



Some corporate media churning out lies about Ethiopia: Expert

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Some global media outlets have served as the voice of the liars and romanticized the Terrorist TPLF's atrocious crimes in Amhara and Afar while casting the villain as the victim of the conflict, a media expert said.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, Dilla University Journalism and Communication Lecturer Alebel Guangul stated that some global media institutions have served as the

mouthpiece of the T-TPLF and engaged in false accusations of the government. The corporate media have also largely shunned official sources and echo the criminal faction's false propaganda.

Putting ethical and professional journalism aside, some paid media have framed the north Ethiopian conflict from the rebels' perspective and mainly relied on the accounts of known T-TPLF affiliated "experts" and social media actors.

"If they are interested in reporting about

a certain issue about the north Ethiopian conflict, they most often quote the T-TPLF run Tigray TV or other pro T-TPLF outlets. They have also heavily utilized the twitter campaigns that have been instigated by T-TPLF-paid social media actors."

The expert further noted that those media have been deliberately disregarding the criminal faction's destructive activities in Amhara and Afar and presented the war as

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Adi Arkay residents in psychological, economic distress due to T-TPLF

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - Residents of the Adi Arkay District of the Amhara State said the Terrorist TPLF heinous crimes during its one-year occupation of the area have caused strong psychological and economic distress on them.

Approached by local media, the newly-liberated residents of the Adi Arkay District stated that the criminal group committed brutal and rampant violence when the area was under its control. Many of the residents were killed, displaced, looted and improvised.



See Adi Arkay... Page 3 Institutional damages caused by T-TPLF at Adi Arkay district

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T-TPLF's fuel theft hinders aids distribution: WFP

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- The fuel theft from UN World Food Programme (WFP) by Terrorist TPLF has hindered the delivery of food, medicine and other assistance materials to the needy, WFP announced.

See T-TPLF'S fuel... Page 3



Thug throws Tigray youth into fire: Journalist

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Holding a devastating miscalculation and strong greed for political power, the Terrorist TPLF forced the Tigray youth to another round of aimless and destructive war, an ethnic Tigray journalist said.

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News

Digital IDs ensure secured, regularized undertakings: Stakeholders

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The introduction of the digital ID program is instrumental to ensure a secured, transparent and regularized relationship among the public, government entities and businesses, various stakeholders said.

The above remark came yesterday during the ceremony of Identity Day, which was organized by the National Identity Program and Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (ECCSA), along with several partners.

Speaking on the occasion, ECCSA President Melaku Ezezew stated that the digital ID program ensures the regular information exchange between service providers and receivers and has a paramount importance to the trade sector. "Digital ID users in the bank, logistic, tax or telecom services can easily be identified and be served which in turn guarantees transparency among both ends."

The president further noted that the coming into force of this platform would help Ethiopia to achieve its ambition of creating a paperless and cashless society.

National ID Program Executive Director Yodahe Arayaselassie said the day was marked in recognition of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.9 which calls for a legal identity for all including birth registration by 2030. While the plan was to build a sustainable digital ID by



Photo: Gebabo Gebre

2026, over one million people have been registered in the pre-launch phase.

Further plans are set to register 15 million citizens in this year and to increase the number to 70 million by the end of 2026.

Commenting on the issue, Cabinet Affairs Head with the Office of the Prime Minister Teferi Fikr highlighted that the government has carried out consolidated activities for the successful implementation of the National ID Program. Digital transformation is one of the priorities of the current administration and the National ID initiative is the manifestation for this.

The National ID ensures inclusiveness,

prevents maladministration, minimizes excessive wastage of resources and helps national and developmental goals, according to him.

For Information Network Security Agency Director General Solomon Soka, the Digital ID would enable the nation to curb cyber security issues. "While we celebrate the ID Day, Ethiopia focuses on building public key infrastructure (PKI) and Digital ID that are key foundations to realize Digital Ethiopia 2025."

The program would also be instrumental to detect and curtail irregularities in the relationship between service providers and receivers, he remarked.



Ethio-Djibouti Railway exemplary in enhancing regional integration: CEO

ADDIS ABABA - Ethio-Djibouti Railway is an exemplary company in bringing economic integration among the regional countries, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdi Zenebe said.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, the Ethio-Djibouti Railway Share Company CEO said regional integration at the sub-regional level is a priority for Ethiopia as well as for a number of countries in the sub-region.

According to him, the Ethio-Djibouti Railway Company established by the two countries is playing a big role in bringing about economic integration of the countries.

Ethio-Djibouti Railway Company, which is owned by the two countries, will expedite regional integration in the Horn of Africa, he added.

The CEO revealed that the company has created jobs for 2,891 people, of these 2,431 are Ethiopians and 460 Djiboutians.

"We are planning to diversify and expand our business to a number of areas. One of which is the car transportation that we have commenced as a new service," Abdi stated.

This will continue in different area as well, and the rail way company plans to further introduce refrigerated wagons, and transport fruits and vegetable as well as medicines and the other items, it was learned.

"We have also different kinds of hoppers that can transport iron, steel, wood and other materials. This is in addition to what we have been doing in transporting fertilizers, cooking oil, and other commodities," the CEO added.

During the concluded Ethiopian fiscal year Ethio-Djibouti Railway Company has transported over 1.7 million tons of import-export cargoes in 71,000 containers, of which 14,000 transported export commodities.

EPSS stresses addressing supply bottlenecks for pharmaceuticals

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian Pharmaceuticals Supply Service (EPSS) disclosed that it is working to empower local suppliers to address challenges that cause disruption to the supply of pharmaceuticals.

EPSS Director-General Abdulkadir Gelgel (MD) told The Ethiopian Herald that the organization is working on building up the capacity of local suppliers and manufacturers by executing various incentives.

There are many challenges in the pharmaceuticals supply chain as the EPSS imports 85 % of pharmaceutical supplies from abroad and goes through a long chain, and the local suppliers cover only 15 % of the pharmaceuticals supplies.

Empowering the local suppliers will help the country save time, and hard currency, and shorten the complex supply chain, he said adding, that within the past two years the supply chain has been disrupted internationally by the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the Director-General, there is a huge demand in the pharmaceutical supply



sector. The lack of a registered supplier in the country for many pharmaceuticals has been causing problems with the supply of pharmaceuticals.

He further stated that the existing procurement manual does not take into account the nature of pharmaceutical supplies and it needs special attention. "In this regard, we have already submitted an official request to the Public Procurement and Property Authority."

Meanwhile, the 2nd International Pharmaceuticals Suppliers' Conference was held yesterday and was attended by senior

government officials, ambassadors, and over 103 pharmaceutical suppliers.

It was stated that the conference aimed at improving the in-country supply chain operations by strengthening business partnerships with suppliers across the globe.

Attracting manufacturers and or suppliers into the Ethiopian pharmaceuticals market by addressing market bottlenecks, creating awareness of the ongoing regulatory initiatives that help to ease the registration process for suppliers and others were the objectives of the conference.

Such platforms will be of enormous value because the pharmaceutical supply chain is complex and requires a lot of coordination, Abdulkadir noted.

