



The Ethiopian Herald

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Expert insists on holding T- TPLF accountable for aid theft

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA—As looting humanitarian aids is clear violation of laws, concerned international humanitarian organizations should take the matter to courts, an expert commented.

The matter must be investigated and the Terrorist TPLF should meet the consequences, as the expert said.

Speaking to The Ethiopian Herald, University of Gondar (UoG) Lecturer of Law Demoz Kase said that right after violating the humanitarian truce enacted

by the federal government of Ethiopia, the terrorist group has continued violating international laws and committing war crimes recruiting under-age children mostly of young girls, women and elders.

International organizations including the UN World Food Program (WFP) has confirmed that the terrorist group has been engaging in different crimes including theft of fuel, diverting aid, which is meant to the needy of the region, to feed its combatant and others which are clear violations of humanitarian law and crime against international law.

Since the humanitarian truce was

enacted five months ago the government collaborating with international humanitarian organizations has been continuously delivering food and non-food humanitarian aid merely for the needy people of the region. But the terrorist group is hoarding aid for military purposes and has finally waged war since the group has no intention for the people of the region, he explained.

“Use of aid for military purpose is not something surprising for the terrorist group and it is something usual that the T-TPLF has mastered. If there is war between two
See Expert insists ... Page 3

GERD completion requires additional 60 bln. Birr

• Overall project 88 percent completed

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- Additional 60 billion Birr is required for the execution of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) from various income generating schemes, the GERD Public Participation office disclosed.

The Office of National Council for the Coordination of Public Participation on the Construction of GERD conducted the 14th round forum here yesterday.

Addressing the forum, the Office Director-General Aregawi Berche (PhD) stated that the construction of the dam has been executed carefully, responsibly and without interruption despite attempts by enemy quarters to make Ethiopia remain in poverty.

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Huria Ali

Public service day to see over 300 latest applications

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA- Ministry of Innovation and Technology in collaboration with various stakeholders is going to unveil over 300 applications to accelerate public service delivery system in a number of state owned organizations.

See Public service ... Page 3



Ambassador Henok Tefera

Int'l community silence encouraging T-TPLF's belligerence: Amb. Henok

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – The international community needs to break its silence over Terrorist TPLF's belligerence and support to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in northern Ethiopia, so remarked Ambassador Henok Tefera.

Speaking to international media, the
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Successes and challenges of the nation's economic endeavor

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Serving others with passion fuels and sustains the essence of life

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News

T-TPLF new threat to HoA's security: Amb. Teferi

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – The Terrorist TPLF is a security threat to the stability of the Horn of Africa (HoA), Ethiopian Ambassador to the United Kingdom (UK) said adding that if foreign forces want a solution to the conflict, they should put pressure on the group.

Speaking to international media, Ambassador Teferi Melesse stated that the government is still in a defensive posture and is calling on the T-TPLF to come back to the negotiating table as there is no solution in a war. He urged the international community to put pressure on the group to get into the proposed peace talks.

"We have been building on the ceasefire. The humanitarian supplies were going well. Daily air flights were also delivering food and non-food items, including medicines. All this leads to the peace effort," he further reported.

According to Amb. Teferi, the special



Ambassador Teferi Melesse

envoys of the United States, European Union, and the UK were in Ethiopia to encourage the T-TPLF to come to the peace table. The Ethiopian government was very clear from the start and it has put forward an unconditional negotiation at anytime and

anyplace, he added.

Regarding the accusation that Tigray is under siege, the Ambassador said: "There is no blockage as far as we are concerned." The Ethiopian government has a responsibility to defend its border under international law.

In terms of the allegation that Eritrean troops are in Tigray, Ambassador Teferi also indicated that the T-TPLF provoked Eritrea by firing missiles and rockets into the capital Asmara. And also, the international border with Eritrea is controlled by forces of the terrorist group, not the Ethiopian army.

"The border is for us, but we are not controlling it. So we are not responsible for what is happening on the border with Eritrea currently," Ambassador Teferi noted.

Concerning the claim that Ethiopian troops are stationed in Eritrea, he said: "Unless we are called for a peacekeeping force like we used to be in the sub-region there is no reason why our troops go to Eritrea."



Ambassador Dessie Dalkie

Int'l community urged to rebut T-TPLF's false claims

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian Ambassador to Korea, Dessie Dalkie called on the international community to increase its awareness about Terrorist TPLF's war and its false claims.

Talking to international media, Amb. Dessie has stated that the international community should be aware of the current situation in Ethiopia and should join efforts for a peaceful resolution.

"I think the international community should understand the nature of the T-TPLF and at the same time should push them to come to the negotiation table," he said.

The ambassador also said T-TPLF has initiated the ongoing war and denied all facts committed by its forces since the war started.

After the T-TPLF provoked and started the war, the federal government had to defend the country's sovereignty and integrity, he said.

Amb. Dessie also noted that the Ethiopian government is still trying to resolve the conflict in a peaceful way while defending civilians from T-TPLF attack.

"The government is committed to a peaceful resolution and peaceful existence. We prepared peace negotiations through the AU (Africa Union) and have taken different kinds of initiatives such as declaring an indefinite humanitarian ceasefire as well as assigning high-level peace talk committees," he said.

However, the T-TPLF did not come to negotiate but resumed fighting in late August and continues mobilization and recruitment of child soldiers forcefully.

They are using false propaganda and intimidation and at the same time mobilizing and using young people as cannon fodder, he said.

T-TPLF hinders the delivery of humanitarian aid such as food and fuel to the needy, he added.

"The international community should be aware of that the Ethiopian government is ready to negotiate for peace without preconditions, especially through the AU," he stated.

Economic reform revolves around checking inflation

• *Auspicious progress registered amidst northern conflict*

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The government of Ethiopia has carried out meticulous measures to regulate the soaring cost of living and arrest inflation that would bring immense benefits in the livelihood of low income groups, the Finance State Minister said.

Speaking to local media, the State Minister Eyob Tekalign (PhD) noted that a viable policy intervention has taken place to address the root causes of inflation that has enormously affected the low-income families. Accordingly, modernizing the market system and controlling commodity pricing malpractices are among areas that the government has attached due emphasis to ease the burden of inflation.

"Inflation is a sum of many factors and minimizing the current double-digit inflation might not be an easy task to be accomplished within a short period of time. Accordingly, we set a plan to identify where inflation highly impacts citizens. To this effect, work would be vigorously done."

Noting numeric progress is not the most important matter; Eyob highlighted the government's commitment to bring a meaningful change that touches the livelihood of common people.

Sharing the above, Planning and Development Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) stated that Ethiopia has registered significant achievements in changing the livelihood of both urban and rural dwellers and expanding social services amidst



Eyob Tekalign (PhD)

pressing challenges. Forex earnings, job creation, increase in product and productivity and foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow are areas where the economy has performed well.

According to her, over 2.3 million permanent and temporary jobs were created and 22 billion USD was generated from foreign direct investment (FDI), exports as well as remittance in the 2014 Ethiopian fiscal year. In the reported period, over 6.3 billion USD was earned from the service sector and when the performance compared with last year same period, it had a 29% increment. "The

Ethiopian Airlines Group alone generated over 4.7 billion USD."

