



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXIX No 026 11 October 2022 - Tekemt 1, 2015

Tuesday

Price Birr 10.00

## Gov't still keeps offering olive branch to T-PLF

• President highlights Ethiopia's role in consolidating regional integration

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA** – The government would make all necessary efforts in this Fiscal Year to solve the conflict in the northern part of the country and to create a peaceful country, so said President Sahlework Zewde.

The President made the above remark when addressing the opening ceremony of the second year and six tenure first joint opening session of the House of Peoples' Representatives and the House of Federation.

Meanwhile, President Sahlework noted that Ethiopia has been working to strengthen its relationship with the countries in the region by considering that there are many things that interlink these countries.

In her opening speech, Sahlework stated that all necessary efforts would be made to end the war in the northern part of the country implementing all peace alternatives.

She pointed out that the government would respond to the belligerence of the Terrorist TPLF, if the group insisted on rejecting the peace alternatives.

According to her, the biggest step that the government has taken during last year is to resolve differences through peaceful dialogue in order to end the mass killings and conflicts in some parts of the country.



She added that the government would never close the doors of peace, and still calls for peace talks making all peace alternatives open.

Sahlework restated that the cooperation

of all is expected to make successful the proposed peace talks assisted by the African Union.

See Gov't still ... page 3



## U.S. lawmakers urge Biden Admn. to stop equating gov't with T-PLF

• Reinstate Ethiopia's AGOA privilege

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**- It is time for the Biden Administration to stop equating the legitimate government with the terrorist TPLF and to bring Ethiopia back to African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the U.S. lawmakers made the call.

See U.S. lawmakers ... page 3

## Ethiopia readies wheat for foreign market

• Becomes Africa's second-largest wheat producer

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA**- This year, Ethiopia will supply millions of quintals of wheat to the foreign market, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said, stressing that all concerned parties, including the leadership, should work together for this to be successful.

The Premier made the above on Sunday at Tulugulet District of the Somali State while launching the national winter irrigated wheat cultivation.

Having the capacity of producing more than 40 quintals per hectare, the Somali State is the biggest example of Ethiopia's capability to cultivate wheat that is sufficient to the export market, Abiy added.

"We Ethiopians have vast land, hardworking farmers and fertile land and this winter is crucial for the survival of the country. We should ensure the prosperity of Ethiopia by turning every challenge into an opportunity and applying a lasting solution to every



Photo: Samuel Tesfaye

problem."

On his part, the Somali State President Mustefe Mohammed said preparations have been made to get two million quintals of wheat during this year's winter wheat cultivation. The national winter wheat irrigation development aims to prevent frequent droughts in the Somali State and to increase productivity in the current Ethiopian fiscal year. Accordingly, more than two million quintals of wheat have been

See Ethiopia readies ... page 3

**DERBA MIDROC CEMENT**  
**OUR PRODUCTS**

- > PPC 32.5N
- > OPC 42.5N
- > Premium OPC 52.5N
- > PPC PLUS 42.5N

**We give Door To Door Service**  
**Call Us at 8688 or**  
0111 26 26 27 0922 11 53 24/26  
0111 26 26 28 0922 72 74 48/49  
0111 26 26 29 0922 72 38 70  
0111 26 26 30 0922 72 38 72  
**Fax: 0111 26 23 45 & 0111 26 23 18**  
**Ready for Tomorrow!**

**AGI** CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA  
Abyssinia Group of Industries  
  
**Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars.**  
**Introducing cut & bend service for rebars .**  
**Contact & Address**  
Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25  
Mob. : +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868  
+251 911 45 9790  
E-mail:sales@agiethiopia.com  
4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

**Maldives**  
-Promotion-  
SIGNAGE & PRINT  
**For all your signage & printing needs with well-established workshop & machineries**

- CNC cutting & engraving machine
- Foam board, Aluminum panel, MDF...
- Laser cutting & engraving machine
- Mica, Leather, Fabric...
- UV flat bed for give away items
- Pen, Flash disk, Notebook...
- Digital T-shirt & Fabric printer
- High quality Digital printer
- Roll up, sticker, reflective, transparent...
- Heat press machines
- Cap, Mug, Mask, Plate

**And exhibition stand & event stage construction**  
**Fast and Quality Service**  
+251 911 253 076 / +251 984 872 919  
maldivespromotion@gmail.com  
Shola, on the Main Road to British Embassy



## T-PLF struggles for power hunger with obsolete philosophy: Ambassador

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The overall effort and struggle of the Terrorist TPLF is intertwined with satisfying its power hunger having obsolete political thinking coupled with the desire of unfair economic benefit, a senior diplomat said.

