiar structure related to needs and aim of each stage in the process. It is observed that similarities could be detected as the dialogue structures begin to respond to a set of functions. At this stage clarity is of the essence. The different phases for conducting the dialogue such as “preparation, process and

The concept of national dialogue is a nationally designed political process.

The national dialogue is aimed at generating full hearted consensus among national stakeholders of all types. It is conducted during

or after political crisis and in war situations or during political transitions.

Depending on the need of the country, a national dialogue can be used as a tool for crisis prevention and management



implementation” should be clearly allocated to the concerned institutions. The transition from one phase to another is often not straight forward.

The phase of preparation may constitute minor negotiation. It may be related to negotiating the framework for the process. At this stage, there is a need to decide the relationship between the political parties in Ethiopia that will be deciding the possibility of addressing the conflict. They may define the means for achieving peaceful political dialogue. In the process there may prevail political bargaining with the technical aspects related to the

significance and implication of the first phase on the next process. The preparatory process will need to be developed and agreed upon, with an institutional infrastructure of its own. The main task during this phase may include establishing the mandate, including clarifying goals, objectives and instruments; it also involves preparing the process and the people who participate; and it builds confidence among participants in the dialogue.

The style of participation may be determined by the aim of the process, the resources available, and the interests of the main stakeholders. Normally, a consensus should be arrived at the main goal, strategy and means of the national dialogue. There is a need for clarity on what can be realistically achieved in the transition processes in Ethiopia. What is important is genuine engagement by the main stakeholders on broad consultations with inclusive mechanism. This helps to establish legitimacy and ownership of outputs of the dialogue. It is proposed that respected Ethiopian figures and elders should be involved in the design and implementation of the dialogue process.

The preparation stage should take into account the interest of stakeholders, following an inclusive approach. There is a danger that influential political parties may exercise power over the institutions and subsequently capture the entire process. It is, therefore, important to be clear what the process is supposed to achieve. This helps to design and manage expectations. The selection of the right chairperson for the preparation phase can be an important signal about the sincerity of the process and it can generate legitimacy. It is argued that the preparatory phase is more than the prelude to the process and it should be planned and implemented with care. This is followed by function, mandate, and mechanism for decision-making. The preparatory phase would serve in developing a criteria for participation, agenda-setting, and options to break deadlocks during the process.

Where national dialogue is full of hard negotiations, then there is a need for trust-building among negotiators. This requires support and cooperation of major donor countries and international finance institutions in Ethiopia. However, when negotiation takes place between government and rebel groups fund allocation for the latter one for logistics, including transport, can become a political and a legal issue and has to be dealt with sensitivity and care. Sometimes, when donors provide funds for rebel groups for conducting negotiations, the government may tend to be sensitive. Donors may be suspected of siding with rebels to “destabilize” the state. These groups may tend to eliminate state supporters. Thus, the facilitation of negotiation has to be conducted in secrecy if possible. But when state secret leaks out the public would be discontented and even stand against it in support of the rebels.

As mentioned earlier, Ethiopia may need a national dialogue for various reasons. After the fall of the military regime, the country was restructured as a Federal state in which several ethnic entities had substantial autonomy. Through the years, this decentralized structure divided the country to the point of breakdown and collapse. This caused certain ethnic groups such as the TPLF to grab political power with which it oppressed the Ethiopian people. The government of Abiy Ahmed (PhD) came to

power in 2018, promising to address these issues. It intended to end the oppression of the junta and once again unite Ethiopians of all ethnicities as one nation. The government also achieved impressive progress with the reform agenda early on. However, the vision of a strong Federal state that is superior to the destructive ethnic divisions was not yet supported by all. But, efforts are still being made to achieve Ethiopian unity.

With Ethiopian unity unquestioned, the process phase of national dialogue is a key step that sets the agenda. It provides clarity on the nature of the dialogue. It commits parties to the process and serves as an exercise in trust-building. It generates a shared understanding of positions and vision on all sides. It helps identify a trusted and credible and senior chairperson. The choice of this person is a powerful indicator of what can be expected from the overall process. Choosing a credible and broadly accepted chairperson is a strong indicator of success in the national dialogue. In the process phase, the size of participants in the dialogue is determined.

In the process of national dialogue, developing decision-making and consensus-building modalities is very crucial. Decision-making is usually based on consensus, which is often a boring, monotonous and precarious. If practiced well, it nurtures legitimacy and guarantee by the operators in the process. The major guarantee is the full engagement of the public in the process. It ensures that the process will be carried by society at large, making it necessary to have public outreach and consultation. Being able to follow the process and to provide input at different stages increases public support. These structures should specifically be designed to help overcome deadlocks and stalemates and to keep the central negotiation and dialogue process on track. It is important to draw on national traditional practices and resources in Ethiopia that have been used to reach consensus and break deadlocks.

