



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXVIII No 305 1 September 2022 - Nehase 26, 2014

Thursday

Price Birr 10.00

## T-TPLF expands its belligerence to other areas: GCS

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Terrorist TPLF which cannot survive without war has launched an invasion in the direction of Wag, Wolkait and our border areas with Sudan (Amhara State), the Government Communication Service (GCS) said in a statement.

According to the statement, Government of Ethiopia has also been valiantly defending the attacks launched by the Terrorist TPLF via Eastern Amhara. The T-TPLF has continued utilizing its worn-out human wave strategy that places children, youth and the elderly people of Tigray as sacrificial lambs.

The invasion of Kobo and the surrounding areas by the TPLF on the Eastern side of the Amhara State has not gone as the group planned, due to the concerted response effort of heroic defense forces and the local communities, the Government noted.

“Our heroic Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) are defending this invasion with full preparedness and resolve,” the statement says.

The Government of Ethiopia while responding steadfastly to attacks launched by TPLF in various directions has still not closed off the options for peace.



Government continues to urge the international community to do what it can to pressure the belligerent group for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The Government has also called on the people of Tigray to free themselves from the suffering caused by the tyranny of TPLF and condemn the belligerence.

## Ethiopian boosts profits amid rising fuel cost, global pandemic

• *Earns a net profit of 937 million USD*

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA** - Despite the headwinds of worsening global economic outlook, rising fuel cost and global pandemic, the Ethiopian Airlines announced that it has earned a net profit of 937 million USD during the past 2021/2022 Ethiopian fiscal year.

Ethiopian Airlines, Africa’s leading Airlines, has also secured five billion USD revenue in the reported fiscal year and registered 79 percent growth compared to last year

In his latest twitter message, Ethiopian Investment Holdings CEO Mamo Mihretu stated that the airlines have thrived without job losses and significant cancellation despite global pandemic.

Appreciating the effort of management of the airlines for its obsession in ensuring long term cost leadership, proving the resilience of its strategy, he said that the airlines transported 6.9 million international



travelers last year alone.

Taking the opportunity, he called on the airlines to focus on improving capacity utilization, sustaining its customer centric culture and capabilities, monetizing current favorable market yields and becoming a leader in cargo service, and putting sustainability at the center of its operation.

It was learnt that the company flew 7,700 tons of commodities to different areas apart from receiving five international aviation

awards last year alone.

The Ethiopian Airlines CEO Mesfin Tasew told local media recently that the annual revenue figures of the company is eight percent higher than what the airlines had anticipated.

He said that the airlines expect to receive 13 new aircrafts including 10 B777 max and 2 Airbus A350 to join its young and modern fleet during the current fiscal year.

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Ambassador Tofik Abdulahi

## Diplomat urges continuation of activities to enter CFA to force

BY MENGESHA AMARE

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopia ought to continue with the activities of drawing two more Nile riparian countries to ratify the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) on the Nile to open a new chapter of

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## Time to scrutinize WHO-chief's role over war in Ethiopia

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC) stated that it is time for serious scrutiny on the WHO Director-General's role in T-TPLF-provoked war in Ethiopia.

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# News



Photo - Gebabo Gebrie

ETA President Yohannes Benti (PhD)

## Association expresses support for AU-led peace talks

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA) has expressed its support for AU-led peace talks to end the conflict in the northern Ethiopia.

ETA President Yohannes Benti (PhD) told the media yesterday that the federal government and the Terrorist TPLF should stop the renewed war and engage actively in AU-led peace talks.

Apart from urging international community support for ending the conflict in a peaceful manner, he said adding that Ethiopia would only achieve its national development goals so long as there is an enduring peace and security.

“War by its nature is so destructive and its psychological impact on the society is intolerable as well as lasting long, thus the ongoing war should be stopped immediately.”

Due to this war, millions of people would be displaced from their homes, schools, health facilities and public property are being ravaged, besides students are made to skip classes, he noted.

He, moreover, said that in the efforts of reconstructing these damaged property, it needs huge amount of finance and labor force.

“All conflicts will be resolved through dialogue or avoided if politicians work to nurture peace-loving citizens a committed manner.”

ETA has appreciated the unilateral humanitarian ceasefire declared by the government.

The association has demanded the humanitarian aid to continue and reach in Tigray for those who in need in a proper manner.

“We must pass down peaceful and prosperous nation to the posterity, it is all fellow citizens responsibility to work on ensuring long lasting peace in Ethiopia.”

ETA has 700,000 members and it was established 75 years ago.

## Authority stresses promoting co-existence, tolerance via religious broadcasts

### • Issues licenses for 23 religious broadcasts

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopian Media Authority (EMA) has urged religious broadcasting institutions to promote co-existence and tolerance among people.

Yesterday, a religious media conference was held aimed at promoting tolerance and strengthening co-existence among followers of different religions.

In his remark, EMA Director-General Mohamed Idris said that religious broadcasting has a responsibility to play a key role in strengthening co-existence of people through promoting peace and moral values as well as shaping the overall ethics of the generation. “It has a responsibility to build strong and peaceful Ethiopia as well.”

Religious institutes are expected to work tirelessly on avoiding cultural aggression and others as they have been playing a crucial role in fostering peace, co-existence



Photo - Eyob Teferi

EMA Director-General Mohamed Idris

and tolerance, he noted.

“Likewise, a given media outlet should work respecting the country's law and others' religion and belief.”

As to him, to solve the existing problems permanently, the country has finalized to establish a religious media council.

Ethiopian Inter-religious Council Secretary General Lika Tiguan Kesis Tagay Tadele for his part said that some religious problems have been witnessed recently in some areas contrary to our past. These are the showcases of religious media not doing their tasks or responsibilities. They should teach co-existence and tolerance for the faithful.

As some media violate rules and regulations, he urged these media to refrain from such act otherwise he said they are responsible for the wrong doing.

Government Communication Service State Minister Kebede Desisa said religious broadcasts should prioritize co-existence of the people across the country. Currently, there is a better environment than ever for the media to perform their task without any intervention.

The Authority has issued licenses for 23 religious media institutions, it was learnt.

## ISA to develop 410MW solar park in Ethiopia

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Fourth Regional Committee Meeting of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held in Addis Ababa aimed at exploiting the African continent's unlimited potential for renewable energy, including abundant solar energy of the continent.

The meeting was held from 29-31 August 2022 which is ISA's first physical meeting in the region and is being organised in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Energy, government of Ethiopia.

State Minister of Water and Energy Sultan Wali (PhD), welcomed the ISA and its solarisation agenda and said that Ethiopia is blessed with renewable energy resources potential that can be tapped to impact the welfare of the nation.

The country has ample potential to generate hydropower (45,000MW), geo-thermal (10,000MW), wind energy (100GW) and a huge potential for solar energy, he said.

“Although we have tremendous potential from a variety of energy sources, we only generate 5,000MW mainly from hydropower (92%). The government is, therefore, giving priority to extensive and diverse renewable power generation,” he noted.

ISA is steering energy transition across the globe by extending technical and financial support, implementing demonstration solar projects across agriculture and public health sectors.

In Africa, ISA has projects in Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Seychelles, Sudan, Togo, and Uganda.



Photo - Gebabo Gebrie

In Ethiopia, ISA is working on the development of 410 MW Solar park, providing 2,250 solar pumps for irrigation and 1,400 solar water pumps for drinking water purposes.

On his part, ISA Director General Ajay Mathur (PhD) said that the African continent is blessed with unlimited potential for renewable energy, including abundant solar energy to the capacity of 10 TW.

As to him, accelerating solarisation requires investments, capacity building, and policy support.

“ISA is facilitating diverse solutions including solar water pump, solar park, and creating mechanisms for blended finance. We are looking forward to detailed discussions with leaders of African continent at the Regional Committee Meeting. It will help bring long-term, cost effective and impactful solutions,” he added.

He further highlighted that despite high technical potential in Africa, and the pressing need for accelerated adoption of solar systems, there hasn't been a uniform deployment.

“We are working towards mobilising USD 1 trillion of investment for a massive deployment of solar energy technologies and for expanding solar markets. With the right interventions, planned approach and support of the leadership, Africa can move towards providing electricity to all the 600 million people, while supporting economic growth, jobs, and a safe and healthy environment in the region.”

Accordingly, Ministers from Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Guinea, Ghana, Mali, Guinea-Bissau, Comoros, and Somalia are being participating in the meeting along with Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General of ISA.

The ISA has 107 member countries with 38 engaging as Member Countries and six as signatories from the African continent.

The Meeting proceedings featured detailed discussions on the progress and achievements thus far and future plans: including ISA's five-year strategic plan, private sector engagement strategy, capacity-building STAR-C initiative, and roadmap for mobilising USD 1 trillion in solar investments by 2030.

