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Gov't reaches 5.2 mln. people in need in Tigray

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA- Having capitalized on the federal government's unilateral truce, it has managed to deliver humanitarian assistance to 5.2 million people in need in the Tigray State, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) announced.

At a press briefing he held on Thursday, NDRMC Commissioner Mitiku Kassa said the government has delivered 135, 164 metric tons of food and 16,883 metric tons of non-food items from July, 2021 to June, 17, 2022 in communities in need in Tigray.

Also, 2.4 billion Ethiopian Birr has been transported to Tigray by aid agencies to provide humanitarian assistance and for warehouse rent and to make various payments

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Former Premier highlights Ethiopia's continued stance for green economy

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The successive Ethiopian governments have demonstrated solid commitment to build a Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE), a green perspective for growing as the primary vision for development thereby giving a brighter future for citizens, Former Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said.

Approached by local media, the ex-Premier noted that he and his predecessor as well as the current Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) understands climate change is an economy-wide issue and gives ample consideration with a view to diversifying energy sources and building a green economy.



Accordingly, various greenery programs have been carried out by the successive governments in different parts of the country that Hailemariam claimed to bring tangible results. Development partners, notably the World Bank have extended substantial

support to Ethiopia's greenery initiative and assisting the latter's efforts to develop a climate-friendly economy.

Noting he himself has planted over 600 various tree seedlings over the last three years, Hailemariam called on the people of Ethiopia to engage in the ongoing Green Legacy program cognizant of its multiple benefits. The participation of elders, youth, women and other members of the public would bring tangible outcomes in reducing the impacts of climate change and emission of gas.

"Recognizing the multiple importance of the Green Legacy initiative is the first step to curb the impact of climate change. Recently, Prime Minister Abiy announced the launching of higher officials' 100 tree

See Former Premier.... Page 3

Ethiopia, World Bank sign 600 mln. USD financial accord

BY BILAL DERSO

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia and the World Bank signed yesterday a 600 million financing agreement (200 million USD in the form of grant and 400 million USD in the form of credit), for the implementation of the Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP).

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Sudanese troops withdrawal precondition for peaceful settlement: Analyst

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA - As the precondition to sit with Sudan for negotiation, the invading Sudanese troops must be returned to their pre November-2020 position, a scholar in the area stated.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency

(EPA), foreign policy analyst Belete Belachew (PhD) said that the area that has been controlled by the Sudanese forces was part of Ethiopia for many years and had been being by the Ethiopian farmers.

He added that before the two countries sit for negotiations to solve the dispute, the Sudanese forces must be returned to pre-2020 status quo.

He further stated that Ethiopia has been trying to solve the case through dialogue, but the Sudanese government is politicizing the dispute and using it to divert the internal political instability in the country.

Although the issue is a matter for the two countries and it should be resolved by discussions of the two countries, Sudan has

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Belete Belachew (PhD)

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News



House orders Commission to investigate civilian killings

BY MULATU BELACHEW

ADDIS ABABA-The House of People's Representatives (HPR) has instructed Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to investigate and report the recent horrific human rights violation perpetrated against innocent civilians in Oromia and Gambella states.

The House has urged EHRC to look into the case and provide it with report about the horrific human right violation against innocent civilians perpetrated by *Shene* Terrorist group in Gambela and in West Wollega Zone of Oromia State.

In a statement yesterday, members of HPR seriously urged the government to ensure citizens' peace, and security across the country. Accordingly, the government has been striving to do so following its constitutional mandate.

Law, Justice, and Democracy Affairs Standing Committee is also tasked with looking into allegation of arbitrary detentions in Amhara and Oromia States and to report the same to the House.

The House has also condemned the inhumane acts and horrific human rights violations.

According to the information obtained from the HPR, the house has also set directions to the National Disaster Risk Management Commission to provide essential emergency aid for victims in the aforementioned states per the report that the standing committee would present.

House Speaker, Tadesse Chafu said that two teams are established to investigate the issues. The findings of the teams would be made public after completing the investigation.

Shene civilian attack desperate action, inhumane move: Aba Geda

• *Humanity beyond political stance and ethnic matters*

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- Tulema Abba Geda and the secretary of the Geda Fathers Association stated that innocent civilians attack happened in Wollega has to be seriously denounced as it is purely out of Ethiopians sympathetic culture and could by no means be unacceptable.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Tulema Abba Geda, Gobena Hola, said that attacking civilians everywhere and at any circumstance is an inhumane, shameful action unfitting Ethiopians. Such a devilish act is part of the projects orchestrated to dismantle the nation through creating havoc and hostility between the two largest segments of Ethiopian society- the people of Amhara and Oromo, who have been living with peaceful coexistence so far.

He said, "Reflecting political differences is inevitable, but killing innocent citizens who have never had any political affiliation is quite unacceptable and cursed."

According to Gobena, the recent massacre of innocent civilians near Wollega- Tole District is one of the most reprehensible and condemned acts in the country.



Photo - Dagne Abera

Gobena Hola

The Oromo people have Mogassa and Gudifecha cultural systems which pave the way for people living helping one another. That is why the people, who come from other regional states, have been living in harmony with the Oromo people for centuries without any security problems.

He also underlined that the government should extend strong intelligence and security institutions to avoid such unacceptable actions committed by the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and ensure the sustainable peace of the citizens across the nation.

Nowadays, there are various indications that the enemies are working day in and day out centering Oromia State to disrupt the peace of the country and taking the place as a good opportunity to dismantle the nation. Therefore, the people of Oromo should give serious attention to the fight against the inhuman actions perpetrated by terrorist group thereby keeping the culture of the people and the value of embracing Geda system, Gobena added.

"The people of Oromia in particular and those of other places have to give a deaf ear and a blind eye to these false information disseminating groups as they are performing actions pretending they are working for the people; they have never thought of people except for their selfish interest," he noted.

He further stated as humanity is beyond political attitude and ethnic matters, every citizen should condemn acts of attacking innocent civilians.

"Made In Ethiopia" exhibits variety production capacities at Texworld

BY BILAL DERSO

ADDIS ABABA-After a delay of one year due to COVID-19, the Texworld Fair is confirmed to take place this year between the 4th and 6th of July in Paris, France. Ethiopia will be showcasing products from ten companies.

The German Development Cooperation stated that Texworld Evolution Paris Fair attracts more than 1,500 exhibitors from the fashion industry worldwide. While last year was challenging for the whole global supply chain, the "Made In Ethiopia" pavilion will demonstrate that local and international industries proved highly resilient.

The Ministry of Industry (MoI) and the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) joined forces with the Sustainable Industrial Clusters - a Germany and UK funded project supporting Ethiopia - and Solidaridad Network to form a coalition of Export Champions. Accordingly, a combination of local Ethiopian and foreign textile and garment factories were selected based on stringent criteria such as product quality and production capacity.

Industry State Minister Tarekegn Bululta said that Made In Ethiopia is the emerging vision of the government's engagement in reforms to ease the doing of business and fostering Ethiopia's industrial capacity.

"While we acknowledge that the country has experienced a difficult time, we observed that the textile and garment sector was savvy and never stopped delivering its products to international markets. We wish to continue supporting such undertakings, and Texworld presents a timely opportunity."

On his part, EIC Deputy Commissioner Daniel Teresa said that in terms of value and investment, the textile and garment sector is essential for our exports growth, jobs creation, foreign earnings and investment. "The entire sector represents more than 100,000 jobs, hundreds of millions of Euros of investments and an export increase of 260 percent in value in ten years. Ethiopia acquired a favorable position in the global value chain, and we aim at preserving it."

Following the suspension of Ethiopia from the AGOA2, exhibiting at Texworld serves as a long-term investment to showcase Ethiopia's production capacities to Europe. While Ethiopia has (temporarily) lost its tax-free status to the American market, it continues to be a beneficiary of the "Everything But Arms" (EBA) preferential



free trade agreement with the European Union.

Europe is the world's largest importer of apparel and textiles (127.4 billion Euros in 2020) and represented 21.3 percent of the world's apparel and textile imports value in 2019. Ethiopian textile exports only reached USD 30m in 2020/21.

Ethiopia has accumulated international references as a sourcing destination. Large buyers and wholesalers such as H&M, Pvh, Diesel, Champro Sports, Lidl, Decathlon, The Children Place and Zara continue to play a significant role to increase sourcing orders from Ethiopia, it was learned.

