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## Premier

### calls for more humanitarian support to Africa

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA-Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) called on the international community to enhance the humanitarian support to Africa.

The Prime Minister and his delegation participated yesterday in the 15th African Union (AU) Humanitarian Support and Convention Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

Addressing the Summit, the Premier highlighted that the Horn of Africa is one of the worst hit regions in the world due to global climate change and drought.

“Therefore, a lot of work is being done with partners to reduce the risk of natural disasters.”

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## Some 113 million Africans in dire humanitarian situation: AU

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

ADDIS ABABA – The African Union (AU) announced that some 113 million people are waiting for emergency assistance in 2022.

The AU unveiled the number of affected people during its Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Donor Conference held yesterday Equatorial Guinea’s capital Malabo.

Speaking on the occasion, the African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat said East Africa and the Horn of Africa are currently hosting 4.5 million refugees, more than 75 percent of whom have been affected by the reduction in food rations in 2021. Over the past two years, in this same region, food needs have increased by 70 percent, and more than 25 million people are food insecure.



Moussa Faki Mahamat

“This is the highest level of food insecure people also found in West and Central Africa since 2016 accounting 58 million. In

addition to this, the Chairperson said, more than 14 million people need humanitarian assistance in North Africa.”

According to the Chairperson, the major reasons for the increment of the number of emergency aid needed people are unraveling of refugee empowerment efforts by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. The AU has developed normative and operational instruments to improve the living conditions of refugees and internally displaced people in the continent.

Faki further noted that the Kampala Convention adopted in 2009, and regional plans to manage refugee crises have been put in place at the normative and operational level respectively despite the low fund

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## TPLF militancy undermines AU’s peaceful Africa vision

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – In a clear violation of the AU Charter, the Terrorist TPLF have waged renewed belligerence to topple the democratically elected government of Ethiopia, an expert in the field said, calling the African Union and regional blocks to denounce such acts.

One of the main agenda of the AU Extraordinary Summit being held in Malabo is seeking ways to counter the mushrooming Changes of Government (UCG) in Africa with the aim of proffering enduring solutions to the problem.

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**The undeniable influence-wielding potential of songs**

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**Tigray people’s anguish in the hands of the terrorist TPLF**

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# News

## Gov't successfully neutralizes Shene terrorist group

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA-** The military operation launched by the government against Shene terrorist group to ensure rule of law has become successful as bringing members of the group before the law is well underway, so stated Oromia State Peace and Security Bureau.

Having a stay with *The Ethiopian Herald* deputy head of the bureau Colonel Abebe Geresu said that the terrorist group has been committing horrific crimes against Oromo people including homicide and other crimes against humanity.

He stressed that government has been repeatedly striving for solving problems related to the terrorist group peacefully. However, the terrorist group continued committing its destructive acts rejecting government and community leaders' call for negotiation. As a result, the government has been forced to launch the operation.

He also noted that the group has been looting and destroying private and public properties in places they reached. Accordingly it has destroyed facilities like schools, health centers and other public institutions as its master TPLF did. Likewise it has been obstructing transportation services by blocking roads



Colonel Abebe Geresu

and destroying road infrastructure in many areas of the state.

Contrary to the values and culture of Oromo people, the terrorist group has been raping children and old women as well as burning people alive.

The currently launched operation has hit its target and helps the state in particular and the entire nation promote peace and security, he said adding that all residents

of the state, which were under the control of the group have turned to their regular and formal activities.

Lauding community participation in the peace and security effort, he said that following fruitful operations, it is possible to come up with the desired peace, and he called on the community to boost their usual collaboration until the terrorist group vanishes forever.



## Nat'l Dialogue establishes trust, peace among Ethiopians

BY MULATU BELACHEW

**ADDIS ABABA-** The National Dialogue Ethiopia is going to undertake could be a tool to reach mutual understanding, and create trust and peace between the public, so disclosed a renowned politician Lencho Letta.

Approached by The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) he said that National Dialogue is an enabling tool to build a democratic system to ensure peace via raising public trust and mutual understanding between the peoples.

"It will realize peace between the people and help to build a democratic system because it will play a significant role to create trust and mutual understanding between the people"

The process of the national dialogue will have a significant role in ensuring peace via strengthening trust and mutual understanding between peoples he said adding in areas where conflict happened the national dialogue will help to bring peace as well as in areas where peace is realized, it will serve as a tool to work with all relevant actors with integrity and cooperation.

As to Lenchos' explanation, the national dialogue will create fertile ground to build a political system that realizes peace, mutual understanding and trust between the peoples.

Identifying the cause of conflict, proceeding via ensuring peace, and providing a relevant solution for conflict-affected areas are necessary things he recommended adding most of the political disagreement created on basic national matters will be resolved in the national dialogue. The dialogue will help to discover what kind of people the country has and what kind of democratic system is reliable to all Ethiopia unless it is challenging to build democratic systems that realize peace in the country. He also indicated that in the conflict-affected areas, it is necessary to build mutual trust and understanding besides ensuring peace across the country.

It is vital to reach mutual understanding of the national dialogue, he said, adding identifying the cause of conflict through study and ensuring rule of law is expected from the government.

Providing innovative ideas that suit the current circumstance of the country is expected from scholars' side, he added.

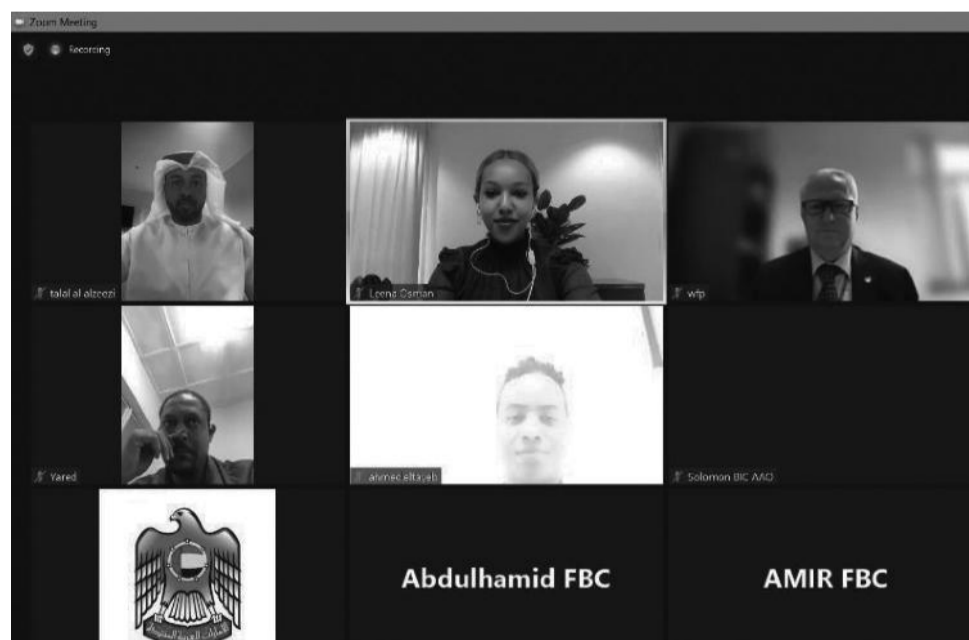
## UAE maintains humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia

BY TEWODROS KASSA

**ADDIS ABABA-**Continuing its long-standing commitment to support the Ethiopian people, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched a humanitarian and relief air bridge, dedicating 18 flights to address the country's humanitarian situation, particularly for the people of Tigray.

