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2022/23 annual budget focuses on national security, rehabilitation

• House refers bill to standing committee

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA - The Ministry of Finance has announced that the country's 2022/2023 annual draft budget will focus on protecting national security of the country, rehabilitating conflict-affected areas and redressing macroeconomic setbacks.

During its 6th ordinary session in its first year, 11th regular session held yesterday, House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR) has referred a 786.6 billion Birr draft budget of the coming 2022/2023 fiscal year to the standing committee for further scrutiny.

Presenting the budget, Finance Minister Ahmed Shide said that the draft budget has mainly focused on protecting national security, providing humanitarian aid, rehabilitating IDPs, and rebuilding infrastructure damaged by the conflict. Addressing macroeconomic setbacks and promoting socio-economic transformation endeavors are put into consideration on the draft budget. The draft budget is 16.6 percent up compared to the previous fiscal year, he indicated.

The minister further noted that the 2022/23 draft budget bill was prepared considering the past challenges faced by the economic



Photo: Gebabo Gebre

Ahmed Shide

sectors of the country mainly due to the conflict in the northern part of the country, COVID-19 pandemic, displacement, and other predicaments. The draft budget

is prepared based on the country's macroeconomic predictions. Accordingly, the bill is expected to create a favorable

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Over 269.55 metric tons of medical equipment dispatched to Tigray

• MoH prepares additional shipments to Ayder Hospital

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - A total of 269.55 metric tons of medical equipment have been dispatched to Tigray State over the last five months, the Ministry of Health (MoH) said, adding it has partnered with relevant stakeholders to maintain the provision of integrated health and nutrition services.

In a press statement issued yesterday, the MoH mentioned its closer collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as international partners. The partnership is meant to facilitate and deliver essential medicines, medical and nutrition supplies to the people of Tigray from January to May 2022.

During the period from January to May, the government facilitated the delivery of medical and nutrition supplies to Tigray through different flights by partners. Of which supports, a total of over 46 million Birr worth of medicines and medical

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WB donates over 405 USD to Ethiopia

BYMESERET BEHAILU & TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA - In separate occasions, the World Bank (WB) has donated over 405 million USD to Ethiopia's health sector and accelerate the provision of COVID-19 vaccine as well as the execution of ground water development in arid and low rainfall areas.

Accordingly, the bank has extended 195 million USD to support Ethiopia's efforts to make COVID-19 vaccines available nationwide and rehabilitate conflict-affected public health facilities.

WB Ethiopia Director Osman Dion noted



that the support will help the underprivileged health system in the country. The funding will also enhance the current 30 percent coverage of COVID-19 vaccine and reduce the spread of the pandemic by expanding immunization activities across the country.

"By the same token, the support will contribute a lot to improve Ethiopia's health system in terms of promoting maternal and

child health, access to nutrition and other key service as well as reaching conflict-affected rural areas and vulnerable communities."

The support will help to purchase COVID-19 vaccines, supply ICU and other equipment to different hospital's inpatient unit, improve the treatment of COVID-19 patients and other diseases, and train community health professionals, the director elaborated.

The Ministry of Finance commented that the grant will support Ethiopia's efforts to increase COVID-19 vaccine penetration to 60 percent by the end of 2023.

Meanwhile, the WB donated 210 million USD to finance ground water development

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Multinational companies' growing presence portray Ethiopia right place to business

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - The expansion of multinational companies that are already investing in Ethiopia and their promising performance and Ethiopia's growing stability encourage more anchor companies to explore the thriving market, economic experts said.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, the experts highlighted that the expansion projects of multinational companies including Soufflet Malt Group and Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA) could greatly boost other mega companies' confidence to come and do business in Ethiopia.

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Informed utilization of geospatial information to achieve the imagined economic growth

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Ethiopian culture, dance to a whole new level worldwide: Cultural Dancer aka "Eskista" interpreter Melaku Belay

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News

IPs attract over 12 grand investments in three months

BY MULATU BELACHEW

ADDIS ABABA - Over 12 large-scale investment projects have become operational in Ethiopia's well-built industrial parks (IPs) over the last three months of the current Ethiopian fiscal year, the Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC) said.

IPDC CEO Sandokan Debebe told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that attracting new investment was a challenging matter over the last two and three years due to the impact of global rife COVID-19 pandemic and instability in the country.

However, following a relative diminishing of the pandemic and restoring of national peace industrial parks in Ethiopia have shown progress and new foreign and domestic investments were attracted over the last three months.

The secured investments are taking part in agriculture, medicine and medical facilities as well as product and service sectors, he said stating the undertaking investment is expected to contribute a paramount role in raising job opportunities besides playing their share in boosting product and service



Photo: Eyob Teferi

Sandokan Debebe

improvement in the country.

"Currently, we are in better conditions than ever before and the industrial parks constructed over the last three years commenced providing service. They have

better infrastructure and a working system to facilitate investment as well as service provision."

"A range of activities have been undertaken to attract more investment and IPDC has planned to work collaboratively with relevant nations more important for political and economic cooperation. Numerous investments have been flowing from Asia, particularly China, India as well as the Middle East, and investments are flowing from America and Europe, too."

"For example, Soufflet Malt Ethiopia S.C is one of the new investments started operating at Bole Lemi Industrial Park and has created linkage with over 50 thousand farmers," he said.

Other new investments coming to Ethiopia are from France, Australia and other countries. Over 152 million USD is managed from companies' product exports from companies in the Industrial Parks.

From 135 rented shades for investors, some 98 shades commenced manufacturing products within nine months of this budget year and 44 thousand job opportunities were created, it was learned.



Industrial parks key to attract anchor companies: EIC

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) said the presence of state-of-the-art industrial parks (IPs) across the country is a key instrument to attract anchor companies to the country's thriving market.

Senior Communication Advisor, Henok Solomon told *The Ethiopian Herald* that Ethiopia has 13 state owned industrial parks, six private industrial parks and three Integrated Agro-Industrial parks and all these are open for investors. This scenario makes Ethiopia a preferred nation for investment.

"Various directive improvements are also done on investment to attract foreign or local investors. The nation has vast areas of land and is serving foreign investors by providing incentives like tax exemption, free importing of material and fair price land rent," he said.

Aftercare and follow up teams were created to assess the activities of investors in various sites to make their business better and create a smooth environment.

"Specifically, the US and European investors are doing their best in transferring of technology and knowledge, creating jobs for citizens through bringing foreign currency to Ethiopia and mainly investing in agriculture, textile and pharmaceutical."

The companies like Coca-Cola and Soufflet Malt are playing their great role in transferring such advanced technology and knowledge as well as substituting importation to Ethiopia," he said.

As to him, the European company investing in Ethiopia could fill the gap created by removal of AGOA opportunity and the sanctions imposed on nations like Ethiopia.

The coming of huge European companies is playing a paramount role in changing the image of Ethiopia this time, he stressed.



