



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Ethiopia to capitalize EU's mission to dispel T-TPLF lies

• Public demonstrates overwhelming support to law enforcement operation



BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** The Government will capitalize on the deliberation with the 27-member European Union (EU) Political and Security Committee to inform the Ethiopia's objective reality and dispel the lies of the Terrorist TPLF and its lobbyists in exile, the Government Communication Service (GCS) said.

In a press briefing she gave here yesterday, GCS State Minister Selamawit Kassa noted that the EU's delegation has arrived in Addis Ababa to discuss with the African Union officials on the peace and stability concerns of the African continent.

Noting the EU ambassadors will also confer with Ethiopian government officials, the state minister indicated the exchange would have a paramount importance to eschew the orchestrated and well-funded propaganda of the T-TPLF and its foreign cliques. The discussion would also have the significance for Ethiopia to present its desire on ways the EU supports the ongoing humanitarian response in Northern Ethiopia. The government will also inform the ambassador of the heinous crimes the

See Ethiopia to.... Page 3

## T-TPLF remains danger to Horn's peace: NISS

BY TEWODROS KASSA

**ADDIS ABABA-** The Terrorist TPLF is a great danger to the stability of the Horn of Africa by blocking the on-going national and regional pacification efforts and committing and financing conflicts, the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) said.

A national forum on countering terrorism was held yesterday under the theme 'We will protect Ethiopia, our mutual home by countering terrorism.' The conference is said to highlight the state of peace and security at the national, continental and international levels.

Addressing at the forum here yesterday, NISS Director-General Temesgen Tiruneh

said some local and international radical elements notably the T-TPLF miscalculated the reform government's patience to widen the democratic space as tactic to disrupt the country's peace and stability through creating ethnic-centred and religious chaos aimed at fulfilling their ill intention. "It is impossible to realize the country's sustainable peace and stability until those groups and individuals that works behind the curtain are brought to justice."

The director-general further noted that Ethiopia has gained international recognition through countering terrorism, building a strong security and intelligence system, and taking proportionate measures against any foreign and local terrorism attempts. Ethiopia has been vigilantly foiling terrorist attempts through identifying



Temesgen Tiruneh

and neutralizing perpetrators and it is one of the countries that have been known to thwart any terrorist attempts.

"Indeed, neighbouring countries have

See T-TPLF remains.... Page 3

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## Gov't ensures regular humanitarian support to Tigray

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA-** The federal government is ensuring uninterrupted humanitarian deliveries to communities in need in the Tigray and other parts of the country and

See Gov't ensures .... Page 3

## Walias record shining victory over Egypt counterpart

• EFF to award 2 million Birr

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

**ADDIS ABABA-** The Ethiopian Football Federation (EFF) has pledged to provide the national football team (Walias) with financial reward as they beat Egypt 2 to nil Thursday and ink a shining victory.

Federation President Isaias Jira honored the team and pledged to give them a financial reward after the decisive victory of the Egyptian national team at Lilongwe, Malawi, according to the information posted on the official Facebook page of the Federation.

"We are proud of you for winning this match  
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Respect for Arts, Crafts as precondition for modernization

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Deception, denial: The modus operandi of TPLF criminal enterprise

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# News

## Party unveils T-TPLF's wrong deeds against public interest

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA-** The Terrorist TPLF leaders are prioritizing their own personal gain as they are amassing undeserved gain at the expense of the general public in the state, so said Tigray Democratic Party (TDP).

Party Deputy Chairman, Mesfin Desalegn said that since T-TPLF leaders are too greedy to take care of the people, all people are suffering from the problem and misery they have been creating.

Having a stay with EPA he said the T-TPLF leaders are using electric service at their home, but the general public could hardly be treated even in hospitals. This shows how these people are selfish and irresponsible.

He noted that one indicator of their greediness is that Ayder Referral Hospital in Mekele has stopped its service due to lack of fuel. T-TPLF leaders are hunting for their political benefit, they did not ever think about the people's interest and benefit.

Shortage of fuel may exist, but sick people in Ayder hospital are deliberately made devoid of treatment because of no fuel. This indicates that the T-TPLF group doesn't care about the public at all.

"Even if there is shortage of fuel, public interest should be prioritized, not leaders' personal gain is secured. They live a luxurious life, but the people are suffering from hunger and



Mesfin Desalegn

poverty. They are misleading the international community by disseminating false propaganda at the expense of state people."

T-TPLF has never had a close ally of the people since its inception and for the last 27 years. It has caused misery, injustice and poverty instead of providing the people with development, democracy and freedom, he said.

"The people of Tigray have to be well aware of T-TPLF's cruelty and its being their enemy and good for nothing except trading in the name of the people. It is fond of prolonging its power via lying, intimidating and rejecting crucial public questions."

## Ethiopia endeavors to enhance trade, regional integration

BY MULATU BELACHEW

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration stated that Ethiopia has been undertaking various activities to consolidate trade and regional integration among African countries thereby accelerating sustainable socio-economic development.

Trade and Regional Integration State Minister, Endalew Mekonen told *The Ethiopian Herald* that Ethiopia is striving to enhance regional integration and regional cross border trade linkage targeting at realizing sustainable and inclusive economic development. Besides, it has been undertaking various activities and bilateral bargaining to exchange goods and services within the Horn in particular and across the African market in general.

Ethiopian trade and regional integration is still going well to link the region with cross border trade to consume products and services from one another. Because there are over 3 trillion USD market exchange in Africa, it has been called the largest single market globally. The region has over 1.3 billion population with a potential to make over 3 trillion USD trade exchange. This is significant potential and opportunity to boost regional trade and integration, he



Endalew Mekonen

underlined.

"To make a common market, Ethiopia has been undertaking various bargaining activities with regional cooperation and integration spheres. Besides, countries apart from Ethiopia, member states of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) of course, have to entertain the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)."

A range of activities have been underway in a bid to further link Ethiopia with regional trade and integration to promptly exchange product and service.

# Ethiopia launches third round COVID-19 vaccination

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA-** The Ministry of Health (MoH) disclosed that it has started third round COVID-19 vaccinations this Thursday aiming at controlling the spread of the pandemic and combating the multifaceted challenges caused by the disease.

Briefing Journalists yesterday, MoH State Minister, Dereje Deguma (PhD) said that the Ministry has finalized necessary preparations to start providing citizens with COVID-19 vaccination nationwide to control the rapid expansion of the pandemic.

According to the State Minister, some 477,000 citizens are infected by the pandemic, of those, 7,516 lost their life, and 22 of them are in critical condition until Thursday's report. Out of the 530 million citizens infected by the pandemic, 6.3 million of them died as per the last report of Friday worldwide.

He further noted that the number of people infected by the COVID-19 and going to the intensive care unit (ICU) is increasing over the past four weeks in Ethiopia. The dynamic nature of the disease and recklessness of many citizens to apply simple and effective preventive measures are the main serious factors exacerbating the prevalence of the



pandemic over the past 30 days.

The government of Ethiopia has been carrying out various activities to control the rapid expansion of Covid-19 pandemic since its outbreak across the nation though not adequate compared with the serious causes of the pandemic.

As to Dereje, some 29.5 million doze has been distributed in Ethiopia since March

2013 E.C. In this regard, 24.5 million citizens (44 percent) are less than 12 years old and have taken one dose (First round vaccination.) Similarly, 21.5 million people, over 12 ages were fully vaccinated. On the other hand, some 12 billion doze COVID-19 vaccines are distributed worldwide and 3.1 billion people have taken the vaccines fully.

"The ministry has given serious attention to the conflict affected and drought areas of

the nation. In this regard, it has planned to increase the full vaccination service from the total rate of 37.8 percent to 70 percent by vaccinating 25 million citizens shortly," he added.

Meanwhile, the Ministry has been carrying out various activities in 20 corridors to prevent the Monkeypox disease from entering Ethiopia, it was learned.

