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Photo: Dagne Abera

Premier vehemently renews call for peaceful resolution

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said that, the government is committed to resolving all problems throughout the country peacefully as conflicts lead to failure and destruction.

Addressing the questions of youths in the national youths' discussion forum held under the theme of "the role of youths", the premier indicated that, with the support of anti-Ethiopia foreign forces, anti-peace elements like terrorist TPLF and *Shene* groups have been using all options to dismantle

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THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Diplomat, journalist register strong protest over Biden statement

Wag's T-TPLF resistance preserves legacy of repelling subjugation: Demeke

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Wag people's resistance to the Terrorist TPLF aggression is the replication of their forefathers/ mothers' legacy of repelling subjugation, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister said.

Delivering speech at the annual Shadey festival being held yesterday in Sekota town of the Amhara State, the DPM Demeke Mekonnen stated that, the Agew people have paid noble sacrifice to fend off the T-TPLF's aggression in a clear indication of the nourishment of the culture of fighting aggressors. The terrorist enterprise has committed grave atrocities on the Wag people and the latter has paid noble sacrifice to the sovereignty, dignity and freedom of Ethiopia that the future generations would



be proud of.

Noting there are still some areas of the Wag

Hemra Zone under the T-TPLF's occupation, the Foreign Minister highlighted that repeated efforts are being made to force the faction to leave the areas and prepare for peaceful solutions. "The group should prepare itself for peace talks and the people of Tigray also have a responsibility to push the party to a round table discussion and solve the problem in a peaceful manner."

Amhara State Chief Administrator Yilkal Kefale (PhD) said for his part that the most viable means to solve the conflict in northern Ethiopia is through dialogue and peace talks. "Today's festival is a celebration of the freedom for women, especially girls. The state administration is committed to work together with the federal government to make the festival a world heritage and attract global tourists thereby."

"Tigray-Genocide" premeditated cyber warfare against Ethiopia: GETFACTet

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The social media campaign "Tigray Genocide" has been identified as premeditated cyber warfare against Ethiopia in the age of social media, said GETFACTet, fact checker website.

The campaign popularized the "Tigray Genocide" narrative worldwide has been coordinated by non-military actors outside

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News



Photo: Gebabo Gebre

Addis offices ink agreement to provide quality service

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA-The Addis Ababa City Public Service and Human Resource Development Bureau said the partnership and connection among the city's various service providing institutions is key to render quality services and ensure good governance.

In her opening remark she made on the agreement the bureau concluded with various service providing offices of the Addis Ababa City Administration over the weekend, the Bureau Head Hikma Keyredin noted that the partnership would also have a paramount importance to avail an ethical service and ensure good governance in the city.

"It is crucial to create a smart city by applying technology that we have developed, address maladministration and ensure the development of the city and provide quality service in various offices. "We have to collaborate by connecting various offices together to provide quick, modern, reliable services and satisfy the city's public in all areas to achieve our plan."

"We will Build good governing institutions and create active workers and follow up their performance to ensure good services and governance to satisfy the public need." We need to work together via creating connections with the city's offices to satisfy the public demand and ensure development. In this aspect the main role players are leaders, she added.

Hikma further stated that, the bureau will create conducive environment and build hard workers to solve the society's grievances and address malpractices.

In the event, various city office heads signed an agreement to work together and created a linkage to improve the services provided in Addis Ababa from grass root to upper level administration.

The signatory parties highlighted that creating conducive work atmosphere ensures prosperity, good governance and better city. "Through this agreement, we will create a good atmosphere, active, committed and responsible workers."

The office made an agreement with health, social, and economic related offices of the city, it was learned.

Tigray mothers fleeing from T-TPLF self-imposed siege

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA - Ethnic Tigray mothers who have fleeing from the Terrorist TPLF's tyranny and sheltered in the Amhara state said the radical clique is immensely torturing the people of Tigray and forcing them to feed its combatants.

Approached by local media, those mothers stated that a very little portion of the federal government's humanitarian supplies is reached to the intended group and the T-TPLF capitalizes on the situation to bolster its war efforts.

A woman with a condition of anonymity said the radical faction is looting anything valuable in the homes of poor people that it claims to defend and represent. "No food aid is reaching us and the price of food, goods and services in Tigray has also further skyrocketed."

While the federal government is distributing the food and non-food items to the needy people of Tigray; the T-TPLF is diverting the support to enhance its war efforts at the expense of innocent civilians. "Those women and children who have fled



to Amhara are being beaten and labeled traitors by the terrorist clique and its loyalists."

"If we bring our children with us, they are not allowed us to pass to the Amhara Region and we left our children's behind there to keep them save them from torture," she added.

Another woman, who said a lot of Tigray mothers are traveling by foot to get to the Amhara Region, further labeled the

T-TPLF and its leaders as cold-blooded dictators. "Leaders of the criminal clique and its supporters have tagged the embattled Tigray mothers as traitors so as to facilitate their targeted attack."

It is to be recalled that over 61,800 metric tons of food and non-food items have been sent to Tigray from July 22 to August 9, 2022 by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC. Also, the commission sent over 300 million Birr in cash.

Sekota Declaration records promising result

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- Deputy Prime and Foreign Affairs Minister has stated that, the effective coordination and commitment of various sectors has helped some parts of the country that have been in difficult situations due to the war record encouraging results regarding nutritional improvement and reduction of stunting problem.

Speaking at the event organized to evaluate Seqota Declaration 2014 E.C performance in Seqota town yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen, said that crucial economic improvement, ensuring food security and nutritional intervention have



been well attained.

He said that, the Seqota Declaration roadmap is executed in three phases within 15 years period and realistic as well as sustainable collaborate work have been carried out towards that end.

He further said that, the federal institutions and concerned bodies have been exerting utmost effort and laid the foundation for getting children being stunt minimal.

"As some parts of the country, which are still in war and difficult situations are found themselves in a state of poverty, the coordinated effort of all is highly needed and the government has to attach due emphasis to the problem so as to curb the condition via intensifying program like the Seqota declarations thereby ensuring sustainable peace across the nation," he added.

It is to be recalled that Seqota Declaration is being implemented in Seqota Zone to end stunting of children less than two by 2030.

Ministry signs MoU to develop certificate authenticating software

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA-The Ministry of Labor and Skill has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Artificial Intelligence Institute aiming to develop certificate authenticating software.

The software will be powered to inspect Technical and Vocational Training certificate as fake credentials is expanding in the country.

During the signing ceremony, Labor and Skill Minister Muferiat Kamil said that, fake credentials have been growing from time to time.

Thus, having well-developed software



Photo: Hadush Abreha

See Ministry signs ... page 3

News

Diplomat, journalist register strong protest over Biden statement

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – A former U.S. diplomat Tibor Nagy and journalist Ann Garrison have registered strong protest over President Joe Biden's statement on the World Humanitarian Day.

Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Tibor Nagy has tweeted that: "Unfortunate that President Biden's statement on World Humanitarian Day limits mention of suffering in Ethiopia's Northern Conflict to only one region (Tigray state) since other regions have also been victimized. Wording matters!"

Journalist, Contributing Editor Black Agenda Report, Ann Garrison on her part said that, Biden mentions about merely Tigray state instead of discussed Ethiopia

on the World Humanitarian Day. It shows that, the Biden administration is clearly biased on standing the sideline of the terrorist TPLF aggression.

As to her, the Biden statement has denied the massive damages of properties in Amhara and Afar states due to terrorist TPLF attack.

It is to be recalled that Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported that, the massacres of hundreds of Ethnic Amhara in Mai-Kadra. It is the worst known episode of violence against innocent civilians in the depending bloodshed in the northern Ethiopia. In this regard, the victimized citizens said: "Militiamen, polices, and the youth drawn from Tigray state attacked us with guns and machetes." This horrible activity

was revealed by Amnesty International on Nov.09. 2020.

