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Premier invites global leaders to Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) called on global leaders to join Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative which has been implemented since 2019 nationwide.

In his video message to Stockholm +50

Conference participants, Premier Abiy urged global leaders to attach due emphasis to the growing climate change and environmental degradation.

As to him, the conference is held at a critical juncture and comes at the right time when the international community is dealing with different environmental concerns as well

as rising inequalities. "Hence, working together is instrumental in achieving a healthy planet for all of us, for example as a global community; we cannot skip the daily retroactivity of a pandemic. This is a key lesson we have learned from the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic."

See Premier ... Page 3

Australian firm to produce 25GW of energy from renewable sources

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA- The government of Ethiopia has granted a license to an Australian Company Fortes cue Future Industries (FFI) that enables the company to generate a total of 25 gigawatts of energy using solar, wind, and geothermal sources.

Finance Minister Ahmed Shide said at the event that the relative abundance of renewable energy resources including hydropower, geothermal, wind and solar makes Ethiopia a right place to do business in the sector. FFI is a global green energy

See Australian ... Page 3



Abrehot, or the beginning of a long journey towards mental emancipation

Page 6

Terrorist TPLF's decades of intrigue on humanitarian aids

Page 7

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Council approves 786.61 billion Birr draft budget

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

ADDIS ABABA-The Council of Ministers unanimously approved on Friday 786.61 billion Birr draft budget for upcoming Ethiopian fiscal year and referred it to the House of Peoples Representatives for scrutiny.

See Council... Page 3

WFP reaches 350,000 people in Tigray in two months

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA -The World Food Program Ethiopia (WFP) said it delivered 50,000 tons of food on 1,045 trucks in April and May 2022 and reached 350,000 people with lifesaving food in the Tigray State conflict-affected areas.

See WFP ... Page 3

News

Nat'l Dialogue would lift Ethiopia from pressing challenges: Dima Negewo

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The national consensus that is expected to be derived from the much-anticipated and inclusive National Dialogue would play an iconic role to address the contentious issues of the day, a veteran politician and Member of Parliament said.

A veteran politician and Foreign Relations and Peace Standing Committee Chairperson of the House Dima Negewo (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the National Dialogue would narrow the longstanding and pressing differences that Ethiopia has been embattled by so long.

The MP further highlighted that conducting the National Dialogue within the shortest time frame is preferable to avert further disagreement and additional loss of life and damage of public and private properties. Only those who have taken advantage from the country's unrest and conflict entrepreneurs object to such a move to solve problems through round table discussions.

"Bringing insurgent groups that raised the arm to topple the government to the deliberation is something worth due consideration and they also must learn that the door is open to solve differences through negotiations. And those political parties that have been highly engaged in belittling the government's effort and oppose the National Dialogue must play a constructive role in the process."

Though there might be ideological differences regarding national interest; the National Dialogue could serve as the instrument to build a common ground and narrow the gaps. Since the major goal of the negotiation is coming up with sound solutions thereby keeping Ethiopia's existence, it would have a paramount importance to identify pressing agendas.

Reminding the rampant poverty degraded national values and holding Ethiopia's progress back, the politician stressed that dialogue and discussion are instruments in curtailing problems at a grass root level.



Dima Negewo (PhD)



Aba Geda Gobena Hola.

Ethiopians solve their problems on their own: *Aba Geda Gobena*

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

HARAR – Ethiopians ought to cultivate their diverse and shared values as well as long experiences of solving their problems in their own way in order to address the current challenging issues, said *Aba Geda Gobena Hola*.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), *Aba Geda Gobena, Aba Geda* of Tulema and Secretary-General of the Union of the Oromo *Aba Gedas*, stated that Ethiopians share values and are able to solve their problems on their own. Cultivating and maintaining their long-standing culture of addressing challenging circumstances on their own is a crucial decision for Ethiopians at this demanding time, according to him.

"Everyone who claims to be concerned about Ethiopia should work responsibly for the success of the National Dialogue," he said, adding that all Ethiopians need to talk closely

about the country's affairs and prioritize things that can strengthen and prosper the country.

Attending photo exhibition and discussion forums organized by EPA at Harar last Tuesday, *Aba Geda Gobena* said that maintaining peace, keeping the long-aged culture of tolerance and kindness of Ethiopians, ending racism and extremism as well as culminating ethnic and religious conflicts should be understood as vital issues that should not be given time.

"Various works have to be carried out to ensure that the youth protect their country, knowing that Ethiopia's unity, freedom, and sovereignty have been preserved for thousands of years by the sacrifice of their ancestors," he stressed.

He further insisted that the roles of the elders take the lion's share in ensuring that the youth are well aware of their history and are contributing to the success of the National Dialogue.

Saudi Arabia runs 236 investment projects in Ethiopia

- Creates nearly 80 thousand employment opportunity

BY MULATU BELACHEW

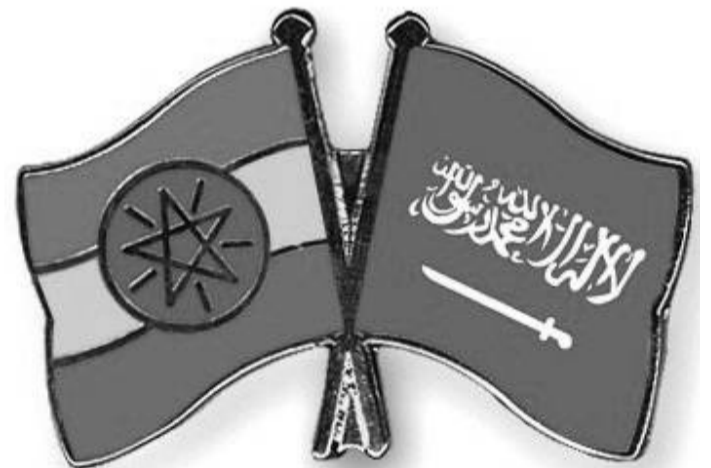
ADDIS ABABA - Sources disclosed that Saudi Arabia has run a total of 236 investment projects worth 20.5 billion birr capital in Ethiopia from September 09, 1992 to March 13, 2022.

Of this investment projects, 124 projects go operational but the remaining 52 and 60 are at pre-implementation and implementation phase respectively, according to Saudi Arabia Summary investment project report.

Saudi Arabia's investment has created nearly 80 thousand employment opportunities (over 25 thousand permanent and over 50 thousand temporary employments in Ethiopia.)

Saudi Arabia has been investing in a range areas in Ethiopia such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining, education, health, hotels, tour operation, transport and communication, real estate, Machinery and Equipment Rental and consultancy service, Construction, contracting including water well drilling and others, it was learned.

Foreign Direct Investment Promotion Directorate Director at Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) Aschalew Taddesse



told *The Ethiopian Herald* that currently investments are well underway though more effort is still required.

Incentive packages with which the government of Ethiopia has been providing investors to run their investment in the country are categorized into three: Income tax resolution period, Tax free machinery import, investors allowed to export products without paying export fee.

EIC has been continuously addressing the shortcomings investors have faced in an integrated way apart from incentives and package privileges.

Investors are operating in a better performance though a lot remains to be done along this line, he underscored.

News



USAID | ETHIOPIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Company to hire over 200 deaf women in Addis Ababa

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA- TEKI Paper Bags PLC, which is owned and managed by young, deaf Ethiopian women, said that it has utilized a 550,000 USD grant to foster the fight against pollution and convert plastic bags into national employment options for youth with disabilities.

As learnt from the information conveyed in USAID's press release, the company using the latter's support, will create at least 200 jobs for unemployed women with disabilities by producing and distributing recycled paper bags.

As to the source, Addis Ababa environmental protection commission, the city administration, and the private sector will work to create the aforementioned amount of job opportunity.

The USAID effort is to improve awareness, skills, and respect disability rights and inclusion to create the job opportunities as

well as end discrimination against disabled people.

Over three years, TEKI Paper Bags PLC used a 550,000 USD grant to foster the fight against pollution and convert plastic bags into a national employment solution involving the youth with disabilities.

This partnership is an example of USAID/Ethiopia's ongoing task to help Ethiopians lead healthier, prosperous, and more resilient lives. In 2021 alone, USAID spent 1.27 billion USD to the wellbeing of all Ethiopians, in every part of the country and it is a reflection of America and Ethiopia's shared values and their longstanding partnership.

TEKI paper Bags PLC in collaboration with USAID has launched a program in the presence of Ambassador Jacobson, Director Sean Jones, and KokebMisrak, Director for Bilateral Cooperation at the Ministry of Finance.

Council approves 786.61 billion...

The budget approved for the coming Ethiopian fiscal year by the Council of Ministers has shown 16.59 percent increase as compared to that of the current budget year. The draft budget that is expected to be endorsed by the House of People's Representatives (HPR) Was released at the 9th Regular Session of the Council.

