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Shene militants surrender to ENDF at Raya front

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - Members of the terrorist *Shene* militants have surrendered to the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) at Raya war front while supporting their senior partner in crime, TPLF.

Earlier, both terrorist groups, *Shene* and TPLF, announced their agreement to work together to destabilize Ethiopia when the latter wreaked havoc on the Amhara and Afar states. Committing aggression by both states, the radical factions have committed various atrocities, especially civilian massacre.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) reporter, *Shene* members who joined the terrorist group from the Bati Front noted that the T-TPLF had employed them as the instrument to quench its thirst for political power. After the invaders were eliminated from Amhara and Afar states, those militants had been taken to Tigray to get military training.

See *shene Militants* ... page 4



Evidence shows ICHREE chair's ties with T-TPLF enablers

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - Various items of evidence have confirmed that the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) Chair Kaari Murungi has been a hardline supporter of Terrorist TPLF.

Now, she is also toiling on whitewashing T-TPLF's crimes in broad daylight having led the ICHREE, so stated twitter campaigners.

In his twitter message, Nafyad Wakjira indicated that Murungi has been never exposing crime against humanity committed by the terrorist group in the northern conflict

and not stated the effort of the Ethiopian government forwarding on peace option.

The campaigner further stated that Murungi has always been disseminating false information drawn from the terrorist TPLF propaganda and some global paid media. For instance, she tweeted: "Ethiopian troops and militia rape, abduct women and girls in Tigray conflict" that derived from Amnesty International as a source.

Similarly, she wrote on her twitter account that market airstrike in Tigray state of Ethiopia kills dozens of citizens, but not any fact evidences.

See *Evidence shows* ... page 4

Seqota Declaration implementation benchmark for other nations: AfDB

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia's Implementation of Sekota Declaration is a model for other nations and that would soon be implemented in six other African nations, African Development Bank (AfDB) said.

During a high-level presidential dialogue on nutrition, AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina (PhD) praised Ethiopia's government for its success in putting the Sekota Declaration into practice, and "it could serve as a model for other nations."

The Ethiopian government and the AfDB hosted a high-level presidential dialogue on nutrition to encourage collective action by African leaders to end childhood stunting, boost human capital, and promote development while sharing Ethiopia's experience in implementing the Seqota Declaration.

The President said: "By banding together, we

See *Seqota Declaration* ... page 4

News



Misker Negash

Addis raises over 160 mln Birr for GERD

. Contributes over 3.6 billion Birr since commencement

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA –Individuals and businesses in the capital Addis Ababa have contributed over 160 million Birr for the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) during the past two months, the Public Participation Office disclosed.

The Office of Public Participation Coordination Project of the GERD Construction in Addis Ababa further stated that some 3.6 billion Birr has been secured from various income generating schemes in the capital for the iconic dam.

The Office General- Manager Misker Negash told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the closer partnership they have established with the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) and other stakeholders enabled them to amass a significant resource from the public. Also, the commitment of government and non-government agencies, the public at large as well has played a pivotal role for the success.

The successful completion of the mega hydroelectric dam would have a paramount importance for the nation and enable the latter to thwart the conspiracies of historical enemies and solidify the public's unity. The dam has also guaranteed the right of fair utilization of the Nile waters among riparian countries.

Commended the continued financial support from Ethiopians for the construction of the grand project and other development activities back home, Misker called on the public to support the building of the dam financially, professionally and in other ways. "As the metropolis has enormous demand for electricity, the public's active participation in various fundraising schemes till the execution of the GERD is vital."

The general-manager further extended calls for increased support to expedite development endeavors.

IPDC, Chinese company ink agreement

BY MUSSA MUHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA- The Industrial Parks development Corporation (IPDC) has signed an agreement with the Chinese company of Lighthouse Garment Manufacturing PLC to join the garment sector to produce the best quality garment, with competitive price, and reliable service.

IPDC Deputy CEO Shiferaw Solomon and the China Lighthouse Garment Manufacturing PLC General Manager Chin Wenbing signed the shed lease agreement to be implemented at Adama Industry Park.

On the signing ceremony, China Lighthouse Garment Manufacturing PLC General Manager Chen Wenbing said that the agreement strengthens the old diplomatic relations between China and Ethiopia.

Accordingly, this year marks the 52nd anniversary of the diplomatic relations between China and Ethiopia.

The company would bring quality-



products to their clients, create employment opportunities, introduce advanced training, and technology to the local market, and generate forging currency, and tax income for the country with its quality product, and reliable service, he said.

In addition, the company will spare no efforts to contribute to the garment industry development, and dedicate itself to revitalizing the manufacturing sector.

"Being the leading foreign direct investment destination in Ethiopia, Adama industrial park is endowed with a productive labor

force, favorable location, complete infrastructure, and developed transportation," he noted.

On his part, IPDC Deputy CEO Shiferaw Solomon said that the company comes to Ethiopia to produce quality garment products and to add value for the sector.

The shed lease agreement signed with China's Lighthouse Garment Manufacturing PLC will be put into an effort at Adama Industrial Park, he added.

As to him, the company rents a shed of 5,500 square meters and invests over 216 million Birr, which generates an annual sales income of 945 million Birr.

He pointed out that when the company comes into operation it can create jobs for over 600 citizens.

Accordingly, the corporation has 13 industrial parks across the country, has built 177 sheds, developed more than 540 hectares of cultivated land, and is creating jobs by bringing in local and foreign investors.

KOICA donates various materials to KWCCRI

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA-KOICA Ethiopia Office has provided various materials and nonmaterial supports to Kechene Women and Children Care and Rehabilitation Institution (KWCCRI).

In collaboration with Addis Ababa Women, Children and Social Affairs Bureau, the office handed over material supports yesterday to KWCCRI in the presence of representatives of the office and various government officials.

Likewise the office has provided training on Gender-based Violence and psycho-social support for employees of the institution and bureau to enhance their capacity on gender based violence and ways to provide psycho-social support for abused women and children.

The office has donated 5,000 packs of sanitary pads, 200 bath soaps and 200 laundry soaps along with the cost of training the office has provided a supports worth value of 380,000 Birr.

Speaking at the handover ring of the materials and launching of the training event KOICA's Deputy Country Director Kim Sun Young said that KOICA has been addressing a number of socio-economic problems through the KOICA-club support program under its fellowship program. The KOICA established the club to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, skills, and experience among Ethio-Korean alumni members and contribute to the social services in Ethiopia.

The club was established back in 2001 with



the support of KOICA's Ethiopia office with fellow participants of its short and long-term capacity-building program.

In their professions and skill along with KOICA's budget support members of the club has been reaching out to the core community problems since its establishment.

She stressed that the club has been widely involved in post-COVID-19 and conflict responses adding that the club has been conducting National Dialogues on the impacts of the pandemic and conflict and, vulnerable women, children, and elders support associations have been supported in awareness creation training and different material donations.

KWCCRI Manager Turuwork Debebe told *The Ethiopian Herald* that her institution needs a lot of supports from donors to rehabilitate women and children who join her institution because of various social problems.

She stressed that the institution have been providing different educational, psychological, medical and other supports for female children that have joined the institution because of lack of family and other problems.

She underscored that currently the institution has been providing total institutional care and supports for 117 female children.

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The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Is ICHREE's 'report' to obscure TPLF's grievous atrocities?!

Some sanctimonious countries that fall in the set referred to the conceptual west by Pan Africanists are in a frantic bid to saddle their subtle political agendas on Ethiopia and to dictate such schemes to it under the guise of protecting human right violations.

They have dished out a wrong narrative via an International Human Rights Commission of Experts (ICHRE), whose very inception is highly dubious after the International Human Rights Commission and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission had jointly exposed the bellicose and sanctimonious nature of the mendacious TPLF.

It is a public knowledge that the narrative is churned out to give a kiss of life to terrorist TPLF, as a last ditch effort with bulging eyes, that is clamoring for elixir scouring the sky of hypocrites.

Worse still, the study is one that has gone off the track as it is completely divorced from a scientific method of conducting a reliable research. It was largely based on hearsays. It was a narrative which did not take aboard pertinent bodies or was one that deliberately brushed aside concerned parties. As such, it was outright rejected as a fallacious chronicle.

The make-believe or fictitious report blindly tilted the balance towards the mourning-killer. It bald-facedly tried to twist the incumbent's arm. These drag into light the report's appalling untrustworthiness. This sours or heavily damages the report's credence.

The report barefacedly claims the government has used starvation as a weapon of war to swap the subject of the discussion turning a blind eye to the glaring fact that TPLF was ferrying food aid to its trenches, and using it for bartering it with arsenals. It underplays the long distance the government went to outreach people of Tigray even allowing a unilateral cessation of hostilities.

The report bristling with groundless accusations is one prepared on purpose to extend a helping hand to terrorist TPLF that serves a reliable Trojan horse to hypocrites and their tail organizations and

countries.