American and European Affairs Director General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Ambassador Eshete Tilahun told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the T-PLF was purely fighting for extending hegemony and its unfair economic benefit.

See T-PLF struggles ... page 3



# News



## AU -brokered negotiation to pave path for ending conflict in Ethiopia

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** The African Union (AU)-brokered negotiation to mediate the Federal government of Ethiopia and Terrorist TPLF is the only solution as it helps paving ways for future peace talks, so remarked a sociologist.

In his interview with International media, Iona University Sociology Associate Professor Derese Kassa (PhD) said that he is hoping that the new architecture would work out and both sides would find some sort of a modus operandi to resolve the issues and come out from the talks with at least a framework of what the next round of talks should look like.

“... [] I am still a prisoner of hope. We have been through over the past two years in the relentless fighting, in the violence, and death toll in the country rises on both sides.”

He also stated that the parties would finally come to the negotiation table as they were trying to arrive at a political settlement. The people are hopeful in the sense of this as well.

The decision to negotiate in face to face talks also speaks very highly about how the AU has been criticized on both sides for not being proactive and bringing the warring parties to the table earlier, he said.

He, however, mentioned that T-TPLF officials are likely suspecting the AU since it is headquartered in Addis Ababa.

Besides, the government of Ethiopia stuck with the notion that “We should be able to find an African solution for African problems”. So what happened right now is both parties seem to be exhausted and fatigued by the conflict. So, they should give the AU a chance, he opined.

To him the first round of these talks would be about the future talks.

There would be preliminary talks and it needs to agree on the protocol. Most importantly, agenda items should be carved out for a comprehensive peace dialogue.

Though, T- TPLF has renewed the war and ordered all people in Tigray state to join its military recently.

## EPSS signs agreement to modernize information system

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service (EPSS) signed the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project implementation agreement with Seidor Consultancy which is expected to modernize the former’s information system.

Speaking on the occasion, EPSS Director-General Dr. Abdulkadir Gelgalo said the demand for medical and pharmaceutical drugs forced the organization to expand operations without proper technological support and the new agreement is crucial to address the challenge.

Noting 42 percent of EPSS’s processes are non-value, the director-general indicated that the situation has resulted in multiple challenges in coordination and control of operation. “The existing fragmented information system is not currently coordinated with the activity performed in a shallow way to accomplish an integrated operation.”

These and other related system challenges have affected the organization from making informed and timely decisions, undermining its performance and ultimately resulting in poor customer satisfaction.

To overcome such problems, Abdulkadir



highlighted that the EPSS has been undertaking different short and long term strategies to drive information transformation. Among these, the service considers implementing ERP as a strategic drive that enables the streamlining of the supply chain, modernizing internal processes and controlling and improving decision making and increasing customer satisfaction.

The budget is committed from three sources such as the Ministry of Health, EPSS and Global Fund and costs a total budget of nine million USD. The global fund has

financed 5.5 million USD and the remaining is covered by EPSS (two million USD) and Ministry of Health (1.5 Million USD).

Health Minister Dr. LiaTadesse said for her part that Ethiopia’s health system had many successes on different fronts in improving the livelihoods of the community particularly in reducing mortality, morbidities and improving access to quality health care.

Improving medical and pharmaceutical supply is a key in Ethiopia’s journey to improve the health sector and having a strong technology system is a timeless task to EPSS and other organizations, the minister added.

## Ethiopia Science Museum key to avert anti-Africa narratives: African Journalists

**ADDIS ABABA /ENA/-** The Ethiopian Science Museum can change the erroneous narratives against Africa, African journalists said.

Journalists of different African countries including from Ghana, Cameroon, South Africa and Niger visited the recently inaugurated Ethiopian Science Museum.

The journalists stated that the museum depicts that Ethiopia has given due attention to the science sector.

“We have witnessed science and innovations that will have significant importance to the development of Ethiopia and Africa,” they added.

The Rwandan journalist Johnson Canmujere said that the museum shows Africa’s current position and its future aspiration in science sector.

“In my view this is a step in the right direction as we want to see in the future and going forward; we want to see Africans thinking of the western while going out of the continent to outsource solutions.

That is basically what I see and as an African writer and journalist this tells me that I need to amplify this story and give space for African scientists, innovators and anyone in the science field as such we talk of the continent as not miserable, it is all about conflict and we can’t help ourselves,” he elaborated.

He added that Ethiopia has self-reliantly started its journey of development and prosperity through scientific innovations.

The museum is instrumental to avert the false narrative of portraying Africa with conflict



journalist Johnson Canmujere

and poverty and maintain the reality that it is a beacon of hope.

South African journalist, Simi Aref expressed that Ethiopia’s experience in this regard should be expanded across the continent.