Even though Ethiopia and other countries of the world are facing many problems, 3.3 billion FDI has been received. Also, 7.9 billion USD has been received from the money Ethiopian Diasporas sent to their relatives. Another tangible indicator of economic growth is the increase in revenue. It was planned to collect 360 billion Birr in the fiscal year, and despite the war in the north, 336 billion Birr was collected, which is a 26% increase compared to the 2013 fiscal year, the minister remarked.

News

Amhara Bank, Bahir Dar City ink agreement for football tournament

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Amhara Bank inked yesterday a sponsorship agreement with Bahir Dar City Administration and Gofere Sportswear Supplier to conduct the first edition of Amhara Bank- Tana Cup football tournament.

Briefing the media, Amhara Bank Branding and Marketing Director Aschalew Tamru said the title sponsorship agreement, which worth five million birr, have been made in line with discharging corporate social responsibility. The tournament is prepared in collaboration with Bahir Dar City Administration and Gofere Sportswear Supplier.

The bank has committed to fulfill its responsibility of promoting healthy society, strengthening friendship and benefiting the society thereby revitalizing the tourism industry via sport sector support. The tournament also aimed to strengthen friendship among the public, promote healthy generation and benefit the



Photo -Hadush Abreha

community in promoting tourist attraction sites, the director elaborated.

Football clubs from the Ethiopian Premier League and other two African leagues would be participating in the tournament

which is scheduled from September 16 to 24, 2022 at Bahir Dar International Stadium, it was learned.

Expert insists...

actors it has its own rule, but those all deeds by the terrorist group does not go along with the international law and needs to be condemned.”

During war the terrorist group uses religious institutions, public and historical sites as stronghold which is contrary to international law. The group is using properties of international humanitarian organizations for

military purposes which is clear violations of international law, he elaborated.

On the other hand many of historical sites, religious institutions and other public institutions were destroyed by the terrorist group which is a war crime. Accordingly, apart from pressuring the T-TPLF to desist from such destructive acts, it must face justice.

GERD completion...

Some 17.1 billion Birr has been secured from various income generating modalities for the GERD since 2011 and an additional 60 billion Birr is required to accomplish the remaining jobs.

The director-general further noted that more pledges are being made by the public to support the building of the dam financially, professionally and in other ways. The momentum of the construction will continue unabated until the completion date as it was during its launching.

Water and Energy Minister Habtamu Itfa (PhD) said on his part that historical enemies have been working in tandem with local agents to exert diplomatic and financial pressures thereby discouraging the construction of the mega dam. “We have of course seen and heard about the attempts of destructive forces collaborating with foreign forces to hamper

the endeavor,” the minister stated, adding there is no reason to worry as things are tranquil around the project.

Noting some 88% of the construction of the dam is completed, GERD Project General Manager, Kifle Horo (Eng.) indicated the government has given top priority to the mega dam, which would be an engine to the industrialization of the country. Additional 60 billion Birr is required to finalize the dam’s construction and enhancing the public participation for fund mobilization is a prime focus in this regard.

Whilst the dam’s civil work reached 96.2%, 73.3% of the electro mechanical tasks have been completed. The saddle building also reached 99.6%.

It was learnt that forum participants emphasized the Diaspora community’s active participation for the execution of the mega dam.

Public service...

In connection with today’s public service day in Ethiopia, Innovation and Technology State Minister Huria Ali said that the ministry has made available over 300 digital applications that enable government organizations to deliver effective and efficient services.

She also said that over 25 public federal institutions have already digitalized their

services to enhance the effectiveness of service delivery.

It was learnt that during the course of the celebration, senior government officials including ministers are expected to engage in various community services. Moreover, individuals that have contributed a lot to the country would be rewarded.

Int’l community...

Ethiopian Ambassador to France, Henok Tefera stated that it is T-TPLF that shattered the unilateral humanitarian truce declared by the government and invaded Amhara and Afar states and killing and displacing civilians. And, the terrorist group is still in its belligerent stance.

However, he added, the international community said nothing about the issue. So pressure should be put on the group to find a political solution.

Amb. Henok restated that on the 24th of August, 2022, the terrorist TPLF group decided to attack Afar and Amhara states, particularly the place called Kobo. It invaded the areas with huge human waves. Fighters of the thug are still occupying the areas.

According to Henok, the group decided that there is a military solution to a political problem. It broke the unilateral humanitarian truce which was declared by the federal government and enabled things to be put in place in terms of humanitarian assistance. Hope for a negotiated peace was there.

“We had a unilateral humanitarian truce in place for the last seven months. It was accepted by the T-TPLF,” Ambassador Henok said adding, that it launched attacks against Amhara and Afar states which impeded humanitarian access. The group killed and displaced many civilians in Amhara and Afar states. It is also using

child soldiers.

He also urged the international community to denounce the terrorist group. And it is good to say “Who started the war?”

“It is important to note that the party which started the conflict should be condemned. So that we return to the negotiation table and find a political solution. We hope the friends of Ethiopia and the international community at large will condemn this and say enough is enough,” he further opined.

According to Amb. Henok, the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) is still defending the people in Amhara against T-TPLF forces that are trying to advance and displacing and killing civilians.

He also stated that when the T-TPLF attacked the Northern Command of ENDF in November 2020, officials of the group came on their television and said that they launched “a preemptive attack” against the army. And, that was not condemned by the international community.

Recently, they invaded Amhara state. Nothing from the international community, including the media outlets, to say this is aggression that was committed and a humanitarian truce was broken by the T-TPLF that helps to put pressure on T-TPLF and find a political solution, Amb. Henok further noted.

Opinion

SYNCHRONIZATION: The art of making UNSC meetings against Ethiopia

BY DEGEN RAS

Since the conflict that was triggered by the terrorist TPLF (T-TPLF) in November 2020, the UNSC has had a meeting on Ethiopia more than a dozen times. The frequency of such meetings is alarming. There has never been such focus on Ethiopia by this World governing body on security issues. But the most mesmerizing aspect about these UNSC meetings is the timing of such meetings. It is highly synchronized with one and only one aspect: If T-TPLF losses on the ground, then there is an urgency on the UNSC body to meet. Otherwise, they are nowhere to be found when children are forcibly conscripted to war against their will, humanitarian aid plundered by TPLF, civilians' lives, and infrastructure targeted etc. In this piece, we want to reflect on the synchronization aspect of such meetings.

SYNCHRONIZATION of UNSC meeting and Defeat of TPLF

To synchronize means "to happen at the same time" according to the Merriam-webster dictionary. It is a well-known technique used in digital technology. In the modern world, we daily synchronize or 'sync' gadgets like personal computer, cellphone, iPod, iPad and others so that we optimize our daily use of these technologies. But we are talking here about the sync of events. The art of putting the different events to happen at the same time/ or during the same event is known as synchronization. The particular events that are synchronized are the defeat of TPLF on the ongoing conflict since November 2020 and the intense and, at times, the consecutive meetings by the world governing body on the security. One can easily notice from narrative of those who want to mount pressure against Ethiopia that things on the ground are not in favor of the TPLF. TPLF lost the war it triggered in November 2020. The speed at which T-TPLF lost the war it ignited was unexpected for its masters. So, they have to act swiftly. Then to save and revive it, its partners started to put pressure on the Ethiopian government via the world body, UNSC. Later, when T-TPLF was confined in the desert of Tambien, they were trying to bring it back to the stage by putting many sanctions on the Ethiopian government.