The massacre in Mai-Kadra, as confirmed by Amnesty International's East Africa Researcher, Fisseha Tekle, "hundreds of Amhara laborers were brutally murdered by retreating T-TPLF youth fighters known as Samre."

Furthermore, the terrorist group has also attacked the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) stationed in Tigray state on Nov.04, 2020. TPLF official, Sekutire Getachew acknowledges "pre-emptive strike" against Ethiopian federal troops in an interview, TPLF official, Sekutire Getachew acknowledges "lightening pre-emptive strike" against Ethiopian federal troops stationed in the Tigray state.

After the terrorist group attacked the northern command forces, invasion had been also carried out on the states of Amhara and Afar while the group has committed crime against humanity such as slaughtering and killing innocent civilians, displacing people, looting and destroying public and private properties in the stated areas.

Cognizant all that in mind, the terrorist group is still preparing for another round of senseless and bloodies war by recruiting child soldiers forcefully and the group always stands anti-peace, instead of drawing important lessons from its past mistakes. So far, neither the Biden Administration nor the westerns afraid to face the reality on the ground what things are happening in Ethiopia.

"Tigray-Genocide" ...

Ethiopia linked to the terrorist TPLF, the website revealed.

"Non-military actors outside Ethiopia were coordinating #TigrayGenocide cyber campaign that is linked to the TPLF military command preplanned military attack or "pre-emptive strike" on the Ethiopian military base.

The campaign has been playing a key part in the international community's response to Ethiopia, including U.S. foreign policy.

According to the findings of the GETFACTet, on the night of Nov 3rd and Nov 4th, 2020, 17 accounts were created, and the first "Tigray Genocide" hash tag tweet began on Nov 3 at 19:46 from one of these accounts, which is considered the genesis of the hash tag.

"The campaign was launched before and during the attack on thousands of Ethiopian

National Defense Forces (ENDF) stationed in Tigray, many of whom were massacred by terrorist TPLF forces while they slept.

The "TigrayGenocide" narrative was already circulating the international social media hubs long before Ethiopian forces responded to the attack by the T-TPLF that started the war and the ongoing humanitarian crisis," GETFACTet stated.

Upon closer examination of the numbers, approximately 184 additional accounts were created, with a total of 201 accounts being created nearly the same day on Nov 4th, pushing the "#TigrayGenocide" worldwide. This is the most significant number of accounts created to propagate the genocide narrative within a single day, according to the website.

Between Nov 5th - Nov 30th of 2020, nearly

1,633 cumulative new accounts opened and reached 75,581 "#TigrayGenocide" tweets.

After Nov 5th, daily new account creation declined by more than 80 percent, while retweets sharply increased which indicates the first 201 accounts created on Nov 4th were the ones driving the genocide hash tag for the consecutive months following the beginning of the conflict, GETFACTet stated.

"We uncovered a large percentage of the accounts tweeting "#TigrayGenocide" for the first two months were outside Ethiopia and concentrated in specific locations such as Melbourne-Australia, Colorado-USA, Enscheda-Netherland, and Islington-London," the website quoted researchers.

The fact the #TigrayGenocide began on the night of Nov 3th-4th during the terrorist TPLF attack, during the electric blackout,

even before the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) response, clearly shows that non-military actors outside Ethiopia were coordinating the cyber-attack with military action in Tigray. This campaign was designed to distract the international community and shape the public perception of the actual aggression of the terrorist TPLF, it was described.

The intentional, premeditated and well-coordinated use of these accounts to propagate an unconfirmed narrative of genocide should be a call to action for international lawyers and policymakers seeking to curb the misuse of the media to create conditions that advance narratives of fear and hatred, which escalate conflicts to ultimately cause the deaths and dislocation of millions based on falsehoods, it was learnt.

Premier vehemently...

Ethiopia.

As the government of Ethiopia has repeatedly stated that it is committed to the peaceful resolution of problems and showed this in practice, the Premier noted.

For example, as to him, after the federal government entered the war which was started by the terrorist TPLF group, the federal government has been making several efforts to resolve the problem peacefully by declaring a unilateral ceasefire, withdrawing its troops from the Tigray state, and halting its troops from advancing to Mekelle. He added that the federal government is always ready for peace talks.

He further opined that, no matter how much support the terrorist TPLF group gets, it will no longer be able to win via provoking another war.

As the government is well aware of the negative impact of war, it is very committed to the peaceful resolution of all problems that happen in the country, the Premier also indicated.

According to him, the people of Tigray, like the rest of the Ethiopian people, are seeking peace and development. He added that, the people of Tigray are the victim of T-TPLF's backward thought and warmongering.

"The people of Tigray are our people. And, they are now in a serious problem. The only solution is peace and resolving the problem through negotiation. It is better to talk for about ten years than three years of fighting," the Premier further stated.

Meanwhile, Russia appreciated the steps taken by the government of Ethiopia to settle the armed conflict in the northern

part of Ethiopia, Tigray.

In the recent press briefing, Deputy Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia Ivan Nechaev said that, Moscow welcome the initiative by the Ethiopian government to launch a negotiation process as soon as possible aimed at achieving sustainable internal peace, normalizing the humanitarian situation and restoring the social and economic infrastructure in the country.

"We also unswervingly support the mediation efforts by the High Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the Horn of Africa, former President of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo, to assist in the gradual resolution of the situation in Ethiopia in line with the "African solutions to African problems" principle," the Deputy Spokesperson underlined.

Ministry signs...

would solve the complexity to inspect certificates using artificial intelligence system and help to inspect credentials of job seekers traveling to abroad, she said.

Accordingly, more than 1,800 vocational and training institutions have been working to produce skilled human power.

Currently, the country's education system is being challenging by fake credentials, she added.

On his part Artificial Intelligence Institute Director General Eng. Worku Gachena said that, the system will be operational in the next six months.

"The system will be developed to assure the quality of the education system and sought to ease the surveillance system on vocational and training graduated students," he said.

Moreover, the technology will play an important role towards identifying real trained individuals create jobs based on the actual data.

Accordingly, the institute has been cooperating with several government institutions on the ways of advancing with artificial intelligence system.

Opinion

Multifaceted benefits of GERD beyond light, power

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Recently, the second turbine installed to generate electric power in the Abay dam is inaugurated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. According to the general Manager of the Renaissance dam project Engineer Kiflehoru, the two turbines can generate 750 megawatt and within two years all the dam construction will be completed and it is possible to generate about 5500 megawatt hydro- electric power when it is operational.

The dam creates 240 km long, 60km wide and 600 meter deep Lake and when it is fully completed it contains around 72 billion cubic meter of water. According to experts, the newly created lake is friendly with the bio diversity and the evicted farmers from the area are compensated and obtained farm land for their lively hood in the nearby areas. The front dam is constructed 100 meter above sea level and as a result, as compared to the rosary and Senar dams located in the Sudan; the evaporation rate is very low. The water will be contained in the gorges at the bottom of the mountains this again makes the lake friendly with the environment. Even it rather rehabilitates bio diversity and creates good opportunity the reviving of aquatic animals and plants which have high economic values.

The tributary rivers flow to Abay started from the highland areas of Gonder, Gojam, Wollo, North and West shewa and Benishangul Gumuz.

Before the construction of the GERD, huge amount of soil was taken by the rapidly flowing water towards the lower riparian countries during the rainy season particularly to the Rosary and Senar dams. As the result, due to sedimentation created in the dams, the life span of the two dams has been shortened by 30 years. Sudan, in order to remove the soil from the dam, allotted millions of Dollars for many times in which the country ill afford it.

