



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Despite escalating hostilities, gov't committed to achieving peace: MoFA

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – Albeit the escalating hostilities by terrorist TPLF and its continued lame excuses to impose conditions and disparage the AU-led peace process, Ethiopia is dedicated to achieving peace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

Briefing Addis Ababa-based diplomats and representatives of international organizations on current developments yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen said T-TPLF continued with its preconditions and demands, vacillating to accept the African Union-facilitated peace efforts apart from forcefully displacing people, killing civilians, looting and destroying property and infrastructure.

“The thugs had just re-ignited the present humanitarian situation and the government’s  
*See Despite ... Page 3*



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Prof. Ayele Bekerie

Photo: Gebabo Gebre

## Scholar accuses thugs of conspiring to disrupt Ethiopia

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA**-The Terrorist group which called itself as TPLF has been on several occasions forging alliances with foreign enemies to weaken Ethiopia and serving those foes' vested interests against the  
*See Scholar accuses ... Page 3*

## Defying calls for peace, T-TPLF intensifies destructive activities :GCS

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** – The attacks re-launched by Terrorist TPLF, pushing against peace calls, have further continued to intensify, said the Government Communication Service (GCS).

In its recent statement, GCS indicated that innocent civilians are being killed; many are being displaced and property is being destroyed. As it can be seen now, the duty of halting the terrorist group from its destructive activities has fallen on the government and people of Ethiopia.

“This is so, because the terrorist group must be prevented from disturbing our peace and destroying our country; the government has a responsibility to ensure that humanitarian assistance is directed to the true intended beneficiaries of the Tigray State and hence a conducive environment needs to be created to halt the diversion of assistance to combatants as is being done by T-TPLF, and  
*See Defying calls ... Page 3*



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**FDRE Government Communication Service**



## Ethiopia's first gas reserves certificate lures anchor investors

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**How long should Tigrayan children remain TPLF's cannon-fodder?**

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# News



Fesika Mola

Photo: Gebabo Gebre

## Authority registers 587 new civic organizations

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA-**The Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO) registered 587 new Civic Society Organizations during the past Ethiopian fiscal year.

Presenting the annual performance of the authority in the presence of stake holders, The authority Deputy General Director Fesika Mola said that the authority has been widening the participation of Civic Society Organizations through creating conducive environment.

He said that the organizations benefited over 20 million needy directly and indirectly across the country in the last fiscal year.

As to him, the authority has been working towards enhancing its capacity to provide effective and efficient services.

To this end, it has launched the provision of new 48 services via electronics.

“The authority has been working to construct African Civil Society Center of Excellence to nurture volunteerism in Ethiopia in particular and Africa at Africa in general. To achieve this in collaboration with Civil Engineering Associations and Ethiopian Construction Works Corporation the authority finalized the design works of the center,” he said.

The authority has been working to enable Civic Organizations to discharge their social responsibilities to this end, it has participated 202 civic organizations through hosting independent program to support the victimized citizens from Northern Ethiopian conflict and it enabled to collect financial and nonfinancial supports.

Accordingly, the total number of local and foreign civic organizations that has been operating in the country reached close to 4,000 the number of new foreign civic organizations that apply for registration has been decreased following the occurrence of Northern Ethiopian conflict.

## Agency inks agreement to apply telebirr service payments

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA-** Federal Documents Authentication and Registration Agency (DARA) inked an agreement with Ethio telecom to implement telebirr based service payments.

During the signing agreement, the *Agency Director General Muluken Amare* stated that this partnership agreement would modernize the existing working system of the agency and able to alter the working atmosphere and add customer satisfaction by avoiding bureaucratic and maladministration that challenge the office at this time.

In Addis Ababa city, 14 branch offices are available and agency has been providing services for about 7,314 customers in a daily base, he stated.

Through telebirr platform payment system, the services provided by the agency will be easy, fast, convenient, reliable and secure.

“It is great success for us because we would make happy our customers through this payment beyond changing the working environment into modern way.”



Photo: Tsehay Nigusie

Ethio telecom CEO Frehiwot Tamiru said that: “We have to use our untapped resources properly to make better the services provided in all sphere of life, change working environment sustainable way and to be competent with outside world in all circumstances.”

The company coverage reach 99.1 percent in the national level and the company enables the finance payment system digital and accessible for everyone through their own device (mobile) at any place without limitation of time and geography, she noted.

## Corporation embarks on job creation, foreign currency generation

- generates over 1.2 bln. Birr

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA-**The Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC) announced that it has well embarked on creating jobs, generating foreign currency and substituting import via consolidating local production and productivity.

Briefing journalists concerning Corporation’s last fiscal year performance, IPDC CEO Sendokan Debebe said that the corporation has been working hard attaching especial emphasis on job creation, generating foreign currency, producing import substitution products and creating local market linkages over the year before.

Accordingly, it has generated over 1.2 billion Birr revenue over the past Ethiopian fiscal year.

He underscored that though it has encountered international and local challenges hindering its performance, the corporation has attained a lot of successful achievements overcoming the challenges it has been facing so far.

As to him, over the fiscal year the



corporation has created jobs for 57,000 citizens and the total number of people who have got jobs in all industrial parks of the country has reached 81,000.

The corporation saved 69 million USD foreign currencies that would be expensed

to import raw materials from abroad via creating viable market linkages between farmers and industrial parks, he said.

Accordingly, IPDC has produced products amounting to over 160 million USD to substitute import and save foreign currency.

# News

## Embassy offers training on service delivery skills

BY TEWODROS KASSA

**ADDIS ABABA**-The Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Ethiopia organized two-day training on service delivery skills, for 54 Ethiopian young women students from the Catering and Tourism Training Institute (CTTI).

On the recent occasion, CTTI General Director Getachew Negash said that the training program is carried out at the time when the Government of Ethiopia is embarking on developing and expanding tourist destination and leverage the status of tourism and hospitality industry of Ethiopia.

CCTI is mandated with producing competent and skilful human power so as to meet the increasing manpower demand of tourism sector and improve the hospitality Industry to the level of its standard, he said.

“These collaborative activities between



Ethiopia and UAE will be continued at large and we remain confident to welcome any technical support and initiatives designed to enhance the Ethiopian tourism and hospitality industry,” he added.

As to him, the training aims to building young women’s capacities in the hospitality domain and enable them to gain necessary skills from a world class hotels.

Moreover, this training is part of UAE’s initiatives and activities to support and promote economic empowerment of

women in Ethiopia, in cooperation with the Ethiopian government and private sector.

Accordingly, the UAE Embassy working with the Ethiopian government on several initiatives to support women capacities in different fields in Ethiopia.

The closing ceremony of the training was attended by Mohamed Salem Alrashedi, UAE Ambassador to Ethiopia and South Sudan and Permanent Representative to the AU, CTTI General Director Getachew Negash, among others dignitaries.

## Despite ...

continued efforts to bring the conflict to a peaceful resolution.”

Demeke pointed out that the T-TPLF has blocked humanitarian truce through hostile rhetoric, recruiting child soldiers, and engaging in public mobilization planning for yet another round of hostilities.

As the terrorist group has been blaming and demonizing the government and asserting fictitious wins, the government would continue to discharge its constitutional responsibility to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of all Ethiopians as well as defending sovereignty and territorial integrity, he asserted.