Sof Omar Cave

Commission strives to draw Oromia major tourist destination

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA - The Oromia Tourism Commission (OTC) said it has carried out meticulous activities in promoting Oromia's natural and historical tourist attractions with a view to making it a preferred destination for domestic and international visitors.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Deputy Commissioner Nega Wedajo said that the commission has been undertaking successful activities through working in collaboration with different local and international organizations.

The state is blessed with a lot of tourist destinations, he said, adding that it is the home to endemic birds and animals. However, it couldn't obtain the necessary income from the sector due to lack of government attention, promotion, infrastructure, coordination and other challenges.

In its two years journey, the commission has become successful in addressing these challenges, especially with regard to promoting the potential of the state via working with tour operators, tour guides and creating different platforms that will

increase the number of tourists in the future.

He also noted that the commission has implemented a city branding project for Batu town to promote tourism and investment potentials following the celebration of *Timket* (Baptism).

Denouncing the allegation in relation to tourists' leaving Ethiopia in general and state in particular, he said that though there is a reduction in the number of tourists due to global and internal factors, currently the sector has recovered and there are a number of foreign and local tourist destinations in many places.

News

Ethiopia calls for depoliticization of water issues at Dushanbe water conference

ADDIS ABABA /ENA/ - Ethiopia is participating in the second high-level international decade for action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, which is organized by the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations and its entities in the city of Dushanbe.

The meeting aims at supporting sustainable development and integrated management of water resources, while promoting cooperation and partnership to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A high-level delegation, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Water and Energy, led by Ethiopia's State Minister of Water and Energy Dr. Abraha Adugna is participating in the conference, according to Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Abraha Adugna reiterated Ethiopia's commitment to the

implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) which sets out to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

To realize the objectives of SDG 6, the Ethiopian Government has integrated it into its Ten-year National Development Plan further creating partnerships with local and external development actors, he said.

However, COVID-19 and Climate Change induced drought have threatened the implementation process that still needs intervention to address the needs of 50 million Ethiopians who have got no access to an adequate and safe drinking water supply, and 80 percent of the population who are subject to poor sanitation, he added.

The State Minister said, supporting various engagements in environmentally friendly and efficient hydraulic infrastructure developments, such as the Green Legacy Initiative and the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance



Dam project, restore wetland ecosystems and foster regional partnership.

Depoliticizing water issues and forging genuine partnerships are indispensable to tackle the common challenges we have faced regarding water, he underlined.

The outcome of the conference will produce a final declaration and a co-chair's summary document will consolidate the critical views

of the stakeholders on key actions and partnerships necessary to take the water sector agenda forward globally and provide valuable inputs for the preparation of the UN 2023 water conference at the United Nations headquarter.

On the sideline of the meeting, State Minister Dr. Abraha had a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Water of the Netherlands and discussed issues of mutual concerns.

Multinational companies'...

Accordingly, Economics Associate Professor of at Civil Service University, Wondaferahu Mulugeta stated that the expansion of the Coca-Cola and French national company, Soufflet Malt does have real positive repercussions.

"The companies are always considering what can help them to maximize their production and profit. Hence, the current condition [national stability issue] may not be out of their consideration.

"We are observing that the war is condensed through time. Though, further steps should be done if [the government] planned to pull new foreign investments. Some international organizations have pledged to support Ethiopia's economy. This implies that there may be some shift to peace on the Ethiopian side," he said.

"We do not know the reality behind, but it is seemingly because of the shift to peaceful solutions to the war. The World Bank has also

pledged to assist about 200 million USD," he added.

Another economist, Desalegn Mosissa (PhD candidate in Addis Ababa University), also said that insecurities and unrest in several parts of the country have hindered the inflow of investors since the war broke out.

"The demand for foreign currency rises. So, promotion of investment should be taken as a lifeline strategy. Some companies are expanding their projects while some others have opened economic warfare against Ethiopia. I believe the government should work on regulating the stability of investment areas in particular."

The political decision to resolve the war will have unexpected significance on the economic sector, thus I would like to urge all conflicting parties to negotiate their differences. Hence, the economic activity will come to the normal trajectory, Desalegn opined.

WB donates...

projects in arid and low rainfall areas for drinking and sanitation as well as irrigation purposes.

To this end, officials and experts from the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) and WB representatives exchanged views on the implementation of the projects which are to be ratified by the House of Peoples' Representatives. The projects will be co-implemented by the Water and Energy Ministry and Irrigation and Pastoralist Areas Development Ministry for five years and benefit communities in the lowland and arid areas.

Advisor to the Minister of Water and Energy Motuma Mekassa remarked that the support will have a paramount importance to pastoralist communities

and curtail the recurrent droughts in the area.

The water projects are part of the programs that have been implemented in EastAfrica which have huge groundwater potential and are challenged by minimal rainfall precipitation. All projects are fully funded by the WB, it was learned.

The World Bank (WB) is an international financial institution that provides loans to developing countries for capital programs. It comprises two institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and the International Development Association (IDA).

The World Bank is a component of the World Bank Group, which is part of the United Nations system.

Over 269.55 metric tons...

supplies have been sent to the Tigray through EPSS in the last five months. "Antiretroviral, cardiovascular, ART and OI drugs, TB drugs, anti-diabetes and anti-hypertensive medications, essential antibiotics and other essential medicines have been sent from program and RDF."

It was stated that a total of 135.45 metric tons of health and nutrition supplies were provided to serve 1,128,750 individuals in Tigray for three months while an estimated 1.2 million USD in medical supplies was provided for essential health services through partners including the World Health Organization (WHO). "Moreover, cholera treatment 43.28 metric tons, anti-malaria 0.215 metric tons, covid-19 1.25 metric tons, nutrition 8.852 metric tons, mobile health and nutrition supplies 10.849 metric tons making a total of 64,446 metric tons have been delivered to the needy people of Tigray."



From International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), around 58.1 metric tons of essential drugs were provided for 484,167 individuals for three months while Hemodialysis supplies and consumables were used for treatment of 600 sessions. Other partners such as UNICEF, Samaritans Purse, Goal Ethiopia, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Service, CRS, Medical Team International, World Vision, UNFPA, UNHCR, IOM, SCI,

Plan International, MSF-H provided over 76 metric tons of medical supplies.

Despite these support, given the high need and the requests by Ayder Hospital in Mekelle, the MoH has prepared additional shipments including anesthetics to deliver through ICRC and WHO. Other donations, such as dialysis consumables, are also in the process of being sent through ICRC, the statement remarked.

2022/23 annual...

environment for macro-economic growth.

"Even though the draft budget of 2023 is upped by 16.6 percent, it is difficult to say that the budget will meet the country's growing socioeconomic demands."

Regarding inflation, Ahmed has stated that, this year, the inflation rate hit 36.6 percent on average and it proves tough to lower the inflation rate in a short period of time.

Accordingly, by taking necessary policy and structural measures, the government has planned to reduce the increasing inflation rate by an average of 11.9 percent. The minister has recalled institutions to properly utilize the allocated budget.

