



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXVIII No 291 16 AUGUST 2022 - Nehase 10, 2014

Tuesday

Price Birr 10.00



Dire Dawa FTZ crucial to boost continental integration: Economist

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – The Free Trade Zone(FTZ) in Dire Dawa is very important for the successfulness of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and to boost African integration, so remarked an economist.

It is to be recalled that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) recently launched country's first FTZ in Dire Dawa, which is believed to improve Ethiopia's entire economy by

boosting the import and export trade of the country. And it was said that the FT is aligned with the AfCFTA aimed at realizing regional integration.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Unity University economics lecturer Demelash Habte (PhD) stated that, the Dire Dawa FTZ will play an important role in enabling Ethiopia to enter into the AfCFTA by raising its shares. He added that, the FTZ is very important to improve the Africa-to-Africa trade relations.

According to him, attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), securing more foreign currency, knowledge and technology transfer, creating more jobs, causing impact on urbanization and industrialization, being market options for suppliers of raw materials, bringing about growth in trade competitiveness, and boosting country's economy are among the benefits of the FTZ.

He further indicated that Emperor Haile Selassie I had planned to launch FTZ in the

See Dire Dawa FTZ ... page 3

MoLS strives for hosting continental Job Summit

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia has been toiling tirelessly to host continental job summit in a bid to enhance overseas employment, Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) announced.

Speaking at the Second National Job Summit yesterday, MoLS State Minister Nigusu Tilahun said that, the country planned to host Continental Job Summit by 2020. However it couldn't achieve it, due to COVID-19 and currently it has been working hard on collecting necessary inputs to undertake the summit.

He stressed that, the ministry has been creating a lot of conducive environment including preparing convenient policies to unlock various international job opportunities. Likewise, the ministry has

See MoLS strives.. page 3



Ethiopia plants 25 bln trees in four-year surpassing target

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA—Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) stated that, Ethiopia has planted over 25 billion seedlings surpassing the set ceiling and promoted green legacy initiative via fostering a 'green culture.'

In his latest statement, premier Abiy said that since the Green Legacy Initiative was

announced in 2019 aimed at mitigating climate challenge, people from every corner took up the national call to plant 20 billion seedlings in a four-year period.

"Each year, as we surpassed the annual target and together with the final year of the four-year challenge, Ethiopia has planted 25 billion seedlings of agroforestry, forestry,

See Ethiopia plants ... page 3

DERBA MIDROC CEMENT



OUR PRODUCTS

- > PPC 32.5N
- > OPC 42.5N
- > Premium OPC 52.5N
- > PPC PLUS 42.5N

We give Door To Door Service

Call Us at 8688 or

0111 26 26 27 0922 11 53 24/26
 0111 26 26 28 0922 72 74 48/49
 0111 26 26 29 0922 72 38 70
 0111 26 26 30 0922 72 38 72

Fax: 0111 26 23 45 & 0111 26 23 18
Ready for Tomorrow!



Bless Agri Food Laboratory Service Plc



LABORATORY TESTING SERVICE

+251 978 81 62 54 / 58
 +251 116 67 92 27
 www.blesslaboratory.com

AGI CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA



Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars. Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

Contact & Address

Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25
 Mob.: +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868
 +251 911 45 9790
 E-mail:sales@agietiopia.com
 4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Maldives Promotion - SIGNAGE & PRINT

For all your signage & printing needs with well-established workshop & machineries

- CNC cutting & engraving machine
- Foam board, Aluminum panel, MDF...
- Laser cutting & engraving machine
- Mica, Leather, Fabric...
- UV flat bed for give away items
- Pen, Flash disk, Notebook...
- Digital T-shirt & Fabric printer
- High quality Digital printer
- Roll up, sticker, reflective, transparent...
- Heat press machines
- Cap, Mug, Mask, Plate

And exhibition stand & event stage construction

Fast and Quality Service

+251 911 253 076 / +251 984 872 919
 maldivespromotion@gmail.com
 Shola, on the Main Road to British Embassy

WFP conducts emergency food assistance delivery in Afar

• Reaches 520, 000 people so far

News

City embarks on fostering road dev't

• *Inaugurates Alexander Pushkin square to Gotera interchange road*

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- Addis Ababa City administration stated that it is constructing 24 new asphalt roads covering 282 kilometers apart from maintaining the existing roads, and the project is believed to play a great role in fostering city's development and building its image.

Inaugurating the first modern road project covering the areas from Sarbet– Alexander Pushkin Square – GofaMazoria to the end of the Gotera Interchange located at Nifas Silk Laphto Sub City yesterday, Addis Ababa City Mayor, Adanech Abiebie stated that, the construction of roads has facilitated the traffic flow compatible with city's status quo as well as creates huge job opportunity for a number of citizens. It is to be recalled that the construction was kicked off in October 2019.

The construction was completed at an outlay of 1.5 billion Birr obtained from the Chinese government interest free loan, she



noted.

She said: "The new road would change the economic and social activities of the areas. Besides, it was built by China First Highway Engineering Group Co Ltd encircling 320-meter long tunnel and covers 3.8 km long with a width of 30-45 meters."

The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of various government officials, religious fathers and the elderly.

The road would simultaneously accommodate many vehicles including Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lane and a long suspension bridge built above the ground, according to her.

The road was constructed keeping world standard and makes the city as its name bespeaks and has possessed pedestrians' walkways from left and right side that can reduce traffic jam, she said.



Diaspora urged to enhance participation in homeland dev't

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA- Bedr Ethiopia emphasized the need for the active participation of the Diasporas community in different socio-economic activities of the country.

Bedr Ethiopia President Ahmed Worku told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that, the country needs to use the economic resources, knowledge and skills of its Diasporas community properly to achieve its development plan and change the image of the country among international community.

The president stressed that, the Diaspora who live in different parts of the world have different professional and experiential knowledge that will benefit the country immensely.

The country has millions of Diasporas who have willingness and capacity to help the country and it is required to facilitate the platform to utilize the full potentials of Diasporas community through involving in various economic, social, and political sectors, he said.

Accordingly, that the Diaspora have been contributing more for the development of the country.

They have been playing immeasurable roles to support the construction of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) through providing financial supports and changing the image of international community towards the dam, he noted.

Moreover, participation of the Diasporas community in the upcoming National Dialogue is helpful to accomplish it successfully and solve the current problem of the country.

He called upon the Diasporas community to strength their participation to rehabilitate people affected by the conflict in the northern part of the country.

Ethiopia generates 119mIn.USD from meat export

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA-The Agriculture Authority has announced that Ethiopia has secured 119 million USD from meat and meat by-products export during the last Ethiopian fiscal year.

Agriculture Authority General Director Ambassador Diriba Kuma told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that, Ethiopia exported about 22,700 tons of meat and meat by-products during the last Ethiopian fiscal year.

Accordingly, the income has surpassed by 40 percent from previous fiscal year.

Ethiopia exported 15,800 tons of meat by 2020-21 and 22,699 tons of meat and meat by products by 2021-22 respectively, he said.

As to him, slaughter houses are working with fewer than 30 percent of their capacity.

"The livestock trade system is challenged by contrabandists, low quality, and lack of



professionals in the area that resulted in lower meat export income compared to the wide potential of the country," he noted.

Currently, the authority has been taking various measures hand-in-hand with stakeholders to improve the livestock sector's industrial developments, he said.

On his part, Authority Export Slaughter Houses Inspection and Certification Director

Ayalew Shumet said that the meat export industry is growing from time to time.

Thus, assuring quality of products is fundamental to generate substantial income from the sector, he noted.

According to Central Statistical Agency 2020/21report, Ethiopia has 42.9 million sheep, 52.5 goats, 8.1 million camels, and 70.2 million cattle.

Middle East Diasporas' contribution growing

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA-The Ethiopian Diaspora Community in the Middle East contribution to the homeland is increasing and has been providing various in-kind and financial supports, Ethiopian Diaspora Community Board Member at Abu Dhabi Abdulwuhab Adem (PhD) said.

Abdulwuhab told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that, the community has been working on protecting the right of citizens abroad, building nation's image, transforming knowledge, skills, and experience and pledged to actively participate in the investment sectors.

Accordingly, the Ethiopian Diaspora community in the Middle East countries has been involving in various activities in Ethiopia to realize the country's sustainable

peace and development.

The Diasporas community has been involving in fighting against COVID-19 pandemic, assisting financially to the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF), supporting the rehabilitation process, contributing books to Abrehot Library, among others.