Therefore, the construction of Abay dam brings relief to the lower riparian countries by containing soil which is taken to the dams through erosion.

The dam also enables Egypt and Sudan to obtain regulated water both in the hot and in the rainy seasons. As it is known, excessive water has been flown to the lower riparian countries during the rainy season and used to pose various damages.

The flood inflicted damage on the countries. Over flood takes the life of humans and animals, demolishes canals and residential houses in the bank of the river, farms also are destroyed. During the dry season, on the contrary, the flow of water is highly reduced and the dams located both in the Sudan and Egypt face shortage of water. Consequently, their power generation capacity is also reduced which in turn brings

negative repercussion on their economy.

Therefore, the construction of the Hidasie (Abay) dam in relatively located in the upper areas of the catchment brings remedy to all the above mentioned problems occur in the down stream countries.

However, as the owners of the Hidasie Dam, Ethiopians have responsibility to protect the dam from flood and soil erosion so that prolonging the life span of the dam will be realized. As mentioned above, the tributary rivers of Abay start from high land parts of Gondar, Wollo, Shewa and Gojam are the places where intensive farming is practiced. The areas also are vulnerable to population pressure and the clearance of vegetation cover for various purposes is common. Farmers cut trees for household energy consumption; for expanding farm lands and also for house construction. Therefore, unless afforestation work takes place, soil erosion will be rampant which again find its way towards the dam and poses siltation.

On the other hand, the clearance of vegetation cover in the banks of tributary rivers aggravates rapid falls in the rainy season because the absence of trees reduce the percolation of water to the underground which in turn, ponds, lakes and wetlands which are the sources of the streams and the rivers will be dried-up. Therefore, continuing water shade management and tree planting by annual program base can be taken as a remedy.

Ethiopia pursues building Climate Resilient Green Economy and among the tools to realize the aspiration, developing renewable energy from various sources which include hydro power.

Ethiopia is categorized as water rich country emanated from surface and underground. The rain water obtained in the rainy season; also add the volume of the water resources. According to experts Ethiopia only utilizes 5 % of its water resources both for irrigation farm and hydro power generation. The absence of sufficient finance, expertise in the sector and technology attributes to the under development of modern energy sector.

Cognizant of these realities, the government in the last two and a half decades exerted its time and finance for the development of hydropower dams and so far better results are achieved. But there is still huge gap between demand and supply of electric power energy. Still more than 60 % of the population resides in home with no electric light.

Therefore, the ongoing efforts to fill the gap expected to bring tremendous result in this regard.

The Hidasie dam which is going to be generating

about 5500 megawatt of hydroelectric power not only contributes to meet the energy demand locally but also plays vital role in harnessing foreign currency through energy export. All agreed that to achieve sustainable development, the agricultural led economy must be transformed in to the industry led one through structural change.

To that end, the government is working aggressively on the expansion of the manufacturing sector. It built various industry parks and opened the get to the local and foreign investors. The sector has a mission to meet the aspiration among others, to substitute import, boost export, link industry with agriculture, create job opportunity to thousands, encourage creativity and foster private sector. So far, the sector plays pivotal role in stimulating the economy.

Nevertheless, power interruption because of various reasons inhibits the sector not to unleash its full potential, and according to reports some industries produce below their average capacity. Hence, when the Dam became operational, it is believed that most of the problems will be tackled.

With regard to regional economic integration and building good image to the nation, the Hidasie dam will play tremendous role.

Currently, Ethiopia has already begun supplying electric power to the Sudan and Djibouti and earns good amount of hard currency and the stretching line to supply power to Kenya is nearing its completion. And when the Abay dam is completed exporting energy to the neighboring countries will be boosted.

Attracted by Ethiopia's ambitious endeavor on energy exploration and exploitation, countries located in far places such as Tanzania and Burundi proposed demand to purchase power from Ethiopia and such endeavor again makes our country the regional power hub.

In relation to the environmental protection, exporting renewable electric energy to the neighboring countries will support the countries' aspiration to build climate resilient economy.

The Horn of Africa is one of the most vulnerable to climate change and global warming. As agriculture is the main stay of the region's economy, when extreme climate conditions occur the sector is critically affected. When crop failure occurs farmers leave their home and survive starvation by foreign aid. Cattle also meet their death in the wilderness and when the other extreme weather condition which is flood occurs due to heavy rain fall, infrastructures such as roads, residential houses, bridges and schools will be demolished. The flood also

incurs inflicted damage on human and animals lives. Hence, supplying renewable energy to the neighboring countries supports their effort to build environmentally friendly economy so that minimizes their vulnerability to global warming.

According to studies, Ethiopia can obtain one billion Dollar annually only by exporting portion of electric power generated from Hidasie dam. Such huge amount of money to somehow shore up the nation's hard currency hanger enables to build various dams in different parts of the country, serve both power generation, expanding irrigation farms and support the other sector of the economy.

While inaugurating the beginning of power generation of the second turbine recently, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said that the new lake formed because of the construction of the dam creates about 70 ice lands which can serve as resort and recreation that boost tourism. The lake also is a place where aqua lives existed which again boost fishery. Fishery also attracts both local and foreign investors to engage in the sector which in turn creates job opportunity to thousands in need. Fish production not only enables to ensure food but also serve for ensuring nutrition security.

The lake also can serve to promote water sport and yachting. Moreover, it helps the establishment of ports and water transportation which paves the way for creating new town with flourishing hotels and entertainment which accommodate tourists.

The creation of towns also boosts the construction sector which can creates job opportunities to the unemployed youth. When the economy becomes stimulating, the youth will engage in peace making endeavor rather than to be recruited by the destabilizing forces for posing conflict.

Ethiopia is one of the populous countries in which the second in Africa with about 115 million population. The economy is still relying on rain fed agriculture which is vulnerable to global warming. The manufacturing and the service sectors, though they are emerging, still are in their infancy level. Therefore, to attain sustainable development, bringing structural change is essential.

The role of the agriculture in the GDP must be reduced whereas the manufacturing and the service sectors must boom. To attain such a goal, the labor force stranded in rural farm must be shifted to the non farming sectors and to that end the two sectors, manufacturing and service must be grown. Realizing this aspiration is unthinkable without supplying modern energy. Therefore, the ongoing energy development should be accelerated.

China-Africa...

Second, in order to provide the younger Chinese generation with a better understanding of Africa, China should establish centers for African studies in all of its higher education institutions. These centers must also focus on summer programs, joint research, and staff and student exchanges. To learn more about China and help Africans access Chinese experiences, African universities should establish centers for Chinese studies.

Third, cultural diplomacy between China and Africa should be strengthened. The goal of cultural diplomacy is to learn more about each other's culture. Soft power attracts people. Culture gives meaning to society. This includes

a range of artistic, literary, and educational endeavors. In particular, China and Africa should work on the following tools of cultural diplomacy:

A.The arts, including film, dance, music, painting, sculpture, etc.

B.Exhibitions, providing opportunities to showcase many cultural assets

C.Educational programs, such as universities and language programs abroad

D.Exchanges - scientific, artistic, educational, etc.

E.Literature - the establishment of libraries

abroad and the translation of popular and national works

F.Broadcasting of news and cultural programs
G.Gifts to a nation that show consideration and respect

H.Promotion and explanation of ideas and social policies

These tools should help both China and Africa better understand the local culture. Usually society, not the government, makes these tools. They are used to spread the nation's beliefs and ideas. Ultimately, China and Africa strengthen their friendship, solidarity, and cooperation for a new era of common development. Overall,

FOCAC must continue to be a pillar that bridges Africa and China for a common bright future.

