



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## DBE to provide 10 bln. Birr credit for SMEs

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA**-The Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) announced that it has planned to provide 10 billion Birr Credit for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the current Ethiopian fiscal year.

DBE President Yohannes Ayalew (Ph.D) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the bank has been supporting business enterprises through organizing them in share companies.

As to him, apart from providing financial supports for enterprises, the bank is providing short and long term business trainings to enhance the knowledge and skill of business enterprises.

He said the bank has provided trainings in three phases, adding that, it gave training opportunities to over 28,000 people in its third phase training schedule.

“So far, the bank has been registering a successful result in relieving the bankrupted companies and enabled over 300 companies to relief from bankruptcy. Among the bankrupted companies four of them were



Yohannes Ayalew (Ph.D)

companies that had over 6 billion Birr capital,” he said.

Currently, all of the companies that have been found at a risk and could not continue production are now producing with maximum potentials where four anchor

companies have finalized paying their debt.

Accordingly, the bank continues working widely in providing agricultural technologies to mechanize the country’s agricultural sector particularly in supporting cluster farming.

## T-TPLF, Shene, foreign fighters captured fighting for Al-Shabaab

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA**— National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ambassador Redwan Hussien disclosed that members of the terrorist TPLF and *Shene* groups as well as citizens of other countries have been caught fighting against Ethiopia alongside Al-Shabaab.

Accordingly, all the anti-peace elements that are lined up fighting for Al-Shabaab were killed in the action taken by the security forces against the terrorist al-Shabaab.

Talking about the current situation of national security, Amb. Redwan said that there are attempts and threats by the anti-peace elements that may risk the safety and security of citizens and potentially put the

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Ambassador Redwan Hussien



Lieutenant General Birhanu Bekele

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Brig. Gen. Tesfaye Habtemariam

## Ethiopia’s victory against Al-shabaab bitter pill for enemies

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA** – The recent victory of the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) against anti-peace elements like Al-Shebaab is a bitter pill for sworn-in enemies to swallow apart from indicating the ongoing security service reform effectiveness, Veteran Military Brig. Gen. Tesfaye Habtemariam.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Brig. Gen. Tesfaye stated that ENDF’s recent major victory against local and international anti-peace cliques like the TPLF and *Shene* terrorist groups, as well as the Al-Shabaab, shows the successfulness

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# News

## External enemies attempt to instigate chaos in Ethiopia

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA**—The external enemies through galloping internal enemies of Ethiopia are immersed in orchestrating and disseminating fake news on social media targeting to tied up the government with unnecessary agendas, a Member of Parliament (MP) said.

MP Ustaz Kamil Shemsu told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that external enemies of the country are conspiring with local traitor groups towards creating instability and hindering government’s developmental activities.

As to him, these enemies are always busy to exacerbate the country’s internal affairs when the society is concerned with insecurities than developmental issues.



“Our enemies are engaged in triggering and exaggerating various ethnic conflicts, religious, and political disputes targeting to scramble the Red Sea region by weakening governments of the regional countries. They

have been trying frequently to dismantle our country and neighboring countries,” he said.

However, every attempt of the internal and external enemies has been aborted with the patriotic resistances of Ethiopian here and heroines.

For instance, the recent repeated attempts of the terrorist Al-Shabaab group have been thwarted and end with the death of its fighters and leaders in a short law enforcement operation, he noted.

Accordingly, some enemies of the country are now revealing their intention of opening visible war against Ethiopia.

Thus, all Ethiopians from all walks of life should stand against these enemies and stand in solidarity with the motherland more than ever, he stressed



## State embarks on flash flood prevention project implementation

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**—Amhara Design and Supervision Works Enterprise (ADSWE) stated that flood preventing project is done over two lower river basins of Southern Gondar Zone to preclude the community, who live at the vicinity of river banks, from flooding, displacement, disaster, and property damage.

ADSWE Project Manager Eng. Zemenu Muluneh said flash flood prevention project is being done in Woredas of Fogera, Libokemkem and Dera on the lower river basins of Rib, Gumara and their tributaries up to Lake Tana.

The project is mainly being implemented in Permanent and temporary basis, and the aforesaid districts are the most severely

flood affected areas in Southern Gondar zone, Amhara state, he stated.

“Flood prevention project started in May 2021 and has fully prevented flash flood at five kebel in Fogera and one kebele in Dera woreda. The implementation of such a lucrative project helps reduce displacement of people and crop damage by 80 percent in the areas,” he added.

“The work should be done on a sustainable manner in summer (dry) season so as to bring about sustainable development for farming and other decisive purposes.”

The Enterprise, in collaboration with Amhara Water and Energy Bureau using the budget support of Ministry of Water and Energy, will continue running the project up to Lake Tana.

Study and design work has been sent to the ministry to eliminate river flooding in the area for good.

Channelization work, side slope trimming, river right and left side channelization, sand bag and dyke work are being implemented on the aforesaid rivers so as to reduce social and physical problems of the local community during rainy season, he noted.

He said: “Flood is severely displacing citizens and causing harms and crop damage apart from creating social and economic havoc among the community during every rainy season. The challenges baffling the smooth running of the project include write-off claims, a range of disputable social interests, river banks covered by crops and eucalyptus tree and sluggish pace of pumping the required budget.



### Network expresses disappointment at Amb. Jobin’s engagement with T-PLF

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA**—Ethio-Canadian Network for Advocacy and Support has denounced the engagement of Canadian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Ambassador Stephane Jobin’s step to back terrorist TPLF’s intention.

Expressing its disappointment towards engagement of Ambassador with the leaders of T-TPLF, the network said that the engagement of the ambassador is outlawed under the guise of finding a political solution to the northern Ethiopian crisis.

As to the network, the Ethiopian community has felt that Canada’s position in the conflict and its communication with government of Ethiopia has reflected democratic values, Norms and principles for which Canada stands. The country exudes its strength in the world as country which promotes inclusive peace, fairness, decency and rule of law.

The group has appreciated Canada’s effort in peace building process in Ethiopia. However, it has denounced ambassador Jobin’s recent engagement with the leaders of TPLF in Mekelle, which was exposed to the world through social media which was unfortunate and counterproductive.

“We also feel that the ambassador’s conduct in Mekelle compromised the reputation Canada has maintained through its fair, decent and respectful position towards Ethiopia’s quest for sustained peace and stability.”

Not only did T-TPLF murder thousands of soldiers of the federal armed forces, northern command, but the terrorist TPLF has also caused enormous human and material destruction across the states of Tigray, Amhara, Afar and Oromia following the war it triggered, the network stated.

The network further stressed that most concerns are supported by empirical evidences and confirmed by a number of credible and independent research reports as TPLF has forcibly recruited, trained and deployed child soldiers to join a rebel force, as well as arrested and imprisoned members of families who did not hand over their children for this purpose.

Terrorist’s forcible recruitment of soldiers on leave from international peacekeeping missions into the rebel force is another war crime under the Geneva Conventions on Prisoners of War, the network said.

The network called on Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada and Office of Prime Minister of Canada to push the terrorist TPLF to disarm thereby achieving a successful dialogue in Ethiopia would be made real.

# News

## Ministry accentuates road safety strategy implementation significance

◆ Ethiopia participates in low, middle income countries de-carbonization session

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Ministry of Transport and Logistic stated that Ethiopia has pleased to join the safe and green mobility in low-and middle income countries as it would have ample opportunity to draw important lessons regarding the issue under discussion.