# News

## WHO asserts science, traditional medications collaboration

BY TEWODROS KASSA

**ADDIS ABABA** - The annual African Traditional Medicine Day was marked yesterday August 31, 2022 to honour the integral role of traditional medicine in the health and welfare of generations of people on the continent.

In her message in connection with the day, WHO Regional Director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti (MD) said that Traditional medicine has been the trusted, acceptable, affordable and accessible source of health care for African populations for centuries.

Still today, 80% of the continent's population relies on traditional medicine for their basic health needs, she said.

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

This year's theme: *"Two Decades of African Traditional Medicine Day: Progress Towards Achieving Universal Health Coverage in Africa"*, gives world the opportunity to reflect on the progress towards African traditional medicine being afforded the prominence it deserves in national health systems.

As to her, since African Traditional Medicine Day was initiated in 2003, the continent has seen the implementation of WHO Regional Strategies on Promoting and Enhancing the Role of Traditional Medicine in Health Systems.

Moreover, member States have used the day to catalyze discussion forums around national policies on traditional medicine, cultivation of medicinal plants, including

training of traditional health practitioners, and their collaboration with their conventional counterparts.

These activities prompted over 40 African Region countries to develop national traditional medicine policies by 2022, up from only eight in 2000.

Currently, 30 countries have also integrated traditional medicine into their national policies, a 100% improvement on the situation in 2000.

Additionally, 39 countries have established regulatory frameworks for traditional medicine practitioners, compared to only one in 2000, demonstrating good governance and leadership.

Today, with 34 research institutes in 26 countries dedicated to traditional medicine research and development, it remains a promising industry, with great commercial potential if marketed appropriately internationally.

Twelve of these countries reported making public fund allocations to this research and development across the past 10 years.

Accordingly, these institutes have employed WHO guidelines and protocols to assess the quality, safety and efficacy of traditional medicine-based therapeutics for priority diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, diabetes, hypertension, Sickle-Cell Disease and, recently, COVID-19. Currently 17 countries, as opposed to zero in 2000, have frameworks for the protection of intellectual property rights and traditional medical knowledge.

To advance continental efforts towards equitable access to medical products and technologies, all but eight African Member States are now engaged in large-scale cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants, according to her.

Positive signs of traditional and conventional health systems working in parallel for the good of their patients is that referrals of patients between the two sectors are now taking place routinely in 17 countries, she stressed.

## Diplomat urges ...

cooperation using the common resource, said former Ethiopian Ambassador to Yemen.

Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda signed the CFA as it was opened to do so in May 14, 2010 in Entebbe, Uganda. Kenya and Burundi followed suit on May 19, 2010 and February 28, 2011 respectively. It would enter to force when six countries acceded to the CFA and deposited it at the African Union. Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda ratified the document.

Amb. Tofik Abdulahi said the full ratification of the CFA by six countries would ease tension along the Nile.

The diplomat further highlighted that the ratification would help the establishment of the Nile Basin Commission thereby consolidating efforts to develop, control and utilize Nile water resources.

Noting only four countries out of the 10 ratified the CFA, Ambassador Tofik highlighted that Ethiopia should make more of a push to convince the remaining states to adopt the framework into their respective laws so as to ensure seamless construction of the mega dam. "Ethiopia is expected to work to convince two more countries

to ratify the agreement as it would have a paramount importance in boosting common benefit."

"It is well known that the 1929 agreement on the Nile was signed between Egypt and England and the 1959 between Egypt and Sudan. These agreements excluded Ethiopia which contributed 85 percent of the water share."

The Entebbe agreement is by far better than the previous ones as it incorporated all the riparian countries and contains ideas promoting equitable and reasonable utilization of water. It has also contained water security articles and stipulated many governing ideas, he emphasized.

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a partnership among the Nile riparian states that "seeks to develop the river in a cooperative manner, share substantial socioeconomic benefits, and promote regional peace and security." In May 14, 2010, five upstream states signed a CFA to seek more water from the River Nile - a move strongly opposed by Egypt and Sudan. Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania were original signatories with Burundi signed in February 2011.

## KOTRA, Share Plus donate protective equipment

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Share Plus Global Partners in collaboration with Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) has donated smart walkthrough booth laboratory testing equipment for Oromia State Health Bureau that help to fight against the common infectious respiratory diseases.

During the recent occasion, Oromia State Health Bureau Head Mengistu Bekele (MD) said that the Republic of Korea has extended donation of laboratory testing equipment which help to fight against the common infectious respiratory diseases and protect health worker from disease.

Accordingly, the equipment is very important for the health workers especially during this critical time and it provides active and efficient services within short period of time.

The equipment primarily helps in protecting the safety of the health workers by protecting disease that is transmitted from the patients to health workers during service, he said.

"Korea is extending multilateral supports to the people of Ethiopia which commendable and material support for the bureau is also part of the support being extended by Korea," he added.

The need to deepen ties that would further boost political, societal and economic development matters such as investment,

trade, culture and others beyond that of health cooperation.

The health material donation is also part of the support that the country is extended mainly to save the health workers from infectious disease and help them to provide effective services, he noted.

As to him, the Korean people and government are also trying their best to provide meaningful contribution to Ethiopia's development process through various ways.

Currently, the Korean investment flows in Ethiopia is flourishing in different sectors besides health. Korean companies will bolster the promising investment in different investment and support.

For his part, Share Plus CEO Prof. BaeSeohyun said that the equipment is very important for the health workers especially during this critical time and it provides active and efficient services within short period of time.

Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) Director General Cho Eunbum on the occasion indicated the donation is timely and critical in both protecting the service providers and the patients and make them safe from infectious disease.

As part of its corporate social responsibility the agency is exerting its outmost efforts in supporting the people of Ethiopia in general, he said.

## Time to scrutinize...

The Committee Executive Chairperson Mesfin Tegenu said earlier this month, Tedros Adhanom (PhD) quoted saying "maybe the reason is the color of the skin of the people" in suggesting the world has ignored the [unprovoked] war is baseless.

It is just the latest comment of his two-year-long effort to bring international condemnation and sanctions on a democratic government and he purposefully and persistently distorted the realities of the conflict, he added.

"His comments also contradict the language being used by the UN agencies which have said the aid programme is meeting its targets with large amounts of aid reaching Tigray."

Mesfin added that WFP Deputy Regional Director for East Africa, Adrian van der Knaap said famine had been averted in Tigray and highlighted the states in need of aid were now Afar and Amhara, communities that were destroyed by Tedros's TPLF colleagues.

The people who are being ignored are those communities living in Afar and Amhara that faced months of TPLF occupation and atrocities including killings, rape and mass looting, the chairperson noted.

"The latest OCHR estimate around 9 million people in those two states need urgent aid. OCHR describe the situation in Afar as dire with alarming levels of food insecurity and malnutrition."

Recalling the background of the WHO chief, he said that Tedros himself is from Tigray, a member of T-TPLF and he served in the TPLF-led government as Minister of Health from 2005 - 2012 and later as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012-2016.

Therefore, Tedros himself faced many

accusations of ethnic-based discrimination while in office, in 2010 Human Rights Watch published a report called Ethiopia Donor Aid Supports Repression, research pointed to the TPLF government routinely using access to aid "as a weapon to control people and crush dissent."

Speaking about the Ethiopian government led efforts to get aid into Tigray, Mesfin pointed out the government declared an unilateral humanitarian truce in March 2022 despite the TPLF still attacking towns and villages in neighboring states.

Tedros's public comments and tweets since November 2020 show he has not once referenced the suffering in those areas. Could it be he is ignoring them due to their ethnic background?

He said that WHO head's comments always suggest the people of Tigray are suffering solely due to the actions of the Ethiopian government, but it is not fact.

Recently, evidence provided by Reuters, the MacDonald Laurier Institute and others have shown the group becoming increasingly authoritarian against citizens living in Tigray accused of restricting aid including food, forced conscription and using child soldiers.

Raising the alarm for people in Tigray is so needed, the state will need significant support to rebuild over the coming years, but that is not what Tedros is doing. The trend of his public comments is consistent with the language used by the TPLF leadership in Ethiopia and the complete absence of empathy for the people of Afar and Amhara. This demonstrates he has one interest and that is to further the aims of the T-TPLF. It is time that someone hold the Director-General to account.

# Opinion

## It is time for serious scrutiny of the WHO's role in the Ethiopia conflict

BY MESFIN TEGENU

It is time for serious scrutiny of The World Health Organization's (WHO) Director-General's role in the war in Ethiopia. Earlier this month he is quoted as saying: "Maybe the reason is the color of the skin of the people" in suggesting the world has ignored the conflict in Tigray. It is just the latest comment of his two-year-long effort to bring international condemnation and sanctions on the Ethiopian government. During that period, he has purposefully and persistently distorted the realities of the conflict.