News

AEC Ethiopia to support refugees, entrepreneurs

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA- African Entrepreneur Collective (AEC) was launched in Ethiopia so as to support refugees in Ethiopia and also entrepreneurs to grow their business thereby improving livelihoods and creating affluent communities across the country.

AEC supports entrepreneurs to grow their business to improve livelihoods and create thriving communities and AEC Ethiopia supports business growth by linking entrepreneurs to market and integrating this company to bigger supply chains, said AEC Ethiopia Managing Director Neway Alemayehu.

Nowadays AEC is serving over 600 micro and small businesses from Asosa and Jijiga via providing them with capacity building services that supports business and community thrive. AEC launched operation in the beginning of 2022 started in refugee camps of Asosa and Jijiga after a tripartite agreement was signed with UNHCR and Agency for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA).

Partnering with those important organizations plus with Dashen Bank and other funding partners AEC Ethiopia is



working with a range of businesses to ensure that Ethiopia communities have engaged in businesses. The AEC Ethiopia is a new actor in Ethiopia it builds experience of proven models used in Rwanda and Kenya, he noted.

AEC is a local affiliate of African entrepreneurs and network of service providers and investment funds across East Africa and working with over 40,000 entrepreneurs and largest in Africa. By expanding its operation to local cities across the country AEC is planned to reach over 100,000 thriving businesses in Ethiopia by the end of 2030 and it plays a significant

role to the economic development of the country, he said.

Labor and Skills State Minister Nigusu Tilahun said in Ethiopia unemployment has reached 8.8 percent and millions of youth enter the labor market every year. By assessing this gap, the ministry plans to create three million jobs each year and plans to reach 20 million sustainable jobs in 2030. There are still lots to address gaps in skill, access to finance, and institutional capacity at all levels and reiterate that the ministry has committed to address those bottlenecks by creating solid relationships with development partners and private

sectors.

“Ethiopia has always maintained an open door policy for refugees and is home to over 800,000 refugees and we strongly believe that migrants are not a burden rather they play a significant role in enhancing the economic development through skill and technology. The same is true for repatriating citizens from abroad, mainly from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia apart from internally displaced people by natural and man-made problems. This can be realized when the government, private sectors and other concerning bodies work together.”

UNHCR Assistant Representative in Ethiopia Reuel Christopher Nettey in his keynote speech highlighted that Ethiopia is hosting over 850,000 refugees from across neighboring countries and refugees are enjoying the revised refugee proclamation which allows them the right to work and is commendable refugee proclamation.

One of the key objectives is to achieve refugee’s self-reliance and the UNHCR strategy also aims to attain social economic inclusion of refugees as a critical pillar and to achieve local economic development. In order to achieve self-reliance of refugees it requires partnership with development partners, Nettey added.

Ethiopia, World...

The information obtained from the Ministry of Finance further noted that additional 115 million USD was secured in the in the form of grant for the implementation of De-risking, Inclusion and Value Enhancement and Pastoral Economies in the Horn of Africa Project (DRIVE) which makes the total financial accord 715 million USD.

The resource from the first Financing Agreement will be used to finance increasing the resilience of food systems and preparedness for food insecurity in project areas in the country. The resource for De-risking, Inclusion and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economies in the Horn of Africa project will be used to enhance pastoralists’ access to financial services

for drought risk mitigation, include them in the value chains, and facilitate the livestock trade in the Horn of Africa.

The agreement was signed virtually by Finance Minister Ahmed Shide and the World Bank Regional Integration Africa Director Bouthenia Guermazi, it was learned.

Gov’t reaches ...

in the reported period. “828,425 liters of fuel has been dispatched to ease the fuel shortage in the area and 218.89 metric tons of medicine has been sent to make the health service delivery more accessible in medical centers and hospitals”

Noting 308 vehicles have been entered into to Tigray in a daily operation, Mitiku highlighted that a total of 2,798 aid convoys destined to the state since April 2022. However, out of the stated aid convoys, 1,460 have not yet returned.

The commissioner further highlighted that the government has availed emergency assistance for 19.1 million people affected by man-made and natural disasters in Afar and Amhara as well as to drought-hit communities in Somali, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples State (SNNPR).

To this end, 546,237.3 metric tons of food and 162,138 metric tons of non-food items have been transported between July 2021 to June 17, 2022 while 3.6 billion Birr in cash have been sent to rural areas where there is insufficient crop production.

Seven trucks carrying food and non-food items are being transported to provide assistance to the people displaced by the recent attack in Gimbi District, West Wollega Zone of the Oromia State, Mitiku elaborated.

Sudanese troops withdrawal ...

been making the case international, as to him.

The analyst also indicated that third-parties’ access to the issue makes the issue even more difficult and opens the door for another problems.

“The problem can only be resolved in a sustainable way through peace talks

between the two countries,” he stressed,

Belete further suggested that resolving the issue through dialogue by applying the principles of the African Union in accordance with the international principles is a best option for the two countries.

Throughout the time when there were

instabilities in the Ethiopia, Sudan’s government has been trying to achieve its own interests with force and conquering Setit Humera of Ethiopia, as to him.

However, Belete added, when there was relative peace in Ethiopia, the officials of the Sudan were saying that they want to resolve their differences with Ethiopia through dialogue.

Former Premier highlights...

seedling planting challenge in a day and. I am part of the competition and an avid supporter of Premier Abiy’s greenery campaign, cognizant of its success would

enable us to overcome the pressing challenge.”

As the Green Legacy program has far-reaching benefits to reduce impacts of

climate change and curb carbon dioxide emission, the consolidated efforts of all actors is crucial for the successful conduct of this generational cause. Making

more push to convert the development of renewable energy will significantly reduce gas emission, the former PM remarked.

Opinion

“Administrator Power’s Foreign...”

In 2021 alone, 19 American states have enacted 33 laws that will make it harder for Americans to vote, with draconian criminal liabilities.

A major voting rights bill in the Senate, the Freedom to Vote Act, is pretty much dead as is the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act in the House.

Congress has been investigating over the past year and currently having so-called January 6 public hearings to show the world how a ragtag army of homegrown terrorists tried to take over the constitutional government of the United States.

Power conveniently overlooks the whole January 6, 2021 incident as she condemns other countries for stealing elections by rigging constitutions, staging coups and by using digital means of confusion and electoral suppression.

Was Donald Trump’s efforts to stay in power any different than similar efforts by tin pot dictators in Africa and elsewhere?

When preaching democracy to the world credibly, it is vitally important to acknowledge America’s own harrowing journey on the road to democracy and the real challenges it currently faces in its democratic practices and institutions.

The fact that Power completely ignores the historical and contemporary context of American democracy demonstrates her shallowness and make her appear she is trying to hoodwink the world.

Her lack of recognition of the dire contemporary realities of American democracy shows she is either willfully ignorant or has an ignorant speech writer. Her lack of elementary rhetorical education is also self-evident.

Power pays homage to American democracy by effectively canonizing the late and former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright with an adoration fit for magi.

Power extols Albright as the Defender of the True Faith of American Democracy and adopts as her battle cry Albright’s pithy aphorism, “Democracy is not a dying cause; in fact, it is poised for a comeback.”

Power praises Albright as a global democratic stalwart who fought against the “worst of communism and fascism and dedicated her entire life to helping promote human rights and accountable governance around the world.”

In fact, the very last line of Power’s speech closes with Albright’s aphorism.

But Power’s Albright, that paragon of global democracy, the fighter against fascism and communism and defender of human rights—was she really what she appeared to be or a heartless warmonger. Watch the short video below.

In a 1996 60 Minutes interview as America’s U.N. ambassador, Albright showed the kind of human rights defender and supporter of democracy she is. 60 Minutes’ correspondent Lesley Stahl asked Albright about the effect that U.N. sanctions were having on Iraqi society: “We have heard that a half-million children have died. I mean, that’s more children than died in Hiroshima. And, you know, is the price worth it?”

Albright with depraved indifference responded, “I think this is a very hard choice, but the price — we think the price is worth it.”

Power should heed Abe Lincoln’s maxim: “You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.”

Beating on the “Axis of Evil” of “authoritarianism” with the cudgel of human rights

Power’s speech was also intended to be a damnation of “authoritarianism” (namely Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, Venezuela and others best identified by their presence on the US blacklist of sanctions).