Representing Health Minister Lia Tadesse (MD), Armauer Hansen Research Institute Director-General Prof. Afework Kassu pointed out that the role of pharmaceutical suppliers is critical to improving healthcare.

According to him, the pharmaceutical sector is one of the government's priority areas in the manufacturing sector. He also called upon the private sector to invest in the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector.

News

Institute urges regional bodies to expand green legacy in Africa

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Civil societies and other regional institutions should do more to share and expand emerging good practices in African countries, including the Green Legacy Initiative of Ethiopia, according to the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).

South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) is an independent public policy think tank advancing a well-governed, peaceful, and economically sustainable and globally engaged Africa.

SAIIA Governance Resources Program Head, Alex Benkenstein told ENA that Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative is, for instance, a good practice to combat the effects of climate change and the lessons should be shared and expanded to the broader region.

To share lessons from the good practices and expand them in other parts of the continent, it is important that civil societies and other regional institutions concerned on the issue of climate change do more tasks, he added.

"There is much good practice emerging on the continent. We should be very clear about that. But much more can be done to share that and to scale it regionally."

According to him, there are certain platforms and institutions to share lessons between countries and undertake joint action.

The Great Green Wall Initiative which unites the Sahel-Sahara region in a campaign to fight land degradation and desertification is also another regional initiative in Africa to share the lessons of the good practice and expand it regionally, the program head pointed out.



"There is a role to play for regional institutions. There are regional programs like the Great Green Wall Initiative, and those programs help facilitate lesson sharing between countries and joint action."

Speaking as a representative of civil society working in a think tank, Benkenstein said: "I do believe that civil society has a very important role to play to capture the challenges, successes and good practice stories of what is being achieved at local, national, and regional levels"

The head believes that it is crucial to establish forums to communicate those lessons and capture them in writing policy-relevant briefings. Content showing the

truth that can be communicated with stakeholders is required to make sure the expansion of the good practices.

There are certain platforms, but there are also more works to be done at an individual level by researchers, policy actors and those working on projects on the ground. There is work to be done to engage with the institutions and individuals in these institutions, he elaborated.

In its Green Legacy Initiative, Ethiopia has been conducting not only massive tree seedlings plantation campaigns but provided tree saplings to neighboring countries to combat the chronic effects of climate change both in the country and in the region in a collaborative way.

T-TPLF's fuel theft...

At UNSC meeting on the impact of conflict on food security, WFP Executive Director David Beasley disclosed that the recent theft of over half a million liters of fuel from the WFP in Tigray state challenges for the UN organization to distribute food, fertilizer, medicines and other emergency supplies across the aforesaid state.

"We need fuel; we need funding and full movement of supplies across the lines. The recent theft of WFP fuel supply in Tigray doesn't make our task easy," said David Beasley.

It was learnt that WFP is working day and night to help those most in need. However, it needs fuel, funding and full movement of supplies across the lines of control to get help where it is needed most.

It is to be recalled that various countries and international organizations including WFP have denounced the T-TPLF's fuel theft and it is public secret that the terrorist group has been engaging in various crimes including theft of fuel, diverting aid, which is meant to the needy of the state, to feed its combatant and others which are clear violations of humanitarian law and crime against international law.

Adi Arkay...

The residents further recalled that they were forced to eat boiled grain as the grain mill was destroyed by the criminal group. "During the T-TPLF occupation of the area, our life was below the living and above the dead."

One of the victims said the terrorist enterprise killed and ate his three cattle and five goats while assaulting his children.

Seconding the above statement, District Administer Million Tadesse stressed that the outlaws killed a number civilians and has caused immense property damage in the area.

As to him, the rebel group never allowed the existence of ethnic Amharas until the area was liberated by the Ethiopian joint forces.

Some corporate...

wholly taking place in Tigray. To this end, the paid media employed the video footage and pictures that have been captured by the T-TPLF for the purpose of deceiving the international community.

Notwithstanding some attempts by those paid media to incorporate the government's narrative about the renewed conflict in

north Ethiopia, they largely ignored the major agenda of the government. To ensure the interest of their respective owners, the corporate media have been misrepresenting the renewed conflict that was triggered by the radical element.

As to him, the aim of those media outlets is to convince global powers and the

international community to purchase the T-TPLF's lies. "Despite the actual war taking place in Amhara and Afar states, the bribed media have made every effort to portray the whole Tigray as the battleground. They are also reluctant to talk about the damage the terrorist enterprise has caused in the two states."

Thug throws...

The journalist Hermela Aregawi told local media that the criminal faction continues to use the Tigray people to restore itself into a political power. The T-TPLF has been constantly complaining about not getting enough aid for five months while it has channeled the supplies to war efforts.

Hermela further highlighted that some paid-media's false propaganda and lies do not emanate from their humanitarian concern

rather it is part of saving their puppet T-TPLF and reinstalling it into power. "It is evident that the dire humanitarian situation in Tigray is caused by the T-TPLF insurgency and not by the government's desire. Sadly, the West's big media have falsely accused the government for the crisis."

Having stolen billions of dollars during its 27-year reign, the radical element has

been able to buy lobbyist groups to twist the narratives. Its most money is utilized to rid the narratives of placing journalists in the mainstream media outlets, she added.

Also, the T-TPLF is a known confidant of some global powers and created a client state in the strategic Horn of Africa. Being a puppet government for some interest groups, the clique has waged a war against the Ethiopian government since November

2020.

Despite such wrong narratives, the government has made praiseworthy activities to ensure unfettered humanitarian supplies to Tigray and seeking a peaceful alternative to resolve the difference with T-TPLF amicably. Indeed, the rebellious faction's insurgency has disrupted the delivery of aid for the needy people of Tigray.

Opinion



The Seven-Fold Path of Blackness: Color, culture and self-conscious practice

BY DR. MAULANA KARENGA

Guest Columnist

Since the Sixties, we of Us have understood, engaged and embraced Blackness as a very serious and sacred way of *being* and *becoming* in the world, an African way, a unique and equally valid and valuable way of being human with all its rich and varied possibilities and worthy of the highest respect. Indeed, we maintain that as Africans, as human beings and possessors of dignity and divinity, as our ancient sacred texts teach us, there is no people more chosen, elect, appointed or otherwise especially designated than we are. This means there are no lives more sacred than our own, no historical narrative more holy or worthy of being taught or told than our own, and no culture richer in lessons of life, excellence and struggle for us than our own.

Unlike our oppressor, we saw no need or reason to ruthlessly seek dominance or irrationally and immorally claim superiority over others. On the contrary, our centuries of sustained righteous and relentless struggle has been to reclaim an identity and culture brutally distorted and degraded, to regain a freedom savagely subverted and suppressed, and to return to and resume a history interrupted and highjacked for the oppressor's radically evil purposes and practices.