One thing was evident for us who follow these events in detail. They never hold meeting against T-TPLF when they consider that it gets upper hand on the ground. If they think that the group is winning and do hold meetings, then they are targeting to weaken the central government. The critical questions will be, who is doing that highly synchronized meetings? How is it done in such efficiency? To answer these questions, we use our intuition and present

it as follows.

Who is doing the SYNCHRONIZATION?

The answer for such question could be difficult. However, we can make an educated guess; there might be four possible scenarios for who has coordinated such meetings. The first one is the obvious one—the head of World Health Organization (WHO). He was and is the central committee member of TPLF. He has a huge opportunity and access to any ambassador at the UN, or any of the 15 country representative at the UNSC (the five permanent members China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, and United Arab Emirates). Especially, the T-TPLF-member Who chief has a stronger attachment like Ireland who have been constantly staging the meetings to happen at the right time.

The second one could be Ethiopia's historic enemy. There are elements who nurse grudges due to an unjustified fear due to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. These elements have been involved in the internal conflict in the country in many ways. They are not shy about it. They have said it on national TV. Pressuring the UNSC member countries to hold meeting on Ethiopia is one of the easy steps for the elements. They try to use, but in vein, their leverage on the world stage to persuade the member states.

The third suspect will be the partners and enablers in the western country. These western countries have invested in TPLF for over four decades. TPLF is their errand boy. Even though they were not happy all these time with the T-TPLF, they have been keen on supporting the criminal enterprise in many ways: including military hardware, communication satellites, propaganda war, access to mega media (TV) channels and social media platforms like Twitter and so on.

The fourth, not sure about its capability but probably, is the Diaspora TPLF members and sympathizers who are working with the three previous mentioned ones. In fact, these four collaborate in many ways. Who ever initiates the process; the others align themselves to strengthen the [evil] cause.

How does the SYNCHRONIZATION take place?

Let us assume that the head of WHO is the one who is engaged in initiating the synchronization of the mentioned events. His unique position as well as his strong attachment to the T-TPLF makes him a primary candidate for such conspiracy. How does he do it? He should first have

a detailed information about the events on the ground. It is evidenced on social media that he almost posts about it on a daily basis. Not only that, the contents of his posts are also highly correlated with the events happening on the ground. The Director general is highly engaged. No wonder, he was/is the central command of the T-TPLF. He knows every detail of the terrorist's movements.

Let us describe the scenario. When he hears about the catastrophic defeat of TPLF in the country, he decides to call few of the 15 member states of UNSC. Especially countries like Ireland, the UK and USA, seem very plausible for him. Then he will pursue other member countries to agree on the meeting agenda, at least under "Any Other Business." His position has given him access to all these members. His phone will not be rejected or ignored easily. Actually, he will be anxious and he will try to be persistent and persuasive to bring the member states on the same page. By now, he has figured it out how to approach everyone in time of need. To give one more piece of evidence, he recently cried on the stage while he was telling the audience about the suffering in the Tigray region due to poverty and war. Definitely, the audience will fall prey to the trick. He is acting as if he is caring human being. Actually, what he said is true: the people in Tigray are suffering. But it is due to his party TPLF. Anyways, the crafty man is trying to set up that synchronization again. He wants the world governing bodies to intervene and help his terrorist party.

After setting up the meeting, he will frame the message or the agenda that will be on the meeting. It can be massacre, genocide, famine... or even raping of women. Usually, the message will be crafted and displayed on CNN or other fake channels one or two days before the UNSC meeting, there will be highly crafted and documented news on one of the main news outlets. Or there can be a persuasive documentary program on the crafted agenda. Remember, the famine that empowered TPLF to come to power in early 1970's. Crafty Images can catch the attention of the world, especially those political puppets who will be in the UNSC meeting. They will try to use it to persuade others who might have a fair mind and heart for humanity. That is how the so called urgent UNSC meetings against Ethiopia were displayed before our eyes the past two years. We can call the head of WHO, the synchronizer-in-Chief! He is one of the responsible people who collaborate to start a senseless war that cause the death of many hundred thousands of youths of Tigray. Especially the deaths of many child soldiers, not to mention the slaughtering, looting and destruction of property perpetrated on the people of Amhara and Afar.

The respected Ana Gomes is right in her Tweet. "He should not be there at this time in moment. He could have acted differently to save many lives of Tigray people; instead he sympathizes with his comrades. For us it is a joke that he is at the top of WHO. We see how people are flowed and how they are joke. We see how they are wicked and shallow they are. It shows how the UNSC is being used as a weapon to undermine the sovereignty of nations.

Stop the SYNCHRONIZATION in the near future.

The Ethiopian forces as usual are defending the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. For obvious reason mentioned above, there will be a sync UNSC meeting over the coming week. Scenario 1 could be the genocide narrative. We have heard that many TPLF fighters were drowned in the river Tekeze while they try to flee away from the Ethiopian army. That means many bodies will surface down the river in Sudan. Bodies will be collected and displayed to the world as a news that these are civilians killed by Ethiopian coalition forces. The TPLF may kill their own people dressing like the Ethiopian Military and video record it and narrate as if the Army has done it on them. Scenario 2 is acting as if they are keen for peace. TPLF fighters are fleeing to MEKELE. They have started saying that they have abandoned Amhara and Afar regions just for the sake of peace. The UNSC meeting could take it as a positive step. But it is a deceptive step by TPLFites. Scenario 3 is about their crying that they are surrounded. Hence, they claim that they are in the middle of regional conflict. These and other scenarios will be propagated via the Mass media as UNSC meetings on Ethiopia is being nurtured behind the seen.

The WHO head will try his best to synchronize it. It is rumored that CNN is preparing a documentary program on this conflict. On Tuesday, there were Ethiopians who demonstrate in DC to oppose such works of CNN. Their slogans were #NoMore Proxy Wars. #NoMore Media Lies. #NoMore Destructive US Policies. #SayNoMore US Support of TPLF Terrorists in Ethiopia. #DisarmTPLF.

To all who are involved in these types of synchronization, please wake up. Do not serve evil intentions. Work for humanity. Stand for truth. To Ethiopians and Ethiopian government, please be proactive and try to anticipate and act ahead of the terrorists and annihilate the synchronization effectively. Stop the synchronizer in chief!

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

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Editorial

Deafening silence amounts to rubbing salt into victims' wounds

In addition to its previous gruesome atrocities, the criminal TPLF clique has been targeting civilians in Amhara and Afar states in its renewed fresh offensive. It recently committed massacre on 25 IDPs including a mother and her four children at Welch IDPs center in WagHimra zone of Amhara State.

The terrorist organization has been committing horrific war crimes in its repeated insanity and belligerent acts while exposing the Tigray people to a dire crisis. It is known before the international community that the criminal gangs brutally killed refugees in Tigray state as well. The human rights watch on September 16, 2021 exposed this stark reality.

So-called rights based organizations are shy when it comes to clearly exposing the crimes of TPLF. The tactic of bothsideism is always evident.