Addressing the webinar meeting the embassy hosted recently, the UAE Embassy Political, Economic and Media Affairs Section Head Talal Alazeezi said his country has always been in the forefront to provide relief efforts to all friendly African nations. "It is the belief of UAE leadership to stand in global solidarity to address pressing humanitarian situations, and to harness all efforts to support people in need around the world."

The head further noted that over the past three months, the UAE has sent nine flights carrying 420 tonnes of relief and food aid to the Ethiopian capital,



Addis Ababa, and nine flights carrying 280 tonnes of assistance to Mekelle, in the Tigray State. Accordingly, almost 1.2 million of the most affected people have benefited from this support, including 960,000 women and children.

In addition, the UAE has provided USD 85 million to support relief operations

in Ethiopia, in collaboration with international organisations, including World Food Programme (USD 60 million); ICRC (USD 11 million); UNICEF (USD 6 million); UNHCR (USD 5 million); the International Medical Corps (USD 1.3 million); and other organisations (USD 1.7 million).

# News

## Ethio- Somali amiable relations ...

to their neighbors in exchange for Khat (miraa).

The deal is part of a landmark bilateral agreement signed by the leaders of these two countries on Monday, June 21, 2021.

The agreement appears to be part of a handshake between the neighboring countries that have not been Seeing Eye to eye on several diplomatic matters for the past decade.

To kick start the process, Somalia has already transported to Ethiopia a consignment of 5,000 tons of fish.

Experts have said the new pact, other than boosting bilateral trade relations between the two countries, will also spur development in the Horn of Africa by creating employment opportunities.

The cooperation between Ethiopia and the new government of Somalia is based on common interests for developments and the challenges that both countries face certainly requires a strong comprehensive cooperation in the areas of security and threats from Al-Shabab, cross border arms trafficking, illegal trade and contraband, the struggle against climate change and prevention of cross border epidemics and health hazards.

Ethiopia can share hydro-electric power with Somalia and also engage in capacity building programs in enhancing higher education and transfer of technologies in the areas of ICT and agricultural technologies.

The recurrent prevalence of climate change induced drought provides an excellent opportunity for promoting food security programs focusing on livestock development, irrigation in semi-arid areas of the two countries and diversification of agricultural activities by utilizing local resources..

The trade and economic cooperation between Somalia and Ethiopia enhances mutual benefits for both countries and will specifically promote peace and stability in the otherwise volatile region of the Horn of Africa.

The two countries share an extensive border area with semi-arid ecology where sporadic conflicts flare up due to competition among various clans on scarce resources like water and grazing land. With joint development programs involving the two countries, the challenges on border peace could be turned into a wide range of opportunities from which the two countries can benefit. Agreements that could provide joint border patrolling, fighting against cross border proliferation of human and animal diseases can enhance the general public health status of the two countries and safety and security in the area.

Promoting bilateral cultural relations between Ethiopia and Somalia through people to people relations and the support that Ethiopia can provide in building the capacity of administrative and

development institutions will further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

Through agreements with the new government, institutes of higher education, public and private universities in the country can continue to provide scholarships for Somali students in the context of cross cultural relations.

Moreover, it is also important to reinvigorate the tripartite agreements entered between Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia to get into a meaningful, political and socio-economic development that could benefit the peoples of the three countries. Given the global economic crisis that is triggered due to the Russo-Ukraine war, a marked level of food shortage is being observed across the world. In this context, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia can engage in joint ventures in agricultural development with particular reference to wheat production, fishery, horticulture development both for export and domestic consumption.

Cooperation on scientific research on drought resistant crops, animal feed, animal diseases and other agriculture related issues can help to improve food security both in Ethiopia and Somalia. Specific research in the areas of development of appropriate technologies, manufacturing industries can help to reduce the heavy dependence on imported technologies on which

both countries spend huge amounts of foreign currency.

With possible commitments from both the government of Ethiopia and Somalia, the people of the two countries can enjoy a better life in their battle against poverty and under development. The two countries need to chart out workable strategies that can help them to tackle their common challenges in a more sustainable manner.

Periodic joint consultation meetings that could be conducted in the areas of economic development, food security, border security and issues related to terrorism can be conducted between the leadership of Ethiopia and Somalia without the need for foreign intervention into their domestic affairs. This will help to promote the social-economic development and consultations on diplomatic political issues of common concern between the two nations.

If properly addressed, the relationship between Ethiopia and Somalia can grow into a higher level as both countries have immense resources and multiple opportunities to address the needs of the peoples in their respective countries.

Ethiopia is more than ever ready to boost the relationship with Somalia and expects the same from the new government of Somalia.

## TPLF militancy undermines...

Commenting on the issue to *The Ethiopian Herald*, a Researcher and Political Science and International Relations Lecturer at Dire Dawa University Surafel Getahun stated that attempts to overthrow a democratically elected government are on the rise in Africa, and it has slowed down the building of democratic system in the continent. In a similar fashion, it has been several months since the T-TPLF launched a war to overthrow the democratically elected Ethiopian government by force.

“As seen in other African countries, particularly in the Western part of the continent, T-TPLF’s attempt to overthrow the legitimate government has garnered the support of some Western interest groups. Due to the strength of the Ethiopian government and the unity of the Ethiopians at home and abroad, the clique’s mission

of installing a puppet government has not been materialized.”

“The criminal faction is now disseminating the usual false stories to present itself as a peace-loving agent thereby misleading the international community,” Surafel noted, adding the faction is preparing for another round of war and committing assault to the Amhara and Afar states as well as Eritrea. Ethiopians in the Diaspora should capitalize on international arenas to inform the global community about the government’s commitment for peace and protect the wellbeing of civilians from T-TPLF aggression.

The academician further called on the AU and its member states as well as other regional blocs to take a firm stance against such attempts to overthrow the elected governments militarily.

## Premier calls for more...

Abiy further noted that strong drought prevention measures are crucial as previous droughts in the region have shown its worst impact. “Ethiopia will strengthen its efforts to withstand the challenges of climate change by planting billions of seedlings a year under the green

legacy program.

Accordingly, despite the global economic crisis the country continues to provide unreserved humanitarian assistance to millions of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), he emphasized.

## Some 113 million...

requirement for the implementation. “It is a moment of intense emotion in view of the existential fragility of our brothers and sisters trapped in forced displacement, exile and statelessness for various reasons. They wait with anxiety and impatience for our generosity and our duty of humanity to come to appease their multiple sufferings.”

The organization of the Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit which will be

followed by the Donors’ Conference demonstrates African Union’s commitment to continue its efforts to reduce the grief suffered by refugees and internally displaced persons on the continent, the Chairperson remarked.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) is attending the Summit together with various heads of states governments other stakeholders.