Participating in a panel discussion held in Belgium, Brussels as part of the European development days 2022, Transport and Logistics Minister, Dagmawit Moges tweeted that Ethiopia has ratified United Nation (UN) road traffic convention and African Union (AU) road safety charter.

She stated that the national road safety



Dagmawit Moges

strategy is of paramount importance in minimizing the negative repercussions

of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and reducing death toll following road accidents and other related unfavorable circumstances.

She further noted that Ethiopia's national road safety strategy is in line with the UN's decade of action. Accordingly, meaningful results in the reduction of road traffic accidents are being achieved and the country has been arduously working on a range of mechanisms towards having suitable road system. She has also highlighted that the progress made so far in implementing non-motorized transport and de-carbonization.

## Ethiopia's victory...

of the security service reform executed within the past four years.

According to him, Ethiopia took decisive action against the Al – Shabaab that tried to cross its border. The country's victory over the terrorist group is not only for the group but also a great lesson for the forces that try to undermine Ethiopia's sovereignty.

There are anti-peace elements like T-TPLF and Shene that are working day and night to weaken Ethiopia and derail its development activities to achieve the objectives of foreign powers; he said adding that the recent coordinated actions of these groups against Ethiopia are to interrupt the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

Veteran Military Brig. Gen. Tesfaye further opined that some foreign interest groups are equipping, training, and supporting internal anti-peace elements economically and politically to hinder Ethiopia's development, disrupt its peace, and establish a puppet government.

As to him, it should not be just the security forces' business to protect the country from internal and external enemies, and all Ethiopians have to maintain national unity and sovereignty, and it should be understood that ethnic and religious divisions are not helpful for the nation.

The coordinated pressures of these forces against Ethiopia can only be curbed when the unity of Ethiopians is strengthened, he added.

He also insisted that Ethiopia's recent achievements in curtailing the conspiracies of internal and external forces should be strengthened and repeated in other sectors.

## City working on preventing water waste

◆ launches 696 mln Birr project for same cause

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA—Addis Ababa City Administration has capitalized on projects targeting at preventing water waste, changing new pipes, adjusting the system, equalizing water pressure and related tasks via knowledge transfer and technology adaptation.

Speaking about the allocation of some 696 million Birr project secured from World Bank to reduce higher water waste of the city, Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority Water Wastage and Monitoring Project Coordinator, Altasab Azezew told Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that as learnt from studies, Addis Ababa city's total water waste is ranged from 37 to 41 percent. The Authority has been exerting utmost efforts to contain the waste and has launched new project using the support of World Bank.

“Water waste has been caused by two reasons: physical waste—when various infrastructure constructions are carried out using broken water pipes, defective



infrastructure and the likes, commercial waste—the misuse of water and its exposition to illegal water pipe extension, non-operation of modern water meters and others,” he cited.

As a result of the above reasons, he said a lot of water waste is being observed, and such happenings have forced the city to implement a new project. Hence, great effort is being made to reduce water waste under the auspicious of the regular work of the authority.

As to him, the project will be implemented at Lemi Kura Sub City, Gurd Shola branch as a pilot, and will benefit 100,000 customers. In so doing, 18,000 cubic meters of water can be saved from waste per day. The project will be gradually implemented in other parts of the city.

Currently, the implementation of the project is started, and it will be completed within four years and two months.

Changing new lines, adjusting the system, among others, will be done in a bid to minimize the waste. This model project will be applied in other branches by transferring knowledge and technology.

According to the Authority, it has been producing 700,000 cubic meters of water per day and providing customers with the service.

“Though the daily consumption of the city is about 1.2 million cubic meters of water, 37 to 41 percent water waste has been observed. Besides, about 25 percent of the produced water is wasted due to power outages daily,” he stated.

## T-TPLF, Shene,...

sovereignty of the country at risk over the past times.

The law enforcement operation being undertaken against terrorist and armed groups has brought about positive outcomes for peace and stability of Ethiopia.

Mentioning the terrorist Al-Shabaab group attempt to infiltrate into Ethiopia through Eastern part which has been successfully thwarted by the joint efforts of the security forces, he said: “All the coordinated

attempts are aimed at thwarting Ethiopia's development process using its own resources, but prettily aborted.”

He confirmed that a number of anti-peace elements associating with Al-Shabaab, TPLF, Shene, foreigners and other anti-peace forces were arrested following the measures taken against the terrorist Al-Shabaab group.

Taking the presence of various forces working to disrupt peace and security of the

citizens into account, the government will continue taking measures against any force attempting to undermine citizens' peace and infringe sovereignty of the country.

Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) Information Main Department Head Lieutenant General Birhanu Bekele on his part said that the law enforcement operation was successful and the government will continue ensuring peace and stability of the citizens, and positive changes are being

recorded in terms of ensuring the national security of the country.

The law enforcement operation was successful and many members and leaders of the terrorist group were dismissed in operations, and society's role in supporting the security force is worth appreciating. Efforts are also being intensified to reach a level where the enemy will not find any more opportunity to expand in the region, it was learnt.

# Opinion

## Pulling trigger outweighs appeasement to squash spirit of outlaws

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Might be inevitable to see gangs, assemble of arrogates and groups opted the rough way or individuals lead the public to the gate of the hell. But these leaders will not be crucified to emancipate the soul from the hell.

Due to the fact that the widening of the scope of democracy and the country strived to end despotism, it welcomed various groups to deliberate on the country's matter and to lay foundation for lasting peace and integration.

Some four years before, there was a change in Ethiopia that mesmerized the world that enhanced there are reformists and clairvoyant leaders that could change stagnant outlook of the western upon Africa.

It was obvious that the country had been ruled by TPLF under the guise of EPRDF for political legitimacy and making collation from four states denying the other Ethiopians labeling as politically unconscious.

The new administration brought about the end of social stratification based on "political consciousness" which in turn forced TPLF to withdraw the central politics though there had been options.

However, filled with hypocrisy and bravado relaying on ipso facto friends of westerns continued to rule the mass in black skin TPLF portrait a picture as though it was emperor of the region.

By the same token, after such breakneck reform, the new administration paved the way and allowed different groups to enter the country and yearn to decide the nation's fate in the principle of upper hand vote.

In vain it was the new administration effort due to domestic and global and regional pressers among elements in hast to see the last breath of Ethiopia.

Anti-Ethiopian forces had began to swarm here and there taking advantage of the new administration plowing the country to be fertile ground for peace, hub of investment and navigator to integrate the Horn region and the continent.

And so the ball rolls, but sponsored terrorism and proxy war continued to erupt in Ethiopia to the extent that seem to avenge the battle of Adwa which is the bacon of light for the rest of African on the sea of darkness.

On the other hand, countries like Egypt waged formidable struggle clamming hegemony over River Nile and oppose unilateral projects of the country.

Had not Ethiopians conscious, the attack from this side would have been an asteroid dropped from the cosmos and the country would have been only a mere history.

In beats and pieces, the government of Ethiopia began to understand extenuating the matter will sure bring scenarios and started to take measures identifying targets and priorities.

The TPLF, *Shene*, Al-Shabab attacks and attempts are being thwarted and members

are devastated by the consolidated effort of the Ethiopian security forces according to state authorities.