“Some groups should stop equating the government with the outlawed terrorist organization and take measures that will worsen the conflict and threaten Ethiopia’s sovereignty.”

Appreciating the efforts of the countries and humanitarian actors that tried to contribute to prevent another round of bloodshed in Ethiopia, Demeke noted that the government has been disappointed to see and endure the open conspiracy of some actors.

“Ethiopia has implemented a re-engagement strategy to reset its relations with several countries. It has registered encouraging progress.”

He, however, said some entities and sub-national elements have persisted with negative views and few have gone extra miles supporting the TPLF. “Still, others have used their media platform and personal accounts to give their support.”

According to him, the worst manifestation of hostility to the government has gone as far as supplying the TPLF with military hardware.

Talking about the renewed war by the terrorist group, Demeke said that the latest wave attacks on the Amhara and Afar areas will not be accepted and the government is committed to taking all necessary steps to prevent the T-TPLF from victimizing these communities.

The government has been taking measures against the terrorist group with utmost care to avoid civilian casualties extending alerts to protect themselves and stay away from military installations, it was learnt.

“The international community is expected to be free, balanced and objective. We called on humanitarian actors to respect principles of impartiality and independence. They should not be used by TPLF for its hostile propaganda.”

## Ethiopia’s first gas reserves certificate lures anchor investors

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

**ADDIS ABABA** -- With certified seven trillion cubic feet natural gas discovered lately in Ogaden, Ethiopia, is definitely a key to reach out to anchor investors, Fairfax Africa Fund Global Chairperson Zemedeneh Nigatu said.

In his latest interview with international media, Zemedeneh stated that the seven trillion cubic feet natural gas is actually the proven and certified gas reserve. Starting from the Imperial regime, a lot of explorations have been done in Ethiopia, but nothing was really significant, he added.

What the Government of Ethiopia has done smartly this time, according to Zemedeneh, is finding out what exactly does the nation have. The country gets a certified reserve from the American Company with a very

good track record of certifying reserves.

As to him, to certify what is there is one step, and the second step is to monetize. A government with such reliable and certified data, it entices investors to proceed. The certification is now attracting sizable amount of credible investors when they see this kind of certified reserve.

Further, Zemedeneh mentioned that now a day, gas price is the main topic in Europe. Countries in Europe are looking for other gas sources. “With seven trillion cubic feet of gas, Ethiopia might be an alternative supplier of gas to Europe. It will be worth tens of billions of dollars over the next decades or more,” he said.

In addition, the chairman disclosed that it is a very significant step for Ethiopia regarding monetizing what is in the ground. This might be the first step towards that goal.

In the past, there were talks about significant gas and oil available in Ethiopia, but nothing was done. Now, the Government of Ethiopia has taken a smart, radically different approach regarding knowing what the nation has. Ethiopia is going to approach anchor companies not speculators because now the nation has tangible resource, Zemedeneh noted.

Seven trillion cubic feet of gas reserve is amongst 40 largest reserves in the world and rank higher on the list, the chairperson added.

The government of Ethiopia has been restructuring its policies in the past several years to upgrade its potential and to attract investors. This time, the country has something at hand, so that as to the mine minister, they will definitely be dealing with credible players, Zemedeneh said.

Government underscored.

“Therefore, the posture of Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) remains one of defending the various attacks which have been launched from all directions, together with our people.”

## Defying calls ...

the terrorist group is punishing the people of Tigray through starvation by repeatedly launching attacks during the farming season and the Government has a responsibility to overturn this,” the statement said.

In the situation where all the efforts made by the government for a peaceful alternative have been shunned, statements being made by various entities equalizing the Government with a belligerent clique in “both sides rhetoric are not acceptable as they deviate from the reality, the

## Scholar accuses...

motherland, expert said.

Mekelle University Former Heritage Conservation and Research Associate Prof. Ayele Bekerie said that the Terrorist group is now carrying out a well coordinated war against the general public.

The thugs have just opened the war against Ethiopia and the people to run the group’s

selfish interest, he reiterated.

As to him, the T-TPLF group has plotted to dismember Ethiopia waging war here and there against the country.

“During its regime lasting for three decades, the group has vividly violated public interests and struggled for personal interests. In the meantime, numerous civilian soldiers have been killed during the past wars of TPLF-plotted war,” he stated.

The group is now using its last resort -miscalculated military attacks on Ethiopia in connivance with the country’s foreign enemies that are funding the group and backing to extend the war, he added.

“The ongoing war will never favor the majority of the people in Tigray. But, some individuals have been seen as war-merchants amid the crisis posed on public.”

Moreover, peace-talk with such belligerent

group also cannot be realized as the group has intolerable tradition against national sovereignty and integrity, he opined.

Recruiting children as soldier, looting civilian infrastructures, raping women, and destruction are typical manifestations of the group.

Accordingly, all Ethiopians from all walks of life should be united against the T-TPLF and its allies and safeguard the country.

# Opinion

## TPLF: Another assault, another tragedy

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Beginning August 24, 2022 the terrorist Tigray People Liberation Front, TPLF, has again opened an attack on multiple fronts against positions in Amhara and Afar regions. A population with more than half needing urgent humanitarian assistance and being served accordingly, TPLF has not hesitated to boldly assault the very nation that is cooperating with international relief agencies to free their people from famine and dire conditions. To add insult to injury the same terrorist force has broken into the headquarters of the World Food Program in Mekelle and robbed twelve trucks of fuel that was meant to facilitate the transport of relief supplies to the needy. This force has stolen the fuel to fill its trucks full of soldiers and other youths who are meant to be cannon fodder in the human wave style they continue to use in this assault.

International bodies must have condemned this latest assault by TPLF and yet we have seen their failure in apparent legitimization of the attack. What is more troubling is that this attack by TPLF has come when there were hopes of initiating full-fledged peace talks following the repeated pledges of the Ethiopian government for a peaceful settlement with the regional leaders without any preconditions. The government has also revealed its peace blue print in a document ready for distribution to the relevant bodies engaged in the negotiations and that the AU would be at the head of such negotiations along with a committee of negotiators assigned by the Ethiopian government.

Ethiopia has repeatedly asserted that it is willing to pay every sacrifice if that is the road to peace and wants all its nationals including the ones in Tigray to live in peace. However, since the very conception and formation of TPLF, it is based on a continuous fabrication of an enemy and continuous state of war and consequent preparation of warlike mentality in the psyche of its followers. It has proved once again that it has no space for peace and development of the society, no worries or concerns for the dire poverty in which they live.

TPLF came to power on the manifesto of liberating its people from all forms of oppression and yet once it was at the helm of the federal government beside the regional administration, it has done little to both the country as well as the regional state it has administered for more than three decades. In fact it has administered the region even before the fall of the military government in 1991.

Furthermore, TPLF has maintained its name of foundation to current days despite a total change of conditions along the years. It is perplexing to see a party that was born as a guerilla movement and after all the struggle it has passed through and after it has seized power, it has still remained faithful to its original name, turning a blind eye to the changed reality. And yet along the almost five decades since its inception, things have changed not only domestically but also internationally. So many countries have grown to such levels that one would not recognize them after all this time. If we consider certain Asian countries, they have become super powers in economic terms and their influence in world politics has become enormous. Countries such as China, Japan, India, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam and others have changed beyond recognition. Probably TPLF is the only political organisation that has not changed with the same old siege mentality and the same old slogans!