Accordingly, the budget allotted for recurring expenses is Birr 347.12 billion. Birr 218.11 billion is allocated for capital expenses, Birr 209.38 billion for subsidy to regional states and Birr 12 billion for sustainable development goals.

The budget is derived from the Ten Year Prosperity Plan and medium term macroeconomic fiscal framework endorsed for the Ethiopian fiscal years 2015-19. Ensuring national security, rehabilitating IDPs and restoring the damaged infrastructure and services as well as achieving sustainable socio-economic transformation are among the major goals of the budget, it was indicated.

The council has urged stakeholders to utilize the budget for the allotted purpose in keeping with the law and economically and passed it to the HPR for endorsement.



WFP reaches 350,000 people...

The information obtained from the WFP official twitter page indicated that the program continues pushing convoys into Tigray and conflict-affected areas. The WFP of Ethiopia says is working to deliver a continuous flow of supplies on time to communities in need.

Meanwhile, the WFP Country Director also carried out a very productive discussion with Somali State President Mustefie Mohammed this week. The main aim of the discussion is looking at the system

that continues collaboration on a timely food and nutrition response to drought and urgency for long term durable solutions to build resilience of communities in the state.

It is evident that the government of Ethiopia has been facilitating ways for the WFP and other donor groups to freely operate and assist the needy people of Tigray. However, the Terrorist TPLF is employing the aid to feed its combatants thereby augmenting war efforts.

Premier invites global leaders...

Prime Minister Abiy added "The international community must foster trustworthy ties between state and non-state actors in order to increase collaboration and solidarity. It can be done by rethinking the future together through inclusivity, knowledge and learning. This is critical if we want a healthy planet for everyone's sake. As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference, we must consider what we have done to implement the principles of the Stockholm Declaration both individually and collectively."

"Also, the global community must prepare itself for the rising environmental challenges recurrently encountering the planet. To that end, it is vital to put national and institutional capacities in place to strengthen national effort."

The PM further emphasized the importance of complying with international

environmental agreements. "I believe my country has been doing its fair share towards ensuring a healthy planet on all fronts. Our Green Legacy Initiative, for example, is an ambitious National Flagship initiative launched in 2019 aiming to plant more than 20 billion tree seedlings by 2022. By 2021, we proudly managed to plant 18 billion seedlings."

This year, Ethiopia will exceed its four year milestone. This initiative has already paved the way for collaboration and solidarity in the sub-region as the country has been sharing its Green Legacy Initiative to its neighbors in the spirit of unity. "Now, in the final year of a four-year target, we will surpass the set goal. As the nation lays the foundation for the generation, we invite all willing partners to join us in the legacy journey for generations to come," he made the appeal.

Australian firm to produce 25GW...

company that has committed to produce zero carbon green hydrogen from 100 percent renewable resources.

The government has been in discussion with the company to launch green hydrogen and ammonia since September 2020 and it would play a crucial role in increasing Ethiopia's access to green energy and contribute to the development of carbon-free economy. The activity is also helpful to produce fertilizer, cement, and others and the government will provide the necessary support.

FFI CEO Julie Shuttle worth said the company plans to exploit Ethiopia's immense potential to green energy production and to export green energy after satisfying the

domestic demand. "Our biggest goal is to produce green hydrogen and ammonia for Ethiopia and the rest of the world to combat global warming. The company is building a global portfolio of renewable green hydrogen and green ammonia projects to produce 15 million tons per year of green hydrogen in 2030 which is a huge target and the country is also supporting us."

Australian Ambassador to Ethiopia Julia Niblett expressed gratitude for the government of Ethiopia for supporting the initiative; adding the FFI is undertaking huge ambitious projects in Ethiopia in supply of renewable energy. The company's investment will have a great importance in

creating jobs, generating forex, transfer of technology and others.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald* at the margins of the agreement signing ceremony, senior advisor at the Ministry of Finance Biruk Taye (PhD) stated that big Western companies have been demonstrating a growing interest to invest in Ethiopia's green energy development that would have greater significance to reduce carbon emission. The companies' involvement also align with Ethiopia's plan to shift from fossil fuel to green energy.

Ethiopia has a huge opportunity for green energy development from hydropower, wind, geothermal, and solar sources and

limit carbon emission. Extensive discussion was underway for the past one year with the Ministry of Finance and other sectors to support the FFI's initiative which will have a significant contribution to Ethiopia's vision of building an environment-friendly economy. The company is the first of its kind to produce green hydrogen in Ethiopia.

The investment is very crucial for Ethiopia to produce green fertilizer using ammonia and also hydrogen for factories that consume huge energy with zero emission. On the other hand, the energy will generate forex by exporting to the global market and it will also have a huge impact in knowledge and technology transfer, the advisor elaborated.

Opinion

Senator Chris Coons: Bearded Marxist in Kenya, bold interventionist in Ethiopia

BY AL MARIAM

PART ONE

Student Chris Coons, the bearded Marxist in Kenya

Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee has a fascinating personal story to tell about his messianic crusade to save Africans from their ignoble savage selves.

As a young college student, Coons journeyed to Kenya ostensibly to rescue himself out of the wilderness of white privilege.

Coons says he entered college “from a fairly sheltered, privileged, and politically conservative background.”

During his second year in college, he began to examine his “assumptions about America and world relations” and scrutinize the “myth of equal opportunity in America.”

Coons began to “suspect the ideal of America as ‘a beacon of freedom and justice, providing hope for the world’ was not exactly based on reality.”

His examination revealed the “horrible failures made possible by American hubris and dogmatism.”

Coons says his life changed as a 3rd year college student.

Filled with doubt and disappointment over “American hubris and dogmatism,” Coons left for Kenya in 1983 saddled with three questions:

What do other nations think of us?

Can private enterprise and democracy solve the problems of developing nations?

Is Marxism an evil ideology, leading millions into totalitarian slavery?

Coons lived with a poor Kenyan family for a month and learned about the hardship they faced.

Coons found Kenyans suffering “poverty and oppression more naked than in America.”

He was surprised to hear from a “very wealthy (Kenyan) businessman and his family beliefs held by many Americans that the poor are lazy, slovenly, uneducated.”

Coons concluded such views were common among Kenyan elites who “had done well only by working for British colonialists.”

Kenya gave Coons a new perspective. “I saw there poverty and oppression more naked than in America.”

He proudly declared, “I studied under a bright and eloquent Marxist professor at the University of Nairobi.”

Coon’s friends would tease him, “Africa took in a clean-shaven, clear-thinking American and sent back a bearded Marxist.”

Coons had his eureka aha! Moment after his Kenya pilgrimage: “I realized that Kenya and America are very different, but experiences like this warned me that my own favorite beliefs in the miracles of free enterprise and the boundless opportunities to be had in America might be largely untrue.”

Coons drew a life lesson from his Kenya experience and his privileged education at Amherst:

The greatest value of Amherst for me, then, has been the role it played in allowing me to

question and to think. I had to see the slums of Nairobi before the slums of New York meant anything at all, but without the experiences of Amherst, I never would have seen either.

Coons campaigned for Ronald Reagan in 1980, and in 1983 and became a “fanatical founding member” of the Amherst College Republicans at Amherst College in Massachusetts.

Coons life took another turn after he met a “creature he had never known before- A Democrat.”

Coons was most impressed by the lunatic democratic left which he found spellbinding and “terrifyingly persuasive.”

In 1988, Coons transformed himself into a “democrat creature” and cast away his true-blue Republican heritage.

In 2022, the bearded college Marxist student who was horrified by “American hubris and dogmatism” morphed into a bald/bold hawkish interventionist in Ethiopia.

Chris Coons: The bald/bold hawkish interventionist US Senator in Ethiopia

In Apothegms and Interludes (aphorisms) chapter of “Good and Evil”, Fredrick Nietzsche writes, “He who fights with monsters should be careful lest he thereby become a monster. And if thou gaze long into an abyss, the abyss will also gaze into thee.”

Young Coons travelled ten thousand miles to Africa to find himself and returned determined to fight and slay the monsters of oppression and American hubris, dogmatism and myth of equal opportunity.

Nearly four decades later, Coons has become the very monster of American intervention, oppression, hubris and dogmatism in Ethiopia.

Coons, despite his youthful idealism, did nothing to save the Kenyans swirling in the abysmal vortex of “poverty and oppression more naked than in America.”

Instead, nearly four decades later, Sir Knight Coons in shining armor and armed with a lance mounted his white horse and rode off to save the Ethiopian damsel in distress.

But Coons is himself a victim of the greatest monster of them all: White Man’s Burden.

It is a monster that diabolically possesses so many white liberal Americans, particularly elite politicians, academics and media personalities, who see Africa as an abysmal “****t hole continent” that must be saved, but are completely blinded to the abyss of the slums of New York, Newark, Chicago, Wilmington and the rest.

I wonder why Coons, then as a college student, and now as a U.S. Senator cannot see abyss of New York slums or the naked poverty and oppression in Wilmington, DE, with a large black population only ten miles from his hometown Hockessin, DE, but can see bright as day the “ethnic cleansing,” “genocide” and “human rights violations” in Ethiopia.