With the continued aggression of the rebels, the war in Northern Ethiopia is still continued. However, in many parts of the country previously occupied by rebel forces, the government is engaged in rehabilitation efforts. There is a reign of peace emerging in the urban areas of the country. After declaring victory, the government of Ethiopia, expressed its intent to engage in a new endeavor of national dialogue. This is believed to lead to a national consensus that maintains the integrity of the country. To achieve this, the Ethiopian parliament declared a proclamation for establishing a Commission for National Dialogue. The probable question is whether the new initiative of the Ethiopian Government can create favorable conditions for healing the country and start putting effort towards peace, unity and prosperity. Even if there is a favorable conditions created by the Government, the act of maintaining peace demands the cooperation of all those concerned groups. These groups may comprise both internal and external elements that have strategic interest in Ethiopia. These elements may not be interested in the outcome of a true “national dialogue.”

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

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The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Unabated war-monger character

Not taking the immeasurable human destruction following its 'human wave' fashion into consideration using the youths' as its cannon fodder, the terrorist TPLF has not taken lesson from it. It has still continued beating its war drums. It has never had gut to learn from mistakes.

The group has tried to deal with the unanswered issues of the Tigray people. "Where are our children?" is a continued quest that makes this terrorist faction restless. Cognizant of the fact that the question will never be answered, the group has attempted to use attention diversion. It always lies to the people. Irrefutably, tens of thousands of Tigray mothers had been seen off for good in various areas of Amhara and Afar sates such a Dabat, Borru Meda, Kassgita etc. since the lives of the poor are of course easy matters for terrorist officials so long as their personal interest is met and their ill-intended mission is hit, its leftovers have now and then forced mothers to send their children for another round so as to get the latter's quest and yelling muffed and buried. Time will judge, indeed!

So the saying goes, "Two wrongs never make a right," the fresh attack will exacerbate the loss as it will add fuel to the first wrong deed TPLF did. The terrorist TPLF is heard of saying, "We have prepared ourselves for a fresh attack to break the 'siege.' It is not clearly known which 'Siege' the group is talking about? Since all problems are originated from its own chauvinistic provocation, playing victim card is an obsolete fashion even the means it has tried to cheat the international community is entirely unacceptable.

What does 'Under siege,' mean? Does a body that has spent much time running evil deeds have confidence to say so? The anarchy it

has so far committed makes the group desperate.

Not only has the group given hard time to Tigray people but it is also attempting, though failing, to create enmity with states like Amhara and Afar and with countries such as Eritrea. These odd behaviors of the terrorist group must be well revealed and rife all over the world as it has been doing what all notorious terrorist in the word do not dare try. The group must learn that the people of Tigray are fleeing into Amhara region despite all the attempts to give a picture of hostile neighbors.

The international community has to stop supporting the terrorist and war entrepreneur group shielding among Tigray people.

As some of the woredas of Afar state like Aba'ala, Magala, Konnaba... are still under its control, citizens there are forced to swallow morsels of atrocities.

The Ethiopian government is doing all its best to come up with a peaceful atmosphere all the time, but the group is not willing to work for a common cause—ensuring citizens safety and creating a peaceful nation. It is difficult to deduce that the international community does not know the devious feature of the group unless they deliberately skip all what it has done though no one definitely knows what their mission and interest is!

The remnants of terrorist TPLF have further become irresponsible and pointless groups. The international community has to condemn the evil acts of the group if it does care human rights violations. They have to stop supporting TPLF, accepting its lies and cunning styles.

In sum, the international community has to condemn the provocative acts of TPLF and pushes it to comply with global peace merits.

Opinion

Linking the 3rd filling of GERD to the current food crisis in Egypt is a new blend of conspiracy against Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Global wheat prices make for chilling reading. Between February 1st and March 18th wheat prices rose markedly: at one point, prices had risen by 67 per cent, before falling since March 10th to hover around a 40 per cent increase. Wheat futures rose by 50 per cent between January 1st and March 14th, fueled by speculation of shortages. With prices likely to remain high, it is unsurprising but alarming that some countries have already implemented full or partial grain export bans, which will drive global prices up further.

According to the International Food Policy Institute (2022) the situation in Egypt presents particular cause for alarm. It imports around 62 percent of its wheat, of which about 80 per cent comes from Ukraine and Russia. In order to alleviate this, Egypt intends to sow 2 million acres of land with wheat through irrigation hoping to reduce the burden of wheat prices.

In the meantime, Ethiopia is also engaged in its 3 years program of self-sufficiency in the production of wheat through dry land wheat production development through irrigation as part of the nation import substitution scheme.

In a bid to exert more pressure by the US on Ethiopia regarding the third round of filling GERD, Egypt has escalated another round of diplomatic pressure on Ethiopia as if the country had not enough pressure from the US. The Egyptian foreign minister Sameh Hassan Shoukry recently paid a working visit

to Washington to request for more pressure on Ethiopia's 3rd round of filling GERD in a mischievous attempt to link the filling of the dam with possible shortage of water in the event that Egypt would start its wheat farms. The truth is Egypt is still using all possible means to disrupt the normal construction of GERD by supporting armed groups that would be tasked with sabotaging the construction of the dam by creating instability in the area.