When four years ago the reformist movement deposed them from the federal position, they failed to recognize their defeat and denied the reality. It was another demonstration that TPLF and democracy are two opposite sides. They continued to long for the days in which they were the only force that dominated the country. The protest against its oppressive machinery was meant to have a democratic system, but they insisted with their tyrannical rule. People had enough of TPLF and they were ousted of office. Representing a minority they failed to admit that they could not continue to dominate Ethiopian politics with total negligence of the voices of the people. Hence, TPLF's dictatorial powers were washed away by a wave of protests from practically every corner of the country. But what they preferred to do was to take refuge in the people of the regional state continuing with their propaganda that they were to be subjugated again by Addis Ababa.

TPLF as the regional administrator did nothing to improve the livelihood of the people of Tigray. In more than three decades it failed to address the basic needs of the people. Only a few members of the hierarchy of TPLF and those who had particular attachments to the system were seen navigating in gold while those who actually paid the real sacrifices with their children and themselves have not had any changes in their poor lives. The leaders of TPLF have always used their power to maintain their economic and political monopoly discriminating against all

other Ethiopians. They controlled every echelon of government in every field and took all the benefits such position gave them. In the meantime, they built a huge military and financial apparatus with their ethnic group members at the helm. And yet this condition did not prevent the reformist movement to get rid of them, even if there are still challenges that may come from the remnants of such forces in the Federal positions when the country is battling against this evil force.

When TPLF forces attacked the northern command in November 2020 their intention was to march down to Addis Ababa and restore their forces in the National Palace overthrowing the legitimately elected government. They waged a war of attrition with uncounted losses and came all the way down to the heart of Ethiopia but were then thrown out with immense sacrifices. Along their way they looted every property they found worthy and took to Mekelle and destroyed all that they could not take way. They committed untold atrocities against innocent civilians along their way.

The Federal Government of Ethiopia unilaterally laid down arms so that conditions for peace could be initiated and humanitarian aid be delivered to all those who needed it. And yet TPLF did not take this proposal seriously and rather took time to reorganize its forces and recruit more youths to be thrown into the battlefield. And last August it began another assault on positions in Ethiopia!

Ethiopia has demanded the international community to force TPLF with its influence to abandon the use of force while immense suffering is being experienced among the majority of the six million people trapped by TPLF.

With another round of war against its own people there are bound to be immense casualties for a cause that has no hope. TPLF has shown time and again that it cannot lead its people to peace, justice and development. It had every chance during its thirty year reign but failed. Three decades could have sufficed to transform the Tigrean community if there was some genuine will on the part of the administration, and yet what they did was consolidate their power, increase their wealth and their families' and friends' riches disregarding completely the plight of the common people.

The ordinary people of Tigray are still struggling to make ends meet. Millions of Tigray youths are without hope nor employment and the farmers are still using their horses or oxen to plough the land. And yet they are always asked

to contribute their children for their adventurous wars. They continue to feed them with certain narratives and deny them any form of exposure to other sources of information except the official radio and TV channels. Hence the people of Tigray often have little idea about what is going on outside the TPLF circles. They take everything the TPLF forces say as the only truth. And that is very tragic considering the times.

Today with a third round of attacks against Ethiopian positions they are dragging the people of Tigray to yet another round of sacrifices that has served nothing in the first two attacks. It is however good to note that TPLF is not alone in this endeavour. There are historical enemies of Ethiopia who are behind their adventures. There has been proof of their complicity in fighting against Ethiopian forces and this is another dangerous escalation in this contention.

Ethiopians are not new to such complicities. They have lived through it for years. And they have successfully foiled all such coordinated attacks and only recently a huge al shabaab force was demolished in the east when it tried to penetrate the country, and the same was done with the Shene and Gambella rebels in Gambella region. When Ethiopians are united they can beat every enemy whatever the sacrifices.

However, what is tragic is that many international bodies including so called human rights activists are either blind to this reality deliberately or prefer to subscribe to the false narratives of the TPLF propaganda machine. This is clearly seen with their reports on their media channels or when certain governments comment on the reality in Ethiopia particularly in the western corridors of power. TPLF has built various allies during its three decade position in power and it is they who now help them in their propaganda war. But this does not help to find solutions to the current crisis because the loss is too much to bear particularly for the already crisis ridden Tigray society.

Any kind of war is for the moment absolutely unaffordable and it is sad that a country such as Ethiopia which has been following a good development trajectory is once again pulled into the abyss of a useless fratricidal war with its own people with the blessing and conspiracy of certain international actors.

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

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# Editorial

## Essential measure to minimize destructive move of T-TPLF

The Government Communication Service stated that the attacks relaunched by TPLF, pushing against peace calls, have further continued to intensify today. Innocent civilians are being killed; many are being displaced and property is being destroyed. As it can be seen now, the duty of halting the terrorist group from its destructive activities has fallen on the government and people of Ethiopia. Indeed, this is a proper step in order to minimize the incalculable damages the terrorist group is creating.

In fact, the disgruntled gang has been shamelessly and disgustingly robbing humanitarian assistance meant to save the conflict-impacted communities in the Tigray region. The looting and ransacking of public properties and humanitarian aid are being used to loot and attack communities in Tigray, Afar, and Amhara states. Perplexingly, as the Government Communication Service(GCS) in its yesterday's statement, the terrorist group is playing both the victim and victor at the same time to hoodwink the international community.

Currently, besides the looting of humanitarian assistance, the criminal clique is intensifying its killings of civilians by launching the war on different fronts.

As its previous atrocities that constitute war crimes are not enough, TPLF is now displacing communities and destructing properties.

The duty of halting the terrorist group from its destructive has now fallen on the shoulder of the Ethiopian people and government, said GSC.

The terrorist group must be prevented and the Ethiopian government has the responsibility to ensure unhindered humanitarian aid provision to the Tigray people, according to the statement.

In fact, the criminal clique has been gambling at the expense of the Tigray people to meet its selfish and narrow interests. Failing to reciprocate the peace proposal of the incumbent, TPLF is wreaking havoc in different parts of the country. That is why GCS said the

government will take all necessary measures to ensure the well-being of the nation and protect civilians from terrorist attacks.

Despite TPLF's provocative attacks, there have been tendencies from some entities to equalize the government with the rogue group. This has to stop. The rhetoric of bothsidedism cannot give justice to the victims of the disgruntled group.

In fact, the killing squad has of course an ugly history of using humanitarian assistance as a warfare strategy since the start of the war in 2020. Its recent fuel theft is only a stark reminder of the decades of criminal acts that mostly went unpunished and ignored by the international communities. In fact, the terrorist group's bad track continues to this very day while the whole is watching in its naked eyes.

The inhumane actions are an insult to the international community and injury to the conflict-torn communities

Though there have been little headways in condemning the group's fuel theft from the international side. The international community that has been putting unjustified pressure on the incumbent utterly failed to give response to the irresponsible acts of the rogue element.