Power triumphantly proclaimed,

The evidence we’re searching for, that proves autocracies are weaker and less capable than democracies, is playing out right before our eyes: Vladimir Putin’s brutal war on Ukraine has shown us exactly where despotic power leads.

Quoting President John F. Kennedy, Power pontificated,

The Free World cannot shame Russia and China into freedom—but it can inspire democracy to enrich its own freedoms. Freedom’s banner will be vindicated or lost not by the test of military strength alone—but by the purity and passion of our commitment to democracy, by our dedication to advancing the hopes of new nations, and by our determination to prove that freedom can lift the haggard burden of poverty from desolate lands.

Kennedy had some good ideas although I very much doubt his executive order creating USAID was one of them.

When Kennedy delivered his 1961 Annual Message to the Congress on the State of the Union, much of Africa was under the yoke of colonialism. Kennedy preached,

The hopes of all mankind rest upon us—not simply upon those of us in this chamber, but upon the peasant in Laos, the fisherman in Nigeria, the exile from Cuba, the spirit that moves every man and Nation who shares our hopes for freedom and the future.

But Kennedy did not walk the talk of “hopes of all mankind.”

In 1961, Kennedy authorized the Bay of Pigs Invasion using Cuban exiles in an unsuccessful and inept attempt to oust Fidel Castro.

Was US military intervention the “hope of all mankind”?

Two decades later, from 1981 to 1991, in Kennedy’s footsteps, Ron Reagan, provided weapons, training, and extensive financial and logistical support to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, who used terror tactics in their fight against the Nicaraguan government. It was called the Reagan Doctrine.

Reagan said it was America’s obligation to support “freedom fighters,” just like Kennedy’s Cuban exile army.

It is the same Reagan that Power extols as the man who made the first “call that led to democracy assistance as we know it.”

In 1984, Nicaragua won its case against the US for its support of a terrorist insurgency at the International Court of Justice.

Though the U.S. refused to participate in the merits phase of the proceedings, the ICJ determined the U.S. had violated international law by supporting the Contras in their terrorist actions against the government of Nicaragua and by mining that country’s harbors.

Nicaragua was awarded reparations.

However, the U.S. blocked enforcement of the judgment by the United Nations Security Council using its veto power and prevented Nicaragua from obtaining compensation.

There are countless other documented instances of U.S. intervention to instigate coups and chaos throughout the world.

So much for Power’s glorification of the prowess of American democracy and upholding the rule of law.

Of course, it is no different with the Biden administration’s support for the terrorist TPLF in Ethiopia today!

Putin’s “authoritarianism” and Russia’s military action in Ukraine is a sensitive issue for African states as many of them have abstained or walked away from voting on the UN General Assembly resolution condemning Russia, a matter of supreme importance to the Biden administration.

Unlike Power’s simplistic analysis, Russian intervention in Ukraine is not a question of good versus evil for Africans.

For Africans, they “don’t have a dog in that fight.”

The old African saying holds true for them, “When two elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers.”

The US/West elephants are fighting the Russian elephant (bear) to establish the principle, “Might makes right.”

For Africans, it is not about Putin’s actions against the “the Ukrainian’s people’s embrace of democracy,” “rejection of corrupt oligarchs” or condonation of Putin’s “rain of steel and death” on Ukraine.

If Power’s litmus tests are democracy and corruption, there is not much difference between Ukraine and Russia.

In 2021, Ukraine with a population of 44 million ranked 122/180 countries on the Transparency (Corruption) Index. It is reported that 23% of public service users in Ukraine paid a bribe in the previous 12 months.

In 2021, Russia with a population 144 million ranked 136/180 countries on the Transparency (Corruption) Index. It is reported that 27% of public service users in Russia paid a bribe in the previous 12 months.

Both Tweddle Dee and Tweddle Dum are bastions of corruption and oligarchs. Period!

But Power’s childish characterization and demonization of Russia borders on the absurd and laughable.

Power’s claim that Ukraine is winning and ultimately will prevail over Russia because “corruption has undermined the Russian military’s modernization,” the Russian armed forces are led by incompetent generals and colonels and Russian soldiers “lack the will to fight” is silly.

Truth be told, many critics of the US war in Afghanistan were saying exactly the same thing.

After 20 years and trillions of dollars wasted in Afghanistan, the US withdrew from Afghanistan under the most humiliating circumstances under the watch of the Biden administration.

Was the US literally driven/flown out of Afghanistan because of incompetent generals and American soldiers who lacked the will to fight and win?

Or is it because an incompetent Secretary of State? Touché!

When Power points an accusatory finger at others, she must beware three fingers are pointing at oneself.

The cheap shots against China are equally laughable.

The Chinese government was the darling of Obama and Biden not too long ago.

Obama himself once said, “The relationship between the United States and China is the most important bilateral relationship of the 21st century.”

On April 28, 2021, Biden flat out lied just to prove he was best buds with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Biden said,

Secretary Blinken can tell you, I spent a lot of time with President Xi — traveled over 17,000 miles with him; spent, they tell me, over 24 hours in private discussions with him. When he called to congratulate me, we had a two-hour discussion. He’s deadly earnest about becoming the most significant, consequential nation in the world. He and others — autocrats — think that democracy can’t compete in the 21st century with autocracies because it takes too long to get consensus.

During a private phone call in 2019, Donald Trump promised Xi the US would remain quiet on pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong while trade talks continued.

If as Obama said the “relationship between the United States and China is the most important bilateral relationship of the 21st century” is true, then Biden should have used effective diplomacy to make China America’s ally and do what it takes not to make China Russia’s friend.

Power’s preachments and vilification of China on human rights have little credibility and will fall on

deaf ears. She is merely weaponizing human rights to demonize China.

If China would suddenly condemn Russia and join the US, I am absolutely sure there will be no mention of Hong Kong, Uyghurs or even Taiwan.

To expect China will be bullied into submission by preachments of human rights is simply ridiculous. But there is a larger issue most white liberals seem innately incapable of understanding.

That is, most non-Western countries regard America’s human rights preachments as moral cudgels to name shame, humiliate and vilify them. They resent the preachments especially as they see human rights violations in the US every day.

The fact is societies and nations are entitled to give supremacy to societal rights over individual rights.

I am a fierce and uncompromising defender of individual rights because I am an uncompromising defender of the American Bill of Rights. I have spent over three decades of my life standing sentry in defense of American liberties.

For over a decade and half, I have preached the universality of America civil liberties to Ethiopians. But I no longer hold that view.

I have come to the conclusion there is no divine mandate that human rights and civil liberties as defined/practiced by the US/West have universal value and application and must ipso facto be imposed on non-Western societies.

“Human rights” evolved within the context of Western political experience and philosophical traditions.

I have spent a lifetime immersing myself in that tradition. I still believe the Bill of Rights is the heart and soul of America and a work of timeless human genius.

But I am also convinced neither the US nor the West has any right to impose their system of rights and liberties on non-Western societies.

Despite Power’s human rights and democracy preachments, she fails to come clean on US human practices as well.

In 2018, President Donald Trump ordered the U.S. withdrawal from the U.N. Human Rights Council because it was a “cesspool of political bias.”

To be sure, I supported President’s Trump’s decision in my oped in The Hill on June 9, 2017.

I also supported President Trump’s decision to withdraw the U.S. from the W.H.O. because I believe American taxpayers should not support a cesspool of corrupt global bureaucrats.

In December 2020, Trump imposed sanctions on the International Criminal Court by Executive Order 13928 because the ICC was investigating potential crimes against humanity in Afghanistan and Palestine.

I did not agree with Trump on his ICC sanctions, even though the ICC is a toothless legal body.

Those who commit crimes against humanity, regardless of race, gender, nationality, etc., must be brought to justice.

I am member of the ICC Forum.

I did my tiny little best to bring Laurent Gbagbo, former Ivorian President, to the ICC prosecution.

I did the same for other African leaders as well.

I made a special trip to the Hague to observe the ICC trials of Gbagbo and Bosco Ntaganda, the former member of the Rwandan Patriotic Army at the ICC in the Hague.

I do not believe in a double standard of justice nationally or internationally.

The fact of the matter is that there cannot be a standard of justice that applies to the US/West and the rest of the world.

In her speech, Power presents herself as the high priestess of democracy and human rights and that just does not....