To speak righteously and usefully of Blackness as a serious and sacred way of being and becoming in the world is to rightfully define it. We said in the Sixties that the defining features of Blackness in the context and concerns of our times as a people in oppression and resistance were: color, culture and consciousness. By color is meant the embodied existence of a people of color, beautifully Black in all its variations and meanings; culture is the totality of thought and practice by which a people creates itself, celebrates, sustains and develops itself and introduces itself to history and humanity; and consciousness is the self-conscious ways we act and struggle to create the conditions for the people to be themselves, free themselves and live good and meaningful lives. This is clearly a call for rightful and useful paths to pursue, ground our lives, achieve our goals and come into the fullness of ourselves.

Thus, when we defiantly declared in the Sixties "Liberation is coming from a Black thing," it was a declaration that we were and are our own liberators, and that the path we pursue will come from our own hearts, minds and making. Clearly at the heart of our striving ad struggle and the foundational and overarching set of principles and practices that undergird, inform and inspire all we do are the *Nguzo Saba*, the Seven Principles: *Umoja* (Unity); *Kujichagulia* (Self-determination); *Ujima*

To live Black is to live in dignity-affirming, life-enhancing and world-preserving ways. It is to wage and win the struggle to be ourselves and free ourselves, flourish and come into the fullness of ourselves. It is experiencing a sense of wholeness

(Collective Work and Responsibility); *Ujamaa* (Cooperative Economics); *Nia* (Purpose); *Kuumba* (Creativity); and *Imani* (Faith).

But as a reinforcing reminder of the centrality of Blackness as a self-conscious practice, as an active self-knowledge, the Seven-Fold Path of Blackness still holds a special meaning and source of motivation for the way we live our lives, do our work and wage our struggles to rightfully remake ourselves and radically transform the context and conditions of our lives. These seven commitments and practices are to: Think Black, Talk Black, Act Black, Create Black, Buy Black, Vote Black and Live Black.

To think Black is to first think culturally, think within the context and consciousness of our own culture, drawing from it the best of our sensitivities, views, values and practices, using them to pursue the best of what it means to be African and human in the fullest sense of the words. Moreover, it is to think ethically, to think the good, to be concerned, as our honored ancestors taught about bringing, increasing and

sustaining good in the world and engaging the critical issues of our time with the best of our moral sensitivities and moral reasoning. Thus, thinking Black also means and requires thinking relationally, seeing ourselves always in relationship with reciprocal responsibilities to our people, each other, others and indeed the world. And it also means thinking deep, critically and creatively and caringly about life and bringing and doing good in the world.

To talk Black is to speak truth, speak in gentle and caring ways, avoid lies and language that hurts and harms, and always speak the good. Moreover, to speak Black is to speak truth to the people and to power; to speak a liberated and liberating truth to our people and a defiant, critical, condemning and demanding truth to oppressive power. It is to talk freedom to the people, telling them things that free their hearts and minds and encourages excellence, and righteous and relentless resistance to all forms and features of oppression. And it is to talk an uplifting reaffirming truth to our people, reminding them of their beauty, creativity, sacredness and soulfulness, and their capacity to wage and win their liberation struggle.

To act Black is to practice and pursue good in the world. It is to be conscious, caring and rightfully motivated and informed in all we do. It is to be self-consciously and actively committed to achieving and sustaining African and human good and the well-being of the world. Acting, showing agency or practice permeates and makes possible following the other paths. For in the final analysis, we say practice proves and makes possible everything. Thinking, talking, creating, buying, voting and living are all practices requiring agency, the capacity, choice and will to act. And we are to act in ways that embody and express the good we seek to achieve and share in the world.

To create Black is to create good in the world, and as always, the principle and practice of *Kuumba* teaches us, to always do all we can in the way we can to leave our community better and more beautiful than we inherited it. It is to create spaces and possibilities for beauty, meaning and love and reciprocal caring and concern in our local and national communities and in the global African community. Indeed, to create Black is to be our soulful selves, to imagine beauty and bring it into being, to strive for excellence in all we do and achieve it, and make artful – skilled, creative and engaging – the way we live our lives, do our work and even in the way we wage our struggles for good in our lives, the lives of our loved ones and in the world.

To buy Black is to support community economic institutions, projects, efforts and interests. It is to self-consciously be attentive to how economic practices and systems in and outside the community help

or harm us, provides space for us to work, have incomes, make decisions and live lives of dignity and decency. And to buy Black is also to be conscious of how our income and monies are spent and used by businesses to preserve and protect the environment or contribute to its progressive degradation. In a word, it is to be conscientious consumers rather than mindless ones collaborating in our own and the world's devastation. Indeed, we must be more than buyers or consumers and dare to be constantly concerned with the world, its well-being and our own for they are inseparably linked.

To vote Black is to vote in the rightful interests of our people, the world and all in it. For we must always be concerned, not with ourselves in isolation, but as a people in and of the world in both the social and natural senses. Also, we must remember that in spite of the established order's attempt to hide and deny it, we are a key moral and social vanguard in this country, with an expansive agency of inclusive good, waging struggles and winning victories with our allies that have not only expanded the realm of freedom and justice in this country, but serves as a world-encompassing model of the struggle for human rights and liberation to emulate. Furthermore, to vote Black is to accept and practice the responsibility to vote for several interrelated reasons: it is a hard-won gain and legacy; a central site for participating in policy making; another field of resistance in a country whose entire land is a battle ground for each and all of us; and it is way of clearing the ground, not so much for a special candidate, but to create the best conditions for our continued struggle after the election.

Finally, to live Black is to live in dignity-affirming, life-enhancing and world-preserving ways. It is to wage and win the struggle to be ourselves and free ourselves, flourish and come into the fullness of ourselves. It is experiencing a sense of wholeness, genuineness and joy in our lives, profoundly satisfied with the unique and equally valid and valuable African way of our being human in the world. It is to live rightfully, respectfully and in reciprocal relations with others in freedom, security of person, peace with justice, material security, health and wholeness, and always rightly concerned with the well-being of the world.

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Editorial

TPLF is accountable for depriving Tigray people of basic services!

The Terrorist TPLF has had a bad history in destroying infrastructures since its inception as a rebel group. During the fight with the Derg regime for about 17 years, it used to ruin infrastructures that facilitate provision of basic services to the public including in Tigray.

The T-TPLF targeted the infrastructures just before it commits what it called a lightning attack it committed against the northern command of the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF). Earlier to the attack, it broke the communication system among the chiefs and the other military forces of the northern command to destabilize the forces. It also fabricated false information stating that the military officials were surrendered and it would be better to stand by the TPLF and fight back Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) though it could not succeed because of the army's loyalty to the country; the army chose paying incalculable suffering instead of betraying its country.

Extending its devastative trend, the terrorist group destroyed many mega infrastructures like roads, air ports, bridges, electric substations, telecommunications systems and facilities such as schools and health centers. As a result of brutal acts of this force of destruction, Tigray people have been deprived of basic services including electric power supply and communication services.

It is this group that made Axum airport out of use when leaving Mekele and fleeing to the wilderness following the defensive attack by the national defense force under the law enforcement operation in response to its treacherous "thunder-like attack" against the northern command. This evil act created obstacles aerial transportation partially to the region. As a result, it became hard to provide basic needs to the needy in Tigray; those became dependent on emergency aid because of the war it waged against the federal government.