The silence has in fact emboldened the clique to double down its lootings and hawkish action otherwise. The belligerent clique has now intensified its attacks against the country in different fronts and communities are coming under TPLF's heavy bombardment. While peace has been the top priority of the Ethiopian government. The incumbent is leaving no stone unturned to end the TPLF-instigated conflict and beat the swords into ploughshares while the terrorist organization intensifies its wars.

The Ethiopian government has the legal mandate to ensure the safety of its people and the sovereignty of the country. And, the international community ought to take essential steps in order to save the Tigray people from the destructive move of the terrorist TPLF. And, the community needs to act now before it is too late.

# Opinion

## The sky is ours

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

You don't blame gravity for crushing in the atmosphere of a self-made country for the cloud or anything could never be Achilles's heal for eagle eyes of the Ethiopian air force. Once, if you trespass the airspace of Ethiopia, there is a 24/7 watchful eye that detect every pieces of flying objects. The skies of Ethiopia surely belong to this brave African force.

Some fools may confuse Ethiopia's patience to weakness. During the course of the Ogaden War undermining the decorated captains and relaying on their white Masters they dare to spite out on us and managed to conquer Ethiopian high lands leaving the blessing of Indian Ocean.

What a curse might be under the leadership of the then despotic leader Bare. Meanwhile the adventure of the sky came to mesmerize the world as Ethiopian Air Force averted the hollow bravado and unjust invasion.

It was in vain to extenuate the matter; gentlemen may cry peace and graduated from marijuana to heroine to belittle the mighty hand of Ethiopia and east Africa being twisted to neocolonialism. The sky belongs to Ethiopia and the horn however plot and conspiracy went on as a costicsoda to make Africa "hornless"

The incident happened as the TPLF leaders officially restarted the war by shelling Ethiopian Defense Force positions. The Ethiopian Air Force said that it has shut

down a plane that came from the direction of Sudan aerospace. "

A plane that is believed to be made its departure from our brothers who have been miscalculating and working to weaken Ethiopia, trespassed our airspace and was [turned to cloud of smoke in the air before it turned into debris on the ground] after being shot down by the brave Ethiopian Air Force while entering our airspace from the direction of Sudan," the Air Force said, as reported by Ethiopian News Agency.

The plane was trying to head to Tigray through Northern Humera, a border town the TPLF has been attempting to take control of, but in vein, so as to control the route to Sudan, and was attempting to deliver firearms to its forces.

The news about the plane came at a time when the Ethiopian government announced last Wednesday that the TPLF has officially started war in the Eastern Front in the area the TPLF considers as "South Tigray."

"Rumors circulating that Tigray war will restart. Who in their right mind wants a new conflict with so much death, destruction, suffering and devastation!?! Especially when there is a road to peace – as rocky as it is. Ethiopia needs peace and stability to achieve its potential."

Why the war that the TPLF started and sustained is described as "Tigray war" by westerns is questionable because they wanted to distort the information as if Tigray

was invaded by federal forces. There were reports in the past that the TPLF had been attempting to coordinate with foreign mercenaries to launch covert activities.

Last month, the European Union envoy to the Horn of Africa and Envoy to the Horn of Africa led diplomats from several western countries and headed to, with permission from the Ethiopian government, Tigray where they spent about five hours with the TPLF rebel leaders ending up in taking selfie.

Long ago the army has been ready more than ever to defend the sovereignty of Ethiopia as TPLF was engaged to provoke the national army and to disrupt peace in the horn.

The outlaw TPLF group's chairman Debretsion Gebremichael and Getachew Reda, spokesperson of the designated terrorist group, published article on The African Report highly criticizing the African Union and that the proposed peace talks will not be a success.

A video footage of the TPLF leader, Debretsion, engaged in mobilization for war was circulating on social media. He was warning that anyone who is not willing to join the TPLF ranks will not have an equal right in Tigray. The question is: What has emboldened the group?

The outside forces assistances have become more visible in the atmosphere when the An-26 military aircraft that made its way through Sudanese airspace destined to Tigray trespassing the Ethiopian airspace.

The assistances which were meant to the terrorist group turned to ashes. Ethiopia always says its Air Force is "in a position to protect and defend" the county's airspace from any kind of attack.

The Ethiopian Air Force always takes a precision target at military facilities. If by any chance there are civilians around, it never strikes the target. It cares for a single civilian soul.

The Ethiopian Air Force has built its manpower free from the influence of politics and ethnic thinking, Lt. Gen. Yilma Merdassa Chief Commander of the Ethiopian air force said.

At the moment, the 93 years-old Ethiopian Air Force, which is Africa's first, is in a position to safeguard the Ethiopian airspace 24 hours a day and it is "ready for any duty," he added.

Walking the talks, the air force shot down the military plane that violated the Ethiopian airspace to supply arms to the terrorist. This would surely impart the right lesson to Ethiopia's friends and foes.

The Airforce has been an unconquerable pride of Africa. This is not a mere rhetoric, but a fact proven time and time again.

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

# Business & Economy

## Wheat production and White lies against Ethiopia

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Whenever the Ethiopian economy registers significant and notable growth, the agricultural sector makes the highest contribution. Of the total produce, crops take a substantial share out of which wheat stands as the most important cereal crop. It makes a significant contribution to the growth and development of the agricultural sector and to the food security of farmers. With substantial government support to farmers, wheat production and productivity have been rising in the last few years. Despite the wars and civil disorder, Ethiopia has recorded the largest wheat production in sub-Saharan Africa. However, the Western propaganda machine spreads lies related to drought and shortage of food in the country. The West shipped food aid to Ethiopia without being requested. In fact, wheat has been produced by small-scale farmers and by commercial agro-enterprises that use modern techniques of production.

In the past, wheat production and marketing system has been negatively affected by constraints which caused decreasing yield of wheat. However, there were also important opportunities which encouraged wheat production and marketing. Moreover, the attention given to infrastructure, training and awareness given to farmers has helped in boosting wheat production. Ethiopia has been making progress towards the structural transformation of its economy. Such progress has been driven by growth in agricultural productivity that allows the poor farmers to shift from agriculture towards other sectors including local manufacturing, industry and services. The government focuses on transformation that increases the per capita income of farmers thereby reducing and eliminating poverty and hunger.

It is well known that the agriculture sector is the backbone of the Ethiopian economy. It makes a major contribution to the gross domestic product/GDP of the country. Within agriculture, crop production is a major contributor to GDP. Also, livestock rearing is a major subsector of agriculture, which contributes live animals and their products to the economy. These products include meat, dairy products, hides and skins, which could be prepared for exports. As foreign exchange earners livestock produces may finance import of manufactured goods, canned food, fertilizers, agricultural machineries and farm implements. It is probably one of the few sectors the outputs of which finance its inputs. In other words, Ethiopia exports, for example, meat to earn foreign exchange with which it imports fertilizers.

According to agricultural experts, coffee, pulses, oilseeds, potatoes, sugarcane, vegetables and cereals are the principal crops grown in Ethiopia. Cereals are the most important food crop which provides daily food calories to the people. Hence, cereal production and marketing are the means of livelihood for millions of Ethiopians. Wheat, maize, teff, sorghum and barley are the major cereals that occupy a large segment of the total area cultivated. Consumers spend

### Wheat production and productivity in Ethiopia is the pillar for the growth of the Ethiopian agriculture

a major part of their income for purchasing cereals. Of the total grain produced in Ethiopia, cereals account for a large share of the produce. Wheat is an important industrial and food grain which ranks second among the most important cereal crops in the world after rice and traded internationally.