It was learned on the occasion that Ethiopia's economy is projected to grow by 9.2 percent in the upcoming fiscal year.

Opinion

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

BY AL MARIAM

PART THREE

Senator Coons, Susan Rice's propagandist

When Coons travelled to Ethiopia in March 2021 to "talk" to PM Abiy Ahmed as Biden's special emissary, that was just a cover. Coons was sent not by Biden but Susan Rice, the Princess of Darkness herself. It was clear to anyone paying attention that Coons was talking Rice-speak. He was speaking from Rice's script. Every public statement, tweet, op-ed, words and phrases were the brain children of Susan Rice trying to desperately save her beloved TPLF.

The bullying, threats and imperial commands spouted by Coons were programmed into Coons by Rice. Rice's diabolical plan to restore the terrorist TPLF to power was guided by what I call the "Battle of Jericho" strategy.

According to Joshua 6:1-27, the walls of Jericho fell after the Israelites marched around the city walls once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day then blew their trumpets. On the seventh day, the tumult of their shouting and the rams' horns caused the wall to collapse. The Israelites then captured Jericho.

Rice believed if she could get everyone from Joe Biden, US senators, members of the House of representatives, Western prostitute media, international human rights pimps and the rest to blow their trumpets of "genocide", make tumult and shout out "ethnic cleansing", sound the drumbeats of "human rights violations", create hysteria about "humanitarian access" and declare, "Ethiopia is on the verge of implosion in ethnic warfare. TPLF is on the verge of taking power. All Americans must leave Ethiopia", in the U.N., the U.S. Congress, the US State Department, the European Union, etc. and mobilize international public opinion, Ethiopia will crumble and fall like the walls of Jericho and the TPLF can capture power.

Rice and Co. found out Ethiopia's wall is built out of diamond bricks – unbreakable unity, defiant sovereignty and uncompromisable dignity! But Coons, Rice, Biden and the whole lot of them should know one thing for sure. Humpty Dumpty terrorist TPLF ain't never coming to power even if hell freezes over and the devil goes ice-skating.

Or recalling my earlier doggerel: Humpty Dumpty TPLF sat on a crumbling wall, ("kilil") Humpty Dumpty TPLF had a great fall (when it attacked the Northern Command)

All Queen Susan's horses and all the TPLF king's men Won't be able to put Humpty Dumpty TPLF together again. Is Chris Coons in any moral position to lecture and hector Ethiopia on human rights? Coons needs to step back and see and examine what he is doing.

He should see himself in the mirror of the abyss. He pretends to carry flag of human rights and right the wrongs he sees in Ethiopia. He is toiling to right the wrongs he sees by creating in his own image monsters of nations and people. Those who seek the Holy Grail of human rights often become the instruments of an Unholy Monster of hubris and dogmatism.

Coons got a first class "liberal education" at Amherst College. Liberal education is a philosophy of education that helps develop the individual holistically. The aim is to provide individual broad knowledge and transferable skills, but most importantly, instill a strong sense of values, ethics, and civic engagement and develop the capacity for critical thinking on social, political and economic issues.

Young Coons started by examining his "assumptions about America and world relations," its "hubris and dogmatism" and the "myth of equal opportunity in America." He 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." Coons was guided by three questions, which he did not answer:

"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?" In his examination, Coons learned about the "horrible failures made possible by American hubris and dogmatism."

In 2022, Coons is the personification and deification of American hubris and dogmatism in Ethiopia. Coons and his handler Susan Rice believe they can break Ethiopia's back by crippling sanctions while preaching the bogus gospel of human rights. The fact is neither Coons, Biden nor Rice do not care about human rights in America or Ethiopia. Since Coons became senator in 2010, the U.S. State Department has issued its Annual Country Human Rights Report on Human Rights Practices.

Between 2010 and 2018 when the terrorist TPLF was in power, the US State Department released 8 such reports detailing the gross human rights violation of the terrorist TPLF. In its 2011 report on Ethiopia, the State Department reported widespread human rights abuses including "unlawful or arbitrary killings by security forces, forced disappearances by government forces; torture; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; arbitrary arrest and detention by security forces; political prisoners; interference with privacy; censorship and site blocking; substantial interference with the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association.

In its 2018 report on Ethiopia, the State Department reported exactly the same expansive human rights violations. At no time since Coons became senator has he

lifted his voice to condemn or protest human rights violations by the terrorist TPLF in Ethiopia. Not once. Today, Coons is the chief architect of US crippling sanctions against Ethiopia!

Correction! Coons is the gofer of the chief architect of US crippling sanctions against Ethiopia, the Princess of Darkness Susan Rice. Just like Princess Susan was the chief architect of crippling sanctions against Eritrea in 2009. Today, Coons believes the Biden administration can dictate what is best for Ethiopia. When Coons set off to Kenya from Amherst College, he took with him three questions. I shall rephrase, update and answer Coons questions.

I. What do Ethiopians think about the Biden administration's interference in their internal affair?

I would argue with certainty that 99.9 percent of Ethiopians are deeply disappointed about the Biden administration's unashamed support for the terrorist TPLF. Ethiopians deeply resent and are apoplectically enraged by the Biden administration's flagrant interference in their internal affairs. Specifically, Ethiopians resent and condemn the Biden/Rice administration's:-

- 1) relentless efforts to restore the terrorist TPLF to power;
- 2) campaign of lies, fake news and disinformation and demonization of Ethiopia;
- 3) coordinated effort to thwart and discredit Ethiopia's first democratic elections;
- 4) use of crippling sanctions to force Ethiopia to negotiate with the terrorist TPLF, and
- 5) economic and psychological operations (PSYOPS) warfare against Ethiopia.

II. Can America's arm-twisting, knee-capping and crippling sanctions solve Ethiopia's internal, regional and international problems?

There are three answers to this question No! Hell No! And what part of No/Hell No do you not understand? Some inconvenient truths must be preached to the Biden administration. Ethiopia has been around as a nation much longer than the United States.

Before the English barons in 1215 slapped King John with the Magna Carta, arguably the bedrock legal foundation for modern Western legal systems, demanding that he subordinate himself to the "law of the land" (rule of law), Ethiopian kings were practicing the rule of law which they codified in the Fetha Nagast in 1240, 547 years before the U.S. Constitution was written (1787).

Ethiopia defeated the mighty Italian Army on March 1, 1896 in a battle that lasted for one-half day though it is reported as having lasted two days. Emperor Menelik II's victory at Adwa over the Italians has

been described as "one of the great military campaigns of modern history."

When America declared independence in 1776, Edward Gibbon, the great historian of Western civilization, wrote of the need to defend the Ethiopians, then called "Abyssinians, an unwarlike people from the Barbarians who ravaged the inland country and the Turks and Arabs who advanced from the sea-coast in more formidable array."

