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Scholar unveils T-TPLF's appalling sexual assaults

• Refutes false accusations on ENDF

BY KFLEEYESUS ABEBE

ADDIS ABABA- Rape and other sexual assaults had been common during the Terrorist TPLF's 27-year and plus oppressive regime in the Tigray State, a noted Tigraian academician said.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, an academician and former Mekelle University lecturer Prof. Haregewoin Assefa gave the testimony that the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) did not commit harm to the civilian community amidst intense military conflict. "Though war by its very nature makes situations uncontrollable; the ENDF were rather promoting brotherhood and unity."

The professor also recalled the case of a certain colonel, who reportedly raped 50 women and left unpunished during TPLF rule. "Women at the age of 15 and 16 have become commercial sex workers in Mekelle and it is common for the officials to even force married women to do whatever they want. Since T-TPLF was an absolute club of stubborn gangs with no respect for women's dignity, it could be by no means

See Scholar unveils ... page 3



Photo: Tsehay Nigusse

Ethiopia envisions streamlining industry's economic share

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA- Viable policies that helped build massive infrastructure and bring about human development with the commitment of the government are expected to enhance the current 6.8 percent share of the manufacturing industry to 17.2 percent, the Ministry of Industry said.

Speaking at the panel discussion and a photo exhibition the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) organized at Dire Dawa, Industry Minister Melaku Alebel stated that, further plans enhance industrial sector productivity from the current 50 percent to 85. "In order to ensure the sustainability of a recently launched campaign entitled "Ethiopia Produces" a number of activities have been undertaken to catalyze the manufacturing sector.

The minister further noted that, the campaign

See Ethiopia envisions ... page 3



Photo: Dagne Abera

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Photo: Eyob Teferi

Nation earns over 458 mln. USD from mineral export

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia has secured over 458 million USD over the last nine months of the current fiscal year exporting precious minerals chiefly gold, jewelry and industry minerals, the Ministry of Mines said.

Presenting the sector's nine months performance before the House of Peoples' Representatives yesterday, the Mines Minister Takele Uma stated consolidated activities have been carried out to enhance

See Nation earns ... page 3

Addis becomes FIFA World Cup Trophy first African destination

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA-The FIFA World Cup Trophy arrived in Addis Ababa yesterday, its first African destination for the most prestigious cup's extensive world tour, sponsored by the Coca-Cola Company.

Upon arrival at Bole International Airport, the Trophy was warmly welcomed by Culture and Sport Minister Kejela Merdasa along with other senior government officials. The Trophy, which has been brought here by former Chelsea and Barcelona footballer

See Addis becomes... page 3

News

Civil disobedience key to break T-TPLF's chain: Politician

BY HAILE DEMEKE



ADDIS ABABA –Defiance to the Terrorist TPLF's renewed belligerence is something expected from the people of Tigray to break the chain that the criminal faction set on the society, the Tigray Democratic Party (TDP) made the call.

TDP General Secretary Gidena Medhin told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that, the people of Tigray have been facing untold misery and unbearable challenges due to T-TPLF. Hence, they have to exert civil disobedience and refuse to collaborate with the radical element with a view to breaking the siege. "As T-TPLF is number one enemy of the people of Tigray, they have to strongly fight it at any cost."

The radical clique is deceiving the youth using its well-crafted propaganda as if the people from other areas are the enemy of the people of Tigray so as to achieve its ill-intended goal. "We would like to call on the entire people not to cooperate T-TPLF as it is trying to divert their attention and

engage them into other round of devastating war. It is enough! The youth should not be deceived by its lies and they need to understand that the only foe of the Tigray people is TPLF itself."

T-TPLF has never had the cult to reasoning and winning in ideas; it has been hugely engaged in the killing, torturing and intimidating the people of Tigray since its establishment. "The terrorist group is well known in the forceful recruitment of underage soldier since its inception, the politician added.

As to Gidena, the people Tigray should object T-TPLF's forced conscription and ask the latter of the whereabouts of their over 300,000 children. At the time of many ethnic Tigrayan youth were killed, injured and their whereabouts are still unknown by the faction, still its leaders wants to recruit more youth to another round of war.

A lot is expected from the Tigray people to discourage T-TPLF's militancy and forced the claue to resolve differences in a peaceful and democratic manner, he emphasized.

Dire Dawa committed to attract local, foreign investors

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Dire Dawa Mayor Kedir Juhar said his administration is fully committed to provide the necessary support for both local and foreign investors who want to be involved in the city's untapped investment opportunities.

Speaking at the photo exhibition and panel discussion the Ethiopian Press Agency hosted in Dire Dawa recently, the Mayor stated that, the city has untapped investment opportunities especially, agriculture, agro-processing, hospitality and manufacturing sectors, among many others. The city administration has been closely working relevant stakeholders to create conducive business climate.

Dire Dawa is also in a strategic location; 300

km away from the Port of Djibouti that could allow businesses to import and export goods easily and amicably. The railway that passes through Dire Dawa is another contributing factor to investment that any investor can reach the Djibouti Port only within five to seven hours journey, the Mayor elaborated.

"Not only natural resources, but we do have skilled and disciplined labor force that can operate heavy industries efficiently."

Preparations to support incoming investors have been completed though further initiatives are being explored. In this case, the administration has been working steadily to pull new investment with respect to the potential resources. Beyond the major industrial park, medium-sized facilities have been constructed by the effort of the city administration, Kedir noted.



Kedir Juhar

Photo: Dagne Abera

WFP says over 10,000 tonnes humanitarian supplies arrive in Tigray

- Appraises trucks return

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDISABABA – The World Food Program of Ethiopia (WFP) said over 10,000 tonnes of food and other critical supplies have arrived into the Tigray State on two convoys including the largest so far-163 trucks.

WFP and partners will continue to scale up deliveries-thanks to the return of over 100 trucks that had been in Tigray since July 2021, the program said in its official twitter

page. It is to be recalled that the Government of Ethiopia and other stakeholders have been repeatedly blaming the Terrorist TPLF for seizing the aid convoys and deployed the trucks to transport combatants.

Meanwhile, the WFP indicated Southern Ethiopia is experiencing the direst conditions recorded since 1981 and it is not just feeding those affected but also working to help drought-prone communities for the longer term.



WFP convey reaches the first largest tons of food and other critical supplies in to Tigray state

News

Center underscores import substitution significance

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDISA ABABA- Leather and Leather Products Industry Research and Development Center said it has been working to achieve the national import substitution strategy through capacitance on the manufacturing capacity of enterprises.

The center has also announced that it has saved over 144 million USD expenses through substituting leather and leather products importation over the past ten months.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Center's Communication Team Leader Biruk Tilahun said that, it is striving for achieving the national import substitution strategy through capacitance on the manufacturing capacity of the enterprises that are engaged in the leather sector. Hence, the government has allowed the enterprises to enjoy tax free importation of inputs and get them prioritized to obtain foreign currency.

He stressed that the sector has generated over 34 million USD from exporting leather products over the aforesaid period.