# Opinion

## US threatens Ethiopia and Eritrea with illegal “Legal designation of genocide”

BY ANN GARRISON

*The US is falsely accusing Ethiopia and Eritrea of hindering food aid and committing genocides in the ongoing war in Tigray. The charges are false and the US has no right to make such a claim on its own. Ann Garrison continues reporting from the region.*

During the Obama Administration, the excuse for US wars of aggression shifted from the War on Terror to the so-called humanitarian wars to stop genocide and mass atrocities, which were then, championed by top Obama officials Samantha Power and Susan Rice. The US and NATO destroyed Libya and began the relentless bombing of Syria “to stop genocide.”

In November 2020, Ethiopians and Eritreans began to fear—with good reason—that they’ll be next. That fear continues today, as the US threatens them with an illegal “legal designation of genocide” in Ethiopia’s Tigray Region.

I’m still writing from Ethiopia, specifically from Bahir Dahr, the capital of Amhara Region, today. Water politics are essential in the Horn and the wider region, so I hear about them every day. As a result, I’ve only recently learned that, during NATO’s war on Libya, it deliberately destroyed that country’s water infrastructure, a war crime under the Geneva Convention. The destruction of Libya was itself an international crime, the destruction of its water infrastructure a crime within that crime.

Black Agenda Report readers are no doubt aware of this, but before going on, I should nevertheless note that according to international law, only the UN Security Council (UNSC) has the international legal authority to rule that genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity are happening or have happened. According to the UN Charter, the UNSC can then organize a multilateral military response or refer cases to the International Criminal Court. U.S. policymakers’ claim to have the legal right to “legally designate” the international crimes which they themselves are most guilty of is just more of the arrogance of power in pursuit of global hegemony.

As I write this I remember Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, asking a State Department official how close they are to a “legal designation” that Ethiopia and Eritrea are committing genocide in Tigray. I remember a State Department official replying, essentially, that they’re still working on that. In other words, that they’re still hanging it over Ethiopia and Eritrea’s heads.

### Congressman Brad Sherman can’t wait

In a Congressional hearing last week, California’s 30th District Congressman Brad Sherman repeated his demand that the State Department issue that “legal designation” that both Ethiopia and Eritrea



United Nations World Food Programme trucks in Ethiopia

**The charges  
are false and the  
US has no right to  
make such a claim on  
its own**

are committing genocide by blocking food aid convoys to the country’s Tigray Region, so as to justify the use of military force against both. Sherman wants Biden to deploy the U.S. Navy to block Eritrea’s ports, Massawa and Assab, which would be an act of war in violation of international law:

“I’ve suggested ways to pressure the Ethiopian and especially, and particularly, the Eritrean government, which has, of course, the ports that could be used, particularly by interrupting sea traffic going,

you know, even hundreds of miles away from Eritrea. And I think a determination of genocide would spur our administration to do more than simply send harsh letters to Addis Ababa and Asmara . . . Only the Administration can provide the pressure, and only the Administration can use the US Navy to put additional pressure on the two countries involved.”

### There is no siege of Tigray

This week New Zealand journalist Alastair Thompson and I both returned from Ethiopia’s Afar Region, where we saw aid convoys traveling on the Djibouti-Ethiopia Highway to Mekelle, the capital of Tigray. In Semara, I spoke to Kenyan convoy drivers returning from Mekelle, who said that they had traveled unhindered from Nairobi to Addis Ababa and then to Mekelle to deliver aid for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

I asked Alastair Thompson to describe aid convoys he saw while traveling north to Abala, a town on Afar Region’s border with Tigray Region.

**Alastair Thompson:** I traveled north on Saturday, the 14th of May, to Abala, which is on the border with Tigray, as you point out, and where there has been significant amounts of conflict. And on the way I saw a large number of trucks driving up. We drove past them because they were traveling more slowly than we were. And on the following day, when we returned, we saw more trucks traveling up and we also saw a large convoy staged at Silsa, about maybe 100 kilometers from Semara that was about to depart from Mekelle.

**AG:** Did you see any sign that the convoys were being hindered?

**AT:** None whatsoever. After the convoys depart from Silsa, the security is fairly

simple. There are a series of checkpoints, not that many of them, at different intervals along the road manned by the Afar. There’s no sign of the Ethiopian army in the area. And there seems to be a very orderly running of the convoys.

And my understanding is that over the past couple of weeks there have been a lot more convoys than there have been in the past.

**AG:** Are there scanners?

**AT:** Yes. The scanners are outside Semara at a place called Sardo, which all the trucks have to go through. They’re large scanners that the trucks have to drive through and they’re capable of identifying electronic devices and metal and so forth—contraband. All the trucks have to pass through those before they reach Silsa and the staging point and they are guarded from there, and then they depart for Mekelle.

**AG:** So Brad Sherman’s claim that the trucks are being stopped from traveling on to Mekelle seems unfounded to you?

**AT:** That’s completely unfounded in terms of the current situation. To the extent that there have been blockages this year, they were caused entirely by the TPLF’s own invasion and occupation of the northern Afar Region.

*Ann Garrison is a Black Agenda Report Contributing Editor based in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2014, she received the Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza Democracy and Peace Prize for her reporting on conflict in the African Great Lakes region. She can be reached at [ann\(at\)anngarrison.com](mailto:ann(at)anngarrison.com).*

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## Editorial

### Cooperation is essential to curb extremism

One can understand what terrorism is by having slight glance at the incalculable damages Terrorist TPLF caused on Ethiopians in the last some years. Terrorism can be synonymous to the wickedness of this group. Because of its violence, hundreds of thousands are currently suffering.

Terrorism has been a serious threat to the entire world; particularly dangerous to the Eastern African countries as it based its roots in some Horn nations like Somalia where Al-Shabaab became hazardous actor. This terrorist group carried out attacks in different countries such as Uganda, Djibouti and Kenya. Last year, bombings took place in Kampala's central business district. The bombing caused increasing tensions across the neighboring nations like Kenya where the government instructed security agencies to be more watchful.

Evidences indicate that Al-Shabaab has been recruiting its members from marginalized communities in Kenya besides attracting fighters from Uganda, Tanzania, Djibouti, the US and Europe. In addition to this, the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been a hotspot since its own civil war from 1997 to 2003. And over 100 rebel organizations based their operations in some areas of the country. Other groups such as the Allied Democratic Forces and Lord's Resistance Army from Uganda established themselves in eastern DRC along with others in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

Indisputably, the terrorist movement has become a grave threat to the East Africa these days. Recent evidences show that Al-Shabaab is striving to establish connections with terrorists in Ethiopia: T-TPLF and Shene. These two terrorist groups have been causing incalculable damages on properties and lives in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian parliament identified them as terrorist groups because

of their extreme violent feature attacks on civilians and properties. Because of these groups, Ethiopians have been suffering a lot. Their movement created ethnic and religious divisions, causing recurrent conflicts. What increases the magnitude of the danger of these groups is their recent connection to the Al-Shabaab. This align would inevitably be very dangerous to the entire region; hence, the nations should strengthen their relations to create a safe region.

Most importantly, the current administration of the US ought to be consistent with its policy on terrorists. It's unfortunate to know that its recent silence on Terrorist TPLF and Shene's atrocities has been in contradiction with its policy on violent extremism. We believe the US should noticeably demonstrate its policy on terrorist. Strengthening its previous relations with its strategic partner in fighting against the terrorist in the East Africa, the US should eliminate the emerging terrorists in the region.