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

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Editorial

Colonial rhetoric on Egypt's "historic share" from Nile waters is unacceptable

Ethiopia has been working on the win-win solution regarding using Nile waters. It believes that over 250 million people of the Blue Nile Basin have to benefit fairly from the water. This stance of the country that contributes over 85 percent of the water deserves recognition instead of rejecting it putting unnecessary pressure in place.

The European Union's (EU) latest statement for the preservation of Egypt's "historic share" from Nile waters is a one-sided and contravenes the Union's impartial status regarding the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, EU's backing of Egypt's mythical historic share from Nile waters is not something expected from observers and the stance needs reconsideration. This stance of the EU contradicts that it had before.

Some two years back, the European Commission and European Council acknowledged the strategic significance of the Nile River and Ethiopia's mega hydro-power under construction. This is indicated in a letter Presidents of European Council and European Commission have written to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia. The two presidents have indicated that they encourage discussions and negotiations among the major Nile Riparian countries, Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan to resolve the issue peacefully. They also expressed their interest to bring aboard international cross boundary water experts that can help the disputing countries reach agreement on the use of the Nile River and GERD.

On top of contradicting its impartial stance thus, EU's latest comment showcases the union's departure from its mandate and affinity with Egypt. The move also puts the EU's integrity and impartiality in the negotiations in a doubt.

Though promoting a win-win benefit from the Nile waters among the riparian countries, Ethiopia strictly defies the colonial rhetoric the so called Egypt's "historic share" that allocated all the Nile River's Water to Egypt and Sudan. Although Egypt has persistently argued that the 1959 agreement between Egypt and Sudan is the legal framework for the allocation of the waters of the Nile, Ethiopia and other upstream riparian states reject that argument.

The 1959 agreement allocated all the Nile River's waters to Egypt and Sudan, leaving 10 billion cubic meters (b.c.m.) for seepage and evaporation, but afforded no water to Ethiopia or other upstream riparian states—the sources of most of the water that flows into the Nile.

This agreement of colonial era that excluded Ethiopia, the source of the river is totally unacceptable and the European Union should reconsider the issue and correct its comment in the way it reveals its impartiality.

The main reason repeatedly expressed that Ethiopia is constructing GERD is to generate hydro power to give light to its over 60 percent population living in the darkness at the moment and enable them to produce enough food for their family. It has no such evil intention of blocking the river and putting in danger the livelihood of the lower riparian people.

Opinion

"Administrator Power's Foreign Policy Address"

BY AL MARIAM

PART TWO

On June 7, 2022, Samantha Power, USAID Administrator delivered a speech pompously billed as "Administrator Power's Foreign Policy Address".

Before offering my analysis of substantive elements of Power's speech, I must register a note of protest on Power's and Freedom House's lack of full disclosure and transparency and actual/appearance of conflict of interest in staging the event.

Power's speech was jointly organized and promoted by Freedom House and USAID.

In her 253-word congratulatory appreciation of Freedom House, Power said,

Since its founding in 1941, Freedom House has been the democratic world's lighthouse", doing "peerless research" and "advocacy that has provided a beacon for those who seek to draw more people to the shores of liberty...

On its website, Freedom House bragged it "hosted USAID Administrator Samantha Power for a major address on the future of democracy and development around the world."

Freedom House also claims it is "the oldest American organization devoted to the support and defense of democracy around the world," manifestly implying it is one of those international human rights organizations.

The fact of the matter is that Freedom House is a wholly owned subsidiary of USAID and only nominally an "independent" nongovernmental organization.

Freedom House claims it "advocates for U.S. leadership and collaboration with like-minded governments to vigorously oppose dictators and oppression, and strengthen democracy around the world."

Some would argue Freedom House is a propaganda arm of the U.S. government.

In fiscal year 2021, the U.S. Government funded Freedom House to the tune of \$59,656,663 or 92% of its total funding!

Power's speech and Freedom House President Mike Abramowitz's introduction of her depicted Freedom House as some sort of a truly independent human rights organization.

Freedom House is simply a "think tank" funded by the US government.

Freedom House has a checkered past.

Freedom House publicizes its support of the Marshall Plan and the establishment of NATO.

Freedom House does not publicize it supported the Johnson Administration's disastrous Vietnam War policies.

Freedom House vigorously opposed the Soviet war in Afghanistan but remained silent on the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

There is the general misconception that Freedom House is some sort of international human rights organization unaffiliated with any government, a fact that is generally glossed over by US government and Freedom House officials. That misconception must be corrected.

In his introductory remarks for Power, Freedom House President Mike Abramowitz bloviated about "backsliding democracy" and

"advancing authoritarianism."

As Power and Abramowitz rail and against corruption and lack of transparency in disfavored world regimes, they should also practice what they preach.

Power and Freedom House should have made the fact of their special financial and policy relationship crystal clear.

I believe glossing over the incestuous relationship between USAID and Freedom House is dishonest and ill-serves the global crusade for democracy, transparency and accountability.

Decoding/Deconstructing "Administrator Power's Foreign Policy Address"

Triumphalism of an "imperiled democracy"

Power began her speech with an elegiac note on "our own, imperiled democracy."

Power said for democracy to prevail in the world, "America's own democracy, must of course, prevail. We have to be able to pass common sense laws that can save lives... forge consensus to deal with existential threats... respect the outcomes of free and fair elections and... peaceful transfer of power."

Translation: Donald Trump ***** up ("imperiled") American democracy by raising questions about "fake elections" and exposing to the world the liberal elite game of electoral democracy. Salvaging American democracy hinges on passing "sensible" gun laws as mass shootings have become so commonplace.

Powell's elegy, however, quickly turned into hollow triumphalism.

Power declared victory in the global cause

of democracy because "American democracy has prevailed" as a result of the "country's democratic legitimacy and strength—the endurance of our institutions, each passing generation's sacrifice to make ours a more perfect union, the sanctity of our elections."

Her speech would have had tremendous power if Power had made an object lesson of America's flawed democracy and the fact that it is a work in progress and a labor of love. Indeed, American democracy was stillborn in the womb of slavery and tethered to the yoke of disenfranchisement of women.

Until ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution in 1920, American women were not citizens as the quintessential quality of citizenship is the right to vote.

At least African Americans (arguably including African American women) had the right to vote guaranteed to them in theory in the Fifteenth Amendment ("right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude).

Until passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, African Americans were systematically and unconstitutionally denied equal economic opportunities and prevented from voting by poll taxes, literacy tests, white primaries and intimidation by terrorist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.

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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

Africa also needs permanent cultural institutions

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

A major cultural event took place here in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa earlier in June this year. The East African Arts and Culture Festival kicked off under the theme “Arts and Culture for Regional Connection.” Representatives from Uganda, Burundi, South Sudan, and Somalia as well as representatives from various regional states in Ethiopia have reportedly attended the festival.

This was good news indeed but it would have been better to call the festival’s motto Arts and culture for regional integration rather than regional connection. The term “connection” is not as strong as “integration” which is the major objective of the African Union’s Charter. Art and culture should be put in the service of African integration which is supposed to lead to total continental union sometimes 2063 following a projected economic union.

The role of art and culture in Africa’s regional integration is quite evident. If we look back at the history of Africa the 19th and 20th centuries were times of the continent’s colonization. The second half of the 20th century on the other hand ushered in an era of decolonization. From the second half of the 20th century to this time, Africa is still fighting for the total or comprehensive independence of the continent. The long process of political, economic and social freedom of Africa cannot however be achieved by embracing the fractured and atomized identities Africans were subjected to live under colonialism and neocolonialism.

Long before the advent of colonialism, we can safely assume that Africa, like any part of the world had no dividing borders and foreign subjugation. As history develops unevenly, it so happened that some parts of the world could achieve faster evolution towards statehood while Africa and some other parts of the world like Asia and Latin America underwent a period of retardation and underdevelopment that led the more developed part of the world, namely in Europe and later on America aspired to base their economic development on the invasion and occupation of less developed regions of the world.

By doing so, developed regions exploited the natural resources of continents like Africa in order to finance and expedite their own economic development at the cost of the weak and defenseless regions. In this way, Europe became the first colonizing region that led not only to the economic subjugation of the less developed parts but also recreated these conditions at a global scale as it sought to control the natural resources necessitated for their own advancement. In the meantime colonialism had to subjugate Africans not only politically but also economically and more importantly, control their cultures arts and philosophies in such a way that they could be used for the perpetuation of colonialism but also to their erosion, disappearance and replacement by colonial cultures and arts,

education and philosophy. The awakening of Africa was retarded in a planned and conscious manner because it could spell the end of colonialism and had spelled its end indeed after many centuries.