It also destroyed Tekeze Bridge that blocked land transportation to and from Tigray to the central part of the country through which basic commodities like food items, medicine, fuel and others can be transported. Doing so, the terrorist group made itself the main enemy of Tigray people.

The government of Ethiopia along with its service providing offices such as Ethio Telecom and Ethiopian electric utility has tried its best to restore the services but the terrorist group attacked workers of the institutions and killed many of them.

On top of withdrawing its forces from Mekelle declaring unilateral humanitarian ceasefire to give the farmers opportunity to plough their land; Ethiopia's government stretched its hand for peace. The terrorist group, on the contrary, escalated its invasion to the neighboring regions of Amhara and Afar states and destroyed more infrastructures in the regions. It destroyed hospitals, Universities, health facilities, industrial parks and even private properties. As a result, many have suffered due to lack of medicines for those who need continuous treatment.

During the attack which the terrorist group started for the third time recently, it has kept on destroying infrastructures and facilities in Tigray and Amhara regions. For instance, it destroyed Tekeze Bridge again and destroyed technical institutions in the Amhara region. By doing this, the group assured that it is the enemy of not only the entire people of Ethiopia, but also the people it claims to stand for.

Thus, it should be accountable for depriving basic services to the Tigray people. Besides, it must be accountable for the killings it committed against the technicians of the Ethio Telecom and Ethiopian Electric Utility.

Opinion

Conspiracy to reinstate TPLF as a puppet must end

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Ethiopia's comprehensive national reform program that kicked off over the last four years was met with its ardent opponents and supporters alike. The reform program that started with a swift change of government resulted in a political aggrandizement by the TPLF which was later labeled as a terrorist organization by the HPR. Entrenched in the regional town of Mekelle, the group conducted an illegal election forming a single party government which posed as quasi sovereign power with archaic and defunct ideology based on treachery, falsehood and quest for fascist hegemony on the Horn of Africa by gestating what it called Greater Tigray by destroying the current Ethiopian polity.

The western powers which were quick enough to provide political support to the reform program were later dis-encharmed by the change in the status quo ante and the unilateral withdrawal of Terrorist TPLF which they helped to assume power in Ethiopia with its repressive and oppressive governance and violation of human rights.

The global conspiracy and political imbroglio that was later hatched on the country took a three tier system of destabilization organized to reinstate the terrorist group on Ethiopia's political system.

The first tier encompassed the major western powers and the EU which were busy trying to consolidate their grip on

The global conspiracy and political imbroglio that was later hatched on the country took a three tier system of destabilization organized to reinstate the terrorist group on Ethiopia's political system

their historical hegemony by using puppet regimes they thought would help to serve their neo-colonial interests in the Horn and continental Africa. The countries of the first tier categorically rejected Ethiopia's political and economic self-assertion and provided a propaganda support for Terrorist TPLF through their commercial media outlets that profiled Ethiopia as an

aggressor on Tigray totally concealing the fact that the terrorist group's fascistic massacre of officers of the ENDF on November 3, 2020. They even accused the newly elected government on starting the crisis in Tigray which they called a "civil war" discrediting the government's constitutional responsibility to ensure law and order in the region.

The west undermined Ethiopia's legal right to use its water resources for electrification of the country based on strict adherence to the international laws on the utilization of Transboundary Rivers. The US and EU expressed their full support for Egypt and Sudan and the former US President Donald Trump even threatened that "Egypt could blow up the dam." Over the last two years, both US and EU imposed unjustified economic sanctions on Ethiopia which was grappling with drought, COVID-19, Terrorist TPLF induced ethnic conflicts and a myriad of other socio-economic and political challenges. While blindly providing diplomatic and political support for the terrorist group, they hurdle blame game on the government for everything under the Ethiopian sky including "using hunger as a weapon for war" and "obstructing smooth flow of relief aid to Tigray." They belittled every effort made by the government to ensure peaceful life for the people of Tigray by declaring two rounds of unilateral ceasefire and repeated efforts for negotiated cession of hostilities. They based their policies on Ethiopia on the

false propaganda from terrorist TPLF they readily took in all forms of misinformation and doctored video clippings from TPLF which demonized the government of Ethiopia.

In all these political maneuvers, the west also used almost all UNSC sessions to declare additional sanctions on Ethiopia based on a wrong conceptualization of global security. The WHO, UNHCHR, WFP were all dead silent when thousands of citizens in Amhara and Afar were gunned down, raped and disabled by the terrorist gangs, till their private properties and public institutions were looted. Despite the day light theft of more than half a million liters of fuel looted from WFP depot in Mekelle and subsequent lootings of UNICEF and USAID, the western countries were ready to forgive Terrorist TPLF's violation of human rights and crimes against humanity. They never cared about citizens massacred in Galikoma, Mai Kadra, Chena, Kobo, Kombolcha, Alamata and in a number of districts in Northern Wollo Zone. The western quest for peace, democracy, justice, human rights was totally dropped when it comes to what the terrorist group has committed on Ethiopia.

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

Art & Culture

Tradition and modernity in western and African art

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

We can perhaps start by defining Western and African art. In Western tradition, the elements of artistic creativity are considered “to be color, tone, line, shape, space, and texture. In general, we tend to agree that there are seven formal elements of art.” On the other hand, the elements of African art are seven in number. They are, “Resemblance to a human being, Luminosity: Self-composure, Youthfulness, Clarity of form and detail, complexity of composition, balance and symmetry, smoothness of finish.” A comparison of the two elements would suggest that African art is more sophisticated, more complex and more varied.

The element of variety is most evident in African art if we consider the range and styles of African art like music and dance by looking at a single country and a single region. In Ethiopia alone, where there are more than eighty ethnic groups, we can observe a whole lot of variety in the artistic traditions of each ethnic group and within the ethnic group each region and sub-region. However, it is no mystery that African art with such range and diversity had long remained stagnant as far as modernizing it is concerned. However, the answer to this alleged stagnation may for instance be the long period of colonialism that has stifled local African initiatives and imposed its own artistic styles and conceptions as well objectives.

It is therefore obvious that that contemporary African art is heavily influenced by Western, i.e. Anglophone or Francophone, art as a legacy of centuries of colonialism. It is also no secret that contemporary African art continues to bear the imprints of modern Western forms for various reasons. One is economic. In order for modern African musicians to gain recognition and economic benefits, they have to follow Western styles that are popular with in Europe or America. Traditional African art including music, has not completely divorced itself from the Western tradition although Africa has a rich and varied artistic traditions.

A definition of traditional African music for instance takes into consideration “the vastness of the African continent, its music is diverse, with regions and nations having many distinct musical traditions. African music includes the genres amapiano, Jùjú, Fuji, Afrobeat, Highlife, Makossa, Kizomba, and others.” Like African traditional music, African popular music (also styled Afropop, Afro-pop or Afro pop), like African traditional music, is vast and varied.”

The line between what is African and contemporary art is sometimes blurred.