Coons was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

Coons attended Tower Hill School, a private college prep school offering instruction for pre-school through 12th grade.

Tower Hill is ranked by the Wall Street Journal 24th in the nation and 1st in Delaware in percentage of students attending eight top colleges.

Graduating from Tower Hill, Coons attended one of the most exclusive higher educational institutions in America, Amherst College.

Amherst is the intellectual birthplace of six Nobel Prize laureates, 20 Rhodes Scholars, numerous Pulitzer Prize recipients, MacArthur Fellows and winners of the Academy, Tony, Grammy and Emmy Awards!

Amherst College is for the elites of the super-elites, and today has less than 1,745 students, not even 2,000!

When the clean-shaven Coons travelled to Kenya from Amherst, he was a rebel without a cause, rejecting his Republican family roots.

But he returned a bearded Marxist rebel with a cause, SAVING THE HALF CHILD AND HALF DEVIL AFRICANS!

Coons decided to carry the cross of the White Man’s Burden, mandated by Rudyard Kipling for every white man of means.

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...*

When Joe Biden sent his best buddy Coons to Ethiopia, Coons assured him he can take care of the “half devil and half child Ethiopians” in a jiffy.

Coons proclaimed his messianic crusade to save the “half devil and half child” Ethiopians less than three weeks after the terrorist TPLF attacked the garrison of the Ethiopian Northern Command on November 3, 2020.

Coons crusade against Ethiopia began with the demonization, monsterization and messianic damnation of the Ethiopian government.

On November 20, 2020, Coons tweeted,

I condemn the violence against civilians and urge Prime Minister Abiy, leadership in Tigray, and President Isaias to deescalate tensions and implement an immediate ceasefire. Full humanitarian access must be assured, opened, and protected.

Of course, Coons was not condemning “violence” but demonizing PM Abiy Ahmed and President Isaias Afewerki.

Coons did not even mention the monstrous terrorist TPLF criminals who were solely responsible for the violence and destruction Coons condemned.

Contrast Coons with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Tibor Nagy.

On November 4, 2020, the day after the TPLF attack, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had made the U.S. position clear:

The United States is deeply concerned by reports that the Tigray People’s Liberation Front carried out attacks on Ethiopian National Defense Force bases in Ethiopia’s Tigray region on November 3... The United States stands with the people of Ethiopia and will work with all who are committed to peace, prosperity, democracy, and the rule of law.

Pompeo and the Trump administration were demonstrably principled and unequivocal. No U.S. support for terrorists!

On November 15, 2020, Assistant Secretary Tibor Nagy tweeted,

The United States strongly condemns the TPLF’s unjustifiable attacks against Eritrea on November 14 and its efforts to internationalize the conflict in Tigray.

For Coons, there was moral equivalency between the legitimate government of Ethiopia and the terrorist TPLF.

It would be the same moral equivalency between the U.S. government and the Proud Boys terrorist that attacked Congress on January 6, 2021.

Except to issue in terrorism commands and pronouncements that flow from the arrogance of imperial power, Coons never acknowledged Ethiopian sovereignty, unity or dignity in the current conflict.

On December 1, 2020, Nagy gave an interview to the BBC and laid it all out:

It is important to remember here there is not equivalency. There are not two states which have been belligerent with each other. You have a sovereign government on the one hand Ethiopia, and on the other you have a region of Ethiopia the leadership of which basically started a conflict against the government. And interestingly enough, the Ethiopian Constitution has provisions for a region to secede from Ethiopia but, you know, the best evidence is that the Tigrean leadership did not want to secede from Ethiopia. They wanted to use the opportunity basically to overthrow the prime minister and return to the type of privilege that they had enjoyed within the Ethiopian state for the last 27 years...

On November 4, 2021, on the anniversary of the Terrorist TPLF attack on the Northern Command, Coons in concert with indicted criminal Senator Bob Menendez and Senator Jim Risch from the “Lily White State of Idaho”, introduced the “Ethiopia Peace and Democracy Promotion Act of 2021” to force the Ethiopian government to negotiate with the terrorist TPLF.

The bill’s introduction was supposed to be a special propaganda gift to the terrorist TPLF as it was introduced on the very anniversary of the TPLF terrorist attack on the Ethiopian Northern command setting off the humanitarian disaster in Tigray.

On December 6, 2021, Coons wrote a sensationalized op-ed in Foreign Policy giving propaganda boost to the terrorist TPLF:

Ethiopia is sprinting toward calamity. Last week, as the rebel forces of the Tigrayan People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) and their allies advanced toward the capital of Addis Ababa.

Coons further took sadistic pleasure in the pain the U.S. had inflicted on Ethiopia.

The U.S. government has responded to the crisis in Tigray by suspending security assistance to Abiy’s government, imposing targeted sanctions on those fueling the conflict and violating human rights, and revoking the preferential trade access Ethiopia has enjoyed through the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

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

Taking the lead in creating healthy planet

Speaking at the Stockholm+50 meeting last Thursday, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said that Ethiopia has been striving to contribute its fair share towards ensuring a healthy planet on all fronts. The meeting was held under the motto: “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”. The event linked notions of environmental responsibility in the 1972 declaration on the human environment with the challenges the world faces today and the opportunity and shared responsibility to accelerate the implementation of commitments in the context of the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement, including a sustainable recovery. This meeting would be considered to mark a moment in time – to strengthen the integration of environmental and development agendas towards securing a healthy planet and human prosperity.

Interestingly, Ethiopia has been carrying out its responsibility in this regard for more than a couple of decades. For instance, the Green Legacy initiative has been an exemplary ambitious national flagship initiative launched in 2019 aiming to plant more than 20 billion tree seedlings by 2022; and it has already planted some 18 billion seedlings by the year 2021 while this year’s campaign will surely produce exceeding results.

Indeed, Ethiopia will surpass the set goal as it has been registering successful achievements since the launching year. In July 2019, it planted an estimated 4 billion trees of which 350 million in a single day, 12 hours. In Aug 5, 2020, it planted more than 5 billion trees while over 6.7 billion tree seedlings were planted in the annual Green Legacy program in 2021. More importantly, this initiative has already paved the way for collaboration and solidarity in the sub-region that Ethiopia has been sharing its green legacy initiative to neighboring countries in the spirit of unity. For instance, last year, besides planting more than 6.7 billion trees domestically, Ethiopia

made available over one billion seedlings to Eritrea, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan and Kenya. In doing this, Ethiopians confidently invite all partners who have concern to sustain green legacy and create a healthy planet for this generation and the one to come. Surely, it is essential for all to work together through fostering cooperation and solidarity between state and non-state actors to combat the rising environmental challenges.

It is unfortunate to recently learn that climate change induced challenges such as flood and drought are affecting African countries, especially East African countries. Certainly, the recent drought in Ethiopia, repeated floods in East Africa and other effects of climate change continue to be a challenge for developing countries in the continent. Hence, global leaders ought to respond to the urgency of the situation as the local climate related issues are also the most global.

Fortunately, Ethiopia has continued playing its commendable role in creating a better environment through consecutive broader campaigns that have far-reaching results. It also believes that this campaign would work when neighboring nations work in unison; that is why Ethiopia shared over one billion seedlings with some East African countries last year.

In short, Ethiopia, for more than a couple of decades, has been demonstrating relentless efforts pursuing the green campaign that contributed a great deal in creating a better environment. It has continued playing its marvelous roles in developing a climate resilient economy and creating health for all. The current leadership of the country has prioritized green legacy in its national development plan. Hence, the industrialized nations are requested to support Ethiopia’s endeavor in this regard through financing the climate related campaigns.

Opinion

Five decades in, World Environment Day continues to shape a global movement

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

World Environment Day can be traced back to a warm June in Stockholm, Sweden 50 years ago. That’s when the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment took place. Widely regarded as the first global environmental summit, it was here that the idea of a World Environment Day was formalized, with the first one held in 1973.

Since then, the annual event, which falls on 5 June, has helped both celebrate the planet and put a spotlight on the perils it is facing. Experts say it has also driven change, helping lead to landmark global treaties that cover everything from plastic pollution to food waste.

World Environment Day provides a platform on which to come together for collective action,” said Atif Ikram Butt, the Chief of Public Advocacy and Communication at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). “It helps to amplify voices and strengthen participants’ agency to impact change.”

World Environment Day came into being during a time of growing concern about humanity’s impact on the planet. A series of environmental disasters in the 1960s –from drought and mine collapses to pollution and mass fish poisoning– raised awareness of the fragility of the environment. That fragility was illustrated by the iconic ‘Earthrise’ 1972 photo of the Earth taken by the Apollo 8

mission – the first color photo of our planet from space.

Sweden is this year’s World Environment Day host and the theme is Only One Earth, focusing on the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature. It is a nod to 1972’s UN Conference on the Human Environment and a reminder that the planet’s resources are both finite and dwindling.