To tell terrorist-TPLF character is untoward all times, it simply suffices to check its checkered past.

It is enough to review what it has been doing during the time that spans over four decades. Dividing people along ethnic and religious lines it was inflicting harm on the country and neighbors to the extent of rocking the region.

Terrorist-TPLF was embezzling nation's wealth, downplaying Ethiopia's time-old sacred cultures and trying to tarnish the sovereignty of the country. Bloodshed is what comes in the fibber TPLF's sway.

T-TPLF always dreams to wreck don the emblem of freedom, Ethiopia. And in so doing it aims at wiping out its people. This sheds light on its understated inclination to genocide.

The report didn't hint about the support donors were seeing to up to the terrorist trenches, the looting the terrorist group was committing scot-free, the detention of WFP's vehicles for the ferrying purpose of child soldiers to the front. Nor did it mention the destruction the terrorist group committed in neighboring states of Amhara and Afar. Even by way of a side talk it did not mention the indifference of donors to the starved inhabitants of neighboring states. It seems oblivious of balance, a salient ingredient to buy a research taking it sound.

What hypocrites need remind themselves is one-size-fits-all formula could not be applied all time. Ethiopia is a country that stood shoulder high foiling subjugation by self-seeking supremacists and colonizers. Hence, they could not make Ethiopia a pawn as their former colonies using Trojan horses like the hideous, blood thirsty, treacherous, treasonous, and siding the merciless and chatterbox TPLF, ill-famed by negative association they are rather blemishing their own image.

Ethiopia could not accept a wrongheaded report. Nor could the discerning ones for that matter!

Opinion

Tigrayan opposition should voice louder about Tigrayan mothers, youth, and children

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

So far, no one comprehends that the people of Tigray have been paying unnecessary sacrifices only for safeguarding the power of T-TPLF officials since the inception of the party. The group was initially established to resist the dictatorial rule of the then-military Derg regime. However, it replaced that military regime and rather resumed a somewhat similar mode of despotic rule throughout the country.

Yet people in Tigray faced the worst level of the terrorist group's arbitrary and despotic rule that it put in place across the nation for nearly three decades.

TPLF's opponents in the region identify the party's intolerant and undemocratic culture as being the main factor that explains its nearly uncontested dominance over Tigray for decades. The party has controlled everything through its entrenched power across all public spheres, including the media, bureaucracy, security, and the judiciary.

The party is notorious for its five-to-one network, where one party member monitors five people in businesses, schools, workplaces, and even households. This system has been the source of TPLF's control, particularly in rural areas where the state's reach is less apparent.

Establishing this repressive structure has allowed the party to suppress any dissent at the grassroots level.

Above all, women were a victim of T-TPLF rulers. Apart from gender violence, women are still the target of this group as they are exposed to rape and other violence. The undemocratic group is known for its war-mongering behaviour as it is not able to respond to public queries instead. The blind group which has no public trust has been now and then forcefully pushing the people to be involved in endless war. If they will not lose the power and the benefit, the group of T-TPLF has no worries about the increasing death of civilians especially children and women during the time of war.

Even though they have not obtained the ears of international organizations, some political party members are now and then trying to be the echo of the Tigray people who have been oppressed for a long. The Terrorist TPLF's triggering of another round of war is a genocidal attempt to destroy the remaining people of Tigray, ethnic Tigray politicians. The criminal faction is committing war crimes by recruiting underage children and the elderly.

The renewed conflict is a clear indication that the T-TPLF continues to believe in a military solution and fully disregards the plight of

innocent civilians. The terrorist enterprise is forcibly conscripting the Tigray youth for another round of aimless and destructive war to quench its thirst for political power, said Tigray Democratic Party (TDP) President Aregawi Berhe (Ph.D).

With the federal government's unwavering commitment to resolving differences amicably, the outlawed group is employing the age-old human wave strategy by using children and the elderly as human shields.

The criminals have been terrorizing the people of Tigray and forcing each family to contribute at least one child to the war front which is a clear violation of international laws and norms. Accordingly, the global media and other concerned bodies need to play their role in exposing the group's crimes and force it to stop provocations.

It is visible evidence that those children are not even able to hold the weapon given to them, let alone fight with the Ethiopian joint forces. Apart from using children as cannon fodder, the T-TPLF continues committing atrocious crimes on the civilian population of Amhara and Afar.

The radical clique incited another round of war and ordered the people of Tigray including children, elders and others to join the war efforts simply to eliminate them from the earth said Nebiyu Sehul-Mikael, former Head of

Prosperity Party's Office in the Tigray State.

The intention of the T-TPLF is merely to destroy the existing generation of Tigray and they have no care for the well-being of civilians under their control. The recent call-for-arms is a failure sign of the group's ill-conceived aim.

From the beginning, the war is incited by the leaders of the radical element and their close associates who could benefit from the situation and it is not in the interest of the people of Tigray. The war is not public; rather it is the interest of a few elites to achieve their hidden interest and that is why they are engaged in forceful conscription of underage children and the elderly.

T-TPLF has repeatedly bitten the hand-stretched for a peace deal. If the international community wants to stop the evil deed of the group over the people of Tigray, it has to cooperate with the Ethiopian government and bring the criminals to justice.

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

News

Industry Group covers 850 hectares of fallow land by crop plant

• Expects to harvest 30, 000 quintals of wheat

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian Sugar Industry Group said it has covered 850 hectares of sugar factories' fallow land by crop plants alongside with its main activity of production of sugar cane.

On Thursday, the media team visited summer time wheat and other crops production activities of Wonji Shewa Sugar Factory.

Briefing Journalists, Industry Group Director General Wayo Robba said that as part of the national plan ensuring food security and generating foreign hard currency, it expected to harvest over 30, 000 quintals of wheat and other crops products from the current summer season.

It covered 850 hectares of land by different crop plants alongside producing plant

cane. Previously, about ten percent of the factories' fallow land was uncultivated every year.

Different plants which increase the fertility of the fallow land were planted. However, this year uniquely, factories shifted to plant and develop wheat, maize and other crops to support food self-sufficiency and generate hard currency. This effort will contribute to the demand of basic seeds and food self-sufficiency activities of the government, he said.

In addition to the production of sugar and its input sugar cane, sugar factories have been developing basic crop seeds. Currently, the group has been aggressively working to expand and increase the production of crops in factories on fallow land, he added.

Representing Wonji Shewa Sugar Factory, Jemal Aman for his part said that the factory has expected to harvest over 30,000 quintals of crop this summer season alongside

the production of sugarcane. It has done without harming the production of sugar cane. The factory simply utilized the fallow land which left any seed coverage. Various stakeholders such as Ethiopian Agricultural Works Corporation and others are supporting supplying fertilizer, seed and other inputs as well.

"This summer season, we acquired adequate lessons to strengthen our future wheat and other crops production activities. Over the past 70 years, Wonji Shewa Sugar Factory's fallow land was left uncultivated."

Ethiopian Agricultural Works Corporation Corporate Operational Sector Deputy Director Feleke Gezahegn said that the Wonji Shewa Sugar Factory is ready to harvest wheat and other crops which will cover 20 hectares of land. This will play an important role in addressing basic and certified seeds supply problems.

Seqota Declaration...

can solve the issue of child stunting in Africa. This project will receive four billion USD from the bank."

At the event, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonen said: "In order to ensure that the declaration serves its intended purpose; top management has been closely monitoring and supervising its implementation."

Additionally, he said that the Sekota Declaration is assisting mothers and children in getting nourishing food; it will be fully implemented by 2030. And the declaration aims to end child stunting in the nation.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister outlined four crucial actions that improved the Sekota Declaration's outcomes: political leadership and budget allocation, financial and technical support from development partners, implementation of problem-solving techniques, and gender-based feedback.

As to Demeke, over 110,000 children were saved in the Amhara and Tigray states within six years of the implementation, according to a study on the Sekota Declaration's implementation mechanisms that John Hopkins University had conducted.

By making nutrition a top national priority and establishing effective multi-sectoral nutrition programs in each of their respective nations, African Heads of State, the African Development Bank Group, the African Union mission to the United Nations, and partners pledged to invest in and accelerate progress toward ending stunting on the continent.

Hijra Bank introduces inclusive digital service

BY BILAL DERSO

ADDIS ABABA- Hijra Bank, one of Ethiopia's full-fledged non-interest banks, introduced yesterday the up-to-date and inclusive digital banking service dubbed "Hijra Digital."

Speaking at the service launching event, the Bank President Dawit Keno stated that Hijra has employed the Omni Channel technology that incorporated all the digital banking services.

The president further highlighted that the new technology replaced the existing multi-channel approach and gives the mobile, internet, card, ATM, POS and RTGS services in one. By avoiding the burden of remembering multiple passwords of the respective services, the technology enhances customers' experience.