He also underscored that the center has been working to support the enterprises through identifying and implementing issues related to the sector by conducting different problem solving research. Hence, the sector has done two problem solving researches and implemented the results of the investigation in the sector.

Likewise, the center has been working to enhance income from the sector through working with different international organizations like the European Union and others.

He said, "Over 5200 job opportunities were created for unemployed people over the past ten months on a permanent basis."

Addis becomes FIFA World...

Juliano Belletti then headed to the National Palace and was received by President Sahle-Work Zewde.

The Trophy will be on display to the general public today at Meskel Square in the capital.

The first phase of the FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola kicked off in Dubai last week and is expected to cover 22 countries between May and June, four of which are in Africa in which Ethiopia becomes the first recipient of the FIFA World CUP Trophy.

The FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place in Qatar from 21 November to 18, 2022 December.



Ethiopia envisions streamlining...

will have a significant role in enhancing related economic sectors apart from scaling up the performance of the manufacturing industry. Accordingly, important lessons and experiences are drawn for making closed industries operational, supporting manufacturing industries to scale up their productivity and attracting new investments thereby creating sizable jobs.

'Ethiopia Produces' campaign was started last year and experiences from countries including Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Japan have been drawn. On the other hand, the ministry has taken lessons from other countries' mistakes so as to harness the manufacturing industry's potential."

Per the essences of the national campaign of "Ethiopia produces," all stakeholders

are expected to ease the manufacturing industry's shortcomings and help it to become more successful, Melaku added. Currently, activities are underway to locally produce military and student uniforms and widen the import substitution to streamline the export business.

As to him, the 'Ethiopia produces' is not a short term campaign rather continues annually so as to improve the productivity of the manufacturing industry. Improving the performance of the manufacturing sector is possible by creating viable conditions for doing business, making local products competitive and conducting problem solving research, among other viable interventions.

Sustainably supporting the sector is of paramount importance in buttressing

industrial productivity from 50 to 85 percent. As far as creating job opportunities using the sector is concerned, the ministry has capitalized on schemes that will help create over five million jobs in the coming ten years.

Though, the manufacturing industry has a potential to generate nine billion USD, currently it is making about 400 million USD and the ministry is working to exploit the sector's full potential to ease the pressing for ex crunch. The manufacturing industry has now received due attention and priority as the government has well recognized its viable potential in reinvigorating the country's economic potential, the minister elaborated.

Scholar...

have the moral high ground to criticize Ethiopia's disciplined and committed army."

Noting that, she went in 2020 to teach at Mekelle University, Haregewoin bitterly recalled the absolute lawlessness in Tigray which left dishonored several children and women by T-PLF. "When the war broke out, the criminal faction began disseminating fabricated news projecting that the Ethiopian forces involved in rape, but they themselves had run a rampant rape in Tigray. This is the reality indeed."

For instance, in a forum Mekele University organized before the war, I heard very shocking news from activists, journalists and physicians that there were critical rape cases. Nobody was able to challenge it when I put it on my Facebook page. Imagine what will happen during war time if these people have committed all sorts of crimes in normal circumstances masking in their power shed. Besides, the power vacuum created exacerbated the condition. On the contrary, I have seen Ethiopian soldiers helping the community around in harvesting crops, maintaining tattered huts and chasing colonies of locust before the war. Unless ordered to discharge missions, defense members never left their compound let alone being engaged in rape cases," she emphasized.

Nation earns...

the contribution of the mining sector to the overall economic progress. "Overcoming the pressing hurdles, the mining sector is now booming."

Noting the plan set to produce 6,553 kg of gold in the reported period, the Minister indicated 6,947 kg (106 percent of the plan) has been delivered to the National Bank of Ethiopia that helped earn 439.67 million USD. The current gold production surpassed that of the past year same period by 12 percent.

Meanwhile 2,317.05 kg of jewelry mines (103 percent of the plan) 79 tons of tantalum, 7,363 tons of industry mines and 2,000 tons of sodium bromide were produced and exported in the reported period. Also, the ministry planned to supply 4.8 million tons of industrial minerals to the domestic market and achieved 4.6 million tons. From its plan to supply 34.515 million cubic meters of construction inputs to the domestic market, the ministry achieved 36.84 million cubic meters.

For the reported period, the Ministry of Mines planned to generate 759.51 million Birr from various minerals supplied to the domestic market and 290.2 million Birr has been earned in this regard, Takele remarked.

Opinion

Africa Day symbolises Continent's aspirations

The Embassy of the Russian Federation sent to *The Ethiopian Herald* President Vladimir Putin's message on the Day of Africa addressed to the Heads of State and Government of African Countries, here is the full text.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please accept my warmest wishes on the occasion of Africa Day, a holiday that symbolises the aspirations of your continent's nations to freedom, independence, peace and prosperity.

This year marks the 20th anniversary since the Organisation of African Unity was transformed into the African Union. This event signified the transition of the multilateral panAfrican structure to a qualitatively higher level of interaction in the political, socioeconomic and other domains.

Over the last two decades, African states have achieved a great deal through their joint efforts. Collective response mechanisms have been put in place to manage local conflicts and crisis situations, various formats of regional integration processes have been consistently promoted. Africa enjoys growing influence in the world arena, playing an ever-increasing role in addressing important issues on the international agenda.

Our country has always attached particular importance to the development of friendly relations with African partners. The 2019 Russia – Africa Summit in Sochi created good conditions for enhancing our fruitful cooperation, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels. I am confident that, working together, we will be able to develop and implement many useful and forward-looking projects and initiatives in a wide range of areas – to the benefit of our countries and peoples and in the interests of greater security and stability in Africa and the world at large.

I sincerely wish you good health and every success in fulfilling your state duties, as well as peace, well-being and prosperity to all your compatriots.

Vladimir Putin, Russian President

Rice, Power & Smith: The Trilateral Axis of Shevil with Ethiopia in Their Crossfire!

BY ALMARIAM

PART TWO

Samantha Power, USAID administrator and the TPLF Goddess of Lies

In Roman mythology, "Fraus" was the Goddess of Lies. "Frau" in German means woman. Samantha Power is the Goddess of Lies in American foreign policy mythology or disinformation. Hell hath no fury like a woman in love with the terrorist TPLF!

Fraus Samantha has been crying wolf and perpetuating mythology/ disinformation about famine and starvation in the northern Ethiopian province of Tigray for the past year.

The lies, damned lies and disinformation of Fraus Samantha

On May 11, 2022, Fraus Samantha testified (actually testiLIED) before Congress that the Ethiopian government is withholding "warehouses of food" from starving people in Tigray.

Today, May 17, 2022, USAID Ethiopia tweeted:

As #Ethiopia faces its worst #drought in 40 years, @USAID is surging our support with over \$152 million in aid. We're helping thousands of health extensions workers like Ferhiya (pic'd here) to screen hundreds of thousands of children for severe malnutrition in all regions. (Italics added.)