As terrorism is a threat to the global community, it is essential for the countries to strengthen their relations in order to reduce the extent of the threat. For several decades, Ethiopia and the US has strategically been working together to control extremism. Indeed, Ethiopia has been strategic partner for the US in the campaign to destroy the group. It is also proper for the US to be vigilant concerning the current movement of the terrorists.

In short, the terrorist threats are currently evident across the East Africa. Individual countries cannot effectively curb the threat of violent extremism; establishing strong relations is crucial. They must be well aware of the features of extremism; violent extremism and organized crime always present global challenges. Thus, cooperation, coordinated efforts among the global community and capacity building are needed to address an increasing threat.

## Opinion

### Ethio- Somali amiable relations critical for horn's peace, development

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

A week back, the Somali parliament reelected Hassan Sheikh Mohammed replacing Mohammed Abdullahi Farmaajo. The election which was postponed for more than a year is expected to open a new horizon in Somalia's diplomatic and comprehensive relations with the neighboring countries, Ethiopia in particular.

In his message to the new president of Somalia who is elected for the second time, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed congratulated the new president of Somalia and expressed his interest to work with the president on the ongoing and bilateral issues.

The Ambassador of Ethiopia to Somalia H.E. Mr. Abdulfatah Abdullahi Hassan had a meeting with the President of Somalia, H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. Ambassador Abdulfatah has delivered the goodwill messages of H.E. President Sahle-Work Zewde and H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to the new President. The two sides also noted the need to further scale up the friendly diplomatic and people-to-people relations between Ethiopia and Somalia.

Moreover, expressing its readiness to work with the new president of Somalia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement stating that "The Ministry believes that the election demonstrates the confidence of the people of Somalia in you and is a leap forward to building a democratic process in the country."

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

thanked Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for his congratulatory message and replied "Thank you so much Your Excellency @ AbiyAhmedAli. I certainly look forward to working with you on enhancing our bilateral and diplomatic relations."

The strategic location of both countries in a sub-region that connects Africa with the countries of the Indian Ocean, the Middle East, Far East, Persian Gulf and Europe offers opportunities and threats which invariably determine the scope and depth of the relations between these countries. The looming rivalries on the control of the Red Sea, the mushrooming of naval bases of 14 countries in Djibouti affect the situation in the area that both countries share.

Although the people to people relations between Ethiopia and Somalia dates back to over 60 years, formal diplomatic relations between the two countries was officially launched when Somalia established its embassy in Addis Ababa in 2006 followed by the commissioning of Ethiopian Embassy in Mogadishu in 2007.

On January 22, 2014, Ethiopia joined AMISOM and also established its own area of peace keeping in sector 3.

Ethiopia played a constructive role in the formation of the Transition Government of Somalia in 2016 and since then, Ethiopian armed forces have shed their blood to ascertain peace and stability in the country.

Ethiopia and Somalia have a lot in common. Both countries share a wider common border

which has time and again become sources of insecurity for both countries. Threats from Al-Shabab and sea piracy on the Horn of Africa are indeed a common concern for peace and stability of the two countries. The two nations have a huge potential of trade and investment relations which need to be exploited for the benefit of the peoples of both countries.

Trade between countries in the Horn of Africa is largely unofficial and unrecorded. The recent recorded data show that Ethiopia's trade with its neighboring countries is very little and is limited to some manufactured imports from Kenya and vegetable and chat exports to Djibouti and recently to Somaliland (Northern Somalia). On the other hand, hundreds of thousands of all types of livestock and bulk of coffee, vegetables and chat originating from Ethiopia are smuggled to neighboring countries. In return, a wide range of manufactured goods are imported illegally. This illicit cross-border trade has been there for a long time.

Ethiopia and Somalia can cooperate on cross border trade based on the comparative advantages that both countries can enjoy. With the joint development of transport networks on land and air transport, both countries can contribute a lot to economic integration in the Horn of Africa which will be instrumental in ensuring peace and stability in the region.

For instance, according to global trade sources OEC, in 2020, Ethiopia exported \$294M to Somalia. The main products

exported from Ethiopia to Somalia were Other Vegetables (\$248M), Bovine (\$9.5M), and Root Vegetables (\$7.65M). During the last 23 years the exports of Ethiopia to Somalia have increased at an annualized rate of 37.8%, from \$97.4k in 1997 to \$294M in 2020.

In 2018, Somalia and Ethiopia announced they were jointly investing in four seaports to attract foreign investment to their two countries, the latest move in a tussle for access to ports along one of the world's most strategic waterways. Although Ethiopia has already achieved a considerable share of 19% ownership of the Berbera Port, the country is also interested in jointly developing other ports of Somalia including Mogadishu, Bosaso and Kismayo. The ultimate access that Ethiopia could have to these ports will help to further enhance Ethiopia's foreign trade endeavors and will also promote mutually beneficial economic relations between the countries. Moreover, it would help to establish and strengthen meaningful economic integration between the two countries and the entire East African region.

Somalia has agreed on a barter trade deal with Ethiopia that enables them to export fish

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



# Art & Culture

## The undeniable influence-wielding potential of songs

BY DANAT AND TSION

Most people buy into the idea that music immensely impact human life especially pertaining to emotions. Plato, the renowned Greek philosopher posited “music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.” This statement sheds light on the fact that music is entwined with soul. Against this backdrop, one can fathom that music has the power of conditioning the feeling of care, affection, sympathy and belongingness among people.

I cannot wrap my mind around how people take the songs meant to create sympathy as sources of entertainment. The influence of the song “We are the world” was undeniable in availing medical supplies and food products for Ethiopia during the famine that had hit the country in 1983. The song “Do they know it's Christmas?” that donated medical supplies and food coasted 11 million USD is also another good example that shows songs have the potential of unifying fellows for extending helping hands to one another.

It is to be recalled that two years after the Great Ethiopian Famine, crisscrossing the globe, Ethiopian artists did stage a great music festival known as *Hizb le Hizb* (people-to-people) in 60 cities. As the saying goes a friend in need is a friend indeed, the objectives of this huge event were to express heartfelt gratitude to the international community for standing with Ethiopia during the famine and to convey the message that Ethiopia of ancient civilization boasting alluring tangible and intangible heritages keeps going a robust and magnificent country. The event bore testimony to the fact that music is endowed with the potential of encapsulating and conveying feelings like thankfulness and elation.

Heart-touching songs have high degree of persuading people in alms seeking. This technique has been used for many years and it could be said it was effective. Street performers or Buskers perform on the streets to garner money, food and drink. Besides, exploiting the potential of songs in triggering sympathy as an advantage, patients who cannot afford their medication



The music: *We are the world*



The music: *Ene negn derash le wegene*

fee and begging is whose last chance of survival, use such heartfelt songs together with compassionate words to win good Samaritans over.

For the support they garnered during the fund-raising process I am sure that patients who recuperated via such means are grateful to the songs besides the kind people. Understanding the potential of such songs in creating compassion and care, wily people abuse the good fortune to indulge in theft and of course they succeed. Fortunately, people begin to understand that such untoward practices are becoming common and different media outlets are exposing this craftiness. As such the tendency of duping people is decreasing.