# News

## Deputy Premier confers with U.S. Special Envoy

**ADDIS ABABA-** Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen received at his office yesterday, the newly appointed United States Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa, Michael Hammer.

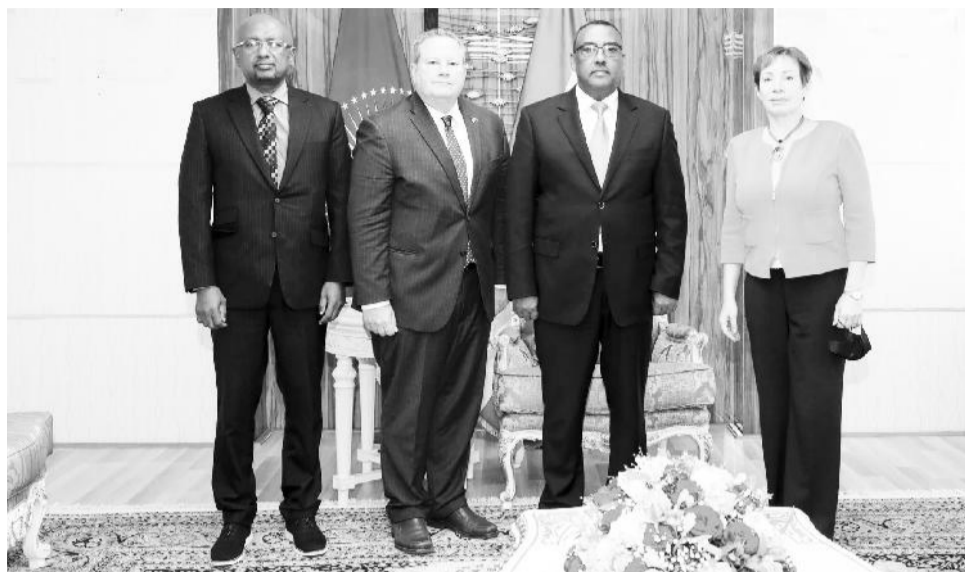
Ambassador Tracey Jacobson, Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia, and Ethiopia's Ambassador in the U.S., Sileshi Bekele (PhD) were in attendance.

They discussed a wide range of issues, including the humanitarian supply to conflict-affected areas in the Northern part of Ethiopia, measures taken to ensure accountability for abuses committed during the conflict, and the AU-led peace building initiatives and trilateral negotiations over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

In discussing the humanitarian supply issue, Demeke mentioned the government's demonstrated commitment to creating unfettered access to humanitarian partners to Tigray, recalling his recent visit to Afar to check the process at Serdo and Semera Checkpoints.

He also urged Humanitarian partners to extend support to the people of Amhara and Afar who were looted and displaced during the TPLF's expansion of the conflict into the regions.

Both the Special Envoy and Ambassador Jacobson called the recent flow of Humanitarian supply to the Tigray region phenomenal, mentioning the 1100 aid trucks that entered Tigray superseding



the estimated requirement and demonstrating the importance of the Humanitarian Truce in improving aid access.

In addressing the concerns of Mr. Hammer on accountability measures, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister recalled Ethiopia's decision to implement the recommendations of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Joint Investigation report.

In this regard, he mentioned the efforts of the

Ethiopian government to bring perpetrators to justice by establishing Inter-Ministerial committee, comprising more than 180 skilled legal experts and law enforcement personnel.

Although Ethiopia is committed to ensuring accountability for human rights violations in the Tigray region, it has reservations over the UN resolution that establishes a three-member panel of experts to investigate abuses in the conflict, he said.

He said the resolution fails to consider Ethiopia's concerns over the investigation's focus area

that omits atrocities of the TPLF in the Amhara and Afar regions and that seems to rerun the already conducted investigation in Tigray duplicating efforts, sidestepping the government's accountability measures and undermining the institutional independence of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission.

Regarding the peace initiatives of the African Union spearheaded by Olusegun Obasanjo, Demeke reaffirmed the government's commitment to work closely with the High Representative for the Horn of Africa, to end the conflict peacefully.

He said the Ethiopian people have seen enough destruction due to the conflict and the Government has no interest to involve in another round of conflict with the TPLF, further calling on the United States to send a clear message to the TPLF to desist from its provocative actions.

Mr. Michael Hammer appreciated Mr. Demeke for the candid discussion and said his visit to Ethiopia was made to demonstrate that the United States is keen to work with the Ethiopian Government and extend support to peace initiatives.

Ethiopia's Ambassador to the U.S., Sileshi Bekele highlighted Ethiopia's interest to resume the AU-led trilateral negotiation over the GERD and requested the lifting of the U.S. sanction on Ethiopia over the AGOA preferential trade agreement, which is hurting the ordinary people and putting companies out of business, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### Ethiopia to...

T-TPLF combatants committed in the civilian population of Amhara and Afar states.

"The Ethiopian Government is expected to present its desire to conduct a joint investigation on the humanitarian violations the rebellious group executed in Afar and Amhara states to the EU ambassadors. The exchange will help to table the issue in the EU Council of Ministers meeting which will be held after two weeks."

Meanwhile, Selamawit announced that the law enforcement operation that has been carried out in several parts of the country has brought about tangible results in averting the destructive attempts of local and international terrorist elements that conspire to create widespread violence. Security forces have been successfully neutralize terrorists and illegal armed groups that have been engaged in disrupting the peace of the country.

### T-TPLF remains...

played important role in thwarting planned terrorist attacks in Ethiopia and we extend appreciation for their unreserved contributions and long-term cooperation to counter terrorism."

### Wallias record...

which has a special meaning beyond a football game. After an urgent meeting with the executive committee of the Federation, we are pledged to reward you with two million Birr for today's victory and what you have done in the past games," Isaias said.

The Ethiopian National Team, which ran matches at Malawi due to requirement issues with CAF in local stadiums, has achieved decisive victory over Egypt in their second Group D match of the 2023 Total Energies Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

Dawa Hutessa and Semeles Bekele were the players who scored the winning goals for Ethiopia at 21st and 40th minutes respectively.

"Security forces have averted Al-Shabaab's plan of attack across the Ethiopia-Somalia border and in Somali State. Besides, several operations have been carried out to disarm illegal groups in Amhara and Oromia states. Indeed, the government forces have neutralized a huge number of the Terrorist Shene group."

According to her, those operations have been carried out with the public's overwhelming support and participation, adding this active public participation key for the success of the engagement. "The people in the operation areas are demonstrating avid support for the operation. And now, relative peace has been restored in Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz, and Somali and the engagement will be consolidated until lasting peace and stability is guaranteed. "Also, those groups that have been engaged in running hidden political agenda under the name of journalism under the guise of free speech are held accountable by law."

Ethiopia will work in collaboration with other countries and international institutions through putting national interests first. In addition, the country's security forces are accomplishing missions and serving with great commitment and latest technologies, Temesgen emphasized.

Dawa changed the ball passed from Abubaker Nasser as the first goal in a sliding finish baffling the Egyptian keeper Mohamed AbouGabal.

The second goal scored by Semeles shotover AbouGabal five minutes before the end of the first half after moving through the goal with Amanuel Gebremichael.

Ethiopia could have scored more had the players changed several regretting attempts into goals. Attempts by Abubaker, Gatuoch Panom, Semeles Bekele were worth citing to enable Ethiopian players to give more color to the victory.

The Wallias will face the Guinean National Team on 19 September 2022. Ethiopia is leading the AFCON 2023 qualifying teams categorized under Group D, it was learnt.

### Gov't ensures...

has been closely working with several aid agencies to this end, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

At a weekly press briefing he held yesterday, MoFA Spokesperson Dina Mufti said that the federal government is ensuring unfettered supply of humanitarian assistance to the people of Tigray, complying with the declaration of an indefinite truce. The government has also been greatly engaged in facilitating conditions for aid agencies that have been operating in Tigray thereby enabling the latter to access the needy.