So far, the Diasporas community in the Middle East has contributed close to 40 million Birr for various purposes, he said.

As to him, the country has lost a lot following the terrorist TPLF aggression that caused numerous schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, churches, and mosques destructions.

Thus, more support is expected from the Diaspora community to rehabilitate the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and

renovate the demolished schools and hospitals, he added.

"More than 50 percent of the Ethiopian remittance is obtained from the Middle East countries Diasporas community and still has huge potentials to contribute. Therefore, the Diasporas will continue contributing their part in the country's construction and investment sector," he noted.

Minister of Education Berhanu Nega (Prof.) said that, the terrorist TPLF group has caused more damages on schools and other sectors aimed at establish disintegrating the country.

"The terrorist group has fully or partially demolished 4,800 schools. The Diaspora community especially in the Middle East countries is expected to play a leading role in reconstructing schools in Ethiopia," he



Abdulwuhab Adem (PhD)

added.

Ethiopia has planned to introduce 4,000 Ethiopian Diaspora from overseas to invest and share their knowledge, skills, and experience within a year in a bid to bring significant change in the education sector.

Accordingly, over 80 billion Birr has been estimated by the government to build 1,300 schools which were fully damaged in Afar, Amhara, Benshangul Gumuz, Oromia, and Southern Nation Nationality and people state (SNNP's) states.

News

WFP conducts emergency food assistance delivery in Afar

• *Reaches 520,000 people so far*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - World Food Program (WFP) said that, it has completed deliveries of emergency food assistance to the 14 districts of Afar State and reached over 520,000 people so far.

In its twitter message, WFP stated that it has completed the deliveries of emergency food assistance to the 14 districts of the internally displaced people (IDPs) in Afar State. It has reached over 520,000 people so far, about 80 percent of its target population.

It thanked the international donor partners for their crucial commitment and funding to Ethiopia's response.

Recently, the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Afar state called on the international aid organizations and the government of Ethiopia to pay adequate attention as they have done for Tigray state in a bid to save millions from starvation.

Most of the displaced have been exposed to various challenges especially they are suffering from serious hunger.



MoLS strives for...

been working to prepare qualified human resources that can compete at international market level through working in collaboration with various educational institutions.

He underscored that, government has been creating mass number of jobs through making it national agenda. "However it is not enough when we compare it with the number of unemployed people found in the country."

It was learnt that MoLS has been working on soft and hard skills of the unemployed citizens of the country to change their

attitudes and enhance their knowledge and skills. To this end, it has been working to enhance the capacity of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.

Accordingly, MoLS has been restoring the terrorist TPLF- ravaged TVET institutions allocating 387 million Birr.

The Second National Job Summit was launched in the presence of over 1,000 high level employers, policy makers and representatives of labor market institutions under the theme: "Create the future through Sustainable Jobs"



Photo : Hadash Abraha

Dire Dawa FTZ...

country, but for the past several years, this FTZ was not been established due to various reasons.

Because of the failure to implement this system in the past, the country has not been able to secure many foreign companies, to create a trained manpower, and to adequately obtain hard currency as required.

The economist also noted that the Dire Dawa Free Trade Zone will help Ethiopia becoming a trade, investment, industrialization, and logistics hub in Africa.

Demelash restated that, the selection of Dire Dawa for FTZ is fair by many criteria like its suitability for multimodal transport and logistics operation, proximity to ports, market potential, and huge cargo gravity. Dire Dawa is right to be elected as it is the home of multi-cultural society, he added.

During the inauguration ceremony, PM Abiy affirmed that such zones are very important to facilitate export and import. He also stated that trade zones like this will be multiplied in a way that will enable competition with the global trade system.

Premier Abiy further said that increasing the economic and technological capacity of the country while traveling in the same old way is a cumbersome journey. So the country needs to follow new and innovative pathways. The world is changing exponentially."

"The FTZ we are building is one of our ways to integrate into a rapidly changing world. I have no doubt that the zones will not only facilitate trade and investment but also enhance our technological capabilities," he also indicated.

It was learnt that additional FTZs will also be established in other parts of the country and Special Economic Zone too.

Ethiopia plants...

ornamental varieties, surpassing the set target."

Currently countries have been confronted with extreme weather conditions, flooding, wildfires, powerful storms, unprecedented heat waves, increased desertification and many other phenomena. If global events in the past weeks have not convinced Ethiopia that climate change is happening, then nothing else can, he said.

The premier noted that: "While the climate change discourse has evolved over many years, today as a global community we have reached a critical point where we are living the reality. Beyond conferences and summits, addressing the climate change challenge requires tangible action."

It was learnt that a nationwide green culture has taken root since 2019, evolved and grown over a span of four years, resulting in a significant decline in the rate of deforestation and the formation of new forests.

These new forests will be essential in carbon sequestration as Ethiopia forges ahead in

efforts to tackle climate change, as to him.

Talking about reasons for such success story, he pointed out that when the massive tree planting program was launched in 2019, there were less than 40,000 nurseries nationwide, with very low production capacity.

However, he indicated that in the current year 2022, the number of nurseries in Ethiopia surpasses 121,000 with a cumulative capacity of producing 7.6 billion seedlings of various species.

Accordingly, beyond the new culture taking shape, the Green Legacy Initiative has thus far directly created more than 767,000 jobs, mostly for women and youth, as part of a green economy taking shape.

These tree species also include fruit varieties, mainly avocado, mango and papaya, aimed at making the Green Legacy Initiative improve access to food and nutrition and enhance export ambitions. A key catalyst for our success, however, is political will and demonstrable commitment at all levels of leadership, it was learnt.

Opinion

Ethiopia on the Move (Flow): Commemorative Second (Third) Ode to Aba-I ("Nile") River on the GERD 8/11/22

BY ALMARIAM

I was present at the Grand Renaissance Ethiopian Dam (GERD) on February 20, 2022 when the first turbine (#10) kicked into action. No words can express my feeling of pride, joy, honor and dignity in Ethiopia that day when the GERD produced 375MW of electricity and delivered it to the grid!

On August 11, 2022, the second turbine (#9) kicked into action! Sitting ten thousands of miles away, I still feel the same pride, joy, honor and dignity in Ethiopia.

I thank the Almighty for this day and for blessing Ethiopia with the River Ghion Abai ("Nile"). I thank the people of Ethiopia for every penny they paid to make GERD a reality. When the world turned against us, we turned ourselves to the Almighty and to ourselves and made it happen.

I thank the engineers, technicians, laborers and all others who toiled to build the GERD over the past decade. I thank the Ethiopian National Defense Force and regional militia for their service beyond and above the call of duty.

I thank our GERD negotiators who performed their diplomatic and technical duties with professionalism, skill and ethics.

I thank Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed (Abiy "Aybegere" Ahmed) for his steadfast leadership, meticulous oversight and guidance, insistence on accountability, and innovation; and ultimately for his decisiveness, determination and dedication to the completion of the GERD!

Above all, I thank PM Abiy for being a man of his word. On June 11, 2018, PM Abiy assured Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, "Ethiopia has no, no intention whatsoever to harm our brothers and sisters in Egypt over the use of the Abai ("Nile") waters."

Today, the GERD protects Sudan and Egypt from destructive floods and neither country has suffered "substantial harm" (legal language), indeed no perceptible harm to their share of Nile waters. Congratulations to all of us. አንዱን ደስ አለን!

GERD: One big step for prosperity in Ethiopia, one gigantic leap for African progress!

Author's Note: I wrote my first Ode to Abai River (celebratory poem) on July 12, 2021 on the occasion of the second filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). Abai (a/k/a "Nile", "Blue Nile" to non-Ethiopians) is the River Ghion mentioned in Genesis 2:13 ("The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire Land of Cush." The Land of Cush is present day Ethiopia.

Unfortunately, neither the Biblical people of the Land of Cush nor their descendants today have been able to use the waters of Abai to sustain themselves and flourish as a great civilization. So, the mighty, mighty waters of the River Ghion kept rolling on for millennia carrying rich silt and sediment downstream as Ethiopians watched in misery.

Just like the great African American Paul Robeson sang it for Ol' man Mississippi River rolling, I always told myself brokenheartedly, Ol' man Abai River. That ol' man Abai river. He don't say nothin' But he must know somethin' Cause he just keeps rollin' straight outta Tana Lake. He keeps rollin' along. Rollin' along the valleys, canyons and deserts. He don't plant teff, corn, wheat, or cotton in Ethiopia. Them that plants 'em is soon forgotten. But ol' man

Abai river He keeps rollin' along. And you and me Ethiopians united We sweat and we strain. Our bodies all achin' And wracked with poverty and pain. That ol' man Abai river, he just kept rolling on... outta Ethiopia.