A friend of mine believes that such songs have valuable impacts in the fundraising process. He said, “For me, the value of art in history of compassionate & charity services is undeniable. Heartfelt songs play such

valuable role that contributes to a plenty of fundraising events that saves the lives of many people. But, nowadays, they’re being abused like other good things. This makes the donors suspect their generosity is being exploited. They doubt their generous activity being taken as an advantage or as a means of income generation by others. This also erodes philanthropists’ trust and erects a barrier to reach the right people in need. So, I recommend such things to be institutionalized”. He also added from his religious point of view that “if possible, I will try to prioritize those I feel suffer the most. But, whether I got cheated or not, I always prefer to give for those who ask from me and I will keep on being fooled for I believe I will get blessings from above,”

Let’s say, such songs are not part of the begging technique, what do you think will happen?

I suppose the degree people feel

compassionate about the patients would gradually dwindle. But, then what should be done to let people help the needy without complaining about the system of begging, especially the pity-triggering songs? I leave this question for you.

What is most important is that music/ songs have the power to boost the feeling of care, unity, peace, love and the like among human beings. There are lots of songs that are meant for such purposes and that proved globally influential. For instance: *We are the world*, *One love* and *what a wonderful world* are but to mention a few. In Ethiopia also there are songs specifically meant for such purpose. These songs include *Ethiopia*, *Selam*, *Aynorm* and *Ene negn derash le wegene*.

This benevolent music: *Ene negn derash lewegene* is the best and foremost example in this regard. The music is released in 2016 by “kidney patients’ dialysis charity association”. It was sung by four young famous and talented vocalists. In its aesthetic value, the music has an incredible melody with extremely initiative heart-melting lyrics, also the music video shows how sociable Ethiopians are and the part taken from a movie called *Lamba* shares similar ideas with the music. This music reaches its apex with its main purpose (the purpose related to kidney patients) and now we see people on streets using this music for raising funds for people who could not afford their medication fee.

Our beloved musicians of such passionate songs, I forward this question to you and for all musicians/artists. It is presumable that it’s tough to produce such songs concerning someone’s pain and grief putting oneself in his/her shoe. There is no gainsaying your works will pass down generations’ lane, as Ethiopians never forget such favors. Your massive work has been touching sensitive cords in citizens’ hearts for 6 years now. Hence, why don’t you come up with such impact-wielding songs more and more?

For the Russian author Leo Tolstoy, music is the shorthand of emotions, in which human emotions are easily and deeply expressed through music. Accordingly, the unquestionable influence of songs in many aspects of human life should be recognized. We should make the most out of it.

## The pitifulness of the pitiful

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

In a bustling open market

Before sunset

In buyers

And sellers heart

Seeking a place

An emaciated old beggar

With a weather-worn face

Was pitifully collecting alms

Putting on tattered clothes.

Soon in a tear-jerking  
And heart-wrenching manner

A poor blind boy

Playing a flute

Singing a song strong

Titillating everyone’s heart

Invoked sympathy with art

‘It was

On a cursed morn

Blind, to a pauper family

I was born!

If given a steal

Bread to eat,

How could I

Despise it? ‘

With no need for

A second thought

Deducting from what

The hardest way he got

Touched, the old beggar

Gave the sight

Deprived boy

A one Birr note

Though both were

On the same boat!

The pitiful have pity!

Is the lesson,

Among vendors and buyers

The incident drove home

Before draws nigh gloam!



# Law & Politics

## Tigray people's anguish in the hands of the terrorist TPLF

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The terrorist TPLF group has been giving a hard time to the people of Tigray since its inception with its years of conspiracies and hawkish habits. The people have been suffering at the hands of the rogue group silencing dissidents and cracking down on opposition falsely claiming itself as the sole savior and protector of the people. The people, in general, have long been facing a grave humanitarian crisis and socioeconomic and political challenges mainly stemming from the group's narrowing thinking and selfish interests.

The situation in which the Tigray people grappled went from the frying pan into the fire as the criminal group used the people as cannon foddors and scapegoats to perpetrate its evil acts resulting in the messing up of livelihoods.

Using food as a weapon of starvation the TPLF and its cronies have been using forced conscription to wage war against neighboring states. In its attempt to alienate the people of Tigray, the terrorist group has for years been sowing discords with its wrong narratives and smear propaganda.

In fact, though TPLF tried to stifle voices, Tigray mothers have been crying their eye out due to the former's war-mongering agenda and criminal acts. Tigraian mothers have lost their children and continue to face backlash for refusing to side with the terrorist deeds of the group.

Currently, instead of compensating the people, the ragtag group is preparing for another devastating war that would further descend Tigray into a bottomless pit. The propaganda machines of the group and the so-called diaspora activists have been misleading the community in their effort to create a rift between the people of Tigray and other peoples.

However, the terrorist TPLF group's continuous lying, mischiefs, and evil deeds have been laid bare as the people of Tigray are well aware of the solidarity of the Ethiopian people and the genuine acts of the federal government.

In consideration of the foregoing, the people of Tigray have openly embarked on giving the cold shoulder to the empty bravado of the criminal enterprise and responding responsibly to the group's irresponsible acts that have been turning the whole lot in the region into chaos.

Rather than making an effort to change the course of events and getting to the bottom of the problem in an atmosphere of calm, the group has continued engaging itself in terrorizing people putting a number of evil deeds into effect.

While the poor people of Tigray continue to live in dire situations, dejectedly, the children of the terrorist TPLF leaders have been studying in Europe and the United States of America and living luxurious lifestyles.

Apart from compellingly recruiting



immature children, the criminal enterprise has been damaging and looting the possessions of noncombatants living in Tigray.

To this very day, the terrorist TPLF group has continued escalating tensions and backing the Tigray state into a corner in the midst of the ongoing mounting challenges.

Worse even, the group has been distributing the much-needed humanitarian assistance to its henchmen while most of the people have been fighting with a shortage of food.

As things stand at present, merely for the love of materializing their objectives, the terrorist TPLF group has been coming up with several conspiracies that throw the lives of the people of Tigray and their children into chaos at the earliest possible juncture. Furthermore, the criminal enterprise has been as well pulling out all the stops to create animosity among the various Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples of Ethiopia.

It should be borne in mind that on its watch the criminal enterprise had moved the country into the uncharted waters in addition to ruling with an iron rule.

Corroborating Tigray political parties' claims, lately Tigrayan IDPs have argued that there could be no peace in Tigray as long as the TPLF exists and they exposed that no matter how much aid flowed into the regional state, the priority would always be given to the TPLF leaders.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) crossing from Tigray into Amhara, in addition to the surrendered Tigrayan fighters currently situated in a large center in the Afar regional state, offer an opportunity to hear the true voices of various communities in Tigray, according to a research report by Professor Ann Fitzgerald, who is Director of the Balsillie School of International Affairs.

These individuals [IDPs] who have lived under the TPLF leadership and been

impacted most significantly by the conflict that was initiated in November 2020 by the party leadership as the commentary aims to expose their voices and let their stories be heard as to the report of Ethiopian News Agency.

The research stated that while a great number of written commentary pieces on the conflict in northern Ethiopia have been produced over the last 18 months, little to none has exposed the grassroots views of Tigrayan communities actually living in Tigray. Instead, three main groups have sought to represent the views of ethnic Tigrayans, Professor Ann Filz pointed out.