Also, the Omni channel ensures quality services to customers in multiple platforms including internet, mobile and card and address the incongruence that could create between different channels.



Noting customers have pleaded repeated concerns about the existing logo's similarity with another bank, Dawit indicated new logo introduced in a bid to better represent Hijra's philosophy and distinguish the firm from fellow financial institutions.

Hijra Bank Board Chairman Mukemil Bedru said for his part that the bank's introduction of digital service is aligned with Ethiopia's digitalization strategy and helps the country to achieve digital transformation. Significant attention has also been given to ensure physical branch expansion to ensure the benefits of the rural community.

Though multi-channel is cheaper compared with Omni channel in terms of cost, Hijra opts to the latter with a view to providing first-level digital service to the growing customers, Mukemil elaborated.

Established in 2020, Hijra's paid up and registered capital has reached 980 million Birr and 1.26 billion Birr respectively and it has 42 branches spreading across the country. The bank has been mainly providing Wadiah, Kerdand Mudarabah as well as Murabaha type of the interest-free services.

Evidence shows...

The above twitter message is real evidence that Murungi has huge ambitions to dismantle Ethiopia through concealing the awful and immoral acts of the terrorist group and disseminating false information to the world community.

Furthermore, she has never reported that the terrorists group's crimes against humanity such as war crimes, ethnic cleansing on Amhara and Afar states, women and daughter raping, recruiting children to the warfront, displacing innocent people, slaughtering, looted and destroyed various institutions. She was rather being a beloved family with the barbarous group by assisting the dissemination of false propaganda.

National Security Advisor, Redwan Hussien also tweeted that: "Though all the Shenanigans way before the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) were already too apparent, what made this lady eligible is interesting. The rest is a foregone conclusion. It would have made a complete sense had others in the league: Tronvolt, Reshid, Martin Plaut and Alex De Waal been counted in."

A twitter campaigner, Eyob Getachew on his part said: "We have a reasonable ground to believe that kaari Murungi-led ICHREE has violated the UN's core principles of impartiality and has engaged itself in a covert mission of shamelessly demonizing and incriminating the Ethiopian government, National forces, Militia, and Fano while covering the TPLF atrocities. No More!"

It was learnt that after UNHRC president appointed Kaari Betty Murungi to serve as new Ethiopian HRC; she deactivated her accounts to hide her biased opinion as you can see on her tweets. From day one, she has been TPLF apologist. Her statement is politically motivated not fact based.

Shene militants surrender to ENDF...

The militants, who surrendered to the ENDF while taking part in the T-TPLF's third round invasion of the Amhara State, further highlighted that they partook in while acquiring weapons provided by the T-TPLF clique. "Having realized we should not sacrifice our lives for an aimless war, we decide to surrender to the ENDF and received a good care and treatment from the army."

Abdu Ali Muhammad is one of the members of *Shene* militants said he and his fellow Oromo Youth conscripted by the T-TPLF group and took part in invading Amhara and Afar states last year.



Abdu, a former civil servant in Kemise, headed to Mekelle with the T-TPLF militants when the radical element was defeated by ENDF and left Mekelle. After receiving

training with several *Shene* members in Tigray, Abduhad beentaking part in the third round war before finally surrendered to the ENDF.

Opinion

Read all about it: Political hit job of International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia exposed!!

BY ALMARIAM

The weaponization of the International Human Rights Commission by the TPLF's Patrons/Partners-in-Crime is finally exposed.

The "report" is a political hit job with the singular aim of shamelessly demonizing the Ethiopian Government and the Ethiopian National Defense Force, Militia and Fano, and canonization of the terrorist TPLF.

The Report mentions **ONE and ONLY one human rights violation** committed by the TPLF terrorist group in its investigation!

The main "conclusions" quoted directly from the "REPORT" are as follows (boldface added for emphasis)

The Commission finds reasonable grounds to believe that the ENDF shelled Mekelle on 28 November 2020, killing and injuring civilians and striking civilian objects days after Tigrayan forces had left the city with their assets. ENDF soldiers committed widespread extrajudicial



killings, rapes and other forms of sexual violence, and looting during the seven-month period stretching from 28 November 2020 to 28 June 2021. ENDF personnel also used civilian objects for military purposes and restricted access to medical treatment.

The Commission finds reasonable grounds to believe that Tigrayan forces killed civilians and persons rendered hors de combat, raped, looted, and damaged or destroyed civilian

infrastructure and property in Kobo and Chenna in late August and early September 2021.

The Commission finds reasonable grounds to believe that the ENDF conducted a drone strike against the Dedebit IDP camp on 7 January 2022, killing and injuring approximately 60 civilians and destroying civilian infrastructure. It also finds reasonable grounds to believe

that there were no soldiers or military equipment in or near the camp on the day of the attack.

The Commission finds reasonable grounds to believe that the ENDF, EDF, and Fano have committed widespread acts of rape and sexual violence against Tigrayan women and girls. In some instances, the attackers expressed an intent to render the victims infertile and used dehumanizing language that suggested an intent to destroy the Tigrayan ethnicity. Tigrayan Forces have also committed acts of rape and sexual violence, albeit on a smaller scale.

The Commission finds reasonable grounds to believe that the Federal Government and allied regional State governments have **implemented a widespread range of measures designed to systematically deprive the population of Tigray of material and services indispensable for its survival, including healthcare, shelter, water, sanitation, education and food.**

What does the African Continental Free Trade Agreement hold for women?

Agnes Opus sells cereals in Busia, the border town between Kenya and Uganda. This is her lifeline through which she caters for her immediate family's needs from school fees to housing and medical care and support to her extended family. While she dedicates all her energy and time to this work which she loves, she struggles to meet all her needs. She faces many non-tariff barriers including harassment by officials and unclear and ever-changing information on trade requirements.

Agnes' challenges are not unique to her. They represent the plight of millions of women across the continent engaged in cross-border trade. They have expectations that the Women and Youth in Trade Conference and the adoption of a Women and Youth protocol by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), will make it easy for women to trade.

The AfCFTA holds great potential by creating the largest free trade area in the world by number of countries -55 - it connects, bringing together 1.3 billion people and a combined gross domestic product (GDP) valued at US\$3.4 trillion. The Women and Youth in Trade conference, hosted by H.E Samia Suluhu, the President of Tanzania, and the AfCFTA secretariat aims at helping the AfCFTA work better for women and youth.

The continent has the highest rate of female

entrepreneurs globally with approximately 26% of female adults involved in entrepreneurial activity contributing between US\$250 and US\$300 billion to African economic growth in 2016, equivalent to about 13% of the continent's GDP.

Despite this potential, women earn on average 34% lower profits than men. Structural barriers like the ones faced by Agnes hamper the growth of women-led or owned businesses. These barriers include discriminatory legal and customary frameworks and practices, gendered stereotypes, norms and biases, and an unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work. Together, they prevent the full and equal realization of women's rights and their full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in the economy.

To see real progress, the protocol should focus on ending these barriers through four strategies.

First, move beyond the mere signing of a protocol to implementable frameworks in each country. As an example, governments should pass legislations on preferential procurement that mandates the selection of services, goods or public works from women-led or owned enterprises and businesses that have gender-just policies and practices for employees and supply chains.

This would be a game changer. Today, only 1% of current public procurement spending of US\$286.3 billion (15% of GDP) in Sub-Saharan Africa goes to women-owned businesses. Evidence shows that if the amount of public procurement spending to women entrepreneurs were doubled, that would be US\$5.7 billion while gender parity in public procurement would have women entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa receive over US\$143 billion in contracts from governments.

Second, governments need to facilitate trade not only in sectors where women are the majority, but to also support women to enter sectors where they are underrepresented. Sectors such as manufacturing, construction, and IT technology are some of the fastest growing sub sectors in the continent, yet women remain underrepresented.

In Kenya, where the construction sector is fast-growing, only 15.4% of registered contractors are women. Removing the barriers that face women in these sectors, including social acceptance, sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, and labor conditions including unequal pay would be a game changer.

Third, governments need to address the Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs). NTBs are considered neutral measures with gendered impacts. Women face specific constraints that undermine their economic activities,

access to technical information and finances, and are often subject to harassment and extortion at borders.

They have less access to key trader networks and information about relevant procedures. Additionally, time-consuming trade measures and documentary requirements impinge more heavily on women. Addressing these should be part of a broader process for gender responsive trade policies.

And finally, there needs to be evidence-driven accountability mechanisms to track progress of the implementation of the new Women in Trade Protocols. Sex disaggregated data of trade volumes, gender indicators that track women's engagement in Africa as well as a score card that shows how countries are doing is needed.

The CCADP indicator framework and score card that tracks country implementation of the Malabo Commitments is an example of how data can be used to bring accountability to continental commitments while integrating key gender indicators.