Is Ethiopia facing "famine", "drought" or "severe malnutrition"? Fraus Samantha has been systematically feeding the world lies, damned lies and disinformation on cutoff/ blockage of delivery of humanitarian aid and crying wolf about famine and starvation in Tigray for the last year beginning in May 2021.

On May 19, 2021, Fraus Samantha tweeted, "WARNING: Conflict causing extreme hunger in #Tigray; 5M+ people need humanitarian aid. Our early warning system now detects category 5 food emergency. THERE IS NO CATEGORY 6." There was

no extreme hunger.

On June 2, 2021, Frau Samantha tweeted, "Ethiopia has seen famine of disastrous proportions before and could see it again within months." There was no famine.

On June 9, 2021, Fraus Samantha issued a statement announcing she "held an urgent meeting on famine and atrocities in Tigray." There was no famine!

On July 31, 2021, Fraus Samantha announced, "Over 100,000 children could face extreme starvation in Ethiopia's Tigray region." There was no extreme starvation!

On August 21, 2021, Fraus Samantha issued a statement, "In Tigray, where hundreds of thousands are facing famine, food warehouses are virtually empty." There was no famine!

Fraus Samantha is crying wolf about a famine that does not exist because she is weaponizing the myth of famine to mobilize Western public opinion, demonize Ethiopia, impose sanctions and in the process restore the terrorist TPLF to power in Ethiopia.

Is Samantha Power a born liar or a victim of pseudologia fantastica, a psychiatric syndrome of compulsive lying?!

Gayle Smith, Former USAID administrator

Gayle Smith reportedly was the "mistress" of a TPLF terrorist by the nickname (nom de guerre "Jamaica") in the early 1980s.

Smith was a "close confidant to the leadership of the TPLF" and spent the "decade of the 1980's as the liaison between the CIA and Meles Zenawi."

Smith "is the person most responsible for the rise to power and elevation to international leadership status of Ethiopia's Meles Zenawi, one of the most corrupt, bloodthirsty genocidal killers of modern times."

Gayle Smith has been a dyed-in-the-wool TPLF supporter and an employee of REST (Relief Society of Tigray (Maret), an organization created and controlled by the late Meles Zenawi and his TPLF party.

A May 1991 Christian Science Monitor report offers a perspective on Smith and her relationship with the TPLF. "One of the few Westerners, who speaks the Tigre language and has had many contacts with Zenawi over a nine-year period, is Gayle Smith, an American who worked for Tigre's relief agency, REST, during the 1985-6 drought." (Emphasis added.)

In May 1990, exactly a year before Meles Zenawi and his TPLF thugs marched on the Ethiopian capital, Smith pleaded for severe sanctions against the military junta ruling Ethiopia at the time. That is what she and her Axis friends are doing today.

In her testimony before Congress, Smith argued for "increasing pressure on the Mengistu regime" and recommended "expanded and sustained to the cross border operations in a comprehensive fashion to support the TPLF and EPLF".

Specifically, Smith recommended, "In particular, support to the cross-border programs should include not only food but also the provision of trucks, spare parts, fuel storage, medical and other emergency relief supplies and administrative costs."

She further urged the U.S. to "ensure that relief items originally consigned to the Port of Massawa for delivery after 8 February 1990 have been or will be re-consigned to the Port of Sudan." (Emphasis added.)

In her earlier Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP) analysis, Smith, just before she became a REST employee, explained that when the "Ethiopian famine burst on the scene in Tigray in late 1984, the second and third [famine relief] operations both began at Port Sudan and entered Eritrea and Tigray at points along the eastern Sudanese border. These were run by the Eritrean Relief Association (ERA) and the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), respectively."

What is amazing is the fact that the "food, trucks, spare parts, fuel, storage, medical

and other emergency relief supplies" that were delivered in Port Sudan were being used to support Zenawi's TPLF rebel army.

What Meles Zenawi and his REST operation did with the relief aid they received in 1984-85 is a shocking story of theft and conversion of humanitarian relief for military purposes, including the diversion of food aid to feed Meles' rebel army.

I have documented the scope of that theft and misappropriation of humanitarian aid in my November 2014 commentary "TPLF Licensed to Steal".

Unfettered humanitarian access?!

Samantha Power barks daily on Twitter about "unfettered humanitarian access to Tigray." Power utters the phrase, but Susan Rice makes Power bark it out/tweet it daily. The strategy behind "unfettered humanitarian access to Tigray" is the same as in 1990-91:

Force the Ethiopian government to allow trucks into Tigray unsupervised and uninspected as they carry food and humanitarian supplies on top of AK47s, grenade launchers, artillery shells, RPGs and spare parts for transport trucks and armor stolen from the Ethiopian government.

Heed the old saying Trilateral Axis of Shevil: "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me."

Or in the memorable words of George Bush II, "There's an old saying in Tennessee — I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee — that says, fool me once, shame on — shame on you. Fool me — you can't get fooled again."

Yes, indeed. Ethiopia can't get fooled again!

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

Renewing commitment to realize better Africa!

The year 2021 was monumental in reigniting the engine of true freedom and sovereignty in Africa. Ethiopians and Eritreans living in the US had led the famous #Nomore movement in opposition to western intervention in the affairs of Ethiopia in particular and that of Africa in general.

Ethiopians, Eritreans and descendants of the respective nations had voiced their disapproval of those who were intervening in the sovereign issues of the Horn of African countries.

A number of letters were delivered to politicians and diplomats of countries of the western hemisphere. In an unprecedented manner, on November 21, 2021, the Ethiopians, Eritreans and their friends from several African countries had been taken to the streets of major cities of Europe and the US in condemnation of the malicious policies being pursued by the governments in the western part of the world.

The whole idea is clear and succinct—"We Africans have the wisdom and capability to deal with our own problem, and we urged the elements to get their hands off our domestic matters." Participants representing almost all backgrounds be that political activism, academics, journalism, businesses and what have you sent their messages to authorities in the countries of their residence.

The movement had spread like a wildfire. A new version of #Nomore mushroomed in West Africa as well. And people of the region aligned the movement with their concrete and current problem. The result was encouraging.

The #Nomore movement represents the wishes of Africans. We Africans need to live a better life. Our resources must be channeled meaningfully to chart out a better future, a future those sons and daughters of Africa live peacefully, in harmony, and being prosperous in all aspects.

It is insanity to undermine our genius. It was also a complete ignorance of the colonizers to consider Africans as lesser beings. The lessons must be learnt. Imperial forces paid an enormous cost as a result of that ignorance. Their firepower supremacy did not save them from defeat at the Battle of Adwa. Whether one likes it or not, the issue is all about justice. No level of technology or whatsoever guarantees the upper hand in such fights. Justice always prevails over injustice. Ethiopians have given a profound lesson to those unjust forces even in the recent chapter of an all-out war waged against them. The media, satellite, diplomatic and other forms of support that were showered on the Terrorist TPLF had been made useless.

We now need no tricky slogan. No race has a burden to civilize or prosper the other one. We all are created equal human beings. All the required resources are here including human power. Of course, we have equal responsibility as part and parcel of the global community to collaborate in the effort of building a better world for all of us. As Ethiopians and Africans, we have the brunt of transforming the way we live for the better. It is incumbent upon Africa as well to meaningfully participate in the international arena including in the UN. We Africans need proper representations in the UN Security Council and similar other multilateral platforms as part of the global community.