Let's begin with his personal interests in this war. Dr. Tedros himself is from Tigray, he is a member of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and he served in the TPLF-led government as Minister of Health from 2005 – 2012 and later as Minister of Foreign Affairs between 2012 & 2016. The authoritarian TPLF governed Ethiopia for over 27 years until it was forced to give up power in a popular uprising in 2018. The years of endemic corruption, human rights abuses and ethnic-based discrimination had worn thin on the Ethiopian people who wanted their economic development to be accompanied by a new democratic order. Dr Tedros himself faced many accusations of ethnic-based discrimination

while in office, in 2010 Human Rights Watch published a report called: *Ethiopia: Donor Aid Supports Repression*, research pointed to the TPLF government routinely using access to aid "as a weapon to control people and crush dissent."

Returning to his comments this month, suggesting the people of Tigray have been ignored, the evidence would suggest otherwise. There have been severe punitive actions taken by the international community against the Ethiopian government including visa restrictions and their free trade scheme with the US being cancelled. Not to mention relentless rhetorical condemnation. It is also really important to note there has been no fighting whatsoever in Tigray since June 2021. Ethiopian forces did not enter the region after they repelled the TPLF's invasion of Afar and Amhara. Moreover, the Ethiopian government led efforts to get aid into the region with a humanitarian truce in March this year despite the TPLF still attacking towns and villages in neighboring regions. His comments also contradict the language being used by the United Nations agencies which have said the aid programme is meeting its targets with large amounts of aid reaching Tigray. Adrian van der Knaap, WFP's Deputy Regional Director for East Africa, went as far as saying famine had

been averted in Tigray and highlighted the regions in need of aid were now Afar and Amhara, communities that were destroyed by Dr. Tedros' TPLF colleagues.

The people who are being ignored are those living in Afar and Amhara: Communities that faced months of TPLF's occupation and atrocities including killings, rape and mass looting. The latest estimates by OCHR suggest around 9 million people in those two regions need urgent aid. OCHR describe the situation in Afar as: "dire with alarming levels of food insecurity and malnutrition." An analysis of Dr. Tedros's public comments and tweets since November 2020 shows he has not once referenced the suffering in those areas. Could it be he is ignoring them due to their ethnic background?

I also want to highlight his lack of scrutiny of the TPLF. His comments always suggest the people of Tigray are suffering solely due to the actions of the Ethiopian government, yet that does not stand up to the facts. The TPLF initiated the conflict in November 2020 attacking government military bases in Tigray; the Ethiopian government's defensive operations were justified according to the UNDP. They launched an invasion of Afar and Amhara in June 2021 and threatened to march on Addis Ababa. The suffering they caused on

their way has been highlighted by numerous reports by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and international media outlets. More recently, evidence provided by Reuters, the MacDonald Laurier Institute and others, have shown the group becoming increasingly authoritarian against citizens living in Tigray. They've been accused of restricting aid including food, forced conscription and using child soldiers. Channel 4 in the UK recently interviewed Tigrayans who had fled into neighboring regions in control of the Ethiopian Government. Yet, of course, analysis of Dr Tedros's comments shows he has never challenged the actions of the TPLF.

Raising the alarm for people in Tigray is so important, the region will need significant support to rebuild over the coming years, but that is not what Dr. Tedros is doing. The trend of his public comments is consistent with the language used by the TPLF leadership in Ethiopia and the complete absence of empathy for the people of Afar and Amhara. This demonstrates he has one interest and that is to further the aims of the TPLF. It is time someone held the Director-General to account. Trust in the WHO is essential, his approach to Ethiopia is making many question in the organization's integrity.

## The importance of solarising Africa

BY DR AJAY MATHUR

Solar economics has transformed over the last decade, as the overall cost of solar deployment — including price of modules, technology, and availability of land — has fallen dramatically. Global installed capacity has expanded in response to the cost reduction and policy support and reached around 900GW by the end of 2021 from only 44GW in 2010. Member countries of the International Solar Alliance have played a significant part in this growth story. However, there is still work to be done.

Africa has the potential to be one of the significant markets in terms of solar power deployment. It is home to over 1.3 billion people but only half its population has access to electricity — around 79% in urban and 35% in rural areas. Energy access is as low as 21 kWh per person per annum in some countries and in some others access ranges between 60-80 kWh per person per annum. This is significantly lower than the basic energy needs of 300 kWh per person p.a. It is estimated that power shortages cost the continent about 2% – 4% of GDP a year.

The African continent will need to double its capacity to 497 GW between now and 2030 to meet the rising energy demand. It cannot be based on fossil fuels because of climate change reasons, but also because of rising energy import bills. Solar and renewables offer the most viable alternatives, with prices now almost in the same range as those of fossil fuel. In addition, conditions for solar energy

are excellent in Africa, where sunshine is not only abundant but also much more reliable than elsewhere. Solar also has the advantage of being modular and, therefore, being able, together with batteries, to supply electricity needs in remote areas thus postponing the need for investment in long, under-loaded transmission lines.

Africa needs USD 70 billion of investments in the solar sector in the next 5-7 years. Energy access interventions such as solar home systems and mini-grid alone constitute ~50% of this investment requirement. However, existing investment in the solar sector is approximately USD 13 billion and focused on few regions; even these existing investment pools largely remain un-deployed. Therefore, solar energy sector in Africa will need about six to ten times more capital to be deployed in the sector in the next 8-10 years.

The global climate financial flows, though increasing, were a meagre 632 billion USD in 2020 as against the required of 4.35 trillion USD annually by 2030. The challenge therefore is that of attracting finance to meet energy needs of today and tomorrow, while also addressing climate change, the pre-eminent global crisis of our times. Solar is a globally acknowledged remedy, but investment inflows that can build large shares of solar and deliver a massive scale-up of clean power to underpin widespread electrification remains a challenge. One way of mobilizing investments is to go beyond traditional financing approaches. Innovative climate finance structures can

be deployed to improve capital efficiency and overcome the barriers to finance which have stifled investment to date. Traditional financial instruments, such as concessional debt and grants, are widely used in Africa, but create a situation in which growth is limited. This concessional debt and grants could be deployed more efficiently to target specific barriers to finance and thence result in pulling in commercial investment capital, which would greatly enhance the total solar investments. More nuanced solutions like structured finance and capital market instruments have been incorporated into innovative financial structures in markets, such as Egypt, South Africa, and Kenya, and hold great potential for further deployment to catalyze local private investment in climate solutions.

For under-represented segments and geographies which have unmet investment needs, the International Solar Alliance is designing a blended finance facility aimed at stimulating high potential solar technologies, by attracting private capital to flow in such technologies. This Facility's current geographical focus is Africa, with potential expansion to other regions of the world. The Facility is open for all countries to join to maximize its impact across regions. The ISA is creating a relatively small pool of concessional capital and grants (about USD 700 million) which would mitigate risk and thus attract around USD 10 billion in follow-on investments, and will enable energy access in 35-40 million African households by 2030, and thereby impacting 200 million people in the region. It will also offset more than

a million tonnes of CO2 emissions in intervention countries.

Government action is essential if we are to tackle climate change. Given their catalytic role, it will be important for governments to take initiatives to address specific barriers that are most salient to the private sector. Better communication with local private investors and political institutions around the main barriers to investments in a specific country can help raise awareness and inform targeted action by governments to improve investment conditions. Measures like capacity building, risk mitigation instruments, policy interventions, and simplification of regulatory processes have all evidently benefitted many African countries.

Although this interest of the private sector has come in late, it is better late than never. There have been substantial challenges in attracting private investments, given the perception of risk linked to investments in the African continent. A limited understanding of national contexts by private investors often aggravates it. It will be important to trust and harness the power and ingenuity of market. Markets are the self-generating sources of financing that shape business models and transform economies. Properly harnessed, they can deliver solutions at scale.

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

# The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays  
By The Ethiopian Press Agency



General Manager

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

Advertisement and Dist.  
Department

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Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

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The Ethiopian Herald

## Editorial

### Repeat the #Nomore victory!

History has taught us that the sacrifice paid for a good cause will pay back later in a more gratifying way. One best example that can be mentioned here in fighting for a noble cause is the struggle by people against colonialists as well as those who fight for their human rights, sovereignty and the like.

As demonstrated by all human societies across the world nobody wants to be subjugated to others either through colonialism or any other form of oppressive rule. When those who want to subdue others under their unfair rule encroach against the sovereignty of others, the prey would have a noble cause to fight for and their resilience against the ill designs of the predators would give them the energy and are most of the time likely to succeed.