Past World Environment Day themes are a snapshot of the environmental concerns of the time. In 1977, for instance, the event focused on the depletion of the ozone layer, and in 1983 on acid rain. While some of those threats have been overcome, others linger. World Environment Day cast a spotlight on climate change in 1989.

Martina Otto, Head of the Secretariat of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, has been involved in 23 World Environment Days since she joined UNEP in 1999. For Otto, World Environment Day is both a call to action and a celebration.

She notes that in some instances, World Environment Day has also preceded global change. Otto credits the 2018 day with sparking a global dialogue about the mounting toll of plastic pollution, about 7 billion tons of which has been jettisoned into the environment since 1950. Earlier this year, world leaders committed to creating a legally binding international treaty to end plastic pollution.

The first World Environment Day in 1973 sprung from a meeting of United Nations

officials two years earlier in Stockholm, Sweden. Photo: United Nations

Past World Environment Days have focused on everything from air pollution to food waste, and each year has seen an increase in the number of people – both on and offline – participating.

For example, 2019’s World Environment Day – hosted by China, with a focus on air pollution – saw more than 12 million hash tags marking the day on Twitter and on the Chinese social media site Weibo.

2020’s World Environment Day – hosted by Colombia and focused on biodiversity – saw even more engagement. UNEP’s Time #For Nature campaign garnered more than 100 million views on UNEP’s social channels. Snap chat also created a special World Environment Day augmented reality lens for its hundreds of millions of users globally.

Campaigners installed a 7m rainbow arch, made from recycled aluminum cans, to celebrate World Environment Day in 2021. Photo: Reuters/Fabio De Paola

The buzz online was reflected by real policy progress. Fourteen world leaders – including those from Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, France and Seychelles – released a statement on World Environment Day, calling on governments worldwide to support a new global goal to protect at least 30 per cent of the planet’s land and ocean by 2030.

This year’s World Environment Day comes with the planet facing a triple crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. As those crises have become more acute, World Environment Day’s message has gotten more urgent.

This year’s iteration is expected to feature hundreds of events and actions around the world, from an electric vehicle rally in Cairo to a massive cyclathon in Mumbai to an e-waste drive in Bucharest.

Experts say it is clear that urgent, transformative action is required to halt the decline of the natural world. To support this UNEP has produced the #OnlyOneEarth Practical Guide, a compass providing governments, cities, businesses, community groups and individuals with key environmental actions they can take to effect real change.

“We have to understand that we just have this one world, this one planet,” said UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen last week. “We have to move together [and] reach for that long-term sustainability.”

Source: United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

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

Art & Culture

Abrehot, or the beginning of a long journey towards mental emancipation

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

It may sound ambitious but it can be done. Turning a modern library into a center of African and global learning is not only something out of a dream. Even if it sounds like a dream, it is a realizable dream. When some of the biggest libraries in the world were built book publishing was at its earliest stage. Gutenberg had barely started to run his printing machines. “Gutenberg was a goldsmith and inventor when he started experimenting with printing in Strasbourg, France in 1440. He returned to Mainz several years later and by 1450, had a printing machine perfected and ready to use commercially, which is called the Gutenberg press.”

There could be no books without Gutenberg’s invention and no libraries without books. Libraries were places where books were kept together at one place with archaic methods of indexing, cataloguing or reference system. The very work of collecting books was laborious and time consuming while readers were not sitting in comfortable and well-lighted rooms, with readily available reference or reading materials in front of them.

In its broadest modern sense, a library “is a collection of materials, books or media that are accessible for use and not just for display purposes. A library provides physical (hard copies) or digital access (soft copies) materials, and may be a physical location or a virtual space, or both. A library’s collection can include printed materials and other physical resources in many formats such as DVD, CD and cassette as well as access to information, music or other content held on bibliographic databases.”

Nowadays, things have changed for good in the world of book collection and book reading. Although the digital printing has changed the way we are printing and reading books they have not yet managed to diminish the traditional library where you can see, touch and smell print paper with books in your hands. Even the most ardent technology savvy reader in the world would not deny the fact that reading books is among other things, physically being with paper and ink that has a magical attraction.

More than one hundred years ago, Emperor Menelik built his palace atop the hills overlooking his future capital city and permanent seat of power. His palace has outlived two emperors, a military dictator, and a lot of history. Now it is still sitting atop overseeing one of the most modern libraries in Ethiopia if not in Africa. In the past, Arat Kilo was famous for hosting the parliament, the famous statue of independence, the Ministry of Education and a host of other public buildings and facilities.

Now, Arat Kilo has added another landmark to its historic record. The recent inauguration of Abrehot Library in this historic area, right at the foot of the palace, has more than symbolic significance. Abrehot Library fits in very well in a place where politics was the dominant passion in the past, struggling to replace it with the passion for reading and for knowledge.

According to the library’s website, “The



construction of the 19,000-square-meter facility took almost two years and cost more than 1.1 billion Birr. The library will serve as a key to unlock the immense potential of Ethiopians. The 4-storey facility, the biggest public library in the country, is equipped with 1.5km long shelves that are capable of holding 1.4 million books. It also has 8 bookstores, a meeting room, a cafeteria, children’s reading area and parking that can accommodate 115 vehicles at a time. Apart from books, Abrehot Library currently houses more than 300,000 local and 120,000 international research papers.”

Since its opening a few months back, Abrehot Library is continuing to attract not only readers but also book donors following the recent call to collect million books for the millennium generation. Individuals, organizations and other donors are daily bringing books to the library in the spirit of helping Ethiopia read.

Abrehot is a very ambitious project that aims to collect a million copies and turn the library as the biggest and most important place where the collective wisdom, knowledge and heritage of the Ethiopian people is found in one place for people to read and use in many ways and for many purposes. Abrehot is big, modern, attractive and even impressive. As such, it needs a grand vision of becoming an African and even a world-class library. All big libraries started small and modest.

In the United States, The Library of Congress is the biggest and “the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. The Library preserves and provides access to a rich, diverse and enduring source of knowledge to inform, inspire and engage you in your intellectual and creative endeavors.”

The Library of Congress boasts of a collection that fills about 838 miles (1,349 km) of bookshelves and holds more than 167 million items with over 39 million books and other print materials. The oldest written material in the Library is a cuneiform tablet dating from 2040 B.C. One major objective of the Library

is “to support the Congress in fulfilling its constitutional duties and to further the progress of knowledge and creativity for the benefit of the American people.”

However, the United States is not the country with most libraries in the world. It is rather China, followed by Russia that claims this prestige. “Currently, China has the largest number of public libraries in the world. According to an OCLC data updated in 2016, there are 51,311 public libraries in China. Coming at the second place is Russia with 46,000 public libraries, while India stands third with 29,800 libraries spread across the entire country.”

As a rule, countries that have the greatest numbers of libraries are the most developed ones economically. The above figures bear witness to this fact. The reverse is also true. Countries with little literary development or fewer numbers are also less developed. Most African countries fall in the latter category, including Ethiopia. Ethiopia boasts of centuries-old tradition of written literature, whether religious or secular. But its literature and its public institutions like libraries remain underdeveloped. Abrehot seems to have taken the initiative to change the situation in a relatively shorter time. As indicated above, it has taken centuries for advanced countries to reach their present status as far as the number of collections or libraries are concerned.

It will not however take Ethiopia such a long time to catch up with them. Ever growing modern technology has made it easier to live in Addis and access library collections in Washington. Online collections from libraries anywhere in the world can be connected with Abrehot or any other new public library in Ethiopia and allow its readers to use them.

The other possibility is that Abrehot can branch out into other regions of Ethiopia and open similar libraries there in order to allow and encourage the new generations of readers get a kind of “on hand” knowledge of Ethiopia via the Internet or any other modern device. Using libraries has its own advantages and

limitations. It can shorten the time of search and access at relatively low cost or for free. But this requires having internet connection and computers on the par of users and this is not easy for everyone given the low level of economic status of most people in Ethiopia.

Public libraries have clear advantage because they are built to collect books in one place and allow their readers use them freely. They can also help members get access to internet access to foreign libraries for free. Abrehot’s vision of building its branches in the regions can start here in Addis Ababa. Every sub-city in Addis deserves to have a smaller public library that can be built with money earmarked by the local administration or through donations and contributions by residents of sub-cities.

Many neighborhood committees allocate substantial budgets to run their restaurants and beer joints but not a penny is budgeted to develop the minds of their residents. And this is sad to contemplate and needs to be changed through concerted efforts by the relevant authorities.

By the same token, a few sub-city administrations run youth centers or sports fields but they do little or nothing to develop the minds of the young generation. Money may important to build and run public libraries. Yet, there are many public libraries in the world whose success does not necessarily come from money. As one British observer of the library world once noted, “despite having a budget that’s only about a third of the Library of Congress, the British Library clocks in as the world’s biggest library. It has between 170 million and 200 million items, squeezed onto 388 miles of shelves.”