Gibbon wrote the Abyssinians were interested in a "rational project of importing the arts and ingenuity of Europe; and their ambassadors at Rome and Lisbon were instructed to solicit a colony of smiths, carpenters, tilers, masons, printers, surgeons, and physicians, for the use of their country."

In 1896, Rome did not send a "colony of smiths". Rome sent a colonial army to subjugate Ethiopia. That colonial army suffered ignominious defeat at the Battle of Adwa. Gibbon was right. Ethiopians have always been about three things: PEACE, PROSPERITY and PROGRESS!

Ethiopia does not need to be told how to handle its affairs by the U.S. or any other foreign power. The Italians, along with many others, have tried to dictate how Ethiopians should run their affairs. They were ALL defeated. It is important to learn from history!

III. Is the Obama/Biden New World Order an evil system leading millions into globalized neoliberal slavery?

On March 24, 2022, Biden addressing the Business Roundtable's CEO Quarterly Meeting, which included the bosses of General Motors, Apple and Amazon, concluded his remarks by saying:

Now is a time when things are shifting. We're going to – there's going to be a new world order out there, and we've got to lead it. And we've got to unite the rest of the free world in doing it. Biden is talking about a reinvention of the Obama/Biden New World Order (OB/NWO) organized by a secretive global power elite with a globalist agenda conspiring to eventually rule the world through an authoritarian one-world government which will replace sovereign nation-states.

This ain't any conspiracy theory. It is a fact now publicly admitted by Biden! Last week, at the World Economic Forum, the world's super elites and ultra superrich powering the OB/NWO got together to map out their annual strategy for world government. The Davos Agenda declares their mission as a "pioneering mobilization of global leaders to shape the principles, policies and partnerships needed in this challenging new context."

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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

Int'l community should pressure T-TPLF to curb possible odds

The government of Ethiopia has always been firm and committed to facilitate unabated and unchallenged humanitarian access into Tigray State where hundreds of thousands of people facing severe food shortages, essential nutritional supplements and health supplies.

As an integral part of its determination, the government has been making all it can to deliver vital food and non-food items, medicines and similar relief items to the State through arranging daily cargo flights, as well as along the roads to Tigray.

In fact, from the onset, the government has been striving to ease aid access to the State to reduce peoples' sufferings. For instance, before withdrawing from Tigray State, on June 28, 2021, following the unilateral humanitarian ceasefire it announced to let farmers cultivate their plots; and relief organizations supply "unimpeded humanitarian assistance, the government had stored over 400,000 quintals of wheat, 2.5 million liters of edible oil and petroleum in State's warehouses as reserve.

Within the past few months, (between July 2021 and June 3, 2022 subsequent to the pronouncement of an indefinite humanitarian truce) the government has sent 2.1 billion Birr in cash for humanitarian assistance to Tigray State. Also, 217, 000 kgs of medicine; 130,000 kgs non-food items; 87,000 metric tons of food, and 783,000 liters of fuel have been delivered to the State.

Apart from humanitarian flights, between the months of April and May of the current year, a total of 1,306 trucks loaded with various items of humanitarian aid destined to the State.

The move has received appreciation; and lauded by some countries and international relief organizations, including WFP.

Unfortunately, while the government is working persistently and determinedly to access relief aid to the needy, the T-TPLF faction is readying itself to start fresh attacks.

Particularly, taking the coming rainy season, in which farmers would be engaging in farming activities as a favorable moment to realize its ill intents, it is plotting to gamble on the lives of thousands of people in Tigray State through hindering the smooth flow of humanitarian assistance.

It goes without saying that the faction has no heart for the people. If not that, it would not have dared to steal food items from the people or hijacked aid convoys which were transporting emergency aid to the needy.

Unarguably, the federal government has expressed its commitment and readiness to work in collaboration with partners and pertinent organizations for the unabated provision of humanitarian assistance into Tigray State. Moving beyond the rhetoric, it has fully substantiated sensibly through intensifying efforts to ensuring that the humanitarian aid to Tigray State is conveyed without interruption.

Understandably, one sided effort could not bring about the desired outcome; or does not go any further. Other party's commitment and actions is vital.

Therefore, the global community and relief actors, learning the self-focused intention of the group and the undesirable costs it may incur on the people, should condemn the group to refrain from further acts of aggression to shunning possible odds.

They have also to put excessive pressure on the faction to return hijacked aid trucks which entered into Mekelle loaded with humanitarian aid to help people, who are in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

Opinion

Resisting Al-Shabaab's expansion, ensuring lasting peace in the Horn

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Al-Shabaab, a notorious insurgent group with a stronghold in Somalia, is now reemerging and expanding presence in East Africa thereby posing a serious security threat in the already turbulent region.

Al-Shabaab's longstanding links with the other terrorist organization Al-Qaeda also mean that the latter's presence in East Africa and beyond is intensified. Since its inception in 2006, al-Shabab has capitalized on the feebleness of Somalia's central government, despite the government's strengthening in recent years, to control large swaths of ungoverned territory.

The terrorist group reached its peak in 2011 when it controlled parts of the capital city of Mogadishu and the vital port of Kismayo. Kenyan troops, operating as part of AMISOM, entered Somalia later that year and successfully pushed al-Shabab out of most of its strongholds.

Many analysts say different factions within the group have different objectives, though Al-Shabaab as a whole continues to pursue its broad aim of establishing an Islamic state in Somalia. A major cleavage among the group's leaders divides those known as nationalists, who largely seek to oust the central government, from militants with

transnational aims.

Hard-liners within the group have gained prominence in recent years. People who are still calling themselves al-Shabab are more and more committed to the idea of sharia law.

In areas it controls, Al-Shabaab enforces its own harsh interpretation of sharia, prohibiting various types of entertainment, such as movies and music; the sale of khat, a narcotic plant that is often chewed; smoking; and the shaving of beards. Stoning and amputations have been meted out to suspected adulterers and thieves. The group bans cooperation with humanitarian agencies, blocking aid deliveries as famine loomed in 2017. This forced some eight hundred thousand people to flee their homes, according to the United Nations.

The absence of justice, democracy and good governance as well as inequality are the major factors for the mushrooming of extremist groups including Al-Shabaab even if their agenda is more political than addressing social bottlenecks.

East Africa's geopolitical significance and being the major trade route among Africa, Asia and Europe intensifies Al-Shabaab's interest to control the area thereby influencing the busy import-export corridor.

Neo Colonizers who have special interest in the region often sponsor terrorist groups to weaken state apparatus or establish weak

governments thereby securing their interests. This is a catalyst for any terrorist groups who has a vision of destabilizing the region.

It is evident that some Western interest groups are interfering in the internal affairs of Horn countries and influencing the latter's democratic activities in particular elections. Such an influence elongates the lifetime of Al-Shabaab in Somalia and the Horn as well.