On February 19, 2022, the mighty River Ghion, for the first time since time immemorial, stopped rolling and looked at Ethiopia for just a fleeting, flickering moment.

"Behold!", exclaimed Ol' man Abai river. "What beautiful land! What beautiful people! I must shine eternal light upon them!"

So, ol' man Abai river shone its bright light on Ethiopia over the GERD on February 19, 2022, a date that shall live in glory in Ethiopian history.

Indeed, February 19, 2022, marked the coming to pass of Biblical prophecy.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, let there be light: and there was light. (Genesis 1-3.)

Darkness had been on the face of Ethiopia since time immemorial and now light shines upon her from the eternal waters of the River Ghion. For it is divinely declared, "Let there be light on Ethiopia: and there was light" bursting from the GERD.

That light will also shine on Ethiopia's neighbors and all of Africa until kingdom come.

I am proud to be present at the GERD when Ethiopia ushered in the Age of Light, a new age of prosperity driven by electricity.

As I listened to Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed making his speech announcing the opening of the GERD, Shakespeare's Sonnet 29 flashed through my mind.

Aaahh!

There were many times over the past decades I had "troubled deaf heaven with my bootless cries" desiring this or that for Ethiopia.

There was even a time I wished I was Ghanaian. There was a time I asked myself, "Why Can't Ethiopia Become Like Ghana?"

But as I stood tall gazing in ecstasy at the GERD on February 19, I was filled with pride and joy and "scorned to change my state with kings." I would not have traded my pride in the GERD for anything in the world!

I join Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed in recognizing and thanking Ethiopia's leaders, the great people of Ethiopia who paid for the GERD with their blood, sweat, tears and money, and especially the Almighty who made it all possible despite the dirty tricks and conspiracies of nations great and small to thwart and even physically destroy the GERD and keep Ethiopia in eternal darkness.

But the Forces of Darkness no longer have power over Ethiopia in the Age of Light. They have been defeated by the Forces of Light. It was all foretold by one of Africa's post-colonial founding fathers, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, who poetically declared, Ethiopia shall rise and shine like a diamond in the African skies.

Ethiopia, Africa's bright gem/ Set high among the verdant hills/That gave birth to the unfailing/ Waters of the Nile. Ethiopia shall rise/Ethiopia, land of the wise; Ethiopia, bold cradle of Africa's ancient rule/ and fertile

school. Of our African culture; Ethiopia, the wise shall rise...

Ethiopia Shall Rise and Shine- Second Ode to Abai River (የህዳሴ ውዳሴ!)

At the dawn of creation were the words

"Let there be light!" (Gen. 1:3)

In a big bang moment the universe became bright

And the River Ghion/Abai ("Nile") became Ethiopia's birthright. (Gen. 2:13)

There was no light in the millennia-long Ethiopian night

Then turned the turbine on the River Ghion with might

February 19, 2022, brought all Ethiopians joy and delight

To enjoy Ghion's bounty with our neighbors without a fight.

It is our Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Built with our own blood, sweat, and tears

We toiled ceaselessly for years and years

Today, we stand proud having fulfilled our forebears' dreams.

I walked down Entoto hill

Saw women loaded like beasts of burden

I cried out, "This a crime, it must be forbidden!"

Said they to me calmly, "When GERD comes alive, we will all be unladen."

Gazing over the GERD, I saw a land of milk and honey

The utopia I dreamt for Ethiopia

No more war, no more dystopia

Only the mighty, mighty United Ethiopia.

It is a new day in Ethiopia

Let the mighty Ghion wash the sins of our fathers

Let's not make hate and war our earthly leftovers

Let's seek peace as the source of all our answers.

Let Aba-I be Aba-I for one and all

A source of life for nations great and small

Let our hopes overcome our fears

There is no more need to shed river of tears.

[G]reat is the month of February in Ethiopia

[E]nergy to produce as regional cornucopia

[R]ise and salute in fall, winter, spring, and summer

[D]amn! Behold the GERD, the beautiful tower of our power!

Let us gather around Aba-I and sing

Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan form a ring

Lets us lift every voice and shout, "I am Aba-I."

"Aba-I am".

"I am Aba-I Ethiopia!

I am Aba-I Egypt!

I am Aba-I Sudan!

I am Aba-I."

Aba-I am.

Ethiopia on the move!

Back in the day, we used to sing "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize", the unofficial anthem of the American civil rights movement. The prize was (and despite the absence of a civil rights movement today) and remains equal rights.

Today, I keep singing the same song except the Prize I shall keep my eyes on is Ethiopia. I spent the last seven weeks in Ethiopia. It was a wonderful time of discovery for me. I (like many Ethiopians in the country and in the diaspora), know very little about the real Ethiopia.

But I soon discovered Ethiopia is the richest poor country in the world. We have land that could make us the breadbasket of Africa but suffer the scourge of drought. We have mighty rivers which roll out as we beg for Western handouts. We have minerals and precious stones hidden in plain sight under our feet begging to be plucked. I just don't understand why we remain poor!

Over seven weeks, I discovered and experienced firsthand the love, generosity, and appreciation of the Ethiopian people wherever I travelled, near and far.

I got big hugs and kisses from complete strangers (damned be COVID!) for what they say I have done for Ethiopia. It brought tears to my eyes.

I am so humbled by the love and appreciation of shoeshine boys, waitresses, soldiers (high and low rank), storekeepers, students, journalists, construction workers, religious and civic leaders, businessmen and women, farmers, cab/ride drivers, pilots and air crew, teachers and academics, grandmothers, politicians (across the political spectrum), civil servants and so many others I met travelling throughout Ethiopia.

For seven weeks in Ethiopia, "my cup runneth over." I thank all the "strangers", really my dear friends I never knew, for their love and kindness. I could expect no greater reward.

As I moved around Ethiopia, I discovered Ethiopia is on the move. Ethiopia is moving away from poverty to prosperity fast. Indeed, there are daily challenges. But as GERD powers our prosperity, we shall forever abandon the darkness of poverty.

Ethiopia is also moving from disunity to community; from enmity to fraternity and amity; from calamity to pacificity; from ethnocentricity to nationality; from exclusivity to inclusivity; from barbarity to humanity; from brutality to civility; from illegality to accountability; from hostility to commonality in our diversity; From Western indignity to Ethiopian national unity in our sovereignty.

When our "friends" called their citizens to move out of Ethiopia, Ethiopians the world over moved into Ethiopia by the hundreds of thousands. Why? Because Ethiopia is on the move; rolling on to prosperity in dignity, unity and sovereignty on our Abai river.

Ethiopia is moving and rising higher and higher. If you don't believe me, go, and see for yourselves Ethiopia on the move; on the roll.

No point in sitting in the diaspora and moping around and feeling funky. I say, "Let's get a move on!"

You don't want to be left behind when Ethiopia moves on, moves forward and keeps on moving. Let's keep moving and grooving with Ethiopia. I just gotta say it straight up:

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

The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency



General Manager

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

Advertisement and Dist.
Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew
email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city
Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama
Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberhiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

Fb//Ethiopian Press Agency/
The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Ethiopia's remarkable achievement: Turning promises into progresses

Penetrating the wave emanating from the ill-intended mission of internal perfidies and external historical foes, Ethiopia has continued being triumphant over challenges year after year. The pressures thrown from many corners are now well handled and all challenges threatening to derail the all rounded reforms on which it has capitalized, Ethiopia remains unwavering towards seizing the ladder of success in all aspects. All the efforts the country is exerting and projects it has planned to meet have been unrelentingly paving rosy future thanks to the committed leadership with viable and vigilant planning.

Cognizant of the fact that Ethiopia is supping the morsel of victory after victory making all its enemies history, many world states have shown keen interest to work with this great nation. So long as it always enjoys utilizing a win-win approach based on common understanding, Ethiopia has developed progressive diplomacy and is willing to work with states which have run activities fundamentally based on mutual understanding and two-way consent.

Surprisingly, it has been trekking on the dependable avenue and grabbing the attention of the globe for the government and citizens are moving in unison. The success the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has attained right now comes at the forefront, indeed.