Another is made up of TPLF supporters in the Ethiopia Diaspora, many of whom have been organized as part of a wider auxiliary and "digital army" and who – as a result of access to opportunities made possible to them during the 27 years of TPLF rule in Ethiopia – have also supported the TPLF party leaders.

The final group according to the research is those members of the Tigrayan opposition who are primarily based in Addis Ababa, and whose voices are often dismissed in the face of the TPLF's wide international networks.

While the voices of the first two groups dominate international coverage, those whose views depart from their narrative [TPLF's supporters] are silenced, threatened, harassed, and vilified; in effect, insurgency tactics are being replicated in the virtual battlefield of the internet, the research exposed.

In a press statement issued recently, Tigray People's Democratic Movement (TPDM) noted that the criminal faction continues to believe in a military solution, fully disregarding the plight of innocent civilians which it claims to represent and defend. "Indeed, the people of Tigray have been exposed to enormous problems and suffering due to the warmongering of leaders of the T-TPLF."

TPDM further noted that the livelihoods of Tigray people were immensely affected by the criminal clique's reckless character that created havoc with the rest of Ethiopia. T-TPLF should be eliminated by any means so as to free the people of Tigray from tyranny.

"The people of Tigray have never been separated from the rest of Ethiopia; rather it is strongly tied by blood. Thus, contending political parties, religious leaders, the youth, and the international community should work in tandem to liberate the people of Tigray from T-TPLF's tyrannical rule."

TPDM always struggles to combat the barbaric acts of the terrorist clique and save the life of innocent civilians across the nation and it has been putting some additional values to encourage Ethiopian unity and peaceful coexistence, the statement remarked.

The Terrorist TPLF's allegation of releasing war prisoners is clearly intended to boost the fake confidence of its supporters as it is preparing to launch another horrific war by penetrating into Amhara and Afar, said an expert in the area.

T-TPLF claimed the release of war prisoners last week. But the government of Ethiopia has announced that the so-called prisoners are civilians who were kidnapped during the war of TPLF in the Amhara and Afar states.

The people of Tigray are the foremost victim of the Terrorist TPLF aggression and whilst the criminal faction has been damaged and looted civilian properties, it also forcefully conscripted underage soldiers to quench its greed for power, the party added.

As the suffering of the people of Tigray enters another grime stage, the international community needs to put pressure on the terrorist clique to stop its war-mongering acts and spare the lives of Tigray civilians.



# “Culture of romanticizing war has to change”

*Prof. Haregewein Assefa*

**BY KFLEEYESUS ABEBE**

*Professor Haregewein Assefa was born in a small village near Adwa town of Tigray State, Ethiopia. She attended primary and secondary school education in Adwa. Professor Haregewein's name was only related for her outstanding academic achievement earning PhD from University of Mississippi and being post doctoral fellowship at college of Pharmacy in University of Tennessee. She is professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and worked for nine years in the pharmaceutical industry.*

*Having this impressive resume, Professor Haregewein wanted to come back to her country of origin and contribute her part. It is this time she found herself trapped in war between Ethiopian forces and terrorist Tigray peoples liberation front (TPLF). The coincidence however helped her to witness the lies and atrocities of the terror group first hand and be a voice of critic against the terror group. Professor says she never engaged in politics before but this time she couldn't be silent at face of lies, propaganda and atrocities by the terror group. She challenged the crime group when it redirects its crimes of rape and 'genocide' to Ethiopian forces.*

*Professor Haregewein Assefa was also joined her daughter Hermela Aregawi who is an American based journalist. Hermela ignited #NoMore movement across the globe nullifying TPLF's, its lobbyists and western media coordinated smear campaign against Ethiopia. Influential people and nations from the region also came in solidarity with Ethiopia as it stood firm amid western pressure. The two have been victims of harassment by TPLF lobbyists while doing this. But the professor says “I choose to follow her mind and keep her professional integrity.”*

*The Ethiopian Herald got time to talk to Professor Haregewein Assefa about her struggles coming out of a region war is recurrent and what she has witnessed about terrorist TPLF since her childhood and the recent war in Tigray. Understanding the very nature of TPLF, Professor Haregewein Assefa started condemning the war mongering propaganda and activities of TPLF especially following the recent war in Tigray.*

**In another interview, I heard you saying Tigray has been at war for 50 years. How much of this war affected your life and Tigrians at large?**

TPLF was established on 18 February 1975, Dedebeit north Western Tigray. When the war began, I was seventh grader. My youth was through that throughout. Since 1977, I have never lived with my parents. What happened was my parents were in a small town. My school was in Adwa. The place where my parents reside in was under the control of TPLF. However, the high school was under the command of the government. During that time, I was homeless in ninth grade I can say.

However, I had good academic potential that helped a lot. And being a woman also makes you resilient. It wasn't easy. It was a time of socialism. There was a red terror. It was a bloody experiment everywhere. Tigray wasn't targeted for nothing as it was a founding place for EPRP and TPLF. Any government fights rebel groups but Tigray wasn't unfairly targeted. So, if you are TPLF recruit, there would be red terror. At least, the red terror kills in front. We know their names. That was the life we knew. At night TPLF came and took out our teacher because they were like EPRP members or EDU sympathizers. I have seen my Biology teacher from central Ethiopia who took him at night. I still remember him. He had fair skin. Good biology teacher. Then (Ethiopian Democratic Union or EDU) sympathizers: Kegne Azmach, Gera Azmach our classmates' parents were taken and vanished. So, that is what we survived. I didn't have a choice.

**If the war affected your life this much, how do you describe the suffering of people in Tigray by the recurrent war for the past 50 years?**

It is self-imposed to me. Looking back, that fight wasn't necessary. Given Tigray wasn't economically feasible, there was locust, drought coupled with resistance to modern education, the fight wasn't necessary. I don't know why it started. Sometimes, I wonder if there was anyone behind this. Someone from outside seeks us to be at war. If one part of Ethiopia is at war, the impact affects the rest. It didn't make sense to me for Tigray to start an independent struggle. Many of TPLF back in time were too young to engage in such politics. They started the war. It became a culture. They think war solves everything although they should be the first one to know war doesn't solve anything. They should know how bad war is. How many people died? How many people were disabled? It was adapted as a culture. They couldn't look back and say that wasn't good for us. We lost our children. Schools were closed while the rest of Ethiopia was operating. They join them. It was disruptive for 17 years. The education gap is hell. Maybe that has contributed to the fact that there aren't rational people now. What comes next is water down education.

**What led you to come out and expose TPLF?**

After twenty six years, I was hosted by Addis Ababa University. I got my PhD. I worked in the pharmaceutical industry for seven years and academy nine years.

I was in Mekele a year and a month ago. It feels like God sent. I was there for a mission. It liberated me. If I didn't see what is on the ground, I may be misled. As a human being, I might have believed them. When they talked about rape for me it feels like an insult. Rape is rampant in Tigray. I am sure it could be number one in the nation.

The recent says number one but I guess they



Photo: Tsehay Nigusie

*I don't chant Genocide bothersome because they wanted to use my credibility to propagate lies. I know it isn't genocide. These are the two weapons they are still chanting: rape and genocide*

haven't taken adult rape in to account. In a forum that Mekelle University organized I heard very shocking things from activists, journalists and physicians. There was a critical rape case before the war. Nobody could challenge it when I put in on my facebook page. Imagine what people, who were used to all crimes during normal time, were doing during the war and the criminals get out by the power vacuum.