(Source: <https://www.ipsnews.net>)

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

Business & Economy

Challenges the construction sector encountered, the way out

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

The Ethiopian Construction Industry is categorized as weak sector in which for the last 20 to 25 years its role in the economic growth has been eroded and crippled by multifaceted problems, announced by the government.

Recently, when the meeting organized by the Addis Ababa Trade Sector Association Council took place here, the State Minister of Urbanization and Infrastructure, Engineer Wondimu Seta said that, though the contribution of the construction sector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reached to 19%, the sector suffers from various shortcomings.

As to him, the problems arise from the policy that the sector is governed by. The national construction policy was introduced in 2006. However, after it was implemented improvement based on the changeable situation of the sector and evaluating of its effectiveness was not conducted. "On the one hand, the policy is neglected by many pertinent stakeholders and secondly, it was not evaluated and the necessary attention was not paid on it. As a result, no one can dare to say that the sector has been effective to meet its goals as it was expected" the Deputy Minister said.

Rules helpful for the implementation of the policy have not been introduced. The already existed directives also do not go in line with each other as the result, the sector remains dysfunction. Efforts were exerted to strengthen the sector by allowing foreign companies to come here and work but the venture faced challenges.

He further said that, the government's intention of inviting foreign contractors was in order to bring helpful knowledge here and experience sharing not just simply to engage in an ordinary infrastructure construction.

With regard to capacity gap between the local and foreign contractors, he said that in the aspect of finance the foreign contractors have more than the local contractors and engaged in many construction activities.

Currently, 79 projects are conducted by local contractors but looking in terms of finance, the local contractors owned only 45% allocated on the sector. Most mega projects are conducted by foreign contractors.

In the earlier times of the past 20 and 25 years, the participation of foreign contractors in the sector was insignificant but in the last 10 years their participation has been increasing. As to the State Minister, even though foreign companies engaged in construction work here, the role of the local contractors was not worth mentioning. They engaged in big projects but mostly on digging grounds and works which need only small level technology which does not upgrade their engineering skills.

Therefore, the aspiration to attain technology and knowledge transfer can be said unsuccessful. Currently, problems are witnessed in relation to the foreign contractors working activities and in this regard some contractors showed reluctance in employing



local professionals.

In the beginning, when the road construction project was planned employing local professionals for foreign contractors was an obligatory. Particularly when they win a bid to execute mega projects, they had a duty to employ fresh university graduates. After getting plenty of experiences the employed graduates had left the foreign company and started their own construction projects but now local professionals are giving up the sector because of the above mentioned reasons.

The invitation of foreign contractors to engage in various construction projects had various objectives and among others building the sector capacity, attaining technology transfer, sharing knowledge. However, it was not achieved as it was expected. The other problem the sector faced mentioned by the Deputy Minister is that poor coordination of the sector with the other pertinent institutions, allocating insufficient budget to the projects and the unavailability of plenty of inputs and these and other problems hampered the sector not to play its part in supporting economic growth.

As to the State Minister, the other challenge which should not be denied is that the uneasiness relation among the project owners, contractors and consultants. Had there been good relation, the sector would have achieved beyond what it was expected and problems of the sector would have been resolved.

Though they are the major stakeholders, the three entities instead of cooperate each other, they are going against each other. The inconvenient working environment among the three stakeholders compromises the quality of construction.

He further said that the uncooperative relation witnessed there made construction works bellow the standard and lag behind construction works accomplished centuries ago.

Hence, unless it is redressed, the consequence will be dire. The other factor responsible for the low quality of construction is employing poorly trained contractors and consultants. On the other hand, the poor quality education provided by colleges can be said hampers the sector's growth directly.

As to him, in Ethiopia, more than 45 thousands professionals graduate annually in engineering and related fields but there is

no graduate which properly produce design, inspect quality and manage the project. Leveling professional's standard only by experience also posed problems and did not add value on the sector. In this regard the level of contractors and consultants can be categorized in similar manner.

Currently, with no sufficient knowledge and experience, anybody can join the profession and if selection is carried out only few of them can transform the sector. As to Engineer Wondimu, currently there are 22 thousand registered contractors and consultants but only 2000 of them are better qualified and deliver as per the sector required.

It is unknown that, whether there is strong construction company with plenty of capacity which can be inherited by the family's grand children. When working license is provided by the pertinent government institutions to the contractor or consultant the criterion to be fulfilled is only to have machinery and workers and such procedure does not upgrade the sector's capacity and the quality of the construction works.

There are also contractors who did not engage in the construction work for the last ten years but could renew license in which they use the license for illegal practices. Therefore, to redress the malpractices prevailed in the sector, strong action must be taken and new system also must be introduced. As it is known previously in the system there was no reward for good worker and punishment for guilty.

As to him, unless intergenerational companies are created, cutting age technology is introduced and progress is registered, transforming the sector is unthinkable.

As to the State Minister, his office will strive to take various measures to tackle the problems witnessed currently. As it is known, Ethiopia aspires to reach to the middle income country in the coming 10 years. Hence, unless the sector's problems are resolved, attaining the goal is unrealistic.

All sectors of development endeavors demand the construction industry involvement that is why priority must put in place for tackling the construction sector challenges.

Currently, the dwindling supply of cement hampered the construction activities and worse to this, even renewing old house is impossible. It is common to see that retailers selling cement by piece of kilo. The price of

cement has been more expensive than any other country in the world. Many speculate that the cement product has been expensive due to shortage of products and others said that it was because of artificial shortage; again others suggest that due to weak capacity of cement factories but as to the deputy minister, all are not the true cause of the cement shortage.

As to him, one of the indicators of economic growth measurement is per capita consumption of cement. Currently, based on the nation's economic development the nation per capita cement consumption is at least 500 kilogram annually. Let say Ethiopia is with 100 million population and based on this number the nation has to produce 50 million tons of cement product annually. Nevertheless, currently the cement factories in Ethiopia have the capacity to produce from 16 to 18 million tons of cement annually. When the product is divided to the whole population, the annual per capita consumption would be 75 kilogram.

Therefore, if it is needed to achieve economic growth, resolving the problems which hamper the construction sector is essential. In addition, substituting the imported cement product is vital.

Due to shortage of construction inputs, the private sector is unable to exert its energy with full capacity and the government projects are also stranded, and individuals are unable to do their own construction. However, it is clear to understand that, Ethiopia has sufficient raw materials which reaches up to 98% for cement production the nation needs which enables not only to meet its local demand but also for export to the neighboring countries and to the Middle East. However, it suffers from shortage of the product.

The State Minister traced back the rootcause of the scarcity of cement products and as to him, the decision taken by the government five years ago can be said the root cause. That time the government inhibited providing license to new investors who showed interest to involve in cement production assuming that the existing cement factories have been producing sufficient products that meet the demand. However, five years later the bag of cement which was sold by 280 birr reached to 2000 birr in which alarmingly sky rocketed.

The decision made by the government that time was only to serve the interest of few individuals rather than the public by blocking other investors no to enter in the cement business.

Consequently, the shortage of cement products has been aggravated and currently the cement factories produce only 1/5th of the nation's annual demand. Therefore, one should not be surprised by the shortage of supply witnessed today. As to the Deputy Minister, among the various problems witnessed in the sector organizing and disseminating information is one of it. Information with regard to how many construction works have been completed and their outcome is not availed. Therefore, he said that, his ministry is resolute to resolve the mentioned problems.

Planet Earth

Djiboutian woman promoting Green Legacy at home

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

With the thousands of seedlings obtained from the Ethiopian government Djiboutian environmental activist Fihima Mohammed is struggling to spread the Green Legacy Initiative in her home land. The Ethiopian Green Legacy initiative was launched in June 2019 aiming to curb the negative effects of climate change and deforestation in the country. The tree seedlings planting campaign, which took place from 2019 to 2022 during the main rainy *kiremt* seasons, had a target to plant a total of 20 billion seedlings. Nevertheless, the nation has been able to plant 25 billion tree seedlings over the past four years surpassing the target of 20 billion.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy said that “the 4 years since we launched Green Legacy has demonstrated to us that we are a people that can ideate, plan and accomplish.” “We planned to plant 20 billion tree seedlings and achieved 25 billion.” “Ours has been an inspiration for many throughout the world. We will continue building on our green culture.”

As Ethiopians, our lives are strongly intertwined with trees and forests. The green legacy initiative is designed to prevent flooding, food insecurity, environment-related conflicts, and other adverse effects. Hence, the green legacy has been implemented with the people who are truly committed to the initiative regardless of age, ethnicity, religion, sex, and so on, he added.

Indeed, the Ethiopian green legacy initiative hasn't stopped in Ethiopia, it includes also neighboring countries. So far Djibouti is using the Green legacy initiative effectively which could be a model for other countries. Djibouti becomes the first country to apply the green legacy initiative and has planted tree seedlings accorded by the government of Ethiopia as part of the Green Legacy Initiative.