Ethiopia is also championing towards green legacy as it has met the plantation of over 25 billion tree seedlings of agroforestry, forestry, ornamental variations surpassing the set top limit in four years' time after the reform. At the time when the world is severely entangled with the climate change effects manifested in the form of flooding, drought, wildfire, among others, taking the lead in terms of reinvigorating green legacy is a gracious gift and

a peculiar capacity to contribute a lot to the effort geared towards rescuing the planet.

Not only is Ethiopia advancing towards success in terms of promoting green legacy but it is also highly advocating its diplomatic move since it has always been willing to resolve disparities solely through dialog and close talks with the party whoever it may be.

Being bestowed with reform-minded leader, who didn't waste time to translate promises into practical actions, remarkable achievements have been recorded in terms of politics, in key economic sectors namely telecommunications, energy, air transport as well as regarding law enforcement operations.

It is also well recognized that a 20 year of hostility with neighboring Eritrea was sprinkled in vain following the recent reform. The political landscape is made wider and very legally operating opposition party has run a range of activities and rule of law is underscored.

As Ethiopians at home and abroad are working hand in glove with each other more than ever before, and have prioritized stability for the smooth flow of all-encompassing national tasks, economic growth and democracy, the pace and breadth of myriads of changes are reinvigorating.

In sum, since Ethiopia is a nation of practice with diligent and ethical citizens, as well as it has becoming an ever-growing African star, it is now widely known for its capacity and commitment to convert promises into progress. Hence, many countries of the world particularly those of the African continent are expected to draw important lessons from it.

Opinion

Ethiopia celebrates a double victory on GERD

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

In the midst of untold conspiracy and orchestra of protracted propaganda on the nation, Ethiopians are celebrating the third round of filling GERD and 370MW hydroelectric power generation from turbine 10 of GERD with greater jubilation and ululation.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has officially announced the completion of the third round of filling GERD and the generation of the 370MW of electric power from turbine number 10 of the dam adding up to 540MW of electric power so far produced.

Indeed GERD is already becoming worthy of its name as a grand dam because each of the 16 turbines produce 375 MW of electric power which is normally produced by an average hydroelectric power. For instance Tekeze Hydroelectric Dam produces 300MW less than electric power produced by a single turbine at GERD. Moreover, Gibe 1 Hydroelectric Power Dam produces 184MW of power far less than what is produced by a single turbine at GERD.

GERD is rightly named the Renaissance Dam because it is a flagship dam that is already heralding a rebirth and the uplifting of the nation which is so visible on the horizon. Ethiopia has managed to pass through a number of challenges

before GERD has reached to this stage.

The country is able to finance the dam in the midst of economic challenges which surfaced due to the onset of COVID19 and unjustifiable economic sanctions on the nation and global economic recession as well as the propaganda war on the country and lack of peace in different parts of Ethiopia.

Egypt and Sudan constructed their own dams on the Nile without ever caring to consult Ethiopia which is the source of their hydroelectric power producing 87% of the water resources.

Today, however they continued to mobilize international pressure on Ethiopia to sign a binding agreement which puts the whole responsibility of ensuring their water supply on Ethiopia. They mobilized the UNSC, Arab League, EU, the USA and major international organizations to prevent the construction of GERD which was in fact being built in line with the provisions of the DoP and international law on the utilization of Trans Boundary Rivers.

Egypt started the construction of the Toshka Project in January 1998. The New Valley Project or Toshka Project consists of building a system of canals to carry more than 750,000 hectares of land will be developed to settle 3 million Egyptians in the area water from Lake Nasser to irrigate part of the sandy wastes of the

Western Desert of Egypt, which is part of the Sahara Desert.

The project is meant to develop an irrigation canal which would extend from Lake Nassir to Sinai Desert in which 3 million Egyptians would be resettled. The project is also called New Nile Civilization from which 20 million Egyptians are expected to benefit.

Another ultramodern city compared to Cairo is expected to emerge from this project. Imagine, Egypt has never sent a word to Ethiopia informing the government about this project and yet they blow dust here and there in a bid to pressurize a binding agreement document on GERD prepared for ensuring the vested interest of Sudan and Egypt in a gross miscarriage of justice.

Egypt and Sudan are well aware of the reality on the ground pertaining to GERD. However they want to drag Ethiopia into a negotiation that is far from being genuine but intended to bog down the process into endless polemics to no end.

Hereafter, the propaganda war on GERD and Ethiopia will no more remain on the issue of the dam but will shift to the continued process of destabilization of the country as they have so far doing. They will continue to support and assist terrorist and *Copa Banda* forces in the country to derail the nation from the intended development program but to focus only

on issues of security and peace.

In his recent barrage of false accusation and misinformation on GERD and Ethiopia, Abas Sharaki, Professor of Geology and Water Resources at the University of Cairo twitted "Ethiopia has built the dam without conducting comprehensive engineering studies" trying to show that the construction of the dam came out of the blue. The truth is Ethiopia has shared the entire project document and detailed engineering blue print even before the construction of the dam saw the light of day.

He tried to misinform the world noting that "The Ethiopian people will not benefit from this dam as they live above mountains and far from the dam by two thousand meters. He added that Ethiopia does not have an internal electricity network, but aims to sell the electricity only generated from the dam."

The professor seems to note that all Ethiopians live on mountains and exposed his ignorance of the most elementary knowledge on the geography of Ethiopia and the country's eco-system and geological formation.

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

Business & Economy

Efforts of Ethiopia to increase coffee marketability

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Ethiopia is the home of Arabica and the world's fifth largest Coffee producer. At the same time it is the biggest producer in Africa. Almost 50% of the Ethiopian coffee is consumed domestically and the market is expected to show a steady growth.

Experts say that the diversity of Ethiopia's coffee is unique and is finest, in terms of quality, beating coffee producing countries. However, farmers and plantation owners have not been able to get the returns they deserve, mainly due to lack of technology, lack of variety of beans and improper distribution. Recent government initiatives in favor of the export business have helped in improving the scenario to change.

Because of the chain of problems in the sector, the revenue generated in the Ethiopian Coffee Business and its brand value has mainly been affected by the legal framework for exports. Due to the value of Ethiopian coffee all over the world, the Ethiopian government has been emphasizing on its trade through commodity exchange, which simply, cannot survive without coffee. Recent changes in Legislature have given the Commodity Market and a few government-approved cooperatives the authority to grade all the coffee by quality and trade it accordingly. This effort helped to curb the interaction between hundreds of small local cherry-processing stations with foreigners. The valuation they got from these customers added value to their product. However, Starbucks- the world's biggest specialty coffee company and many others, buy Ethiopian coffee through the exchange. Starbuck's Ethiopia Sidamo blend hails from the country's southernmost region. The market is also affected by advancements in technology and the increasing variety of seeds available globally.

On the basis of type, the Coffee Market has been traditionally divided into three main types- Arabica, Robusta and Liberica. Production as well as consumption of Robusta and Liberica varieties, is almost negligible.

On the basis of the end product, it can be divided into Coffee Powder, Pod, Capsule, Dips, etc. However, the processed forms are less popular than the whole, roasted coffee beans, which are available throughout the country in abundance. On the basis of the market, the divisions are domestic and international. The revenue generated by Ethiopia's coffee exported internationally is greater than that due to local consumption by manifolds.

Yes, coffee: Ethiopia's main agricultural crop accounts for over a quarter of all export earnings and providing income for about 15 million people, most of them are small holder farmers. The coffee industry in Ethiopia supports small and medium-sized enterprises as well as larger exporting, trading and shipping businesses.

According to performance report Ethiopian Arabica coffee exports account for 25-30% of the region's total export revenue. Ethiopia



Ethiopia participated in the Coffee Tasting Program organized by the International Trade Centre /ITC/ in Geneva, Switzerland

Ethiopia alone accounts for 29% of the African coffee trade- being the largest producer of Coffee in the continent. Large Global Brewing Giants in the developed countries are regular customers of Ethiopian Coffee

alone accounts for 29% of the African coffee trade- being the largest producer of Coffee in the continent. Large Global Brewing Giants in the developed countries are regular customers of Ethiopian Coffee. The United States of America, Belgium, Spain, France Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and Sudan are the major importers of the Ethiopian Arabica coffee.

Above all, there are many distinct growing regions throughout Ethiopia, with the most common ones as follows: Yirgacheffe, Sidamo, Harrar, Bebeke, Teppi, Limu, Jimma, Illubabor, Nekemtie, Wellega, Gimbi. Of the lists Yirgacheffe, Harrar and Sidama are the most well-known regional areas where coffee is harvested.