Abrehot as a national institution needs to learn relevant lessons from similar institutions to attain its stated objectives and go even beyond to become an African-wide institution. It has now taken the first steps. The journey will no doubt be long and the destination can only be attained through the efforts of succeeding generations of librarians and all those men and women who share Abrehot’s dreams.

Law & Politics

Terrorist TPLF's decades of intrigue on humanitarian aids

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

As things stand at present, the incumbent has been leaning over backward intending to deliver humanitarian aid to the people of Tigray that has been battling time and time again with a humanitarian crisis triggered by the terrorist TPLF group. The terrorist organization has continued making its effort to distract humanitarian assistance by bringing layers of conspiracies into play and deflecting the blame to the federal government.

As the government of Ethiopia is more dedicated than ever to allowing unfettered access, relief agencies have been delivering much-needed humanitarian aid to the Tigray population. But the criminal enterprise's continuous nefarious deeds have been posing challenges as it kept on closing corridors and inciting conflicts in the areas bordering Amhara and Afar states.

The terrorist TPLF group and its internal and external actors have been working around the clock to defame the federal government and whitewash their evil acts. The unholy alliance is aimed at mystifying the international community with fake news stories on the subject of humanitarian assistance.

Rather than allowing the movement of humanitarian aid to Tigray people, the rogue elements have been blocking aid and hijacking trucks to prolong its existence and put the blame on the doorsteps of the government.

By the same token, the terrorist TPLF group has been turning the lives of noncombatants into chaos by using humanitarian aid to purchase weapons instigating another round of war, and moving the northern part of the country into uncharted waters more than ever.

As nothing makes the terrorist TPLF group happier than giving a hard time to the people of Tigray, the situation is getting worse before it gets better. There is still a big question over the group's nefarious deeds as it works day in and day out to pose a threat to the existence of the people of Tigray.

In disobedience to the federal government's continuous efforts to allow unlimited access to humanitarian assistance, the criminal enterprise has been barricading humanitarian corridors to put the blame on the former and putting a number of conspiracies into effect.

In spite of the fact that the terrorist TPLF group leaves no stone unturned to mislead the people of Tigray under the guise of a multitude of lame reasons, they are pointing the finger at the group on many occasions. They as well have embarked on condemning openly the group's evil deeds that have been turning their lives into chaos.

Albeit the very much-needed humanitarian assistance has been reaching the people of Tigray via road and air transportation, TPLF has been pouring cold water on the effort of the government and blackening the image of the country.

Likewise, according to the current practice, the criminal enterprise has been dragging



through the mud the image of the incumbent time after time just as though the latter is averting access to charitable donations and obstructing humanitarian corridors. But the truth is, the criminal enterprise has been nonstop obstructing humanitarian corridors making use of humanitarian assistance for political gain. Despite the terrorist TPLF's continued beating of the drums of war, the incumbent has been sparing no effort to restore the overall situation to normal.

Although lots of endeavors have been made by the incumbent to resolve the predicaments, the disgruntled group has been pulling out all the stops to partake in a smear campaign against Ethiopia and mystify the international community with cooked-up stories that do not reflect the existing reality on the ground.

As opposed to the actions of the terrorist organization, the Ethiopian government has been taking strings of measures to de-escalate the situation and facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid to the Tigray population.

Despite the criminal clique endeavors to blacken the image of the country bringing several evil deeds into play under the pretense of humanitarian assistance, the international community has been patting the Ethiopian government on the back.

The level of humanitarian delivery to the needy people of Tigray and the government's engagement in this regard is something worth admiration, the United Nations' Horn of Africa Special Envoy said.

Conferring with the Minister of Peace Benalef Andualem and the UN Special Envoy Hanna Serwaa Tetteh also reaffirmed the UN's unreserved support and joint work with the Ethiopian government towards rehabilitating those IDPs in other states.

The UN will stand by the side of the Ethiopian government to realize the ongoing national consensus and support the efforts of sustainable peace building, the special envoy added.

For many though terrorist TPLF's actions to obstruct aid are embodied in the DNA of the criminal organization.

Given the previous experiences of TPLF

in aid diversion and taking advantage of humanitarian operations for the purpose of military conflicts, it is entirely reasonable for both the Government of Ethiopia and any other observers to consider the distinct possibility that this is happening again, a foreign journalist and observer of northern Ethiopia conflict said.

The government and other observers have been expressing concerns as to whether the aid is distributed appropriately and reaches the people in the region.

The concerns are right, recalling the 1985 famine in Ethiopia when TPLF diverted 95 percent of the 100 million USD aid raised to fight famine in northern Ethiopia and spent it on weapons, said Scoop Independent News Editor-in-Chief, Alastair Thompson speaking to *ENA*.

"The group was known for its involvement in sort of circular transactions, almost like money laundering, by selling aids again and again to generate large amounts of money," he revealed.

Thompson also mentioned the recent reports of looting by TPLF on the warehouses of USAID, UNICEF, and others in the Amhara region of Ethiopia.

He cited the recent research conducted by Professor Ann Fitz-Gerald by interviewing IDPs who fled from Tigray, revealing the fact that TPLF is using humanitarian aid for its political agenda and military purposes.

"This is clear evidence that TPLF is making use of UN resources for the purpose of its war efforts," he stressed, noting that "they (UN) have never answered any questions about that. I don't think that is acceptable."

The UN needs to provide an explanation about the efforts and measures they have taken to prevent the use of their supplies for helping the war efforts in the country, Thompson added.

Asked whether he agrees with the concern of several observers about the absence of a transparent monitoring mechanism in the humanitarian operation in Tigray to ensure that assistance has been reaching the needy people, he replied that "there is no visibility of anything about it."

The concerns raised by the government and observers about aid diversion by TPLF should be given the proper attention by the international community.

The main issue related to humanitarian supply to Tigray is the lack of transparency and clarity about what is happening, what has happened, and why the deliveries are needed and became such a politicized issue. According to him, silence by the UN is a way of supporting misinformation.

Thompson said the integrity of the UN is being questioned, adding that the (UN) should try to address these questions "maybe if they can't do so, maybe the UN Secretary-General or the offices of the political leadership in the UN. But somebody needs to address the question of whether or not the UN has facilitated the use of its resources in the conflict against the people of Ethiopia."

The humanitarian operation in Tigray has been mismanaged from the beginning of the war as there was a clear misunderstanding among the senior UN and US officials, the editor-in-chief stated.

The UN should look into the international humanitarian operation being carried out in the Tigray region of Ethiopia in order to address the concerns about the proper delivery of aid to the people in the region, he concluded.

TPLF's continued saber-rattling and propaganda have remained a stumbling block in improving humanitarian situations and restoring peace in Tigray. And, the silence of the international community is emboldening to stop the age-old habit of the terrorist enterprise. In this regard, the international community should exert maximum effort and put pressure on the terrorist TPLF group to allow the movement of aid and spare the lives of the Tigray population.

The international community should heed the concern of the Ethiopian government and pressure the clique to open corridors and return back the trucks that have been transporting relief to Tigray state. It is to be recalled that the international community, including UN agencies, has been delivering humanitarian aid to Tigray for the past several months.

“My life philosophy helped me to be successful,”

Samrawit Fikru

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Today's guest Samrawit Fikru is founder and CEO of Hybrid Design - RIDE. She is now one of the top African business influential people. She was born and raised in a small town called Asela-the source of many athletes including Haile Gebreselase-that is found in Oromia State, Ethiopia. At her young age, Samrawit wished to be a medical doctor in a bid to serve the public suffering from disease of various kinds.

Once upon a time, she went to the nearby market together with her mother. Surprisingly, she observed a computer literacy center which was unfamiliar to her and grabbed her attention. She observed people who sat in front of one thing which she did not know for the time being. Later on, she understood that strange thing is a computer. This incident forced Samrawit to know and understand more about computer machines. She can understand how it operates with the help of her brother who resided in Addis Ababa.

She continued to ask about computers day in and day out. This is the instant to shift her dream from medical doctor to computer engineer. After completing secondary school education, she joined Micro Link Computer College and received a diploma in computer science. She also received a BSC degree in Software Engineering from MicroLink information technology collage and computer Science from HiLCoE school of computer science. In the meantime, she was hired in two institutions (Revots Engineering technology institute and music shop) in order to fulfill her communications and sales skill gaps which paved ways of being owner of a business. She also served as a system analyst. When she had been working as a sales worker in the music shop, she observed some sort of loophole in their daily routine task. She was reporting the daily sales to her boss using a paper. Taking the challenge she faced at work as a good opportunity, Samrawit decided to prepare sales and inventory system software. Audio/video Point of Sales and inventory system was the name of the software that she developed. This software eases her daily routine tasks. By connecting the system software she invented with the mobile, Samrawit helped her boss to get information about daily sales simply by touching the button.