On the other hand, I have seen Ethiopian soldiers helping the community before the war. They never leave their compound. They never involve rape cases. But when this all happened they start to tell the reality.

My neighbors and the TPLF supporters were lobbying me to stay quiet, to hide their crime. When I came here they wanted me to say Mekele University is bombed by government. But I know it wasn't. You shut your mouth or say this. When they do this reenacted video of rape and try to make a case, for me as a woman is insult. The fact that, I don't go down there. I don't chant Genocide bothersome because they wanted to use my credibility to propagate lies. I know it isn't genocide. These are the two weapons they are still chanting: rape and genocide.





# Herald Guest



**You said the political culture of Tigray has to be changed. What political culture did you want to see changed?**

Now we see adult faces but when TPLF started they were thirteen, fourteen. You may hear she joined TPLF when she was thirteen, fourteen. They were fed Tigray behind so and so. They fed them hate and send them to the bush. This is the political culture. I say current TPLF is a victim by itself. It has a culture of romanticizing war as if war solves everything. Can't they wake up? No, this is 21st century. This culture of romanticizing war has to change. And women have to have maternal instinct. Because for them to be called heroes, only in Tigray mothers push their children to war.

At recent war, one mother said "I sent five of my children to war." Why? You brought these kids. You can't feed them lie, hate and give them guns to be called heroes. Motherhood is a big responsibility. I don't see that come. That comes from a deep misogynistic society. They have to conform to that culture to the extent they abandon maternal instinct. This is where started: from misogynistic society has to change and romanticization of war. This has to change. Even professors and doctors who have achieved good in their field are biased when it comes to Tigray politics.

They are biased by false narrative and hate. I am not defending whatever TPLF has done. It won't be fair for victims I don't want to look like insensitive but TPLF themselves are the symptoms, the result of this culture. They are pushed out of their school in childhood. Many of their friends died. They saw their friends died there. It was deeply traumatic. So, my concern is the rest of the world and Ethiopia should have to learn from Tigray if we have to see the culture and social aspect. Whatever is solved by politics, it should be solved politically. Criminals should be held responsible for their actions, but going forward is what the rest of us can learn from Tigray case.

**What do you think about the role of the international community in the case of TPLF and the war in Tigray?**

Everybody is busy with their affairs. The West, for example, Americans are good people. They work against their own values. When we say America sometimes we miss it, they have few bad actors; bad representatives. Life in America is tough. Yes people live well but at the expense of working hard. Many Americans work sixteen hours a day. They are busy. I don't think many of them understand what their representatives are doing. America isn't perfect but no country opens doors like America. So, there are few bad actors, politicians. They have their own interests. Maybe they say that is good for Americans, you know. There are also arm manufacturers everywhere. They have to sell their arms anyway. Probably some of them run for office. Running for office in America is very expensive. You have to be rich. In general, they don't have time to analyze all this. Some of them will know for sure. But if Americans have time, they have to know some of their representatives aren't doing well on the international stage. Really, they are working against their value.



**What must the rest of Ethiopians do?**

I think this one has to be solved whatever it takes but for the rest of Ethiopia, we don't want extremes in any ethnicity. I think the Tigray case has gone for 50 years. For the whole society politics has become a religion. But there are also some extremes in Amhara and Oromo. So, please learn

***Please let's work together. Let's get together by our shared values. We have to stop division. To the outsiders we are all poor black Africans. Let's live in harmony***

from the Tigray case. We don't need extremes from any ethnicity. We want to live together. In my time, somebody from Asmara, Mekele, Bahir Dar, we were all classmates. It didn't matter. I know that kind of atmosphere. This ethnic division, this division! Please let's work together. Let's get together by our shared

values. We have to stop division. To the outsiders we are all poor black Africans. Let's live in harmony. There are good people everywhere. I am a living witness. I have lived in a polarized society. I lived in a

place where ethnicity never mattered. I long for that. It will come.

**On your Face book page, you have been talking about aberrant people from Tigray. How is that going on?**

They are very few in number. They tell us that we are born by err. Whenever I get aberrant people from Tigray, I would be happy and embrace them. I feel like some are getting it. Some of them are afraid of their parents. They are trapped, I can understand. Many of them fear to associate with me. Luckily, I stand strong. But I am insisting people who are awake to join me and falsify this wrong narrative. I am faithful at the end of the day the truth will win. People will see the direction we are taking.

From the start, I knew the end would be this. Not good. Still people they don't want admit it. They fear to come out. A friend of mine who says "liar" recently said sometimes she is right. We have this herd mentality. She is right. I don't always but I saw progress. It is a dead end. There is no going back. At this time we have to stand and think about it. It is sad that it took this long. I think there is no choice going forward.

**Thank you for your time and willingness.**

**It is my pleasure.**



## Celebrating Africa's Day

BY STAFF REPORTER

The Victory of Adwa was one of the decisive successes for All Africans and black peoples all over the world as a whole; and for Ethiopians in particular. The triumph, apart from heralding Ethiopia's independence, making the nation a symbol of freedom and on the other way round dispiriting global colonialist forces, it laid the foundation for the movement of Pan Africanism.

Following the victory Ethiopia scored against the invading Italian forces, quest for freedom and revolt against the colonial forces spread like wildfire. The importance of establishing solidarity, unity and creating strong bonds between and among black peoples became a matter that cannot be ignored or a thing that can be put aside. At last, after the relentless efforts of African leaders, including Emperor Haile Selassie I, Ethiopia and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, the establishments of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which is later changed into the African Union (AU) in 1963, became a reality.

Pan-Africanism has been promoting unity and brotherhood, and created a sense of shared and common historical and cultural destiny among Africans and black people around the globe, said Takele Merid Director of the Institute of Ethiopia Studies, Addis Ababa University.



Photo : ENA

Speaking at a program held to launch a permanent Pan-African Exhibition Wing (PAW) to the public on Thursday, in the Museum of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies (IES) at Addis Ababa University, Tekele said that Ethiopia has contributed a lot to realize and strengthen Pan-Africanism. Among others, the Victory of Adwa, for instance, is considered as the landmark and the beginning of modern Pan-African movements elsewhere in the world.

The Pan-African Permanent Exhibition organized in the museum of the institute takes us back to the 1880s and largely to the 1960s. It also depicts Ethiopia's endeavors and the efforts of heads of states to the unity of Africa, Takele added.

"We raised the issue of Pan-Africanism because the topic of Pan-Africanism is extremely important and meaningful more than any other time to us and Ethiopians in particular are facing a lot of challenges," the Director stressed.

He further noted that Africans need more solidarity and more cemented Africa; and Ethiopians have also to overcome the challenges they are facing.

"To this end, we must learn from the past, from the founding fathers of Pan-Africanism, to make the future bright," the Director underscored.

As to him, Pan-Africanism is important and the current generation should learn from its forefathers' history and struggles as well as from those individuals who contributed significantly to the movement so as to imagine and work for the better future.

Representing Addis Ababa University's President, Eng. Wubayehu Mamo on his part said that as a philosophy, Pan-Africanism represents the aggregation of the historical, cultural, artistic legacies of Africans across time and space.