In a recent meeting conducted by members of the Arab Agriculture Development Organization, the members discussed on how the non-wheat growing Arab countries can cooperate with African countries in the areas of investments on agriculture with particular emphasis on food production which would include wheat production. These Arab countries are already eying Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya while Egypt is trying to do everything at its disposal to prevent such cooperation thinking that it could affect its water resources.

In theory, the GERD could be of immense benefit to all countries in the region. Its power generation has the potential to be developmentally transformative. The store of water could smooth the Nile's flow, reducing the likelihood of destructive floods downstream, and releasing held water during droughts— of particular relevance to Sudan. The dam could usefully foster interdependence between Sudan, Egypt, and Ethiopia.

Instead of focusing on its internal challenges

brought by the escalation of food prices that now stands on the average at 40per cent Egypt tries to politicize on the issues of GERD in an attempt to quell internal opposition and make Ethiopia the cause of all its challenges within the country.

It is regrettable that the Blue Nile which originates from Ethiopia has become a factor for collusion than an important element for coalition.

Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan have massive development problems that can be resolved through exploiting the potential value of GERD to advance regional trade and economic integration. Ethiopia does not have major petroleum and mineral resources, but has a vast potential for electricity generation, amounting to almost 45,000 GW. It thus has a capacity to export electric power to Eastern African countries that are connected to the Eastern Africa Power Pool.

Access to electricity is an important driver of poverty reduction, economic growth, and industrial production. An effective utilization of the GERD, therefore, is likely to boost economic growth in the energy-hungry Eastern African countries, the publication discloses.

Regional integration and stronger interdependence will in turn reduce the risk of conflict in the region. Egypt should acknowledge these regional benefits as well as Ethiopia's right to an equitable utilization of its natural resources.

Egypt's massive reservoir at the High Aswan Dam on the Nile has a holding capacity of 169 BCM, equivalent to two-year's worth of the main Nile's flow was not built with due consultation with Ethiopia which contributes 85per cent of the waters of the Blue Nile but Egypt claims that it is the sole owner of the water from Ethiopia and has never negotiated in a meaningful manner. Compared to Ethiopia, which relies on natural rainfall to meet its water demand, Egypt will have greater readiness to cope with minor changes in the flow of the Nile.

According to African Business, If the GERD is filled over a period of seven years, the reduction in the Nile's flow will be less than 11 BCM, which is equivalent to 11per cent of the main Nile's flow and just 6per cent of the water stored at the Aswan High Dam's reservoir.

In both Egypt and Sudan the increase in the price of bread coupled with the wheat crisis triggered by the Russo-Ukraine War is at the verge of causing and national food crisis that could end up with severe political crisis. This could be averted by the cooperation between Ethiopia and the two countries in producing bumper harvest of wheat instead of always looking upon Russia and Ukraine for wheat flour. This demands a change of mind and full political commitment on the part of the two countries.

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

Business & Economy

International finance support to Ethiopia maintaining geo-spatial politics

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

In many parts of the world, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) play a major role in the social and economic development programs of nations with developing or transitional economies. This role includes advising on development projects, funding them and assisting in their implementation.

International finance is an important tool to find the exchange rates, compare inflation rates, get an idea about investing in international debt securities, ascertain the economic status of other countries and judge the foreign markets.

Though, Ethiopia has been among the fastest growing countries in the world (at an average of 10 percent per year), it has been one of the receiver of financial support from the IFIs for a number of reasons.

It seems essential to point out two or three cases that drive the demanding of the financial support in the case of Ethiopia. Almost everyone knows that a reform wind was blowing in Ethiopia turning new way policy and systems to put in place. The reforms were welcomed by the international community and confirmed to supply financial support but due to Covid-19 pandemic and the TPLF induced war in northern part of the country and the famine have exposed the nation to a number of challenges.

But, when we look at the recent day's

activities in relation to the international financial support confirmation, The World Bank has approved 300 million USD grant for the Response-Recovery-Resilience for Conflict-Affected Communities in Ethiopia Project.

In its press release, the Bank said the International Development Association (IDA) grant has a national geographic scope that initially prioritizes support to the Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, and Tigray regions that have been highly impacted by the war and host large numbers of Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs).

According to the press release, the project will also support efforts to address the emergency needs of communities, rehabilitate/recover infrastructure destroyed by conflict, and increase community resilience to the impacts of conflict in a sustainable manner.

Specifically, the project will help to improve access to basic services and rebuild climate-resilient infrastructure prioritized by communities.

To ensure rapid and efficient support that is adapted to local contexts, it will be implemented by federal, regional, and community-based organizations. It will also be implemented by independent third-party entities, particularly in high-risk areas with ongoing conflict, it was learned.