The spokesperson further noted that the government is working to scale-up the humanitarian support, including food and fuel, heading to the Tigray State. "The federal government has received appreciation in providing proper response and cooperating with humanitarian partners in facilitating access to humanitarian supply to affected people in Tigray, including fuel supply."

"The laudable peace initiatives of the federal government of Ethiopia could not be met with equal commitment and determination from the T-TPLF side. On the other hand the faction preparing for another round of conflict and the international community should exert enough pressure on the latter to renounce its anti-peace activities"

Dina recalled that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen, along with Afar State Chief Administrator Awel Arba paid a visit to Serdo Checkpoint to assess the humanitarian supply facilitation to the Tigray State. The Deputy Premier mentioned the laudable activities of the state government and people of Afar in facilitating the humanitarian aid process to support the people of Tigray despite the attacks of the T-TPLF in the area.

About bilateral relations, the spokesperson highlighted that Ethiopia will work to maximize relations with neighboring Somalia and beyond aligning with its neighbor-centered foreign policy. At the inaugural ceremony of Somalia's newly-elected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Premier Abiy has expressed commitment to strengthen the bilateral ties among the two countries. The government of Ethiopia is prioritizing relations with neighboring states that are stipulated in the country's foreign policy with a vision to ensure mutual growth and development. The regional integration aspirations are focused on maximizing the existing cultural, economic, and political ties.

It is to be recalled that Premier Abiy expressed optimism that the longstanding and multifaceted relationship between Ethiopia and Somalia would be strengthened and widened in new areas of cooperation under the Presidency of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.



# Opinion

## Senator Edward Markey: Laser marking crippling sanctions on Ethiopia!

BY ALMARIAM

PART TWO

**Markey has never said he made a “mistake” by voting for Biden’s disastrous crime bill.**

In April 2021, Markey issued a statement following the conviction of Derek Chauvin, the devil-incarnate murderer of George Floyd, proclaiming,

George Floyd’s life mattered, and today his family, friends and community got the justice they deserved. But today’s verdict does not bring him back, and it only begins to scratch the surface of what our country must do to atone for the shameful, racist policies that have denied and stripped Black Americans of their rights for generations.

But what did Markey do to pass S.3912 – “Justice in Policing Act of 2020”, the precursor to the HR 1280 “George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021? Not a doggone thing!

**Markey gone AWOL on Massachusetts**

As Markey proclaims himself to be the champion of global human rights, peace, democracy, *who is minding the store in Massachusetts?* Who is protecting the rights of the people of Massachusetts from lack of housing, income inequality, discrimination, educational segregation, skyrocketing inflation, etc.?

As Prince Edward Markey in shining armor rode the globe on his white horse crusading for human rights, his own constituents in Massachusetts are suffering **human** rights violations.

A 2021 WBUR, a National Public Radio affiliate, survey showed, “The vast majority of Boston voters believe racism is a serious issue facing the city.” Overall, “80 percent of Bostonians consider racism a significant problem.”

The findings also showed “44 percent of Black Boston voters and 33 percent of Hispanics had experienced discrimination over the past year, compared to 10 percent of white voters.” What has Markey done to protect the human rights of people of color in Massachusetts from racist discrimination? *Not a doggone thing!*

A 2020 Harvard Law School study presented in a 103-page report entitled, “Racial Disparities in the Massachusetts Criminal System” found:

Black and Latinx people charged with drug offenses and weapons offenses are more likely to be incarcerated and receive longer incarceration sentences than White people charged with similar offenses. This difference persists after controlling for charge severity and additional factors. Black and Latinx people charged with offenses carrying mandatory minimum sentences are substantially more likely to be incarcerated and receive longer sentences than White people facing charges carrying mandatory minimum incarceration sentences.

What has Markey done to protect the human rights of people of color in Massachusetts from racial disparities (due process/equal protection of the laws) in the justice system? Not a doggone thing!

Some of the “most dangerous cities” in

America are in Massachusetts. But bleeding-heart white liberal Markey would rather talk about “violence and destruction” in Ethiopia than do something to ensure public safety in his backyard of Worcester, New Bedford and Brockton!

The Boston Globe in 2020 issued a damning report on educational segregation in Massachusetts:

Black and Latino isolation is surging. In the last decade alone, the number of ‘intensely segregated’ nonwhite schools in Massachusetts — that is, schools with at least 90 percent students of color — has grown by more than a third, from 143 to 192, according to a recent report by researchers at the Beyond Test Scores Project and the Center for Education and Civil Rights. That’s tens of thousands of children learning in racially isolated environments.

What has Markey done to secure the civil rights of students of color to an equal education in Massachusetts by improving access and smashing the iron gates of segregation? *Not a doggone thing!*

Massachusetts has a population almost 8 million. The poverty rate for people of color in Massachusetts is dismal. The number of Black or African American children below 200 percent poverty is 60,000. The number of Hispanic or Latino children below 200 percent poverty is 131,000. The percentage of working families under 200 percent of the poverty line in Massachusetts is 20.9 percent (that is more than one in five residents of Massachusetts). The extreme poverty rate in Massachusetts is 6 percent. Food insecurity (a euphemism for starvation) in Massachusetts is 8.2 percent.

Recent data show there were 17,975 homeless people in Massachusetts. There are 248,200 households in Massachusetts who spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing.

The overall poverty rate in Massachusetts shows the following: White 6.5 percent; Black 17.8 percent; Hispanic 19.2 percent; Asian 10.7; American Indian 36.5 percent. What has Markey done to help these least of his constituents? Not a doggone thing!

**Markey’s malarkey of legislation**

Edward Markey has introduced/sponsored hundreds of malarkey legislation to help everybody in the world EXCEPT the people and state of Massachusetts. How many of *his* bills have passed!?! Behold the evidence!

Markey sponsored 129 bills in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress (2021-22). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 150 bills in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress (2019-20). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 78 bills in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress (2017-18). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey sponsored 73 bills in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress (2015-16). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 62 bills in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress (2013-14). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 57 bills in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress (2011-12). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 43 bills in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress (2009-10). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 43 bills in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress (2007-09). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 42 bills in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress (2005-06). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 28 bills in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress (2003-04). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 29 bills in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress (2001-02). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 32 bills in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress (1999-00). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 14 bills in the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress (1997-98). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 16 bills in the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress (1995-96). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 24 bills in the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1993-94). Not one of them had a doggone thing to do with the people or the State of Massachusetts! Passed=O

Markey introduced/sponsored 820 bills as a member of the House and the Senate between 1993 and 2022.

**Shocking fact: not one of the 820 Malarkey bills introduced/ sponsored by Markey passed the house or senate!**

Markey palms himself off as a HERO of the people of Massachusetts fighting for their rights. But the facts show conclusively he is a big fat ZERO!

In the interest of fairness, Congressman Gregory Meeks of New York has also not passed a single piece of legislation in his quarter century of service in the US House of Representatives!

**The Markey/Marquis de Crook**

Markey is a crook who took money from Ukrainian gas lobby and sold out American interests. Markey was the point man in writing a letter to Obama supporting Ukraine energy production after he received donations from lobbyists.

Markey introduced the “Ukrainian Independence from Russian Energy Act” to make Ukraine independent of Russia for

energy supplies. It died without so much as a whimper in the Senate.

Markey was also involved in a stock scam involving Herbalife. In 2014, Markey’s republican challenger filed an ethics complaint alleging Markey used his political office to manipulate stock.

On March 16, 2021, Markey was caught ignorantly tweeting, “The filibuster was created so that slave owners could hold power over our government.”

On March 24, 2021, Markey again tweeted; The filibuster is a vestige of slavery and Jim Crow. Today it stands in the way of the For the People Act, critical legislation that will protect the right to vote in Black and Brown communities across the United States.

The “filibuster” is a mainstay procedure of the U.S. Senate which allows senators to “prolong debate and delay or prevent a vote on a bill.”