Our forefathers had a good cause to fight and die for. That is what our forefathers did at the Battle of Adwa. And that was also the main factor behind their outshining victory.

In the years that followed people have fought hard to maintain the noble causes of the country and fend off the enemy that affronted the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation. Among these are the struggles of Ethiopian patriots against the invading fascist Italian forces during the Second World War. The patriots fought the well-armed fascist forces with the relatively small and backward armament. They paid their lives for the sovereignty and liberty of their country. They finally succeed in routing the enemy forces.

Subsequently, the country had faced similar aggression of foreign forces allied with some local armed groups. All these threats against the nation were averted through the people's struggle to safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity at any cost. Throughout the times one common thing that was behind the victory of the people is their allegiance to the genuine national cause.

These days too, the country has come across a serious challenge to

its security and sovereignty. This calls for the concerted actions of the people both at home and abroad as this is a good national cause which is worth fighting for. Unlike in the past, people are not only expected to fight to carry the gun on the battlefield but also they must be well aware and wage the fight against the false information on the social media.

Hence, the people of the country both at home and abroad must keep in mind that they have a good cause to fight for as the terrorist TPLF has put the sovereignty and security of the nation at stake. Since the inception of the war, it has brutally attacked the northern command of the National Defense Forces which exposes the country to a grave risk of security. Furthermore, it has attacked civilians and public facilities both in Tigray and neighboring states. It is also committing almost all forms of atrocities against humans like rape, mass murder, incendiary, looting of public property, and desecration of holy places.

Essentially, in defending these serious attacks of the terrorist TPLF, Ethiopians, these days, have demonstrated a similar level of heroism as the country is under the serious threat by the terrorist and its foreign alliances. Few months ago, Ethiopians in the Diaspora had waged a successful campaign entitled #Nomore. This campaign deserves to be remembered always for its monumental impact as a game changer.

When terrorist TPLF was fighting on the ground here at home, their enablers abroad especially in the west were striving to give them a blood lifeline. At this juncture, Ethiopians both at home and in the Diaspora were effective in exposing the plot of some corrupt officials who work for their gains rather than the bilateral relations of the countries.

In sum, now Ethiopians should follow suit and carry out a similar campaign to expose the ongoing plots against their motherland's sovereignty. The campaign has to help the international community to realize the fact that the terrorist TPLF launched third round aggression when the Ethiopian government has been pursuing measures for peace.

## Opinion

### 'What matters most is how we perceive our Ethiopia'

BY MENGESHA AMARE

One Thursday morning, a friend of mine and I were leaving office for coffee. We headed towards a certain café around Amist Kilo and started discussing a number of personal, economic, political and other related issues supplemented with friendly conundrums.

Some other pairs, who were seated against us, were also warmly chatting. In the middle of a talk of one pair, the reason why the US and some western countries' uninvited intervention and illegitimate imposition against Ethiopia was centered and well expounded. As the blistering talk entirely grabbed my attention, I provided it with a watchful auricle and jotted down topmost themes.

"Do you know that Ethiopia will shine out and become east African star as well as influential nation as its name bespeaks and its strategic location exhibits if all its segments of the society work hand in glove putting minor differences aside and embark on cardinal aspects cementing us more and help the nation make a difference in all aspects?" a young man forwarded a quest to his friend.

"Right you are! Attaining what we have been aspired for long would be met if we all know what our motherland does have at hand and how can we make history. What matters here is how we see ourselves, perceive our Ethiopia. However, so long as there are some irresponsible individuals

who are always fond of disrupting Ethiopia's peace shouldering ill-intended mission to merely serve interests of their masters at the expense of the peace and harmonious living of innocent citizens, how can the entire society take the big picture—Ethiopia—into account and wholeheartedly work for its growth and prosperity?" another replied.

He further elucidated to much more substantiate his above argument saying, "I know the inside out of the nation following a series of field assignments to rural localities. If you visit rural parts of Oromia, Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Sidama, among others, simply from Mekele to Bale, from Harar to Illuababor; From Wollo to Dembidolo, people surprisingly don't know to which national or tribal sect they belong. They are hospitable enough, respecting ones, thinking one another and more inviting for newcomers or guests, too. Let alone creating mayhem and commotion among themselves, bad words can never be enunciated at all.

As bad luck would have it, he said adding that negligent individuals, conflict entrepreneurs and persons who are all the time thinking of fattening personal gain and amass undeserved profits at the expense of others, or just politicians running to secure cheap popularity inject hostility in the minds of the mass using a poisonous political syringe.

In so doing, the wrong deed they have done has left black spot in the hearts of citizens who have been leading a tuneless

life enjoying a well-entrenched cultural ties, melodiously intertwined amicable gesture and fraternity mode.

"In what way do you think such a devastating move can be reined somewhere and all citizens can equally think of their nation for common growth and change as a country is a priceless asset that has to be scrupulously nurtured and methodically protected?" the first threw another question seeking a solution for heaped and multifarious national challenges.

He replied as follows. "As I tried to explicate earlier, what matters most is how we see our country. Undoubtedly, Ethiopia is a country endowed with numerous tangible and intangible heritages, untapped natural resources, diligent and capable human power and many more affluent manifestations. The problem is we all don't know our country. To the surprise of everyone, foreigners know Ethiopia more than we all know it. In simple terms, the value the majority of us have given to it is very minimal. Since foreigners know about Ethiopia very well and what does the latter possess, they would like calculatingly or unknowingly to interfere in the internal affairs of Ethiopia to make it weak or dismantle if possible because if it sets up a powerful and strong government who can never be twisted as they would love, the benefit they have aspired gets vanished.

Believe it or not that is their fear. It is crystal clear that Ethiopia has always entertained

color blind diplomacy and relations; hence they can get what they demand following a well-defined win-win fashion if they are smart enough.

What this writer has comprehended from the pair discussion held between persons in the cafe is that we all have affluent great nation that suffices and prettily accommodates its sons and daughters. They have to do away with the hostility and hate spirit deliberately sown by betrayals for close to three decades to foster their nation dismantling projects. We have to be well aware of all the tricks and devilish conspiracies orchestrated against Ethiopia.

For instance, the case of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has been a global issue since its inception. Besides, many global powers are seriously eyeing at it and supporting Ethiopia's historical foes, which are working against the dam.

The good thing when the issue of the dam closed well upon proper completion, all the hustles and bustles run against it will get dried as all sorts of conspiracies and cunning styles wrapped around Ethiopia are fundamentally revolving around the GERD.

See 'What matters.. Page 6

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

# Business & Economy

## Unceasing role of decent work in building resilient economy

BY HIZKEL HAILU

Undeniably, Ethiopia has enjoyed rates of economic growth consistently higher than other countries in the region, and at an average 11 %, some of the highest in the world over the last decade. According to the information obtained from International Labor Organization (ILO), the country's government aims, through a broad Industrial Development Strategic Plan, to achieve middle income status over the next decade.

Based on the invitation of the government and other Ethiopian stakeholders, Better Work's parent organization under the auspicious of the ILO, has initiated a comprehensive and coordinated intervention to advance decent work and inclusive industrialization in the country. Nation's economy can never brought development only through increasing the number of industries and factories, but also it should be better to establish better working environment.

Cognizant of the fact that, the Addis Ababa City Administration is working together with ILO in giving priority to make better working environment in industries. Apparently, the textile and garment sector has been identified as a key priority for the first phase of this strategy. Better Work will be instrumental in this phase through strengthening enterprise level practices, building labor inspectorate capacity and, ultimately, providing a blueprint for the expansion of decent work practices into other industries.

On top of that ILO has recently announced that it is keen to support the government in setting minimum wage for labors. In collaboration with Addis Ababa City Administration Labor Enterprise and Industry Development Bureau (AALEIDB), ILO has organized a workshop targeting on advancing decent work and inclusive industrialization across Ethiopia.

According to the Organization's 'Siraye' Project Head Kidist Chala, labor workers in Ethiopia are not guaranteed with desirable protection. Labor Administration and Inspection should be delivered in due of international laws that has been signed by the Ethiopian Government.

In this regard, ILO has a platform to enhance inspectors and to guide complaints, she said. The Ethiopian government has begun process to set minimum wage though the regulatory body has not been organized yet. However, ILO is keen to cooperate with the government in due course of running such

activity, she added.

Talking about ILO- Siraye Project she said that, the program is not only to speak about workers right; but, to enhance workers' and employers' organizational capacity for inclusive industrialization. The overarching development goal of the Program SIRAYE (Amharic for "my Job") is to see improved respect of workers' rights leading to greater incomes and compensation, enhanced safety, equality, voice, and representation. The program also aims to lift industrial productivity and competitiveness to enable a global competitive textile and garment sector; and encourage accountable and transparent government institutions.