In this connection, Minister of National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister, Ambassador Redwan Hussien, stated that members of the TPLF and *Shene* terrorist groups, as well as citizens of other countries caught fighting alongside Al-Shabaab.

The Ambassador stated that all the anti-peace elements that are lined up fighting for Al-Shabaab, were killed in the action taken by the security forces against the terrorist Al-Shabaab.

The National Security Council has reviewed the national security situation of the country and stated that over the past times there have been attempts and threats by the anti-peace elements that may risk the safety and security of citizens and also put the sovereignty of the country at risk.

The law enforcement operation being undertaken against terrorist and armed groups have brought about positive result for peace and stability of Ethiopia. Mentioning the terrorist Al-Shabaab group's attempt to infiltrate into Ethiopia through the Eastern Somali region which has been successfully thwarted by the joint efforts of the security forces, he said "All the coordinated attempts are aimed at thwarting Ethiopia's development process using its own resources."

He confirmed that following the measures taken against the terrorist Al-Shabaab group which attempted to infiltrate to Ethiopia, large number of anti-peace elements associate with Al-Shabaab, such as members of TPLF, *Shene*, as well as foreigners and other anti-peace forces were arrested.

Considering that there are forces that are working to disrupt peace and security of its citizens, the government will continue taking measures against any force try to undermine peace and stability of the citizens and infringe sovereignty of the country.

Lieutenant General Birhanu Bekele, Head of Defense Information department for his part said that the law enforcement operation was successful and the government will continue ensuring peace and stability of the citizens having positive changes in terms of ensuring the national security of the country.

The law enforcement operation was successful and many members and leaders of the terrorist group were dismissed in operation carried out and commended the society's role in supporting the security force. Efforts are also being intensified to reach a level where the enemy will not find any more opportunity in the region.

Here it is important to remember that Ethiopia was the major alley of the US and western forces in dismantling terrorist groups like Al-Shabab and Union of Islamic courts.

Once it was applauded venture that Ethiopia was able to destroy terrorists crossing borders. Nonetheless, the westerns are

accessing the kitchen and bedroom of Africa breeding rats to spoil and are in the similar momentum to exploit from the loss.

The Security forces of Ethiopia nowadays seem not only equipped in terms of courage and sacrifice but the institute has undergone reforms that put it among the mighty power of the emerging Africa and symbol of defense.

Of course, it is the embryo of African continent; javelin master and morning star even backing nations in need; the Qagnew and Wogagen battalions; Infantry Division participated in peacekeeping missions in many African countries witnessed that that courage and justice is charisma for Ethiopians.

According to local media, the National Security Council said that the law enforcement operations being undertaken against terrorist and armed groups have brought about positive result for peace and stability of Ethiopia.

The council has reviewed recently the national security situation based on the threats identified in the previous months, evaluated the progress that has been made and setbacks.

Thus, it might be sound to reach value judgment that the Ethiopian security forces could the shield of the region and Africa.

In its statement, the National Security Council appreciated the positive changes in terms of ensuring the national security of the country by reducing internal vulnerability.

This law enforcement operation particularly, the cracking down on leaders of the terrorist and armed groups is being carried out at the regional and federal levels, "are critical to ensuring peace and security as well as expedite the economic activities of the country," the Council said.

For instance, in the Oromia region, the determination of the command posts of Showa, Welega, and Guji in culminating the era of turmoil and defaming innocent Oromos is among the smart moves of the state and the public.

As a result, some 3,180 *Shene* militants were arrested and those who refused to surrender were destroyed. In addition, it said a large number of illegal actors that associate with Al-Shabaab, the junta (TPLF) and other anti-peace forces were arrested.

The National Security Council added that in the operation, many individual and group weapons, vehicles, money and various assets were captured from the enemy.

Out of the 1,739 Kebeles, 1,255, which were under the enemy, have now been liberated and reorganized the council pointed out. Accordingly, the law enforcement operation has helped to return back 47,558 households with 252,129 family members to their old villages.

Similarly, a huge number of suspects were arrested in the operation in the Amhara region through the coordinated efforts of the

leadership and the people, according to the statement. Half of the suspects were arrested for defecting the security forces and created opportunities for illegal militants, while the rest were apprehended for various other crimes, it noted.

Furthermore, action has been taken against the militants who are working with the terrorist TPLF to make the people living in the region fighting each other. In this regard, efforts are also being intensified to reach a level where the enemy will not find any more opportunity in the region, the council said.

The council has also confirmed the fact that encouraging activities have been undertaken to ensuring the public's peace and security in Addis Ababa indicating the arrest of more than 497 members of the terrorist TPLF, Shine, AL-Shebaab and other extremist groups.

Several other equipments have also been seized along with the individuals including forged IDs, military uniforms, and weapons. The Council has observed that the vulnerability of Benishangul-Gumuz region has been reducing as the peace and security situation in the region is being strengthened.

According to the evaluation of the National Security Council, critical measures have been taken in Somali region with a view to prevent, deter and avoid security threats that emanate from outside and inside.

It indicated that Somali Special Forces had played a great deal of role in destroying the militants of Al-shebaab that attempted to infiltrate into Ethiopia through the districts of Barena and Got Got in Afder Zone.

The leadership of the region has participated in awareness creation, engaging and mobilizing the public in the efforts to destroying the enemy. A Command Post has been established by engaging the National Defense Force; the Council said adding that some 813 terrorists have been killed in the operation carried out.

After its rigorous evaluation of peace and security of the country, the National Security Council set direction for subsequent tasks to carry out in order to ensure lasting peace in Ethiopia, it was indicated.

Time demands cooperation and urges to find ways to settle disputes based on indigenous mechanisms and nations are advised to step-up the ladder of prosperity and development hand in hand. If not so, "Things Fall Apart"; indirect rule will continue to bloom result in sustaining colonial legacy. Hence, tribal and militant groups that are relaying on their masters are urged to refrain from their ill practice to sustain the black continent which held bright hope for humanity.

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## Editorial

### Strengthen counterterrorism effort for global peace, security

Ethiopia, since the past two decades, has been working aggressively to combat terrorists and terrorism.

Through designing various anti-terrorism strategies; and working jointly with governments' of the Horn in terms of addressing social and political challenges; which can otherwise create a favorable environment for the spread of terrorism, it tried to fight terrorism and reduce the chances of burgeoning it in the Horn, the region and even beyond.

In addition to that, by stepping up efforts and taking part in the African Union led military operation, joining hands with international forces and organizations; the nation has played key role in the effort made to combatting and preventing terrorism. Despite the successes witnessed so far, terrorism has still continued to be global peace and security threat.

Recently, the country has successfully foiled the attack incited by the terrorist Al-Shabaab's group who were attempting to penetrate into Ethiopia's border and destabilizing the nation.

Following the joint operation taken by Ethiopia's security forces and the people, hundreds of Al-Shabaab's insurgents, including group's senior leaders, were killed and many are captured.

Indeed, the attack instigated by Al-Shabaab's group was not a strike arranged by merely the terrorist group. Instead, it was a plot orchestrated and incited by anti-Ethiopia elements, [both local and foreign forces], which seized country's domestic unrest as a favorable opportunity to promote their ill intents. Unfortunately, all of the efforts were in vain. The Ethiopian National Defense Forces, Special Forces and the people have aborted their mission and thwarted the group.