“Most contemporary genres of African popular music build on cross-pollination with western popular music. Many genres of popular music like blues, jazz, afrobeats, salsa, zouk, and rumba derive to varying degrees on musical traditions from Africa, taken to the Americas by enslaved Africans. These rhythms and sounds have subsequently been adapted by newer genres like rock, and rhythm and blues. Likewise, African popular



music has adopted elements, particularly the musical instruments and recording studio techniques of western music. The term does not refer to a specific style or sound but is used as a general term for African popular music.”

The same can be said about African visual arts like painting or sculpting. African visual art may be older than its modern Western counterpart but it is highly influenced by Western arts. His is not however to say that African art has not or does not influence its Western counterpart. There are some prominent examples of how the West used or uses African art without claiming its sources. Pablo Picasso is, for instance, one among many Western artists who have borrowed heavily from African art like African masks and sculptures.

In the case of the Spanish-French painter we mention here, he has what is known as “the African Period” in his long journey to artistic creativity. “Picasso’s African Period, which lasted from 1906 to 1909, was the period when Pablo Picasso painted in a style which was strongly influenced by African sculpture, particularly traditional African masks and art of ancient Egypt...”

Why and how Picasso adopted African art to promote, populate or enrich his own creativity is an interesting question. One opinion says that, “The mistreatment of Africans in the Belgian Congo was exposed in Joseph Conrad’s popular book Heart of Darkness. It was perhaps due to this climate that Picasso and other artists began looking towards African art for inspiration” It is known that Picasso had a left-leaning political opinion on the question of colonialism. He was at one point in his life a member of the communist party which he rejected later on and withdrew from the organization.

However, the aesthetic explanation might be more convincing than the political one. Although Picasso did not acknowledge it, he owes a great deal from African art to develop his own style known as Cubism. “The artists who were influenced by African art form a constellation of Modern-art history: Picasso, Paul Klee, Basquiat, Bacon, Matisse,” says specialist Susan Kroman, introducing Evolution of Form: African & Oceanic Art at the Genesis of Modernism.

Another opinion holds the opposite view that “Picasso saw in African figuration a

religious depth and ritual purpose that both startled and moved him. Its sophisticated use of flat planes and bold contouring was unlike anything the artist had encountered before.” The philosophy of African art likewise differs from its Western counterpart. “African art, according to Senghor, is based on intuitive sensibility and grounded in emotion. As such, the artist has a dialogue with his work (Chapter 3). Here again, the distinction between an art based on intelligence and an art based on emotion is not clearly and substantively demonstrated.”

On the other hand, Western art philosophy has a different purpose which is expressed as follows: “Western Art’ is the portrayal, in two or three dimensions, of the history, people, landscape and wildlife of the area confined to the western regions of North America, in a highly realistic or realistic impressionist style and is inextricably linked to the culture of the American West.” From these references, we can infer that African art philosophy may be superior or on equal footing to Western artistic concept.

This is an interesting point because 19th century Western philosopher like the German idealist Hegel and his contemporaries used to reject an “African philosophy of life” as ridiculous and impossible to realize because Africans were living in a state of nature, like wild animals and were incapable of philosophizing. If Africans are unable to engage in philosophy in the western sense, then where does the current admission of African artistic philosophy come from? Hegel was the father and most prominent of Western philosophy. Yet contemporary Western art critics are writing favorably about African art philosophy! What a leap in western philosophy regarding Africa!

What is modernity in African art? According to one source, “In order to define African modernism, art historians have looked to African diaspora artists who were exiled or went through self-imposed exile from their home countries, to settle in different western countries and have been influenced by the artistic movements that they have been exposed to, and built their practices” This sounds true because in the case of Ethiopian art we look at the modern artists who have been living and working in the Western and introduced modernism by imitating the Western styles of painting, singing or dancing.

When we look at Ethiopian modern art like painting we realize the precursors were men like Eskunder Bogossian, Wosen Kosrof and Gebrekristos Desta who lived and produced their major works after studying in the West. Although African artists have borrowed from the West, African art has also influenced Western artistic tradition and contributed to its advancement. According to one source, “In the early 20th century, African art had a profound influence on the development of European abstract art. Thousands of African art objects had been brought back to Europe in the aftermath of colonial expansion and soon became assimilated into European visual culture.”

Modern African art, and by extension Ethiopian art, may be borrowing art forms from the Western world but their concerns and themes are entirely African ones. “Wosene, who has lived in California for more than half of his life, links quotidian activities such as coffee drinking and card playing around the world, with his personal memories of Addis Ababa and everyday life in Berkeley. Coffee The Ethiopian Ceremony expresses an ancient tradition central to people across Ethiopia and Eritrea. To participate in a coffee ceremony can take several hours, during which time close friends share life issues, acquaintances chat, or hospitality is extended to strangers. In this way, coffee transcends place.”

The same can be said about Eskunder “As a young man in Europe, had witnessed from afar the end of Italian colonialism and British administration in Eritrea, and its federation with Ethiopia in 1950. Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie dissolved the Eritrean parliament and annexed the territory in 1962, and the ensuing Eritrean War for Independence lasted 30 years against successive Ethiopian governments until 1991, when the Eritrean People’s Liberation Front finally defeated the Ethiopian forces in Eritrea.”

Modernity for African art is also engagement in African issues both during the colonial era and now when neocolonialism is trying to subvert it and deflect it towards worshipping the West. In this sense, African art is a revivalist art Western art is still the victim of its decadence although it can sustain itself with the help of money and modern technology.

Law & Politics

Terrorist TPLF's infamous history of using child soldiers

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Since its inception, the TPLF criminal clique has been nothing but an arch enemy of the Tigray people deceitfully branding itself as the liberator of the community.

The guerilla fighters turned kleptocrats have been literally working to depopulate the Tigray community with its infamous wars of choices. Even worse, during its decades of iron fist rule, the self-proclaimed liberators have been bringing mayhems and carnages to the people while propagating as the sole guardian of Tigray.

Most recently, the people of Tigray have been losing their beloved sons and daughters as a consequence of the forced conscription of the TPLF old guards after its ouster. The terrorist TPLF group that does not care a damn about the suffering of its own people is still engaged in getting the Tigray ethnic community to serious socio-economic and political problems.

In consideration of the foregoing, Tigray's mothers and fathers have been beset with a broad range of setbacks that need a Band-Aid solution.

The rogue element that has been led by child soldiers turned tyrants, has been shattering down the future of Tigray children through deploying mandatory recruitments and human wave strategies.

Playing down the peace talks proposed by the federal government, the disgruntled few in the present circumstances have set in motion launching fresh attacks and increasing the suffering of innocent non-combatants.

Aside from using children as cannon fodder and making parents childless, the group has been repeatedly ruining the hopes of the Tigray youth and children. In addition to breaching the unilateral truce declared by the incumbent, the criminal faction has been leaning over backward to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis.

In furtherance of putting in place their hidden agenda going on behind closed curtains that cannot happen at any time, the criminal group leaders at all hours of the day and night have been calming the lives of innocent children.

Notwithstanding the fact that nobody benefits from confrontation except giving rise to turning the lives of noncombatants into a living hell, putting lives in jeopardy, and other criminal acts, the crooked group has continued exposing children to risk and their parents to misery.