Southern racists and segregationist have used the filibuster to delay action on various legislation advancing civil rights, but it was not invented to enable slaveholder stay in power. Lazy Markey was either simply ignorant, willfully ignorant or was trying to demagogically score political points by tweeting a falsehood he could have verified by simply googling the topic.

**Markey carrying the White Man’s Burden in Ethiopia**

Pray tell!

Why is it so easy and attractive for white liberal politicians as to save Africans in Africa but find it impossible to protect the human rights of African Americans in America? Why must white liberal politicians always carry the flag of the White Man’s Burden in Africa? Are they merely carrying out Rudyard Kipling’s mandate for every white man of means and power?

Kipling wrote in verse:

*Take up the White Man’s burden—  
Send forth the best ye breed—  
Go bind your sons to exile...  
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,  
Half devil and half child...*

Markey and his other bleeding heart liberal politicians should carry the Black Man’s Burden in America before carrying the White Man’s Burden in Africa!

**The human rights malarkey of Edward Markey**

On June 1, 2020, Markey tweeted, “Donald Trump is scum for fueling racist hate and violence in our country.” Well! Well! Well! What is good for the goose is good for the gander!

I say, Edward Markey is scum for meddling and interfering in Ethiopia’s internal affairs, infringing on Ethiopian sovereignty, affronting Ethiopian dignity and messing with Ethiopian unity by propagating liberal racist propaganda of division and violence in Ethiopia! Does scum have any moral authority to lecture Ethiopia on human rights?

**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

### Flourishing relations fostering mutual interdependence

Characterized for long by its havoc and political unrest due to insurgent activities of foreign forces, the Horn of Africa is now becoming fertile ground for strengthened cooperation in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural affairs and security issues as well. To provide a simple illustration, the ever flourishing holistic relations between Ethiopia and Somalia tell us the reality on the ground.

Acknowledging the truth, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) expressed his optimism that the longstanding and multifaceted relationships between Ethiopia and Somalia would be strengthened and widened in new areas of cooperation under the Presidency of Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. In his congratulatory remark along with other East African leaders in the lavish inauguration ceremony for Somalia's 10<sup>th</sup> President, the Premier expressed his delight over Somalia's peaceful power transition.

Being neighbors, these two countries have many things in common that include cultural, political and economic interests. These common aspects among others need to be nurtured for further consolidated integration. To this end, the PM further noted that Ethiopia's neighbor-centered foreign policy has contributed greatly for the two countries to open a new horizon of regional cooperation in East Africa. The diplomatic successes that Ethiopia and Somalia have enjoyed over the past years will also be invigorated through closer partnership with the newly elected President and his administration.

Abiy reaffirmed his government's commitment to enhance Ethiopia's multifaceted relations with Somalia and to avail all the necessary support to President Mohamud. "As our fate is intertwined with our neighbors and we could not ensure peace

and development solely, both Ethiopia and Somalia will foster mutual culture, security and diplomatic ties thereby ensuring prosperity," stated Abiy.

Both sides need to exert their utmost effort to crystallize and foster mutual interdependence. This necessitates working hand in glove, so that President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on his part vowed to make Somalia a peaceful and economically strong nation. "We forge closer partnership with the Horn of African countries as well as the rest of the world".

The well-founded relation in the diplomatic arena between the two countries should be cemented with trade and economic attachments and counterterrorism. These issues that serve to attain mutual prosperity will remain priorities of the two countries' foreign relations. As of the president, the two countries have worked in partnership for many years to combat terrorism. In this regard, the collaboration of Ethiopia and Somalia has borne fruits by bringing peace and stability in the turbulent region.

True, unless the two countries including others in the Horn raise their strong feast against terrorism, terrorist groups like Al shabaab will get hotbed in the region and cause existential threat toward the smooth flow of economic, cultural and social relations of the peoples in the region.

In addition to firm stance to invigorating their political and economic ties, countries in the Horn of Africa ought to work on the cultural and social relations among their peoples that add value to the effort the nations exert to realize all - embracing prosperity of the region which in turn has the possibility to be expanded to continent level assuring the Unity of Africa.

## Opinion

### Living in harmony with nature

Thirty years ago, the Earth Summit, which took place in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, paved the way for the establishment of three major conventions on the environment – specifically on biodiversity, climate change and desertification.

As countries meet on all three conventions in 2022, SDG Advocate and indigenous rights activist Hindou Ibrahim talks about the indispensable role that indigenous communities around the world play in protecting life on our planet – its biodiversity, land and climate.

"As indigenous peoples, we say, we are not different than the rest of the species, we are only one species of nature, so we cannot harm the rest of them. So that's why living in harmony, it's connecting each other, respecting each other and trying to keep the balance without harming the rest of the species – species of nature," says Ms. Ibrahim.

She is no stranger to international climate change, human rights and sustainability processes. In 1999, at just 15 years of age, she founded the Association of Indigenous Peul Women and Peoples of Chad, a community-based organization that promotes the rights of girls and women in Chad's Mbororo community which she belongs to.

In the years following, she became the co-chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, and today she is one of the 17 eminent global leaders known as the SDG Advocates.

For centuries, indigenous communities like

hers have protected our environment. They care for more than 20 per cent of our planet's land and 80 percent of its biodiversity.

"For centuries and centuries, my great grandparents have always used the ecosystem. They know the ecosystem, they move from one place to another one to find work in pastures, but in this way of living, it is giving back to nature; it is helping nature to get regenerated in a natural way".

"So, for all the indigenous peoples around the world, this is the deeper connection we have. And that's also why we are protecting 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity. Because for us, it is not a passion, or a job. It is our way of living. And that's what we have done for all generations."

Their way of life – rich with traditional knowledge and respect for nature – and their ability to manage natural resources sustainably supports the lives and livelihoods of 2.5 billion people or about 1 in 3 people in the world.

"We are very happy that now – from the private sector to the public, to UN agencies, all people are saying how important are indigenous peoples and their role to protect the biodiversity but to fight climate change, they are finally recognizing that indigenous peoples are a solution, we are not only a victim of the climate change," says Ms. Ibrahim.

Indigenous communities have historically been at the margins of formal global negotiations on climate change. They were finally given a voice alongside governments in 2015 when the UN Framework Convention on Climate

Change created the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.

"When we talk about nature, when we talk about the climate, most of the time people talk a lot, but they do not act, maybe it is difficult for them to find the way to act. This is where the role of indigenous peoples [should be] in the centre of each discussion because we are not only talking, we are acting. We want the people who are talking to follow us and act. If we [have] acted all those years, we won't be in this pathway of climate impact every single day."

At the 2021 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, governments pledged \$12 billion to stop and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030. \$1.7 billion was earmarked to support indigenous communities' efforts to conserve tropical forests.

However, the world's nearly 480 million indigenous peoples living in at least 90 countries need support to protect a diversity of ecosystems – from the glaciers in the Arctic to the steppes in Central Asia and the savannahs in Africa – that are threatened by climate change.

"Imagine when you come in country like mine, in Chad. In the north, you have the desert 100 per cent; you come a little bit down, you have the Sahara regions; you go a little bit further you have the savannah. And after the savannah, you have the tropical forests. What is happening with climate change?"

" [With] desertification advanced, the people from the desert moved to the Sahel, the people

from the Sahel moved to the savannahs, those from savannah moved to tropical forests. And that's also how the peoples are using the ecosystem that exists. So, you cannot choose to protect only the tropical forests. When you place money, you must think about all the rest of the ecosystem that interconnects – from the oceans to the glaciers," stresses Ms. Ibrahim.

In recent years, the world's leading scientists have recognized indigenous communities as "some of the best environment stewards" stressing their central role in safeguarding life on our planet. Their traditional knowledge – which is closely linked to their lands, territories and resources – can help end food insecurity, combat climate change and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss.