As Prime Minister's National Security Adviser Redwan Hussein stated subsequent to the attack, Al-Shabaab's attack in the eastern Ethiopia was not only self-initiated rather many forces were behind it where citizens of different countries participated in the attack. Likewise, there was an attempt in which members of the TPLF and Shene involved from within the country and foreign nationals, whose citizenships are not Somalis, also involved in the attack.

The measure taken by Ethiopia's security forces so as to safeguard the nation from anti-Ethiopia elements and protect the peace and security of its people; and even the Horn from terrorist group, is encouraging.

Obviously, Al-Shabab is not merely a threat to countries of the Horn and the region. Rather, it is an enemy of global community and a challenge to international peace and security that demands concerted actions from all.

For this very reason, to irretrievably destroy the element, and sustain peace and stability, making terrorism the highest priority matter and strengthening counterterrorism effort across the globe is not only necessary but also mandatory.

In this regard, member states of IGAD and AU should strengthen national and regional cooperation and partnership to safeguard the region from becoming a haven to terrorists and ensure their peoples' peace and security.

Singing the same tune, international actors and organizations have to stand in unison with Ethiopia; and support its effort to stem the tide of terrorism because the matter is a global threat that can produce wide-ranging risks that can be felt everywhere in the globe.

## Opinion

### What EU, US must consider when dealing with TPLF

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Why is terrorist TPLF reluctant to take more meaningful steps towards peace and why do they take as the only alternative for realizing their narrow ethnic based exclusive desires?

In the first place, the terrorist organization is established on the grounds of hatred and boundless bias on the rest of the population in Ethiopia. Arrogance and wrong self-image has prevented the members of the group from holding accommodative views and they became captives of their obsolete ethnocentric world view.

Moreover, the terrorist organization has never been engaged in any level of negotiation. Therefore it lacks the necessary skills and strategies to conduct amicable discussions with any group.

In its strategic direction issued over a year ago, the terrorist group clearly indicated that it would use negotiations as means to enforcing its own desires on any negotiating group.

As stated earlier, the group has been tied down on old ideology of revolutionary democracy and has remained impervious to any level of world outlook that may tear down its demagogic views.

Terrorist TPLF has no experience on foreign relations and the basic elements of

foreign policy and diplomacy because they have remained victims of rigid views and notions that have not changed over time.

Even then, they keep on changing their ideological view points from extreme narrow nationalism to Marxist Leninist Thought to Albanian version of communism to neoliberal views and then finally to revolutionary democracy.

Negotiation depends upon the level to which you reflect a range of public interest that matters to the ordinary citizen in any country or regional state. At this point in time, in Tigray, the population is being silenced by a terrorist group that rules by gun. Therefore, any point of negotiation that the terrorist TPLF can bring cannot reflect the needs and interests of the people of Tigray because the priority is only for few leaders of the terrorist group that is currently acting against public interests enforcing its will on the people.

Under the condition in which regular administrative structure has not been formed in Tigray, it is difficult to assume that terrorist TPLF can claim to rule the region in a more stable way. Crimes of all kinds are rampant in Tigray and the sale of governability in the region depends upon whether you are armed or not. This will have a negative impact on the strength or ability of the group to negotiate.

Under the clear condition in which there is no clear local government administration in Tigray, the government is indeed duty bound to negotiate on behalf of the citizens as a responsible government. There is no clear indication that terrorist TPLF will negotiate on behalf of citizens in Tigray. They can only negotiate on behalf and for their own terrorist group and not as responsible representatives of the people of Tigray.

Without making a clear study of the situation in Tigray and with no interest to condemn the crimes committed by terrorist TPLF, the western powers have no moral or ethical standing to even call for negotiations. They have already taken sides with terrorist TPLF and to excuse it for whatever crime it has committed.

The terrorist organization is not only trying to rule by media propaganda but is also basing its foreign relations on the basis of a make belief old style propaganda trying to convince the western powers. In a way, establishing indirect relation with terrorist TPLF and trying to equate a government of sovereign population with a terrorist group is not only illegal but is also too amateurish.

The Government of Ethiopia has been doing all it can to restore peace in Tigray by taking measures in unilateral ceasefire and withdrawal from the region to give time for

citizens in the region to determine what is good for them but this has been interpreted by the west as if the ENDF forces withdrew from Tigray because they were apparently defeated in a war that has not taken place.

The western powers and the UN systems still fail to predict that terrorist TPLF could destabilize the Horn of Africa in cooperation with all sorts of terrorist groups in the world and Africa and would finally pose a threat to their core interests in Africa.

The UN systems, EU and the US need to make a cost-benefit analysis on their diplomatic gestures with terrorist groups across the world including terrorist TPLF and other military governments in and around the Horn of Africa. Remaining indifferent to the preparation of war by the terrorist TPLF while it sets all sorts of obstacles to the peace process will have far reaching consequences that may be very difficult to control.

All who opt for peace in the Horn of Africa need to provide the necessary respect for the people and Government of Ethiopia and refrain from ordering around a government elected by the people of Ethiopia.

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

# Business & Economy

## Due attention for levying property taxation

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Recently, the government of Ethiopia announced that it intends to collect property tax all over the country and put direction regarding the implementation. As to the direction, a person who owns a building or residential house worth of more than one million Birr is obliged to pay property tax.

The practice of property tax is common in many countries. Even though the house belongs to the owner, it has a duty to pay property tax. As to the government's intention the poor segment of the society is immuned from paying the property tax.

Some experts who specialize on urban planning and research say that imposing new tax particularly on property in which the wealth is created in the past is a challenge. As to them, such kind of venture must have been experimented earlier when the land lease system was introduced.

Zinet Abraham is working as a manager in the Revenue Reform Project Office under the Ministry of Urban Infrastructure Development. She said that, the objective of the establishing of the project office is to modernize the urban centers revenue collection system and to implement other options helpful to collect additional income to the municipalities by bringing other countries' experience here and to implement in accordance with the local reality on the ground.

As to her, until now, very little attention was given to the municipality's income. In addition, the introduced system to collect revenue is very weak and more of traditional.

The revenue types will be studied and improved and in accordance with the society's development stage and needs will be introduced. Law with regard to introducing property tax is prepared and evaluation of the values of properties is undergoing with the cooperation of universities. Urban centers are required to provide services to residents regarding infrastructures and social services. But they could not reach to the level where they fulfill the demand of the citizens. Even they are unable to cover their expenditure and meet the demand by other means.

In other countries' urban centers cover up to 80 percent of their expenditure and to that end they identified 6 types of revenue. Among them is the property tax. Property tax enables municipalities to obtain huge amount of money.

The property tax has been paid since the Dergue promulgated proclamation by its name "Roof and wall" tax. However, the amount of payment was insignificant.

The proclamation enacted by the Dergue must be improved. The asset value assessment also must be improved. In addition, the tax system itself should be adjusted and to that end the preparation of new law is undergoing.

Yohannes Woldegebriel is a legal practitioner specialized on tax laws. As to him, since the final years of the Emperor Haile Selassie I regime, not only the property but also inheritance tax have been proposed to be levied. However,



**The introduction of property tax should consider the urban development and administration, ensuring citizen rights to get access to residential houses and their economic rights and by any means should not put citizens in the disadvantageous position**

when the next regime, the Dergue came to power, it imposed spewing laws with regard to the state and the community relation and the law restricted people in the single house based on the communist ideology. As a result, the essentiality of the property tax reduced to none.