On her paper presentation about the *Siraye* Program, she explained that the main objective of the workshop is to make the participants from different regions and city administration aware of the nature and benefits of the conventions ratified by the country coupled with the rights and obligations of the countries that have ratified the conventions.

Kidist further accentuates that the main objective of the program is to expand production and productivity of the industries. As to her, strengthening the employer-employee relationship through enabling employers and employees to distinguish between their rights and obligations is also the program's target.

Mentioning that the work program has a budget of more than 10 million dollars, she stated that the program will be functional across the nation with a special focus on Addis Ababa city administration, Oromia, Sidama, Amhara and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples' Regions due to their highest investment activity. So far, in the areas where the program has been implemented, it is possible to increase production and productivity and improve workplace safety, she added.

Addis Ababa Deputy Mayor and Head of LEIDB Jantir Abay also said that the government is reforming labor administration. He further explained the government's commitment to provide support and supervision so as to increase the production capacity of employers and employees.

"We have the large human capital and it needs modern and decent work. The government is also reforming the administration of labor. Accordingly, Addis Ababa city

Administration is doing its level best to enhance labor security as industrialization growth in a speedy way in the capital and surrounding areas," he stated.

The workshop is mainly focused on workers' right to organize, collective bargaining and occupational health, as well as the conventions that Ethiopia has ratified. On his opening remark during the workshop, the Deputy Mayor said that support and monitoring is expected from the government to increase the production capacity of employers and workers.

Speaking at the opening of the training, by the rank of Head of the Department of Employer and Employees in the city administration, Yohans Mtiku for his part said that, Ethiopia should work hard to transform the economy from agriculture led to industrial one.

He called on employers and workers to play a key role in bringing peace to the industries and sustaining the national economic growth of the country. The bureau will work with stakeholders to create conducive working environment for the industry. He also said that, his office will work hard for the implementation of the agreement as stakeholders work together to ensure favorable working conditions.

Not only does the [ILO-Siraye] program bring experiences from the international community but also paves new way of delivering support in a holistic and coordinated manner, and it also assists the labor inspectorate in building capacity, it was stated.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) is the only tripartite UN agency that brings together governments, employers' and workers' representatives of 187 Member States, to set labor standards, develop policies and devise programs promoting decent work for all women and men. With an initial focus on the garment and textile industries, the ILO in collaboration with tripartite partners has developed a comprehensive and coordinated program to promote Decent Work and Inclusive Industrialization in Ethiopia, ILO documents revealed.

The program works at national, regional and factory levels involving different ILO departments and global programs to address the key challenges to advance decent work in Ethiopia. At the national level, under the leadership of the tripartite partners, the program facilitates dialogue among multiple stakeholders to develop a common vision and

strategies to make Ethiopia an African hub of socially responsible producing garment for both global and domestic market.

Meanwhile, Hawassa Industrial Park has recently launched New Call Center to Support Workers. The EIC together with ILO, the BRIDGES program, and GIZ launched the Hawassa industry park worker's call center. The center provides anonymous grievance recording and consulting services to workers. The service is expected to strengthen the labor management system and the industrial relations in the industrial parks.

The apparel sector currently employs more than 100,000 workers, 85-90 percent of whom are women sewers. Hawassa Industrial Park employs around 35,000 factory workers, more than 80 percent of whom are women.

Ethiopian Investment Commission also announced that Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) services promote the well-being of workers. However, OSH services at a national and regional level are not addressing the current needs of the sector and very few factories have functional OSH management systems.

According to EIC, Ethiopia's textile and apparel sector has experienced a boom in export-led growth. The country aims to become one of the most competitive locations for light manufacturing. Trade agreements with the European Union through the Everything but Arms Act, (EBA) though now it is banned formerly the United States through the African Growth and Opportunities Act, (AGOA) provide preferential trade access for Ethiopian goods.

The commission is established with the objective to enhance the competitiveness of the national economy by promoting investments in productive and enabling sectors, creating more and better employment opportunities for Ethiopians and advance transfer of knowledge, skills and technology required for the development of the country, and to augment the role of the private sector in the country's economic development.

Noting the importance of creating or restoring an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises, and in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises officials stressed that working with the government in setting minimum wage for labors is paramount important for economic recovery, development and reconstruction efforts.

### 'What matters most is...

Furthermore, since Ethiopia is a blessed nation that has overcome numerous attempts of dismantling it, citizens at home and from abroad are expected to consolidate love and fraternity and know their country—Ethiopia—well. Had those diaspora members shouting against Ethiopia known it very well, they wouldn't have acted like this at all. That is why it is repeatedly heralded that what matters most is how we perceive out Ethiopia!

Most definitely, it is only citizens cursorily filled with wrong narrations and crafts of cruelty are running activities against Ethiopia.

Every citizen must work to get Ethiopia sovereign and influential state precluding futile attempts beforehand. It is possible to fight, argue, lose or win or get bankrupt or be profitable well keeping the existence of the nation intact and unwavering. Everybody has to know the fact that people

who have no independent, respected and self-governing country are tantamount to animals ready for buying and selling by their masters. Basically, citizens are by no means supposed to think, perform and act the same, but no difference shall be detected when it comes to the issue of the country.

In sum, as history would have it, for instance, those who added fuel to fire for the efforts targeting at dismantling Libya

and Syria have come to the forefront to be severely regretted. So the saying goes, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it," evil-mined individuals in a given country don't care so long as they don't incur an imminent danger, but they would fell sullen later. How headstrong they are! Time will come for them to turn their positive gesture and constructive attitude for Ethiopia, what matters most is how they see it!

# Art & Culture

## “Journalism” the lost concept

BY KFLEEYESUS ABEBE

The practice of Journalism in Ethiopia may have dated back to half a century or more. But the sense of journalism especially at this age of digital journalism seems to be lost. Previously, authorities were solely blamed for pseudo-journalism for continuous censorship or exploiting it for their propoganda. In the meantime journalism especially in Ethiopia has faced a greater risk from people who have little or no knowledge of journalism.

Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel in their book *The Elements of Journalism* argues the purpose of journalism “is not defined by technology, nor by journalists or the techniques they employ.” Rather, “the principles and purpose of journalism are defined by something more basic: the function news plays in the lives of people.” Many people however associate journalism to a mere telling of a fact; just telling what happened somewhere and sometime. They don’t check the consequence of “truth” and whether as journalsits should be careful of the impact of their stories. For a person who took fundamental journalism, ethics of journalism and other relevant courses, the biggest difference of informer and journalist is being considerate of viewers, listeners or readers psychological wellbeing. Does a given story have any positive contribution to betterment of society? Am I agent of good or bad? He/she will identify whether the story has postive or negative consequence. Taking responsiblity and being considerate of audiences condition is what makes a journalist different from any information teller. If he/she succeed in this, journalism can acheive its goal of development and democracy otherwise there is a chance it would be a tool of anarchy.

To make this into perspective, it is good to see how journalism in other countries is being practiced especially in hard times. How did countries used the best of it? In 2017, Britain has gone through two different disasters but the media has been effective in containing the crises as they were focused on saving people rather than fanning the story.

On May 22, 2017 Manchester Arena bombing happened while people were attending concert by American singer Ariana Grande. BBC was on the



**T**aking responsiblity and being considerate of audiences condition is what makes a journalist different from any information teller



scene reporting the shock and grief of people. The story was majorly aimed at holding the country intact and showing the way out. Comments of politicians were also the same: reserved and practical. The opposition shows solidarity with victims and promised to be their

voice. Government said it would give support to the victims and investigate cause of the incident. Among speeches heard were: “ It is hard for any of us to imagine the anguish that their families are going through right now. They are in our thoughts.” and.. “Remind people that Manchester will not be defeated.” Details of the events came after the nation become peaceful.

The second that occurred on June the same year was the Grefell tower fire. BBC’s live report gave much emphasis for the survivors voice. The BBC approached survivors and families of victims and made the report very human. Hence, the nation stands together in prayers and assistance to the victims. This and other similar ways Britain attempted to control and minimize the damage.

The digital world has made information accessible and we are witnessing a number of self proclaimed journalists. The technology itself is a blessing as a journalists can access information from all corners. However, very few people know what should be presented to public and what should be kept for greater benefit of society. It has become customary for self-proclaimed journalists releasing classified information. Or, doing their stories in a way that creates havoc. This might have been resulted from lack of knowledge

to journalism or underestimation of it. As information has potential to break or make a country, corporates or private operators of media should be cautious of the impact of their stories. They can begin by reading the objective of journalism, code of conduct, identifying what their practice of journalism intended to acheive. Ethical journalism Network insists that: “Journalists should do no harm. What we publish or broadcast may be hurtful, but we should be aware of the impact of our words and images on the lives of others.”