The initiative is imperative for Ethiopia to ensure food security by planting edible plants, fruits, and vegetables while it helps Djibouti not only to fight the negative impacts of climate change but also to beautify the city of Djibouti.

Once the Mayor of Djibouti City Fatouma Awaleh Osman said that the Green Legacy Initiative would enhance the efforts to create a climate change resilient environment in the region in addition to its positive impact to improve the image of the city. The Mayor also shows gratitude to the government of Ethiopia for providing seedlings noting that the two countries are desirous to further continue



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The initiative gets also advocators and environmental activists in Djibouti. As a result, Ethiopian Ambassador to Djibouti Ambassador Berhanu Tsegaye praises the Djiboutian advocate of Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative, Fihima Mohammed.

Ambassador Berhanu Tsegaye welcomed and praised Fihima for her unwavering commitment to promoting a green economy and the Green Legacy initiative spearheaded by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in Djibouti. Because Fihima has been instrumental in facilitating the planting of thousands of seedlings the Ethiopian government offered to Djibouti in two rounds over the past two years.

Ambassador Berhanu expressed the readiness of the Ethiopian government to support such vibrant young Djiboutians who are enthusiastic and committed to working on agriculture and green economic development through capacity building, scholarships, training, visits, etc. He also stressed the urgent need to establish a network of eco-responsible youth between the two countries to best synergize green economic integration. Ethiopian Agriculture Minister State Minister Sani Redi said that Djibouti has been the first country that joined Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative to receive tree Saplings. Every year Ethiopia has preparing tree seedlings for Green Legacy Initiative, out of which some tree seedlings have been allocated to Djibouti so as to expand Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative. Hence, Djibouti is using this opportunity wisely.

In fact, climate change is a regional and global threat, so it is imperative inviting other East African countries to follow Djibouti's path in the fight against climate change challenges. Because Ethiopia, in 2021, has prepared to provide 91 million seedlings to South Sudan, 356 million to Sudan, 79 million to Eritrea, 9 million to Djibouti, 80 million to Somalia, 30 million to Somaliland, 100 million each to Kenya and Uganda, 19 million to Puntland, and 136 million to Rwanda.

However, among these countries, Djibouti is the only country that used the opportunity properly and effectively. The Ethiopian Embassy in Djibouti has completed its preparations to plant Fifty thousand seedlings in the 3rd round in Djibouti, Ambassador Berhanu said.

Art & Culture

The Finding of the true cross (Meskel)

BY Alem Hailu G/Kristos

From the 4 corners of Addis
 Sunday school students
 At a Meskel Square make a throng
 All the procession beating a drum
 Ululating and singing a song
 With a passion strong.
 "Queen Helena (Elene)
 Mother of Constantine the Great
 Found the true cross
 Buried under
 A dump-mountain long
 By those who read Jesus
 The incarnated word wrong."
 "Advised by a monk
 Led by an incense smoke
 The whereabouts of the place
 As she saw in her dream/revelation
 (326AD)
 Queen Helena managed to unlock."
 The n-curve of the smoke
 As a pointer
 Allowed her a go ahead
 To dig the mountain
 Beneath its bed.
 That is what Ethiopia
 Has been zealous
 To commemorate
 To date
 (For over 1600 years).
 At sundown
 When by the patriarch
 And the mayor
 The bonfire is lit
 Priests and deacons
 Sing and dance circling it.



An electrifying vibe
 Overwhelms
 Spectators' spirit
 Proving the event
 A hit.
 "Fail not to note
 The cross is power,
 Perseverance
 And soul's medicine
 To our sin an antidote!"
 An ocean of vigil light
 Accentuated by the darkness

Of the night
 Allows souls' flight
 To the extreme height.
 At last if the bonfire
 Falls towards the right
 It will be
 Celebrants delight
 Specially if a rain
 Puts the fire out.
 Celebrants return
 To their home
 To attend petty

Similar events
 That ripples across
 The nation
 In the same fashion.
 On the morrow
 Returning back
 To the ashes' bed
 They draw a cross
 On their forehead.
 On 27 Sep
 Tourists in droves
 Come
 To Ethiopia
 For a firsthand knowledge
 "Ethiopia raises
 Its hand to God
 Demonstrated many fold."
 Here reflecting is a wise thing
 In the division of the cross
 To avoid a similar thing
 Ethiopia (During the Era of
 its emperor Dawit/Middle age)
 has received
 The right wing.
 At a cross-like
 Mountainous road,
 It is placed
 At Geishen Mary's church
 Which the laity takes
 As Saint Mary's abode.

Boat

BY SENAIT G/Hiwot

If a boat is in a harsh weather
 Yet peaceful inside for the master
 To command it to go further
 It can overcome the weather
 If it is the other way around
 And the boat is full of sound
 Hard for the master to command
 Whether the weather is good or bad
 It's likely to go underground....



Society

Today a reader, tomorrow a leader

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

We are found in the era where digital technology has controlled the mind and the eyes of this generation. In places where the internet is wide spread and digital technology is available, everyone prefers to spend his/her time on the mini screen. With all its benefits, the digital technology has also its own side effects; this is especially true on children.

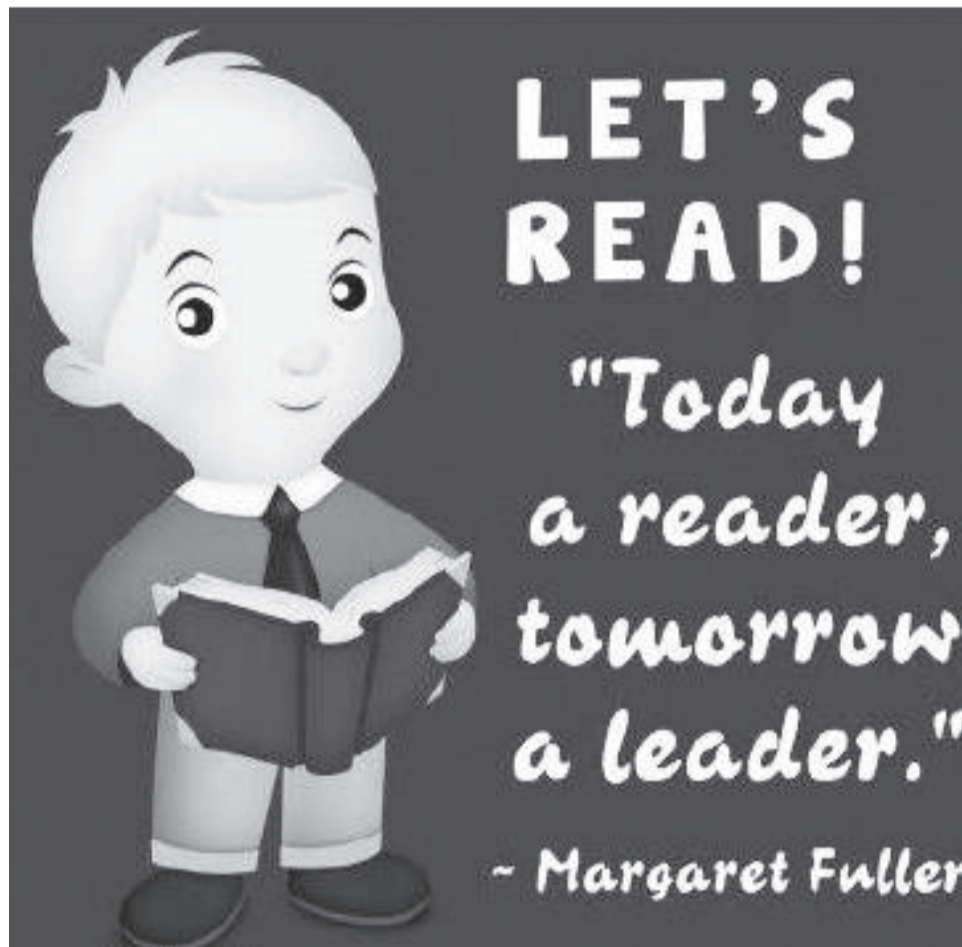
Following their curious nature to know and experience everything, children are adventurers to new technologies. For this reason, their mind will become more and more interested with the mobile technology or the tablets they have already in their hands; and they have little or no desire to read books with hardcovers.

Understanding the serious challenges of emerging technologies on children, several individuals and organizations are doing their level best to divert children's attention from mainstream and social media to books. 'Ethiopia Reads' is among these organizations that are working aggressively to promote the culture of reading among children. Ethiopia Reads is a non-profitable non-governmental organization that is founded with the vision of enabling children to develop their physical and spiritual entity through reading.