Mentioning the role Ethiopia has played in

strengthening Pan-Africanism and bringing all the black people of the world to unity, he said that the victory of Adwa is a landmark event as after Adwa many things have happened that strengthened the people of Africa. For instance, among others, the realization of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963 was the major one.

Meanwhile, in his remark in relation to Africa Day 2022, António Guterres, UN Secretary-General said that Africa is a home for hope. "On Africa Day, we celebrate the enormous promise and potential of this diverse and dynamic continent."

The prospects on the horizon are bright – from Africa's growing and vibrant youth population to initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Decade of Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion, and the African Union's bold vision for the future, Agenda 2063.

Pan Africanism movement is a worldwide movement and aimed at creating a sense of brotherhood and collaboration among all people of African descent whether they lived inside or outside of Africa.

The permanent historical exhibition, opened in relation to Africa Day aiming to commemorate day and celebrating Ethiopia's impact on Pan Africanism as well as the role of Emperor Haile Selassie I and the great contemporary art exhibition, stays open till June 18, it was learnt.



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## Folklores for national consensus

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Arba Minch University (AMU) Cultural and Linguistic Research Institute in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Sports held a national symposium on May 21, under the title "Folklores for National Consensus" on which higher government officials spoke and studies were presented.

AMU Academic Affairs Vice President and the President Representative Alemayehu Chufamo (PhD) in stated that folklores are passed down from one generation to another generation via words and convey the abstract and broad message in a concise manner, adding that, at a time when our country, Ethiopia, is embroiled in a number of man-made problems, it is important to use the power of folklores for social communication his opening remarks.

"Moreover, such forums will not only educate but also help to set policy directions for the future." Alemayehu (PhD) added.

By the same token, Minister of Culture and Sports Minister Kejela Mardassa said that every nation and nationalities in Ethiopia have thousands of folklore narrations and sayings which have been used for ethics, conflict resolution, and nation-building at different times.

"However, at the moment, except for the rural part of the country, the art of folklore is



almost completely lost in the city and urban areas. Therefore, folklore research should be done and analyzed in various languages and passed on to future generations," Kejela speculated.

Similarly, AMU Research and Community Service Vice President Behailu Merdekiyos (PhD and Associate Professor of Global Health) said for his part: "However, folklores have the value that is used for social activities such as grief, joy, forgiveness, preparation for war, public relations, and so on, nonetheless, much remains to be done using folklores for national consensus."

To use folklores for national consensus, they should be collected and analyzed in different languages and it is important to be included in the curriculum and presented and analyzed in community discussions and various conferences for nation-building, he noted.

Equally, members of the House of Peoples

Representatives Culture and Language Affairs Standing Committee, for their part, said researchers, experts, and the government are expected to work harder to preserve the folklore works which are the identity of the society. The symposium also plays an important role in encouraging indigenous research.

Likewise, AMU Culture and Linguistic Research Institute Director, Seid Ahmed (PhD), explained that the symposium is one of the activities of the university in terms of exploring current and national issues and will help to support the national consensus that our country has started.

"Although the symposium has been held every year based on indigenous knowledge, the 6<sup>th</sup> annual symposium of this year, unlike other symposiums, focuses on folklore only. In the future as an institution, we will work together with stakeholders on social, economic, and political issues," he disclosed.

Also, AMU Department of Ethiopian Languages and Literature Studies, Folklore and Literature lecturer Temesgen Menwagaw (PhD) presented a paper entitled "Yeyet Met'a Myth Yegamo Abironet Amid Sihon" and said that the purpose of the paper is to show the importance of folklores to national consensus.

Citing Gamo's famous Myth, he highlighted the origins and unity of the Gamo people,

the problem-solving strategy, the way in which peaceful relations have been established and the ongoing conflict resolution process, and the importance of nationalizing the experience.

"Folklore has the power to develop and destroy a country; and we are more likely to overcome our problems by using our folklores," he concluded.

At last, Bahir Dar University, Cultural Center Director and Folklore Lecturer, Aster Mulu (PhD), presented a paper entitled "The Importance of Amharic Language Proverbs for Peacebuilding and Its Focus on the Bahir Dar and Its Surroundings".

"False narratives that have been told for centuries are the main reason for the current instability of the country," she said adding that folklores have an important role to play in building peace and it is important for a country to refute by collecting and including the folklores in the curriculum to continue with its sovereignty.

Fourteen research papers were presented at the symposium on which officials from the Prime Minister Office, Ministry of Culture and Sports, House of Federation, MPs, heads and representatives of various regional culture and tourism bureaus, officials from the Oromia Regional Research Institute, invited elders from Gamo zone wordas and Arba Minch town, Officials and professionals as well as members of AMU Council, Lectures and students took part.



# Verbatim and Caption

## National Consultation, peace process



**C**itizens need to nurture culture of sustaining a country. The nation can be stabilized through a positive outlook and citizens should develop a culture of voluntarism to building a nation. In collaboration with the federal and regional governments to safeguard and ensure peace of citizens, peace and cooperation as well as culture of mutual respect and tolerance have been developed. I assert that the youth voluntary community service launched under the theme “Virtue for Respect” will be strengthened to transfer Ethiopian values and principles to the youth. Works done over the past years have seen results. Citizens should make voluntarism a culture as it integrates the nation. To this end, more than 116 thousand youths graduated from higher learning institutions and technical vocational colleges are registered to render voluntary services from all over the country. More than 25 thousand youth have so far taken 45 days training,

*State Minister of Peace TayeDendea*

**T**he national consultation that will be taking place in Ethiopia has a significant role in sustainably resolving conflicts in the country. Denmark supports the peace process, going through establishing a national consultative commission to solve problems in Ethiopia. I have recognized the creation of an important organization that enables to resolve conflicts through inclusive dialogue in a way that enables all communities represented. Since the national consultation is an opportunity for Ethiopians to bring their own lasting peace by their own means, they expected to go forward creating consensus by making the activities the commission undertakes accessible to the public. Demark appreciates the government ‘s efforts to ensure humanitarian support reaches the Tigray region,

*Kira Smith Sindbjerg, Ambassador of Denmark to Ethiopia*



**D**espite some security problems in some areas of the Southern Nation and Nationalities People Reginal State, prudent, the people have been working closely with the government to ensure peaceand the regional state have carried activities that could sustain peace and stability.The Attorney General Reiterated that there was an attack on security forces in the Derashe Special Woreda due to the security problem created by anti-peace forces in the region.Armed forces that are creating security problems have also been observed in Derashe Special Woreda, Konso and Ale areas. The security forces are taking measures against forces that disturb the peace of the people,

*Restu Yirdaw, State Chief.*

**T**he national consultation will enable to reach consensus on basic issues and build a democratic system that can promote peace by building trust among the people. It allows to build democracy. The process will have a significant role in strengthening trust and consensus among the people and to promote peace, bringing peace in conflict areas, and in peace-building areas, to work in coordination and cooperation with all entities, he indicated. The national discussion will create conducive atmosphere to build a political system that promotes peace and build trust and understanding. There is a need to identify the cause of the conflict in the areas where peace has disrupted and work to bring about peace,

*LenchoLeta, Veteran Politician*