That is why the #Nomore movement must continue taking various forms and shapes. We must renew our commitment today as we are marking the African Day to keep on the good fight, a fight to realize our aspiration of inclusive and sustainable development per the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom and progress and collective prosperity as we clearly stated them in our blueprint—Agenda 2063.

Happy Africa Day!

Opinion

Celebrating Africa Day

BY MEVLÜT ÇAVUŞOĞLU, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

Today, we celebrate Africa Day with enthusiasm in the Continent and in Türkiye.

We remember with appreciation African nations coming together under a single roof on May 25th, 1963. This day signifies a tough journey for independence and freedom, and a common consciousness based on solidarity and unity of the Continent. The success story attained in the following decades in this spirit, through the efforts of powerful and acclaimed African Leaders, attests to the bright future of the Continent.

Despite the historical injustices during colonial times, global apathy towards natural disasters and famine, and unacceptable external interferences, the strength of African nations to withstand these enormous challenges is outstanding. With its young and dynamic population, vast resources, rich and deep-rooted culture and history, the African Continent promises enormous potential for a more just, more equitable and better world in the 21st Century. Africa means hope and we are partners in this journey.

Türkiye is in a privileged position. In the last 20 years, Türkiye has become an "African hub" in its region with its ever-increasing number of African diplomatic representations along with its dynamic African diaspora comprised of students, business people and tourists. Our 44 Embassies in the Continent as well as 37 African Embassies in Ankara make Africa Day more meaningful for us.

African nations see us as a reliable partner and a close friend. It is a pleasure for us to host African interlocutors, often African leaders, in Ankara every month. President Erdoğan ranks first in terms of the number of visits to Africa.

Turkish Airlines, continues to reunite Africa with the rest of the world, and recovering from the effects of the pandemic, currently flies to 44 destinations in 35 African countries. The presence of African students in universities all over Türkiye is ever increasing, thanks to hundreds of Türkiye Scholarships granted annually. So far, Türkiye has granted over 15 thousand scholarships to African students.

As a strategic partner of the African Union (AU), we have jointly organized three Summits on Türkiye-Africa Partnership in 2008, 2014 and 2021. The Third Partnership Summit was held under the theme "Enhanced Partnership for Common Development and Prosperity", on 16-18 December 2021, in İstanbul, with participation of 38 African countries. We are now eagerly implementing the decisions approved at the Summit in close cooperation with all our African friends, in order to bring our relations with the Continent to a whole new and elevated level. We now aim to mutually benefit from our increased collaboration with the AU and African regional organizations in other international platforms such as the UN and the OIC.

Türkiye, also by hosting the UN Technology Bank is proud to be an important development partner for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in implementing UN Sustainable Development Goals. African countries have much to benefit from the Bank's services in

building and enhancing their technology and innovation capacity.

Our shared vision in global issues also plays an important role in advancement of Türkiye-Africa relations. In this framework, Türkiye shares the same basic expectations for the global order long since advocated by African countries on effective multilateralism and structural reform of the UN. In this regard, historical injustices towards the Continent need to be addressed, including by enhancing representation of African countries at the UN Security Council.

It is a collective responsibility to work for maintaining a peaceful, stable and secure Africa. To this end, as a country that has long suffered from terrorism, we are committed to strengthen our cooperation with the AU to fight and eliminate all forms and manifestations of terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization, as announced in the Third Summit Joint Declaration.

Our economic cooperation with African nations is ever increasing. By the end of 2021, our trade volume reached 34,5 billion Dollars, increasing almost seven-fold in the past two decades. The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation we signed with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat will further boost this volume. Our target, however, is beyond trade. Türkiye, has been and will be supporting its African friends in their quest for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development and prosperity based on equal partnership and mutual respect. Hence, we underscore our "win-win" principle on every occasion.

We applaud the robust and innovative policies and programmes introduced by the African Union to expedite the development of the Continent. Agenda 2063 is the flagship programme that can unleash the Continent's potential and bring about hope and prosperity to all, which we wholeheartedly support. Our Government and official agencies have carried out efforts in line with the 2063 Agenda. The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), through its 22 representatives across the Continent, and the National Disaster Relief Agency (AFAD), as well as the Turkish Red Crescent have spearheaded millions of Dollars-worth sustainable development projects and in-kind aid in Sub-Saharan Africa. Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Centers serve in 7 African countries and Maarif Foundation continues to provide educational services in 25 African countries with 191 institutions.

Even during the most turbulent times, Türkiye continued to be in solidarity with the Continent. We supported our African friends during the pandemic including through vaccine donations.

Owing to our centuries-old historical, cultural and human relations, we will continue to be in unity and solidarity with African countries as strong partners.

Happy Africa Day to all!

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

Business & Economy

Curbing inflation through short and long term methods to stabilize the economy

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

In a country where more than half of the population spends their entire income on food and basic necessities, the slightest of increases in food prices are alarming. In line with this, when the surging of price is exacerbated, the cumulative impacts could be extremely high. The salary of public servants, on the contrary, has not shown any significant rise over the past three years. Yet, the latest monthly inflation rate has reached 26.4 percent, while food inflation reached 30 percent, Professor Alemayehu Gedaa, an economist and instructor at Addis Ababa University said.

As to him, to keep inflation at lower level, some policy measures have to be taken and among others improving fiscal and monetary policies are essential.

He further said that devaluing the value of Birr against the Dollar by the National Bank of Ethiopia exacerbates inflation. Besides, importers incur additional price on the commodities when they import the commodities from abroad because they buy Dollar from banks with expensive price as a result of the devaluation of Birr against Dollar. In the end, consumers will pay the inflated price.

According to Alemayehu, the tax policy also must be adjusted because, the tax rate highly hurts lower income group particularly the civil servants than the higher income group.

By the same token, the tariff imposed on imported goods must be reduced because it has its own negative impact on the market in which consumers shoulder the end price.

The Ethiopian Economic Association recently made a study on the chronic inflation which critically hits the ordinary citizens' day to day life. The study indicates that the problems can be categorized as structural that are impossible to resolve in short period.

According to Degiye Goshu (PhD), a researcher at Ethiopian Economic Association and instructor at Kotebe University of Education, the study identified the main problems and forwarded the possible solutions which can be implemented in short, medium and long terms.

In the short term, addressing the shortage of supply of commodities and supervising the value chain from producers up to consumers is recommended. In addition to implementing the plan, neutral board should be established.

He further said that the market should be governed by supply and demand rule and each actor should play fairly the game and for the short term, the board established to lead the market must act



Unless controlled, inflation can be out of control and means of unrest

accordingly. The board also must identify which commodity shall get priority to be produced and supplied to the market. It should also identify and decide which commodity must get priority to be imported.

Currently, food items inflation has risen to 33 percent and to reduce the percentage in the coming years, strategy should be formulated and implemented.