True to its longtime characters, the rogue element turning its back on peace proposals has in fact killed noncombatants mercilessly which constitutes war crimes. From MaiKadra to Galicoma Chenna to Kombolcha, TPLF perpetrated massacres, gang rapes, and looting while forcing millions of communities from their villages. All these outrageous crimes have been unfolded in the face of international silence.

The failure of international humanitarian organizations and key influencing entities to hold the disgruntled clique responsible for its inhumane actions has emboldened the group to perpetuate its targeting of civilians in another round of war. It is also sad that the inaction has given the criminal enterprise carte blanche to double down its atrocities against non-combatants. The results of it are massacres, gang-rapes, and lootings.

As the whole world watches the war crimes in silence, more Afar and Amhara communities are falling victim at the hand of the brutal killing

squad despite the incumbent's effort to defend the safety of the people and the sovereignty of the country.

Very recently, the group killed people in many areas including massacring the whole family member in Waghimra zone IDPs center, Amhara state. Also, communities in both states have been victimized and displaced by the terrorist group's shelling. Yet again, the international community that rushes to put unjustified pressure against the Ethiopian government has remained tight-lipped.

The world is failing TPLF victims again; a historic blunder that runs in contradiction against the very principles of humanity on which the world has been founded on. Sadly though, continued silence means continued TPLF's attack on civilians.

The international community has enough incontrovertible evidences at hand to bring the war criminals before justice. This unforgivable action leaves more questions than answers. One thing is clear, however, that the international community has been unjust against a country that was a founding member of the League of Nations and the United Nations. And, injustice against Ethiopia is injustice against all countries.

What is more perplexing is as Ethiopia fight the terrorist group from its defensive position, some countries and the group's enablers have begun echoing the baseless accusations of the criminal enterprise in an apparent move to save their errant element.

At least, we the people and government of Ethiopia have the moral conscience to defend our well-being by every means. And, the world should respect the responsible action of the Ethiopian state and must act fairly to spare the lives of civilians. Peace has been the priority of the Ethiopian government, yet it has also the legal mandate to neutralize the threats posed by TPLF's war of choices. The international community has to find itself on the right side of history by protecting humanity and civility.

Opinion

Horn of Africa hunger crisis: Addressing needs of nomadic communities is crucial to saving lives

BY STAFF REPORTER

Nearly a million people have been forced to leave their homes in search of food and water in parts of Somalia and Kenya, as a catastrophic hunger crisis continues to unfold. More than 22 million people are approaching or experiencing a complete lack of food in the Horn of Africa. The situation is projected to get worse in early 2023.

Nomadic communities are particularly hard hit by food shortages and skyrocketing prices. While food and funds will address part of the problem, without a reliable mechanism of reaching nomadic families with consistent and holistic humanitarian assistance, the world's response to the hunger crisis will remain both inefficient and insufficient, warned the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) today.

Mohamed Babiker, IFRC's head of Kenya and Somalia delegation said:

"Millions of lives are at risk. But as the humanitarian community accelerates its response, we should ensure that mistakes of the past decades are not repeated. It is crucial that aid is not just available—

but that it also reaches the right people in an efficient manner. Most of the affected families are from pastoralist communities, who are often nomadic, and can only be reached by those who are close enough to them to keep up with their movements to provide uninterrupted assistance. A local response is vital."

In Kenya, most of the areas experiencing food insecurity are in the Arid and Semi-arid lands (ASAL) areas, where communities practice pastoralism and therefore depend mainly on meat and milk for nutrition and income. The lack of rain has forced families out of their homes, in search of water and pasture. In Somalia, women and girls have been disproportionately affected by the crisis as they tend to travel long distances in search of water and firewood. They have also been separated from their families and remain behind with the livestock while the men and boys migrate in search of pasture and water.

Babiker added: *"The response is facing two major challenges. The biggest one is the lack of sufficient resources to purchase emergency relief items. However, even if you have the money, you need to be able to reach these nomadic communities, in*

an efficient and consistent manner. This is crucial. We call upon partners and donors to invest in institutions that have reliable access to families on the move."

Bringing humanitarian assistance to families who are constantly on the move is one of the greatest challenges aid workers face. In response, Red Crescent teams in Somalia work closely with nomadic communities, so there is never a question about where to deliver aid. These volunteers come from the very communities they serve. With recent reports that more than 700 children have died in nutrition centres across Somalia, it is even more crucial that aid organizations reach affected people in their communities before their situation becomes critical as some do not reach health centres, or arrive when it is too late.

In addition to food, people affected by drought also need health services. During field visits to Puntland and other parts of the country, IFRC and Somali Red Crescent teams care for displaced people who are exhausted and sick. Red Crescent teams in Somalia, supported by the IFRC, reach nomadic communities with mobile clinics to provide basic health services in

remote regions of the country.

"Our strength lies in our volunteer network which comes from the communities we serve. They understand the cultural context and local languages and have in-depth knowledge and understanding of affected communities," said Babiker.

Red Cross and Red Crescent teams will also focus on delivering cash to families to meet their food, health and other urgent needs. Cash gives people the freedom to choose what they need most to help their families stay healthy and is more convenient for nomadic communities who would otherwise need to carry in-kind aid with them as they move.

To date, Red Cross and Red Crescent teams in Kenya and Somalia have reached, collectively, at least 645,000 people affected by the drought with health services, cash assistance, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Source: Distributed by APO Group on behalf of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

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

Business & Economy

Successes and challenges of the nation's economic endeavor

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

The Ethiopian economy is predominantly agrarian and yet it is a means of living for 80 percent of the population. Sectors such as Industry and service are in their infancy level.

The macro economy is characterized by negative trade balance, shortage of hard currency, chronic inflation due to various factors, unemployment and foreign debt.

But against these all backdrops, the reformist government which assumed power four years ago has taken various measures to reverse the situations and some progress are also observed.

Improving laws which hamper the private sector's role in the economy; creating enabling environment for foreign investment; creating job opportunities for thousands; adjusting interest rate of banks for depositors and borrowers and widening the role of the private sector in the economy can be mentioned here.

In addition to these, for more than three and half years, the Homegrown Economic Reform that has been implemented brought some glimsps of hope.

While reflecting her stance with regard to the implementational aspect of the home grown economic reform, Minister of Planning and Development, Fisum Assefa (PhD) recently said that the measures that have been taken to adjust the nation's economy brought tangible results and enabled to preserve the nation's political continuity and to take the economy on the right track.

In the past, the economy was at the verge of depression due to mismanagement and negligency of political officials. Problems were pervasive at the macro levels.

As to fitsum, the nation has abundant natural resources be it water, arable land, mining and huge labor force. However, in the past the regimes paid little attention to the nation's socio economic development and invest their energy to perpetuate their power tenure at any cost. As a result, they left the nation as one of the most pauperized country in the world.

Therefore, to improve the situation, the government engaged in development endeavor in inclusive approach and allocated 60 percent of the budget in poor projects.

Construction of infrastructure in the last four years has been continued. Roads, hydro electric power dams, industrial parks, air ports, dry ports, modern educational institutions and introducing modern transportation system can be mentioned here. On the other hand, the expansion of telecom brought tremendous growth for the nation's economy by digitizing the services. Money transaction rate has been dramatically showed advancement. The trade volume both for export and import is boosting.