As to Yohannes, the introduction of new property tax though it is delayed, it is very vital. In Ethiopia the real estate price is unbelievably sky rocketing.

For this reason, people preferred to change their money in to immovable property. Therefore, to change this trend and encourage the people to invest their money on others sectors, introducing property tax can be taken as a remedy.

However, as to Yohannes, the introduction of property tax should have its own purpose to be achieved. And it should be considered whether the tax is derived from the land or the real estate built on the land.

He further said that land is monopolized by the government and tenants both in rural and urban areas have only use rights on land and the urban land holding system again based on lease in which the user has the right to use the

plot with in time frame.

“When dealing with property tax the question is that in what bases the tax can be introduced. For example, when the tax is imposed on one building, it should be clearly defined whether it bases the building itself or from the tangible and intangible properties emanated from the building,” Yohannes said.

As to him, to that end, two ideas should be considered. On one hand, the tax can be levied on the building physical structure and the other is on the intangible property developed in the building.

The situation is very controversial. The area where the building is located and the infrastructural development in place also should be considered. The other thing that must need attention is that the anxiety related with the property tax introduction is the rules comprised in the constitution which makes the matter complicated.

The constitution clearly stipulates that land is monopolized by the government. In addition to this, TPLF introduced new rules which declare that the land is owned by nation and nationalities though practically it is not.

“On the other hand, there is an article inserted in the constitution that Oromia region has special benefit from Addis Ababa and in this regard how the property tax is interpreted is not clearly stated. Therefore, these all matters should be cautiously dealt and scrutinized in detail before the new tax law is introduced.” Yohannes said.

It also must be clearly defined whether the tax is paid annually or in one time. Furthermore, whether the wealth taxation, taxation from inheritance property, or property obtained by offer and others introduced or not should be examined Yohannes added.

In addition to that, whether the property taxation law imposed on the religious institutions' properties and humanitarian organizations' properties or not should be defined. It is obvious that in the future the

rate of property tax will be increased and this might affect citizens the right to get residential house and this also needs consideration.

But to bring remedy for these complicated issues, new fiscal instrument should be put in place. Yohannes has different views in this regard. The introduction of property tax does not bring price hike in house rent.

As to him, the absence of efficient municipality service is responsible for the shortage of house and price hike. In other countries, laws are introduced to monitor that house rent prices are rational or not and property owners are required to be abided by the law.

He further said that in other countries regulating the price of house rents by municipalities is common. The absence of law which serves as a tool to regulate house rents gives way to house owners to set rent price arbitrarily without considering the public paying capacity. Therefore, the government must pay attention in this regard.

As to Yohannes, instead of sanctioning house renters not to increase house rents, it rather better setting price based on the standard of the house by dividing residential houses in to their zones.

The city administration has to scrutinize the problems witnessed in relation with house rents and has to take action when house owners set price in sky rocketed manner. The property tax also considers the reality on the ground such as the nation's economic situation and the land holding system.

Others by standards also reflect their view in this regard and as to them, the introduction of property tax should consider the urban development and administration, ensuring citizen rights to get access to residential houses and their economic rights and by any means should not put citizens in the disadvantageous position. Regarding the implementation of property tax, countries utilize various modalities and in the Ethiopian context the government has to confer the matter with citizens.

# Art & Culture

## Music for Peace

### Revolutionary Tigrigna music 'Edoe' advocates peace, denounces warmongering

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIER

Edoe, a revolutionary Tigrigna music by aspiring singer Goytom Hailemariam carries message of peace and stability for the people of Tigray. The singer has criticized and denounced the political path in Tigray for half a century: revolting and taking arms for every question.

The music produced by Hohoma Entertainment and lyric was written by the vocalist himself. The singer conveyed the message targeted at the Tigrayan youth and he urged youth to say "enough is enough" for culture of responding issues with firearms. "We are not created for that and bullet responses should stop in Tigray."

In the clip, a man is seen standing in front of an animated poster that portrays three core messages; 'one who says the people of Tigray should be saved is not a treacherous,' 'people and party (institutions) are not the same' and 'save the people of Tigray'.

Other scenes in the clip also show tear-stained mothers, assembly of prayers, traditional dance, a mother tied with a rope, bullet firing can be heard, children recruits, a portrayal of the regional president and his crew acting as the kingmakers in Tigray, the singer's pinpointed.

The term 'Edoe' was first coined by the Tigrigna Legend Hagos Gebrehiwot in the early 1990s and became very popular revolutionary word against the incumbent leadership in Tigray. Hagos was born in Tigray and lived almost his entire life in eastern Ethiopia, parts of Ogaden and in the historical city of Harar where he married to his wife (Harari), eastern Ethiopian regional state. Hagos was survived by his three children and his works. He passed away after contracting Covid-19 last year.

Hagos has produced nine albums excluding several collections and singles. He had worked in the Hager Fikir Theatre, Ethiopian National Theatre and with the Eastern Command in Harar during the Derg era. In his rare interview, Hagos praised Elias Melka, an Ethiopian music legend. They (Hagos and Elias) worked closely for so long. Hagos tributed Elias saying, "Elias had dedicated his entire life for the transformation of Ethiopian music including Tigrigna.

This music is dedicated to the Legend Hagos Gebrehiwot, the footnote at the clip reads.

Coming back to the revolutionary lyrics by Goytom, it reads as follows;



*Edoe, I couldn't believe what I see in my eyes*

*I hear in my ears,*

*Is it in my dream?*

The singer expressed his dismay and anger against current political leadership in Tigray. This lyrics shows that the singer's irritation and sadness over the things that have happened and are happening in Tigray since the inception of TPLF. TPLF campaign of war and its use of the people of Tigray as instrument of war are what caused this single music. Goytom insisted the people of Tigray who is humble, faithful and poor as the rest of Ethiopians do not deserve such a misery. For it he held TPLF and culture of warmongering for honor accountable. The singer, in his description of what is happening in Tigray, heightens saying everything in Tigray seems a nightmare.

*The king makers,*

*The headaches,*

*The deciders in every walk of life,*

*In Tigray, they are the landlords*

*We are the tenants.*

Here, Goytom stressed that there is a gap in the leadership and the people. He equated the situation in Tigray as the relationships between a land lord and tenant. Tigray is the land, TPLF is the landlord and the people as he put the word "we" are the tenants. So, figuratively the singer told people as they are being exploited by a few corrupt and power monger officials

within TPLF. The people on the otherside are fated to hunger, displacement and death due to irresponsible act of TPLF. He further described in his poem that the 'who conquers the mountain (Tigray) kind of game in Tigray should be stopped. Tigray belongs to all. Few makers and breakers should not decide on the fate of people.

The singer also pointed out that the pain in Tigray is not felt by its administration or the diaspora. The hunger, the displacement of people, deaths of youth and the elderly who are left without a child aren't thought of. To stress the fact that who is shouldering the pain of his people he stated in his clip as the below;

*Not everyone feels the pain of the people*

*But, we the oppressed.*

*Rise up and don't be fooled*

*Enough is enough.*

Goytom, the young revolutionary singer further went on to show that after this all misery in the people, what power is for after all? He questioned what importance power can have unless you are saving your people. He wonders as the source of their power is not clear whether it is from the people or whether they consider themselves as they are an elect of the creator.