As it is known, though the nation pursues market economy, the government still plays the dominant role in the economy. Land is monopolized by the government. It is a major component for the process of wealth creation when it is combined with capital and human labor. And the allocation of land both for manufacturing and agriculture manifests the government's monopoly of ownership.

Institutional weakness and bureaucratic hurdles stagnates access to land which in turn makes development activities to go in snail-pace. On the other hand, to support the ordinary citizens, the government plays crucial role in closing market gaps through strategic subsidy on basic commodities such as imported edible oil, petroleum, fertilizer and others.

However, as to Degiye, the government should not equally treat the high income class and the low income ones those struggling to make a living. In this regard, it has to identify which segment of the society should be benefited from the government's subsidy or else it lose huge amount of revenue which would have been allocated for development and ultimately harms the economic growth.

Therefore, it has to identify which sector needs subsidy and policy intervention. In addition, all sectors should evaluate the positive or negative impact of the introduction of homegrown economic reform which has been implemented for the last three years.

According to Degiye, in order to bring

short term remedy for the pervasive inflation, taking the utilization of Franco Valuta as opportunity is essential.

The importation of basic commodities such as edible oil through Franco Valuta could alleviate inflation problems and in a similar way the government should allow importers to import spare parts and other inputs used in manufacturing in such a way.

In fact, some argue that the experiment of Franco Valuta aggravates illegal trade and black market but as to him, currently it is common that many Ethiopians when they come from Dubai and other country, they bring full of bags of clothes which they purchased by their own hard currency without opening letter of credit from local banks. Therefore, it can be said that the importation of commodities through Franco valuta is already existed even before the government gave green light to the practice. And it should be recognized that the system brings some solution for the shortage of hard currency in this country.

In addition to these, selected commodities such as agricultural inputs and medicines should be allowed to be imported through Franco valuta. The other thing that should be taken as an option to stabilize the economy is adjusting the interest rate of deposited money in the banks.

Currently, depositors in Ethiopia obtain less interest from banks as compared to other countries. As a result, customers have become reluctant to deposit their money in the banks. Therefore, the amount of money circulated in the market and existed out of banks is increasing from time to time which in turn aggravates the inflation.

On the contrary, banks obtain more profit from borrowers because their interest rate when lending the money to borrowers is very high. Thus, banks should encourage their customers to deposit more money through increasing the interest rate.

On the other hand, the tariff which imposed on imported goods which is very high should be reduced. The reason for this is traders compensate what they lost resulted from the tariff by incurring additional price on the commodities which ultimately the burden is loaded on the consumers.

The African free trade tariff must be reduced to the lower level. It is impossible to experiment free market with imposing tariff on commodities up to 400 percent. In such a situation, liberalizing the financial sector which is the government's aspiration is unthinkable.

As mentioned above, the bureaucratic hurdles witnessed in the provision of land plot procedure further aggravates inflation because when investors spend more money to obtain the land and to construct the production firms, they compensate what they spent in their initial phase by adding new price on what they produced.

According to the study of Ethiopian Economic Association, five years ago, the accomplishment of the utilization of land in the city was 96 percent but currently, it is plummeted to 21 percent. Of late, the provision of land to investors for agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors is not properly managed. It should be supplied on time and with fair price. The construction and the real estate development works do not go in a speedy manner as it is expected therefore, it must be improved.

The other thing which is responsible for the rampant inflation is the pervasive and chronic corruption witnessed here and there. Particularly, since 2018, it has been growing. Hence, fighting corruption should be taken as a means to reduce inflation. Because corrupted officials of the government spend the money excessively in the market which in turn poses shortage of commodity supply which again aggravates the inflation.

As to Degiye, to curb corruption, introducing electronic market can be taken as a way out and to that extent expanding the Information Communication Technology infrastructure and increasing the number of well qualified persons is essential. This method, on top of mitigating corruption, enables creating job opportunities to the youth and produces technological outputs and supply to the world market.

Degiye further noted that since 2015, the government has introduced the exportation of new products to the world market which is appreciable. But the volume of the products is negligible and its impact in increasing the nation's foreign currency earning capacity is very tiny. Therefore, scaling up the volume of the products must be underlined.

Art & Culture

One thing you must never never forget!

BY KFLEEEYESUS ABEBE

I have the culture of rewatching movies again and again. I have watched "Rush hour" many times. I have also watched "Groundhog Day" every now and then. I am also watching the 2020 movie "unhinged" for its suspense and message. In fact, I have suggested to many of my friends to watch this movie with a hype "It could be a very good example in making movies." In many of the movies I watch, I try to get at least one idea. The chances of not finding a single idea is very slim. If it doesn't, that means I will never watch that movie again.

But one of the movies I watched lately was so intense. It is not the story that attracted me much but there is one sound bite that is left with me. The movie "bad batch" is dystopian film- an imagined state or society where there is great suffering or injustice. In the movie, I found Persian poet Rumi's saying to be at the center of what the movie is all about. The character in the movie was repeatedly saying :

"If you forget everything else but not this, you have nothing to worry about.

There is one thing you must never forget.

Never Never Never Never Never forget!

If you remember everything else but you forget this one thing

If you remember everything else but you forget one thing you will do nothing in your life. Nothing Nothing

This is the one thing one thing you must never forget !"

When the character is asked what that thing is he replied" "you figure it out yourself".

"Find out for yourself.

You find out for yourself.

No one is gonna tell you. You have to figure it out for yourself."



Yes, we have to figure out what is that one thing. But to my understanding, what is described as "everything else" is power, money, prestige. These are some of the things we chase day and night. We may have this but again we still maybe sad. Even if we don't have those, we can still be happy. As the movie is set in times of great suffering or injustice, it wants us to be determined in all circumstances. To be unshakeable when life takes different turns, we need to identify what our purpose in life. It is when we find our purposes, it is when know the meaning we will be happy of our achievements. Material on its own or any other thing by itself may not be all fulfilling.

It says: "you forget one thing you will done

nothing in your life." In this world of ours we see people going ups and downs in life. There is so many struggle. In the street of Addis Ababa people are seen hurriedly going here and there to make a living. But some of us have forgot what we really need in life. With the constant motion of life, we must have forgotten what is really important. We get the money, we get power or wisdom then we say what then? You may have witnessed emotional gap in those who we think "have everything they need." I think they have forgotten that one thing: maybe purpose or meaning or reason. Till they get that they will be insecure about life. Life's journey will be emotionless where there is no true love, happiness, fulfillment in life.

The irony is this thing is easy to find. Like it says: "you forget everything else and not this, there's nothing to worry about," People who have small or nothing are seen to have of them. Without power, money or earthly possession, there are some people who have this one thing. For me, it is to find life's purpose, to find your life mission. What do you want to achieve in life in the end? So, it is sometimes important for people to be aware of what they do. Rumi went on saying: " If you don't do it, it's as though a priceless Indian sword were used to slice rotten meat. It's like a knife of the finest tempering nailed into a wall to hang things on." Are you doing that one thing or you forgotten it?