In bid to widen the marketability and letting international firms to know the taste and flavor of Ethiopia of late, Ethiopia participated in the Coffee Tasting Program organized by the International Trade Centre /ITC/ in Geneva, Switzerland that gave an opportunity to increase the marketing.

Zenebe Kebede, Ambassador, Extraordinary, Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva attended and made an opening remark at the program.

Ambassador Zenebe appreciated Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, for the invitation rendered to him to make an opening remark on this important event that focused on coffee, a beverage that is very close to all Ethiopians' heart.

He thanked ITC for its continued commitment and support of Ethiopia through several projects and creation of opportunities.

Ambassador Zenebe pointed out the historical origin of coffee; the unique

attachment of Ethiopians to coffee; Ethiopia's geographical ideal location for coffee production; coffee's role in Ethiopian culture and social fabrics; its significant contribution to the country's economy; its importance in protecting the country's forests and woodlands diversity; the challenges and obstacles of Ethiopian coffee agronomy; as well as the government's comprehensive strategy to boost the coffee sector.

Regarding the recent comprehensive strategy of the Government, Ambassador Zenebe mentioned that the government's targets to address the dire challenges and to increase Ethiopia's coffee export to 4.6 billion USD within 15 years, to increase the farmers' income to reach to 3.5 billion USD and generate employment opportunity for 2.7 million people and its global market share to grow to 1.26 million MT by 2033.

As Ethiopia is in the process of acceding to the WTO, Amb Zenebe requested ITC to continue its all rounded technical and project-based support for the prompt completion of the country's accession process. On the program, Ethiopian coffee entire ceremony was presented and served to the audiences.

The Coffee Tasting Program was attended by Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of ITC, Marcel Vernooij, and Deputy Permanent Representative of The Netherlands to WTO, Ambassadors, Diplomats and other dignitaries.

Coffee probably began to be exported from the country as early as the 17th century, though trade didn't become significant until the 19th century. Today, one can't overstate the importance of coffee to the country's economy. An estimated 15 million Ethiopians are employed by the coffee industry, and Ethiopia is hugely reliant of coffee as a major source of revenue: it accounts for close to 70% of all export earnings.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Military diplomacy capacitates Ethiopia to fight terrorism

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

Contemporary world history tells that Ethiopia is among the leading countries that have been striving for enduring peace of the global population. Various regional, continental and global peacekeeping missions are notable testimonies of this fact.

Ethiopia can be known as a peace-desiring nation for coordinating various countries to this end with due respect of their sovereign rights. In recent years, Ethiopia deployed its national army under the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) in order to fight terrorism in Somalia. This effort tended to avert terrorists' ambition of affecting peace and destabilizing countries in the region as well as in the continent.

In this regard, Ethiopia conducts military diplomacy and has signed various security agreements with most of the countries located in the eastern African region. Countries like Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Burundi among others have peace and security cooperation with Ethiopia.

As any world country that carries out military diplomacy aimed at averting security problems afar, Ethiopia works in the area represented by its defense staff and civil authorities in line with its foreign policy. Even in the past few weeks, chiefs of the national army discussed mutual concerns with their counterparts in Somalia and Somaliland. These efforts have enabled the nation to play its decisive role in preventing violence and terrorism, especially in the fight against Al-Shabaab.

Briefing the media on the latest developments on 6 August 2022, State Minister of the Government Communications Service Selamawit Kassa said that the country has achieved remarkable results in fostering military diplomacy with neighboring countries in terms of ensuring peace and security in the region. For Selamawit, the military diplomacy gain has enabled the nation to undertake successful military action against the Al-Shabab militants.

It is to be recalled that the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) jointly with the Somali Region Special Force has taken military action against Al-Shabab militants who tried to encroach the territory of Ethiopia. In this regard, the fruit of the military diplomacy has been clearly demonstrated in this operation when the government of Somalia blocked its door to the retreating militants of the terrorist group. And so Somalia supported the operation taken by Ethiopia, Selamawit said, attributing such actions to the flourishing military diplomacy with neighboring nations.

In relation to this, the Ministry of Defense announced that it has foiled the conspiracy of Al-Shabaab targeting Ethiopia. ENDF Head of Army Deployment Unit and Acting Coordinator of the Tentative Command post in Somali Regional State Major General Tesfaye Ayalew said that the joint forces of ENDF and Somali Regional state special force annihilated the terrorist group that attempted to attack Ethiopia from three fronts.

The joint force has explored and captured the weapons and other military luggage hidden at Elkere, Somali Regional state, by

Al-Shabaab for terrorism. The national army is currently chasing and capturing remnants of the terrorist group. The group attempted an attack on Ethiopia induced by a wrong conjecture that the country is languishing in internal difficulties. Major General Tesfaye noted that the securities should go on standby for any other attempt of attack refraining from any self-absorption on the shining victory achieved over the terrorist group.

In related news, the ENDF is annihilating terrorists in the Oromia region that the Al-Shabaab has been trying to coordinate with for its terrorism ambition. Accordingly, some 333 militants of the terrorist *Shene* have been destroyed and other 671 individuals are arrested and under investigation in connection with complicity with the outlawed group.

These days the country is absorbed in strengthening its military diplomacy, security system, and military power side by side with its development efforts. Human resource capacity building, installation of advanced military equipment and technology, institutionalization, and consolidation of military cooperation with other countries are some of the works being conducted under the Ministry of Defense during the reform period.

The Ethiopian Air Force, for instance, has been reorganized and become independent of any political and ethnic affiliations after the reform, Air Force Chief Lieutenant General Yilma Merdassa said recently. Hence, it is modernizing and enhancing its capacity based on the merits and competencies of professionals.

National Defense Force Chief of Staff Field Marshal Beranu Jula said that the country is building a huge military that is scared by enemies. The Ethiopian Air Force has been rebuilt in a way that it can defend the sovereignty and dignity of the country.

Field Marshal Berhanu pointed out that significant improvement has been made in infrastructure and human resources development. The government is also working to make the air force to become the first in Africa by maintaining existing aircraft, purchasing up to date aircraft, planes and helicopters, and training pilots. Ethiopia's army is not only built to ensure peace in the country but also to regional security. The success of Ethiopian peacekeeping army deployed in Somalia is a current testimony of this effort.

While on the subject of this mission, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), a multidimensional mission (military, police and civilian), authorized by the African Union and mandated by the United Nations Security Council has replaced AMISOM as of April 2022.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Defense announced yesterday that the 6th Round Ethiopian Peacekeeping Army that had been fighting terrorism in South Western Somalia under AMISOM was replaced by new Ethiopian troops after the reconfiguration of AMISOM as ATMIS.

AMISOM Sector Three Army Commander in Chief Brigadier General Zewdu Setargie said during the handing over ceremony of the peacekeeping mission that the sector has played its due role of ensuring the security



of the Somali people. He mentioned the recently held peaceful election of Somalia as an example of the success of the mission.

The succeeding ATMIS Sector Three Army Chief Brigadier General Besfat Fentie pledged that his Command will capably accomplish ATMIS's mission and consolidate the successes achieved by the predecessor under AMISOM.

Ethiopia has been the long-time peace ally of Somalia and this alliance shall consolidate for the common interests of the two nations in ensuring security and economic growth. It is this ambition that was reflected when Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonen discussed with Balal Mohamed Osman, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia in July 2022.

In their discussion, Demeke stressed that the two countries should step up their efforts, particularly in the fight against terrorism, while noting the various areas in which the governments of the two countries should cooperate.

The acting foreign minister of Somalia, Balal Mohamed Osman, on his part, stated that the country's new administration has given peace the topmost priority and that it would continue to cooperate with Ethiopia in this regard. The minister pointed out that the partnership of the two countries should be strengthened in the efforts to destroy the Al-Shabaab terrorist group.

Not only Somalia, Ethiopia is also reaffirming its commitment to cooperate with various countries in ensuring bilateral and regional security. Djibouti, Kenya, South Sudan, Burundi are some of the nations in which Ethiopia renewed its commitment in 2022 to work together in the area of military diplomacy.

Ethiopia and Djibouti had inked an agreement in March, 2022, to work together on border security, peacekeeping and other areas. The pact was signed at the end of the 9th Ethio-Djibouti Defense Chiefs of Staff meeting held at the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

ENDF Chief of Staff Field Marshal Birhanu Jula and his Djiboutian counterpart General Zakaria Cheikh Ibrahim signed the agreement that aims to scale up cooperation between the defenses forces of the two countries. Accordingly, the two sides agreed to jointly work on border patrols, step up information exchange, counter-terrorism and peacekeeping operations.