*Is the source of your chair from earth or heaven?*

*I doubt that it is from heaven*

*You let young man's blood flood like a river*

*How many people do you let perished after these all to sustain your chair?*

Most importantly, in his messages, the singer stated that the over fifty years' mal administration of TPLF should come to an end. Though Tigray is the land of origins, land of heroism, land of Ge'ez language and ancient civilization, this rich history shouldn't be overshadowed by warmongering and bravados, the singer stressed.

*Fifty years, you traded by the name of the people*

*Everything has limits*

*People, Say no to bullets*

*We aren't created for bullet*

*No for bullet (3)*

This song is received positively and has gone viral among Tigrayans that are opposing TPLF and its belligerence. The singer and the rest of Tigrayans living in Addis Ababa and outside the country are using every means to show their difference and opposition to TPLF's drums of war.

Tigrigna music is also loved for its unique beat by the rest of Ethiopians. This song coupled the beautiful, captivating beats with such powerful messages of peace and harmony. In the time being, the message of the song is limited to Tigrigna speakers due to language barriers but once the message is unravelled, Goytom will also get appreciation from the rest of Ethiopians.

# Global Affairs

## Financing green projects, building resilient economies

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

In a world that is vulnerable to manmade and natural disasters, building a sustainable and decent economy is the ambition that every government should crave for.

In fact, building a climate-resilient economy is the call of the day. These days, most of the world's countries are working on mitigating climate change impacts and trying to build their economies using renewable energies thereby averting environmental pollution in the long run.

In this regard, various national, continental, and global legal frameworks and programs are being implemented to cope with climate change impacts. Several consecutive meetings and conferences are also being conducted to evaluate progress and forward future prospects on ensuring green growth.

Ahead of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the UN Climate Champions hosted the "African Roundtable on Initiatives to Accelerate Climate Action and Advance the SDGs" and "Coordination Meeting of the African Group of Climate Change Negotiators and National UNFCCC Focal Persons" from 2-4 August 2022.

A press release sent to *The Ethiopian Herald* indicated that the events brought together key stakeholders from both public and private sectors, to showcase both the success stories of private sector investments in climate areas as well as investment-ready climate initiatives in the Member States towards ensuring enhanced actualizing climate action at scale and speed to strengthen African economies and build resilience.

The Roundtable provided a platform to deliberate on catalytic mechanisms to mobilize climate finance investments and crowd in the private sector towards building climate resilience as well as advancing Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) also gathered to lead negotiators and UNFCCC focal persons from across the continent to deliberate on the key outstanding climate change negotiations issues and discuss the latest information on the road to COP27, the release stated.

With the Ukraine war is affecting the rising food, fuel, and fertilizer prices and the fiscal tightening in the US and UK. At the event, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the ECA Vera Songwe said "Conversation is not only about recovery; it is about resilience. We need to collectively leverage our instruments to create an industry that remains strong against these shocks."

In relation to this, the ECA launched a Liquidity and Sustainability (LSF) to improve market access for African countries by increasing the liquidity of their debt instruments. The LSF could save African issuers up 11 billion USD over five years in interest costs. Furthermore, the facility aims to incentivize SDG-linked investment, including increasing green bond issuances,



the Executive Secretary mentioned.

For Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Amina J. Mohammed, a wide investment from the private sector is needed to advance the progress of green growth. "The private sector will play a key role in determining whether we succeed or fail, the Economic Commission for Africa estimates that investment in Africa's green sectors brings a return as high as 420 percent in value addition and as high as 250 percent in job creation," she said.

At the meeting, Ethiopia also reflected on its vulnerability to climate change impacts and the national endeavors to mitigate this impact. Representing Ethiopia at the meeting, Finance Minister Ahmed Shide underscored the impacts of climate change in Ethiopia and the local solutions to counter this.

"Climate change significantly affects the country's fiscal space and affects the most vulnerable. We are aggressively supporting the solar energy sector through various incentives and committing to a 68.8 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030," Ahmed said. It is to bear in mind that Ethiopia has been applying various greenery projects to reduce climate change impacts and benefit from global carbon markets.

ECA is also supporting Member Countries of the Congo Basin Climate Commission to develop a high-integrity carbon market in the region which could significantly contribute toward closing the financing gap for climate resilience and SDG implementation. Arlette Soudan Nonault, Minister of the Environment, Sustainable Development and the Congo Basin of the Republic of Congo stated "this initiative could contribute significantly to the regulation of the global climate whilst mobilizing the revenue Africa needs to adapt to climate change. With a price of at least 50 USD per tonne, there is a potential to generate approximately 15 billion USD per annum for African countries."

ECA has also supported a study that showed the cost of battery precursor production close to the source of battery mineral extraction in the Democratic Republic of Congo would be 15-20 percent cheaper than other destinations and would contribute 30 percent less emissions than if manufactured in Asia.

The African Group of Negotiators Chair Ephraim Shitima called for COP27 to be focused on implementation, for financial pledges to be delivered and for concrete commitments from developed nations. "The African Group will not only call for the delivery of the 100 billion USD goal that should've been made by 2020 but for an increase of at least 150 billion USD per year until 2025," he said.

The African Roundtable showed the importance of continued collaboration between public and private sectors as well as other concerned stakeholders. And in the discussion, calls were made for a just energy transition that prioritizes accessible, affordable, and socially responsible climate financing is imperative.

In addition, a case was made for Africa to leverage the opportunity of a carbon credit market and other innovative financing mechanisms such as debt-for-climate swaps and KPI-linked bonds which can be used to reduce the cost of capital, provide longer and more secure loans and demonstrate more policy stability which in turn attracts new investors. A consensus was reached to push for developing countries to make good on their climate commitments and request transparency and specific timelines on when these commitments will be delivered. The input from the Roundtables will be used to consolidate Africa's common position for COP27.

Ethiopia has been contributing its share to the climate change resilience program by applying its Green Legacy initiative launched in 2019. The country has been affected by the consequences of climate change and is considered a climate vulnerable country.

That's why Ethiopia's immediate and practical approach to addressing climate change has become the Green Legacy initiative. This Legacy has been instrumental in creating public awareness, thereby leading to a significant improvement in the rate of forestation.

When the country launched this year's Green Legacy program on the 1st of June, it announced the plan of planting seven billion trees. Through its Prime Minister, Ethiopia also invited African brothers and sisters to join its efforts in making Green Legacy a continent-wide phenomenon aimed at

covering Africa in green. Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) also called on international partners to contribute to the continued success and reach of the Green Legacy initiative.

In a statement issued on the announcement of the launching of this year's Green Legacy program, Prime Minister Abiy said Ethiopia is laying the foundation for multidimensional prosperity by leaving a climate-smart generational legacy.

He said the energy Ethiopians harnessing these days is a key lesson to be applied to yield greater results in agricultural productivity. The government extended the 2019 challenge of planting 200 million seedlings within a 12-hour span by planting 354 million trees in 2022.

PM Abiy stated that citizens have been making by responding to each year's Green Legacy challenge, have set a pace for the development of a green culture in Ethiopia.

A target of planting 20 billion seedlings within a period of four years was set, the premier stated. "By the third year, we have succeeded in planting close to 18 billion seedlings by mobilizing more than 20 million citizens throughout the nation."

The premier expressed his ambition that the Green Legacy initiative will bring about clear outcomes including combating the impacts of climate change, restoring degraded landscapes, promoting a green culture and ecotourism as well as improving the livelihoods of citizens.