Phenomenal woman

BY MAYA ANGELO

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size

But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.

I say,

It's in the reach of my arms

The span of my hips,

The stride of my step,

The curl of my lips.

I'm a woman

Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman,

That's me.

I walk into a room

Just as cool as you please,

And to a man,

The fellows stand or

Fall down on their knees.

Then they swarm around me,

A hive of honey bees.

I say,

It's the fire in my eyes,



And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them
They say they still can't see.

I say,

It's in the arch of my back,

The sun of my smile,

The ride of my breasts,

The grace of my style.

I'm a woman

Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman,

That's me.

Now you understand

Just why my head's not bowed.

I don't shout or jump about

Or have to talk real loud.

When you see me passing

It ought to make you proud.

I say,

It's in the click of my heels,

The bend of my hair,

the palm of my hand,

The need of my care,

'Cause I'm a woman

Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman,

That's me.

Global Affairs

The politics of food aid

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

It is now obvious that TPLF leaders are poised to restart the war in northern Ethiopia, violating the humanitarian truce declared about 2 months ago. Such an action by the TPLF at a time when northern Ethiopia is still reeling from the war that has raged for several months and left deep socio-economic scars cannot be described as anything but madness.

The underlying real reason for TPLF's urge to for breaking the truce is its dream of creating the improbable Great Tigray that stretches until Red Sea to the East and Sudan border to the West. TPLF relies on western powers, and their media outlets as well as international agencies in its attempt to cover up its ambitions. As a pretext, it tries to present to the media the issues surrounding adequate access to humanitarian supplies.

International humanitarian agencies are in effect sanctifying the TPLF's policy of aggression by making baseless conclusions and releasing biased reports. If somebody who has little info about the Ethiopian situation reads the recent USAID Administrator report she presented to the US Congress, he /she would certainly get the wrong impression that the unfolding humanitarian crisis caused by the TPLF triggered conflict in Nov. 2020 occurs only in Tigray region. The report mentions the 'Tigray' half a dozen times but there is no single word like Afar or Amhara in the 13-page report. Neither Samantha Powers nor the members of the US Congress Foreign Affairs Committee did make a single mention of the plight of several million Afari, Amhara, and Tigrayan IDPs scattered in different sites located in the Afar and Amhara regions.

There is nothing wrong with the deep concern of USAID on the humanitarian situation in the Tigray region. One may question what is the hidden motive behind their overzealous involvement only focused on the Tigray situation. Is it not to build a groundwork for framing the Ethiopian government as needing forced intervention, and sanctioning it in support of the terrorist TPLF by pushing for hostile laws [like HR6600] undermining the sovereignty of Ethiopia? Why did USAID almost ignore the situation of the war-affected parts of the country other than Tigray? Is it because they had a special soft corner in their heart for the people of Tigray? Absolutely not!

If that were the case, the humanitarian agencies and western powers would have reacted fast and furiously to the naked crimes TPLF committed against the Tigray people using food as a political weapon. It is now no more news to hear that much of the humanitarian supplies [food, fuel, cash] are used as logistical support to fuel TPLF's war. USAID knows it but does not denounce it.



TPLF is denying access to humanitarian aid to families who refuse to send their children to join the TPLF army. Wallowing the humanitarian agencies, and western powers are only concerned about hitting their target of sending 500 aid trucks a week to Tigray. They do not seem to mind what happens to the humanitarian supply after it reached Tigray.

The international agencies and western powers did not appropriately denounce TPLF for conscripting child soldiers. They have turned blind eye to TV footage showing packets of children's High Energy Biscuits [HEB] found in the pocket of TPLF fighters. They would not turn a deaf ear to the harrowing story of ethnic Tigrayans who made it to the Amhara regions after risking their lives to escape the tyrannical rule of TPLF in Tigray.

The USAID Chief in her report mentioned that she has firsthand information on the grave humanitarian information about the humanitarian crisis the conflict caused in Northern Ethiopia. "Since last appearing before this committee, I visited the Um Rakuba refugee camp in Sudan, where I met with victims of the conflict in Tigray and heard their heartbreaking stories of abuse and violence."

But she did not at least care to mention the atrocities committed by the TPLF against the people of Afar and the Amhara regions, a fact that is documented by international human rights agents and even the western media. After all, if she got the nerve to go and visit the Tigrayan refugees in Sudan, what stopped her to do the same to IDPs in sites in Amhara and Afar, and listen to their stories about how they left their warm homes and lost their family members and ended up in the wilderness without food and shelter. Had Administrator Powers done that visit, she would not have dared to ignore the staggering humanitarian crisis in Amahara and Afar regions which is equally horrific

and inhumane, if not worse.

In the report, she presented recently to the US Congress Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (HACFO), Samantha, the top American Aid official, deliberately misinformed the US Congress members about the distribution of war-affected Ethiopian in need of aid. "Food insecurity projections from February 2022 to May 2022 show that up to a million people will face famine-like conditions in northern Ethiopia by June—700,000 of those in the Tigray Region." said Samantha in her report. What she is telling the Congress people was that 70% of Ethiopians severely affected by the war-induced humanitarian crisis in northern Ethiopia are in Tigray.

This is a far cry from the truth. After all statistical manipulations in the report of several humanitarian agencies are not an uncommon occurrence concerning the Ethiopian situation. The manipulation is intended to misinform the international community to create and nurture wrong opinions and facilitate the making of unjust decisions that affect Ethiopia's national interests.

The recent official figures of the Amhara regional state show about 11.6 million people in the Amhara region need an emergency food aid. Out of these, 2.3 million people are IDPs, who fled their villages due to the conflict. Most of those IDPs, including women and children, do not even get emergency shelters. For instance, currently, over 25 thousand IDPs are crammed in the Jara IDPs site, at Dere-Roqa locality in Habru district of North Wollo Zone. Day by day the number of IDPs in the camp is rising. Sadly only 4,000 of the Jara IDPs population have got emergency shelter [plastic tents]. The majority of IDPs on the site take shelter under the tree, desperately trying to shield themselves and their kids from the daytime scorching heat and the freezing night. There is a serious shortage

of humanitarian supplies on the site. Basic humanitarian supplies are scarce, leaving children and pregnant and lactating women without life-saving aid.

An IDP from Kobo and now residing in the Jara site carries in his arm a toddler said in a tearful voice: "At least this child needs to be helped. children are suffering here. They need to get food when they want to eat. If there is any protector for children right out there, they have to come to save these children here who are dying of hunger and malnutrition. I have nothing more to say."

While this is the truth on the ground, Samatha is trying to play politics with the food she piled up in the several warehouses in Ethiopia. She was telling the US Congress that there was food, but there was no corridor to reach the starved Ethiopians in Northern Ethiopia. Under the cover of food aid, she is pushing for access to a corridor for Terrorist TPLF to bring in weapons and join hands with Ethiopia's enemies.