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

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The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Reciting peace verses would grab smart ears

As the responsible and far-sighted leadership in Ethiopia has understood that the ability to successfully manage conflict within a nation is a potential weapon to reduce antagonism, hostility and egocentric spirit, the country has now capitalized on peaceful mechanisms to address a range of problems. This will also help to get all sources of conflict dried; indeed, if the other party takes the step into account in good faith as singing for peace is a sign of being softhearted, not afraid of others.

Cognizant of the fact that no one benefits out of war and turmoil, the Ethiopian government has always preferred resolving conflicts through peaceful means to provoking war and propagating destructive agendum with a view to alleviating tensions happened in the northern part of the country almost two years back.

No matter how stubborn T-PLF is and no matter what preconditions it has listed to calculatingly disrupt the peace initiated by the government, the latter is determined to device possible peaceful solutions to the problems from which Ethiopians in general and citizens in Tigray state in particular have been suffering since war broke out.

It has to be well known that the government is highly committed to get peace prevailed in the country regardless of all the preconditions offered and falsehood fabrications produced by T-PLF to accuse the federal government for no reason.

If T-PLF had thought of the people in Tigray state, it wouldn't have waged war for third round cataloging irrelevant and unconvincing preconditions. Contrary to the terrorists' move, the step the government has been trekking in all aspects is worth appreciating.

Obviously, the role of officials in this regard is worth mentioning and bears fruits as the leadership has not entirely vested in an individual; instead it entails facilitating the exchange of ideas and establishing

mutuality among various sections towards a coordinated vision of peace. True, leadership in Ethiopia has worked for peace all the time, and would unequivocally bear fruits in times to come.

Since no one knows the destructive feature and demolishing aspect of war and conflict than the people in the Tigray state does, they have to firmly oppose the warmongering spirit and stubborn stance of T-PLF to smug a sign of relief forever.

As the need for conflict resolution in our society is quite crucial efforts to curb conflict and destructive passage have to be successful using the combined effort of all, and the assignment for bringing about lasting peace should not be left solely to the government and security forces as it highly demands collaboration and moving in unison.

All negotiating parties have really to move from rhetoric to sustainable behavioral change that leads to solid reconciliation and peace thereby finally avoiding conflicts in Ethiopia for good, if possible.

So long as capitalizing on the young generation who can take over the country with its future is a timely and viable step to bring about lasting peace and development in the country, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) held discussions with the youth who came from every corner of the nation. The youth were raising crucial questions centering peace and the premier replied to the questions accordingly.

Since Ethiopia has been serving, for instance, as a bulwark against terrorists in the Horn of Africa-as a mediator and as a peacekeeper, the international communities would better understand its peace-loving gesture and discharge what is expected of them in terms of meticulously following the irresponsible move and cruelty of T-PLF and act meaningfully.

Opinion

China-Africa cooperation in the eyes of Africa: From its origin to the present day

BY DR. BALEW DEMISSIE

China and Africa have gone through many stages of development since 2000. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was established in 2000. It is a platform for uni-multilateral cooperation between China and 53 African nations (all African countries except Swaziland, which has diplomatic relations with Taiwan). The forum creates multilateralism in which all nations are equal partners. Unlike the volatile relations between Africa and other countries, the FOCAC cooperation platform has been institutionalized from the beginning with a clear operational concept, which has led to deeper and more win-win results. It has evolved from a venue for diplomatic talks and a development-oriented organization to a comprehensive economic, political, security, and soft power structure that advances both China's and Africa's long-term missions in relation to each other. The good news is that each summit has defined the nature and scope of the uni-multilateral partnership. Nowadays, both China and Africa see FOCAC as a cornerstone for mutual development.

FOCAC has manifested three historical incremental periods. The first phase of FOCAC runs from 2000 to 2006. In 2000, FOCAC focused on expanding trade cooperation. The second phase of FOCAC runs from 2006 to 2015, in which China expanded economic cooperation from just trade to foreign aid, direct investment, and development financing. Since 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative has begun building infrastructure in Asia, Africa, and Europe. China has expanded its

role as a direct contributor to infrastructure development in Africa. The country prioritizes the construction of power grids, special trade zones, ports, transportation routes and other prestigious projects in Africa. China provides the full range of capabilities, including financing, construction, management, and often investment.

The third phase of FOCAC runs from 2015 to 2021, and China has reaffirmed its commitment to security and political cooperation with Africa. This phase envisions a "China-Africa Common Destiny" which is the foundation of FOCAC. China has developed a number of sub-categories of China-Africa cooperation mechanisms during this period. These include the China-Africa Think Tank Forum, the China-Africa Local Government Cooperation Forum, the China-Africa Legal Forum, the China-Africa Poverty Alleviation and Development Forum, the China-Africa People-to-People Forum, the China-Africa Health Ministers Forum, and the China-Africa Media Cooperation Forum.

These partnerships inevitably strengthen Chinese soft power in Africa particularly in rural development, peace, stability, law, education, and media. During this period, China has laid undersea cable networks along the African coast, providing internet access to the continent. China has been also working decisively with other African nations on space development. For example, China supported Ethiopia's first satellite launch in 2019. China has also developed a robust defense system against COVID -19. 27 African nations have received 189 million vaccine doses from it.

Africa currently has a combined capacity to produce 400 million vaccine doses per year. CDC's Africa headquarters building has reached its peak and is set to be completed in the end of this year.

I believe that Africa should cooperate with China as of 2022 and that the continent should genuinely emulate China's remarkable rise from poverty to prosperity. Africa should emulate China's dream while working to achieve its own. The Chinese dream is simple. China has managed to double its GDP and end grinding poverty. The country has also achieved prosperity and will reach the status of a middle-developed country by the middle of the twenty-first century. This is the Chinese dream of the twenty-first century. Africa should learn from China's incredible journey from poverty to prosperity.

On August 18, 2022, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi hosted the Coordinators' Meeting on the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in virtual format. The two sides discussed the 2021 Dakar Declaration, the Vision 2035 for China-Africa Cooperation, the Declaration on China-Africa Cooperation in Combating Climate Change, and the Dakar Plan of Action (2022-2024). And both the Chinese and African sides highly acclaimed the outcomes of the Eighth FOCAC Ministerial Conference held in Dakar last year, and applauded "the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation" and the building of a China-Africa community with

a shared future in the new era put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping, and the Nine Programs of China-Africa cooperation which he announced. During the meeting, Wang Yi said that despite the evolving international situation, rising global challenges and repeated external disturbances, China and Africa have stayed course in enhancing solidarity and focusing on cooperation. Both sides had jointly implemented the outcomes with good progress, which brought tangible benefits to the African people. That is very encouraging, indeed.

In my opinion, in addition to the Dakar Declaration, the 2035 Vision for China-Africa Cooperation, the Declaration on China-Africa Cooperation in Combating Climate Change, and the Dakar Action Plan (2022-2024), China, and Africa should cooperate in the following areas as of 2022.

First, China must address capacity building in Africa based on Africa's key priorities in line with each African country's national plan, Agenda 2063, and the SDGs. Capacity building, which can be short-, medium-, or long-term, can involve upper, middle, and first-level workers. China should also consider how African scholars can help China strengthen its capabilities. Capacity building relationships should be mutually beneficial.

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

Business & Economy

IGAD member states' regional cooperation to harness fisheries potentials

BY TEWODROS KASSA

According to different researches, currently, only 1.1 million tons of fish is annually harvested only from lakes and trans-boundary Rivers in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region.

However, the region has an estimated potential of over 3 million tons of annual fish productions. Thus, active community and experts involvement strengthens the IGAD's efforts and aspirations of harnessing the untapped regional fisheries resource potentials, experts recommended.