As we clearly see many people have misunderstood journalism and are releasing information using through their timeline, it is vital to create basic awareness among the people. Social media users should know their stories might have unintended consequences to themselves and their country.

Journalism schools, responsible media and practioners have a responsiblity to raise basic awarenss among the public. Anyone who intends to act as journalist should be sure they will use it for the good of the people. The law should also be active in making those who violate ethics of journalism deliberately responsible. Otherwise, the country will be taken over by media practioners who don’t have objective, care and accountbilty to their story.

### Between the devil and the deep blue sea

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

Grieving from unsealing wound  
That drag my glory through the mud  
Committed by my younger child  
Reinjured by the old

I remorse the scar carved on my skin  
That relapse time and again  
For the repetitive failure of mine  
To nurture my children with virtue  
To form their own statue

Imaging an optimistic view  
Of the future  
Praising their Father  
For all blessings  
Than hurting me each time

While contesting each other for fame  
Despite the pain that I suffer for long  
Of course, it’s me the parent of both.

# Africa, Rise! The need for a new “Family of Africa” movement

BY JEFF PEARCE

It's time to take the fight in new directions. The TPLF have brazenly broken the ceasefire, and despite the scandal over their ruthless theft of 12 fuel tankers—condemned by even U.S. officials and the UN—the Western media keeps playing their game. BBC World Service chose to completely ignore the fuel heist on its channel's broadcasts and ran with the Mekelle air strike. Al Jazeera doesn't give a damn if it uses a photo from last year to illustrate a story about this year's raid. Shameless. And business as usual.

So, can we be honest about things here? Let's get real. As much as folks are re-using #NoMore, a hashtag is *not* a strategy. Merchandise and T-shirts are *not* the struggle. One or two protests won't cut it. The #NoMore movement is pretty much on life support, and you can resurrect the hashtag all you like—hey, bless ya and go with God—but the fact of the matter is that for all intents and purposes, the campaign itself is practically dead. Let me explain why.

Part of that is due to deliberate sabotage which nobody could predict; the other part is the way the campaign itself evolved.

First, the sabotage; you had the Western mainstream media and conflict merchants such as William Davison of Crisis Group who disingenuously sought to portray #NoMore as an Ethiopian government initiative when it was nothing of the kind. While I was not part of it, I spoke to a couple of its founders on how it developed, was occasionally consulted myself by a few of its activists, so yeah, I can attest that this notion was ridiculous. #NoMore was founded by several people, some who, for reasons of their own, have stayed behind the scenes. But two of its top founders, Nebiyu Asfaw and Simon Tesfemariam, got evicted from Twitter, which robbed us in many ways of their brilliant counsel, though they both pop up now and then at demonstrations and on videos. They can never be completely robbed of their voices.

Unfortunately, the campaign has also devolved into a personality cult for one individual who seems dedicated to minimizing the Amhara Genocide and who has been prepared to smear anyone who challenges their “authority.” No one should have that kind of power, ever.

And if you can't handle that simple truth or think it's “too divisive,” I say you're living in la-la-land. I have no desire to get into that ugly feud again because it does distract, but neither will I roll over for the sake of “unity”—so don't ask me to. I don't see that individual busting their ass to accommodate unity by adjusting their position. If we can have pro-Abiy and anti-Abiy online warriors fighting for the same goal of ridding Ethiopia of the TPLF, I'll have my say, thanks. The simple truth is this:

What should *not* be open for debate—ever—is the minimizing of the targeted slaughters of a whole ethnicity, in this case, the Amhara people. Because what are we really fighting for, if not to keep people safe first?

And as I've written elsewhere, acknowledging this genocide does *not* take away from advocating for a strong and united Ethiopia.



As one activist put it to me in a phone conversation, when Amhara are massacred, “This is our pain, too.”

But let's move on. #NoMore has also floundered—through *nobody's* fault—because it was developed along the Black Lives Matter model. This made perfect sense months ago. A franchise deal. Let it develop where each diaspora or ally community decides it should go. Well, that's fine if you're in Addis or even in Chicago, but if you're out in Kampala or in Accra, different story.

A thoughtful Ugandan activist told me how at one point, he was putting in something like “90 percent” of his time on the struggle for Ethiopia, but for him, just as for the rest of his fellow Ugandans, there is no great payoff waiting in the tangible sense. What's in it for Ugandans or Kenyans or folks in say, Botswana, besides that possible existential victory in the greater geopolitical sense? That would be great, wonderful, but hey, remember, people have lives. They have jobs.

You need to give them goals they can believe in where their nations get something out of it, too.

And sadly, despite #NoMore's admirable efforts to stop toxic Western media narratives and disinformation, it was a campaign that largely involved one-way traffic from Africa to Europe and North America. There wasn't much collaboration or cross-talk *within Africa itself*.

Because keep in mind, when we fight on the “second battlefield” of mainstream and social media, the enemy *owns* the battlefield. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube are all U.S. companies that work with (and routinely hire!) professionals from the U.S. security establishment: NSA, CIA, etc. Every day, seven days a week, I know Twitter is screwing with my account, scraping away scores of followers to limit my influence—even their own records show this blatant abuse. And they do this to an untold number of other pro-Ethiopia accounts. So, #NoMore activists have done the best they can, but it's the enemy's battlefield.

And a fantastic opportunity was missed, both strategically and tactically. The original heroes of independent Africa and Pan-Africa movements, like Steve Biko, Jomo Kenyatta and others, understood they needed to rely on what they had and what the enemy didn't have. They relied on certain methods and on starting dialogues where the Neocolonialists didn't have a clue what was going on, using the arrogance and ignorance against them.

We need to be smarter. We need to be nimble and fight with different weapons, tactics and ideas.

And as I said in a recent interview, if these clowns want to slander an activist campaign as the puppet of a single government, well, let's see them try to bring that charge against a whole continent.

That's why I believe there needs to be a new movement, one broader in scope that brings together African intellectuals, authors, artists, and activists who can provide us with multiple perspectives and new tools, fresh blood and new energy. For now, I refer to it as the “Family of Africa” movement, but someone else can always think of a better name. What matters is the work that needs to be done.

While Ethiopia's liberation from the TPLF and its Western allies would be one priority, let's bring together Africans to work on goals that offer *tangible payoffs for everyone*.

For instance, as I write this, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told the Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Tunis that he'll push for “an African seat” on the permanent insiders' club of the UN Security Council.

How nice. Well, you can either choose to believe this notion is sincere, or that it's a rather cynical ploy to curry favor as different powers realize Africa is crucial in the new Cold War.

But again, let's be real. The momentum for such a seat should come *from Africans*. It shouldn't be a sop handed out by others.

Remember, Europe has two permanent seats

on the council, the UK and France—three if you want to recognize Russia as “European” and ignore it's also in Asia (but then we might go down the rabbit hole over how ridiculous it is to even consider the European peninsula a continent).

Frankly speaking, Africa should have three seats at the table, with Ethiopia getting one of them. One seat alone will not stop the Americans and the EU from trying their “destabilization game” again with another African country; the U.S. can always find a way to strong-arm Britain or France or that “token” African nation. But with three African permanent seats, you have the potential for a new game-changing bloc that defies undue influence.

So that's one priority. This movement could also start a massive lobbying campaign to fight the “Gulag Africa” policies of the West. Because it's high time North America and Europe stopped treating Africans as criminals, using racist policies and visa restrictions to bar them from conferences, vacation trips, and the normal kind of migration that's taken for granted every day by people of my color and ethnic origins.

And still another priority can be that dream of a global Pan-African television news network, a T-Rex in the media that can negate CNN, BBC, and Al Jazeera; a network that tells African stories *by Africans for Africans*.

All these things are possible, doable and obtainable. And so are other goals put forward by leaders of this new movement. I have already reached out and spoken with a handful of academics and activists, and I want to find and meet more.

We say and write all the time that by saving Ethiopia, we'll save Africa. But we need to do a better job of involving the rest of Africa and enfranchising brilliant African minds into the struggle. Making connections and building on our gains.

As corny as it may sound, Africa is a vast family, and it's time for a major family reunion. And you will always defend your family with more will and resolve than anything else.



# Law & Politics

## Past war crimes: Sharp contrast to terrorist TPLF's new yet deceitful rhetoric

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

As things stand at present, the terrorist TPLF group leaders have come up with a new warfare strategy saying they do not have any problem with the people of Amhara and Afar in covering up the past atrocities they have committed with no ill-consequences in the two states. The far-fetched intrigue is part of the clique's desperate move to divide the Ethiopian people and alienate the incumbent from its strong base.