The Prosperity Party/PP and government of Ethiopia focus on wheat as a strategic commodity which generates farm income and improves food security status. Many African countries are producing wheat for both consumption and sale, but the level of production and sale varied between countries. Ethiopia is one of the largest wheat producers in terms of total wheat area cultivated and total production (CSA). As noted by Anteneh and Dr. Asrat, wheat and wheat products represent a major share of the total calorie intake in the country which makes wheat one of the most important food items. In Ethiopia, wheat ranks fourth after teff, maize and sorghum in area coverage and third after maize and teff in total production (CSA).

Studies indicate that the smallholder production of wheat is mainly for subsistence and less for market. It is produced by both smallholder farmers and large-scale commercial farms. Except some large-scale and commercial farms, wheat is produced predominantly by smallholder farmers under rain fed conditions. This modality of production affects the competitiveness of wheat quality at the global level. Having realized this problem, the current Ethiopian government has embarked on an agricultural strategy that improves wheat production and productivity. This strategy promotes export

of wheat after having satisfied domestic consumption. It definitely replaces imports thereby saving foreign exchange and it helps earn foreign exchange by exporting wheat.

It is the intent of the Ethiopian government to encourage wheat production for both the domestic and external markets. It has helped technically in the import of agricultural tools, implements, tractors, combine harvesters as well as training for operators. It also facilitated agricultural investment that contributes to high yield thereby satisfying domestic and external markets. In this endeavor focus has been given to the highlands of the central, south-eastern and northwest parts of the country which are the main wheat-growing zones of Ethiopia. In the country, wheat grain is used in the preparation of different traditional as well as modern processed food products and other industrial processed products like pasta and macaroni. Also, wheat straw is traditionally used as a roofing material and as animal feed.

Wheat is one of the most vital cereal crops, the production and marketing of which should be given policy direction and close attention by the government of Ethiopia. It is an essential staple and cash crop that increases income, food security, employment and agriculture sector GDP. However, studies indicate that its production and marketing is challenged by factors such as shortage of agricultural inputs, infestation of pests and diseases. It is also seriously affected by shortage of infrastructure, institutional services, storage facilities, product quality and low marketing price. However, there are also opportunities such as the policy of the Ethiopian government, expansion of market and increasing demand for wheat. Also, the potential for wheat production encourages producers and traders to engage in its production and marketing activities.

Research has been conducted on wheat in different parts of Ethiopia. The output of such a research work has to be reviewed and documented for reference by policymakers, researchers and others who are interested in wheat. Particularly, a review of value chain analysis would help to identify challenges and opportunities in wheat production, distribution and marketing in the country. Also, analysis of the impact of climate change on wheat production is of great value. Currently, the Ethiopian government is giving proper attention for the facilitation of production and marketing at home and abroad. Wheat serves as an instrument to reduce and eliminate hunger and poverty. Wheat also saves and earns foreign exchange through reducing its imports and enhancing its exports.

Observers have indicated that little has been done in reviewing research works on wheat in the country. It is, therefore, important to review them to identify gaps and give future directions on production, productivity and marketing of wheat. The overall objective of such a review is to assess wheat production and marketing in Ethiopia. It should specifically review wheat production status, marketing constraints and opportunities in the country. Constraints are the main reasons for the low development of the wheat sector

in the past. On the other hand, opportunities are a means for increasing production, productivity and marketing of wheat. Wheat production and productivity in Ethiopia is the pillar for the growth of the Ethiopian agriculture. The agricultural sector, in turn, has contributed to the development of the country's economy.

Sustained growth in wheat production depends on modern technology supported by agricultural extension services. The extension structure extends from the federal to regions and to Woredas where the main drivers are stationed. In the production system, commodities like crops, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits are produced annually. Crops make the largest contribution to total production and area coverage (CSA). Crop production has the highest share in the Ethiopian gross domestic product. Among the types of crops, cereals are the most important which provides food calories in day-to-day life of the people. To strengthen their life and to change their living standards, people use various livelihood strategies. Thus, cereal, in particular wheat, production and marketing are the backbone of the Ethiopian economy.

According to agriculture experts, there is a significant annual variation in small scale wheat production due to variability in rainfall. When the rainfall is insufficient, it leads to low production. Despite good production and productivity trends, Ethiopia has faced a growing deficit in supply due to increase in demand caused by the high growth rate of population. Even if it shows increasing trend domestically, wheat production by small scale farmers is still relatively small by global standards. To increase the demand of wheat domestically and globally, the current government has given tremendous support to small farmers and large-scale commercial investors. As a result there will be a glut in wheat production, which may be exported in the very near future.

Experts believe that wheat can be produced in almost all regions of the country including pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. Bale and Arsi zones are the main wheat-growing areas and are known as the wheat belt of Ethiopia. However, wheat production and marketing face constraints despite its major share in rural employment, agricultural land use, calorie intake and contribution to national income. Wheat is one of the most important staple crops of the country in terms of production and consumption. However, Ethiopia still imports millions of quintals of wheat annually. There are two main reasons for the import of wheat into the country. The first is to stabilize domestic price and the second is to meet the overgrowing wheat demand of the consumer in the country. The current government of Ethiopia has been making efforts in the last few years to mechanize wheat farming and produce for both the domestic and external markets. Such a strategy encourages both saving and earning of foreign exchange in the country. Such efforts defeat the Western propaganda against Ethiopia as a starving country. They shipped wheat to Ethiopia which has been rejected by the government.

# Art & Culture

## Perjurers involved in heist, brutality

### A Short Story

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

What surprises me most about a shoeshine boy by the gate of Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) found at the heart of Arat kilo is he never lets a shoe go even with the slightest possible dot of dirt unchecked as he works with a labor of love.

It is not unusual to see a line of his customers despite the ubiquitousness of shoeshine quarters in the vicinity. This favorite shoe polisher of mine goes by Solomon.

Also surprising is Solomon's aversion to scorn for labor, a common disease today among our youths that idly sitting day dream a handsomely paying job be they a graduate or otherwise. He juggles multiple menial jobs.

A reflection on how our country could catapult to the helm of envisaged development if all of us work with such passion coerces me to do introspection, "Am I contributing my due share to my beloved country Ethiopia, on the journey of renaissance undaunted by internal and external hurdles that seem which do not know a letup?"

That day checking I have 25 minutes before early morning editorial meeting at Editors convening hall I decided to get my shoe polished as last night's rain had besmirched it with murky water.

When I took a chair on my turn Solomon's thick dark lips parted to display well-arrayed white teeth that conjure up in one's mind an analogy with a maize cob.

"Oh, Alex! Where have you been? I have not seen you these days? Is everything Okay?"

"I am doing well. I was on leave. You see I caught cold. This year the rainy season is a bit aggressive. But now I'm in good shape and back to work."

"Yes your face tells you have fully resuscitated. Good to hear that," Solomon's facial expression turned pages from concern to serenity.