Al-Shabaab has made every attempt to expand to Horn countries, the expert highlighted that the terrorist faction could not bring serious impact in Ethiopia as it did in Kenya other East African countries. This is largely attributed to Ethiopia's success in developing a culture of establishing strong government and managing internal affairs without external interference.

Here, I am not saying Al-Shabaab has not been trying to expand to Ethiopia, but it could not be operating and destroying the former as it has been doing in Kenya. Kenya's government structure is a fertile ground to fulfill the interest of neo-colonizers. There is a high level of foreign interference there. This state of affairs helps Al-Shabaab to easily move inward and outward of Kenya. The number of terrorist attack in Kenya is by far greater than that of Ethiopia both in size and severity.

Al-Shabaab was previously worked in tandem with the Terrorist TPLF, their evil alliance has not caused a serious impact due to the

vigilance of Ethiopia's security apparatus.

There are two reasons for the mushrooming of terrorist groups in the East Africa. One is that countries are not effective in managing their internal affairs, ensuring democracy, good governance and the like. They will lack the capacity to coordinate the public at large and fight against the evil groups. The other thing is the interference of foreigners.

Al-Shabaab is a wing of Al-Qaeda. This means the group is operating worldwide as it has its own network supported by influential people and groups who have special interest over East Africa. This helps it to gain unwavering financial and logistic support.

The western media is also another factor contribute for the terrorist group to flourish. These media outlets provide in-depth coverage for the terrorist attack but not willing to reporting the operation against the radical elements.

Horn countries should work in unison in countering terrorism and to strengthen regional blocs including IGAD. Also, a lot is expected from the international community to support the East African countries' engagement to neutralize the radical elements.

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

Business & Economy

Informed utilization of geospatial information to achieve the imagined economic growth

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

In this digital era, utilizing reliable information is becoming irreplaceable means for attaining rapid economic growth. In this regard, the development of space science further supports the exploration, gathering and dissemination of information which can be utilized as inputs for various sectors. Sectors that benefit from the information are agriculture, industry, education, health, disaster prevention; transport, city administrations, natural resource and environment protection, and finance institutions among others.

Aiming to promote the information gathering and dissemination, the Ethiopian Space Science and Geospatial Institute recently conducted a meeting with stakeholders. The main theme of the meeting was assisting the nation's development action plan via integrated geospatial information frame work.

Berihu Alemayehu, a Coordinator of the National Infrastructure Development Center at the Space and Geospatial Information Institute said that geospatial information serves as input for all sectors in their endeavor to achieving development goals.

According to Berihu, the institution provides information gathered by sophisticated apparatus to various institutions and among others to the Ministry of Agriculture, Roads Authority, Ministry of health and others. It also takes relevant information from these institutions.

Information emanated from the institutions is compiled and preserved as data. Hence, managing the information by combining in one center and utilizing under common legal framework is essential. Characteristically, information is vulnerable to theft and robbery. Therefore, the proper preservation and utilization of it would be a task that should not be left for tomorrow.

Unlike creativity, according to the coordinator, some resources are limited and non renewable. Hence, planning resource development should consider this reality and identifying the specific sectors should be given the upper hand. To this end, conducting feasibility

study for the informed use of the country's natural resources is essential. This includes identifying proper location to plant industries; explore minerals; build hydropower dams and develop tourism destination.

Earlier to implementing the development plan, gathering and analyzing the information for the specified project should be preliminary task. Besides, human and natural resources should be managed in a coordinated manner.

In line with this, it should be understood that the objective why the information is gathered, how much it is, when it was compiled and the way the consumers can utilize it must be clearly defined and standardized. As information has global value, it has to be governed by global framework.

For the fact that the world has become globalized from time to time, any data is vital for the digital transformation. In addition, as it is also vital for innovation, it must be backed by technology and preparing legal frame work should be taken into account.

As it is well known by everyone, agriculture plays the key role in the economy of countries like Ethiopia while livestock sector, as a part of agriculture, also contributes its own part in uplifting Gross Domestic Product of the country. However, as the experience Ethiopia has entertained so far, it is vulnerable to drought and extreme weather conditions. As a result, it remains subsistence and stagnant and for this reason, most farmers are forced to earn a precarious living. Asked whether the geospatial information helps to alleviate problems that hamper the sector's development or not, Berihu said that it plays pivotal role in tackling the problems and enhance productivity of the sector.

Gathering information by satellite enables to identify the quality of soil and the health condition of the crops along with their productivity. Furthermore, it indicates the areas where fertilizer and water run short and provides information about the degraded farm land with the right kind of treatment should be administered.

The Ethiopian Geospatial Institution currently covers 40 percent of the land surface of

the country by air photograph which is known as "lead up" technology and if it continues upgrading the institution working environment, it can play a leading role in Africa.

As to him, gathering and disseminating information is one thing but utilizing the source as input is another thing that needs proper capacity. The information should be governed by policy and standard. Yet, there is limitation in this regard at the national level and filling the gap with trained man power that includes the stakeholders is essential. To this end, The United Nations is the major global partner of the Geospatial Information Institute. Gregory Scot, a Country Representative of the Integrated Geospatial Information FrameWork under the auspicious of the UN, for his part said that the stakeholders should play crucial role in realizing the goal that geospatial information to be used as input for the development plan.

At a country level, action plan with the support of the UN is also being implemented. The Geospatial Information utilization system in each country needs governance, technology and information data. He further said that nine strategic pass ways for Ethiopia are prepared and different institutions are working jointly for its accomplishment.

The UN section for geospatial information was established by the year 2011. The information gathered by the geospatial system brings geography and humanity together. For better accomplishment of the utilization of the information, empowered leadership and timely action are very important. He further said that policy, legal system and education are elements of the Integrated Global Information Frame work.

The information can serve for disaster prevention and preparedness, to prevent pandemic, mitigate climate change and global warming and protect global supply chain of industrial products. In general, there are about 250 action plans which are being implemented by geospatial information system at global level.

United Nations and the World Bank made

arrangements originally to provide a basis and guideline for lower and middle income countries as a reference when developing and strengthening their national infrastructures.

However, as the Framework has evolved, and will continue to evolve as a living document in the years ahead, it is vividly clear that many high income and developed countries will also significantly benefit from the integrated and inclusive strategic nature of the Framework. The Framework provides a strategic guidance that enables a country to prepare and implement specific action plans.

Direct benefits will encapsulate new and innovative approaches to national geospatial information management, implementing integrated evidence-based decision-making solutions, and maximizing and leveraging national information systems that are tailored to individual country's situations and circumstances.

As to Gregory, the Framework aims to assist countries to move towards e-economies,

e-service and e-commerce to improve citizens' services provision. Besides, it targets to build capacity of using geospatial technology; enhance informed government decision-making processes; facilitate private sector's development to take practical actions to achieve the digital transformation. It is also projected to bridge the geospatial digital gap in the implementation of national strategic priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Framework and its guidance were built on the existing Global Geospatial

Information Management (UN-GGIM) jointly by the United Nations Committee of Experts and the World Bank. It aims to identify gaps that will require further input, especially related to the establishment of geospatial information management practices in developing countries.