It is obvious that a child with a better reading skill has a better outlook on the world he/she is living in. Any child that reads better than his/her friends has a better dimension in the world he/she is living in. In this regard, Ethiopia Reads is working aggressively to enable children to read more; and to know the world around them. Using all the available means, the organization had been providing mobile and no-mobile reading services to children in towns and remote areas.

Recently, the Organization held its 3rd Annual Children's Reading Conference. As it was indicated on the Conference, since its establishment, Ethiopia Reads has been executing various activities to promote reading culture among children by providing reading services and books to children in remote areas. Using horses and donkeys, the organization is enabling several children to have access to books for free. This service includes provision of books to those internally displaced children.

As indicated by Ethiopia Reads Country Director, Yemsrach Worku, there is no question about the power of reading in terms of changing the life of every citizen. In this regard, helping and guiding children to read books has a significant role. "Ethiopia Reads supports children's literacy through strategies that leverage the power of integrated, continuous programming. We build libraries and train the teachers and librarians. We invest in quality books and language-appropriate materials for our children. Among international agencies, ER is the most complete provider of literacy



Ethiopia Reads supplies books, library furniture, and offers trainings, mentoring and networking services to library staff – most of them work in school-based environments. What is more, as part of its vision to address book shortages in some schools, Ethiopia Reads donated not less than four hundred thousand books, that it collected from several sources, to different libraries that are found in the country

programming in the country of Ethiopia.”

Ethiopia Reads together with its partners is working aggressively to support children by providing books and other necessary facilities. Starting from the time the organization launched its program, it has been providing community based mobile libraries to children. This library service includes remote places in Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples' of Ethiopia and Oromia states. What is more, as part of its vision to produce reader children all over the country, Ethiopia Reads has organized libraries in different primary schools. Besides supporting children with books and libraries, the Organization is also providing training to librarians and other stakeholders. Founded in 1998, Ethiopia Reads has been a leader in building youth and children's literacy across Ethiopia. The first library was established in 2003, and since that time the Organization has built several libraries spanning every state of the country, shipping more than a quarter million books

and serving hundreds and thousands of children per year. Ethiopia Reads supplies books, library furniture, and offers trainings, mentoring and networking services to library staff – most of them work in school-based environments. What is more, as part of its vision to address book shortages in some schools, Ethiopia Reads donated not less than four hundred thousand books, that it collected from several sources, to different libraries that are found in the country.

Speaking at the event, Director General of the National Archives and Library Agency, Yikunoamlak Mezgebu, said that supporting children to read and providing them all opportunities to love books should be the responsibility of every citizen. “Whenever we support children to have a special love for books, we are helping the whole nation. Children and winds have something that bears a resemblance to. They are free and they do not know where to go. Proper care of children and guiding them to the right direction is not only enabling them to decide about their future; it also helps the family and the nation to have a better future. In this regard, nurturing children with the culture of reading books has a key role at individual as well as national level.”

According to him, Ethiopia Reads is playing its role in this regard. However, having a closer look at what children are reading should be the duty and responsibility of parents, teachers and librarians. As a country with its own unique culture and alphabets, Ethiopian children need to be cultured to know more about their identity. While pushing them to know about the world around them with imported children books, a closer monitor of the content of the books should be a matter that needs everyone's due attention from every direction. The undesirable impact of social media and mainstream media on children in terms of stealing the time and corrupting the identity of children is too strong. In this regard, helping children with proper books is one way to address the challenge.

In Ethiopia, there is currently broad-based cooperation across multiple sectors. Ethiopia Reads was one of the original pioneers drawing attention to the issue of literacy, working with the Ethiopian Ministry of Education, National Archives and Library of Ethiopia, embassies and cultural attaches in Addis Ababa, as well as international NGOs like Save the Children. This cross-sector coalition has promoted literacy through book fairs, public readings and other symposia. Ethiopia Reads continues to work with these partners and their staff members remain very publicly engaged, regularly participating in all of these events. Including Director-General of the National Archives and Library Agency of Ethiopia, and the Ministry of Education, the conference was attended by authors of children's books, experts, and invited guests

Law & Politics

A sham report that exposes foreign entities' hidden intrigues

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The sham report released by the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia has laid bare the hidden motives and interests of Ethiopia's foes. To everyone's dismay, the fabricated report gives the cold shoulder to the self-evident truth unfolded in the northern part of the country.

Notwithstanding the fact that the terrorist TPLF group perpetrated summary killings, gang rape, lootings, and other criminal acts with no ill consequences in the northern part of the country, for the most part, in Amhara and Afar states, the report sweeps the whole truth under the carpet and confounds the wider international community.

It is a shame that putting aside the unspeakable atrocities committed with no ill effects in Amhara and Afar states by the criminal organization, the report laid all the blames at the doorsteps of the federal government.

In the same manner, to serve the interests of some groups and pursue their hidden agenda going on behind closed curtains, the commission report has turned deaf ear to atrocities committed by the rogue TPLF clique.

The report devoid of carrying out a scientific investigation issues a fictional report on false accusations and flawed data collection and analysis methods.

In the same manner, the commission with its flawed report in black and white tried to exonerate the criminal group and assigns liability to the incumbent.

In spite of the fact that the rouge group at all hours of the day and night has been pouring cold water on the unwavering stance of the government to make peace happen, the report lays the blame at the incumbent's door and parroting the interest of the ragtag group. As a matter of fact, the report from its head to foot does not say anything about the unspoken truth about the illegal organization.

In the present climate, Ethiopians at home and abroad have been going to the ends of the earth to make conversant the international community with the commission's cooked up report. There is no denying the fact that the intended destination of the report is to put unwarranted pressure on Ethiopia and twist its arms more than ever before.

Picking sides with the outlaw group that has been playing the victim card and mystifying the international community with fictitious stories; the commission's report sticks the blame on the incumbent and throws a wet blanket over the positive achievements. It is abundantly clear that the terrorist TPLF group's self-obsessed and warmongering stance conjoined with the hush of the global community turning out to be impediment to the peace process.

It should be borne in mind that the criminal enterprise in the northern part of the country has turned the lives of noncombatants into chaos and suffering. Although atrocities perpetrated in Amhara and Afar states ruined the lives of civilians, the group has continued turning the whole thing upside down.

In the same way, from the destruction of schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure to



perpetrating unspeakable crimes against the people of Afar and Amhara, the disgruntled group has been moving heaven and earth to tarnish the image of the country. In spite of this reality, the report fails to expose the nefarious deeds of the ragtag group.

Ethiopia's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva Ambassador Zenebe Kebede stated that the conclusions of the "report" are self-contradictory and biased which doesn't pay attention to the T-TPLF's atrocities in Afar and Amhara states. "We have no option than to reject this report, as we have rejected the resolution that established it and the very establishment of this mechanism as well."

Noting the government's commitment to collaborate with any human rights mechanism founded on a genuine objective of protecting human rights, the ambassador indicated there is no any single evidence that shows government's weaponized of starvation. "We questioned the legitimacy of establishing the expert commission because the purpose of the establishment was to reinvestigate what has already been investigated by the Office of the High Commissioner and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission jointly."

"We will never cooperate with the established mechanism and we decided to engage with the expert commission to discuss modalities of cooperation if they are ready to take into account the concerns of Ethiopia and focus on what has never been done rather than repeating what has already been done."

He further stressed that the UN Human Right Council unanimously endorsed the joint investigation and recommended the Ethiopian government to conduct a criminal investigation and ensure accountability. Accordingly, the Ethiopian government immediately established an inter-ministerial task force to facilitate the investigation task.

The government requested the Office of the High Commissioner including the President of

the Human Right Council to investigate both Amhara and Afar states the same way they did in Tigray, but there was no positive response. After the withdrawal of federal forces from the region T-TPLF has crossed into the neighboring states and committed atrocious crimes.

"What we have observed from the expert commission is that they have made the attempt to invite the UN Security Council intervention to the renewed conflict which has been triggered by the T-TPLF and transgressed their mandate. By the same token, the UN Human Right council doesn't have the mandate to intervene in the peace and security matters which is the domain of the UNSC," Ambassador Zenebe remarked.

Speaking to the *Ethiopian Press Agency* (EPA), International Relations and Diplomacy Lecturer at Civil Service University Endale Nigussie noted that, the commission cannot save the terrorist faction in this way because its "report" is far from credible.

As to him, the "report" is deliberately looking for mistakes and excuses to maintain the existence of the T-TPLF group and designed to hide the faction's corrupt practices. Because Ethiopians exposed the TPLF as a terrorist to the international community, this means that members of the commissions themselves have been traveling with the terrorist group by providing direction and financial supply. "Therefore, they want to take this burden of their violence and wrongdoing to someone else. Neither Ethiopians nor the international community will ever accept this."

The expert further highlighted that, the commission is not making the "report" public because they do not want to blame the group that took the aid to the well and brought weapons to the fort. According to the "report" they announced, the commission's support to the terrorist group is very immoral. "Using humanity for this obscene act is very disgraceful and the commission's use of human rights for political gain is also shameful."