Soon when he started work a motorist grinded to a halt in front of us and said "Solomon please hurry up!"

"You are a bit late Today," Solomon picked a bundle of The Ethiopian Herald Newspaper bearing the photo of child soldiers Terrorist TPLF cannon fodders and handed it to the motorist messenger, who has to distribute the papers to different organizations as early as possible. It is Solomon who collects the paper from EPA's Newspaper distributing shop at daybreak and hands it over to the messenger as per their deal.

"Yes. There was jamming," the motorist cleared from the area at a drop of a hat mixing to the vehicles that shuttle to and fro on the wide road between EPA and The Birhanena Selam Printing Press, where the former's papers are published.

"Have you scoured the cover photo on the



paper?" asked one of the clients in the line pushing back his spectacle sliding down his long nose.

"Do you mean the unfortunate youngsters TPLF leaders' grab by the collar to take them to the front?" I pointed to the spot the newspaper was placed.

"Yes I saw five of them on the photo. It drew my attention as their faces were zeroed in on. Some were carrying arms they found too heavy to carry," said Solomon "obviously they could find walking hard let alone participating in shooting. May God have mercy on their Soul!"

"They will end up soft targets if things take a turn to the worse," the spectacled man said with pity charged voice.

"Drugging as well as feeding the kids far-fetched stories that run counter to the long-cherished nationalistic sentiment, the terrorist leaders use them as a human shield cognizant that the considerate nation-loving soldiers facing them may not have the heart to mercilessly attack them. They deploy their real army on the backend," angrily cut in a short and eagle nosed pretty middle aged lady from a communication office of a governmental organization nearby. She has a habit of moving both of her arms when expressing things.

"In between they use a human wave indifferent to the horrendous causality that could surface," Solomon replied looking at her boots.

"Not only that. They cry foul if such a youngster falls in a crossfire. They make haste in taking to the media the picture of such children victimized in the tragic episode," the spectacled man pushed back his eyeglasses back.

"Collecting bodies of kids as well as the feeble and elderly they ferry it back to Tigray to bury them in mass grave! Fibbers!" the lady grabbed her head with her hands.

"Why?" Solomon stared at her disrupting work for a minute.

"It is a set up to accuse the government of a genocide offense," the man eyed Solomon above his dangling spectacle.

"By now it has become a public knowledge Terrorist TPLF leaders are born to lie. Head to toe they are involved in heist," I said.

"You could take Dr. Twedros Adanom a typical example of a congenital liar. Who fails not to shed some tears when he tells tales to the global community to take them aboard on TPLF's heinous motives-wrecking down an ancient and gifted nation that sailed safe troubled waters and foiled foreign aggressions time and again," the lady shuddered.

"Instead of challenging the terrorist group cross examining them posing questions, 'If you are short of food to feed famished people of Tigray State as you claim so, how could you manage to mobilize another round of human wave? What are you feeding your troops whom you are flogging to the front? Were you deliberately detaining WFP's vehicles to transport troops? Is that why you stole over 500,000 liter of fuel from the same? Are you repeating the same ruse you employed to come to power?' Westerners turn a blind eye," said the spectacled man.

"Pertaining to UN, observably, under the influence of hypocrites, there is an Ethiopian proverb which goes 'It is hard to stir up a person displaying a deep slumber affectation.' How could opportunists hush up their Trojan horse to whom their dictate is the oxygen it breathes? With whom else could they back scratch to translate their self-interest optimization theory to the letter?" the lady scanned our faces.

"Yes the Trojan horse is their pet behind whose back they laugh till their sides split 'What a toy that puts its own mom for sale!' "the man laughed.

"Even they bask under the support of EU, whose arm is twisted by hypocrites. The man at the helm of UN was caught directly communicating with them contravening UN's charters itself. Indecorous decorum! It must be he who gave a green light to Tedros to keep on fibbing," the lady swang her hands left and right.

"In so doing Buterez is blatantly infringing on Ethiopia's sovereignty. It is unbefitting" the man laughed.

"That is an uncouth behavior. Both UN's and WHO's directors must be held accountable," Solomon disrupted work once more to have his say.

"Had it not been for Almighty God and super powers from the East, hypocrites and such ill-fit officials were all out to corner Ethiopia. Again and again they did attempt to put the sanction axe on Ethiopia's neck," I said.

"Luckily Terrorist TPLF, crying foul of genocide itself orchestrating one in Mikadra, is being exposed by journalist of integrity who put light on its dark desires and bent of dishing out erroneous claims using digital army it spread across the globe utilizing for 3 decades amassed wealth," said the lady adding "but now genuine Ethiopians and experts and journalists of integrity are outsmarting them."

"Sending their children abroad for better education and luxurious life phony TPLF leader's force, even at times sweet talk, youngsters hailing from the lower income bracket to cannon fodder aggressions the former fatuously carry on. Their pampered children abroad, in a show of farfetched misery, flat on their back in big squares, cry foul to garner pity and support," the man shook his head in dismay.

"Our country is fighting a proxy war waged on it by its historic enemies. Take for instance the jets intercepted by our heroic air force pilots lately up on encroaching Ethiopian territory without permission carrying military arsenals," the lady said.

"Though a reeling blow they suffer at the hands of heroic sons and daughters of Ethiopia at every front, putting different masks, say Alshabab, our historic enemies never give up fighting a lost battle," the man took the chair I evacuated digging into my pocket for money.

"Forgetting the rape they committed on child girls and nuns as well as wives in front of their husbands, Terrorist TPLF troops try to cajole residents in victimized areas to their favor claiming 'we have no problem with people we are solely against the government,'" Solomon received the money I handed him out.

"Yes they fail to remind themselves that they have desecrated churches and mosques," the lady said.

"They have made dump yards from health facilities and schools scaling up the record of heinous destruction," the man pushed back his spectacle.

"Happily there are genuine people on Ethiopia's side. Ambassador Tibor P. Nagy that saw through TPLF's sanctimoniousness is to name one. He is telling Whitehouse politicians that they are off the track regarding their stance about Ethiopia," I said picking up my ringing phone.

I began to run towards EPA's elevator hearing "Where are you? Meeting has just kicked off."

# Science & Technology



Aseggedech Shawl, the country representative of STEM



STEM Synergy project manager, Abiyot Habtemariam



Students, Nahom Samuel doing training

Photo Tsehay Negussie

## STEM Synergy strives for hands-on knowledge in AI, coding & robotics

### • Set to advancing social entrepreneurship

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIHER

STEM Synergy is striving to help improve quality of education in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields so that trainers can acquire practical skill in addition to the theoretical knowledge given in the general education.

STEM Synergy is a US-based non-profit organization that has been working to promote quality education, technology transfer and social enterprises that benefit youth and women through hands-on technologies and innovation that solve real problems of the society says Aseggedech Shawl, the country representative of STEM during an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald this week.

The main objective of STEM Synergy is to enable students acquire an hands on knowledge and creating enabling platform to enhance knowledge and skill that can alleviate the country's challenges at large excelling at the vicinities level where the STEM centers are operating, according to STEM Synergy project manager, Abiyot Habtemariam.

"Those who are interested to pursue in the area through these platforms can invent technologies, adopt from abroad appropriately and they can produce those technologies in Ethiopia so that they can solve community problems. So, STEM is established in the sense of quality education in the areas of science and technology."