The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework provides a basis and guide for developing, integrating and strengthening the geospatial information management.

Senator Chris Coons: Bearded...

The OB/NWO today operates through global multilateral organizations and in concert with domestic elite groups who orchestrate significant political and financial events, ranging from causing systemic crises to pushing through controversial national policies in an ongoing plot to achieve world domination.

"Human rights" is one of the powerful weapons of the OB/NWO. "Human rights" is the Trojan Horse of the OB/NWOers. By mouthing off the sugary language of human rights, OB/NWOers seek to morally disarm nations, demonize and dehumanize them and subjugate them to their diabolical plans. Americans must say NO to OB/NWO, NOW!

Ethiopia, the white liberal, his White Man's Burden and the teachings of Martin Luther King

In his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote about his disappointment

about the "white moderate" (liberals).

Dr. King wrote:

I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Councilor or the Ku Klux Klanner; but the white moderate, who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will.

I will put it more bluntly than Dr. King.

I am sick and tired of being sick and tired of forked-tongue white liberals carrying the White Man's Burden on their shoulders, the apocrypha gospel of human rights in one hand and alms in the other running around Africa threatening crippling sanctions.

I have reached the unregrettable conclusion that Africa's great stumbling block in its stride toward freedom, autonomy and sovereignty is the white liberal politician (and their black lapdogs) in the U.S. Congress, the White House, No. 10 Downing Street and Westminster Hall, the EU, etc., who professes human rights while practicing imperial wrongs; arrogant, hubristic, self-righteous and sanctimonious thugs who prefer to pontificate about abstract rights than doing the right thing and preach peace but practice economic, political, diplomatic and military warfare to ensure the dominance of the New World Order they are secretly building.

I got no problems dealing with Republicans. I can handle their straight talk. They say what they mean and mean what they say. Republican President Donald Trump said he does not give a damn about "s***hole countries" and will not interfere in their internal affairs.

I can live with that. I got no problems with that! Dealing with Republicans is not like dealing with the chameleon democRATs. Ethiopian wisdom teaches, "One must never put a deadly snake in one's pocket believing it is domesticated and tame." So it must be when Ethiopians deal with white liberal snakes!

Ronald Reagan said, "Trust but verify." I say, "Trust white liberals about as far as you can throw them!"

Remember, remember 8th November, 2022 DD Day — Drive DemocRATs and DemocraTICK party outta Congress Day!

Art & Culture

Ethiopian culture, dance to a whole new level worldwide: Cultural Dancer aka “Eskista” interpreter Melaku Belay

BY KFLEEYESUS ABEBE

Ethiopian cultural dancing “Eskista” is unique to most world dancing techniques. As many of dancing focuses on lower body movement, Eskista is a graceful dance emphasizing on upper body with intense shoulder movement. The dance is characterized by rolling and bouncing the shoulders, jilting the chest, and thrusting the neck in various directions. Eskista is typically performed to traditional Ethiopian music, but it is possible to incorporate the style of dance into modern forms of music such as the music played in modern Ethiopian music videos. The complex nature of Eskista dancing is what makes it arguably one of the most technical forms of traditional dance.

Understanding the uniqueness of this dance, Melaku Belay began his experiment to showcase “Eskista’s potential as not just dancing but a way of expression. Melaku says Ethiopian culture shouldn’t just be preserved but exploited in a way that creates love and unity and most of all in a way that remind humanity. That is why he became a contemporary dancer. He has traveled across Ethiopia to learn from masters of traditional dancing and music. As he emphasized, he chose not imitate but doing it in a way that tells a story and pass strong messages of humanity, unity, and other social and political messages. He says these Ethiopian culture has been serving away of discussing and letting worries and concerns of people even in hard times. “Modernity for me is too keep what we have and keep it lively. It isn’t keeping it in a museum. That kind of tradition isn’t lively. People should use it even when there is dictator, when there is no justice. This tradition hence gives us freedom, it shows us the hope in the future.”

For Melaku “Eskista” or dance in general is such significant as it saved him and raised him from the street. Melaku was a refugee in Sudan. His family was disperse and once became orphan. He began dancing to survive which ultimately became a profession that made him icon of Ethiopian traditional dance.

Melaku went beyond the limit, from being loved and appreciated by local fans to international level introducing Ethiopian various cultures and dancing with deep feeling and expression. In every movement he has a story to share that is blinded with each music and melody. He fuses his dance with Ethiopian jazz and other music genres for his performance to be more interesting, story telling or expressive to different ideas or feelings. This endeavor has drawn him appreciation and gave him a nick name from “Eskista” interpreter to King of Eskista. Melaku however isn’t confined to “Eskista,” which is popular



Melaku Belay at TED

“There is so much we have. We aren’t only war and hunger. I will show that we pray for all humanity. We think about the world. There is love in us. This is what I want to tell”

dancing culture in Ethiopia but he also explores other different cultural dancing Ethiopia endowed from its more than 80 ethnicities. Guragigna, Oromigina, Tigriniya, Wolaytigna and others are showcased in his club *Fendika*.

He believes artists should be independent and generate their own income to have artistic independence. Accordingly, the artist as he claims never sourced support neither from private organization nor the government. He once won project UN funded. He used that money to go around the country, learn various “Eskista” and other dancing forms and styles. Melaku’s independence and creativity began after owning a music club used to dance for tips. Today he is dancing around the world with the band “Ethiopiques” – as a renowned dancer. Yet, he keeps returning home to dance in his club and to revolutionize the art scene in Addis Ababa where he runs one of the most famous Azmari (minstrel) places –*Fendika*– with his spirit and inspiration where the best international and Ethiopian artists like jazzists and dancers are invited to perform.

After owning *Fendika* club, Melaku transformed the practice that Azmaris’ used to expecting tips to having monthly salaries. He introduced new artists by helping them to tap their talent and choreographing. He also connected performers get local and international stages. Doing so, he has impacted lives of

many artists.

Fendika collaborated with many of nation’s most well known musicians, including singer Mahmud Ahmed, begena player Alemu Aga, and saxophonist Getatchew Mekuria. *Fendika* also invites different artists to perform and keep the place lively. Among notable performers was the rock band The Red Hot Chili Peppers included a song called “Ethiopia” in one of their albums. This song was inspired by their visit to *Fendika* where they performed together with Melaku. The place is not only a symbiosis of dance and music, between tradition and modernity but also an organization that supports street kids.

This virtuoso interpreter of Eskista has been nominated for different local and international prestigious awards. In 2018, he became the founding president of Ethiopian Dance Art Association. He was celebrated as a finalist for the 2018 Ye Bego Sew Award (Ethiopian Person of the Year), in the category of raising global awareness of Ethiopian culture. In 2011 Melaku was awarded the Alliance Ethio-Francaise award for dance excellence. On May 5, 2015 he was named as a Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, recognizing his exceptional artistic career, by the French Ministry of Culture and Communications - an extremely prestigious honor. Melaku was a 2022 TED Fellow, joining a class of 20 change-makers from around the world to deliver a talk on the TED stage last April in Vancouver. He delivered the first Amharic TED Talk for a four minutes and perform with an international band.