As things stand at present, the criminal syndicates have been playing a role in forcefully conscripting and mobilizing thousands of children. Besides, the ragtag group is throwing parents into prison if they refuse to send their children to war without batting an eye.

In the same way, the group for its evil mission has been urging parents to send at least one of their children to the war fronts. In the aftermath of the nefarious deeds of the criminal ring, the people of Tigray have been battling with a diverse range of challenges that need a quick fix.

Notwithstanding the fact that deploying



TPLF's captured child soldiers

children to war goes against regional and international laws, the wide international community is not seen condemning the evil deeds of the group. Dejectedly, emboldened by the global community's silence, the rogue group has maintained forcibly conscripting children from every nook and corner of the Tigray state.

Although quite a lot of organizations have been working on children's affairs worldwide, they remained tightlipped. The other sad thing is that parents that go against the criminal deeds of the group ended up in prison and face a wide spectrum of unspeakable challenges. TPLF's war crimes of using children as fighters are yet to receive strong condemnation let alone punitive actions.

Before more children lose their lives, the wide international community should embark on condemning the wicked deeds of the terrorist gang group.

It is no secret that the people of Tigray have been destructively impacted on account of the continuous mobilization of children and using them as human shields with the purpose of coming to power and backing the country into a corner.

It is important to note the terrorist TPLF group has played a part in summary killings, gang rape, ransacking, and other unspeakable crimes. Regardless of the fact that the government is hell-bent to get to the bottom of the problem in an atmosphere of calm, the criminal group has maintained many a time and oft to get involved in saber-rattling activities.

It is no secret that the lives of non-combatants in the northern part of the country have been ruined as a consequence of the new round of attacks by organized criminal group. Targeting at extending protracted damage to noncombatants residing in Amhara and Afar states, the criminal group has been pulling out all the stops to destroy social infrastructure.

It should also be borne in mind that since

the start of the war provoked by the terrorist TPLF group, innocent civilians have been fighting a broad range of life challenges. Although the government has been going to the ends of the earth to bury the hatchet, the criminal gang has sustained beating the drums of war using child soldiers.

Sad as it may sound, the illegal enterprise leaders have been oscillating between the fondness for coming to power and lining up their pockets and making an effort to cause collateral damage to noncombatants.

Prof. Ann-Fitz-Gerald is the first scholar to methodically investigate what is really happening in northern Ethiopia after the conflict had begun.

Lately, the Professor of International Security and Director of the Balsillie School of International Affairs shed light on how the terrorist TPLF was recruiting child soldiers and mobilizing them to war through her detailed study she conducted half a year ago by physically contacting the victims.

In an interview with local media, the families in Tigray State are still being forced to give their children to the T-TPLF force as per the conscription program of the rebel group which requires one fighter per family. "A family would be denied any aid, and family members will be imprisoned if they refuse to offer their children for war," she explained.

Child soldiers who were surrendered by the Ethiopian joint forces at the Kara-Kore front on their part said that they were forced to join the war front by the criminal clique. While explaining the evilness of the war, they urged others to surrender to the joint forces and to save their life.

"The silence of the International Community(IC) on the use of child soldiers by T- TPLF deeply concerns me. I have seen such issues in countries where I have worked several years ago. The rights groups were speaking out quite quickly about the issue of child soldiers by the rebel groups in these countries.

For instance, the use of child soldiers by the Lord's Resistance Army leaders became a foreign policy priority for the United States and Special Forces were sent on the ground to help bolster the capacity of the Ugandan Defense Force to hunt down the rebels. The IC should give similar attention to the issues in Ethiopia, and force the TPLF to stop using child soldiers and diverting humanitarian aid meant for the people in need," Prof. Ann underscored.

Corroborating the above fact, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs Communication Team Leader Melaku Beyu told *The Ethiopian Herald* that, the international organization's response to the T-TPLF's clear violation of the universal rights of children is not satisfactory.

Concerned international organizations have not been working as required to end the Terrorist TPLF's crimes on the Tigray youth, he said, calling for strong responses.

"The ministry has provided verified accounts to concerned bodies that asserted the radical element's transgression of international treaties and norms by deploying dozens of children on the waterfront."

The team leader further noted that the ministry has been working to raise the international community's awareness and due emphasis has been given to encouraging child-centered organizations to become the voice of Tigray children. "The consolidated efforts that have been carried out by the government and the public to raise the world's awareness of T-TPLF's use of child soldiers has brought promising results and some international organizations denounce the evil act.

The child soldiers pointed out that one person from each household is forced to go to war which is waged to restore leaders of the T-TPLF into power. One of them said: "I am 12 years old; I am the eldest child in my family. I was obliged to join the war and if I had refused to do so, my parents would have been jailed."

“We have to win in diplomacy by providing accurate information,” *Nigus Belay (PhD)*

BYZEKARIASWOLDEMARIAM

Ethiopia is among the countries that are founding members of the United Nations. It is also an active participant in the efforts made to realize the objectives of the organization. One of the major objectives of the UN is to maintain international peace and security as well as ensure smooth relations between countries. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is also an important organ of this international organization established to realize this goal. In this regard too, Ethiopia has done all it can in ensuring international peace and security through membership in the UNSC as well as sending peacekeeping troops, among others.

Now Ethiopia is contending a security problem within its territory. However, the UNSC is handling the issue in an unusual way that contravenes both the sovereignty of the nation as well as the Charter of the UN which states whether the Council can intervene in the matter or not. The Ethiopian Herald held a brief discussion with Nigus Belay (PhD), Dean of the College of Law and Governance at Hawassa University. Have a nice read!

The United Nations Security Council has gathered more than 12 times so far to discuss the security problem in northern Ethiopia. How do you think is the issue relevant?

It is known that the UNSC has convened more than 12 times so far since the outbreak of conflict in northern Ethiopia between TPLF and the central government. The main objective of the meeting is to intervene in the internal affairs of the country and take action. But all the meetings were vetoed by two of the permanent members of the Council, China and Russia. The basic question here is why does the west want to make it an agenda of the Council? Before discussing it we have to see the UNSC charter. How does it involve in the internal affairs of a country? Does it have a mandate/right to intervene in the domestic affairs of a country? What preconditions should be fulfilled for that?