Recently, IGAD held its second Fisheries Coordination Platform (IFCP) workshop in Addis Ababa. IGAD emphasized the need for genuine cooperation among IGAD members, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean and set joint actions of member states towards utilizing the untapped fisheries potentials of the region.

On the occasion, IGAD Sustainable Environment Protection, Agriculture and Environment Division Regional Fisheries Management Expert, Wassie Anteneh (PhD) said that establishing a tangible cooperation among member states is fundamental to utilize the region's fisheries potentials sustainably.

According to him, the workshop eyes creating joint cooperation among member states to create a conducive fisheries harvesting and trading system. Over exploitation, lack of capacity, infrastructures, knowledge, among others are the major challenges hindering the regional fisheries resources utilization.

On his part, Agriculture State Minister Fikru Regassa said Ethiopia is working to utilize its fish resource and cooperating with IGAD. Ethiopia has paid significant attention to the fishery and aqua culture development in its 10-year strategic development plan and agricultural plan.

According to him, the workshop helps review the performance of the Eco-fish programs and activities at the sub-regional IGAD and at national level. IGAD Secretariat has multilateral projects that are implemented in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian government will closely collaborate with IGAD Secretariat regarding fishery development, management processes and expected results of cooperation.

IGAD has started assisting Ethiopia's fishery sub-sector and it is in the process of supporting its National Blue Economy Strategy.

Representative of IGAD Executive Secretary, Abebe Beyene said that the IGAD region is endowed with very diverse inland and marine ecosystems of immense fish resource that needs better attention and coordination to use it.

Five IGAD member states, namely Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya, are coastal countries with a total of about 7,000 KM length and about 1.2 million kilometer square exclusive economic zone, he noted.

"The fish productivity in this marine zone is very high. Generally, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region is globally known for the uniqueness of its costal and marine bio-diversity. Despite the potential resource that could be used to ensure food security and export both in IGAD member



Utilizing fish resource needs genuine cooperation

states and in Africa, there is less attention and focus to develop the fisheries sub-sector. Thus, the Ecofish is crucial in a bid to promote synergies at a time resources are limited and fishery resources are depleting at an alarming rate," he added.

However, fishery activity in the region is often illegal, unreported and unregulated, especially in Somalia, he said, further pointing out that lack of economic zone is also a challenge except in Kenya.

EU's flagship project in East Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region Manager, Madev Balloo, stated that the meeting is aimed at strengthening inter-regional collaboration of the IGAD sub-region to promote sustainable, inclusive and integrated management of fisheries resources.

The EU thus, recommends Indian Ocean Commission, IGAD and all the relevant stakeholders to promote the activities that feature mainly strategic action of the marine work plan.

Presenting the progress of IGAD Ecofish Fisheries Coordination Programme, Ecofish Programme Technical Coordinator Soobasch Sweeney (PhD) said that promoting effective collaboration and partnership between IGAD member states is fundamental to effective implementation of the sub-regional and national fisheries potentials.

The active participation of the private sector is also important to develop the wide fisheries potentials. Moreover, it is helpful to establish tangible fisheries resource co-management in the region, he said.

Accordingly, the Ecofish Programme is a Cross-Regional Initiative that is expected to ensure seamless collaboration and partnership among IGAD and its partner countries. The Ecofish Initiative is funded by the European Union (EU) to leverage regional cooperation for enhancing sustainable inland and marine fisheries in Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean

The Ecofish Programme is a Cross-Regional Initiative that is expected to ensure seamless collaboration and partnership among IGAD and its partner countries

(EA-SA-IO) region. It has a total budget of 28 million Euro for over 62 months that was started in July 2019. However, its implementation has been delayed by the social restrictions provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.

Setting up a Fisheries Coordination Platform in the IGAD region is part of the Ecofish marine work plan strategic action towards strengthening regional coordination and cooperation for the sustainable and integrated management of fisheries resources in Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region.

The programme aims to enhance sustainable management of inland and marine fisheries to contribute to the time-bound socio-economic and ecological goals of the UN Agenda 2030 and

the Africa Agenda 2063. It will also bring about tangible socio-economic benefits to the member states.

The first IGAD Fisheries Coordination Platform (IFCP) was organized in Addis Ababa from September 5-6, 2021. It was a hybrid meeting (both physical and virtual) due to COVID-19 restrictions. As stated in the terms of reference validated during the first meeting, IGAD, in collaboration with the Ecofish will provide the required secretarial services to the IFCP, including the preparation of Concept Notes, Background Papers, and other meeting documents, including invitations, agenda, and previous notes of the meeting. The Secretariat will also follow up on the regional and national chapters of the Ecofish marine fisheries work plan and other project activities. It will also update the chairperson on pertinent issues.

Accordingly, the main objectives of the Fisheries Coordination Platform is to complement the endeavors of the Marine Fisheries Work Plan Steering Committee to ensure seamless collaboration and partnership among IGAD and its partner countries as well as better coordination with other coastal and island countries of the region.

In sum, the IGAD region is included in the highly food insecure areas, with over 50 million people facing chronic hunger and poverty. Freshwater, marine and coastal fishery and other aquatic resources are, thus, social and economic development opportunities to ensure food security in the IGAD region.

The second IFCP workshop reviewed the performance of the Ecofish programme activities at the sub-regional (IGAD) and national levels. It also discussed and provided inputs on the Concept Note on the establishment of regional fisheries body proposed by IGAD and Ecofish Programme Management Unit. It enables member states to share best experiences from the various initiatives of the fisheries sector in the IGAD region.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy



Acquainting diplomats with Ethiopia's peace initiatives

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

As odd as it may sound, the Terrorist TPLF clique is giving a cold shoulder to the peaceful settlement of the conflict that it recklessly yet cruelly instigated. Despite the belligerent acts of the outlawed group, the federal government of Ethiopia is doing its level best to mend rifts and find peaceful resolution by facilitating the initiative for peace talks.

It is to be recalled that the government has been throwing its full weight to restore normalcy in the war-torn areas including Tigray, Amhara, and Afar regions. Accordingly, it has been working round the clock to allow unhindered humanitarian assistance and restore public infrastructures in these areas.

In connection with this, some 29,942 MT food items, 31,940 MT non-food items and 66, 8567 liters of fuel, 23.63 MT of medicine, 2,096 MT of fertilizer, and 300 Million Birr fund have reached Tigray between July 20 and August 9, 2022.

Fulfilling all these conditions, the government has done what it has been expected to do so and still expressing commitment to strengthening humanitarian support and restoration of facilities. For quite a while, the collusion of the disgruntled TPLF group and foreign adversaries has tarnished the efforts of the Ethiopian government through a tsunami of information warfare. The misinformation campaign triggered unwarranted pressure against Ethiopia, the international community is coming to terms with the truth slowly though.

The government has been briefing the diplomatic communities about its peace initiatives and the situation in Tigray state in particular and the country in general.

Recently, Deputy PM and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen briefed ambassadors and the diplomatic community-based in Addis Ababa about the peace process that the Ethiopian government has been pursuing so far by the Main Peace Committee which was established as mentioned above, to advance the initiative of the Government to peacefully resolve the conflict in the northern part of the country.

The Main Peace Committee established to advance the initiative of the Government to peacefully resolve the conflict in the northern part of the country has extensively discussed its progress to date, the current situation in the northern part of the country, and other related issues. It is to be recalled that the Government has made several attempts to peacefully resolve the conflict. For instance, the Government has declared a unilateral humanitarian truce, lifted

the state of emergency, halted the advance of its troops to Mekelle, released detainees suspected of being affiliated with the TPLF, and undertaken other confidence-building measures as well. It is also known that on top of these measures, the government is endeavoring and making a serious effort to ensure enduring peace.