She showed the new software to the owner and sold it for 6,000 Birr. Apart from using the challenge to invent new technology, the income she gained can cover the school fees. She then sold the same software for additional two companies. Noticing that the task has its own gap, she stopped sailing the software for a while.

Before graduating from HiLCoE Computer Technology College, Samrawit was hired and worked in software engineering companies that helped her to develop skills. Leading a project, she was in Cameroon



Photo: Gebabo Gebre

for seven months. After she returned home, Samrawit developed a lot of software and earned some amount of money which helped her to establish her own company. This is the way she established Hybrid Design RIDE technology provider company. The Ethiopian Herald made a short stay with Samrawit, a young entrepreneur, to learn about her journey to success and the challenge she has faced so far.

How did you innovate RIDE? How much did the project cost?

The startup capital of the project was 40,000 Birr. In those days, one cannot get a trade license unless it rent a house for it. There need to be fulfill machinery the task requires. Earlier, I promised to myself innovate any sort of software. I tried to focus on software programmes that can abate problems and introduce ease doing business. If that is so, I can come up with new innovation. Before I come up with RIDE technology, I can develop maintenance management systems and other softwares that can solve challenges of many companies. Accordingly, I developed SMS lottery system within four months in order to contribute my share for the realization of the Grand Renaissance Dam. However, the then authorities did not allow me to carry out anything associated with the dam.

Without being hopeless, I went to women institutions with the same software but they

did not cooperate due to budget shortage. Once upon a time, I visited Menagesha Suba Forest Park. In the meantime, I asked the manager how it operates. He told me that the park gained the budget selling trees. This historical place is awesome and oftentimes tourists visit it. When I told him about the SMS lottery software that I invented, he was eager to work with me. Then, we signed an agreement and he immediately gave me representation to process the project. However, the officials from the National Lottery told us that we cannot do the project as the dam office has started the same. I was very angry because I invented and presented SMS lottery software for the dam.

I again decided to innovate another business idea which does not connect me with the government. I was collecting a range of challenges as it is the source of any innovation. However, the transportation problem is one segment boldly discussed with friends of mine. Most of the time, I finished my tasks in the middle of the night and I had a fear as there Lada taxi drivers who will rent or buy Lada just to Rob people especially for women. While I used these taxis, I had been informed my families the place where I reached within a difference of 5 to 10 minutes. Thus, there has to be one company that ensures trust between customers and drivers. After four months, I came up with the Ride application and started the Job with SMS and seven drivers.

Since then, the number of drivers who are working with us is increasing.

Through time internet and smartphone are getting improved and applied the software technology in phone. The ICT exhibitions organized in the country enable us to promote the task for the public. Thus, RIDE is rising up from scratch.

As a start-up business, what are the challenges that the company has been facing so far?

Like any other business, the company is not reaching to this level without facing any difficulties. Infrastructure was one of the problems when we commenced the business. When the power of toolboxes is slower, the service has not reached us and this affected our jobs. No stones are returned to address such shortcomings. We were forced to change offices as the maintenance period of Ethio-telecom was very long.

The expensive price of radio advertisement is another challenge to the business. They ask you to pay 4,000 Birr per a single advert and that was too much for start up businesses. However, the RIDE business had to be promoted well so as to reach the public. However, the company was not yet generating income. Thus, we need to look at investors who can support the business even if it is hard to get them.

Indeed, technology was a risky business to invest in as it takes two or more years to regain the spending. Even if we go to banks seeking loans, they told us they did not give us any if there is no collateral. The micro financial institutions were not having a capacity to borrow more than 70,000 Birr. I discussed with over 300 investors, but no one showed its willingness to support the business. I then tried to communicate with Ethiopian businesses based abroad. Unfortunately, one business man who resides in Canada expresses its readiness to invest in the business. Blissfully, I promised myself to take off the RIDE business and show the project's effectiveness when the investor joined me to realize the business and I had been working day and night to keep my word. Another investor came and joined the business and we made RIDE a gigantic company investing a few amounts of money.

How do you explain the overall capacity of the company in terms of human resource and finance?

Today, RIDE has created jobs for over 43,000 drivers. It also created 500 permanent jobs. Many of our staff are women who joined the company right after graduating from university. This is made possible within seven solid years through applying technology alone. The business we innovated has now improved the livelihood of many drivers. The first batches of RIDE have now invented their own business. I and all the working staff are too young and this is a driving force for youth to come up with



Herald Guest



innovative ideas so as to change the lives of many. In short, we can contribute some to develop the “sense of I can” in the minds of many. Many startups businesses that come behind me are now successful. I believe that RIDE can open the eyes of many. We also offer life skill training for many youth in order to upgrade their life.

Indeed, your company laid a foundation for many start up businesses. Some of the companies are coming up with identical technologies. Is this a challenge or opportunity for you?

It wouldn't be a challenge for me. RIDE has been passing a lot of obstacles and paving ways of development for others to come. When I started RIDE, I expected more support from the government as I was too young and women as well. I had never expected such a challenge when I engaged in the business. However, my vision was not allowing me to stop at the foundation fearing the obstacles rather push me to expand technologies throughout Ethiopia and East African as well.

How many of us go abroad and return home with great respect? Wherever you go, they look at your passports now and then. In short, our identity has been seen as a threat for them. This is really upsetting. We should not be known in athletics and coffee sectors alone, we would rather make ourselves notorious in a range of sectors. This is not a factor that hinders the company from realizing its vision. We are addressing 15 percent of Addis Ababa transportation problems, 85 percent are not yet to be covered. What we need is creating healthy competition among our competitors.

You are a man of innovation and technology. What do you think in the near future? Do you plan to engage in other business or stick by yourself in Ride?

There have been many things to do together with the RIDE business. Many people asked me to import new cars for the company. We do not want to engage in that. Managing the technology by itself is not a simple task. The RIDE operation should be fast and this needs a special focus. We think that relying on technology and other tasks like importing vehicles should be left for others.

We are thinking about electric vehicles just three years now just before the coming of COVID-19 pandemic and we imported the first electric vehicle not for luxury but to check whether it is convenient to our environment or not. The service our drives provide to the public consumes fuel. Collectively, the electric vehicle will have a greater impact on the national economy as it minimizes the money spent to import both the spare part and fuel abroad. The country, on the other hand, has faced a shortage of foreign currency. However, we are not able to export many products. If things continue as it is, our hard currency is going to be eaten. In other words, we are highly dependent on other countries. We have to minimize our dependency through import substitution.

The vehicle that uses electricity is by far better than that of fuel consuming one. Many people bought bonds to assist the

construction of GERD as it will import hard currency apart from providing electricity to citizens. Some 60 percent of our society is still living in darkness. On the other hand, the vehicle uses fuel required to import spare parts with hard currency. Now is the time to replace fuel vehicles with electricity assisted ones. We facilitate conditions for our drivers and assist them to replace their cars with electric assisted vehicles as the electric assisted vehicle minimizes the air pollution that comes out of fuel vehicles especially in Addis Ababa. Inversely, when we use electric vehicles, we do not spend hard currency to buy fuel and spare parts. We are working with our partners so as to realize the plan of replacing fuel cars with electric vehicles. By and large, my focus is developing the RIDE service.

Who is your role model to reach to this level? If you want to share something for young generations, you can convey a message.

Our society has more influence on women than men. In this regard, I thank my family for giving equal freedom for children irrespective of their gender. However, the influence comes at the societal level. When I came up with this technology, many people did not trust me. However, this was not a great challenge for me as I saw every challenge as an opportunity. I learned a lot via challenging myself as it increases my life experience. This does not mean that I always live with the challenges. If I made a mistake, I would be careful not to repeat it again. If I learned about it, I can devise a way out strategy if it comes again.

The other thing is, I am very transparent to myself. I rather work to fill the gaps through reading books and discussing with experts. I believe in gender equality. If our minds work well, we can execute everything in a better way. I hid myself as the society had not accepted my technologies. That was the strategy I wanted to use for the time being but I was always working hard to realize my vision. I believe that my vision and mission is huge. I give deaf ears for those insulting or criticizing me. I do not value what people say about me. I have full confidence in myself. I think my life philosophy helped me to be successful.

There is no strategy in the country to support young innovators? What do you recommend for government offices, banks, investors and other stakeholders in this regard?

Investors are not expected to be involved in every sector. As a RIDE, we need to invest more on startup businesses who engage in RIDE related services. We have a plan to support brave, trusted and committed people. We did not want to engage in every activity. That is why; we are outsourcing various tasks to many businesses. This helped us to focus on major activities as other investors need not work in the same fields. Trust should be built between businesses and innovators. This, in short, means providing respect to citizens. Unless I respect a citizen of Ethiopia, how can I respect others residing abroad. Thus, we have to respect one another and do our tasks properly.



On the other hand, banks can lend money without collateral putting five or two percent of their revenue as risk money. They can provide ingredients for start up businesses with which they discharge social responsibility.