"While literally sowing the seeds today, we have no doubt these seeds will bear fruit across generations and contribute to reducing carbon emissions, decreasing water, and air pollution, increasing rains in dry areas, and preventing flooding and landslides," Abiy stressed.

Ethiopia as a nation has achieved numerous gains through the Green Legacy initiative and millions participate in planting every year. The expansion of nursery sites throughout the country has created jobs for citizens too.

"Achieving this year's planned target will catapult us way above the four-year goal of planting 20 billion seedlings," Premier Abiy said in the statement. He also calls on Ethiopians to demonstrate perseverance for the generational cause.



# Law & Politics

## Concerted efforts: Recipe for making inclusive national dialogue success

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

As things stand at present, Ethiopia has been bracing for an all-inclusive national dialogue that can get to the bottom of predicaments unfolding across the country as a consequence of terrorist TPLF's divisive rhetoric and other historical and political conundrums.

As everyone knows TPLF on its watch for nearly three decades sowed the seeds of hatred and discord among Ethiopians along ethnic and religious lines. In a similar vein, the criminal enterprise spared no effort to plant the seeds of animosity among the various Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples of Ethiopia bringing its false narratives into play.

With time, the evil deeds of the group embarked on giving rise to political, economic, and social quandaries and ended up morphing into a national crisis that need a quick fix before the situation goes from the frying pan into the fire.

As the group hates united Ethiopia, peaceful coexistence, residing in peace and harmony, it left no stone unturned for nearly three decades coming up with a significant number of schemes that could pull the country to pieces at the earliest possible time. As the backlog of crises was not dealt with at the earliest possible time, the whole thing over time ended up creating a sense of suspicion and grievances, among the various the Ethiopian people.

It is an undeniable fact that the people of Ethiopia have passed through many ups and downs, twists and turns, highs and lows on the heels of the terrorist TPLF group's divisive rhetoric in the aftermath of the nefarious deeds of the ground aimed at breaking the strong social bonds of the people.

For the sake of truth, the group has been orchestrating the whole lot working in close collaboration with internal and external actors aimed at pursuing its hidden agenda going behind closed curtains. As the group has been doing everything in a very calculated way, it has been easier said than done to dust off the glitches and get the country back on track sooner rather than later.

Notwithstanding the fact that many efforts have been made by some individuals to resolve the problem once and for all in an atmosphere of calm, the sought-after goal has not been achieved yet. As this is the right time, all Ethiopians should move heaven and earth for conducting the national dialogue effectively.

To make it clearer, as Ethiopia is a nation that consists of more than a few wisdom, it should make every effort to get to the bottom of the problem in a peaceful setting through national dialogue.

As the national dialogue plays a paramount role in restoring harmony, finding common ground, maintaining national unity, getting the country back on track, and other related aspects, all and sundry should work in partnership for its realization.

Apart from partaking actively in the national dialogue, everyone should financially support the National Dialogue Commission.



As the commission to this point has been progressing in the right direction, all Ethiopians should roll up their sleeves to pave the way for conducting the national dialogue with flying colors.

As long as the national dialogue incorporates people from all walks of life and follows the right paths attaining the sought-after goal will be a walk in the park or low-hanging fruit. On top of that, the general public should pull out all the stops to place emphasis on peace, harmony, and other assets of Ethiopians by putting aside their differences.

As the National Dialogue Commission was set up to find a common ground among Ethiopians for making peace happen on a national scale, restoring harmony, and bringing back the former glory of the country everyone should give the cold shoulder to hostilities that stem from several social-political issues and beyond owing to the group.

In the same manner, as the national dialogue needs the concerted efforts of the general public, Ethiopians residing at home and abroad should make every possible effort to make the National Dialogue Commission stand on its feet and achieve the intended target in the shortest possible time.

On the subject of conducting an effective national dialogue, a number of organizations, experts, scholars, religious fathers, and other influential Ethiopians have been coming up with the best way forward.

Lately, the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) stated that it has undertaken extensive coordination activity for the success of the upcoming National Dialogue with the purpose of bringing lasting peace.

The Civil Society Organizations held the 3<sup>rd</sup> consultation forum in connection with the CSO's role in supporting the upcoming National Dialogue process. The council is doing its level best in supporting the negotiation process by providing inputs and other necessary things which will have significant importance to the negotiation process.

In his opening remark, Executive Director of the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC), Henok Melesse said that the civil society members need to play their part in the successfulness of the planned National Dialogue process.

"Concerted effort from the civil society and concerning body is crucial in order to conduct effective national dialogue which is core in bringing sustainable peace in the

country," he indicated.

He added that the general purpose of the discussion is to strengthen the reference group and guarantee a permanent platform to lead CSOs' constructive engagement, and participatory approach, among others, in the upcoming National Dialogue process.

Research and Development Advisor at the Council Getaneh Seifu said that it is known that the council has a mandate to participate in different national agendas and the planned National Dialogue in which the council will actively participate and contribute its part.

Program and Development Advisor at ECSOC Moges Demissie (Ph.D.) said that the council is among the major stakeholders in the upcoming national dialogue process and working to enhance the effectiveness, coherence, relevance, and positive impact of CSO engagement with the required coordination.

Accordingly, the council is exerting its utmost effort in coordinating the role of civil society from different angles.

"The key component of the dialogue process is creating a conducive condition to ensure inclusive and transparent way. For instance, protecting the process from challenges and interventions, raising public awareness and various stakeholders to trust the process and engage in good faith is among the roles of the council apart from creating a positive image in the minds of the society," he noted.

The National Dialogue has different phases, from preliminary preparation to implementation stages and the council will provide every necessary support for the successfulness of the process in each stage, he wrapped up.

Be that as it may, Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association has expressed its commitment to providing the necessary professional support to the National Dialogue Commission.

It should be borne in mind that the National Dialogue Commission requested various professional associations in Ethiopia to provide their professional support for the effectiveness of the planned inclusive national dialogue.

Speaking to Ethiopian News Agency, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, Lensa Biyena said the association has been involved in the activities of the National Dialogue Commission since its establishment.

The association particularly has been participating on behalf of the protection of women's rights together with other civil society organizations, she added.

Lensa pointed out that since the national dialogue matters to all citizens and organizations in Ethiopia, Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association is working on legal issues and ensuring the inclusiveness of the national dialogue.

As a professional association, it will continue closely working and providing professional support to the Commission through its eight branch offices, district, and zonal structures across the country.

The planned inclusive national dialogue is believed to be a good opportunity for all Ethiopians in creating enabling environment for the leaders, politicians, and the public at large to come together and discuss matters that are critical to the nation.

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) said conducting an inclusive National Dialogue is crucial to bringing a lasting solution to the serious challenges that Ethiopia has been encountering so far.

One of the Commissioners of ENDC Yonas Adaye (Ph.D.) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the Commission will set conducive conditions for all Ethiopians, including those who are armed to participate in the National Dialogue without any discrimination because of their opinion as such dialogue is the last resort to get Ethiopia out from the current predicament.

Yonas asked everybody who claims to have a question to prepare them for the National Dialogue.

The Commissioner further said: "All Ethiopians must play their part in the first National Dialogue in our nation's history, as we have taken the lesson that the country's problems cannot be solved by war or other related alternatives."