"Around the world, we are facing a lot of crises – from the environment, to health and to wars. But when we think about the impact of all that, it is based on human survival and planet survival, so we must all act to fight climate change, and protect the world from the wars that is coming from every corner of the world – it could be food security, it could be water, it could be biodiversity, it could be human insecurity, but all is related to climate change, so we can't be sustainable if we cannot act."

(Source: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange>)

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

# Art & Culture

## Respect for Arts, Crafts as precondition for modernization

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Most Ethiopian craftsmen like weavers and potters, to name but a few of them, are still exercising their crafts in the good old ways without achieving any significant technological breakthroughs. More than technology and skills however, what has contributed to the retardation of handicrafts modernization in Ethiopia was the centuries of abuses and ostracism handicraftsmen were forced to endure. The situation has somehow improved in the last few decades since the end of feudalism in the country as a result of which craftsmen and women have started to feel free to exercise their skills and integrate with local communities.

Handicraftsmen were not however allowed to own land or abandon their traditional occupations that were assigned to them by centuries-old traditions. If the craftsmen and women are expected to modernize their crafts and reach wider markets, and thereby improve their economic status, the remnants of old feudal values, thinking and abuses need to be overcome completely.

For many centuries in feudal Ethiopia, as it was also the case elsewhere in the world, specific occupations are allocated to specific classes of people. The aristocrats were not for instance expected to engage in farming. Their role was to govern or rule the country. Soldiers were not expected to engage in artistic occupations like painting, carving, and writing or in arts and crafts in general. They were, as Plato would say, the guardians of the state. Last but not least, feudal lords were expected to force tenants work for them and pay taxes or tithes with their labors while craftsmen were excluded from ownership of any kind except their skills and primitive tools.

As it was the case, manual work was attributed to the so-called “lower classes” in Ethiopia like the castes in India under the age-old caste system. Potters, craftsmen and women, as well as weavers and painters and writers were given various names that despised their positions in society. Musicians were sometimes called “Azmaris”, a derogatory term in Amharic which is synonymous to vocalists, but had also negative connotations that were only rectified recently.

Many prominent singers attained their pinnacles while enduring the pejorative term attached to their occupation. They are now mentally liberated and feel proud whenever they are called singers, musicians or even *Azmaris*. As defined by the Encyclopedia Britannica, “An Azmari (Amharic) is an entertainer who sings and plays traditional string instruments of the Ethiopian Highlands. It’s comparable to medieval European minstrels or bard or West African griots *Azmari*, who may be either male or female, are skilled at singing extemporized verses, accompanying themselves on either a *masenqo* (one-stringed fiddle) or *krar* (lyre).

The harshest name-calling was however endured by handicraft women like potters who were wrongly believed to be “evil eyes” or *buddas* in Amharic, who’s

**Governmental and non-governmental organizations should be involved more energetically in order to overcome the remnants of old feudal taboos regarding particular occupations like handicrafts**



imagined “evil deeds”, were resented by the rural communities in the northern parts of Ethiopia in particular.

These were or are a cast of people who lived isolated from the communities and engage in pottery and handicrafts selling their products in the markets and rarely mixing with the general population due to the alienation and name-calling they suffered. Potters were not allowed to marry from other communities outside their own while none-potters are not eager or allowed to marry members of the cast of potters.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, “Buda”, in Ethiopian and Eritrean folk religion, is the power of the evil eye and the ability to change into a hyena. Buda is generally believed by the wider society to be a power held and wielded by those in a different social group, for example among the Beta Israel or metalworkers. The belief is also present in Sudan, Tanzania, and among the Berber people in Morocco.

Belief in the evil eye, or *buda*, is still widespread in Ethiopia. The Beta Israel, or Ethiopian Jews, are often characterized by others as possessing *buda*. Other castes such as ironworkers are often labeled as bearing the *buda*. In fact, the Amharic word for manual worker, *tabib*, is also used to denote “one with the evil eye.” The alleged evil power of the *tabib* is believed to be at a level similar to that of witches.

According to a study, “In Ethiopia, pottery is a widely practiced artisanal occupation. Until recently however, traditional attitudes to pottery restricted this occupation to

certain social groups. In many cases, these groups were considered people of lower repute.”

Ostracization also affected the *Falasha* or Ethiopian Jews who were engaged in weaving and pottery or other crafts. According to Dena, Freeman in a book entitled, “Understanding marginalization in Ethiopia”, “The trajectory of the *Falasha* through history is thus a complicated one. From being a farming community they were forced into taking up crafts by processes of politico-military defeat and the exclusion from land ownership, so that they became an occupational group on the margins of society.

For a period of two hundred years they were able to improve their position by working as masons under the protection of the emperor in Gondar. When imperial power went into decline their status also fell. They again lost any land that they had been given, and reverted to being a caste-like group among the majority Amhara farmers, who increasingly stereotyped them as the bearers of fearful supernatural powers.”

Under the defunct feudal system in Ethiopia, even writers were called bad names. They were believed to be practicing witchcraft as because they often referred to passages from religious or secular texts in order to engage in magical practices such as communicating with the dead or with demons to harm other people. They were called *tenquay* or wizard and sometime become targets of abuses and attacks. They were allegedly paid lavishly for their services. Members of the clergy who mastered the skill of writing were often dubbed *debtaras*, or priests engaged in witchcraft. It was only in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that writing religious or secular texts started to be considered an honorable activity.

Medicine men and women were also considered evil doers and called “*kittel betash*” in Amharic or literally translated as “snatchers of leaves” meaning snatcher of leaves alluding to the herbs and leaves they used to produce potent medical drugs for the alleviation of various illnesses. These men and women rendered great services to their communities at times when there was no modern medicine to help those who fell ill from various malaises. Many of the victims could overcome their suffering thanks to these medicine men and women who did their job often freely or charged the patients little money or were paid in kind.

According to a paper published in 1991 on the subject, “Ethiopian traditional medicine is vastly complex and diverse and varies greatly among different ethnic groups. Most traditional medical practices in Ethiopia rely on an explanation of disease that draws on both the “mystical” and “natural” causes of an illness and employ a holistic approach to treatment.

According to historical reports, the development of spinning and weaving began in ancient Egypt around 3400 before Christ (B.C). The tool originally used for weaving was the loom. From 2600 B.C. onwards, silk was spun and woven into silk in China. Later in Roman times the

European population was clothed in wool and linen. Now, there is an estimated 200,000 + hand loom weavers in Ethiopia. The Konso and Dorze ethnic groups have the reputation of being the most “skilled” weavers, though weavers can be found in every village in the country. They remain a quite marginalized group and most still only work in the informal sector.

Traditions and practices dating from many centuries are hard to overcome particularly when the tools and techniques of either weaving or pottery remain backward. Old mentality is hard to give way to new consciousness as the superstructure or the ideas, philosophies and traditions of society generally follow positive development in the social substructure that is to say in technology and capitalist development in general. Old habits are generally tenacious because of the resistance of certain interest groups that benefit from the backward situation in handicrafts or in any other social activity.

The basic challenge for improving the conditions of handicraftsmen and women in Ethiopia is first to educate society about the positive contributions they make to society, educate the weavers and potters and others and so that they can break old taboos and build their confidence so that they can release their creative powers. This is particularly relevant to women, who often bear the burden of social alienation, oppression or marginalization.

Governmental and non-governmental organizations should be involved more energetically in order to overcome the remnants of old feudal taboos regarding particular occupations like handicrafts. Research and development works should be implemented in the handicrafts sector whose potentials for growth are huge. There is virtually no persona who does not wear traditional hand-woven fabrics in one way or another.

It can be said that the entire rural population and women in particular, use traditional hand-woven dresses and clothes in their everyday lives or for holiday uses. This is a huge market that can only be exploiting by technically modernizing and industrializing this sector. There have been some positive development along his line in the past but they are not enough to revolutionize the sector and the lives of the producers of traditional household utensils and dresses. Isolated attempts were also noted in this sense. According to an Al Jazeera report, “Aysheshim Tilahun, an award winning inventor, has ambitions to modernize the weaving industry in Ethiopia. He invented a “dobby head” to help weavers add designs to their work. Tilahun says the invention will accelerate production and have a knock-on effect on the economy.”