The government should support female, young people who come up with an innovation. If someone comes up with an innovative idea, the government bodies should be positive to prepare a strategy for that innovation. Officials should encourage and welcome the young citizen who came up with an innovative idea and provide every support. Please, open doors for young innovators and give ears to them.

You are now selected as one of the 100th business influential people? What is your feeling?

I am very happy. However, the result is not only mine. My team, the drivers, our staff members, journalists, and customers are contributing a lot for the success. This is an undeniable fact. I want to congratulate all of them. Your effort was not worthless. We have registered wonderful results, created jobs, are profitable and exist till to present. This enables us to create additional jobs for rural parts of Ethiopia. We will expand the service to regional states. We will announce the technologies that we will use soon.

As you are one of the top business influential people, Africans begin to think about your business. What is your plan

to reach Africa?

It is good to be an influential business in Africa. This is a window of opportunity to make our country known in technology. We have a plan to expand the service to east African countries. We will invest and be an influential business entity in Africa.

As a technology-based innovator, how do you evaluate the use of technology both in private or government institutions? Are we effective in that regard?

We still remaining a lot in terms of applying technologies. The sector is growing and this makes me happy. Many government institutes understand the value of technologies but not applying it entirely. Had it been there, transparency would have been developed; one can rate the performance of others easily as right or wrong and advance the employee with better position and salary. Technology can assist us to make any sort of decision. The technology found in any government institutions should be active. In order to develop the country, we have to apply technology in every sector. The public uses 40 percent of RIDE applications. Because RIDE is not the only institution that uses the basic necessity of the application, other platforms should be included. Collaboration is highly needed in this regard.

I thank you.

It is my pleasure.

Society

Supporting young people to succeed socially, economically

BY MENEGESTEAB TESHOME

It is clear in times when peace is threatened, performing even daily routine activities in similar fashion as before is improbable.

It is undeniable fact that over the past one year, Ethiopia has been in more pressing moments. Following the provocative acts of the TPLF group in some parts of the Amhara and Afar states, many people were killed, tortured and displaced. Private and public properties had also been horribly looted and the towns were left in ruins. Of these hard hit areas, Ataye Town and the surrounding zones are the one.

Meseret Demelash is a resident of Efrata Gidim Woreda, Ataye Town. She clearly remembers how the conflict affected her life; and led her own and friends' private business, 'Meseret, Seada and friends' Poultry Enterprise, shut off. As to her, business activities that were carried out in the town came to an end because most of the firms were vandalized by the insurgents of the faction.

Luckily, after the war ended up and relative peace is sustained in the area, residents of the towns have returned to normal life; engaging in various businesses.

"I was engaging in poultry farming since 2017. However following the conflict, I ceased the activity. We were forced to quit the business. However, currently thanks to the rehabilitation efforts from the public and development partners like the USAID and



their financial support, we have recommenced our operation," she said happily.

The USAID delivered for the youth day old nine hundred pullets, six hundred pullets of 45 days as well as chicken forage. It has also offered two million Birr to enable the youths achieve great results and turn the effort into a reality.

According to her, now they are working with high levels of team spirit and commitment; and vowed to work hard in their farming and change the lives of their own selves and family lives.

"We aspire to keep our poultry business run smoothly, penetrate into the market, and become one of the reliable suppliers of egg, and meat to the market. Though we face a

number of challenges, we keep on efforts to assure a successful business. Hopefully, we would succeed in it."

She also calls on the youths to distance themselves from worthless and unproductive activities; but spend their time in more active and profitable works that would benefit them.

Efrata Gidim Woreda Animal Resource and Forage Development Expert with Woreda's Agriculture Bureau, Mohammad Ali on his part said that poultry farming is an input-intensive business, and there are multiple stages of production that can affect performance through different market channels.

"We delivered sustained support and training to the poultry farming owners that could equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills

including how they can feed the pullets and keep them clean. In my view, the support can impact positively and help farm owners in terms of ensuring productive poultry farming."

Efrata Gidim Woreda Animal Resource Development Office Head Ejigu Minkefe noted that efforts are underway to benefit the community who are engaged in various activities in the area. He also urged the community to sustain efforts in developing a high commitment of working culture.

The youth should be well informed and ready to be active and get involved in the already created job opportunities. The poultry farm is one of the productive sectors which the Bureau is recommending. It is clear that chicken rearing is the most common trend and widespread activity of the people, especially among the rural community. Almost every rural family owns chickens, which provide a high quality food and valuable protein, egg and meat, aside from their economic importance.

He further noted that most poultry in Ethiopia is managed by women in smallholder farms, and is often a rural woman's dominant source of income. Poultry production though small in scale at the farm level, it plausibly is quite important for the rural economy. Rural poultry production contributed to 98.5 and 99.2 percent of the national egg and poultry meat production, respectively, with an annual output of 72,300 metric tons of meat and 78,000 metric tons of eggs. Village poultry are important providers of eggs and meat.



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AMU, CA collaborations to modernize enset production

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Arba Minch University (AMU) and Christian Aid (CA) - a non-governmental organization- are working together on a project worth of 3.2 million Birr to deliver new technologies created by the university to help modernize the production and fermentation process of enset-false bananas.

AMU Research and Community Service Vice President, Behailu Merdekiyos (PhD and Associate Professor of Global Health) said that the collaboration work with Christian Aid has national importance adding that the work supports the university's ongoing efforts to provide false banana improved technologies to farmers.

"The activities of the University and new research findings regarding false banana are now gaining not only local but also international attentions. Hence, the university is working the issue of false banana to be included in the policy at the government level," he explained.

The university will also provide all necessary support for the successful completion of the collaboration project with the organization, he added.

Arba Minch University University-Industrial Linkage and Technology Transfer Director, Tolera Seda (PhD) noted that AMU is working with various governmental and



non-governmental organizations to provide widely new technologies to the farmers that modernize the production and fermentation process of false bananas.

CA has recently signed an online agreement to work with the university in false banana and other fields. According to the agreement, the organization has allocated a 3.2 million Birr budget while the university will develop the technologies extensively and supply them to the organization to make it accessible to farmers and enterprises which are engaged in job creation and business sectors.

AMU Biotechnology lecturer and researcher, Addisu Fekadu (PhD) said that from the 1.6 million birr allocated for the first round by the organization, Hamcho

Cutter, Bula Squeezer, Kocho from fiber separation machines, ceramic and plastic kocho fermentation processor, and yeasts that accelerate the fermentation process are being widely produced.

According to him, 30 percent of the project work has been completed in the past five months, adding that the fact that the new project is being completed before the date of the agreement will strengthen the relationship with the organization and help to find similar projects in the future.

Christian Aid Marketing and Enterprise Development and Lifestyle Improvement Program Officer, Tekalign Kebede said: "When the origination is working to improve the backward production and fermentation process of Wolayita Zone

Enset Grower Woreda-2 with the financial support of the European Union (EU), the organization has signed a memorandum of understanding and has started working with AMU recognizing that the university is creating various technologies in the field."

AMU is responsible for producing and supplying the technologies widely based on the MoU; accordingly, the team from the Christian Aid came to the University to visit and evaluate the activities of the university as well as to discuss with stakeholders, he pointed out the purpose.

"Hence, during the visit, they noticed that the university's activities are encouraging, and making the technologies available for distribution in a short period of time has also exceeded their expectations. The collaboration work between AMU and CA will continue by designing projects in enset and other sectors that will change the lives of the community," he reaffirmed.

Christian Aid, a non-governmental organization headquartered in the United Kingdom, has been working to address the effects of climate change, and expanding new technologies that are important in improving the living conditions of the community and providing humanitarian assistance. And its team visited the activities and the performance of the project on May 24.

International News

Kremlin denies blame for food crisis as Putin meets AU leaders

The Kremlin said that Russian President Vladimir Putin who is meeting African Union leaders, will tell them that Moscow is not to blame for the growing food crisis affecting their continent.

State TV showed Putin greeting Senegalese President Macky Sall, chairman of the AU, and Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairman of the AU Commission, at the start of talks in the southern Russian resort of Sochi on Friday.

Russia's army has seized much of Ukraine's southern coastline in the course of its 100-day war and its warships control access to the country's Black Sea ports. But it continues to blame Ukraine and the West for the resulting halt in Ukrainian grain exports.

"With a high degree of probability and confidence, I can assume that the president will give exhaustive explanations of his vision of the situation with Ukrainian grain," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.



"The president will tell our African friends the real state of affairs," Peskov said. "He will explain once again what is happening there, who has mined the ports, what is

needed for grain to go, that no one on the Russian side is blocking these ports."

African countries are acutely affected by the growing crisis, which has sent prices of grains,

cooking oils, fuel and fertiliser soaring.

Russia and Ukraine account for nearly a third of global wheat supplies, while Russia is also a key global fertiliser exporter and Ukraine is a major exporter of corn and sunflower oil.

Moscow has blamed the situation on all the naval mines floating near Ukrainian ports and on Western sanctions which are hitting its own grain and fertiliser exports because of the impact on shipping, banking and insurance.