Abiot added; STEM is working to produce STEM work forces in the country not only in developing in line with these areas; but also it has been able so far to operate 22 STEM centers in Ethiopia and transferred to be operated by the higher public institutions. Some are still in preparatory and high schools to address the problems

### STEM has been started fabricating solar bakery technologies to be transferred to the potential entrepreneurs

in the students.

The country manager noted that students can be selected based on their performance because the STEM student's centers can only accommodate few students in order to focus on quality, have a good student's facilities ratio in terms of equipping labs in the ICT field.

Furthermore to expand developing STEM workforce, STEM is working to establish social enterprises in the country. STEMs intention is to create jobs based on solutions. Transferring technologies, creating social enterprising and give opportunities for the women and those economically powerless segments of the society, is the other goal.

STEM has been entered in to the viable and

suitable technologies in the country because there is untapped potential in the sector. Recently, STEM initiated a project (solar project going to be transferred to the youth and women.

"In doing so, there limitations induced even from the global financial crisis, in terms of securing resources."

As a solution, STEM is trying to fix the endless pitfall of depending in foreign donors. Thus, STEM is striving to engage in the business modality parallel to the charitable activities Abiot stated adding that this will increase its reach out to benefit students in terms of acquiring quality education so that it will be translated in to social enterprising.

To this end, STEM has been started fabricating solar bakery technologies to be transferred to the potential entrepreneurs. So far STEM has transferred such machines to the women beneficiaries in the Afar region in terms of long term loan taking in to account that the beneficiaries can't pay the whole cost of the machinery (transfer cost, training cost and related). It is the form of long term loan, he added.

This will be expanded to the solar focused projects (solar energy, irrigation). These projects are earmarked and are now in the pipeline in the business angle to back the charity work.

STEM's intervention includes innovation which focuses on a new solution and idea to improvement the life condition of the community and solving existing problems. In addition, creating an impact, sustainability, scalability, inclusion and affordability are among the major focus areas.

Abiot added that the first batch of the coding and robotics training so far has invented some projects with the objective of

alleviating problems. From now on the pilot projects in the headquarters based in Addis Ababa will be replicated through expanding artificial intelligence, robotics and coding as per STEM's vision.

Demeke Temesgen is a graduate of the Addis Ababa Science and Technology University in Mechanical Engineering parallel to his software development, robotics and coding studies from various institutions. He also studied artificial intelligence (AI) and data science. Demeke is now working with STEM Synergy as trainer of robotics and coding.

The main goal of this training is to offer practical knowledge to the trainees on how to change the theoretical knowledge of chemistry, physics and mathematics in to practical skill, Demeke says.

In the first step when people hear about robotics, there is some sort of confusion. However, after the training, students are able to acquire on how to translate it in to practical knowledge, according to the trainer. It is very interesting field; students stay for so long hours and do not want to stop doing it after they start the practice.

Samuel Werash and Nahom Solomon are both preparatory school students from the Lideta Catholic Cathedral School. "The training provided for us by STEM is helpful to get familiarized with robotics and coding subjects. I believe in my real life, it will help me to make big difference in achieving my dreams of becoming software engineer," says Samuel.

For his part, Nahom says that they have been able to develop three projects (Vehicles controlling technology, ATM machine and traffic light) after the exposure. Nahom, asked about his dreams says "I wish to be aerospace engineer."



# Society

## How long should Tigrian children remain TPLF's cannon-fodder?

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Starting from the time terrorist TPLF launched attack against the central government, it had been recruiting underage children to fight and die to it. Despite all their human and legal rights, the terrorist junta had been snatching children from their mothers' arms and sent them to warzone.

Why do the international community and institutions choose to remain silent when the T-TPLF recruits helpless children whose human and legal rights are violated to serve the interests TPLF dictators? Why those entities working on children rights abashed to condemn the faction when it is deploying and using little children as a cannon-fodder?

As Andrew Korybko, an American Political Analyst recently stated "TPLF has been forcefully conscripting the youth in Tigray and using them as cannon fodder. The international community, however, has been turning a blind eye to the terrorist TPLF's use of "child soldiers and their deployment in the barbaric human waves."

In his interview with local media, Korybko stressed that the international community is silent about the TPLF's use of human wave tactics, child soldiers, and the combination. "They expect that this Machiavellian tactic will give their terrorist proxies an edge on the ground because it makes their opponents reluctant to respond to this aggression since no soldier could in good conscience fire on a



child; though at the same time they also have the international legal right to self-defense, which thus poses a moral dilemma."

Sadly, TPLF leaderships have kept on playing the card hiding behind the curtain. While they and their children are leading a happy and joyful life abroad, hundreds and thousands of innocent Tigrian children are compelled to sacrifice their lives at the warfronts.

WHO's leader is a good example, in this regard. The worst, Tedros and his associates do not still refrain from beating drums of war, conscripting and arming Tigrian children who even do not know the difference between life and death.

Despite the fact, international community

has turned a deaf ear to the call of the federal government to save those helpless children whose life is at stake.

With all costs the government is still showing sympathy to those children soldiers. As it was indicated last Wednesday by Press Secretariat Office of Prime Minister, Billene Seyoum, the Ethiopian government still has a firm stand on peaceful resolution for all forms of conflict. Ethiopia's commitment for peaceful resolution of the conflict is unchanged. Indeed, by taking the burden taken by those affected people of Tigray, Afar and Amhara states, the government had tried its level best to bring peace.

Indeed, as Amb. Suleiman Dedefo, Ethiopian Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates

tweeted recently, the central government has gone far to protect the life of those little children who has become instruments for terrorist TPLF. "The secret of withdrawal of ENDF from Kobo is not to kill these kids, who even do not know the difference between death and life, forcefully conscripted, fed hashish/drug with tea and taken brutally to death. ENDF is responsible for saving these fellow kids as a professional army." Unfortunately, the terrorist group has chosen the other way.

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, Taye Atske Selassie also tweeted that anyone that care about children should condemn the recruitment and use of children in human wave strategy by the terrorist TPLF.

Starting from the beginning the Federal government had been pursuing a peaceful means to avoid conflict. However, T-TPLF and its proponents were playing behind the curtain and were recruiting those little children. Anyone who has seen the picture of those little children can see how hard it is for them to carry the gun with their skinny body. However, due to the inhuman nature of TPLF leaders, little children who should have been playing with their friends in the school are forced to be gun bearers to the monster-TPLF. Despite the cry and the plea of poor Tigrean mothers, their children are being taken away to succeed the purpose of TPLF. In this regard, the world should be a voice to the voiceless Tigrean mothers and children.



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## Seqota Declaration promising results

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

The document obtained from the Ministry of Health reveals that in 2015, the Government of Ethiopia made a high level fifteen-year commitment to end stunting in children less than two years by 2030. This commitment, known as the Seqota Declaration (SD), is operationalized through a multi-sectoral program involving nine different sector ministries, including Ministries of Health; Agriculture; Education; Water, Irrigation and Energy; Women and Social Affairs, Transport and Finance, Labor and Social Affairs and Culture and Tourism.