But the truth is in the course of its brief stay invasion in the two states, the ragtag group has committed unspeakable crimes with malice aforethought against the people of Amhara and Afar communities.

It is a well-known fact that the criminal enterprise has perpetrated with impunity horrifying summary killings, gang rape, and ransacking that turned the lives of millions of noncombatants residing in Amhara and Afar states into chaos and a living hell.

The sad thing is that regardless of the fact that the criminal enterprise has accomplished inconceivable crimes in the length and breadth of the two states, the low-rated international media outlets, stooges, so-called rights groups, and other actors kept on perplexing the international community with cock-and-bull story making common cause with the criminal gang.

Disgracefully, the inappropriately named human rights organizations and the low-rated international media outlets had been driving fast to level an allegation against the incumbent turning a blind eye to acknowledge the crimes of the criminal organization.

It is evident that at the time when the illegal group ruled Ethiopia with an iron fist for nearly three decades, the country had gone through many twists and turns, highs and lows, peaks and valleys, elevations and depressions, and other things of a similar kind.

Other than that the entire system of the rouge group was reaching the highest pick getting at all hours of the day and night off the track.

With a view to backing the northern part of the country into a corner, turning the lives of civilians into turmoil, creating insecurity, inflicting mayhem, and other evil deeds, the terrorist TPLF group has been coming up with strings of intrigues opening floodgates for misleading information.

Although the incumbent has been going to the ends of the earth to get to the bottom of the problem in an atmosphere of calm from extending an olive branch to declaring a humanitarian truce, the criminal enterprise has continued getting itself engaged in a smear campaign against the positive moves of the country.

Failing to remember health stations, hospitals, schools, higher learning institutions, and other infrastructures that were turned into ashes, the group has been



Mass grave in Chenna-Tekelehaymanot

making an effort to mislead the people of Amhara and Afar bringing a wide spectrum of tactics going behind closed curtains into play.

Quite a lot of schools situated in every nook and cranny of the Amhara states have been destroyed as a consequence of the nefarious deeds of the terrorist group that has been working around the clock with its stooges residing at home and abroad.

In is regard, it is imperative to recall the destruction the disgruntled group brought. The mass graves, the rubbles of damaged social infrastructures are a living memory of the criminal acts of the killing squad.

Once a video released by the GETFACTet group stated that in Amhara State, 4,107 schools (3,823 primary and 284 secondary schools) were damaged, accounting for 42 percent. In Afar, 203 schools were damaged (32 percent completely).

Millions of civilians have been displaced from a diverse range of Amhara and Afar regions on the basis of the group's criminal acts. Apart from that, the criminal enterprise has slaughtered 240 noncombatants encompassing 107 children in its attack conducted in Galicoma area positioned in Afar Region.

For the sake of truth, on the heels of the heinous acts of the terrorist TPLF hundreds of thousands of civilians have been displaced.

In sharp contrast to the current propaganda of TPLF's mouthpieces and sympathizers of the outlawed clique, the group mercilessly massacred civilians in Amhara during its invasion. Chenna-Tekelehaymanot is a stark reminder in this regard.

The organized crime groups executed more than 200 civilians at Chenna-Tekelehaymanot village nearby Debat district of the North Gondar Zone, according to testimonies from villagers and government officials.

The henchmen of TPLF slaughtered 120 civilians over two days in a village in Ethiopia's Amhara region. The killings in a village 10 km (six miles) from the town of Dabat took place on Sept. 1 and 2.

Prior to its invasion, the terrorist organization and its vigilante groups killed ethnic Amharas in Mai Kadra while fleeing.

Members of the gang Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) force were behind the mass massacre in Mai-Kadra town, killing more than 1000 ethnic Amhara people in a prearranged attack. Over 117 burial grounds were uncovered including mass graveyards in different places of the town.

Amharas were massacred in Mai Kadera by TPLF-affiliated forces. After committing such acts of unspeakable barbarity, the perpetrators fled westwards, mingling with the flood of refugees streaming into Sudan.

The massacre was a series of ethnic cleansing and mass murders carried out on 9-10 November 2020 in the town of Mai Kadra. Even though the Mai Kadra massacre is a fresh incident, TPLF's crimes against the people of Amhara have been ongoing for decades.

Shockingly, a study conducted by collaboration of universities revealed the huge damage TPLF caused in Amhara state.

According to the study, over 288 billion Birr worth of property was damaged out of most of the property owned by farmers. The study also documents close to 1,800 mass killings, 1,782 gang rapes, and 579 tortures committed on civilians. In general, 828, 862 were direct victims. The information was revealed by carrying out field observations and door-to-door interviews with witnesses and victims' families.

The researchers compiled videos, audio files, photographs, and other necessary information about the findings. The main objective of the study is to expose TPLF's evil deeds and to aware the people of Ethiopia and the international community of these horrific atrocities.

The report also said over 24,236 people faced human rights abuses, while many others were allegedly kidnapped and their whereabouts are unknown. The war has claimed lives, displaced people from their homes, and left millions in need of food aid.

Similarly, TPLF armed gangs massacred

more than 200 Afar including 100 children, women, and elderly sheltered in school and health clinics.

In the present climate, failing to learn from its past blunders the group has recently opened a salvo giving the cold shoulder to the peace deal proposed by the government.

As if its previous crimes are not enough, the unlawful clique is attacking civilians in Amhara and Afar states. To deceive the victims and sow discord among the Ethiopian people, the group is touting that it has no grudge against Amhara and Afar people.

In recent presser, the Ethiopian government is urging the international community to take stiff action against the group to stop its criminal deeds.

Despite the Ethiopian government's unreserved commitment to keeping the door open for peace until now, the terrorist TPLF clique has continued its Communication Service (GCS) said.

While the readiness of the federal government to talk unconditionally is preserved, it will take action targeting the military forces that are the source of the anti-peace sentiment of the TPLF, GCS's press release yesterday stated.

Therefore, "We called upon our people living in Tigray state to stay away from the areas where the TPLF military equipment and training facilities are located," it warned.

Ignoring all of the peace alternatives presented by the government, the terrorist group TPLF armed group continued its recent attacks on the areas that are under the control of the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF), as to the statement.

The statement said that the T-TPLF has continued carrying out a concerted attack on the positions where ENDF has been holding.

"It is known that the Ethiopian government has passed a decision to resolve the problem in the northern part of the country peacefully. Based on this decision, the Government has enacted a unilateral ceasefire. Even knowing that some humanitarian assistance vehicles and aid materials were being diverted for none humanitarian purposes."

For the sake of the people of Tigray, the Federal Government has been facilitating humanitarian assistance to enter the Tigray Region unhindered. It has proposed a negotiation plan and announced designated Government negotiators. It has declared readiness to discuss any issues at any time, anywhere.

However, the TPLF clique that cannot live without war, is sacrificing the youth of Tigray and undertaking attacks in multiple areas. The government of Ethiopia's efforts for peace and the sacrifices it has made thus far are well known.

Therefore, the international community must condemn the TPLF for its continued provocation and incitement of violence.

# Women in Focus

## “From banana leaves to lavish summer wear,”

*Designer Teshalech Tadesse*

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

Some people call her “Queen of *Enset*,” for producing various artistically designed attires, handbags, shoes, ornaments, house materials among others from leaves of *Enset*: a plant that is widely used as food crop in many parts of Ethiopia, especially in the south and south western part of the country.

Designer Teshalech Tadesse is founder and CEO of “Adot Design,” residing in the USA. Even though years have already elapsed since she settled in the USA crossing thousands of kms away from her homeland, she never forgets the life she had spent along with her family members, friends and the surrounding community at her birthplace.

As she uttered at various incidents, the lifestyle she was leading and the experience she has developed at her place has shaped her business life hugely and support her to rise to fame; and make a name for herself at various international platforms.

*The Ethiopian Herald* had a short stay with Teshalech Tadesse focusing on her journey, struggles and inspiration regarding her career in the fashion design.

Teshalech was born around Kolfe Sub City, in Addis Ababa. She grew up in an extended family with four brothers and four sisters. Her father was a cobbler (Shoemaker). He used to repair, make and sell shoes while her mother was a hard-working housewife who used to grow *Ensete ventricosum*, commonly known as a ‘false banana’. The tree is endemic to Ethiopia and mostly grows in the southern part of the country.

Her mother used to prepare food from the plant. She was good at preparing Bula and Kocho. Bula is a starchy white powder extracted from the stem of *Ensete*. She used to scrap the stem and leaf sheaths of the tree with her hands to prepare Bula. It is used in different recipes like *Genfo* and bread.