The agreement signed for strategic, technical

cooperation between the two nations will pave the way for regional peace and security. The two countries will be at the forefront to consolidate their role in peacekeeping missions, Field Marshal Birhanu said.

On March, 2022, the ENDF and its South Sudanese counterpart agreed to share experience in logistics, and capacity-building and cooperate in border security issues. This was learned when Deputy Chief of ENDF L. General Abebaw Tadesse met with South Sudanese counterpart, Lt.Gen.Thoi Chany Reath.

Ethiopia has also agreed to collaborate with Burundi in military spheres, according to the Government Communication Service. This was unveiled by Government Communication Service Minister Legesse Tulu following the February 2022 talks between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and President Evariste Ndayishimiye of Burundi.

The information obtained from the Ethiopian Embassy in Kenya indicated that Ethiopia and Kenya also renewed an agreement to strengthen their cooperation in the military spheres. The Chief of Staff of the ENDF Field Marshal Berhanu Jula and the Kenyan Chief of the Defense Forces General Robert Kariuki Kibochi held talks in Nairobi on 30 March during which the two agreed to take lead to strengthen the East Africa Standby Force (EASF) and work together for mutual peace and security.

During the discussion, the two chiefs of staff also agreed to work together on various bilateral and regional peace and security issues. There is a favorable circumstance and opportunity for Ethiopia and Kenya to work together in areas of peace and security as well as training, according to Field Marshal Berhanu.

Both Ethiopia and Kenya are part of ESAF, a regional organization mandated to "enhance peace and security in the Eastern Africa region" and is one of the five regional multidimensional Forces of the African Standby Force (ASF) consisting of Military, Police and Civilian components. Among others, ASF can provide rapid deployment of forces to carry out preventive deployment, rapid intervention, peace support or stability operations and peace enforcement.

To wrap up, if Ethiopia wants to prevail over the fruits of its military diplomacy in creating a peaceful region, it needs to add more efforts in order to implement peace and security agreements. It is this way the country would capably avert cross-border crimes, mainly the terrorist attacks inflicted by Al-Shabaab and other organizations of similar kind.

Law & Politics

GERD is a symbol of Ethiopian unity and resilience

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

The past few weeks have shown us that the Ethiopian year 2014 is ending with great joy and satisfaction for Ethiopians. Memorable victories have been scored in the athletics sphere, the security and diplomacy fields and the completion of certain projects. Before the glory of the triumph of Oregon with the senior athletics team has waned a new triumph was recorded in Cali, Colombia where the under twenty team excelled in yet another round of competitions. Ethiopians were thrilled and particularly delighted by these exploits also because lately the country has been under lots of pressure in the diplomatic, economic and security spheres.

Ethiopia has become particular focus of many international actors not least because of its geo-political position in the Horn of Africa and as an influential actor in African affairs. Ethiopia's positive influence in African affairs is not new. It has been so for years beginning the colonial and even pre-colonial period as a country that has repelled every colonization attempt. In a way it has always been regarded as the standard bearer of African independence and sovereignty. Its history cannot, therefore, be dismissed lightly by any country.

Pressure has been mounting on it due to several factors. Following the change of government four years ago, the allies of the former regime do not seem to have received the changes wholeheartedly. The TPLF led government may have been comfortable to some countries but not for the large masses of Ethiopians who were subjected to various forms of suffering. The reformist government dismissed many of the policies that the former government used to follow and adopted a more autonomous stand in many circles.

Ethiopia had to defend itself from the attacks of forces attached to the deposed leadership and party. This has cost the country immense resources and sacrifices. The diplomatic and economic cost was also enormous. Even its traditional allies seemed to have turned their face against Ethiopia. In this regard one of the most controversial subjects was the country's flag project, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, GERD.

This project was intended to open a new chapter in the history and economy of the country because it enables the exploitation of one of the greatest potentials of the country. It was a project that had been studied and planned to be launched decades ago but Ethiopia was never granted any loans to cover the costs and the country did not have the financial muscles to embark on the project alone. The influence Egypt has exerted on all international financial institutions and even governments that may have shown willingness to help Ethiopia were forced to abandon their intention not to clash with Egyptians. All this has to do with the mentality of Egyptians who have always considered the Nile River as their

private property and no one should help Ethiopia construct a dam on the river.

However, Egypt and its allies seem to forget that by all international practice and custom Ethiopia is fully entitled to use parts of the water that originates in its sovereign territory like any other country in the world would do. The claim that

There are no restrictions on Ethiopia's advance towards an industrial age with the generation of thousands of megawatts of clean hydro energy vital for its economic expansion

Egypt is the owner of the Nile is not only a myth that has been convenient for Egyptian politicians to believe in and sustain but it is also clearly contrary to the tangible reality on the ground. Egypt knows that the fact that it has been using the Nile water undisturbed for centuries does not make it the owner. Attempts to justify such ownership through colonial treaties can only be ridiculous given the times even if certain Egyptian politicians seem not to have awakened from their deep slumber.

Ethiopia has invited the most acknowledged water experts and facilitated studies on the water regime. They have witnessed the fact that the GERD is being constructed does not in any way affect the flow of the water because it is during the rainy season when there is excessive water coming down through the river that it intends to fill the dam. The fillings carried out up to now testify to this fact.

Ethiopia is a huge country with more than one hundred twenty million population and it has all the right to use every bit of its natural resources to change the lives of its citizens. There are no restrictions on Ethiopia's advance towards an industrial age with the generation of thousands of megawatts of clean hydro energy vital for its economic expansion. With more than sixty percent of its population in the dark would there be any one to blame Ethiopia for embarking on such a project?

In the past eleven years Ethiopia has been subjected to various forms of pressure not to proceed with the GERD. Allies of Egypt and others who have subscribed to the false claims of Egypt have continued to criticize Ethiopia because of the GERD. They forget that the GERD is not a simple hydropower project only. The GERD is also a symbol of Ethiopian unity as a nation and a symbol of resilience. Ethiopians of all walks of life have contributed for the construction with all their means to fill the gap international financial agencies refused to fill. Here the international pressure is obvious and it had to be overcome with the unity of Ethiopians who were resolute to build the dam with the country's resources only.

The end of 2014 in this sense is a critical juncture because just a few days ago the second turbine of the dam has begun to officially generate electricity! It was the prime minister who symbolically turned the button and launched the operation. At the same time the third filling of the dam has also ended successfully even earlier than the predicted date. This is another testimonial that the GERD is no obstacle to the share of water to Egypt and Sudan. Rather they must be grateful to Ethiopia because it has helped them regulate the flow and avoid excessive flooding. Besides they will be enjoying enough water during the drier seasons as the dam continues to release water after generating the necessary power. Hence it is a double success for Ethiopia these days added to the glowing success of the national athletic teams. People who do not feel friendly with

Ethiopia may be disappointed to see the name Ethiopia rise up internationally in all the important news media positively, but it is a source of enormous pride and satisfaction for Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia.

Furthermore, the end of 2014 has also brought success in the security and law enforcement spheres because the attempt by Al-Shabaab and its allies to penetrate in the country's territory and incur damages has been halted by Ethiopian security forces that neutralized them. Many surrendered while others fled leaving their arms behind. Ethiopia has been challenged by terrorist forces in multiple areas and it knows that there is also the collaboration of foreign hands in these endeavors but the resilient Ethiopian security forces have repelled all of these assaults. The government has said more will be done until the threat is completely reversed.

The ministry of defense has given statements in this regard and its forces are always alert in maintaining peace and stability in the country. It is known that several attempts have been made to disrupt the completion of the GERD and Ethiopian security forces have been vigilantly guarding all the routes that take to the GERD and facilitating the transport of material needed for the project as they were a source of continuous attacks and incursions. But all this has not blocked the smooth continuation of the project and it has now reached its current status. The project general manager was saying the other day that within a couple of years and a half the entire project will be complete. This shows how resolute the country is to finish with this project while continuing to try and convince those who oppose the project about its advantages even to them.