While the project's main focus is providing

quick support to meet the urgent need of conflict-affected communities, it will also support Ethiopia to advance towards a sustainable recovery pathway by investing in institutions, communities, and policies. This will help build an inclusive and resilient future for conflict-affected communities in Ethiopia, the press release stated.

According to the press release, the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) helps the world's poorest countries by providing grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people's lives. IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 74 poorest countries, of which 39 are in Africa.

In a similar effort, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) reaffirmed the commitment of IFC to continue supporting priority sectors such as energy supply, health, housing development and finance in the country for its support of enhancing private sector development in Ethiopia.

According to Ministry of Finance, the Minister, Ahmed Shide, commended IFC while he was receiving the IFC's Regional Director for Eastern Africa, Jumoke Jagun-Dokunmu at his office.

The corporation is conducting technical and economic feasibility studies for projects that have laid the foundation for the private

sector in Ethiopia, Ahmed added.

The Minister urged the IFC to further support the efforts of Ethiopian Government in privatizing other sectors as it has done to the privatization of the telecommunication sector.

IFC's Regional Director for Eastern Africa, Jumoke Jagun-Dokunmu, on her part, said the institution has strong partnership with Ethiopia and it has been supporting private sector investment in the country.

Besides to supporting private sector development in Ethiopia to scale up the economy, IFC will also support efforts of Ethiopian government in the process of opening up the banking sector to foreign financial institutions, the director pointed out.

On April 14, 2022 UN allocated 100 million USD for six nations including Yemen and out of the allocated financial support Ethiopia will receive 12 million USD that could use in addressing the demand of internal displaced peoples for sanitation, food and health water among others.

As per various reports confirm, developing countries are suffering from the brutal economic effects of COVID-19 disproportionately and require more comprehensive financing assistance in the wake of the pandemic, and the national and man-made disasters.

Dry ports becoming key alternatives to improving logistics and trade

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

As Ethiopia is landlocked dealing with port related matters is fundamental to ease the logistics' hustle and bustle. As a result, the country has been compelled to use neighbor countries for its imports and exports. In order to ease some of the problems in the transit countries, Ethiopia has started constructing dry ports in its hinterland along the transit corridors.

A number of dry ports become operational with the new comer to be constructed in Jimma area. To reap the maximum benefit from those dry ports, the efficient and effective performance of the dry ports is very crucial and to do that it is important to identify factors which influence the performance of dry ports.

Webshet Haimanot, a researcher of dry port performance management practices in Ethiopia, noted that dry ports promote regional development which are especially useful in land-locked countries those shipments come through a neighboring sea port. Ethiopia has started constructing dry ports in its hinterland along the transit corridors. And this move has helped the country to save the foreign currency and increased its efficiency in import and export transaction. Among the constructed dry ports, Modjo has been identified by the government as the key node for the emerging Ethiopian intermodal trade logistics system. Thus, the efficiency of the whole logistics supply chain largely depends on dry ports as they act as the integrating and coordinating mechanism between different components.



Wereta Dry Port

To reap the maximum benefit from those dry ports, the efficient and effective performance of the dry ports is very crucial and to do that it is important to assess the performance of dry ports. Africa's network of inland container terminals – or “dry ports” – is expanding rapidly, part of a continental effort to speed up the flow of cargo between sea and land and address logistics challenges, particularly for landlocked countries.

Yes, a dry inland port can speed up the flow of cargo between ships and major land transportation networks, creating a more central distribution point. Inland ports can improve the movement of imports and exports facilitating the time-consuming sorting and processing of containers inland, away from congested seaports.

There are now more than 40 dry ports and inland container depots located in countries across Africa, from Algeria to Zimbabwe – more than on any other continent in the world.

The Dosso dry port in Niger, located on the Dori

(Burkina Faso) – Cotonou (Benin) corridor, or the Bobo Diolasso dry port on the Dori (Burkina Faso) – Abidjan corridor are examples of the potential for dry ports to improve trade, while Chad is expected to benefit significantly from the dry ports projects in northern Cameroon, as the vast but landlocked country is totally dependent on its neighbor's Douala seaport for imports and exports.

Landlocked countries are also inking deals with their neighbors to operate dry ports near their coastline. Apart from three dry ports operated in Botswana (Gaborone, Francistown and Palapiye), Botswana Railways also operates the Botswana Dry Port at the Namibian port of Walvis Bay, allowing the country the benefit of a direct link to the sea.

In August 2021, Ethiopia finalized the construction of its eighth dry port in Wereta, northern Gondar, Amhara Regional State. The 3 million USD facility was built to ease trade with neighboring Sudan.

Nigeria plans to build six more dry ports

across its territory. During the centuries of trans-Saharan trade, prior to the colonial period, Nigeria's cities of Kano and Kaduna were prosperous and dynamic African entrepôts. Improved logistics offer them an opportunity to become so again, according to Ganduje.