As to the Minister, with regard to agriculture, new policies are introduced to develop the sector. Importation of agricultural



Minister of Planning and Development, Fisum Assefa (PhD)

technologies free of tax enabled to expand mechanization. By now, 28 percent of farm land is plowed by tractors and such practice plays crucial role in stimulating the sector.

More than 600 items utilized as inputs are imported free of tax. The budget allocated to the sector also is increased by 100 percent.

Public investment also increased and in addition to the belg and meher production irrigation farm during the dry season promoted and the volume of crop such as wheat yield is increased by more than double.

It must be understood that the implementation of the economic reform has faced various challenges both domestically and internationally. However, the challenges differ from one sector to the other. The investment allotted to the tourism is huge but in the past some constraints affected the sector.

There was anomaly in the macro economic landscape. The public sector was unable to service the debt it obtained from foreign sources. Therefore the main task of the government was recovering the economy and the economic reform played its part to adjust the debt service and to secure additional loan.

It also brought a paradigm shift on attitudinal change by looking other sectors which can surpass the traditional agricultural sector in garnering foreign currency such as mining and ICT. Through utilizing additional inputs, improving agricultural productivity is realized. New eco tourism sites which can boost the sector are discovered. The ICT also began to play crucial role in providing job creation skill to the youth.

She further said that when talking about economic progress, it must be inclusive and benefit all with no marginalizing some segment of the society. In such a way farming

in cluster form through mechanization could raise farmers' income.

Export performance continued largely, investment inflow has grown to 50 billion Birr and these all achievements are the outcomes of the reform.

As compared to other countries, Ethiopia could reduce its debt burden by huge amount. Even it paid the Euro bond earlier than the dead line. But as to her, mitigating inflation still remains as challenge and the government will re double its effort to contain it in the coming years.

There are still unfinished public projects under going and the government expenditure also can pose inflation. As to Fitsum, the pumping of money in the market might bring inflation. It is obvious that after the reform huge investment is carried out in tourism but observing their outcome needs some time. As to her, in the given economy, finance plays crucial role in facilitating growth but the excessive allocation of money in the market also poses inflation. The financial means also might bring opportunity or risks. The homegrown economic reform targeted to reduce such huge debt. But the tourism projects are financed by other innovative means.

As it is known, the emerging tourism sites in which their construction is undergoing by the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) initiative.

The first tourism project was locally named as "Gebeta le sheger" followed by the "Gebeta le hager". The projects were financed out of the government budget by generating finance from local investors and foreign partners. The tourism sites' projects which are under construction in "Koysha" in southern nation and nationalities region, "Wonchi" in the western Oromia region and in "Gorgora" near Gondar town are eyeing their completion and when they become

operational are expected to create job opportunities for thousands and stimulate the economy.

The other thing mentioned by Fitsum which threatens the good result of the economy is the rampant corruption pervasive here and there particularly in public institutions. As to her, managers of public offices should live as per their duty. They are appointed only to serve the public and should know their salary derives from tax payers. Therefore, whenever the public comes to their office, they should properly treat and serve their customers in the speedy manner but in contrary to this principle and if they are found guilty of corruption, they will face justice. While recently the Prime Minister discussed with the youth who came from all regions, he announced that the government intends to route out corruption and to that end appealed citizens play their part to fight corruption through cooperating the law enforcement agencies.

As to the Ministry of Planning and Development, the nation still needs money for the construction of infrastructure such as roads, hydro power and irrigation dams to meet the growing demand. Whenever there is population growth, the demand for infrastructure is growing simultaneously. Therefore, any development plan must be public centered from its preparation/ stage. On the other hand, 70 thousand old houses are renewed without allocating the government budget only through using free labour in the capital and in the regions and the labor allocated for this program worth of 7 billion Birr and such venture indicate the economic growth targets in eradicating poverty.

The allocation of budget for the projects is based on its feasibility in terms of benefiting citizens rather than politically driven regional balance.

To regulate the economy various measures have been taken. For example, to reduce the pouring of excess money to the market for the completion of projects is declined because it has inflational consequence. The government compromised its income obtained from tax and other means in order to support the ordinary citizens through providing basic products by subsidized price.

There were options for importing basic necessities and the first was the National Bank of Ethiopia to allocate hard currency and the other was the domestic industries to produce more basic commodities but the two options were unable to meet the demand. Therefore, allowing Franco valuta for short term was taken as preferred option and in such a way at least the poor could obtain the basic commodities with reduced price and almost 90 percent of the supply was covered through Franco valuta and the dicisson was vital in this regard.

The government economic ambition is not rest on ensuring food security rather it strives to achieve transformation by changing the economic structure from agricultural led to that of industrial one and to that end restrained efforts will be exerted.

Art & Culture

“Whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse!”

(A short story)

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

As is the case with an extended family my siblings and I sit for dinner surrounding my dad and mom at the dining table laid on the opposite side of the sofa near the TV set found in a big salon of an old villa. Such get-togethers during or after dinner create for us opportunities to deliberate on raised issues to our heart's content.

“Gone are the good old days! What we hear from local and foreign media outlets foreshadow we are fast approaching doomsday. Disasters of every making are what they din into our ears! Russia and China are at loggerheads with US and EU. The same holds true with Israel and IRAN. Saber rattling seems the fad. Terrorist TPLF is all out against fellow countrymen. What have you?” said my dad staring at the flat panel TV. Politics is his favorite topic.

Though a bit shy of 94, it is hard to get a gray hair from dad's head except around his temple. More often than not he cuts a happy face unless disturbed by anxiety-provoking unfolding such as unprovoked aggression, bloodshed and clashes. For the past four years now, these tragedies have become apparent here in our country due to the recalcitrant TPLF.

Dad often watches TV a tad closer as he is a bit short of hearing, a complication which is not an unusual thing at his age. After a checkup at ophthalmic center I bought him a photo solar spectacle noticing tears trickling down his cheek from sitting before a TV set for long hours. He had been in the chalk and talk business across the country for four decades. He taught different courses in different capacities and in a span of four decades. Book Keeping and business mathematics are top on the list. As I noticed from the greetings he receives wherever we go together many are the students that shot up to prominent positions.

As dad prefers facts to fiction he browbeats my mom and the servant who adore movies and more often less reluctant to let go the remote control once glued to the TV watching romance-and-violence-packed movies from here and abroad.

“Come on how many times must you tune to EBC's news transmitted every hour?” they argue.

“New developments could be added! Forearmed is forewarned!” he hushes them up.

Pertaining to the movies, I am afraid the nagging and heartlessness that permeate the shows may have a domino effect here. Is that why we see copycat killers these days?

Back to the gist, hearing about the massacre of innocent citizens mainly Amhara youths by terrorist TPLF troops in Kobo, a small town near the border of the Amhara and Tigray state,

“How cruel? This is atavism!” Mom shuddered. And added I heard on Youtube “The victims had put on the national flag.”

“Every Ethiopian has a right to live, work and own a property in the perimeter of his country.



That is how we lived in the good old days. There is no need for quarreling. Ethiopia is vast enough for its people if citizens uphold peaceful coexistence. I did hear Dr. Aregawi Berhe and Gebre Medhen Araya, observably imbued with a national feeling and freedom across the board, giving a similar comment,” father projected anxiety mirroring face.