In an interview with Al Aain about his TED appearance, Melaku emphasized that he would dedicate this stage to build Ethiopia’s image. “My country is in my heart. I know my country’s name is dented with war and hunger. With this opportunity I want to present my country with something constructive, something that shows the positive side of the country. There is so much we have. We aren’t only war and hunger. I will show that we pray for all humanity. We think about the world. There is love in us. This is what I want to tell.”

He also used the stage to preach peace, justice and freedom that the world is currently in need. Though he took Ethiopian culture and dance to a whole new level, Melaku thinks there is still a task he and other Ethiopian artists should do in promoting Ethiopian culture and dance to the world. But what is more significant for him is art to bring happiness, joy and brotherhood to the world that is grappling with war. Through art he hopes the world to get united, abandon war and embrace peace instead.

Global Affairs

The push for peace

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

Due to the warmongering nature of the TPLF, the conflict in northern Ethiopia has now been going on for 19 months without any tangible sign of ending. Thousands of lives were lost, and billions of birrs worth of properties were destroyed in this conflict. Ethiopian blood and tears have been spilled needlessly due to a highly destructive conflict initiated by the TPLF.

TPLF chose the time for the war to begin without considering mitigation measures for its impact on the Tigrayan people. It may even be possible that the TPLF deliberately selected the timing of the conflict to maximize the impact on the Tigrayan people. Obviously, this was meant to draw the attention of the entire world. In that sense, TPLF leaders have scored their political goals at the cost of the plight of the people. Tigray's hunger has captured the world's attention. Four months after the conflict began, the WFP published a report in March 2021 that includes the following: "The outbreak of conflict in Tigray last November coincided with the peak harvest period, meaning employment and incomes were lost, markets were disrupted, food prices rose, and access to cash and fuel became very difficult."

In the early days of the conflict, few expected it to continue for so long. Unwelcomed interference by external forces, particularly Western powers, has contributed to the protracted war. After the federal government chased TPLF out of Mekele at the end of November 2020, slowly but surely, Tigray was in the process of normalization. But a few months later, after the westerns began entering Tigray under the name of humanitarian activities, the normalization process reversed, the pounded and dissolved TPLF recrystallized, and the violence reignited across Tigray and even spilled over to the neighboring regions of Amhara and Afar.

While The anti-peace and unethical activities of the western aid workers in Tigray continued, western politicians, leaders of international agencies, and their media escalated the political pressure by exaggerating the situation in Tigray. Some of those aid officers whose interference was intolerable were declared persona non grata. Instead of resolutely pushing for peace, and calling a spade a spade, the external powers prefer to give tacit approval to the aggressor [TPLF] and accuse the victim [the Ethiopian government].

When TPLF was in an offensive position, western powers would keep quiet, hoping the rebel group would succeed. But when TPLF finds itself in a weaker position, western powers speak about peace and cessation of hostilities incessantly and apply diplomatic and economic pressures on the Ethiopian government.

Generally, the efforts exerted by the western powers to bring peace to northern Ethiopia

were not successful for at least three reasons. One, the western powers and the international agencies under their influence [like the UN] were not impartial and free from biased to be effective in helping bring peace. Second, they were using the conflict as an opportunity to maximize their chance of upgrading their presence in the Horn. The Westerns' lust to get the upper hand in the geopolitics of the Horn has compromised their trustworthiness, integrity, and neutrality. In doing so, they departed from the basics and historical facts that should be taken into account in the bid to bring lasting peace to Northern Ethiopia.

Lastly, they did not give enough attention and priority to the conflict to a level that matches the grave humanitarian crisis it caused and its possible regional and global repercussions if it remains unsolved. For instance, the UN Chief has visited both Ukraine and Russia just after two months the Russo- Ukrainian war broke out. The northern Ethiopian conflict has been on for 19 months now, and it has realistic potential to reignite again. It appears António Guterres is not even planning to visit Ethiopia to see for himself the situation on the ground, and exercise his leverage as the world's top diplomat. Does Africa actually have that little importance compared to Europe?

Most Ethiopians believe the best viable push for peace would come from the Africans under the leadership of AU, not from UN, Americans or Europeans. Ethiopians have developed trust and confidence in AU. This situation was perfectly demonstrated as logical when the American facilitated [mediated in some sense] GERD talks that ended in stalemate was later revived by the AU-led GERD talks.

AU has already made some considerable efforts in pushing for peace for Ethiopia. Last year the regional body appointed Olusegun Obasanjo as a High Representative for the Horn. Among other things, Obasanjo's firsthand experience of the Biafran War, a conflict involving secessionists, ethnic violence, and the fight to preserve Nigeria's unity make him particularly qualified for his assignment with the AU.

The seasoned Nigerian statesman has spent the last several months paying frequent visits to different parts of Ethiopia including the war-affected regions of Northern Ethiopia. He has had talks with the political leaders at federal and regional levels, including Amhara, Afar, Oromia, and Tigray regions. Such inclusivity and objectivity would allow him to analyze Ethiopia's present and future in a way that differs from the way Americans or Europeans do.

Being open and committed to all peace initiatives, the Ethiopian government has expressed unreserved support for the effort being made by Obasanjo in bringing and maintaining peace in the troubled region of the Horn. Last month Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke

Mekonnen reportedly underscored that Ethiopia would remain committed to the peace initiative of the Former Nigerian President Obasanjo under the auspices of the AUC.

The Ethiopian government's commitment to peace is well evidenced and practically demonstrated on several occasions during the curse of the conflict. First, the Ethiopian government withdrew from Tigray and declared a unilateral ceasefire in June 2021. Yet, the TPLF refused to accept this peace offer. Later in March, after driving off TPLF forces that were advancing, the government declared a humanitarian truce. Moreover, the release of high-profile political figures from prison including TPLF leaders captured during the war, the lifting of the state of emergency, and the establishment of an independent National Dialogue Commission are among the practical measures expressing the Government's commitment to ensuring lasting peace in the country.

Premier Abiy has recently made it clear his government's stance and unreserved commitment to see to it that humanitarian aid reaches all the needy in the war-affected northern Ethiopia despite all the challenges: "Ethiopia commits to continue indefinite unilateral humanitarian truce and other measures with a view to ensuring unhindered humanitarian assistance reach those in need in Tigray, Afar, and Amhara regions" he said

On the other hand, TPLF has nothing to show for itself to prove its commitment to peace. Those who know the track record of that terrorist group would concur with the idea that TPLF has never had the experience of resolving conflict with peaceful means. It will always use negotiation to distract rivals and buy time before launching a surprise attack or stab in the back. For TPLF, violence is the preferred method of settling disputes. In his recent letter to the UN chief, the terrorist group leader, Debretsion has implicitly indicated that he would reignite the war.