Dry ports are container intermodal terminals that are located inland away from the sea, and that are connected to a near or distant seaport by road and rail. The term “intermodal” refers to the combination of two modes of transport that are road and railway. As in a regular port, inland container depots or ICDs handle and store cargoes that enter and leave.

The growth in dry ports is not only a West African phenomenon; in 2019, Rwanda inaugurated its ambitious Kigali Logistics Platform serving not only Rwanda but Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi through connections to the seaports of Mombasa in Kenya and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Located in Masaka, an area in Kigali's suburbs, the 35 million USD facility spans more than 130,000 hectares, housing a 12,000-square meter container yard and a 19,600 square-meter warehousing facility.

The political momentum behind logistics developments like dry ports has grown substantially after the commencement of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in January 2021. The agreement is expected to substantially boost trade between African countries.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Africans Should Understand: Physical Economy Creates Wealth and Elevates the Human Mind

BY LAWRENCE FREEMAN

What is the economy?

Well, most people say it is to do with free trade, buying low, selling dear, 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 is 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 labour 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 labour. 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.

*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*



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 centres, 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 upshift 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 lets 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 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 is 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.

Source: Africa Rising Soon TV

Lawrence Freeman is a Political-Economic Analyst for Africa, who has been involved in economic development policies for Africa for over 30 years. He is the creator of the blog: lawrencefreemanafricaandtheworld.com.

Law & Politics

Terrorist TPLF's hawkish moves to undermine humanitarian truce

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Following the self-initiated declaration of humanitarian truce by the Ethiopian government, the much-needed relief is entering Tigray state via road and air transportation. The incumbent has been hell-bent when it comes to the facilitation and provision of humanitarian assistances to the civilian Tigray population.

The indefinite humanitarian truce as welcomed by many has been followed by concrete government actions with more convoys of trucks carrying food and medical assistance reaching Mekele, Tigray capital.

In fact, the Ethiopian government has been resolute in giving peace a chance and extending an olive branch despite the constant provocations of the terrorist TPLF group.

From the previous unilateral humanitarian ceasefire to the decision not to enter Tigray, the government has been trying to at least restore peace and stability in the northern part of the country.

TPLF criminal enterprise however has been turning its back on the good gesture of the Ethiopian government. It is to be recalled that refusing the Ethiopian government's declaration of a unilateral humanitarian ceasefire on June 28, 2020, TPLF invaded Amhara and Afar states and committed severe atrocities on civilians, and vandalized public services, including schools and health facilities.

The group also destroyed 82 government health offices, 40 hospitals, 453 health stations, 1,850 health posts, four blood banks, and an oxygen plant in Amhara state alone, and 17 hospitals, health centers, and 42 health posts during its invasion of the Afar State., according to a recent government report.

In proof of its continued commitments, the government lately declared an indefinite humanitarian truce to allow unhindered humanitarian assistance to Tigray State. The government's commended move is meant to address the plight of the Tigray people affected in the conflict and ensure the people are able to receive aid in their localities.

The hawkish TPLF clique has been doing the opposite launching provocative offensive against communities in Afar and Amhara states.

On the heels of the humanitarian truce, a convoy consisting of some 20 trucks arrived in Mekele on 1 April with 500 tons of food aid. Trucks carrying medical items, emergency food, and water treatment supplies along with essential household items arrived in Mekelle.

More recently, a convoy of 60 trucks carrying humanitarian aid and fuels has reached Tigray, the humanitarian agencies to cross-check whether the aid reaches the



Relief is entering Tigray state via road and air transportation

target communities though.

Dejectedly, the government's responsible acts have gone unreciprocated by the irresponsible criminal enterprise. The peace spoiler clique is still lurking in the backyards of Afar and Amhara states disrupting the provision of relief to both communities and causing the dislocation of thousands of people.

Sad as it may sound, the global community has been dragging its feet in bringing the terrorist TPLF group to justice and calling the latter's brutal actions by their names. The impunity however is begetting further cruelty.

TPLF is diehard when it comes to keeping on fanning the flames with the aim of holding the government accountable and extending its existence at the expense of innocent civilians.

In its weekly presser, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia urged terrorist TPLF to fully observe a humanitarian truce in a bid to deliver the needed aid to Tigray.

There are limitations on the side of TPLF in implementing the enacted humanitarian truce and the government will continue to support the needy people, said MoFA Spokesperson Dina Mufti

"International community needs to pressure TPLF to obey the truce," he said.

Humanitarian flights are being made to Mekelle, the delivery of aid to Tigray has been facilitated via road transport, and over the past week about 50 trucks of the WFP and the UN reached Tigray, it was learned.

Meanwhile, he said that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen discussed with Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs Peace

and Security, and briefed peace-building initiatives the government of Ethiopia has been undertaking so far.

He mentioned the release of some prisoners, lifting of the state of emergency, and the establishment of the national dialogue commission which is a showcase of the government's commitment to ensuring lasting peace in the country.