Russia has said it is ready to allow vessels carrying food to leave Ukraine in return for the lifting of some sanctions, a proposal that Ukraine has described as "blackmail".

In opening comments at Friday's meeting, Putin made no reference to the food crisis but spoke in general terms of Moscow's desire to develop ties with Africa, saying trade turnover had risen by more than 34 percent in the first few months of this year.

Source: Aljazeera



Civilians in peril as tensions in DR Congo escalate: HRW

Fighting between government forces and armed groups in the conflict-torn North Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo could seriously endanger the safety of civilians in the area, Human Rights Watch has said.

In a statement late on Wednesday, the rights group called on the DRC's security forces

and the M23 armed group to "minimize harm to civilians during renewed fighting" and avoid a repetition of the "widespread abuse" during past fighting between government forces and the rebels.

"The M23 armed group was responsible for countless atrocities in the past and the renewed fighting in North Kivu raises grave

concerns about the danger to civilians in the area," Thomas Fessy, senior DRC researcher at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement late on Wednesday.

Violence in North Kivu resumed on May 22, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee their homes in the latest episode of what the Norwegian Refugee Council has called the world's most neglected displacement crisis.

The governments of Rwanda and DRC have exchanged accusations about the fighting, with Kigali saying that the Congolese army fired rockets onto its territory, "injuring several civilians and damaging property".

Kinshasa alleged that the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) was actively fighting alongside M23.

The M23 – or March 23 Movement – originally consisted of soldiers who participated in a mutiny from the DRC national army in April and May 2012. It briefly captured Goma before United Nations-backed government troops in 2013 forced it back into Rwanda and Uganda.

M23 fighters summarily executed dozens of civilians, raped scores of women and girls, and forcibly recruited hundreds of men and boys, becoming "among the worst perpetrators of human rights abuses in [DRC], or in the world", according to the then-UN High Commissioner for Human

Rights Navi Pillay.

The group resurfaced in November, attacking the DRC's army after accusing President Felix Tshisekedi of not upholding existing peace agreements, including amnesties for its members.

Tensions escalated in late April as Kenya held a first round of talks between the DRC and a number of armed groups in Nairobi.

"Any new round of talks should address, with assistance from the African Union (AU) and the UN, the demobilization of armed groups and accountability for past serious crimes," Human Rights Watch said in a statement.

The watchdog has also raised an alarm on the rise in hate speech and stigmatization of communities linked to DRC's neighbouring countries, which "has been growing and [is] sometimes linked to government officials".

In a video circulated on social media but which Al Jazeera has been unable to independently verify, North Kivu's deputy police commander, Francois-Xavier Abavan Ang encouraged residents to take up machetes as "war against the enemy must become people's war".

Human Rights Watch said it was unaware of any disciplinary action taken against van Ang.

COVID deaths in Africa to fall by 94% in 2022: WHO

Richer countries and southern African nations have had around double the mortality rates of poorer ones in other parts of Africa.

Deaths on the African continent from COVID-19 are expected to fall by nearly 94 percent in 2022 compared to last year, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said, citing its own modelling.

"Our latest analysis suggests that estimated deaths in the African region will shrink to around 60 a day in 2022 ... Last year, we lost an average of 970 people every day," WHO Regional Director for Africa

Matshidiso Moeti told a virtual news conference.

The gulf in the numbers is due to increased vaccination, improved pandemic response and natural immunity from prior infections, the WHO said.

As of the end of May, Africa had reported over 11.8 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 250,000 deaths since the pandemic began, according to data from the WHO Africa's office, which will publish more details of its modelling later in the day.

Richer countries and southern African nations have had around double the mortality rates of poorer ones in other parts of Africa, partly due to co-morbidities that increase the risk of death, the WHO analysis found.

Around 23,000 deaths are expected by the end of the year, provided current variants and transmission patterns remain the same, according to the analysis. The findings infer that only one in 71 COVID-19 cases are recorded in Africa and that about one in three deaths have been missed.

Although African countries struggled early

in the pandemic to secure COVID-19 vaccines as rich countries hoarded available doses, many are now well-supplied with shots but are having trouble getting them into arms. The reasons include hesitancy and logistics.

But the WHO insists that there is more to be done.

"The job is not yet done," Moeti told the briefing. "Every time we sit back and relax, COVID-19 flares up again. The threat of new variants remains real, and we need to be ready to cope with this ever-present danger."

Verbatim and Caption

Expanding exemplary investments



The activities carried out to encourage investment in the Southern Regional State have yielded satisfactory results in terms of attracting investors. The government is intensively working to attract more investors in the manufacturing industry. The work done has resulted in results. The textile and garment factories which created jobs for a thousand people are exemplary to others, Ristu Yirdaw, Chief Administrator of the Southern Nation and Nationalities regional state.

The Industrial Parks Development Corporation has sought to make it easier for local investors to invest in industrial parks. The property leasing deal was struck by the Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC), Damtit Vet Pharma Trading PLC, and GreenBZ Investment PLC to manufacture Avocado oil, medications, and cosmetics. The Kilinto Industrial Park has been built on a 279-hectare plot of land with the necessary infrastructure and in accordance with international standards for the pharmaceutical, biomedical, and other related production purposes. The firm has been engaged in activities in order to recruit local and foreign companies to industrial parks to develop a variety of products. The management of the two firms acknowledged their gratitude for the Corporation's assistance and reaffirmed their commitment to



completing construction in a timely manner. The two firms, who have signed an agreement with the company, will spend 380 million birr in the building of Kilinto Industrial Park, which is projected to assist Ethiopia's economy and society by creating jobs and increasing export revenues, IPDC's CEO, Sandokan Debebe.



I am pleased to receive Professor Margaret Kruk & her team from the Harvard Chan School of Public Health to discuss on the work with Quest Global Net which aims to improve health system quality & reduce maternal & newborn deaths through generating evidence. The QuEST center in Ethiopia includes Ministry of Health, Ethiopian Public Health Institute and Addis Ababa University together with the Quest Global Net, & is working on People's voice Survey, MNH E-Cohort & on a feasibility assessment for service delivery redesign. We are eager to use the evidence to continue improving our health system and health outcomes," Lia Tadesse, Minister of Health.



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BU efforts to change negative attitudes towards women

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Ethiopia is a country known for its rich on folklore genres. Proverbs are the most widely and commonly used in transfer of knowledge from generation to generation. Among such oral arts, the Amharic proverbs have been facilitating the transmission of knowledge and conventions from generation to generation.

Amharic proverbs and proverbial expressions illustrate both the positive and negative portrayal of women. In fact they do not balance between the negative and positive outlooks towards women. Women are portrayed positively only in a very few proverbs indicating that women are excellent home management, family caring, faithful, honest and loving, cautious, suspicious and good critical thinker, according to Melese Alemayehu who researched on them at Bahir Dar University.

For him, most proverbs and proverbial expressions of Amharic also indicate that women are dependent, evil, lazy, unfaithfulness, opportunistic, jealous, liars, deceivers, talkativeness, lacking leadership and decision-making and knowledge and



Zero Plan Room discussion

critical thinking. And most Amharic proverbs have negative impact on the overall well-being of women.

In contrary to these, the government, higher learning institutions and scholars have to work on how to change the biased and largely unfairness attitudes of the society towards women. They should document proverbs related to women in general and proverbs that deal with the positive portrayal of women in the society in particular. It helps to preserve the images of women for the upcoming generations.

Consequently, the government opposes the negative attitudes towards women and is working effectively by providing the opportunity to lead in senior leadership positions at the national level.

Particularly, Bonga University (BU) has

strengthened its efforts to reinforce women's empowerment and participation. Strengthening the work of bringing women to leadership, it brought women teachers, to the front to lead teaching, research and community service. It is doing a great job by recruiting female teachers and administrative staff to the leadership level. In addition, it is working effectively to identify female students who are ethical and effective to assist them play a leading role in various student organizations. In addition, the University's Female Student Association is organized and has facilitated Zero Plan Room to discuss and prevent any obstacles that may be encountered during their stay at the University in order to achieve their goals.

Similarly, BU has organized Day Care Center with all the necessary equipment and experienced personnel for female staff to bring

their children who are 6 months to 2 years with them and work without any worries or concerns during the working hours.

On the other hand, the University's Women, Children and Youth Affairs Directorate with the participation of stakeholders had organized the 111th International Women's Day under the title: "I am Protector of My Sister!" It was celebrated in the presence of the University President and Vice-Presidents, female students and staff.

On the occasion, the University has awarded the most outstanding female students and high performing female staff, as well as a certification for female dormitory, restaurant, and student clinic staff that excelled in their work. It has also introduced how to avoid the negative proverbs and proverbial expressions and how to change the biased and largely unfairness attitudes of the society towards women.

At last, besides supporting the female students and female staff of the University in terms of capacity building and enhancing their participation, it has also provided capacity building trainings to women leaders in local government offices and women in various professions.