Breathing long he added “Completing a college or university education a graduate was assigned to one corner of the country after drawing a lot. No Ethiopian treated him ‘here is a black ship.’ As such he renders service with a great sense of belongingness to his country. That is how I started teaching in Hara 60 years back. A fellow graduate friend of mine from the Welega went to Mekele. He married his student and gave birth to five children. You see we Ethiopians are products of interracial marriage,” he reminisced wistfully.

“I see. It seems gone are the good old days,” I exhibited a sense of remorselessness.

“We knew not bickering be it on the line of ethnicity or religion. The younger generation has to fight to get the magnificent trend back on its feet. Otherwise what we are passing through augurs ill to the generation next,” mom who likes combing her hair in Apollo style said knitting.

“We chased out foreign aggressor standing united. If that virtue is stricken out from Ethiopia's attributes that rippled across the globe we could easily fall prey to our historic enemies,” I said.

“That is what our enemies exploiting to meet their ends; disintegrating Ethiopia,” mom said.

“Right you are,” dad eyed mom with appreciation.

As electric blackout occurred that day due to a heavy rain switching off the TV we tuned to YouTube news as my lap top was luckily fully charged.

“Unable to withstand the counteroffensive blow of heroic and nation-loving sons and daughters of Ethiopia from all directions, terrorist TPLF troops are disarrayed. Leaders of the diabolic group are retreating to Dedeber Bereha (desert) their fort, where they started rebellion half a century back,” so disclosed the reporter with a vibrant voice.

“An old dog learns not a new trick,” mom said. Dad nodded you are right.

“Ha ha ha! Terrorist TPLF troops crawl on all fours to a desert after repetitively suffering emasculating defeats. What for? Are they joking?” the servant, who sits on a stool nearby, said with the right expression but wrong Amharic pronunciation. The way she paints things never fails to evoke listeners' smiles.

“To the surprise of the global community the government is now turning deserts in to fecund lands coming up with bumper wheat harvest using irrigation. Dedeber must be devoted to such end. It must not remain a safe haven to nation-wrecking-and-innocent-civilians-targeting barbarians,” dad pointed his fingers seeing TPLF logo bearing an X mark.

“They rather want to saw bullets allover Ethiopia! Piles of bodies will be the harvest. Ha ha ha,” the servant cut in. As her sarcastic laughter has a contagious effect all of us bubbled up with the same feeling.

Dissecting the recently exposed plan of the terrorist group for another round of terrorism to tear down an ancient nation, the reporter went on to elaborate that there is an urgency to hijack Amhara State's crop harvesting work to weaken the state and rock the country with food shortage. And also the report dilated on the plan to drive a divisive wedge between the government and people looking ways that exacerbate socioeconomic and political hurdles like inflation. The report underlined on how sweet talking or winning over the favor of the Amhara people, which paradoxically the group was attacking in every covert and overt way possible since its inception to date. It went on to shed light on the group's plan of beefing up its military muscle by strengthening internal support and looting humanitarian aid and fuel from international organizations. It elaborated on ways of using sham media houses and hypocrites to bless off terrorist TPLF's plan of deluding the global community. The report ridiculed the terrorist group that wants to establish a government by the people taking aboard terrorists of every making ill-famed for slaying innocent civilians indiscriminately.

“A new year marks a milestone for a turn for the better. But terrorist TPLF troops keep

their mind busy contemplating roadblocks they could erect here and there as well as clashes they could connive to brew as a result of which citizens go for one another's' neck,” dad added.

“Ha ha ha. An idle monk tears apart his cap and sew it anew!” the servant cited an Ethiopian proverb.

“An idle mind is the workshop of the devil,” is what the white men say, mom seconded her rolling the ball of thread for knitting.

As power got restored we switched back to the TV which was transmitting a program about captives that yielded up hands to Ethiopian soldiers, militia and fighters from the Ethiopian side with patriotic zeal.

“We were told you will end up in a grave if you surrender to the enemy specially the militia. But the treatment we received from day one proves the reverse. People are treating us with love and respect. We feel as if we are home away from home. We were duped for long by the good-for-nothing TPLF leaders. We advise forcefully-recruited fellow TPLF troops to find comfort in the hands of the nation-loving army than ending up cannon fodders,” captives voluntarily said turn by turn.

“TPLF troops must have been hypnotized by the merciless leaders eying at self-benefits otherwise they are no different from nation loving Ethiopians,” mom added.

“Detaining the terrible two the confused Dr. Debretsion and the talkative Getachew Reda brings the war to an end. As to terrorist TPLF, what could a cat do if its tail is grabbed by the tail at the helm?” Ha ha ha, the servant bubbled up effective in communicating her feeling.

“Why do hypocrites turn a deaf ear to what Ambassador David Shinn and Ambassador Tibor Nagy tell them about Ethiopia? Both have a firsthand knowledge about Ethiopia, which they know inside out. Why do hypocrites remain tightlipped when Terrorist TPLF engages on killing spree?”

“Hypocrites and some so called peace brokers want to breathe life into terrorist TPLF on whose coffin the last nail is being hit. Is it to give it another chance of destruction on neighboring states given its three rounds of killing spree?”

“The proverb goes a gold ring in a pig's snout,” dad alluded to the bible.

“Yes it also says give instruction to a wise man he will be yet wiser,” said mom.

I cut in to add “Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse!”

“Peace has its own limit. We can't talk about peace making people in the neighboring state of Tigray sacrificial lambs,” I added.

“We like the people of Tigray. Creating a confluence they could be of great help for Ethiopia's affluence,” mom added.

“Sure! Have you noticed how many gold medals the beautiful girls that hail from the north snatched for Ethiopia in the athletics championship?” Ha ha ha bubbled up the servant, We followed suit.

Science & Technology



icipe discovers trypanosome biomarkers, develops inclusive diagnostic innovation for African animal trypanosomosis

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIER

The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*) announced that it discovers trypanosome biomarkers and develops an inclusive diagnostic innovation for African animal trypanosomosis. The African animal trypanosomosis is caused by trypanosome protozoan parasites, the most important being *Trypanosoma congolense*, *T. vivax* and to a lesser extent, *T. brucei* group.

The trypanosomes are transmitted by the *Glossina* tsetse fly species robust, sparsely bristled insects that usually range from 6 to 16 mm (0.2 to 0.6 inch) in length, which are only found in Africa, especially in the woodlands and grasslands.

Trypanosomes are also spread mechanically by other vectors, for example horse flies and stable flies, which obtain the parasites when they feed on infected animals and then transfer them to other animals.

Due to this mode of transmission, coupled with the movement of livestock, African animal trypanosomosis is also present outside tsetse infested areas. It is estimated that 50 million cattle and 70 million sheep and goats are at risk of African animal trypanosomiasis, in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Every year in Africa, three million cattle succumb to African animal trypanosomosis, a debilitating disease of livestock that is caused by trypanosome parasites, which are mainly transmitted by tsetse flies, and mechanically by other biting flies. Known as nagana in cattle, goats and sheep, and as surra in camels, the disease's symptoms include anaemia, fever, swelling of the lymph nodes and decreased appetite; leading to weight loss, lethargy abortions, a suppressed immune system and increased chances of concurrent infections. The productivity of infected animals is reduced and thus, the availability of livestock products

and services like tilling of agricultural land, while livestock production costs are escalated due to investments for treatment. African animal trypanosomosis causes direct and indirect losses of approximately USD 4.75 billion per year in Africa.