The government of Ethiopia encourages and supports the peace initiatives of the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa (HoA) region, Olusegun Obasanjo. Besides, Ethiopia would remain committed to the peace initiative of the former Nigerian President under the auspices of the AUC, he indicated.

In an act of escalating tension, the terrorist TPLF group also launched a fresh offensive in Afar state despite its claims of withdrawal from occupied areas of the state.

The group's ragtag elements have lately launched a new attack and occupied Barahle, Konnaba, and Magaale of Afar State instead of withdrawing from the state so stated a Writer and Political Researcher.

In his article entitled: "On the misleading narratives of the TPLF on evacuations of troops from Afar," the writer and political researcher Nur Tahir said that the terrorist TPLF's behavior doesn't allow it to obey laws, agreement, and peaceful move; that is why they didn't withdraw from Afar.

The terrorist TPLF forces are still in control of Abala, Magaale, Konnaba, and Barahle districts, and some kebeles of Erebtii slaughtering civilians and looting private and public property. In this regard, the terrorist TPLF group committed unbelievable atrocities and extrajudicial killings of civilians in all occupied districts of the Afar state, according to Nur.

The intention of the TPLF to permanently impoverish Afar can easily be observed in what it did in the Erebtii town, he said adding that the Afar forces have found the bodies of eight individuals who were killed and left on the streets by the criminal gangs.

Currently, out of the occupied areas in Afar State, merely the central part of Erebtii is free from the invaders by the Afar force. On this part, the terrorist group recently agreed to withdraw its force from Afar to provide humanitarian assistance in the Tigray state, Nur remembered.

He further stated that if the international community believes the rhetoric of the TPLF withdrawals from Erebtii for humanitarian reasons, they have to be logical via asking the group's rationale to stay in occupied Afar areas and launch fresh attacks to claim more territories.

Nur stressed that the international community should hold the TPLF accountable and must pressure it to end aggression, withdraw forces, and halt atrocities.

The Ethiopian government has been taking timely and vital steps to restore peace and ensure lasting stability in the country. As part of this effort, the government is living up to the humanitarian truce and staging a national dialogue to resolve years of predicaments. But TPLF and its likes have continued to be the major obstacle. In this regard, the international community should put pressure on TPLF to withdraw fully from the areas it occupies in the Afar and Amhara states to pave the way for a smooth aid delivery for those in need.

The terrorist group should only withdraw from the occupied areas; it should also disarm itself and act in good faith so that aid reaches the conflict-torn areas.

Society

Sharing beyond Holidays

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

All holidays have both spiritual and social values to every citizen. In a society like Ethiopia where religions have a special role for social bondage and cultural integration, holidays play a significant role in bringing families, friends, neighbors and others into a single roof. Sharing ideas and special cultural meals among members of the family or neighbors is one essence of holidays. These special events put people who are found in different cultures into a single space with common value systems.

Whenever holidays arrive, the economic gap of the society becomes visible. It is the moment where the haves must feel the pain of the have-nots. It should be at this moment the true meaning of love must be expressed.

As it was witnessed lately, almost all Ethiopians had been expressing their love to fellow needy Ethiopians through sharing what they got to those people in need. While marking Easter, Ethiopians have portrayed their true identity by sharing food commodities and other household consumptions to the needy, elderly people and street boys.

The role of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and others is a good example in this regard. Lately, while preparing to mark the Easter holiday, the Prime Minister has shared meals to 230 needy Ethiopians at the Palace.



According to him, sharing is one ingredient of Ethiopians. This support to the needy is one way of showing love and respect to each other.

Helping the needy, elderly citizens and individuals with mental health problems should not only be considered as a charity. It should be taken as a responsibility of every Ethiopian. As it was recently indicated by the Minister of Women and Social Affairs, Dr. Ergoge Tesfaye, supporting those Ethiopians in need of help is not an option. It is the responsibility of every Ethiopian.

As it was repeatedly indicated by religious leaders during their benediction, Passover

(*Fasika*) should be taken seriously not only as a day of satisfying one's desire. It should also be a day where everyone should feel the pain of others by sharing with the needy. Every Ethiopian should put himself/herself in the shoes of others to feel what hunger and hardship means. As it was stressed by Ethiopian Catholic Church Celery Council President, Archbishop Cardinal, Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel, Easter is all about love, sacrificing one's interest and sharing with others.

Indeed, all religions are founded based on the pillar of love, peace and sharing. As holidays are times where Ethiopians gather to mark the day with love, supporting the needy

should be part and parcel of that special day. Helping others should not only be limited to a single holyday. Helping others must be a day to day activity.

Sharing is one of the core values of every religion. Whenever people learn to share with others they are sowing a love seed in the heart of the receiver. Life is not always about what we get, it is also about what we can give to others. At the end of the day, our giving will give our heart a sense of fulfillment and joy that the world and all its treasures could not offer. It is also in giving to others that we can teach them to do the same.