The 1960s heralded the end of colonialism and the political independence of hundreds of millions of people on the continent. Yet, cultural and artistic values that developed naturally within the continent were subverted to such extent that it was not possible to reclaim African values overnight or at the same time of political independence. African independence rather created another dilemma or problematic which as the fragmentation of the once-united entity into more than 50 different countries. The declaration of political freedom by African countries was easier to achieve than achieving cultural, artistic and value changes that were formed through long centuries. It was natural that getting rid of the colonial legacy of Africa’s cultural domination was bound to take longer years than anticipated at the time of decolonization.

A reverse process of integration in Africa started as soon as colonial domination ended. Europeans had divided Africa not only along national lines. They have also done so along regional lines based on language, history, geopolitics and the ultimate interests of colonialists that had now evolved or changed colors and assumed the role of neocolonialists. Africa was thus divided geographically but also linguistically and according to spheres of influence as French, English, Portuguese and/or Arab speaking ones. They were divided on the basis of the shape and comparison created in east Africa for instance that are now known together as East African or Horn of Africa countries.

The Horn of Africa was a strategic asset for Europe since its inception as more than one colonizer vied and fought for the control of the countries in the region. Great Britain, Italy and later America and even secondary global forces like the Arabs were fighting to carve out spheres of influences that have contributed a great deal to the present political, social, and cultural face of the East African nations that are struggling to reclaim their lost or eroded common identities by forming all kinds of regional cooperation.

In the meantime the political and economic efforts to bring east African nations together could not come to fruition as it has been consistently sabotaged or torpedoed by the neocolonial machinations of old and new powers. Meanwhile the East African countries had no time or sufficient comprehension and commitment to put the cultural and artistic aspects into the regional integration equation by giving exclusive focus to the political issues and by marginalizing the other factors like culture, education, arts and philosophy that could have expedited the process of regional union. In an Article entitled, “Integrating Africa through Arts and Culture”, the author

Kiagho B. Kilonzo writes that, “Integrating the East African region through culture has probably not been given much thought or made much of a priority in East Africa and Africa as a whole. Though integration of the East African nations began during the colonial era and passed through challenges in different phases, a space for culture or visual art in particular, has not been much realized in this case.”

A new vision for making art and culture instruments of East Africa regional integration could only materialize recently. On this point the author says that some efforts were being made recently in order to, “support the vision and mission of the East African community of creating a borderless society of East African people by integrating the East African nations by using culture, to make a meaningful contact between artists and the people of East Africa and beyond.”

During the recent Addis Ababa conference on Arts and Culture in East Africa, the Ethiopian view was articulated by minister of culture who said that, “The time is ripe to lay the centuries-old relations between Eastern African countries on unity and strong foundation, the importance of understanding the facts that no one can be a winner by running alone, therefore the need to “strengthen our unity.”

It is quite obvious that this kind of regional unity should be based on strong institutions that would expedite the process. First and foremost, Africa needs strong cultural institutions based on African values and realities and not as carbon copies of Western or Eastern models of institution building. The work of institution building in the cultural and arts areas should therefore start from below, from the people and not as it was the case in the past from above or from the elites. This kind of institution building did not succeed in the past because it simply did not reflect the needs and aspirations of the people of the regions and those of Africa in general.

Institution building in the framework of making art and culture serve regional integration in any part of Africa should be based on democracy. This democracy cannot be similar to Western democracy. African democracy should be based on African historical and cultural values and not imitate ready-made Western models of democracy. The relevance of any conference on art and culture in East Africa, as it was the case of the latest event, should take into consideration and be based on the values of the communities living in each and every country of the region. As most of the cultural boundaries traced in East Africa or anywhere in Africa in general are artificial by nature it may not be a very difficult task to undo what has been done by colonialism in the past because colonial boundaries are artificial and that is why they are now triggering conflicts and misunderstandings among even people sharing the same cultures, languages or mental setups or values.

...developed regions exploited the natural resources of continents like Africa in order to finance and expedite their own economic development at the cost of the weak and defenseless regions

Moreover, the work of institution building needs to be carried out on a permanent basis and not occasionally. All members of the East African region in our case, need to come together to set up a permanent body that would coordinate and articulate the activities in collaboration with the African Union special department for cultural affairs in collaboration with governments of the East African region with the help of the educated elites of each member state. The challenges of institution building in general and cultural institution building in particular have always been great because of foreign interference and other negative developments.

As one blogger recently noted, “foreign intervention in the developing countries hinders the development of independent institutions, and protects the strategic interests of their former colonizers (metropolis). For example, in the first quarter of the 20th century, the British did two major things in the Middle East which affected not just the entire region but the rest of the world; namely, they undermined the peace, prosperity and development of the region. No doubt that it is important to guard against such pitfalls in the course of cultural institution building in East Africa that has always attracted foreign strategic interests in the area. The process should therefore be fully owned and fully operated by Africans alone in order to guarantee its success.

Law & Politics

China's increasing, positive presence in the Horn

BY HAILE DEMEKE

With Beijing expanding its presence in the strategic region of Horn Africa, African countries have been making foreign policy shifts mainly driven by the West's interventionist policy.

Having untapped national resources and an increasing youth population, Africa has been a favorite destination for Chinese investors. And, the former has also been benefiting from Beijing's development cooperation. The Horn of Africa region in particular has been pushing for more Chinese engagement in their socioeconomic endeavors.

In an effort to expand the cooperation between members of the Horn of Africa and China, the First China-Horn of Africa Peace, Good Governance and Development Conference was held in Addis Ababa, on June 20, 2022.

The two-day conference brought together ministers and high-level representatives of Horn of Africa countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, and Djibouti.

In his opening remark, Security Advisor to the Ethiopian Prime Minister Ambassador Redwan Hussein said that Ethiopia is greatly honored to host the first conference on the Horn of Africa proposed by our strategic partner, China. The Horn Region has more than 300 million population's majority of whom are young, energetic, and talented and their potential is not fully harnessed. Currently, the region is experiencing one of the worst droughts, coupled with man-made crises that left millions of citizens at risk. The region is being stricken by conflict, drought, and a Coronavirus pandemic, calling for concerted efforts to address the challenges.

"The initiative is owned, led, managed, and driven by the Horn of African countries and China will only play a supportive role. We have no shortage of initiatives and several initiatives have come and gone without yielding the desired results because they were either driven by an external interest or were just imposed."

"There are some initiatives showing signs of progress and we need to take lessons from our past successes and failures so that the failures are not repeated. The peace and security and development of the region concern us the most and our region is facing an existential issue of various natures. Peace, security and development knotted and making the region free from the burdens of conflict, and ensuring peace and security remain the priority of all parties."

Chinese special envoy to the horn of Africa Xue Bing has also reiterated China's role to continue supporting Horn of Africa countries in their efforts toward sustainable peace, security, and regional development. The conference will offer a platform for the countries in the region to settle their differences through negotiations.

China will continue to support countries in the region to uphold the vision of common,

comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security; protect regional peace and security, and silence the guns in the Horn of Africa.

Addressing the conference, Xue underscored China's readiness to support the horn of African countries to focus on development, accelerate regional integration, enhance connectivity, boost home-grown economic development, explore complementarity among one another, and step up cooperation in areas including agriculture, trade, manufacturing and infrastructure with a view to foster industrial and economic belt areas and create more jobs and growth.

He emphasized the notable potential of the horn of African countries, which is home to about 300 million people, as an intersection to the eastern and western civilizations with a unique geographical location and abundant natural endowments. Peace and development of the region are put into a challenge in recent times, which necessitates building lasting regional peace and development.

He stated that the people of the region should be the master of their own country's destiny. We need to unequivocally uphold the independence and basic norms of international relations and stay committed to the premises and principles of the UN charter. Respect countries' sovereignty, territorial integrity and refrain from intervening in the internal affairs of other countries, and reject unilateral sanctions.

Dialogue and consultation are the paths to the settlement of differences and disputes. There are different ethnic and boundary issues in the region and China will continue to support countries in the region to uphold a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security.

Protect regional peace and security and silence the gun in the horn of Africa and be ready to provide mediation efforts for the settlement of disputes based on the will of countries. A comprehensive and holistic approach is the fundamental guarantee for lasting peace, he said.