In connection with this, the government has expressed its readiness to engage in peace talks without precondition, at any venue and at any time. The Committee, in its discussion, has emphasized the imperative of alleviating the suffering of citizens in the conflict-affected parts of the Tigray, Afar, and Amhara regional states.

Towards that end and in order to ensure a sustained provision of humanitarian aid as well as to facilitate the resumption of basic services and also to resolve the conflict peacefully; the Committee has underscored that there is a need to conclude a ceasefire agreement as soon as possible. To expedite this process, the Committee has deliberated upon and adopted a peace proposal that would lead to the conclusion of a ceasefire and lay the foundation for future political dialogue. The Committee has decided that the proposal should be communicated to the African Union High Representative as soon as possible.

Furthermore, in accordance with the decision of the Committee to provide the international community a briefing, it would be possible to conclude a ceasefire agreement as soon as possible with the help of entities that could support the mediation effort of the African Union, such briefing has been provided.

The Committee has noted that all necessary preparations are being undertaken to facilitate an expedited resumption of basic services within the enabling environment that would be created once a ceasefire is concluded. It also expressed that all effort is being exerted in collaboration with the African Union so that it would be possible to determine the venue and time for talks and begin peace talks quickly and conclude a ceasefire agreement shortly.

The Main Peace Committee has urged the appropriate subcommittees and taken note that the federal government already instructed service-providing institutions to carry out the necessary activities for the implementation of these decisions. The Committee has commended the support that Ethiopians have shown to the peace effort and calls on the public at large to strengthen and continue this support. The Committee has also called upon the international community to stand with the African Union and play a constructive role in the success of the

peace effort.

The Peace Committee has unveiled a peace proposal that has three directions. Firstly, it proposes for peace talks to happen within the coming weeks towards an agreed ceasefire. Secondly, it put forward to undertake an in-depth political dialogue between leading toward a lasting settlement, and thirdly, the proposal stipulates other unresolved issues to be addressed through the upcoming National Dialogue. This proposal by the peace committee of the Federal Government is another demonstration of the Government's continued commitment to peace and a peaceful resolution of the conflict. And it is believed to put perspectives that the people of Tigray and affected communities in the Afar and Amhara region as a result of the devastations need respite.

The proposal also establishes that talks must be without pre-conditions because Ethiopians in the Tigray region need not continue being prisoners of TPLF's own political interests. The Council forwarded the proposal in cognizant of TPLF's continued forced conscription of youth in the Tigray region.

In spite of all this, the posture of the government remains that of peaceful engagement, the Council stated. This agenda for peace has been at the forefront by the government before the war broke out, during the war, and the calls for a peaceful resolution continue to be made to this moment despite there being not a shred of interest for peace by TPLF.

Despite this, there are still those for whom the image of TPLF as an underdog is compelling and who continue to propagate this misleading narrative. The issue of restoration of services comes up again and again as if there is an on and off switch centrally located. This is an erroneous and dangerous view of the service that is disrupted due to conflict and related damage is administered.

The government has made it clear on several occasions that the security and administrative arrangements need to be cleared and put in place to facilitate technical repair work on the ground in Tigray region to restore services. Hence an operable and enabling environment is essential for such technical work to be undertaken on the ground. And at the moment with a vocally belligerent and illegally armed group operating at its own whim and refusing to accept peace talks the required enabling and secure environment is lacking.

If TPLF genuinely cares for the well-being of Ethiopians in the Tigray Region, then they

should be publicly asked by various international community actors to accept the peace agenda and sit for talks instead of looking for excuses to avoid peace. The Government of Ethiopia affirms its readiness at any time and at any place suggested to engage in peace talks under the auspices of the AU-led process, according to Prime Minister Office Press Secretary Billene Seyoum said.

In addition to its relentless effort to resolve the Tigray crisis through peace talks and restoration activities, the Federal Government is also working on enforcing laws in various parts of the country to secure the well-being of citizens and their right to public services. Consequently, multifaceted efforts are being exerted by the security sector to address outstanding issues as a key priority.

As it pertains to terrorist activities in the Oromia region, through the concerted efforts of three command posts and joint deployments of Federal and Regional security forces, key progress is reported to have been made in apprehending members of terrorist cells, Billene said.

Similar security operations are also being conducted in Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples (SNNPs), and Somali and Afar regions. In the Amhara region, rule of law measures taken against irregular forces has brought a peaceful environment. Similarly, the evaluation of the National Security Council of its peace and security efforts in the Benishangul region, SNNPs region, Somali and Afar regions as well as the capital city indicates progress in apprehending criminals, curbing criminal activities, and cleaning the structures of the security sector.

Moreover, the National Security Council has set forth a direction to continue its operations. Accordingly, the forwarded direction is aimed at diminishing the capabilities of the terrorists and irregular forces to a level where they are not a threat. It set forth to conduct activities that ensure a lasting peace by mediating across various groups and involving youth in peace activities.

It also set an ambition to strengthen the judicial bodies and enable them to perform what is required for national peace and security. Similarly, it initiates to take decisive action against economic exploitation, corruption, smuggling, illegal money transfer, and other forms of economic sabotage. Improving the leadership skills at every level and establishing accountability, creating qualified, active and ready leadership at every level is another directive set by the Council.

Law & Politics

Terrorist TPLF's refusal to bury the hatchet

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Notwithstanding the fact that the incumbent has been extending an olive branch with a focus on making the criminal TPLF enterprise sit down at the negotiating table, the latter has continued beating the drums of war. The disgruntled clique is rather coming up with the usual cock-and-bull story and recruiting children for another round of devastating war. It is obvious that the ragtag group's ego-centric and hawkish behaviors coupled with the silence of the international community have been becoming a stumbling block to the peace process.

As perplexing the broader international community and the people of Tigray with bogus stories is in its DNA, the Terrorist TPLF group as usual has maintained throwing a wet blanket over the unreserved determination of the government that has been working its fingers to the bone intending to bury the hatchet.

It is public knowledge that in the olden days, the group managed to rule the country for nearly three decades with an iron fist and turn the lives of the Peoples of Ethiopia into a living hell. As all and sundry were at sixes and sevens as a consequence of the nefarious deeds of the group, they were cursing their luck round the clock.

Having failed to take remorse, TPLF has been engaged in distractive acts instigating war in the country. In the current circumstances, the outlawed group sustained recruiting the youth for another round of war and playing the victim card under the veil of a diverse of lame reasons showing contempt to the peace and stability of the country. It is abundantly clear that nothing makes the group happier than dismantling and destroying the country bringing quite a lot of schemes going behind closed curtains into play.

In a related move, closing its eyes and mind to the federal government's unflinching stance to restore peace and settle disputes, the notorious group has sustained working its socks off in conjunction with internal and external actors aimed at raising the ante and moving the country into uncharted wars.

Rather than welcoming the peace deal, coming to the peace talk table, and changing the course of events, the ragtag group in the present circumstances has become involved in saber-rattling activities. Dejectedly, failing to learn from its past blunders, the group has continued bracing for another round of war, increasing the suffering of noncombatants and adding fuel to the fire.

It should not be forgotten that the criminal enterprise has committed horrifying mayhems against noncombatants by playing part in summary killings, gang rape, ransacking, and other actions against the law. On the heels of the heinous crimes of the group, civilians residing in the northern region of the country have faced a humanitarian catastrophe that turned the lives of many into a living hell sooner rather than later.

Quite the opposite of the incumbent's effort to make peace, the terrorist group leaders have sustained their belligerent deeds bringing a broad range of plots into play merely in



furtherance of staying in power in the Tigray state and lining up their pockets at the expense of their compatriots.

Considering the current circumstances, the group has been going against the peace deal process focusing attention on getting itself involved in a smear campaign against the unreserved efforts of the government to make peace happen.