In his recent interview with this journalist, Associate Professor, Adem Kemil, said that religion is all about love and sharing. The true essence of religion is creating harmony among the people. Ethiopia has received Christianity in the 350 AD and Islam in 615 AD. Religion has a key role for earthly as well as heavenly life. Man is born out of flesh and spirit. For that very reason religions have to play a key role towards guiding human kind towards peace, love and sympathy.

The secret behind every blessing is sharing. Those people who have something to share with are always blessed. Whenever an individual shares with others, he/she will earn tenfold. Providing support to the needy will create equity and fill the gaps of the needy.



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DDPARE contents and performance on refugee inclusion

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) member states held the 3rd conference of IGAD Ministers in charge of education in Addis Ababa under the theme "Accelerating access to inclusive and quality education for refugees, returnees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host communities: shared responsibilities for better results amidst the COVID-19 crisis," last week. They have discussed the Djibouti Declaration Plan of Action on Refugee Education (DDPARE). Let us see what it showcased and its performance.

On inclusion of refugee education in national education systems, the IGAD member states declared to integrate education for refugees and returnees into National Education Sector Plans by 2020. They also agreed to enhance the capacity of the members to integrate education for refugee and returnees into their respective national education systems.

As well, they have declared to ensure the protection of refugees in national education systems particularly refugee and returnee children and their psycho-social well-being through a multi sectorial approach. Besides, responding to the distinct learning needs of refugee and returnee boys and girls and ensuring that they have equitable and

inclusive access to education was part of it.

Equally, they declared to exchange good practices and expertise in the inclusion of refugee and returnee teachers in national education systems. Achieving inclusive and equitable access for refugees and returnees to quality higher education in line with national targets of host countries and countries of origin was also included in the declaration.

Similarly, simplifying the mechanism for refugee children to access quality education and facilitating their rapid entry into the national education systems were their agreement.

Regarding the performance of the action plan, IGAD Executive Secretary Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD) said on the occasion that "The Djibouti Declaration" adopted in 2017 by IGAD ministers in charge of education immensely contributed to address equitable, quality and inclusive education for forcibly displaced people. And accelerating inclusive education for refugee, returnees and host communities plays an important pathway towards the regional integration of the IGAD member states and beyond.

"It is time where the region's people stop armed engagements and start to search intellectual enlightenments," he said adding

IGAD witnesses the positive impacts of inclusive education towards the regional integration of IGAD and beyond.

Accordingly, IGAD avails various programs to facilitate inclusive education access effectively for the refugees, returnees and host communities. And IGAD commended the member states commitment to realize its vision of creating inclusive education for refugees, returnees and host communities in the region amid the COVID-19 Pandemic crisis, he noted.

Likewise, IGAD Secretariat Social Development Division Director Fathia Alwan said on the occasion, that the region hosts a very large number of refugees. "Thus, it is expected to work hand in hand to create an enabling environment for refugees and host communities to realize the Djibouti Declaration."

Moreover, IGAD adopted "The Djibouti Declaration" in 2017 that committed member states to take concrete measures to promote access to quality education for refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities. Every member states' contribution is fundamental to ensure the regional vision of attaining inclusive education for all, she said.

Ministry of Education Educational

Improvement Director General, Yohannes Wogasso told *The Ethiopian Herald* that Ethiopia plays an exemplary role to the member states through doing its level best to the fulfillment of the Djibouti Declaration. "The refugees have the right to access quality education in Ethiopia."

He reaffirmed that Ethiopia provides various supports to the refugees in the education sector including various psychosocial educations inside their camp and together with the host communities. "More importantly, the three days IGAD's technical committee and ministerial conference evaluated our performance in availing inclusive education for refugees in the past years and provided new insights to address the challenges."

Currently, Ethiopia is providing inclusive education for refugees through establishing educations centers in five states: Gambella, Benishangul Gumuz, Afar, Somali, and Tigray, he said.

Therefore, IGAD has to work still actively with its relevant partners and stakeholders like GIZ, UNHCR, UNESCO, and UNICEF, Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and the European Union (EU) to further provide quality inclusive education for refugees, returnees and IDPs effectively.

Planet Earth

Ethiopia's efforts in sustainable land management to combat climate change

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

The 52nd Earth Day was celebrated on 22 April 2022 across the world with the theme "Invest in our planet" to promote all kinds of investments to protect the health of the world with the goal of building green and prosperous future. The *earth.org* website underlined that "we need to act boldly, innovate broadly, and implement equitably" to save the planet from further damages.

"Invest in our planet" promotes collective action from everyone, everything and every day in combating climate change, investing on green developments and minimizing negative investments that affects the health of the planet.

Ethiopia, among the world leaders in climate action and sustainable land management, has also celebrated the day by organizing a discussion forum with stakeholders. The central point of the discussion was environmental pollution and controlling methods in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is investing its maximum efforts and capacities in protecting the environment, combating climate change with adaptation and mitigation measures. Ethiopia's policies, strategies, actions and activities focus on building climate resilient green economy, poverty reduction through increasing agricultural productivity and sustainable use of land.