The SD has a 15-year roadmap divided into three phases: Innovation, Expansion and Scale-Up phases. It envisioned seeing Ethiopian children being free from malnutrition with a goal to end stunting in children under two by 2030.

And its mission is working to end stunting in Ethiopia for children less than two years through effective coordination and collaboration of sectors, communities and development partners, focusing on high

impact nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions and social behavior change communications with special consideration for cross-cutting issues such as gender mainstreaming, environment and integrated community development approaches.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Demeke Mekonnen said recently the collaborated efforts being carried out to avert stunting by improving the nutrition system of the country have been registering promising results.

"The Government of Ethiopia has been making a high level fifteen-year commitment to end stunting in children less than two years by 2030. This commitment is being implemented through a multi-sectoral program involving nine different sector ministries," he noted on the impact assessment of Seqota Declaration held in Seqota Town, Amhara State in the presence of ministers of relevant ministries and pertinent stakeholders.

During the occasion, Deputy Premier Demeke, who is also the Patron of the Seqota Declaration, said the problem

of stunting has been observed on many children in several parts of Ethiopia noting that comparatively the challenge is rampant in Tekeze basin and the surrounding areas. "The federal government has been working to address the problem by designing a strategy."

According to him, promising outcomes have been registered in the efforts so far undertaken in a collaborated manner to overcome stunting by improving the nutrition system of the country.

"The success story which had been achieved in the four year performance of the innovation phase of the declaration need to be scaled up in the expansion phase of Seqota Declaration which was launched in August 2021 and will be implemented in 240 Woredas," he added.

Considering the strong partnership and effective contribution of development partners during the innovation phase (2018 to 2021), Demeke urged all stakeholders to contribute their part for the successful implementation of Expansion Phase in preventing child death and averting stunting.

The impact assessment report presented during the meeting indicated that Seqota Declaration intervention has shown remarkable progress in reducing stunting cases and child death. As indicated in the report, stunting of children less than two years of age has been reduced by three percent at the national level.

The increased coverage of agricultural production, health services, social behavior change communication, water, sanitation and hygiene interventions have contributed to the observed success- reduction of stunting cases and child deaths.

As well, the assessment report stated that improved complementary feeding was the primary driver to reducing stunting.

Consequently, the assessment report recommended that respective ministries in agriculture, health, education, water and energy, social protection and women, irrigation, transport, culture and tourism, finance, innovation and technology have to add efforts and work together with the development partners to achieve the goal of Seqota Declaration to end stunting.



# This is Ethiopia

## Conserving, developing Ethiopia's diversified cultural assets

BY TEWODROS KASSA

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), cultural heritage is not limited to monuments and collections of objects. It is also comprised of living expressions inherited from our ancestors, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social manners, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices related to nature and the universe, and knowledge and techniques linked to traditional crafts. Despite its fragility, intangible cultural heritage or living heritage is an important factor in maintaining cultural diversity.

Ethiopia is home to diversified cultural assets that help to reflect the happiness and angers of people. The country embraces an age old cultural heritages that include both tangible and intangible cultural assets and solely reflect every nations, nationalities, and people of the country's way of life, dressing style, music, dancing, holiday celebration, mourning, among others.

According to experts in the heritage sector, the conservation of cultural assets plays a fundamental role to augment the country's tourism sector income through attracting numerous local and international tourists.

Recently, the Buhe religious and cultural festival was marked colorfully in various parts of the country and preparations are underway to inscribe the festival as a national intangible cultural heritage.

In connection with the festival, Addis Ababa City Administration Culture and Tourism Bureau Senior Heritage Expert Memhir Mekibib Gebremariam told *The Ethiopian Herald* that various studies have been conducted on the preconditions that enable Buhe's cultural celebration inscription as a national heritage.

Accordingly, the Authority for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) has done successive researches in various parts of the country where the holiday is marked colorfully. The *Buhe* celebration is more known in Menz, Gondar, Wollo, South Gondar (Debre Tabor) and Addis Ababa, he said. As to him, the registration of this cultural celebration as a national heritage will have a significant socio-economic roles.

The expert told this writer that the registration and conservation of the country's diversified intangible and tangible cultural heritages is important to promote the country's tourism sector through building the national image among the international community.

Moreover, the City Administration Culture and Tourism Bureau in collaboration with pertinent stakeholders facilitate the platform to celebrate the day through keeping the original cultural ceremonial process



annually.

Thus, celebrating the day in such colorful manner helps the new generation learn more from the country's cultural assets, and to maintain its cultural aspects without losing values, he emphasized.

"Currently, the new generation is playing an important role in preserving and celebrating such cultural holidays through inheriting and keeping our forefather's/foremother's cultural wisdom and arts. It is the right time to utilize the immense potentials of cultural heritages through promoting via the social and mainstream media," he said.

Currently, the Ethiopian Government has given due priority to develop the tourism sector and generate a tangible income from the sector.

On his part, Debre Tabor University President Anegagregn Gashaw (PhD) said that Buhe festivity signifies new hope and togetherness among celebrants of the festival.

As to him, the traditional torch (Chibo) burnt during Buhe celebration symbolically represents light and the celebration demonstrates new hope regardless of the nation's present situations. Such religious

and cultural celebration could serve as significant tools to embrace new hope and beginnings as a nation; and plays a paramount of importance in enhancing people to people relations.

As to the President, the nation could also benefit greatly through promoting such festivals. "Due emphasis should be given for festival tourism as the nation owns similar religious and cultural celebration that could be interpreted for social and economic purposes," he underscored.

In this regard, Debre Tabor University is undertaking several activities joining force with concerned institutions. The fourth round celebration of Buhe was celebrated in attendance of government officials, religious leaders and prominent individuals with various events in Debre Tabor.

On the celebration, Minister of Industry Melaku Alebel said that conserving and developing the country's diversified cultural values will have significant socio-economic contributions.

During the celebration of the 4th round *Buhe* festival at Debre Tabor Mountain Eyesus Church, Minister Melaku said that the Ministry of Tourism and its subsequent

offices should fulfill their responsibilities of promoting the country's ancient cultural and religious values to the rest of the world.

As to him, promoting the cultural values successfully will have an indispensable role in supporting the country's endeavors to register a sustainable socio-economic growth.

"Our forefathers/mothers sacrificed a lot to inherit us these unique, essential values. To this end, tourism bureaus, concerned institutions including the society should exert their responsibility to promote and preserve these values," he said.

This year's *Buhe* festival celebration is unique where Ethiopia has successfully defended the internal and external enemy's sabotages to disintegrate it, he added.

Moreover, *Buhe* celebration organizes and unites people from all walks of life and efforts should be exerted to promote similar festivals given their societal roles. Numerous participants have attended the celebration in different parts of the country.

In sum, cultural heritages contribute to the continuous revaluation of cultures and identities and are an important vehicle for the transmission of experiences, skills and knowledge between generations. Furthermore, heritage is a source of inspiration for creativity and innovation that generate contemporary and future cultural products. Cultural heritage has the potential to promote access to and enjoyment of cultural diversity. It can also enrich social capital and create a sense of individual and collective belonging, which helps to maintain social and territorial cohesion. On the other hand, cultural heritage has become economically significant for the tourism sector in many countries. This also creates new challenges for its conservation.