The conference is aimed at supporting countries in the region to steer clear of external interference, respond to the challenges of security, development, and governance; and realize peace, development, and prosperity. China encourages horn countries to step up experience sharing on domestic governance, synergize national development policies, and explore a way of growing relations among different ethnic groups, religions, and cultures.

He said China will continue supporting countries in the region to join their efforts, engage in a holistic approach, and make a common response to non-traditional security challenges such as terrorism, climate change, and the refugee crisis, among others. Meanwhile, he called on the international community to step up investment in the region and make greater contributions to the independent and sustainable development of the region and Africa in general.

Amid a series of old and emerging security

solve their problems in their own capacity without meddling. Accordingly, China's peace initiative is all-inclusive and it will have a significant role in enhancing peace and stability in the Horn of Africa and beyond. Also, the peace initiative demonstrates China's commitment to inclusive dialogue rather than intervention and its respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of developing nations."

Horn countries are doubling down efforts to ensure democratic transition and the current unfair move by Western powers will reverse this democratic process and negatively impact the region's path towards democratic consolidation.

Noting the U.S. Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa has frequent visits to the region, Surafel claimed that the U.S. attempt to position one country in opposition to the other creates skepticism and makes the envoy's mission unfruitful. "The Chinese Envoy is demonstrating neutrality and supporting countries to find out their own solution without interference. The peace conference will have a significant impact and help the Western to turn their eyes from such a fruitless approach in the region."

It is to be recalled that Chinese Special Envoy Ambassador Xue Bing said there are issues of peace and security including differences over boundaries, ethnic and religious conflicts in the Horn of Africa, and countries requiring a continental value to resolve differences within their own reach without external interference. "Some Western countries come and tell Africans to do this and not to do that; I have felt that these countries are fed up with such an unwilling intervention in internal affairs. That is why China put forward the proposal for peace and development in the Horn of Africa."

Accordingly, countries pledged to work together to maintain peace and security in the region. They agreed to peaceful resolution of regional problems, jointly address natural disasters, and uphold a coordinated approach to combat cyber security, terrorism, illegal arms, and human trafficking, among others.

Noting the challenges confronting regional peace and security, the participants uphold the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, work together to maintain peace and security in the region and build the Horn of Africa where the guns are silenced for sustainable peace.

The Parties reaffirm respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, commitment to non-interference in the other's internal affairs, and respect for countries' independent choice of development path, values, and social systems. The Parties remain committed to peaceful resolution of regional problems independently, and while supporting multilateralism, oppose unilateral sanctions as well as external interference in the internal affairs of the countries of the region.

Having untapped national resources and an increasing youth population, Africa has been a favorite destination for Chinese investors. And, the former has also been benefiting from Beijing's development cooperation

perils, countries in the region urgently need to find fresh conflict resolution approaches to ensure stability and peaceful socio-economic development. China has been part of efforts to support regional countries in addressing security, development, and governance challenges.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald* Political Science and International Relations Researcher and Lecturer at Dire Dawa University Surafel Getahun said that China's peace conference will bring the efficacy of the west's long-held carrot-stick approach in the Horn of Africa politics to an end, adding that the conference would have the viability to stabilize the turbulent region.

He stated that China's current approach to global politics contravenes the West's widely-used carrot-stick approach to achieving political goals. The West, particularly the U.S. has employed the approach so as to enforce the rest of the world to accept its proposal or else face severe consequences.

The academician further stated that Western powers are pursuing interventionist strategy and using different mechanisms in order to enforce the developing world to comply with their greedy interests otherwise will receive harsh punishment. If any country refused the West's dictation, the latter tended to impose a sanction and other punitive measures rather than solving differences peacefully.

"China's recent approach is in contrast to the West's interventionist tendency and the former is helping developing countries to

AfDB aligns its projects and programs with country priorities

- Abdul Kamara (PhD)

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Herald Guest for today is Abdul Kamara (PhD), the Deputy Director General of the African Development Bank for the East African region. Based here in Ethiopia, he is also the country Manager as well as in charge of the African Union and the ECA in collaboration with the African Development Bank.

The AfDB was founded following an agreement signed by member states on August 14, 1963, in Khartoum, Sudan, which became effective on September 10, 1964. Since then, the bank has actually grown and transformed up to the level where it is today. Ethiopia is a founding member of the bank.

In the 1960s that time of 1963 these newly independent African countries wanted to take their own development and future into their own hands. So as to do that, they have to strengthen their financial muscle. So, this is how the African Development Bank was founded by up to 22 African countries signed that instrument of ratification and then raised about 65 per cent of the initial capital to start the bank and then fast forward up to the magnitude of the bank that it has today.

The Ethiopian Herald has recently interviewed Kamara on diverse issues. Have a nice read!

Could you tell us where and how AfDB mobilizes its resources?

Firstly, the bank is financed from the shareholders. So, you have the African Development Bank window which is payments from shares and subscriptions. So, today the bankers have an authorized capital of 200 billion USD.

This follows 103 per cent replenishment in 2020. So we're above 93 billion USD. We went to slightly over 200 billion USD which is authorized capital. The African Development Bank resources, which is the non-concessional resources, we use it to lend money to credit worthy middle income economies, for example, most of the North African countries, South Africa, Botswana, and so on. These countries can really borrow and pay at an interest rate, put slightly below the market, but also targeted to really accelerate the economic transformation of countries.

The second window of the African Development Bank is the African Development Fund. This is the concessional window. This concessional window is replenished every three years. Whenever we replenish it is about six to eight billion USD plus or minus. This is where the low income economies like Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and all the relatively poorer countries get their resources from, as these resources come as grants or in the form of concessional loans. For example, in Ethiopia, since we started



operations in early 1980s, we have done about 6 billion USD.

And all of these are grants and concessional loans. Currently, we have an active portfolio of 1.6 billion USD in key sectors, including transport, energy, water and sanitation and now we are moving slowly to accompany the country's agricultural transformation investing in the integrated agro parks. We currently have close to 100 million USD in key operations.

Would you tell us the lending capacity of the bank? Does the bank have healthier relations with African countries?

Definitely we do. The African countries on the bank, not only the African countries, because we also have 27 members- we call them non regional member countries. When we say member countries, we mean the 54 African countries. We also have 27 non regional countries, basically from the OECD, are

members of the bank.

Yes, in fact, we have an excellent relationship with countries, as we demonstrated last time during the award ceremony, in the good speeches that we are given. Beyond that the bank belongs to its shareholders. The Ministers of finance, not only from the African countries but also members are the governors of the bank. If you take Ethiopia, for example, Minister Ahmed Shede sits on the board of the African Development Bank, makes decisions, and devises policies and strategies. We have executive directors, a board of executive directors, where each country is represented on a day to day basis. Through this, we are having a very close relationship with the countries.

But what is important here is, the African Development Bank always tries to align its projects and programs with country priorities. For example, for Ethiopia, our engagement

over the past five, six years, has been strongly aligned to GTP I and II. We had the homegrown economic reform program and now we have a 10 year development plan. So, the core priorities of that are firstly advice and inform countries to get those strategic plans. Once those are done, we take part of it and limit our interventions to areas of comparative advantage. Of course, the African Development Bank's core areas of engagement which is basically in the context of our 10 year strategy which has five priority areas. We call it -the high fives.

So, globally or Africa wide, the African Development Bank focuses on availing energy to the continent. We call it - light up and Power Africa, as one of the priority areas. We also want to feed Africa. apart from agriculture, we focus on ensuring food security, health and nutrition and so on. We also are financing to integrate Africa that means the rural roads, the traceability,

Herald Guest

cross border, road connection, transport, be it railways, and air and so on. So, we try to integrate Africa but the industrialization stories never complete. So that is why we are also accompanying countries like Ethiopia currently in its industrialization especially the special agro industrial processing zones. We are supporting the integrated agro industrial parks.

The fifth pillar is basically the social sectors. As you achieve this fall, you will have achieved most of the fifth pillar, what we call improve the quality of life for Africans, but also the health, the education, the water and sanitation, and so on. All of these fall under these pillars. And then you have cross bottom areas: governance, climate change, and so on. Of course, the priorities in each country will differ slightly one from the other given that countries are at different stages of development of transformation.