The GERD is a symbol of Ethiopian unity and resilience because it has resisted every form of pressure aimed to hamper its construction. Ethiopians have developed the conviction to carry out this project on their own. They know that once complete the GERD will be a game changer. It will be the launching pad of the new economic trajectory of the country and even the sub-region. Experts have given their positive assessment of the project witnessing that the latest technological techniques have been used in the construction of both its civil engineering parts as well as its electrical parts. Hence they have dismissed doubts about the safety of the dam and its solid basement.

Ethiopia continues to call for the full collaboration of all those who have adverse opinions on the GERD. It has once again invited riparian nations to come to the table and continue with the negotiations because Ethiopia is sincere in its move to live up to the legitimate expectations of all concerned with this project. It is intended to be a win-win project and not one that is made to benefit only Ethiopians. It will also serve as a vehicle of integration among neighbors because it avails clean energy at cheaper prices.

Society

Supporting rebuilding and restoring activities of damaged facilities

BY STAFF REPORTER

Following the offensive acts the T-TPLF group launched a year ago against Amhara and Afar states, the insurgents of the faction have caused deaths to thousands of innocent civilians, looted and destructed properties worth fortunes, and displaced millions of people.

Both public and private facilities, including health care providing facilities, medical supply storage units and education institutions which were built at a high cost and providing services for the multitude of people have been vandalized and looted by the terrorist group. Even huge machineries and plants that cannot be easily transported had been deliberately burned, broken and damaged by the group to make them out of order in a manner it seems retaliation.

As a result, even after the insurgents defeated and driven out of the areas, the communities were challenged with regard to obtaining proper healthcare services and sending their children to schools as usual owing to the damages.

Especially, those people with a great need of basic and emergency medical care services were challenged hugely.

However, subsequent to the intervention of various actors, government, non-government organizations, partners, the diaspora community, individuals among others, some



of the facilities which were demolished and became fully and partially inoperative have become functional and started rendering services; of course a lot remains to be done.

Dessie Referral Hospital and Kombolcha Hospital which partially began operation after being damaged by the group can be mentioned in this regard.

Recently, Amhara State Health Bureau has announced that health facilities which were vandalized and wrecked by the T-TPLF has commenced providing services to the communities for the reason effective reconstruction and restoration activities have been carried out, as ENA reported.

This was revealed at a consultation forum held in Bahir-Dar Town to reorient and sensitize

the level of the problem and strengthen the support and collaboration of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

According to Bureau Head Dr. Melkamu Abete following the invasion of T-TPLF the health sector suffered a lot.

He also mentioned challenges faced from the beginning of the existential war concerning to allocating human resources in treating and rescuing victims, provision of medicines.

He pointed out that as the war intensified, the terrorist group destroyed and plundered health facilities in all the areas they reached, to put the communities in trouble by destroying the facilities and affecting access to healthcare services.

Subsequent to group's defeat in various parts of the State, effective restoration and rehabilitation activities were carried out in reconstructing health facilities, allocating manpower, supplying medicines and medical supplies in the liberated areas.

As a result, including maternal and child health care services, it was possible to access basic health care services to the people. The role partner organizations have played in this regard is immense, he remarked.

Mentioning that the current Ethiopian budget year is a year that needed the collaboration and cooperation of every individual to sustainably rebuild and restored health facilities that were damaged by the T-TPLF faction, he underlined the importance of further strengthening support.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Director at the Bureau, Dr. Moges Asmare on his part said mentioning the outcome of study, the cost that the plunder and damage came to happen on 1,107 health facilities by T-TPLF resulted in over 13 billion Birr.

However, due to the speedy intervention made by the top leadership, setting up a committee and a team that is led by the leadership to study the damage; it was possible to save the lives of many citizens, he added.

The effort and the concerted hands of all stakeholders and partners have enabled health facilities to restore; build their capacity and to have better performance.

In a paper he presented, Bureau's Resource Mobilization, Management and Partnership Director Addis Abebaw said that as the participation of the people in the State was high. In addition, partner organizations working in the health sector have carried out exemplary activities. By promptly establishing and deploying 97 mobile medical teams each has six members, they carried out encouraging activities.



Published on every Tuesday in cooperation
with the Federal Ministry of Education

Rebuilding war-torn schools of Afar, Amhara

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

In the past year, Ethiopia has faced a number of challenges from both internal and external forces. The war burst out on the north part of the country when the Terrorist Tigray People Liberation Front (T-TPLF) group refused to live under the umbrella of the nation's constitution.

It is the fact that the war has affected several places in Amhara and Afar States. The T-TPLF has destroyed a number of infrastructures coupled with committing heinous crimes on Amhara and Afar people.

The conflict has torn facilities into pieces that most infrastructures such as schools, hospitals and bridges were destroyed. In order to reconstruct those infrastructures and help the people to live normal life, priorities should be set. One of the main priorities for the government is re-establishing schools so that children can start their learning without missing their time to learn. That is the reason why the ministry has determined to work with multiple stakeholders to reconstruct schools.

Consequently, Education Minister Prof. Berhanu Nega has recently visited schools which were destroyed by the terrorist group in Amhara State, North Wollo Zone, Mersa Town and put the foundation stone in Melkacheffa Primary and Middle School for reconstruction.



At the event, he said that the terrorist group's main focus was to destroy schools and infrastructures. This implies that the terrorist group knew that educated people will not let anybody to put the shackle of ignorance on them; therefore, their main targets were schools.

After observing those 1,300 destroyed schools, the ministry has planned to rebuild modern and better environment with full school packages, said the Minister disclosing it is financed by Menschen für Menschen, a nongovernmental organization.

Besides, these re-constructed schools will incorporate both academic and a life

skill places so that students will be able to assist themselves. These schools will have agricultural and other handcraft departments.

"The focal point for the future system of our schools will be parents. Accordingly, parents coupled with the society play the lion share," he said reaffirming that follow up and observation would be done by the ministry, and this particular school would be the first of its kind.

And Melkacheffa Primary and Middle School teachers witnessed that teaching aids and equipment were destroyed by T-TPLF. "It was hard to teach the students although

we have exerted our utmost efforts to finish the annual teaching and learning within six months. By the help of parents and the community, we have resumed teaching."

Equally, the Minister and other stakeholders have visited war affected schools in Afar State and have laid a foundation stone to reconstruct Chifra Primary and Middle School. Minister Berhanu went to Afar to pay a visit to those war affected schools in the state Chifra Woreda.

The minister noted that rebuilding schools does not need special time. It should be constructed in any season. The Terrorist TPLF commit heinous crime on Afar people by destroying infrastructure, Berhanu mentioned.

He noted that the ministry is working mainly on rebuilding war affected schools. This new Chifra Primary and Middle School is built on new place which is around 60,000 square meters. It will incorporate everything that students and the society need like sport grounds, agriculture fields and meeting halls.

At last, Menschen für Menschen has promised to construct 10 schools in different places including Chifra School. It plans to rebuild four schools in Afar, Country Representative disclosed reaffirming: "We do not lay a foundation stone anymore; rather, we directly start constructing."

International News

Kenya gets historic number of female governors from August 9 vote

The rise in female governors from Tuesday's vote is a small but significant improvement over 2017, when three women were elected as governors.

A Kenyan woman casts her ballot as police officers look on at a polling station during the Kenya's general election at St. Stephen School in the informal settlement of Mathare in Nairobi, Kenya, on August 9, 2022.

Nairobi, Kenya – At least seven of Kenya's 47 incoming governors are women, compared with only three in the last government, according to results from the country's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

The official outcome of the country's August 9 presidential elections remains unknown as of Saturday afternoon, but from the 42 confirmed county results, there seems to be history in the making.

While tallying is ongoing in most constituencies across the country, women have also won six of the 290 seats in the incoming National Assembly so far.

Despite nearly half of registered voters in the country being women, very few female



leaders actually hold elective positions in Kenya.

A constitutional provision introduced a

"two-thirds rule" in 2010 to enable more women to get into leadership positions and tone down male dominance in politics. But

that has barely had any effect until now.

In the build-up to the elections, dozens of female candidates were attacked during campaigns, according to the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association.

The rise in female governors from Tuesday's vote is a small but significant improvement over 2017, when three women were elected as governors. There is likely to be another push to implement the two-thirds gender rule, analysts say.

The seven female governor-elects are Susan Kihika (Nakuru County), Gladys Wanga (Homabay County), Cecily Mbarire (Embu County), Wavinya Ndeti (Machakos County), and Fatuma Achani (Kwale County), Kawira Mwangaza (Meru County) and Anne Waiguru (Kirinyaga County).