If Samantha's prime objective were saving people from famine and malnutrition, she would have made sure that the IDPs located at accessible sites in the government-controlled Amhara and Afar region would get adequate humanitarian supplies. Samantha needs to direct some of the food she hoarded in her warehouses to the desperate IDPs in areas like North Wollo, Wag-Hemra, in Keblati-Rasu Zone, and Semera IDP sites of the Afar region.

An OCHA report released a few days ago says: "The humanitarian situation continued to be dire with a high number of IDPs in need of support while the response and available resources which have been scaled up in the past weeks/months remain below what is needed for full coverage. A rapid nutrition assessment conducted in four IDP sites in Keblati-Rasu Zone/Zone 2 in mid-April revealed severe malnutrition amongst children under five years of age."

Law & Politics

Security bodies' capability to thwart national security danger

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Since the 2018 reform came into being one of the areas that has been going through a groundbreaking reform program is the National Intelligence and Security Service. The government has been throwing its full weight behind reforming the security bodies that have long been accused of misconduct and inefficiency.

From the National Army to the Federal Police, security bodies have been provided with modern technologies and training stepping up their ability to prevent crimes and reverse national security threats.

As building a strong National Defense Force plays a paramount role in safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation from internal and external enemies, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has been actively engaged in building a strong army that can materialize his biggest dream.

The reform works have played a pivotal role in neutralizing the danger posed by the terrorist TPLF after an attack against the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Force.

It should be borne in mind that in the early morning of 4 November 2020, the terrorist TPLF group in an unprovoked act of belligerence attacked the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces. In point of fact, the deliberate objective of the attack was to put an end to the capability of Ethiopia's most qualified ground combat forces and come to power.

Apart from weakening enemies' capability, the Ethiopian army had repossessed the arms and regrouped and reduced the criminal group to insurgents. This bravery foiled the national security dangers Ethiopia faced. Before the reform, Ethiopian law enforcement bodies had been accused of bad human rights records as thousands of civilians died and suffered grave human rights in the hands of security personnel.

The national armed forces have since been magnificently discharging their duties and responsibilities on various fronts with flying colors.

With huge investments, Ethiopia now owns strong security organs that can stand firm in the face of internal and external adversaries. And, with the terrorist TPLF and *Shene* and other extremist groups, the Ethiopian security body is readying and strengthening itself.

Having failed to learn from its previous humiliating defeats, the criminal TPLF group is preparing to launch another round of full-scale war against Ethiopia. Other foreign adversaries including Al-Shabab have been colluding with the terrorist elements to attack Ethiopia posing imminent threats to the national security of Ethiopia.

Amidst all the saber-rattling and warmongering from the criminal cliques, Ethiopia's national defense forces are readying themselves and standing up on high alert to neutralize any threats.



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.)

Lately, Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the ENDF Abiy Ahmed attended a graduation ceremony held at the Ethiopian Defense War College where personnel have finalized training.

Speaking at the occasion, Abiy noted that the extensive training the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) have got coupled with its bravery, discipline, and capability to withstand challenges put it in utmost readiness to neutralize any sort of provocation from enemy quarters.

"Each challenge brings its own unique opportunity, so defense is a great opportunity to organize and build a strong institution in a way that will greatly enhance your self-esteem. The first and foremost mission of the defense is to make Ethiopia prevail", he said in the occasion.

The Premier further noted that as Ethiopia is a country with a great history and large population, it will have to be equipped with the latest defense technologies. There is a great need for training to be self-sufficient and sustain Ethiopia.

"Much of the diplomacy, strategy, leadership skills, and knowledge of technology have come from defense. Therefore, graduates need to read, know and work hard."

As to him, making an immortal history requires a lot of learning, knowledge of history, continuity, and nation-building.

ENDF Chief of Staff Field Marshal Berhanu Julia said for his part that the main objective of the War College is to create competent leaders and effectively address the complex national challenges that are filling the leadership gap in the armed forces and other security institutions.

As to the Defense College Commander,

Brigadier General Bulti Tadese, high-level strategic leadership training is essential to curtailing the impact of global and environmental security threats and ensuring the peace and stability of Ethiopia. Efforts need to be made to ensure peace and security in the country, especially in the areas of terrorism, international crime, arms trafficking, and human trafficking.

The graduates believe the extensive training they got in the college will enable them to carry out any tasks and withstand any challenges in the areas of deployment.

The War College graduates 38 senior military and civilian leaders for the first time that have taken successive theoretical and practical training over the last two years.

"As the TPLF is preparing for another conflict, it is clear that the people of Tigray and the neighboring Amhara and Afar regions are the ones who are going to suffer most from this war; the House of Federation urges them to be vigilant in the face of such recurring conflicts. Also, it is imperative that all peace-loving forces put pressure on TPLF's forces to refrain from any confrontation."

Enemy quarters had better think twice and refrain from further provocations as the country's armed forces are in heightened readiness to repulse any possible attacks and defend their people, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) said.

The Premier lately made the above remark in the award-giving ceremony to Ethiopian joint forces that successfully repulsed TPLF aggression hosted in the Amhara State capital Bahir Dar.

Abiy, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces

(ENDF) stated that the government is taking every step so that the destructive forces will not have a foothold in the country and Ethiopia's committed and disciplined army has enabled it to repulse any threats.

The Premier emphasized that enemies of Ethiopia shouldn't miscalculate and attack the country assuming the people are divided in ethnic lines, language, and religious and political differences. Though Ethiopians do have differences in some aspects, they have been always standing as one whenever the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country is threatened. ENDF, federal police, Special Forces, and other security forces have made history when internal betrayals and external historical foes of the country tried to fall Ethiopia apart.

"Today's recognition and prize given to security forces is an accreditation forwarded to all Ethiopians who paid noble sacrifices for the unity and integrity of their country."

On the occasion, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen said that the government as always has a firm belief in resolving differences in a peaceful manner; however, he stressed the former's heightened readiness for any possible attacks from the terrorist TPLF.

"We always prioritize peace and peaceful options, but if TPLF attempts to attack Ethiopia, lasting and sustainable measures would confidently be taken."

As per the Amhara State Chief Administrator Yilkal Kefale (Ph.D.), Ethiopia's existence is guaranteed by the blood and bones of its sons and daughters.

Though the terrorist TPLF invaded Amhara and Afar states and has caused loss of immense property damage, the people of the two states along with Ethiopian brothers and sisters have successfully repulsed the faction's offense and inflicted significant harm to the clique in Mekelle.

Yilkal further pointed out that TPLF can't learn from its mistakes at all and lasting measures will be taken if it beats the drums war for another round; this program is a reference for the past and for the future. Though the war brought human and material loss, it was an occurrence where the unity of Ethiopia was guaranteed.

"Places where the terrorist group committed massacres in Amhara and Afar states including Chena, Gaynt, Gashena, Qobo, Dessie, Boru Meda, Shoa Robit and Kombolcha, Werke, Dire Roqa, Tsagbij and Kemise have been flaming as fire and reflecting Ethiopians' unity. The ENDF, Amhara State Special Forces, regional security structure including *Fano*, militia, and the public at large deserve recognition and gratitude for their relentless effort to rescue Ethiopia from falling apart."