This is only one example of innovation among many. What we need is a national, well-funded and well-implemented strategy to liberate the sector from its ages-old backwardness as well as allow the traditional handicraftsmen and women leave the old feudal taboos behind for good.

# Law & Politics

## Deception, denial: The modus operandi of TPLF criminal enterprise

BY ANTENEH MELAKU  
(Calgary, AB Canada)

The malicious doctrine of the draconian TPLF organization has long been acting both as an aggressor and accuser. The cacophonies orchestrated by the rogue clique sugarcoated with deceitful conspiracies have been meant to conceal its madness and play the victim card.

The former self-proclaimed liberators turned arch dictators have been both fusing the cards of humanity and brutality to commit their uncivilized actions against civilian communities. The criminal enterprise that has gone as one of the cruelest elements in the history of the world has been engaged in savagery and denial since its infatuation stage.

The group turbocharged with hatred and enmity brought unimaginable pains to the Ethiopian people. Equally true, the disgruntled bunches of criminals have been nothing but a Frankenstein to the Tigray people. As the saying goes old habit dies hard, TPLF has continued its belligerent behavior even if it was reduced to nothing but a vigilante group. Kept at bay in Tigray, the clique has been posing a national security danger not only to its mother nation but also to the East African countries.

To this very day, one thing TPLF believes from the bottom of its heart is Hitler's notorious saying "If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed"! This tactic developed in the backroom dealing with foreign adversaries might have partly helped to window dress the true nature of the group in the face of the international community, but in our country's case, it doesn't work because we know the now defunct more than they do themselves. The terrorist enterprise has brought nothing for the Tigray people except terror, pain, and grief.

Interestingly enough, the criminal enterprise which is as changeable as a chameleon has been hoodwinking the broader international community by playing the victim card and moving forward for its narrow self-interest.

As if its former atrocities are not enough, the terrorist TPLF group out of treachery and hypocrisy started a devastating war by attacking the northern command of the Ethiopian Defense Forces station in Tigray state. Ironically, the clique has been waxing lyrical for being the victim of war with floodgates of untrustworthy information, crying foul to get sympathy from the global community.

Sadly though, the Ethiopian government's strings of measures that turned the tide and reversed conflict have been ungracious to the terrorist element. TPLF's animosity and cruelty have only intensified exporting the war to Afar and Amhara states. Its



barbaric warfare triggered massive repercussions against communities living in both states. The ragtag group also used Tigray people including children as a cannon fodder and employed an obsolete technique to fight a modern army making the human cost staggering and worse.

It is interesting to note that on the heels of the humiliating defeat, the criminal enterprise has been acting like a chicken with its head cut off and feeling like a fish out of water. Apart from making use of escalatory words that can rupture the longstanding relationship among people that strongly believe in living harmony, peace, and many related things, the group has been continuously engaged in saber-rattling undertakings.

For the sake of truth, as the criminal enterprise and its partners in crimes are different ends of the same snake, they have been sparing no effort to create insecurity and havoc and move the country into uncharted waters. As the group has been working in close collaboration with western allies, the latter has been making every effort to escalate tension in Ethiopia and the horn of Africa with the intention of materializing their hidden agenda going on behind closed curtains.

But again, before the wounds of victims and Tigray people heal, the warmongering group is perpetuating hawkish acts to exacerbate the improving situation in the country. The bloodsucking clique is now forcing Tigrayan youth to launch a new round of war while it is acting as a benevolent actor in peace and reconciliation.

But do the Ethiopian people and the government really understand the next move of the war-thirsty group against the neighboring Amhara and Afar regions? Well, that's why the people of Ethiopia in general and the federal government in particular perceive that preparing for inevitable war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace in the country. Above all the "TPLF" declaration of war against Eritrea would lead the region into another level of chaos.

Why do the western and their discredited media then cover TPLF's provocation in the Afar and Amhara regions, why some of its western allies are still giving diplomacy as well as financial support for the draconian group even if they see what it is doing in front of the world? To be honest, the answer to this question is quite easy. Because they need their junior criminal element to destabilize Ethiopia and the regions (Horn of Africa) and more importantly obstruct GERD construction as TPLF sold its soul to its masters in Egypt and Sudan.

Never think that war is a crime and it is really useless, particularly for those who experienced terrorist TPLF's brutality. In the Afar and Amhara regions, people are a witness to the criminal group's crime. The nature of "TPLF Woyane" is unpredictable from its leader's history of tribalism, corruption, betrayal, and so on. There is one thing we should believe TPLF is dead as its political basic principles were destroyed by the unity of the people of Ethiopia which is its natural core target. Our people's unity is now persuading the outlawed clique to commit suicide.

We Ethiopians should understand how this war is necessary for the terrorist TPLF group and how it is justified for Ethiopians as well as the government if the hawkish clique insists on instigating another round of conflict. Even war will never be a lasting solution for our country's problem, from the very nature of TPLF; it's another bad choice to eliminate the group and its masters. The threat of war in Eritrea, Afar, and Amhara is still shadowing the peaceful negotiation.

The criminal enterprise was born to ruin the history of Ethiopia and the unity of the people with fabricated yet calculated narrations of hatred and twisted history. The scar of the devilish act of TPLF is still shown all over Ethiopia as it was in power for twenty-seven years and even after it was chased to Mekele five years ago. No state in the world is being terrorized and looted as an ultra-nationalist group did in Ethiopia.

This war will end very soon if we are united, well organized, and above all convincing the rest of the world by lying bare the criminal group's sin is mammoth leverage to destabilize the destabilizer element. We need to focus on our people's well-being and our country's development. But all these core objectives can only prevail in the grave of TPLF! As H.G Wells said, "If we don't end the war, war will end us"!

We have learned from history that nothing good comes from war! But burying the terrorist group at any cost shall bring peace to Ethiopia because TPLF is the mastermind of hatred and conflict. The demise of the faust is inevitable and imminent!

# “Ethiopia is the best place for all business,”

*Steven Cui*

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

*Today's Guest Steven Cui is shareholder and General Manager of Woda Metal Industry. He was born in China but raised in Japan. He spent half of his age in Japan. He studied informatics, accounting and information technology.*

*Before establishing his own business, he had worked for Toyota, Bridgestone and Volvo and STI trading companies in different positions so as to upgrade his business skills.*

*Considering the investment opportunity available in Ethiopia, he established Woda Metal Industry PLC jointly with other Chinese firms just six year ago.*

*Together with other companies based in China and Japan, he envisaged to build a medium sized industrial park in Oromia state, Ethiopia.*

*The Ethiopian Herald made a short stay with Steven Cui to learn more about Woda Metal Industry and the industrial park which will be built in Sebeta, a small town of Oromia state, Ethiopia as well as the impact it would bring for the Ethiopian economy. Have a nice read.*

**Would you tell us what inspired you to come to Ethiopia and invest in this business?**

Actually, we have been doing this business in China for the past 15 years and somehow we are good at it. We are taking 60% share to the Philippines as they were good at making these things. There are a lot of Chinese companies that are already engaged in this business.

Taking this into consideration, the government of China encouraged this kind of business to go out or to be invested outside of China. There is a Belt and Road initiative in China which was promoted in 2015.

Considering the policy, we were searching for good locations for the investment. Finally, we found out that Africa is the last frontier for this business that is blooming before China goes to Southeast Asia.

We found that the market here is very nice. Before we start to produce here, we imported the products from China to supply both for Ethiopia and Kenya as well. Huawei, a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, also encouraged us to bring the manufacturer here. So, we can have a quick delivery with lower cost so as to save some dollars.