One of the main challenges in tackling African animal trypanosomosis is difficulties in its diagnosis. The main diagnostic strategies, which include microscopic examinations and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, are technical, costly and often inaccessible to livestock keepers. Moreover, microscopy is not sensitive enough to detect asymptomatic trypanosomosis cases, where parasite loads are low. Often, livestock keepers make speculative, symptom-based diagnosis of African animal trypanosomosis. However, the disease's signs are not unique to it, and they could result from other ailments. As a result, a high proportion of African animal trypanosomosis infections are either undetected or misdiagnosed. "Lack of treatment or wrong therapies lead to livestock deaths and in the latter case to drug resistance."

Now, researchers from the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*) have developed a much needed non-invasive, rapid, affordable, efficient and easy method to diagnose African animal trypanosomosis. In a paper published recently in *Frontiers in Microbiology* journal, the *icipe* scientists report that they have identified biomarkers in the urine of cows, which indicate with certainty the presence of trypanosomes infection, even at low levels that would not be detectable through microscopy.

"Using this knowledge, we have developed a process for biomarker-based diagnosis of African animal trypanosomosis. As a result, through a simple urine test, which can be administered even by livestock keepers, it is possible to confirm whether an animal has the disease," explains Dr.

Merid Getahun, *icipe* scientist and leader of the study.

The *icipe* study investigated the mechanisms of the interactions between trypanosomes and their host animals. In general, a healthy animal produces a range of chemical compounds that may be used for a variety of functions, for example defence against disease causing agents. Once the trypanosome parasites enter the blood of an animal, a coevolutionary arms race starts between them and their host. The parasites fight to create a conducive environment for their own survival, for example by producing molecules that suppress the immune system of the host. In turn, the host produces antibodies and defence compounds to ward off the trypanosomes. In the process, the odour profile of the defence compounds in the host animals is changed.

"We identified two classes of compounds in the urine of cows, which are specifically affected by trypanosome infections. The first class of compounds are phenolics, which are ordinarily produced by the animals, but their production is elevated by the infections. The second class of compounds are ionones, whose production is specifically stimulated by the infections. Therefore, these two classes of compounds are predictive biomarkers of African animal trypanosomosis," explains Dr. Merid.

Through laboratory and field studies, the researchers confirmed the potential of using the phenolic compounds for biomarker-based diagnosis of African animal trypanosomosis. The test involves injecting a reagent that is sensitive to the compounds into a urine sample. An activator is also applied to the solution. If the urine sample is from a healthy cow, it will remain green – the colour of the reagent. The colour of the urine sample from a trypanosomes infected animal will change to blue, indicating that the phenolics are above threshold level. The higher the parasite load, the darker the

colour.

As shown in the photos above, the *icipe* biomarker-based diagnosis is highly sensitive and specific. It can detect a wide spectrum of trypanosomes infections, as well as the three most important trypanosome species. The test can also identify active forms of African animal trypanosomosis, as it returns a negative result for animals after treatment. Therefore, it can be used to monitor the effectiveness of therapeutic interventions. Moreover, the test is specific to trypanosome infections, as it is negative on animals suffering from other ailments with symptoms similar to African animal trypanosomosis.

"Supported by the right partnerships and pathways, the biomarker-based diagnosis can be translated into a ready-to-use, inclusive innovation. For example, the reagent and activator can be packaged into a dipstick that can be easily applied to a urine sample. This would empower livestock keepers to make evidence-based decision on the health of their animals," says Dr. Dan Masiga, Head, *icipe* Animal Health Theme.

For her part, this simple, novel diagnostic tool for African animal trypanosomosis is emblematic of *icipe*'s mission of developing science-led, inclusive innovations that are effective, accessible and affordable to all segments of society, and which have a transformative impact on communities and economies," states Dr. Segenet Kelemu, *icipe* Director General and CEO.

The technology becomes part of *icipe*'s arsenal to fight the tsetse fly menace, towards an overall one health goal, through sustainable livestock farming to improve food security, household incomes and nutrition, while addressing the challenges of climate change and protecting the environment, according to the press release sent to *The Ethiopian Herald* by *icipe*.

Society

Serving others with passion fuels and sustains the essence of life

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Dejene Leul, is a young man who is currently engaged in a private firm. For him, receiving or providing services are two sides of a single coin. A person who is providing service somewhere may look for service in another place. In this regard, serving others and treating all service providers with respect and compassion is civilization. We should learn to respect the Shoeshiner the way we respect the CEO of a given firm. "I have witnessed from my experiences that whenever I treat my customers with respect, they have a tendency of frequenting my firm. They will develop a sense of attachment and promote my service to others. What if, if I act differently? The answer is obvious. No matter how good my service is, if I fail to respect them, I will lose my customers."

Serving others is the reason why we all are on this planet. But, we should not serve for the sake of serving or because of the salary we earn at the end of the month. We should treat every individual equally and respectfully for the sake of moral virtues, Dejene opined.

Blen Getachew, is a Cluster Supervisor at Haramaya University. For her, serving others with passion cannot be measured by anything. It gives pleasure to the soul. This is especially true when one is engaged in an area s/he enjoys it. For this reason, I serve people with commitment and passion.



According to her, serving others should go beyond the salary that a person earns at the end of the month. "Offering good services to others in a manner I want to be served, gives me energy to serve more. Treating others with respect is the other thing I enjoy it. We should learn that treating people in an equal way and serving them with passion has a reward that cannot be explained in words."

Rekik Wondimagegn, is an Ethiopian born American citizen, who came to her birthplace lately to visit her family.

As she stated, expecting smooth and speedy service, she went to one of the sub-cities in Addis Ababa where the two hours process took two days. She was frustrated and started to curse the whole political system of the country because of her simple case.

As a woman with experience of working

in the modern world where customers are treated with respect; and requests are handled with care, she went to visit the CEO. However, she was told he will not be available in his office for the coming three days. This frustrated her more.

Serving others with passion and commitment should be the duty of every person, said Rekik. "As long as any employee (from senior management level to low level) is assigned to execute the job he is entitled to accordingly, she/he has a responsibility to perform their business with passion and commitment.

If not, it is better they leave the position to those who can perform with passion. This should not only be practical to the sub-cities where I experienced a hard time; but in all sectors.

Providing proper training on customers'

handling and implementing compliment handling techniques should be part of every system not to harm the economic or political system of the country.

Selam Ketema, is the other young Architect and Office Manager, working in one of the private firms here in Addis Ababa. For her, serving others is a double fold blessing. "In one hand, by serving others I can discharge my professional and moral responsibilities. I enjoy seeing people getting satisfied from the service I provided them. On the other hand, while serving others, I am supporting myself as well as my country."

Serving others with passion and commitment is not only a legal obligation. It also has moral values. Every individual, who gets service at a given place; is also a service provider in another place. In this regard, that particular person should ask himself or herself the question "Am I serving my customers with passion? Am I satisfied with the service I have provided them? If not, what am I doing here? " The moment a given person asks those questions, s/he would realize both the moral and the legal responsibilities he/ she has.