According to Chapter VII Article 39-42 of the Charter, the UN as an international organization can intervene in the internal affairs of a country if the problem is a threat to international peace and security. It can only do so if the situation is



We have to outperform our enemies in the field of diplomacy. We have to win the diplomacy by providing appropriate information. If you dominate the other side in the field of diplomacy both sides would be your friends.



studied by a neutral body. Otherwise, there is no ground to intervene in the internal affairs of a nation. This is the main principle in the Charter of the UN. Hence why does it need to convene 12 times only on matters related to Ethiopia? Is the problem in northern Ethiopia a threat to international peace and security? It is not labeled so by a neutral body. It cannot spill over to a neighbouring country or other parts of the world. As a result, it was repeatedly rejected by Russia and China as a domestic political matter that can be solved by Ethiopia itself. They argued that the Charter does not allow them to intervene in the domestic affairs of the country which is against the provisions of the charter. There are similar conflicts in parts of the world. Why do they focus on Ethiopia? This shows there is something behind it. The main concern of the west is not international peace and security. They are disgruntled by some development in Ethiopia. Since the incumbent assumed power they are afraid that they will have no puppet in East Africa. The government led by PM Abiy has settled the 20 years long dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The dispute was used as a bargaining chip to buy loyalty. But when the government made peace with Eritrea they awarded the PM a Nobel Peace Prize. That does not mean they are happy. But they want to use it to coerce the PM into becoming their puppet. They want a puppet government in East Africa. When EPRDF was ousted from power they

want the current regime to replace the role of the former. They thought the new government would surrender to them. But things did not go as per their expectation. On top of this Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia formed a coalition. These forces understood that their plan was foiled. So they were conducting an orchestrated campaign to topple the government, and bring back their puppet to power. That's why they wanted to convene the UNSC about 12 times. But China and Russia are well aware of the conspiracy. So they used their veto power to oil it.

What do you think is the sustainable solution to avoid similar problems in the future?

A country has the full right to secure its internal and external interests. This needs a higher level of diplomacy. Diplomacy is a matter of guaranteeing mutual benefit. It is not meant for the benefit of one country alone. Not only the benefits but also the damages have to be shared. Therefore Ethiopia must work hard to publicize the truth about the issue in northern Ethiopia to the international community. There is a need to explain every detail of the issue.

As it is well known in diplomacy there is no permanent friend or permanent enemy. So our principle should be to reap the maximum benefit from both the west and east without compromising our national interest. We have to establish a relationship that can equally treat Africans, the west,



the east ... etc. We should not label some countries as friends and others as enemies. They are all after the final winners. So we don't have to wait and see until we become victorious. We have to work on diplomacy equally or simultaneously. Our diplomacy determines whether we have enemies or whether we fall to them.

We have to outperform our enemies in the field of diplomacy. We have to win the diplomacy by providing appropriate information. If you dominate the other side in the field of diplomacy both sides would be your friends. Finally, the truth shall prevail. The UN Charter has the truth. Permanent members of the Council like Russia and China also depend on the truth and express their stance accordingly.

As you explained diplomatic victory has a lot of benefits. Ethiopia has also been making due efforts in the field of diplomacy to address the security issue at home as well as the consequent misunderstandings created in the international community afterwards. How do you see Ethiopia's diplomatic activities in this regard?

The government has to give due attention to the advice of experts in the field. For instance, Ethiopia is historically strong in its diplomacy. It is a founding member since the foundation of the League of Nations, AU ... etc. It is a member and founder of various international organizations. IT sets examples for others. We have to do a lot of jobs here. The government alone cannot do the job. Some scholars can do a lot of jobs in research, conference, international events ... etc that can protect our national interest. The diaspora has done exemplary work during the last two years. The diaspora especially in Europe and America have to continue their jobs with appropriate support from the government. They are well aware of what to do to influence the western government. We also have to beef up public diplomacy. The international community is more sensitive to what they see physically than what they overhear. Therefore, we have to strengthen public diplomacy. We have to involve every citizen as Ambassador.

For example, we can make our citizens use their mobile phones to share important information about their country through the internet, and social media. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) there is a public diplomacy directorate headed by Hon Dina Mufti. A public diplomacy centre has also been opened at our University (Hawassa). But similar centres must be opened in all

We have to beef up public diplomacy. The international community is more sensitive to what they see physically than what they overhear. Therefore, we have to strengthen public diplomacy. We have to involve every citizen as Ambassador

other universities too. This will bring together Universities, and research institutions, to stand together for the country. By now many people are struggling for the country not because the government designed the message for them, but on their own initiative. We have to correct this and establish a central hub. This will interconnect the citizen with the government so that the people engaged in public diplomacy would have continuous updates and supply of agenda on current matters.

In addition to the cooperation of some friendly members of the Security Council, what can we do to avoid a future possible attempt of intervening in our domestic affairs? What do you think would be the benefit of correcting the composition of the Security Council?

The composition of the Security Council is facing objections from some countries. This is because the countries do not want to change it. India, Latin America and Africa also want the SC permanent seat. The current permanent members do not want to see more members in SC because they want to be the sole makers and breakers. They want to secure their national interest. This is



posing some questions. Africa, India, and Latin America all are making requests for permanent seats. They are troubled to handle the quest from these parts of the world. They are forwarding various excuses not to respond to these quests. It may take time but they cannot shun the quest. Ethiopia has to push in this regard so that the voice of Africa can be heard. We have to do India, Latin America, and Japan to join.

Currently, the five permanent members of the Council have the right to set the agenda. The rest of the countries are only receivers and performers of the agenda set by these countries. This is another form of colonization. The non-permanent members cannot deal with their sovereign issues. Therefore, Africa, the Middle East, India, Japan,

Latin America and Australia have to do their best to make the UNSC composed fairly.

Ethiopia also has a historical responsibility to pursue the quest of African people or run an African Agenda. In pursuing this quest it has to involve Latin America, India ...etc alongside. This is the international right of self-determination to which all countries are entitled. Raising the agenda together will give us momentum in our efforts to make the UN an international organization. We have to raise it as a continuous agenda at continental meetings like that of the African Union (AU).

Thank you very much for your time!

You are most welcome!

Preserving, revitalizing and promoting indigenous knowledge

BY TEWODROS KASSA

In Africa, traditional medicines have been used widely to treat and prevent diseases and preserve health. Utilizing traditional medicines that are prepared from medicinal plants is the oldest and the most accustomed healthcare practice that Africans have been exercising it for centuries in their health system.

Likewise, Ethiopians have been utilizing medicinal plants to cure various illnesses. As the country is blessed with a wide range of ecological climatic conditions that are favourable to grow varieties of plant species, preparing herbal medicine from medicinal plants and treating diseases - from mild to severe - is the deep rooted wisdom of Ethiopians.

And traditional medicine experts working in different parts of the country have been using medicinal plants to cure various types of human and animal ailments.

Particularly, in the rural parts of the country where modern medications is inaccessible, and the cost of medicines are unaffordable for those low income group, the use of medicinal plants by traditional healers to cure various human and animal ailments is natural and common. In turn, as stated by many researchers, the medicinal plants have been showing effective medicinal values for some diseases of humans and livestock even though there are shortcomings.

However, as documents indicate, these medicinal plants have got little attention regarding the documentation of scientific names, uses, ecology, and conservation in Ethiopia, in particular and world-wise, in general.

Moreover, traditional medicine is faced with a problem of sustainability and continuity mainly due to the loss of taxa of medicinal plants; besides having lack of quality control for herbal medicines. The main causes for the loss and decline of diversity of plants in Ethiopia are human-made factors including destruction and deforestation for commercial timber and forest encroachment, urbanization, investment, agriculture.

In addition to these, limitations to transmit the wisdom and knowledge about medicinal plants to descendants have resulted in loss of knowledge; and the plant materials as well. However, to defend the challenges, retrieve and further develop the wisdom, various activities are on-going.