Earlier last August, TPLF had denounced the appointment of the Obasanjo as the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa (HoA). That was the time TPLF was on the offensive advancing toward the capital city and showing its true colors; a terrorist organization that has not give priority to peace. It was later on November 2022, after it began receiving a devastating blow by Ethiopian forces that the TPLF leaders for the first time, say they were willing to engage Obasanjo for his efforts towards a lasting solution.

The rainy season is fast approaching, and the TPLF is getting ready to restart the war. The Ethiopian government is working hard to deter and defend TPLF aggressions and bring lasting peace and stability for Ethiopia. Despite the noise of the war drums, many Ethiopians remain hopeful that there will be a breakthrough in the push for peace.

Those who know the track record of that terrorist group would concur with the idea that TPLF has never had the experience of resolving conflict with peaceful means

Law & Politics

Ethiopia's government's resolve to Tigray humanitarian assistance

BY ADDISALEM MUALT

In the present climate, the federal government has been moving heaven and earth to deliver humanitarian aid to the people of Tigray residing in the length and breadth of the region. On the heels of the hailed humanitarian truce and its unflinching endeavors, aid is entering Tigray despite the challenges put by the terrorist TPLF group.

The incumbent has been receiving a pat on the back from the international community who also remain largely silent on the belligerent.

Despite the fact that the desperately needed food deliveries have been reaching the people of Tigray via road and air transportation from time to time, the criminal enterprise has been taking part in a smear campaign against the federal government turning a blind eye to the positive development coming to pass on a national scale.

Since the declaration of the government-initiated humanitarian truce, WFP, and other relief agencies have been sending aid to Tigray state via road and air transportation. Strings of convoys of trucks have been arriving at Mekelle, Tigray regional capital carrying the much-needed food and life-saving medical equipment. The incumbent has significantly reduced check-points and eased bureaucratic hurdles for the smooth movements of trucks.

The truce is clearly expediting the supply of relief though the TPLF criminal enterprise continues to put grave obstacles and cry foul. Dejectedly, the callous clique also kept on gambling on the humanitarian card for political gains at the expense of the needy population of Tigray.

In spite of its sham outcry, the clique is trying to obstruct the security of the humanitarian corridor into Tigray. TPLF is bent on wreaking havoc contrary to the spirit of the truce declared by the Federal Government.

Instead of coming up with an effective solution that can get to the bottom of the problem at the earliest possible moment, the terrorist TPLF group has been pulling out all the stops to distract humanitarian assistance and lay the blame for the predicament at the federal government's door.

Notwithstanding the fact that the people of Tigray have been battling with a humanitarian crisis triggered by the terrorist TPLF group action going on behind closed doors, the criminal enterprise has continued making use of humanitarian assistance for lining up its pockets and other infamous mission that can get the situation worse again more than ever before.



In the present climate, in the aftermath of the incumbent commitment and determination, relief agencies have been delivering the much in demand humanitarian aid to the people of Tigray on numerous occasions without a hitch. Albeit the terrorist TPLF group continued closing corridors and engaging in saber-rattling undertakings that cannot help the group attain the sought-after goal, humanitarian assistance is being delivered to the people of Tigray.

It is important to note the criminal enterprise has been making every effort to turn the whole lot surfacing in the region into chaos making use of humanitarian aid to purchase weapons and trigger another round of war by escalating tensions in the areas bordering the Amhara and Afar regions. As a matter of fact, no matter how hard the terrorist TPLF group work around the clock, it failed to achieve the sought-after goal.

In giving the cold shoulder to the federal government's uninterrupted endeavors to give the green light to food deliveries now and then, the criminal enterprise has been obstructing humanitarian aid under the pretense of multifarious misleading information that does not reflect the unvarnished truth surfacing in the Tigray region.

Following the government's unwavering stance, humanitarian assistance has been reaching the people of Tigray despite challenges from the terrorist TPLF group's nefarious deeds. In the same way, in place of taking measures to pave the way for humanitarian crises unfolding in the northern part of the country, the criminal enterprise has set in motion making matters worse in the Tigray region.

Aid agencies have been delivering relief to the Tigray people over the last months with the help of the Ethiopian government.

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.

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 to look at the system that continues collaboration on a timely food and nutrition response to drought and the urgency for long-term durable solutions to build the 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.

Despite the setbacks, the Ethiopian government has vowed to continue facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Tigray state.

Speaking to the media, Office of the Prime Minister (PMO) PMO Press Secretariat Spokesperson Billene Seyoum stated that the federal government has sent 2.1 billion Birr in cash for humanitarian assistance to Tigray State between July 2021 and June 3, 2022 citing data obtained from National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC).

Also, 217, 000 kgs of medicine; 130,000 kg of non-food items; 87,000 metric tons of food, and 783,000 liters of fuel have been delivered to the area. Excluding

humanitarian flights, 1,306 trucks loaded with humanitarian aid were destined to Tigray in the months of April and May of the current year.

Billene also reported that 19,000 and 244,000 metric tons of food have been dispatched for war-affected people in Afar and Amhara states respectively. "Within the past four weeks, we have seen rhetoric of gearing up for another confrontation from the other side."

Unfortunately, this is coming in alignment with the farming season if TPLF is [beating] the war drums again as it has been doing over the past few weeks, this is going to be at the expense of citizens within the Tigray State and farming communities that have been affected by COVID-19 pandemic and missed farming seasons in the past eighteen months because of the war.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen affirmed the government's commitment to ensure the uninterrupted humanitarian supply to the needy people of Tigray.

The Deputy Premier visited Serdo Checkpoint in Afar State to assess the humanitarian supply activities to Tigray. Demeke was accompanied by Afar State Chief Administrator Awel Arba and other high-level government officials during his visit to Afar.

The DP appreciated the commitment of the people of Afar to facilitate the humanitarian aid operation towards Tigray in spite of the fact that the state is accommodating more than one million IDPs fled their homes due to the terrorist TPLF's aggression.

Noting the importance of all-out efforts to facilitate the humanitarian delivery, he; however, urged the state government and the people of Afar to vigilantly check items passing through the checkpoint to prevent the smuggling of supplies bound to the T-TPLF. Having all the necessary security checkups, up to 200 aid convoys destined to Tigray from the post in a daily operation.

As to the Deputy Premier, the government understands some groups have made attempts to smuggle supplies and excessive amounts of fuel to T-TPLF in a bid to help the radical element to continue in its belligerence. "This is a clear violation of international norms and humanitarian supply regulation and we will confer with humanitarian agencies on the issue."

Diverting food aid and blaming the third party has long been the modus operandi of the terrorist group. The international community must say enough is enough. It should not allow the criminal clique to use humanitarian aid as a political card. The question remaining though is how long the international community should be soft on the old tricks which TPLF has mastered on.