In the same vein, the Terrorist TPLF group has been pulling out all the stops to pour cold water on the image of the incumbent by fabricating hoax stories. Even though the government allowed unfettered access to humanitarian aid, and the much-needed humanitarian aid has been entering the Tigray state via road and air, the group has been going forward mystifying every Tom, Dick, and Harry with cooked-up stories.

As things stand at present, the group has been bewildering the international community with fictitious stories to twist everyone's arms.

It is absolutely clear that the low-rated media outlets have turned a blind eye and given the cold shoulder to quite a lot of carnages committed by the Terrorist TPLF group in addition to puzzling the worldwide community with fake news stories. It is common knowledge that in defiance of the government's unflinching stance for peace, the Terrorist TPLF group has been working around the clock to drag the federal government's name through the mud.

On the subject of the evil deeds of the group, the Tigray Democratic Party (TDP) said some lobbyists and special interest groups who have been supporting the Terrorist TPLF should realize that they are just prolonging the suffering of the People of Tigray, and must refrain from such cynical actions sooner than later.

Public Relations Head of TDP Mulubirhan Haile told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the terrorist group has been preparing to launch another bloodiest war by rejecting the proposed peace talks by the federal government. T-TPLF's belligerence and cruelty have put the people of Tigray in great trouble, he added.

"The People of Tigray are already in a big mess. When war is added to this problem, it plunges the people into even greater trouble," he indicated.

According to him, whether they are aware of the facts or not, some international organizations, including media outlets, are still helping the group and circulating its propaganda.

He also opined that lasting peace cannot be brought only through unilateral efforts. Until it entered the war which was started by the Terrorist TPLF group, the federal government had been making several efforts to resolve the problem peacefully.

Efforts by the federal government so far to resolve problems peacefully have failed because of the terrorist group's refusal, he said adding, that it is the federal government that is still offering an alternative to peace and is working with commitment to resolve the problem through dialogue.

Mulubirhan urged that the international community should understand that the T-TPLF believes in conspiracy and power than peace talks.

He further called upon the international community to stand by the side of the people and government of Ethiopia and urged them to be a voice for the people of Tigray who have been in deep trouble because of the Terrorist TPLF group.

Be that as it may, briefing the media, Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Meles Alem lately said the federal government remains committed to continuing the peace process initiated by the African Union, according to information obtained from Ethiopian News Agency.

"The government's position is to continue the peace effort initiated by the African Union. Any other similar effort is unacceptable," he underscored.

The spokesperson stated that Ethiopia also encourages the former Nigerian President and High Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for the Horn, Olusegun Obasanjo, to reinforce his effort as a

facilitator of the peace process.

However, the government will not refuse eminent personalities from the African continent to support the process, if it is necessary, Meles pointed out.

The spokesperson also described the recent statement attributed to the African Union Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) Commission as "totally false and fabricated propaganda."

The information ascribed to the commission claimed that the African Union Political Affairs, Peace and Security has reached an agreement to accommodate the UN, EU, and the USA to be part of the AU's team designated to broker peace between the federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

But the government has learned from officials of the commission that the statement is false and it was not released from the Union.

"People in the African Union confirmed to us that the information said to have been leaked did not originate from them at all. They stated that the document has no legitimacy and is a fake document. They also said the statement is part of a normal social media disinformation activity and campaign," the commission revealed.

As part of this disinformation campaign, there has been a wrong perception "regarding the international community's role. There are media reports presenting the role of the African Union as equal and even replacing it," he elaborated.

According to Meles, "the international community is encouraged to provide financial, technical and logistical support for this peace alternative endeavor. But it cannot replace the role of the African Union, which is the sole peace-broker."

He also reiterated the government's confidence-building measures such as the disclosure of the peace alternative committee under the leadership of Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as its readiness to talk anytime and anywhere without preconditions.

This endeavor alongside the determination to work together with the African Union as the facilitator has proved the government's commitment to peace; and that it has no intention of entering into another war, the spokesperson pointed out.

On the contrary, the TPLF group is not committed to peace and has been making preparations to wage war. Moreover, the TPLF has continued to set preconditions for the peace process to start.

Speaking about the resumption of basic services in the Tigray region as well as conflict-affected areas of the Amhara and Afar regions, he said the government will not put or accept preconditions for the peace process to start.

The position of the government is that assessment should be done on security, safety, and regulation to start basic services.

Society

“Don't let others to spoil your future”

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

In a journey towards building strong and unified Ethiopia, the role the youth can play is incalculable. The young people can play constructive role in brokering peace, advancing development, bringing about positive societal change through strengthening community cohesion, promoting innovation and entrepreneurial skills.

To realize this, however, recognizing the irreplaceable potential the young people holds to peace and development, and providing them the needed support is critical.

In his recent discussion with young people drawn from various parts of the country last Sunday, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed also stated the role the youth can play towards building a strong and great Ethiopia saying the future of the nation is in the hands of the next generation.

Speaking at the National Youth Forum held under the theme “The role of the Youth of our time” the Premier said that the youth have a responsibility to put back the nation to its previous glory. In this regard, they have to play constructive role in areas of peace, synergy, unity, love, tolerance and respect.

Even though Ethiopia is tired of the hurdles it faces, in order to renew its power like an eagle; and return itself into its former glory, there is a need to identify the principal causes of its downward move and correct them. In this regard, the youth has a key responsibility, he added.



Photo - PMO

Mentioning the activities carried out over the past four years with regard to establishing independent institutes, strengthening democratic bodies, undertaking various development activities, determining administrative regions, Prime Minister Abiy said that the youths, being part of the effort, have contributed a lot for the successes.

In his message to the youth, Prime Minister Abiy also said; as the future leaders of the country, the youth should prepare themselves for a better tomorrow. Those anti-peace elements, who have already spoiled their “yesterday”, are still striving to darken the future of the youth. For this very reason, the youth has to refuse such people by all means. “Never allow those entities spoil your tomorrow to actualize their interest,” he

underscored.

He also urged the youth to refrain from all forms of destructive issues and not to be preoccupied with negative things; but to strive for national unity, make themselves ready so as to take over the country, sustain prosperity, peace and unity to create a better and bright tomorrow which is the right path for them as well as for the country.

Following the political reformation of the country, several infrastructures are being constructed throughout the nation. Development activities in all areas are being carried out with better performance and efforts to fight maladministration and corruption are intensified. This is truly an indication of a better and bright future. Whenever there is responsible youth there

is a bright tomorrow.

As it was indicated by the Prime Minister, all the ongoing development projects are devised targeting young people who are the hope of tomorrow. In this regard, the youth should be focused and well prepared to take responsibility.

Their scope should go beyond their village. They should be visionaries who aspire not to lead a village but a nation, region and the world. The Prime Minister also said the youth should be a rational generation that puts synergy and rationality as its prime weapons to defeat all adverse agendas.

Indeed, as it is known and repeatedly said, the youth is the only one who is responsible to lead the nation and improve the life standard of the society. Since youthfulness is synonym with energy, apostle of change, progress and future, a responsible, united and tolerant youth that prioritizes his/her country has all the potential to put Ethiopia in its “Greatness” position.

As a land of young population, Ethiopia can benefit a lot from this untapped energy. Young generation is not only representing the future of Ethiopia; it also represents the whole country. Ethiopia is now found on the right path. In this respect, as a country which is rich in cultural diversity and untapped natural resources, the youth is expected to have the will and commitment to change all challenges into opportunity by properly applying the concept of synergy.



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Internationalization for quality education at HE

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

The perceived need for the internationalization of Higher Education (HE) is based on diversity entails conditions, weighs on the running of the institutions and is correlated with quality assurance. Both, internationalization as well as quality assurance should be considered as a challenge for the institutions, but it is a rewarding challenge.