If trust is built between the people and the Commission and they work together for the successful completion of the National Dialogue, the result will undoubtedly be fruitful, as to him.

The commissioners are traveling to different parts of the country to effectively make clear to stakeholders about its objectives and activities and have addressed almost all states of the country except Afar and Tigray, he said.

According to Yonas, they will address the Afar and Tigray states as much as possible." Yonas further reported that the Commission held productive discussions with government officials, contending political parties, and other stakeholders at various times.

Additionally, the Commission has gained documents from countries like Colombia, South Africa, Kenya, and others that had successfully conducted National Dialogue, as well as countries that had failed in such processes as Yemen.

Since its establishment, the Commission has been carrying out its mandates independently and the participation of the people is admirable, he added.

The Commission recently disclosed that it is receiving strong cooperation and acceptance in various parts of the country in its efforts to introduce the objective of the Commission.

# International News

## Kenya elections 2022: Raila Odinga and William Ruto in tight race for president

Voting has in general been peaceful and smooth in Kenya despite some delays and problems with the electronic kit in some parts of the country.

This vote follows an intense campaign dominated by debates about living costs, unemployment and corruption.

The frontrunners for president are ex-Prime Minister Raila Odinga and current Deputy President William Ruto.

The outgoing president Uhuru Kenyatta is backing his former foe Mr Odinga, after a falling out with Mr Ruto.

Just over 30% of the 22 million registered voters had cast their vote by noon local time (09:00 GMT), the electoral commission has said.

A top election official in Kenya's central region of Nyeri has told journalists that turnout has been low in that part of the country compared to 2017.

Mr Odinga was mobbed by supporters when he went to vote in Kibra - one of his strongholds in the capital, Nairobi.

He did not speak to the press, but his wife, Ida Odinga, said he was "upbeat about the election".

When Mr Ruto voted in the town of Eldoret in the Rift Valley he pledged to accept the election result.

"I think for the first time in the history of multi-party democracy in Kenya, all the candidates have undertaken that they will accept the outcome of the results," he told the BBC.

A dispute over election results in 2007 led to weeks of violence leading to the deaths of an estimated 1,200 people and forced about 600,000 people to flee from their homes

On Tuesday, there was some frustration among the early morning voters at a polling station in a primary school in the Westlands area of Nairobi.



They were blocked from entering the compound of the school for 90 minutes.

The reason for the delay was not clear and some people started chanting: "We want to vote!"

"I was here very early. It's been disappointing that we got here early and had to wait for a long time," voter Alex Kipchoge told the BBC.

When voting did get under way, however, the process went well.

There have also been reports of delays in the coastal area of Mombasa and some parts of the north-east of the country.

There have been some complaints about the electronic fingerprint equipment used to identify voters breaking down. But the electoral commission has said that only 200 have broken down out of a total of more than 46,000.

Polls are open for 11 hours and are expected to close at 17:00 local time (14:00 GMT). Anyone still in the queue at closing time will be allowed to vote.

There are several other elections for parliament and local government happening at the same time and a mix-up of ballot

papers in some areas for some of those votes on the eve of the poll has again raised questions about the organisation of the general election.

The results of the last presidential election in 2017 were annulled after the Supreme Court ruled that the electoral commission had not followed the law when it came to the electronic transmission of the vote tallies from the polling stations.

Judges ruled that "illegalities and irregularities" had taken place.

A re-run was won by Mr Kenyatta, but boycotted by Mr Odinga - the main opposition candidate at the time.

The chairman of the electoral commission, Wafula Chebukati, who was also in charge of the 2017 vote, has frequently tried to reassure Kenyans that his team will be up to the task this time.

But Monday's logistical problems have increased the pressure on him.

### Baba v Hustler

This election looks like it will be a tight race between frontrunners Mr Odinga, 77, and Mr Ruto, 55.

Mr Odinga - a long-serving opposition

leader, nicknamed Baba ("father") by his supporters, is running for president for a fifth time. Mr Ruto, who has tried to emphasise his connection with ordinary Kenyans by calling himself a "hustler", is taking his first stab at the presidency.

Two other candidates - David Mwaure and George Wajackoya - are also in the race.

Despite the campaign being dominated by issues, ethnic loyalty may also play a part in determining how people vote.

For the first time in the multi-party era none of the main candidates are from the country's largest ethnic group - Kikuyu.

But knowing that those votes are vital, both have chosen Kikuyu running mates.

### Voting process

To win the presidential race in the first round, a candidate needs:

- ◆ More than half of all the votes cast across the country
- ◆ At least 25% of the votes cast in a minimum of 24 counties.

Voters will also be choosing MPs and senators to go to the national parliament, county governors and county assembly members, as well as 47 women's representatives to sit in the National Assembly.

Counting will start at the polling stations shortly after voting ends. Officials will then take a photo of the final tally and send the image to both the constituency and national tallying centres.

To ensure transparency the media, political parties and civil society groups have been urged to run their own tallies using final results declared at the more than 40,000 polling stations.

But only the electoral commission can declare the winner of the presidential election after verifying the physical and digital forms sent to the national tallying centre.

Source: BBC

## Mali's army says 17 soldiers, 4 civilians killed in Tessit attack

Military says 'complex and coordinated attack' in country's south likely carried out by ISIL-affiliated group.

Armed fighters with a suspected affiliation to the ISIL (ISIS) group killed 17 Malian soldiers and four civilians during an attack over the weekend in the country's south, Mali's army has said.

Nine soldiers were also reported missing and vehicles and equipment were destroyed as a result of the attack on Sunday near the town of Tessit, which sits in a strategic border zone between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, the Malian army said in a statement on Monday.

It added that there was "an unknown number of dead and injured carried away by the attackers," and that the death toll from the attack was provisional and likely to change.

"On 07 August 2022 around 3pm (15:00 GMT), the army units of Tessit ... responded vigorously to a complex and coordinated attack by armed terrorist groups, presumably from ISGS [Islamic State in the Greater Sahara] and benefiting from drone and artillery support," the army's statement said.

It added that Malian forces had killed at least seven of the fighters.

Two of the civilians killed were local elected officials, their relatives told the AFP news agency. Al Jazeera was unable to independently verify the identities of those reported dead.

### Worsening insecurity

Mali is facing a worsening battle against armed groups, some linked to al-Qaeda and

ISIL, which has claimed thousands of lives and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes.

The violence initially erupted in northern Mali in 2012 but has since spread to the country's centre and south, as well as neighbouring Niger and Burkina Faso.

Tessit is located on the Malian side of the so-called three-border area in a vast gold-rich region.

Armed groups under the umbrella of an al-Qaeda-linked group known as Jama'at Nasr al-Islam walMuslimin (JNIM) are fighting against ISGS in a battle for control there.

Thousands of residents have fled the area in a bid to reach safety, many of whom have headed to the city of Gao, situated some 150km (90 miles) to the north.

The Malian army, which has a military camp next to the town of Tessit, has frequently been attacked in the region. UN peacekeepers have also been deployed there.

French soldiers from Operation Barkhane were present in the area until a few months ago but have since left and are now preparing to exit their last base in Mali altogether after a breakdown in relations between the country's military government and Paris.

Mali has been accused of increasingly turning towards Russia, and the highly controversial, pro-Kremlin private security firm Wagner Group, for help in battling against armed groups since the current government took power in May 2021.

Source: Al-Jazeera