The fact that three individuals were allowed to write a fiction without coming to the place and leaving behind the report studied by a legal and international organization is far from credible. This approach will not change things as much as they want, but will unite Ethiopians more and it also makes Africans see themselves.

"Ethiopians should be able to understand this wrong agenda of the West, which is part of the mixed war. The body that issued the report is itself an illegal group. The report was issued illegally. Therefore, Ethiopians should not be taken away by false propaganda."

Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has called on all human rights groups to implement the Joint Investigation Team (JIT)'s recommendations towards the allegation of violation of human rights following the occurrence of Northern Ethiopian conflict.

Recognizing the limitations and challenges faced by the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE), EHRC said that the report of ICHREE has hindered its selection of incidents and themes to a handful, as well as faced the complete lack of coverage of serious human rights and humanitarian law violations which could amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Afar state.

EHRC underscored that the JIT report together with EHRC's follow-up report on Afar, Amhara, and parts of Tigray states, remain the most comprehensive reports on violations and abuses of international human rights law, humanitarian law, and refugee law committed following the occurrence of the conflict.

"The Inter-Ministerial Taskforce of the Government of Ethiopia has to reinforce measures towards the timely, effective, and visible implementation of the JIT recommendations while maintaining international and regional standards."

Noting ICHREE to enhance its engagement with the JIT, EHRC pointed out the need for supporting on implementation of the JIT recommendations related to transitional justice and related areas.

Explaining its commitment to play its role, EHRC said that it is ready to cooperate with the ICHREE within the framework of cooperation proposed, including support to the ICHREE on discussions with the State to grant access to affected areas in Northern Ethiopia.

As the report is full of fictitious stories that do not reflect the ongoing circumstances on the ground, the international community should do everything to lambaste the evil deeds of the report and bring into contact the world with the truth. Regardless of the fact that the government has been leaving no stone unturned to extend an olive branch with a focus on getting the disgruntled group into the negotiation table at the earliest possible time, the Commission's report fails to give credit to the gospel truth.

As the fake report released by the commission focuses on belittling the continuous efforts of the government to beat swords into plowshare and perplexing the global community, concerned authorities should go the extra mile to disseminate the universal truth sooner rather than later.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

Leave Brad Out of It!

You're talking about Ethiopian territory. You are talking about Ethiopian land through which invaders after invaders tried to break through over centuries and were every time repelled, crushed and sent running with tails between their legs. Quite a little bit of history to narrow the empty spaces upstairs, (Your thumbs-up accepted. Ha!) Maybe it's high time to tell 'the Ethiopia-bashing mob, "It's none of your business!" Only Ethiopia and Ethiopians decide how best to deal with their internal problems.

This time, under the guise of some human rights report, they've resorted to trying to support their ill-devised 'report' with clips from Hollywood movies! (Hey Brad boy, w how're you doing? Just to tell you have some of the most the strangest fans across the Mediterranean. Call Geneva!)

'In the movie "Troy", after Brad Pitt (Achilles) slays all his enemies, he asked with a voice of victory, "Is there no one else?" Today, the people of Ethiopia's Tigray are asking: "What other evidence does the world need. Let peace reign, and let the people rebuild their community."

What kind of comparison is that? Well, probably an attempt to make the picture as dark as they can.

Look, I don't want to jump to conclusions. But why do I feel citizens of certain countries are featuring too frequently in the near-criminal efforts to demonize this country of tens of millions God-fearing people? And why do I feel that my country which has fought all through history to see all Africans free of colonial tyranny is being vilified with so much and so murderous venom? Or is it payback time for all it did to see colonialism abolish from Africa. Why do I feel that some on this continent don't seem to have yet broken free of mental colonialism and

jumping in response coming across the oceans and seas? And we say, what more evidence than that does the world need that Ethiopia is under relentless attacks of multiple actors who have been always doing that and who won't stop anytime soon!

"Is there no one else?" that's what Achilles is supposed to have said through good old Brad, isn't it? How about this; "Doesn't this organization which throughout history has been acting as a thorn in the side of a proud people who refuse to buckle under the pressure of racist and purely anti-Ethiopia onslaught has any one with brains enough to call sham, politically motivated so-called reports for what they are, politically motivated SHAMS!.

How can any group which uses all the horrific words in its bogus report try to push the Maykadra genocidal massacre under the rug! Thousands killed in ways that might bring back images of the Stone Age and they just 'ignore' it! And what about all the massacres, executions, rape of seventy and eighty year-olds, the demolitions of entire communities!

The Ethiopian Embassy UK tweeted;

"Never allow a report on human rights violations based on a phony "investigation," flawed methodology, or prejudices to damage Ethiopia's reputation. It is time to disband the ICHREE, which is losing its credibility as an impartial body."

A disgruntled person writes

"The so called International Human Right Experts are lazy. How could you adopt a report produced for Darfur, Sudan by changing the name of places, individuals... and publish it for Ethiopia? How is it possible to produce a report without visiting the country in the first place?"

The game plan is all too common and the cheapest of them all. Such a report is issued with all the horror movie clichés and the heavy-worded yet content-free rhetoric, and then the big boys on the block endorse it and act! It is the worst script anyone could write in these times when it's tough to go away unscathed with such machinations. Why is it Ethiopia being denied its right to defend its citizens, sovereignty and territorial integrity while so much armed conflicts are going on all over the place? Why is that every time Ethiopians act to make things right someone starts pounding the doors of the Security Council! Why are politicians, lobbyists, so-called media people so eager to see a weakened Ethiopia? What did Ethiopia do to them for them to foam at the mouth craving for an Ethiopia which finally ends up on its knees? It isn't going to happen; Not in their lifetime, not in any generation's lifetime!

But Africans have spoken and Ethiopia is grateful as this tweet from a high official attests;

"PanAfricanism prevailed. The African Group led by Coted'vore at the UNHRC has voiced its rejection to the sham and contrived report of the so-called Inquiry Commission on Human Rights Situation in Ethiopia. The Joint Investigation was already adequate enough. Ethiopia Salutes!"

Where were all of these people and groups where over the months top leaders of the group were threatening Ethiopia and Ethiopians? They were the ones who publicly said "War" was the only way out, or things like, "We'd get what we want through force. They even used terms like; "Crushing!" "Strangling!" Ethiopians with all the physical gestures that go with such threats and no on raises as much a finger! If anyone from the Ethiopian side had said "We'll crush them!" "We'll strangle them!" the doomsday horn would have blared all over the place. The

fact is, the bitter fact for the Ethiopia-bashing mob is that Ethiopians don't have to get anyone's nod of approval to defend its territorial integrity. It never did and never will. So those trying to dictate how Ethiopians should act can go, with all due respect, to Lucifer's den! Thank you very much!

In Africa and elsewhere governments are fighting insurgents and rebels which is what they should do. They are doing all within their means to solve their problems in their own ways; three cheers for them! Why is it such a contentious issue when it comes to Ethiopia? Baffling, isn't it? Well if you look a little deeper it isn't baffling. I can tell you that even if not a single shot is heard all over Ethiopia for years they will have something to throw at our way.

While we are at it, look I'm going to be frank. African leaders crammed in a bus like that didn't give me any comfort. The reasons for that action also were so muddled it appears like talking about some soccer hooligans who should be crammed in a small space. At least they should have said "Sorry, this shouldn't have happened. No it's like if you're poor you'll be treated accordingly, leader or not.

They say there is a bad sheep in every flock. But then the flocks we see these days are populated by too many bad sheep.

The problem with many so called int'l bodies and so-called mainstream media is that they seldom stand on their own two feet. Time has more and more made it clear that usually there are political motives behind such institutions. And since they never have the truth, the whole truth and nothing the truth they need something to prop them up. The expert witness! That is the card they pull. Sad! And just if this helps as a little bit of advice; leave Brad out of it and focus on replenishing some of the brain material upstairs!

Get Your Acts Together!

Many of the gossip stories around town these days stories give you the shivers from hair to toe. You wonder what's getting into people that bring about overnight changes in their behaviors and mostly for the wrong reasons! Or you might even go as far as musing if you aren't the odd guy out after all! When you witness or hear about the foundations of well-developed and run families starting cracking for no conceivable reason at all, you get that really bad feeling of this world going down the very wrong and finally destructive lane. It is easy to mull over a hundred and one reasons for someone's sudden change of behavior. But the search for real reason, if there is any, is no easier for the search of good old Lucy's nail clippers. (She must have had one!)