And then we found Ethiopia as the best place for the investment due to the sizable population and high demand of the products. The stability and the growing economy is also another factor that inspired us to invest here. We made a tour in Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and other countries in the horn; however, we

couldn't find a country like that of Ethiopia in terms of political stability and steadily growing economy. We finally choose Ethiopia as the best place for our business considering it is closer to the raw material or the market as well.

**Could you tell us what sort of products your company is now producing?**

Basically, we are producing three types of products. One is the steel tower which is imperative for power transmission, telecom service and other businesses.

Cable is also another type of product which is mostly used for power transmission lines. It is highly demanded and consumes a huge amount of foreign currency to import.

Hot deeper galvanization is the third product that the company has now produced. The steel tower metal is always getting rusty and the galvanization is applying a protective zinc coating to iron or steel, to prevent rusting. In doing so, it will not rust for 50 or 60 years. So, basically steel tower, cable and galvanization are our current products.

**How do you evaluate the overall performance of your company in terms of supplying the products to the international market?**

I recently visited Uganda and other countries which have the same demand. However, we did not encourage investing there as the population size of these countries are smaller than Ethiopia. We still export to these countries as Hawaii is pushing us to manufacture here and quick delivery to Kenya and Sudan. We just got this business license last February.

However, due to the expansion of the Corona pandemic, the company lost its appetite to engage in the business. So, our clients are not satisfied. However, because there is high market demand, we are expecting a big shift in the increase side. Basically, our customers like EthioTelecom and Safaricom (the second telecom company investing in Ethiopia) are highly seeking our products and pushing us to be fully operational. We are preparing for this.

Our machine has a capacity to produce 50,000 tons of towers per year and it can fulfill the demand of this country at this moment. We plan to produce 100,000 tons and export 30 percent of the produce.

With regard to cable, the company has a capacity to produce 30,000 tons of cable per year. There are five cable producing companies in this country but we have the biggest in capacity.

Concerning galvanization, our company has a capacity to produce around 60,000 tons per year. Thus, we are the one and only one with this capacity in East Africa.

**Would you tell us some of the challenges**



**the company has been facing?**

I think everybody has been facing a shortage of dollars in order to supply raw material as per the level of desire. On one hand, the country is allocating a huge amount of foreign currency for importing finished goods. On the other hand, we have the capacity to produce the imported products but suffer a lot to import raw materials as there is a shortage of hard currency. I think the policy should be wise and consider all those things while allocating dollars.

We are applying for dollars so as to purchase raw material but we are still waiting for a long time. So, this kind of policy should be revised. This is one of the biggest challenges for us.

The bureaucracy observed in some offices is one discouraging factor to invest in this country. Started in 2016, the construction of the facility was finalized in 2021. In China, an investment of this kind finalizes within

***We found Ethiopia as the best place for the investment due to the sizable population and high demand of the products***



# Herald Guest

a year. Here, everything is moving very slowly.

After we purchased the land for this project, some people encouraged us to construct the factory. However, there was no water supply there until we solved it by spending some amount of money. In the middle of the construction, officials told us that there was no electricity as the power substations in nearby areas were overloaded. Later on, we managed everything through building the substation with a capacity of 150 Megawatt.

Logistic is another headache. We are paying huge amounts of demurrage as there was no truck for some time. The train route which takes logistics directly from Addis to Djibouti port is a wonderful option for logistics. However, it is expensive and sometimes equivalent with the price required paying for trucks.

### Would you tell us your plan to increase products so as to meet the local demand?

Here, the company has been following two directions. With regard to Woda Metal Company, in the first Phase, it produces 50,000 tons of tower, 30,000 tons of cable and 50,000 tons for galvanization per year. When it is fully operational or operating in its full capacity, it will reach 200 million USD equivalent sales. This means, we will expend 100 million USD to import the raw material. If we hit 200 million USD sales, we can fulfill local demand and save 100 million USD for this country.

In the second phase, we will increase our capacity so as to supply the produce to the surrounding countries. So, we double the existing production capacity and reach 400 million USD sales. So, the first phase is already successful. We are now planning to fulfill the demand of surrounding countries and increase the sales to 300 or 400 million USD. At this level, we export half of the produce and cover the local demand with the remaining one.

On the other hand, Woda investment group (our company and sister companies) aim to construct a medium sized Industrial Park in Oromia state, Ethiopia. The group has allocated 95 million USD for the development of infrastructure and other facilities in a total area of 100 hectares.

So far, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed among sister companies, who are interested to engage in various business such as vehicle assembling, home appliance, tier factory, food processing including avocado oil. The park is high end and compacted one. The company has already built a 50 megawatt power substation for the park and various activities are carried out to secure the land allotted for the project. Upon completion, the newly established industrial park will create 1,000 jobs. When it goes to be fully operational, it would create over 10,000 jobs.

The Woda and its sisterly companies aimed at minimizing the hard currency of the country that is flowing to import the same product that will be produced



“  
**Upon completion, the newly established industrial park will create 1,000 jobs. When it goes to be fully operational, it would create over 10,000 jobs.**  
 ”

with the capacity of these companies. The industry park will produce 30-50 percent of the products for export.

If you look at Kilinto Industrial Park, many industries are not interested to come as the size and rental or lease payment for the shed is expensive.

### How do we explain the relations that your company has established with stakeholders?

Since the project is not a small one, it can attract the attention of many government officials and they are happy by the performance of the company. Many of the government institutions are now encouraging investors through amending policies and directives. They are now

providing due support for the organization to realize their vision. So at this moment, I think we have good relations.

If you go down the ladder, we have already established wonderful relations with the farmers and local authorities. Since the start up of the project, the farmers are showing good gesture and cooperating with us by leaving the land considering the impact of the project on the lives of the overall people. Of course, we pay the compensation apart from promising to bring them to work. Even if there is some bureaucracy there, we are working with the Ethiopian investment commission and other officials at the federal and state levels.

### What are the mechanisms the company is using to produce quality products which fit international standards?

A quality management system (QMS) is a system that documents the policies, business processes, and procedures necessary for an organization to create and deliver its products or services to its customers, and therefore increase customer satisfaction through high product quality.

When I worked in Toyota, Bridgestone and other companies, I learned QMS is the first priority given to ensure quality of products. Basically, my manufacturer identity is adapted from this Japanese device and we focus on quality. The policy and even our single way of thinking have given special consideration to quality.

With regard to the industry park project, we choose the well-known brands from China and Japan. So, these companies are well organized and have their own quality management systems. Our own team which is drawn from China, Japan, USA and Germany are also assisting us to produce high end products. So, all the projects have their own quality management system. So, the industrial park which we want to build is also focused on companies with well known brands.

If our products are not accepted by our customers, we will not exist as the manufacturer. We do not want to be offline from the business for the coming 20 to 50 years. So, quality is the first priority.

### As an investor, what do you recommend to further develop the manufacturing sector in Ethiopia?

Build a road. China, for the last 30/40 years, has a very quickly growing economy. When I was young, I always heard one saying “If you are going to be rich, build a road first to invite people to come in.”

The very problem for this country is you don't have a sea port and the raw material. It may take a long time to supply raw material. In order to get these basics, it may take time. Even if the country has underground resources, it has not yet managed.

In order to manage the resource at your hand, it may take a long time as it requires huge investment. Due to this, we have to import the raw materials paying hard currency. In order to construct a tower, for instance, we brought raw materials from China.

As I said before, the cost of logistics should also be improved. You can go everywhere quickly and easily.

Policy wise, I know that the government has been working a lot of positive tasks to provide incentives to encourage investors but there still requires you to do so in terms of minimizing taxation and providing other incentives. In order to cut the long bureaucracy system, the nation should applying easy doing business mechanisms.

**I thank you very much.**

It is my pleasure.

## Sharing responsibility

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia has been implementing Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI) schemes since the past ten years with the target of benefiting its people from healthcare services by reaching 80 percent of districts and 80 percent of its population by 2020.

As a result, the scheme has yielded encouraging results especially, amongst the rural communities, the pro-poor and low income segments of the population significantly through covering basic health care costs, letting them get treatment freely and lessening their health burden.