Because of these facts, we develop every country's strategies to get control for normally, its five years like that of Ethiopia. We currently are now developing country strategy for Ethiopia from 2022 to 2026, that's a five year span period. It will prioritize what we are going to do. We will have a midterm review after two and a half years so that we can make some adjustments depending on a lot of things happening in the world, such as global shocks and things like that.

What are the major challenges that the bank has faced so far?

I think the key challenge here is, resources are never enough. So, you have to manage it in a way that you maximize efficiency and get the best out of the resources that you use.

But the second area of challenge also relates to some of the things that we are observing on the continent. You will see that conflicts, if anything refuse to go away in few days, we are almost like saying, "okay, conflicts are going but they started coming" We saw Chad, Sudan, now Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique and so on. So, these are challenges because whenever these kinds of things happen, you will have to adjust your portfolio. You have to provide support that will ensure stability to these areas.

I think the third area of challenge is the global dynamics or global shocks. We have just been grappling with the COVID-19. For example, I just told you all the support that we provided to the COVID-19. This is not something that it is in the country's strategy which I was talking about. In Ethiopia, we know just before COVID, there were desert locusts, droughts in Somalia and some parts of Oromia regions. We are currently working on programs to make some adjustments.

Climate change is also a global challenge. So, these are some of the challenges but I can really assure you that we are very much on top of things, and we are doing what it takes. For example, now we are looking crisis with the Russia invasion of Ukraine, we see that for example, wheat prices have gone up if anything, they are even, the supply is threatened. We know that Ethiopia has been previously importing over 60 per cent of input from either of these two countries, and so on.

So, recently, our board is currently discussing a 1.5 billion USD facility for the continent to address the structural issues that will help countries to adapt to this looming food crisis



as we do not believe that this is a temporary situation. Firstly, you do not know how that conflict is going to last. Secondly, even if it does, how sure will you be that all those supply chains will be revitalized overnight. Thus, we want to boost the production capacity of the continent to import fertilizer but also to targeted support to existing initiatives of Ethiopia.

What is the benefit of having non regional numbers?

It's a very important question. But, when the bank was established in 1963, or 64 and started operations, it was all Africans. But, development is a very complex phenomenon and in development, we always say, No one can do development better than many hands together. So, there is partnership between Africa and several of these countries anyway. Some of them expressed their appetite in the early 80s to become part of the bank.

So that is how the bank's capital was opened up to non-African countries and then we call them non-regional member countries. You can see the significant impact that the bank has been able to move from something that was 50 or 60 million USD. They established 200 billion USD authorized capital as we see today.

The bank maintains its African character. The bank will always be domiciled in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. We moved to Tunisia for 10 years when there was a problem in Ivory Coast. But we came back to Abidjan that is where it is.

Secondly, the president of the African Development Bank will always be an African. So, that is another African character. But, the vice presidents or any of these positions could be held by anybody from any country which is very important. The president of the bank is the chair of the board.

What type of projects does the bank finance?

We have our 10 year strategy, which is the long term one, is now actually coming to an end this year. It was 2012 to 2022; we are just about developing now the successor which led to those five priority areas ---the high fives so that is what broadly defined the context in which the African Development Bank develops its programs.

In the context of what we finance, we finance anything that falls within the High Five area. So across Africa, we finance agriculture, energy, finance, transport, health, education, water and sanitation, government's economic governance especially our cross cutting issues is climate change.

We also finance the private sector by the way, for example, we have had two loans with Ethiopian Airlines, more than 100 million dollars for the fleet expansion when it bought those Dream liners. We've had a private sector operation with Derba Midroc Cement which in 2017 brought down the price in Ethiopia by 75 per cent. So, those are the kinds of programs that we support for Ethiopia very explicitly. That's where we find ourselves right now.

Our Country Strategy Paper (CSP) has two pillars. The first is infrastructure support to durable and sustainable infrastructure, energy, roads, and water and sanitation, but also support to economic governance to accelerate the delivery of basic social services, and improve the business environment for the private sector so that summarizes our priority areas for Ethiopia.

So in the context of these priority areas, from 2015, when it was first approved to now, we have committed or we have approved programs of about 2 billion USD. And this

includes, operations like the Mombasa-Nairobi-Addis Highway, which, you go to Bishoftu to Hawassa, Yabello, Hageremariam, all the way to my knowledge, we are used solely to the prime minister of Ethiopia and the president of Kenya, in 2020, went to open the one stop on a poster we built. We also have transformative operations like the Ethiopia-Kenya electricity Highway, which is an operation that we are co-financing with the World Bank.

But what that will do specifically is connecting Ethiopia to the East African Power Pool. It is also putting Ethiopia in a position to export power. We are currently exporting power to Djibouti, to Sudan, and so on. But when the Grand renaissance dam about 6,000 megawatts finishes hopefully this year, because we know it has now been revealed to be a considerable deal.

The power export, structures and systems will already be in place. Currently, the power purchase agreement is already being discussed. We also have operations in the integrated agro parks. We have one wash, we call for town's water and sanitation Development Program, which is about 75 million USD for four towns including Mekelle, Gode, Bichena, etc.

And I actually launched the one that was in Somali Region with the former Minister Silashi. When there are wells in town now, about 250 or more households, all of them are not connected to water. In the health sector, I just told you about the COVID support, we have an integrated transport support program, which is really linking high potential agricultural areas to areas of consumption. Ethiopia -Djibouti is the main road for Ethiopia, however, the road needs to be expanded. So, those are the kinds of things we do. But we also do a lot on the governance side, we are working with the central bank to ensure that treasury bills go competitive with what we have achieved, the 27 percent rule is removed. We're working on the domestic capital markets and so on.

Does the bank support the mega development projects focused on reducing poverty across Africa?

We do. I think in the context of here in East Africa, I have already indicated some of them. We have had energy projects, but I will give you just take Addis Ababa, for example, in 2018, that was the first project that I signed a 200 million USD operation that we call rehabilitation and upgrade of the Addis Ababa transmission and distribution system. So, ours was 100 million USD, but we also got a go financing from Jamaica. So, it is ensuring that the power systems are upgraded, some of the transformers are very old and apart from production capacity has increased.

Addis Ababa also has a lot of small businesses, highly densely populated areas and so on where the power needs to reach so that people can access electricity for domestic use, but also for productive uses. So, that project is not yet complete. So when you see there is a power cut in your area, it is not because of power shortage, it is because they are upgrading the system. We also have transformative operations like the Lagos--Abidjan corridor which is currently in discourse, Senegal Bridge and you name it.

Thank you very much for your time
You are welcome

Family planning for a healthier, prosperous future

BY STAFF REPORTER

Since the past two plus decades, Ethiopia has been registering notable results in terms of improving the health and wellbeing of women and infants. By devising strategies that can promote the health and wellbeing of women and children such as reducing the rate of child marriage and harmful practices, expanding access to utilization of maternal and infant health services, (basic and emergency obstetric and newborn care), deploying health extension workers across the country and sensitizing the importance of family planning among the communities, the country can markedly cut the rate of maternal and newborn mortality.

Enabling almost half of women, especially those living in rural areas, to visit health facilities during pregnancy and giving birth in health centers assisted by health practitioners, having some knowhow about the importance of family planning and showing interest to utilize the methods among women who were reluctant can also be mentioned as successes that contribute a lot in minimizing the risk of death owing to complications that may come to happen during delivery.

As documents indicate, since the past two plus decades, Ethiopia has reduced maternal and child mortality by half. Unfortunately, despite the progresses, maternal mortality rate of 412 per 100,000 live births and child mortality rate of 67 per 1,000 are still too



high; and remain challenges.

However, according to Ministry of Health, access to family planning services for all is a viable tool to reduce maternal and newborn mortality by 30 to 40 percent.

At a discussion forum held recently at Dire Dawa Town, with regard to improved access to family planning, Health State Minister Dereje Duguma said that expanding and making family planning accessible at the desired level; and quality, can have important effects in reducing maternal and newborn mortality rate by 30 to 40 percent, reported ENA.

Mentioning that each year more than 3.1 to 3.5 million babies are born in Ethiopia and the

economy is not build up in a manner endure the newly born generations, the State Minister said that, however, by minimizing the number of families, it is possible to create productive citizens and build a prosperous nation.

In this regard, the success that the Dire Dawa City Administration has scored relating to increasing the rate of family planning service from 38 percent to 42 percent in this Ethiopian budget year is a laudable experience, he said.

The State Minister also urged health professionals to work determinedly and committedly to improve service quality.