There was this guy who supposedly makes some good money. Good money in the sense that he could feed his family of four without much worry despite the ever skyrocketing cost of living. So much so that he was said to have the financial shoulder strong enough to withstand the ever increasing burden. But, a few months back there was this hundred and eighty degree shift and the nice man with whom everyone wanted to make friends changes in dramatic ways. He stops greeting people, even his own wife and his two early-teen kids; spends

most of his nights at the most bizarre watering holes in town with not-so-popular groups of men; and seldom comes home before midnight. His wife was distressed and his two lovely girls were feeling the tensions around them. That wonderful family life which was the talk of the town for all the better reasons was no more. It was a U –turn even his most intimate friends could unravel.

His wife decides to confront him;

"Is there anything I should know that you aren't telling me?"

"What do you mean?" It was not that bridegroom who years back gave her that memorable kiss in the presence of a couple of hundred people who was talking. Things weren't at all good. Somehow, there is no research or anything that comes close to that to support this claim, but it seems people who change their good behaviors and take the wrong road in life turn out to be most confrontational. Maybe it's not that they don't understand what people say. They do. But there seems to be this inner self refusing to acknowledge their 'new' them. It is that they feel that perhaps it's no one's business. But it's the wife's business.

"You are drinking too much and coming home very late. You have even forgotten that you've

two children that need your love and attention in the house. You turn your back on me every time I try to approach you. Is there any problem at your work place?"

All this time the wife carries herself smartly as she doesn't want tempers to spill over. Who knows, since he's one of the highest paid staff at the workplace those who feel they have been thrown to the wolf they might be giving him troubles. Maybe all his actions are the results of being distressed and ways of escaping the day-to-day harassment. He, after all is the boyfriend she adored, the fiancée she never had enough of, and the husband whose very presence fills her life with the stars. Giving him the benefit of the doubt is the least she can do.

"There is nothing wrong at the work place; and I don't think it's anyone's business what time I drink." No! This wasn't her Romeo; this wasn't her Casanova; this wasn't the Prince Charming she protected from the flirty eyes and advances of her closest friends. This one was the next thing to a complete stranger.

But all wasn't doom and gloom. Somehow one of those clean-hearted friends who don't harbor ill will behind nice words steps in and hubby all of a sudden wakes up to the real world around him! They say he regretted his actions and was

quizzing himself how he got into all the mess. His, once again, was one of the happiest families one could ever wish for.

Now I don't make the rounds of the city. Not anymore. But once in a while I try to get some idea of what really is going on. I mean when you see bars teeming with customers in the mornings with almost everyone drinking alcohol you know there is something very wrong. Why? I'll tell you why.

Now the world and particularly those in this troubled corner are in economically tough times. Many factors, human greed in the leading pack, contribute to such dire realities. We know of families which are deep in the dark waters as expenses rise and incomes stay in place. What usually comes to your mind where the hell do people get this much money. This is not the eyes turning red with envy; maybe, just maybe a little of that. But for all practical purposes seeing adults and family men drinking alcohol in the morning hours is not such a pretty thing. Most probably there are corresponding families having real hard time while the breadwinner is acting so erratically.

Hey, sport; get your acts together! You don't have the right to spoil the lives you are supposed to support and protect!

International

Uganda closes clubs, limits gatherings to curb Ebola spread

Officials at Mubende Hospital in central Uganda install beds meant for the Ebola Treatment Unit on September 22, 2022. Health officials have suspended the operations of entertainment centres and banned crowded burials and wedding parties in Mubende District to curb the spread of Ebola.

Health officials and civic leaders have suspended operations of entertainment centres and limited the number of people attending burials and weddings in Mubende District as they race to curb the spread of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

The country has confirmed seven cases of Ebola so far, including one death – a 24-year-old who was confirmed dead on Tuesday.

On Thursday, Health Ministry spokesperson Emmanuel Ainebyoona said the death of a child in the area has been linked to probable Ebola.



In Mubende, the district Ebola taskforce imposed restrictions on visits to public offices in measures that mirror the standard operating procedures (SOPs) to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The Mubende Resident District Commissioner, Ms Rosemary Byabashaija,

who also doubles as the head of the Ebola taskforce in Mubende, said allowing gatherings to continue would be risking people's lives as the virus spreads rapidly through physical contact.

"Since Ebola is spread through body contacts and it can highly be spread in

congested places, we have come to a decision to suspend entertainment places, congested places, limit number of people attending weddings and introductions," she said.

Source: The EastAfrican



AfCFTA moves to pull women and youth into trade with new protocol

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is building a fund and drafting a protocol to ensure participation of more women and youth in trade.

This week, AfCFTA Secretary General Wamkele Mene said the fund, created through the Afreximbank and known as the AfCFTA Adjustment Facility, will be used to cushion countries from short-term revenue losses once they lift tariff barriers for cross-border trade.

The tariffs, which include licences, permit fees and taxes, have been cited among the challenges limiting free trade, and the participation of women and youth. This is besides access to credit, market information and infrastructure.

Some \$1 billion has already been raised towards the facility: AfCFTA says the

target is between \$7 billion and \$10 billion, reflecting just how important lifting the protectionist policies will be for trade to thrive.

"Young Africans are at the cutting edge of technological advancements. We will be making a catastrophic mistake if we don't include these important segments of our society in the implementation of this agreement," Mr Mene said.

The facility will be boosted by the African Trade Gateway, a digital platform "that will provide market and due diligence information about your counterparts, including the rules of origin, Customs procedures, as well as payments transfers platform", he added.

Source: The EastAfrican



Kenya's Central Bank forecasts economy reboot after peaceful political transition

The Central Bank of Kenya is projecting a better performance for the country's economy, leaving behind months of electioneering and uncertainty that saw it fail in a Eurobond launch earlier in the year.

Kenya swore in its new president on September 13, bringing to an end uncertainty around its political future.

Now the banking regulator says the peaceful change in leadership has coincided with stabilising global prices for basic commodities, which could reboot the economy.

Central Bank Governor Patrick Njoroge told Kenyan MPs this week that the economy is expected to remain "strong" this year despite weaker global growth and economic shocks triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war.

"Economic growth is expected to remain strong in 2022. Prices of palm oil, DAP fertiliser and wheat have moderated," said Dr Njoroge at an induction session for new MPs.

"The price of oil has moderated but remains volatile," he added.

Source: The EastAfrican

In Pictures

Divers religious, cultural festivals held

The month of September is received by several cultural festivals including the Ethiopian New Year, various religious holidays including the finding of the true cross holiday (*Meskel*), the thanks giving festival of the Oromos (*Irrecha*), the divers colorful festivals in the Southern part of Ethiopia including the *Wolayta's Gifata*, *Hadiya's Yahode*, *Yem's Hebo*, and *Kaffa's Mashkaro*.

Tomorrow, Monday September 26, 2022 is the Bon fire festival (*Demera*) which is also the eve of the *Meskel* Holiday in Ethiopia will be held across all parts of the country.

In literatures, *Meskel*, or cross, is described as a special festival to commemorate the finding of the true cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. According to the legend, the Byzantine Empress Elleni was lead to the place where the cross was hidden by smoke from a fire which she had been instructed to make in a dream. It has also

a pre-Christian origin, to mark the end of the rainy season. In most places, as in Addis Ababa, the festival is celebrated on the eve.

In Addis Ababa, young men and women, dressed in white with red sashes, form processions and make their way, singing and dancing, to Meskel Square in the centre of town. They are joined by hundreds of priests and deacons from churches around the city, who bring drums and the ornate crosses used in religious ceremonies.

As it gets dark, the *Demera*, or bonfire made up of dried sticks and bedecked with yellow flowers, is lit, commemorating the action taken by Empress Elleni. The direction is which the bonfire falls is said to indicate what will happen to the country in the year to come. Celebrations and street parties continue throughout the town into the night, with each neighborhood having its own *Demera*.



Gifata festival in Walyta Sodo

It is known that the Gifata festival, which is the fall of the Wolayta nation new year, celebrated today in the town of Wolayta Sodo. The eve of Gifata festival is called "Bakra Keira" in the culture of Wolaytas. At the same time, the end of the old year and the eve of the New Year, the Gifata holiday race have been held Yesterday on September 24, 2022.



Hadia Nefera

"Hadia Nefera" has been celebrated in the city of Hossaina at the presence of representatives from all districts of the Hadia zone as well as neighboring zones and regions. Senior government officials from the federal and state governments were present on the occasion among others the Minister of Culture and Sports Kejele Merdasa, Minister of Urban and Infrastructure Chaltu Sani, Minister of Irrigation and Lowland Areas Aisha Mohamed and Minister of Women and Children Dr. Ergoge Tesfaye.

Yo Maskala

Gamo nation's New Year fall "Yo Maskala" festival has been celebrated in Arbaminch city with various programs attended by senior government officials. Sideline of the festival, the event to the inauguration of the Gamo nation peace symbol monument built in the Gamo zone administration compound was held. The art works of Gamo as well as the traditional materials used by the people in times of happiness and sadness are exhibited at the Gamo Zone Cultural Center for the audience gathered at the center.