Moreover, she used to make ropes, baskets, sacks, carpets, and utensils from (Kacha), a fiber of *Enset* produced as a side product.

Growing up watching artistically pleasing creative works of her mother, Teshalech was able to observe the whole process carefully and learn much from her mother’s *Bula* processing and making technique. Both her father and mother greatly influenced her to pursue fashion and crafting.

Teshalech was a good scorer in her class and used to stand among the first top three students. She even stood first from the whole section. She attended her primary school in Keraneyo and went to Medhaniale Secondary School to attend her secondary education. She has obtained her diploma and degree from Kotobe and Jimma universities in language and sociology respectively.

She also served as an English language teacher for 10 years in different private schools including the School of America, Greece, and Bright Future School.

Besides teaching, she had a tendency and good talent in decoration, beautification, and designing. She used to present her works to both students and parents during festivals and different occasions.

Since she used to help him in his works, her father had a great influence on her life, as to her. He shaped the way she interact and communicate with people. He had a real impact on her confidence and life principles. He also taught Teshalech how to overcome challenges and learn about others’ feelings and pain.

“My dad was my great inspiration for several reasons. He used to make shoes and show samples to shops. He used to sell the shoes himself; and supply many pairs of shoes to buyers. In fact, both of my parents are my inspirations. They boosted my confidence and profession career. More importantly, my father used to advise me to keep on pursuing my dream and to never give up hope on myself.” I have learned passion and patience from my father. These things are the major pillars needed to become successful and effective in life.

That is why she has been staging fashion exhibitions; and collecting funds for disadvantaged people by auctioning her products free of charges. “I always try my level best to share what I have with others. Of course, we all have something to give to others. Love is the greatest gift to give others.”

With the aim of introducing her country, Teshalech always tries to promote Ethiopia through her works wherever she may go. She has so far exhibited her products and took part in fashion showdowns held in Huston, Maryland, Los Angeles, Miami, and New York.

Her biggest accomplishment, as to her, was when she won the 2019 Huston Fashion Week designers’ contest held in Huston. She won the competition in color, fashion detail, and collection categories. She also received money prize by participating in the New York Fashion showdown in 2019.

“The competition was among 12 designers from different countries. Aside from awarding me, they let me attend the New York’s Fashion Week on September 2019, covering all my expenses. I also presented virtual fashion show in 2021 at the city of Maryland Annapolis and she was also given an award.”

Plant-Based Custom Designer wins Grand Prize at Houston’s Fashion Showdown. “From banana leaves to lavish summer wear, Ethiopian fashion designer Teshalech Ega of *Adot Liyu* Designs is this year’s lucky winner,” Fashion Showdown Style reported following the success of Teshalech.

Bringing new technology that provides mothers relief from hand scraping and squeezing of *Enset*; and simplifies *Bula* processing is what she aspires to achieve in the near future. She also plans to endeavor to use the tree for making drugs thereby promoting it globally.



Ethiopian fashion industry, if utilized properly and receive good investment, will save the much-needed hard currency and create jobs for many people. The country can benefit a lot by building its brands and selling its products in international markets, as to her.

“Our country has a huge potential, resources, and knowledge to deepen our toes and export our products to other countries. It can benefit a lot by building its brands and selling its products in international market”.

Ethiopian products through the fusion of traditional and modern techniques can create higher aesthetic appeal and lure international branding fashion and designing companies.

What important is to understand the importance of time. “The day is enough for all of us to do whatever we want to do. Thus, it is important to always work round the clock and benefit from the sector.

Turning deaf ears to discouraging voices is the best way to avoid failure and stay afloat

in life. As to her, there were people who laughed at her work and made fun of her products. There were also people who tried to make her lose hope.

The other way around, there were many who encouraged her and gave her inspiration. But, she knew deep down where she would reach and what she wanted to be. Above all, following her parents suit, and pursuing her dream has boosted her confidence and made her believe in herself. Though crafting is still seen as a less honorable job, it remains to be part of the everyday lives of the society. Whatever it is, however, dedication, commitment, believing in one’s self, not listening to discouraging voices, and pursuing dreams are the most important ingredients of success in life.

Teshalech’s company, “Adot Design” ‘Adot’ means mother in local language-*Guragegna*, has so far created jobs for about 11 employees who works from Ethiopia. She has a plan to bring the employees in one place providing them with training. Most of the raw materials she used to produce her products are made by mothers.

# Society

## Strengthening TVET for sustainable transition

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

According to various reports, over the last two decades, Sub-Saharan African countries experienced significant growth as a result of the rapid transformations and foreign investments which helped boost the demand for greater technological skills.

However, it seems that the greatest challenge remains ahead as if not all most of the countries continue to observe a large gap in the demand and supply of technical and vocational skills, as a result, industries often identify the shortage of an adequately educated workforce as a major constraint to further advance growth and development.

As several studies and data indicate, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in African countries has been underinvested and encountered considerable challenges, with little enrollment rates, low quality and relevance across most countries. To this end, and produce the workforces that the market demands, countries are working productively by setting priority and joining hands with partners and stakeholders. As part of the Partnership for skills in Applied Science, Engineering and Technology (PASET), African countries aim to revitalize the TVET systems with support from the World Bank (WB).

During the last couple of decades, the World Bank's (WB) advice to developing countries seems to have been that basic education should be the top priority, and that public expenditure on Vocational Education and Training (VET) should be reduced. Such advice is based on the proposition that provision and funding of VET is best left to the individuals, private enterprises and private institutions. This is justified by the fact that the demand-driven training systems have outperformed supply-driven systems. During the last couple decades, The interest in TVET was also low within the donor community, partly as a result of the increased focus towards the sectorial work.

By its nature, TVET is multi-sectorial and it was relatively neglected as a result. However, TVET has recently returned to the international development policy agenda.

Recently, the first World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference, (WVTEDC) that gathered professionals from various parts of the globe both in person and online interactions was held in the northern coastal city of Tianjin, China.

Ethiopia has also taken part in the conference organized under the theme "Vocational and Technical Education Development in the Post Pandemic Era - New Changes, New Ways and New Skills."

At his congratulatory letter to participants of the conference, Chinese President, Xi Jinping said that Technical and Vocational Education and Trainings (TVET) are closely associated with the socio-economic development of a country. As the message read out by Chinese Vice Premier Sun Chunlan, TVET has considerable significance in boosting entrepreneurship



and improving people's livelihood is multitudinous.

Minister of Labor and Skills, Muferiat Kamil also said that the Ethiopian Government, recognizing the irreplaceable contribution of technical and vocational education and training area for the country's overall socioeconomic development, has developed institutional and legal policy frameworks and is working untiringly making the sector a priority.

As she stated on online platform, Luban Workshop Ethiopia, which was launched in 2021 in partnership with Tianjin University of Technology and Education; and the Ethiopian Federal Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institute (TVTI), is serving the country as a center of excellence in the sector. All the training modules are developed in a manner meet the levels of international standards.

Director General of the Federal Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institute, Dr. Teshale Berecha, on his part highlighted the importance of technical and vocational education and training field with regard to creating job opportunities for citizens and poverty reduction.

At his virtual presentation, the Director General has also reassured participants

**... Ethiopia is providing high-end technical skills training to young Ethiopians and is assisting them in meeting the skills requirements of the country's market demand**

Institute's commitment and keenness in terms of helping transform technical and vocational education and training sector; and developing the required human capital in the country with the support and collaboration of partners.

"TVTI will continue further strengthening its partnership with the Tianjin University of

Technology and Education," he remarked.

Representing the Embassy of Ethiopia at the conference, Ethiopian Ambassador to China Teshome Toga held sideline talks with high-level Tianjin City officials and media personalities. Ambassador Teshome said that Luban Workshop Ethiopia is providing high-end technical skills training to young Ethiopians and is assisting them in meeting the skills requirements of the country's market demand.

Chinese Vice Premier Sun Chunlan, also delivered remarks via video link. According to her, the Chinese Government attaches great importance to vocational education and has built the world's largest vocational education system, which not only provides important support for high-quality development, but also meets the growth needs of different students.

China is ready to work with the international community to build a multi-tiered and wide-ranging cooperation platform, increase support for vocational education in developing countries, and enable people around the world to share the fruits of vocational education development, Sun added.

The launching of the International Vocational Education Award, the establishing of the World Technical and Vocational Education Training League, and the launching of The Tianjin Initiative proposals were also announced during the conference, where 700 government and non-governmental participants attended the event both offline and online.

The conference, including Ethiopia, was attended both online and offline platforms by heads of international organizations, representatives from government, industry, education ministers of different countries, and foreign diplomatic envoys to China and exchanged view.

Based on the attendees' discussion and suggestions, the Tianjin Initiative was formulated at the conference, it was learnt.