Mwangaza won as an independent candidate in Meru state.

So far, IEBC has also declared six women who have won MP seats and one senator.

"Thank you Homabay," Wanga tweeted on Friday. "It's now onwards and upwards for our people."

Source: AFP



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES - FIRMS SELECTION)

Ethiopia

Access to Distributed Electricity and Lighting in Ethiopia Project

Credit No. IDA-68570-ET

Assignment Title: Consultancy service for preparation of EPC bidding documents, tendering assistance, construction supervision and monitoring for mini grid works (ADELE component 2)

Reference No. EEU-PPMO-OGU/ADELE/ICB-001

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of Access to Distributed Electricity and Lighting in Ethiopia Project (Component 2: Solar hybrid mini grids for rural economic development) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include to provide assistance to the Client/

OGU during EPC contract bidding document preparation, tendering processes, review of the contractors' drawings and the technical specification of equipment's and during the project implementation to ensure quality of equipment's and works, supervision and monitoring of construction works, with professionals of resident project manager, procurement specialist, Solar PV mini grid experts and supervisors. The consultancy service is implemented for 12 months from contract signing date, expected start date of assignment is March 1, 2023.

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment can be obtained by e-mailing to the address given below.

The Ethiopian Electric Utility now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

Item	Descriptions
1	General experience of firm for the consultancy services shall have a minimum of 10 years in the consultancy business and evidence shall be provided.
2	The firm must be highly qualified with similar consultancy experience with minimum of 5 years in the energy sector on off-grid/ mini grid system management, development, implementation and supervision of solar projects that has energy storage systems and diesel generator with distribution network system in the last 10 years. The firm has to provide at least one successful completion certificates for similar assignment.
3	Organizational structure and staffing availability of appropriate skills for solar mini grid systems development, supervision and monitoring with professional key staff numbers
4	Years of establishment of the consulting firm, Brochures that show company profile, capability status (Annual turnover) shall be submitted.

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" fourth edition November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. The consultant shall keep all documents prepared for the client remain property of the client and need to be kept confidential.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the quality and cost base selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours

- Monday- Thursday 8:00-12:00 to 13:00- 17:00 hours
- Friday: 8:00-11:30 to 13:30 - 17:00 hours

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, courier, or by email) by August 30, 2022

EEU-PPMO procurement logistic warehouse and Facility office

Mrs. Salma Negash

(Ethiopian Electric Utility, PPMO procurement logistic warehouse and Facility manager)

Berges Building near Iri Bekentu Bridge, 3rd floor, Room No. 301

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: +251111275503/+251111263154

Email: salmanegash@gmail.com

Ethiopia Electric Utility

Planet Earth

Rewarding developing countries climate actions through debt swap

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

The world promised to fund 100 billion USD to support the climate action efforts of developing countries and as a reward for developing countries from the high carbon emission industrialized countries. But, the pledged fund remained a paper tiger, a mere promise which practically is unseen since it depends on the commitment and goodwill of the developed world.

Since the agreement lacks enforcement mechanism to mobilize the promised and agreed fund, the developing world is suffering from the climate change and their climate actions activities are dependent to their limited economic capacity.

The developing countries, striving to fulfill the basic needs of their citizens even during a normal situation, the outbreak of the COVID-19 and currently the Russia-Ukraine War exacerbates the economic situations of these countries. These developments in the world are badly affecting the development initiatives and economic activities of the developing and poor countries.

On top of this, climate change is worsening from time to time and affecting the economy, development efforts and adding new catastrophes for the developing world countries and citizens. The floods, droughts, Desert Locust swarms, shortage of rainfall and other natural disasters due to climate change are consuming economies and lives in the developing world.

Carrying all these natural and man-made multidimensional challenges and problems, developing countries are struggling both to fulfill the basic needs of their citizens as well as investing in natural protection by reducing some of the budgets from the basic needs they can provide to their citizens. By doing so, the natural protection and conservation efforts in the developing countries at the expense of their internal economic development are saving the world from further climate related impacts.

Though the countries of the developing world are fighting against climate changes at the expense of their economic developments, the climate actions and green investments in the developing world is constrained by dire economic situations. Especially, the recent developments in the world are exacerbating both the economic situations and the climate actions in the developing world. Parallel to these global developments, the developing world countries are on high crisis in paying their debts. The debtors are from the developed world and mostly those expected to fund the 100 billion climate finance sources.

With all these challenges that the developing world countries are facing in addition to their limited economic capacities, the world is expecting more actions in the climate sector including in reducing carbon



emissions, protecting natural forests and investing in green energy sources without providing sufficient supports. Even the developed world never considers the debt payment mechanisms for the developing world. Hence, debt payment during this time is an additional headache for the developing countries and surely affecting their climate actions.

Taking in to account all these natural and manmade global developments and the necessity of investing on climate action, what is the world considers debt swap as one mechanism of climate financing in the developing world instead of promising unpractical funds in the climate sector?

Ethiopia is not an exception in facing all these crises and challenges, but remains an exception in applying greenery actions even during this difficult period. Though, the global developments including the impacts of climate change are affecting its economic development efforts including a severe drought that hits the Horn of African countries, parallel to striving to provide necessary basic needs for its citizens, the country gives due attention for climate action, both mitigation and adaptation measures.

Similar to other developing countries in addition to the above challenges, Ethiopia is facing serious challenges from heavy debt that the country borrowed from the developed world to facilitate its economic development endeavors. Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 that forced

for world-wide economic shrinks, the developing countries' economies are badly affected. The economic impacts of COVID-19 was severe in emerging economies and while these countries are striving to provide basic needs for their citizens affected by the impacts of the COVID-19, debt payment remains an additional challenge. Ethiopia is among these countries facing the multidimensional challenges.

But, Ethiopia's climate action efforts even during this challenging time remain exceptionally exemplary. Ethiopia successfully completed its four years Green Legacy initiative by planting over 25 billion seedlings. Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative launched in 2019 with the goal of planting four billion seedlings within four years period exceeds its plan by planting 25 billion trees. Only this season, in 2022 rainy season, Ethiopia planted over seven billion seedlings. To prepare and plant over 35 billion seedlings, Ethiopia invests billions of dollars in addition to mobilizing tens of millions of citizens.

Recently, Agriculture Minister Umer Hussen said that, Ethiopia increased nursery stations for seedling preparation from 27 thousand in 2019 to 130 thousand in 2022. This consumes huge budget and human resource. Green Legacy initiative of Ethiopia is one among its multidimensional climate actions and investments. Ethiopia achieved this huge target struggling with multidimensional challenges and crisis. Without a national spirit and government's commitment, this achievement is

unthinkable during this difficult time. Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative is launched to achieve Ethiopia's plan of increasing its forest coverage to 30 percent which stands around 17 percent currently, to meet global standard.

Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative is not an exceptional climate action of Ethiopia. Ethiopia is investing in expanding green energy development to produce green energy from renewable energy sources, hydro, solar, wind and geothermal sources. Ethiopia is investing tens of billions of dollars in green energy production including constructing the biggest dam in Africa which started its early production this year, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and other huge national projects.

But, the world refused even providing loans for these projects mainly for the GERD, which have the capacity of transforming Ethiopia's access to clean energy and achieve the target goals of the 2030s Sustainable Development Goals of Ethiopia. Still, with its limited economic capacity, Ethiopia is struggling to achieve these green projects in the energy sector.

At additional costs, the country's economic development gives due attention to building green economy in its development endeavors. Ethiopia invests in expanding industrial parks and its industrial parks gives due attention for environmental protection. With limited economy, the additional investments to build environmental friendly economic development are incurring extra expenses against the country.

As part of its commitment to minimize carbon emission in the transport sector, Ethiopia is introducing electric vehicles, which shows Ethiopia's multidimensional efforts in all sectors to build climate friendly national economy.

These investments in climate action are consuming huge national economy though the benefit is worldwide. Though the developed world has responsibility to fund and support such climate action initiatives and efforts in the developing world, not only remain silent in funding these initiatives but also remain a challenge by forcing the developing countries to pay debts during this difficult time.

Putting pressure on developing countries to pay debts during this difficult time is like a punishment for the developing countries, though they deserve rewards and additional funds. Hence, to promote the climate action efforts of developing nations, the developed world should consider debt swap as one mechanism of climate financing. Instead of shouting on unpractical climate funds and finances, debt cancelation and debt swap for countries actively engaged in nature and environmental protection should become as one mechanism of climate financing.