“How do we get so many different systems to function together in harmony, while synchronizing the process of quality assurance in the internationalization process? Should we seek only one global system of HE or should we take on board all the systems’ differences and find solutions for compatibility?” Touhami Abdouli asks in his ‘Higher Education Internationalization and Quality Assurance in North-South Cooperation’ at University of Sousse, Tunisia

Although, as experts varied in the degree to which process they propose a solution or reconsider it, this extremely delicate issue, internationalization of a system and quality assurance is to be tackled as wisely as possible. Due to different reasons, countries had never asked questions about internationalization or even quality, as not only were they structuralizing and regularizing their national HE systems over the decades, they were also facing other challenges which were radically different from their counterparts in EU.

Their experience should be reconsidered, as it

could provide valuable insights into the needs of assisting the HE reform in the South. It is not a question of adjusting, harmonizing and making a synergy, but it is a unique and complex situation of assimilating new cultural and social norms more or less different.

The Reform of HE announced within the Bologna process principles (1999), then in Prague 2001, Berlin 2003 and Bergen 2005, has not achieved its goals since it has not reached the stage of ‘the transition.’ Therefore, it is necessary to realize such a transition and to move to a new advanced stage: the ‘internationalization process.’

What is internationalization? Is it the building of constructive relations between institutions etc.? Should it be considered as a dialogue of educational life, a dialogue between academics, and a dialogue of different kinds of standards? What are the principles of the internationalization of HE? Are they linked to the mobility of institutions or linked to the tools of reaching out to other continents as was asserted at the London meeting of Ministers.

To think objectively, about internationalization without political obsessions and constraints, it is better to go beyond this fashion of successive declarations which shows the spectacular side of events. It is more important to think constructively.

Consequently, Ministry of Education in collaboration with Hawassa University hosted a workshop with a theme “Internationalization for Quality Education.” It has focused on sharing



experiences and training on internationalization for higher education institutions with its contribution to quality education.

Vice President for Academic Affairs of Hawassa University Dr. Eng. Fisseha Getachew said in his welcoming speech, the University is working on ensuring quality education and promoting relevance of its academic programs in addition to research activities.

Dr. Iddosa Tarfasa, Head of the Scholarship and Internationalization Desk at Ministry of Education said, “Our desk has been one of the newly launched structures at the ministry as part of the reforms underway to rectify the need

of meeting national and internationalization development needs and the labor market demands.”

He also added that the Ministry is planning to shift internationalization through accreditation and explained the importance and benefits of accreditation to the participants.

The Universities presented their experiences with challenges and opportunities related to the internationalization process. The Workshop also provided training on internationalization focusing on how to make things work in the present competitive world and dynamic universe dominated by technology.

Planet Earth

Expanding Ethiopia's greenery initiative to the continent

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Environment protection is the epicenter of economic development. Considering that it has multifaceted advantage, the Ethiopian government has been undertaking various tasks in relation to greenery.

Some argue that, the issue of the environment could not be the only option for growth and development citing the experience of some countries in the world. Indeed, there would be many economic development options depending on the resource that the countries rely on.

On the other hand, economic growth can be achieved through a range of economic activities. By choosing certain activities, economic growth can be decoupled from environmental harms. In some cases, environmentally superior choices may also enhance economic productivity (e.g., through efficiency gains) or human welfare (e.g., through goods and services provided by natural environments).

Hence, green growth is the selection of economic activities that, at best, promote environmental and social development and, at a minimum, do not harm the environment or human welfare. This is achieved through rigorous analysis of economic alternatives and their related environmental and social impacts.

Considering the impact it would have on its resources and the climate change which is a threat to the world as a whole, the Ethiopian has been investing in the green legacy campaign and planted 25 billion tree seedlings over the past four years surpassing the target 20 billion.

Though it has its own limitations in terms of caring and protection, the move by itself has brought greater impact on the mindset of the society at large. Without exaggerating, environmental protection and tree plantation are now becoming a community's culture.

Unless the African countries second Ethiopia's green legacy initiative, the effort made by it alone will not bring significant impact over climate change and deforestation. Last June, after launching the forth Green Legacy Campaign at Gulele Botany Center, the African Union Commissioner Musa Faki Mahamat said the Green Legacy Campaign is an exemplary initiative that can be followed by other African countries.

"Forest development activities like the Ethiopian Green Legacy Campaign are needed to alleviate the problem of the African continent as Africa has been experiencing



All Africans have to be alert and protect resources through devising various mechanisms taking the Green Legacy of Ethiopia as a model

recurrent droughts due to climate change. In this regard, the commissioner pointed out that Ethiopia is reinforcing an exemplary move in the field of green development."

"Planting trees is giving life. As you know, Africa is impacted by climate change, drought, desertification and deforestation. And this kind of initiative (Green Legacy) is very important; and I want to thank Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the government and the people of Ethiopia (for this)."

The Green Legacy should be extended to other African countries as well. It is an important solution for the Horn of Africa, which has been severely challenged by desertification and drought. He stressed the need for other African countries to follow Ethiopia's example in mitigating the climate change induced impacts.

"The African Union is supportive of this initiative and I hope this example can be followed by other countries as Africa needs these kinds of initiatives to fight against climate change. So, it is a very good opportunity to attend this one and it is one of the best events that I have ever attended here in Ethiopia," the commissioner underscored.

The leadership of the country has been showing political commitment at the highest level to rehabilitate degraded lands and restore forests through the Green Legacy Campaign and massive tree planting campaigns.

Now, African countries seem second to Ethiopia's green legacy campaign. On Sunday, Ethiopia-South Sudan Green Legacy Initiative, under the theme "Ethiopia-South Sudan Green Legacy 2022", was held in Bilnyang County, which is in the vicinity of Juba, the Republic of South Sudan.

Ethiopian diplomats in South Sudan, Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, Chief of Staff of R-JMEC, Lt. Gen. Asrat Denero,

Chairperson of CTSAMM, Dr. Mesfin Loha, Country Director World Vision International in South Sudan have participated in the event.

Ethiopian Community members, members of Ethiopian Peace-keeping Forces, Ethiopians working in various international NGOs, as well as a number of South Sudanese have joined the seedling plantation program.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of South Sudan, Deng Dau Deng stressed the need to promote Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative.

During the tree planting event, Ethiopian Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, Nebil Mahdi stated that the Green Legacy Project is one of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's major initiatives. It aims to reduce land degradation while also promoting eco-tourism and combating climate change.

He also said that, Ethiopian civil servants, young and old, including children, are enthusiastically participating in Ethiopia's Green Legacy campaign through dedicated public mobilization.

"Ethiopia is steadfast in cooperating with South Sudan towards the Campaign of Green Legacy in the consideration of environmentally friendly species, as well as sharing best practices in such public mobilizations and mega-project executions, as a result of the historical and intertwined deep relationship between the peoples of both countries," ambassador Nebil noted.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of South Sudan, Deng Dau Deng thanked the Ethiopian Community and members of the peacekeeping force for their participation in the tree planting program adding that the planting ceremony will help to strengthen the existing historical ties between the peoples of the two countries, he added.

The Deputy Minister expressed his country's interest in sharing Ethiopian experiences, emphasizing the importance of promoting the Ethiopian Green Legacy initiative.

Ethiopia is a pride and symbol to all African countries to be independent from their colonizers. Now, due to its economic backwardness, the continent becomes a target of some greedy countries that planned to scramble Africa's resources weakening the capacity of countries via igniting conflict. Thus, all Africans have to be alert and protect resources through devising various mechanisms taking the Green Legacy of Ethiopia as a model. If this is so, the future of Africa will be beyond the imagination. Wake up Africa!