Aside from eliminating the financial barrier that the poor may face in times of illness; the scheme has promoted communities' culture of visiting health facilities and utilizing health services. What is more, by expanding health coverage for the poor, it has improved access to health services even though there are some challenges with regard to the implementation process such as being reluctant to serve beneficiaries at the desired level.

Currently, The Ethiopian Health Insurance Agency (EHIA), scaling up the best experiences it has gained over the years and aiming to promoting health insurance across the country and reaching out larger number of peoples, is undertaking various activities.

Recently, the Agency has announced its plan to implement social health insurance



services in the new Ethiopian budget year for government employees, retirees as well as private and nongovernmental institutions.

At a discussion forum the Agency held at Adama Town with pertinent bodies and key stakeholders on the possibility of commencing social health insurance service in the upcoming Ethiopian budget year, Agency's Director General Frehiwot Abebe, said that social health insurance system has not been launched in the country. However, currently, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders, a roadmap that guides the scheme is prepared.

Particularly, by setting a goal to provide

health insurance services for all citizens in the next 10 years, various works are underway, she added.

"The community, mainly, the public servant has been repeatedly asking us to commence a community health insurance program. Therefore, learning from our past experiences and research findings, drawing the best lesson, and adding the experiences of other countries, we are now ready to implement social health insurance," she said.

And, the main purpose of the forum, as she indicated, is to have the view of civil servants, teachers' association, pertinent bodies and other stakeholders about the implementation process of the scheme, enrich the plan document with their constructive inputs and enable them have clear understanding about the matter.

"Community health insurance, which has benefited farmers and pastoralists who are engaged in the informal economies, has produced encouraging results. As a result, it has become an impetus to implement social health insurance," she said.

Mentioning that community health insurance service is being implemented in more than 800 woredas across the country, the Director General said that currently over 44 million people are benefiting from the scheme. She also urged participants for their unreserved cooperation because their contribution is crucial for the successful realization of the scheme.

Speaking at the forum, Adviser to the Director General, Abdul Jalil Jamal on his part said that implementing social health insurance is an important scheme to access health for all. Particularly following the ever increasing cost for health care services, employing social health insurance is necessary.

"Owing to the high cost of medical supplies and medicines, citizens are not getting the right health services at the required level. To this end, implementing social health insurance is the order of the day."

Referring a recently conducted study, the Advisor said that aside from the budget allocated by the government, annually individuals spend more than 39 billion Birr from their pocket.

Ethiopia's Health Insurance Strategy is designed to promote equitable access to sustainable quality health care, increase financial protection, and enhance social inclusion for the majority of Ethiopian families via the health sector. So far, the scheme has benefitted and is benefiting more people.



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## AMU's 3rd national conference on engineering and technology

BY EPHEREM ANDARGACHEW

Arba Minch University (AMU) has hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> round National Conference under the theme "Innovation and Challenges in Engineering and Technology for Sustainable Development" in the first week of May.

In his opening remark, AMU President Dr. Damtew Darza said that higher education institutions are expected to work for the benefit of the whole society by expanding technology transfer and increasing access since generating knowledge, developing skills, and transferring technology through research are crucial for industrial growth and sustainable development.

As a research University, AMU is committed to contributing to the development of the country by performing similar activities in Engineering and Technology Innovation sector. "It has enabled rural health centers and schools in Gamo Zone to benefit from renewable energy from solar energy. It also will focus on expanding the overall benefits of society by improving the quality and coverage of the service in other areas," he reaffirmed.

AMU Institute of Technology Scientific

Director Dr. Muluneh Lema on his part said the workshop will feature engineering and technology research projects designed to benefit the community in the technology sector. In collaboration with the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR) Mining and Energy Bureau, has provided electricity for 250 households from Biogas.

And it has been working with Christian Aid to benefit the community by building small dams in rural areas where electricity is not available. Health centers and schools in rural districts of the zone have been made to use renewable energy from solar energy, he detailed.

The studies presented gave attention to electrical and mechanical, computer and software, civil engineering, and building quality and aesthetics.

Equally, Addis Ababa University Institute of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering lecturer Professor Daniel Ketaw explained: "Higher education institutions have been working to address problem-solving research results for the community. Nevertheless, limitations are observed in the research and literature works of many scholars in achieving their goals."

Since the growth of a country is measured by the competitiveness of technology, it is expected to bring technological innovation to compete with the rest of the world, he said stressing: "Higher education institutions should play key roles."

As to him, changing the psychological makeup and ensuring access to technology is a key to solving the challenges that the sector faces and preparing it for development. "When science is integrated with indigenous knowledge and wisdom, it is more likely to be easily understood and disseminated by the community and put into practice.

Similarly, Mizan Tepi University Assistant Professor Minychil Alehegn noted in his presentation entitled "Prediction of COVID - 19 Using Deep Learning Approach" that artificial intelligence machines can fill the gaps which have been observed during the prevention and control by predicting future COVID damage through replacing human and non-human contact.

Moreover, AMU Computer and Software Engineering Department lecturer and researcher Basha Qassim identified in his presentation entitled "Design a Unique-ID Based Cyber Defense Framework or

Enhancing Security of Ethiopian Social Media Use: the case of Facebook" that to reduce the impact of social media at the national level, it is necessary to close fake accounts.

Since controlling the spread of false information and addressing access to real information is one of the components of ensuring community safety, the researcher has created software that can easily detect false information by preventing a Facebook user from opening more than one account.

"The software also helps to prevent and control the spread of fake information by preventing the creation of a similar or fake account based on the information on the ID or pre-filled information, he expressed.

At last, Dr. Engineer Berhanu Gizaw from the Ethiopian Electrical Engineers Society, Captain Getnet Abay from the Ethiopian Maritime Authority, and guests from the Ethiopian Roads Authority, the Information and Security Agency, the Omo Kuraz Sugar Factory and Ethiopian Construction Works Corporation have participated. The stakeholders reacted to the presentations of scholars from 13 universities who presented 18 research papers and 3 poster descriptions.

# Verbatim and Caption

## International, regional partnerships

“I stand here today to offer you Ethiopia’s support, and as you know, as you start your endeavour to rebuild Somalia, we will be with you, and I’m sure you will succeed,” Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed speech during Somalia’s President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud’s inauguration.



Ethiopian Government is committed to carry on Green Development Projects and in doing so encourage companies like CGCOC to invest in Ethiopia. Ethiopia is gifted with significant renewable energy resources, with huge potential of hydro, solar, wind, and geothermal power and I call on the Chinese companies to work in a joint venture with Ethiopian investors who have interests on related areas. Ethiopia as the home of largest livestock population in Africa, the Ethiopian Embassy in China will provide the necessary support to companies such as CGCOC to realize 'Juncao Technology ' which is reputable project that works mainly on animal fodder and mushroom productions, Ambassador Teshome Toga.

Efforts have been done to take the regional and international cooperation to a higher level in order to prevent the threat of terrorism. In this regard, neighboring countries had an important role to play in thwarting terrorist attacks in Ethiopia. I thank the neighboring countries for their good contributions in this regard. This has significant role for the maintenance of peace and security at the national, continental and international levels. There is an international consensus on terrorism, although the international definition of terrorism is not universal. Ethiopia is one of the countries that have been known to thwart terrorist activities at the regional and global arena. Ethiopia will work in collaboration with other countries and international institutions to this end putting its national interests at the top, Director General of the National Intelligence and Security Service, Temesgen Tiruneh.



"In the Horn of Africa, today there are security burdens coming from the terrorist groups of Al-Shabab and Da'ish, therefore, it is necessary to support each other to save our people from the security threats. The Horn of Africa and especially, Somalia are being suffered from droughts which have affected hundreds of millions of people. This has become something that happened every year. This is why there are so many issues that demands partnership. My government will give due importance to solving such challenges, the new President of Somalia Hassen Sheikh Mohamud.