Ethiopian population resides in the rural parts of the country dominantly agrarian society with small holder agricultural farming. Hence, Ethiopia's economic attention focuses on transforming the agriculture sector to increase agricultural production by caring for the environment, conserving nature and properly managing the available land.

To protect its natural resources and to conserve and protect the environment, annually, Ethiopia mobilizes tens of millions to invest on water and soil conservation mechanisms across the country with two months of free public service. In 2022 water and soil conservation campaign, Ethiopia covers over 2.5 million hectares of land by different conservation and protection methods.

Similarly, during the rainy season every year, Ethiopia develops the culture of seedling plantation in all corners by mobilizing all capable people. This culture now becomes a huge national project after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power. The 2019-launched National Green Legacy Initiative helps the country to secure over 17 billion seedlings within three years.

These annual initiatives have multidimensional benefits. It helps the country in environmental protection, to increase its agricultural production by conserving the environment and to

combat climate change. On the other hand, by increasing the forest coverage of the country, it helps the country to get additional rain, to combat desertification and drought.

Parallel to these investments and initiatives, Ethiopia gives due attention for sustainable land management that aims both to develop the household productivity of the agrarian society, majority of its population, and to use the natural resources and the land properly and manageably. To modernize the land management and to develop sustainable land management system, Ethiopia applied and initiated different policies and strategies so far and these efforts are scoring positive outcomes in building sustainable land management.

In 2019, the World Bank stated Ethiopia a country "among the world leaders in Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and climate action." The World Bank added that though Ethiopia invests its maximum capacities in sustainable land management, land degradation still affects about one in five people in the country. This affects the productivity of the small holder agriculture sector significantly which affects the rural growth and poverty reduction efforts of the country.

According to the 2019's WB information, Ethiopia's economy is highly climate sensitive and the century's adaptive capacity is so far was low. This makes the country among the most vulnerable to climate change countries of the world. To combat this vulnerability to climate change and its devastating impacts, Ethiopia's responses to climate change and conserving the environment are multidimensional which makes the country among the leading global countries in giving due attention for nature.

These multidimensional efforts of Ethiopia include investing on sustainable land management to combat the rural poverty by transforming the agriculture sector and increasing its productivity. WB underlined that "intersection of land management, rights, and use is a key development issue for millions of rural Ethiopians facing water, food, land tenure, and livelihood insecurities."

Appreciating Ethiopia's positive achievements and results in addressing land degradation using its internal capacity, WB urges further interventions and supports for transformative and lasting scale up of sustainable land management interventions in Ethiopia. Strengthening national, regional and local institutions would help to increase the country's internal efforts in advancing and developing its sustainable land management system and maintain restored landscapes over the long term.

Ethiopia applied issuance of holding certificates to farmers' as incentives to restore watersheds a functioning, modern

rural land administration system and national database is needed to ensure the security of land tenure. By enhancing the issuance of holding certificates that restored by the farmers themselves as incentive, according to Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture over 400 thousand hectares of land becomes free from animal contact that was seriously affected with over grazing.

The farmers who invest in restoring and conserving an affected area got holding certificates to use it for income generation from green investments. This new mechanisms initiates the people to conserve their surroundings and increase their environmental protection. The issuance of holding certificate promotes the people to use the land properly and develops green development which has a huge positive impact in protecting the ecology and biodiversity of the ecosystems.

To support these Ethiopia's initiatives and to address the limitations, the WB in 2019 applied the Climate Action through Landscape Management (CALM) Program approved to finance Ethiopia's sustainable land management initiatives. CALM was an initiative to deliver action on climate change through payments for results in participatory watershed management, and rural land administration and consolidating gains through institutional reform, WB noted. This aims to help Ethiopia to meet its climate resilience and mitigation goals and to sustainably manage its natural resources.

The CALM, a five years results-based financing by WB to the Government of Ethiopia that aims to increase the adoption of sustainable land management practices and to expand access to secure land tenure in rural areas of Ethiopia is bringing positive outcomes in recovering affected areas and conserving the natural ecology and ecosystems. The program was initiated to reach 280 woredas in functioning modern land registry and to build up to five thousand watersheds of the Ethiopian highlands as well as up to eight million landholding certificates.

The implementation of the sustainable land management system of Ethiopia is now playing crucial role in reducing land degradation through recovery and conservation projects. In addition the SLM program in Ethiopia is contributing in improving the livelihoods of the rural population by making the agriculture resilient to climate change. The performance based issuance of holding certificate to the society is bringing sustainable outcomes both in changing the livelihoods of the rural population and in sustainable recovery of the degraded mountainous areas.

This sustainable land management system shows significant positive outcomes in basin development and recovery of degraded mountainous areas.

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