The recognition and gratitude ceremony was graced by the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and other senior government officials, high-ranking officials of the ENDF and state chiefs as well as noble investors and other public figures.

Planet Earth

Alatish- a park with peculiar features

COMPILED BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Ethiopia has over 20 national parks, administered by federal or regional governments. These parks are homes for different bio-diversities and are blessings of the country as they take the lion share for the nation's forest coverage and wildlife resource. Most wildlife is mostly found within and around the protected areas. In addition, as the home for over six thousand different species of plants, 10 percent endemic, these parks are the reserves of the country's forest resource.

These parks are the ecological hubs helping the country to balance nature. On top of that, they are among the top tourist destinations of the country parallel to the country's historic tourist attraction sites. As the home of different beautiful wildlife, including endemic wildlife, Ethiopia's national parks are generating income both for the community and the nation in general. Almost all endemic wild animals including the endemic once are found within these protected national parks.

Alatish /Alitash/ National Park is among these national parks with huge ecological and biodiversity reserves. In addition to its ecological and wildlife conservation, this site is enriched in historical, cultural and traditional attractions. Established in 2005, the Alatish National Park is found in Quara Wereda of Amhara State. Currently, the

park which covers 2,666 square kilometers is now under the supervision of the federal government.

The general topography of the park is flat to undulating plains, with a general slope or inclination from the south to the north, interrupted by valleys, streams, scattered hills, and seasonal wetlands. According to a recent article published at a local website, the park shares boundaries in the south with Benishangul Gumuz regional State, in the west with Sudan's Dinder National Park, in the east with Bembaho, Gelego and Mahdid.

The park is largely covered by woodland vegetation ecosystem and the topography of the park includes valleys, streams, scattered hills and mountains including its Twin Mountains of Amdog are its special features.

The park is home for different mammals, birds and other wildlife. Elephant, Greater and Lesser Kudu, Lion and Leopard are among the known mammals found in Alatish National Park and from bird species, Ostrich, Chestnut billed starling and other bird species lives within the park.

The park is home for over 30 larger mammal species and over 200 recorded bird species, though the number of bird species inhabiting the park is estimated to be more than 250. In addition, seven types of reptiles and amphibians are recorded in the park.

Alatish National Park has a variety of fauna which requires conservation. It is especially

rich in reptile diversity such as African rock python, monitor lizard, cobra, black mamba and Blanding's tree snake. It also harbors endangered and rare species of Elephant, Leopard, Lion and also the low risk but conservation dependent lesser kudu and Greater kudu. Permanent but intermittent rivers bordering the park like Aayima and Gelegu provide a huge amount of fish resources to the local communities besides being the main water sources of people and animals.

Alatish National Park is found in an arid and semi-arid ecological zone between the high mountains of the Simen in North Gondar Zone of Amhara State and the Sahel zone in Sudan. Due to this reason, the biodiversity attributes of Alatish Park are diversified and rich.

Alatish Park has its own unique features with a number of historical and cultural assets. Of these, a large Baobab tree at Omedla and the ethnic composition of the area made up of different ethnic groups with their unique cultural traditions makes the area an important tourist attraction.

In terms of tourism potential, the park has a capacity for tourism development with numerous tourist attractions. As a natural attraction, Alatish National Park has various plants, and animals such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. In its spectacular landscape, the park is more or less flat with very few scattered beautiful

conical peaks. The landscape is dominated by dry woodland savanna and the riverine forest can also be potential tourist attractions.

Historically, the area is known during the Italian invasion when Emperor Haile Selassie I returned to his country after the victory over the invading army. Emperor Haile Selassie returned to Ethiopia through Sudan and spent seven days at Omedla, a place found at the edge of the park. For the Emperor's temporary rest, a cave was prepared from a big tree, with the capacity of accommodating eight people.

The tree has entrance doors carved with the first letters of the king's full name and a seat for a guard, according to history books. In addition to its historical values and the ecological and topography features, Alatish National Park is attractive due to the lifestyle of the population of the area and their ways of dressing styles together create a beautiful mix and hence are special attractions worth visiting.

Bordering Sudan's Dinder National Park, Alatish National Park has a significant trans-boundary role between Ethiopia and Sudan mainly in conserving different wildlife. As a source of various rivers that drain into Sudan, the Alatish Park is the source of important tributaries of the Nile River and the water sources flowing to Sudan from the river is an important water source for the people and animals in Sudan.



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Nurturing functional system of student union critical issue: Prof. Jeylan Wolyie

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Haramaya University (HU) aims to become an accomplished post-graduate and research university. It is working hard and with commitment to transform itself towards greater achievements in teaching learning, research and community engagement.

The university is aware that it cannot run its teaching-learning, research and community engagement activities and deliver its other strategic visions without creating positive, safe and attractive institutional environment. And it will strive to upgrade the services to create an attractive, healthy and secured teaching and learning environment.

Over the next 10 years and as stipulated in its 10-years-strategic plan, it will continue to transform physical and environmental conditions that are essential for effective day to day running of the university activities.

The reflection of Haramaya University Vice President for Administration and Student Affairs Prof. Jeylan Wolyie Hussein on the points raised above



Prof. Jeylan Wolyie Hussein

necessitates establishing and nurturing properly functioning system of student union as one of the most important issues to be fulfilled.

“Peace and mutual understanding between and among university students is a critical issue for our university to continue as an institute of higher learning. In this regard, student union leadership plays immense role in creating a peaceful teaching and learning environment where students coming from diverse cultural, linguistic and

religious backgrounds will learn and growth together with high sense of mutual respect and reassurance.” Prof. Jeylan demanded it.

From past experiences, the university has learned that disagreements, ill-feelings, prejudices, negative competitions, discriminations, misunderstandings, misrecognitions and mistrusts within student union leadership has the potential to ignite conflicts and divisions among other students. Student union leadership transformation is essential to create an educational environment where students live and study together, he added.

“Towards this end, we need to help members of student union redefine leadership concepts, mission and responsibilities,” he noted explaining that a major way to transform these conditions is promoting civic engagement and fostering student union members’ leadership mind-sets through leadership development programmes that cultivate their emotional intelligence, multicultural competence, and critical thinking.

As well, he disclosed HU’s preparation saying: “We have completed preparations to provide leadership enhancing skills and

communication competence skills for members of student government in our university, Dire Dawa University and Jigjiga University through a USAID-funded small project.”

Even more in detail, he mentioned that the project activities are expected to re-awaken the participants on what it means to assume leadership roles in multi-cultural context. “We believe that high quality leadership within student union that is imbued with sense of accountability, transparency and that is free from identity-based sabotages, prejudices, exclusions and discriminations will boost resilience in the face of adversities such as identity-based conflicts that may arise between and among students.”

Therefore, as Prof. Jeylan said specifically referring to his university, the writer calls on all universities to continue to improve leadership capacities and skills within student union by providing them access to transformative leadership enhancement opportunities, civic engagement opportunities and experiential learning opportunities that foster a greater sense of active citizenship and social responsibility.