Dire Dawa City Administration Mayor, Kedir Juhar on his part said that the Administration is providing the necessary financial support to

make the family planning service accessible.

He said access to a better Ethiopia family planning service is an option.

“To build a better Ethiopia, expanding access to improved family planning is a matter that has no other option,” Kedir underscored.

At the discussion forum, the Dire Dawa City Administration offered trophies and certificates to those entities who have contributed share to the success of the family planning service in the current Ethiopian budget year.

Although the rate of maternal deaths is demonstrating significant decline in each year, even these days out of 100,000 mothers, 401 die due to complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, according to report from the Ministry of Health.

It is recalled that last December, the Ministry, targeting to curb mothers’ death rate by 2030 and secure their lives, has launched a document that it believes support to access improved family planning services throughout the country. Concurrently, a target is also designed to decrease the rate of pregnancy among females who are under 18; from the current rate of 13 percent to three percent. What is more, it is planned to raise the rate of access to contraceptives by 2030 from 17 to 22 percent by accessing family planning service to those who aspire to have it; but unable to use it for different reasons.



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AMU collaboration with CA on hydroelectric power plant in Kamba Woreda

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Arba Minch University (AMU) has laid the foundation stone for the construction of a small power plant on the Mayzele River in Dingamo Kebele, Kamba Woreda in collaboration with Christian Aid (CA). The University will cover 1.1 million Birr while Christian Aid supports 6.123 million birr to the project fulfillment.

Minister of Water and Energy as well as AMU Executive Board Chairperson Dr. Engineer Habtamu Itfa explained that the initiative of the university to utilize local resources by collaborating with partners rather than expecting power from the main center is exemplary. “The ministry will support the project to achieve its goals and benefit the community.”

Likewise, AMU President Dr. Damtew Darza said: “Although the country has an enormous amount of water resources but access to electricity, especially in the rural area,

is very low. Thus, the use of such small-scale power generation options would go a long way in solving the problem at all levels.”

Since its inception, the university has been implementing projects that benefit the community, the President said adding: “The construction of the small power plant will not only meet the demand for electricity in the area but also play an important role in providing power to schools, health facilities, and others.”

By the same token, AMU lecturer and Coordinator of the Project Beyene Feye said that the project research was launched considering the challenges of local lighting and natural opportunities of the area.

Before the project is implemented, the availability of adequate water flow, water level, the population in the area, distance from the main power station, and other technical factors have been studied. Hence, upon its completion, the project is expected to generate 5-10 kilowatts of electricity

and benefit 600 households.

Correspondingly, Christian Aid Inland Director Yitna Tekalign said the organization provides development and humanitarian support and works to improve the living conditions of the communities. Hence, the organization funded the project to benefit the residents of the Kamba Woreda Dingamo Kebele from the provision of electricity.

A similar small power generation project has been successfully tested in Benishagul Gumuz regional state. He urged the local administration and the community to stand by the university in addition to their organization to make the Dingamo power project a reality.

Kamba Woreda Administrator Damene Negash explained that the woreda has the manpower and natural resources suitable for agriculture, livestock development, tourism, mining, and energy sectors, but the woreda has not utilized its capacity due to a lack of infrastructure.

One of the infrastructures is generating electric power, he mentioned, adding that the university is grateful for launching the project in collaboration with partners to alleviate the electricity problem of the Dingamo community, one of the Kebeles of the Woreda.

He also promised that the Woreda and the Woreda community would do their part for the success of the project.

The House of Peoples Representatives Speaker Tagesse Chafo, Standing Committee on Human Resources and Technology Chairperson Dr. Negeri Lencho and Member of the Standing Committee Frew Tesfaye, Southern Minerals and Energy Bureau Director-General Atsede Aiza, AMU Vice Presidents, Department of Management and Project Researchers, Gamo Zone Administrator Berhanu Zewde, Kamba Woreda Leaders, Elders, and the local community attended the program besides the speakers.

Verbatim and Caption

PM calls on Muslim community to rally on green legacy, togetherness

"This Jumma 's day is a beloved day for the Muslim community to come together at the Creator 's spirit, cleaning up their soul with forgiveness and keeping their wears neat with good aromas. "My fellow Muslim people, I am calling on this day to pray for the peace of our country and put your good mark for the coming generations, and I would say that Ethiopia which we will pass to the coming generation will be peaceful and land of togetherness. Our legacy, for our generation; Jumma Mubarak,"

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD).



Digitalization process

Digitalization is a matter of expanding competitiveness rather than choice in technical and vocational skills. The government is working to make the information management system of institutions be fast, quality and technologically assisted. The efforts being done in the just ending budget year to improving professional standards and systematic training are successful in ensuring quality and compliance. In the future, strengthening the cooperation training, linking training equipments with work, the effectiveness of assessment system with efficiency and quality, gender empowerment and leaderships as well as enhancing revenue mechanisms should be assisted by policy, Dr Beker Shale, State Minister for Technical and Vocational Sector at the Ministry of Labor and Skills.



Home grown reforms and remedies for domestic and global challenges

The economic reforms undertaken following the national reform enabled to bring change in a short period of time. With this, it has been possible to reduce Ethiopia 's debt burden, finalize ongoing mega development projects, increase domestic revenue and export trade. In contrast, the past

three years witnessed man-made and natural disasters that put pressure on the Ethiopian economy. However, following the national reforms driven by home grown economic measures have enabled to build an economy that has managed the problems and registered successive growth. The global price

hike associated with the Russian and Ukrainian war is also testing Ethiopia. Thus, the ruling Prosperity Party has set directions to increase productivity, export trade and increase domestic revenue in order to withstand the challenges, Finance Minister Ahmed Shide.



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Investment opportunities and priority areas

There are numerous attractive investment opportunities in Ethiopia. The government of Ethiopia in collaboration with supporting stakeholders has identified several investment opportunities in the country. Investors are also rewarded with different incentives based on their project and sector they prefer to engage. The investment opportunities, priority sectors and incentives are presented as follows: -

Before going deep to the opportunities, it is important to mention areas where investors are eligible to invest. Foreign investor(s) can engage in various investment sectors according to the Ethiopian investment regulation No. 474/2020. Previously closed sectors are now open for foreign investors. For instance, telecommunication, logistics and transportation industry can be regarded as examples. (Please refer the current Ethiopian investment regulation No. 474/2020 from Ethiopian Investment Commission's website: www.investethiopia.gov.et.)

Manufacturing

Vision: To become the leading manufacturing hub in Africa.

Mission: Ethiopia offers a remarkable competitive advantage for manufacturing industries due to:

- * Government facilitation of efficiency-enhancing investment solutions including industrial parks that are ready for 'plug and play':
- * Large pool of trainable work force available at competitive wages:
- * Cheapest energy rate on a global standard:
- * Geographic proximity and preferential access to key markets; and
- * Abundance of high-quality industrial raw materials:
- * Ethiopia is Africa's largest raw material supplier for the leather industry.

The textile and garment sector in Ethiopia has been growing in the

past decade. There is access to major markets in the local and international market. USA and UK are the major export destinations for the Ethiopian textiles.

Investment Opportunities: includes commercial cotton production, spinning, weaving and garment.

Opportunities for private sector:

- * Textile manufacturing: Manufacturers producing any cloth or goods prepared by weaving, knitting, or felting.
- * Garment manufacturing: Manufactures producing any article of clothing such as dresses, suits, shirts, trousers made prepared from textile/fabric.
- * Components and Trim manufacturing: Manufacturers producing materials used as components & decorations of garments such zippers, buttons, plastics, threads, elastics, carton boxes, poly bags, hangers, printing, etc.

Ethiopia has the largest livestock population in Africa and ranks 6th in the world. The leather industry bases itself on the country's livestock resources. Indeed, Ethiopia possesses one of the world largest livestock populations, 60.9 million heads of cattle's, 31.8 million heads of sheep's and 30.7 million heads of Goats. This enormous population of livestock provides ample opportunity in the value chain starting from tanning of hides and skins all the way up to the finished leather products. Manufacturing companies can supply major markets in the world including Italy, USA, & Germany.

Opportunities for Private Sector Includes: -

- * Tanning of hides and skins
- * Accessories: soles, synthetic sewing thread, plastic linen, shoelaces, zippers, buckle
- * Chemical inputs manufacturing for tannery use. Footwear, gloves, and other leather products manufacturing