Recently, the annual African Traditional Medicine Day, which honours the integral role of traditional medicine in the health and welfare of generations of people on the continent, was marked.

In connection with the day, WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, in her message said that traditional medicine



Traditional medicines help curing some diseases in the African continent

has been the trusted, acceptable, affordable and accessible source of health care for African populations for centuries.

Still today, 80 percent of the continent's population relies on traditional medicine for their basic health needs. This year's theme, "Two Decades of African Traditional Medicine Day: Progress Towards Achieving Universal Health Coverage in Africa", gives us the opportunity to reflect on the progress towards African traditional medicine being afforded the prominence it deserves in national health systems.

Since African Traditional Medicine Day was initiated in 2003, the continent has seen the implementation of WHO Regional Strategies on Promoting and Enhancing the Role of Traditional Medicine in Health Systems, 2001-2010 and 2013-2023, as well as plans of action for the First (2001-2010) and Second Decades of African Traditional Medicine (2011-2020).

Member States have used the day to catalyze discussion forums around national policies on traditional medicine, cultivation of medicinal plants, including training of traditional health practitioners, and their

collaboration with their conventional counterparts.

These activities prompted more than 40 African region countries to develop national traditional medicine policies by 2022, up from only eight in 2000. Thirty countries have also integrated traditional medicine into their national policies, a 100 percent improvement on the situation in 2000. Additionally, 39 countries have established regulatory frameworks for traditional medicine practitioners, compared to only one in 2000, demonstrating good governance and leadership, she remarked.

Today, with 34 research institutes in 26 countries dedicated to traditional medicine research and development, it remains a promising industry, with great commercial potential if marketed appropriately internationally. Twelve of these countries reported making public fund allocations to this research and development across the past 10 years.

According to her, these institutes have employed WHO guidelines and protocols to assess the quality, safety and efficacy of traditional medicine-based therapeutics

for priority diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, diabetes, hypertension, Sickle-Cell Disease and, recently, COVID-19. Currently 17 countries, as opposed to zero in 2000, have frameworks for the protection of intellectual property rights and traditional medical knowledge.

To advance continental efforts towards equitable access to medical products and technologies, all but eight African Member states are now engaged in large-scale cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. Nineteen countries have also established facilities for the local manufacture of herbal medicines, with the number of herbal medicines registered by national regulatory authorities in 14 countries increasing from just 20 in 2000, to more than 100 this year. More than 45 herbal medicines now feature on national essential medicines lists, the Director elaborated.

In another important advance, 25 countries have now integrated traditional medicine into their health sciences curricula, while 20 have established training programs for traditional health practitioners and health sciences students to strengthen human resources in both traditional medicine and primary health care. Thirty-nine countries have also developed legal frameworks for traditional health practitioners.

Positive signs of traditional and conventional health systems working in parallel for the good of their patients are that referrals of patients between the two sectors are now taking place routinely in 17 countries. A total of 24 countries have also developed Codes of Ethics and Practice for traditional health practitioners to ensure safety and standards of service delivery. Ghana is setting the example for the continent, with the establishment of traditional medicine clinics in 55 regional hospital settings to date.

WHO in the African Region has supported joint missions with partners to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda to monitor clinical trials of traditional medicine-based therapeutics proposed for COVID-19, eight of which are ongoing. The political will displayed by countries to support these innovations has been inspiring, as has the level of available infrastructure and skills.

"On African Traditional Medicine Day today, I call on governments to strengthen collaboration between science, technology and innovation institutions; traditional health practitioners and the private sector to fast-track research and development, and local manufacturing of traditional medicine-based therapeutics for the health and well-being of Africa's people," the Director urged.

International News

Angola's Lourenco pledges more economic reforms

Angolan President Joao Lourenco vowed to push ahead with economic reform and hailed voters' "tolerance" as he was sworn in on Thursday for a second term after a divisive electoral win.

Amid tight security, Lourenco pledged to be "president for all Angolans" at a colourful ceremony held at the historic Praca da Republica square in the capital Luanda.

"Congratulations for the patriotism and high degree of tolerance, and civility shown in what are already considered the most disputed general elections in the history of the young Angolan democracy," he said in his inauguration

speech.

"Angolans have demonstrated to the world that at crucial moments, they know how to make the best choices and choose the future of their country with great responsibility".

He said that by electing him and his party, Angola had chosen "continuity" and will be guaranteed "stability" as he pointed to further economic liberalisation in a country ruled since independence by a historically socialist party.

He promised to push ahead with reforms to encourage the private sector, expand the offer of goods and services and fight youth unemployment.



South Sudan offers 14 oil blocks to increase output

South Sudan is putting up 14 oil blocks for sale in a bid to increase production to pre-war levels of 350,000 barrels a day.

Chol Deng Thon Abel, the Managing Director of state-owned oil consortium, the Nile Petroleum Corporation Limited (Nilepet), told journalists in the capital Juba on Wednesday that interest in its nascent petroleum industry has been growing.

Much of South Sudan's oil and gas blocks are yet to be fully explored and resources assessed, stalled by conflict.

"We have 14 oil blocks that have not been taken, and we invite international companies that are here to seize the opportunity to apply for these blocks. South Sudan is actually very busy nowadays attracting international companies to come and invest in the oil industry, and this conference is a very good platform to exchange ideas with international companies," Mr Abel said at the end of the 5th annual oil and power forum.



Ground handlers get two months to vacate new Zanzibar airport terminal

Ground handlers at Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume International Airport have until November to vacate the newly constructed terminal 3 building to give way to a new operator, Dubai National Air Travel Agency (Dnata).

The Zanzibar Airports Authority (ZAA) has given the Dubai-based company exclusive access to the new terminal, constructed at the cost of \$120 million.

But, the directive runs counter to the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority decision of 2022 prohibiting monopoly, price caps, favouritism or segregation of terminals.

ZAA, in a letter issued and signed by director-general Seif Juma, says it has entered a management agreement with three companies in its quest to improve service delivery.

The firms are Dnata Zanzibar Aviation

Services Limited, Emirate Leisure Retail, and Segap.

"As from December 1, 2022, unless informed otherwise by the authority, all services from terminal 3 shall be conducted under the auspices of Dnata for provision of ground handling and the Marhaba lounge services," reads the letter.

Source: *The EastAfrican*

Verbatim and Caption

What did Ethiopian diplomats tell int'l community about TPLF's invasion?



"The International community must condemn the TPLF and exert the necessary pressure on it to stop the attacks and accept a negotiated solution."

Henok Tefera - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to France

"African solutions to African problems, the AU-led peace process is the viable road to peace."

Nebiat Getachew - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Algeria



"The TPLF provoked the third round of conflict; the government is in a defensive mode trying to protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ethiopia."

Hirut Zemene - Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of Ethiopia to the Benelux countries and EU Institutions



"The international community should condemn the TPLF act and urge them to come to the negotiation table as the Ethiopian government is ready to negotiate for peace without preconditions"

Dessie Dalkie - Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ethiopia to the Republic of Korea