Serving others needs only readiness and understanding responsibility. Oftentimes, service is mistaken as only "giving". However, it is as much receiving as it is giving. This exchange is what fuels and sustains the essence of life.



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EOPA 16th annual conference: Post-war, orthopedic medicine

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

The Ethiopian Orthopedic Physicians Association (EOPA) has held its 16th annual conference in Addis Ababa under the theme "Post-War and Orthopedic Medicine". Its major focus was the efforts made by the professionals to assist the user community-especially those who were in the disasters.

The conference's guest of honor, State Minister of Health Ministry, Dr. Ayele Teshome, said that the members of the association, both individually and as an institution, have contributed and are subsidizing to save the lives of the brave Ethiopian National Defense Force members who are suffering from man-made and natural disasters, especially in war. "Ethiopia is grateful for all your contributions."

The Ministry of Health always appreciates the efforts of the association and medical colleges to provide medical equipment and resources needed for orthopedic treatment through bilateral relations with various institutions. "On behalf of the user community, I express my gratitude to the organizations that are supporting those who are in medical need by providing medical equipment and resources," Dr. Ayele thanked all together.



Dr. Ayele Teshome

The current time is one where man-made and natural disasters are increasing, and the needs of Ethiopian societies have increased, Dr. Ayele noted demanding: "Therefore, in addition to the work we do in terms of infrastructure, human resource development and resource provision to improve access to services, we are at a time to review and to enhance our health service systems, to advance the effectiveness of our limited human resources and

other resources, to reduce wastage and to implement new practices that ensure service quality and customer safety".

Thus, the implementation of a 10-year roadmap to help improve Specialty and Subspecialty Services, and a reform package to help improve system bottlenecks around service delivery are being implemented. Efforts are being made to implement various cooperation

frameworks in which the government and the private sector work together to ensure uninterrupted supply of resources, he mentioned.

He further urged the professional association and experts to contribute to its effectiveness together with the stakeholders.

By the same token, the President of the association, Dr. Gelataw Tesema, thanked the members of the association for their active participation during the war in the past years in his welcoming message.

"There will be a wide discussion about the services that the victims of the conflict and especially the post-war victims should get and what the modern treatment in the field should look like at the international level," he disclosed them calling on the professionals to fully play their roles.

In the conference, a ceremony was held to give thanks and recognition awards to the medical professionals and institutions that have made significant contributions in the field of orthopedics and have been serving for several years.

At last, the yearly forum was concluded by observing an official health exhibition that was attended by guests and participants of the conference.



This is Ethiopia

New Year, New hope

BY ELIZABETH MENGISTU

Ethiopians will celebrate their New Year, 2014, on September 11, 2022. Saying goodbye to the darkest, thunderous, rainy and windy season, Ethiopians will receive the brightest and sunniest season, Meskerem, which is the first month of the year in the Ethiopian calendar, and celebrate *Enkutatash*.

Meskerem, for Ethiopians is the month in which the rainy season comes to an end and the sunny season begins. It is a month that flowers bloom and the Ethiopian mountains, hills, plains and plateaus turn green. During September, the landscape is covered with the mass blooming of the bright yellow flower known as *Adey Abeba*.

Not only has that, following the end of the darkest month and the arrival of the bright season, new hope grows and bright aspiration stimulated in the minds of all, regardless of any differences. People, who could not visit their families and relatives for months owing to the river water overflows, aspire to visit them. During *Meskerem*, Ethiopians, living abroad, are also returning home to celebrate the New Year along with their families.

With greater eagerness, school students prepare themselves to start their schooling and to see their closest friends. In *Meskerem*, many people set plans to be realized on the subsequent months. During New Year, it is common for many people to make promises to stop unhealthy/bad habits such as chewing chat, smoking or drinking alcohol.

The festivity of *Enkutatash* (which means the “gift of jewels” and has been celebrated for centuries) is celebrated with various events, including family gatherings, singing and dancing, enjoying a traditional *Enkutatash* meal and homemade drink; and by giving children gifts.

Few days before the actual festival, Ethiopians start preparation. They go out for shopping, buy materials which are important and add more atmospheres for the festival, including cultural attires depending on their economic status.

The celebrations of the day start on the eve of *Enkutatash* on which people burn torches (*Chibbo* made out of bundle of dry sticks); and many families attend a church service and offer prayers; adorned by Ethiopian cultural dresses.

Children, creating a group, (always young girls) embellished with traditional dresses and holding *Adey Abeba* sing New Year’s song moving from one house to another in their neighborhood. Boys, on the other way, around by painting images of saints and flowers on papers, give to their families and neighborhoods as an expression of good wishes. In turn, they receive whatever given to them as gifts.

Meskerem 1, the first of the thirteen months of the Ethiopian calendar and heralds the beginning of the New Year, is though



celebrated warmly and colorfully, the month is always seen as a busy time and a unique month among Ethiopians. The *Meskel* (the Finding of the True Cross), the festival celebrated to commemorate the finding of the actual cross on which Jesus was crucified and the *Irreecha* festival which is the Thanksgiving festival of the Oromo people are also the other features that make the month *Meskerem* special.

As Nebeyou Ambachew stated in a piece titled “It is Time for Ethiopian New Year,” September is a wonderful time in Ethiopia and particularly the Ethiopian month of *Meskerem* that runs from 11th or

12th September to 10th October marking the beginning of the Ethiopian year. The countryside is lit up with the masses of bright yellow *Meskel* daisies and more sunshine flickering through the rain clouds, and it brings with it all the promise of the New Year.

The story of *Enkutatash* goes back almost 3,000 years to the Queen of Sheba of ancient Ethiopia who was returning from a trip to visit King Solomon of Israel in Jerusalem. She had gifted Solomon with 120 talents of gold (4.5 tons) as well as a large amount of unique spices and jewels. When the Queen returned to Ethiopia her chiefs welcomed

her with *Enku* or jewels to replenish her treasury, he wrote referring to the Holy Book.

And *Enkutatash* is an important festival for Ethiopians as it also symbolizes the advent of good harvest weather. After months of torrential pour, the month of September sees clear skies and fresh water, beautiful atmosphere. The highlands all teeming with flowers and the land looks like it is made of clear gold as the *Meskel* daisies bear flowers on the season, he added.

True, *Meskerem* is the brightest month of the year that Ethiopians, from different religious and cultural backgrounds, celebrate it with positive spirit and hoping the best in the future.

The outgoing year, 2014, has not been a good year for Ethiopia and Ethiopians. Rather, it has been one of the worst years that Ethiopians have witnessed a number of unpleasant incidents; and gone through various awkward situations forcibly.

As President Sahle-Work Zewde stated in relation to “Peace Day” celebrated yesterday, peace is expensive; and we Ethiopians need more than anything peace, not war.

The President highlighted that peace is the result and process of all efforts. Since, we are the ones who can create peace, the participation and effort of all Ethiopians is critical. For this best reason, in the effort exerted to maintain peace, security and instability throughout the country, the contribution and commitment of all Ethiopians is central, as the President stated.

And, we, Ethiopians, while welcoming in the New Year, 2015, we hope for the best and wish to see a peaceful, united and prosperous Ethiopia where its citizens united in differences and diversity and live together peacefully putting aside all their differences.