“Africa is hub of technology. I think there is a lot of technology and tech minds in Africa and this should be reported more throughout Africa. I think museums like this and exhibitions help showcase all our talents,” he noted.

African Union Communication Head, Wynne Musabayana said that the museum is an eye opener for Africans.

“In the African Union we have communications function and the aim is to reframe the narrative about Africa and what the world knows about Africa.

So being here at this fair has really shown us the progress that Africa is making, especially in terms of the youth of technology and artificial intelligence (AI) in particular.

“We have seen some displays from the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute



Simi Aref

about health, monitoring security and things like that.

So it is really wonderful to see that Africa is making so much progress on its own because we always say that as Africans we need to find solutions to our problems and we can see that the institute is doing exactly that.

So today we are here with a group of media people as well as content creators and it is under what we call African media fellowship.

So this is part of that exercise to let them be aware of the different developments in science and technology and many other areas of our existence” she elaborated.

It will also support in changing the erroneous narrative against Africa, she said, adding that Africa can address its changes through technology and AI.

They added that they will give it media coverage so that other African countries can replicate it.

The Science Museum which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has a unique architecture.



# News

## IRC launches education in emergency project in Amhara

*-Project will benefit 105,000 conflict-affected students*

BY TEWODROS KASSA

**ADDIS ABABA**-The International Rescue Committee (IRC) has launched the Play Matters Emergency Response Mechanism (PM ERM) for education in emergency response in the conflict-affected zones of the Amhara state.

Launching the project, IRC PlayMatters ERM Coordinator Yohannes Gebreselassie said that the project lasts for twelve months with the financial support of the LEGO Foundation and implemented by the IRC in collaboration with other nine international humanitarian agencies.

So far, the project will provide about 8 million USD in cash and in-kind support to rehabilitate 152 conflict-affected schools and school children in six zones of the state.



As to him, the project totally benefits more than 105,000 students, 8,000 teachers, educational personnel, and caregivers.

“The project solely targets to deliver a coordinated, rapid, and effective humanitarian response to the needs of

children by focusing on their educational well-being, health, and safety.”

Accordingly, the response includes school feeding, school rehabilitation, providing education materials, providing schools with safe water, enhancing community-based

child protection, among others.

On his part, Amhara State Education Bureau Planning and Resource Mobilization Director Misganaw Awoke said that the project highly strengthens educational performance through solving educational inputs problem and encouraging children’s learning interest that was severely affected by the T-PLF war against the motherland.

Education-related projects have a generation based benefit and change the lives of the community through directly or in-directly contributing in the social, economic, and political affairs of the country, he said.

Accordingly, various international humanitarian agencies like the IRC are playing an important role towards rehabilitating damaged schools and returning children to school in the state.

### Ethiopia readies...

planned to be cultivated and the necessary preparations have been made to achieve this.

“The wheat cultivation that we started with the idea that we should not always deal with drought with aided wheat has achieved excellent results. Last year, we cultivated 847 thousand hectares of wheat and in the current fiscal year, preparation to grow more than two million quintals of wheat using three rivers and well water from boreholes is being completed.”

This year, it is planned to get 52 million quintals of wheat by cultivating one point three million hectares of land in winter wheat nationwide. It is stated that this will not only satisfy the country's consumption, but also supply it to foreign trade.

By the same token, the Ministry of Agriculture has stated that 24.5 million quintals of wheat were produced in summer irrigation wheat cultivation last year.

It has been stated that leadership’s commitment which has been manifested by an integrated financial support and the establishment of the National Wheat Irrigation Project Coordinating Office is said to have contributed greatly for the aforesaid success.

Meanwhile, an international media report disclosed that Ethiopia is now Africa’s second-largest wheat producer while it places 18 globally.

Regarding diplomatic activities, the President stated that various remarkable activities have been carried out continentally and regionally within the past Fiscal Year.

Sahlework further noted that Ethiopia has been working to consolidate its relations with neighboring countries by realizing that it has interconnected with these countries by infrastructure, trade, culture, language, natural resources, geography, and religion.

According to her, Ethiopia’s diplomatic activities allowed neighboring countries to work together for their common benefit.

Abbay Dam will also enable Egypt and Sudan to get electricity at a reasonable price, she said adding, that Djibouti has already been getting electricity from Ethiopia, and efforts will be made for Kenya, Sudan, and South Sudan to get electricity.

“The construction of the dam will be completed in accordance with the scheduled time, and we will continue to conduct the

### Gov’t still keeps...

necessary discussions and negotiations by examining any questions that may arise regarding the dam from the point of view of the benefit of Ethiopia,” the President also indicated.

By understanding the current situation of international diplomacy, the government will work in coordination with friendly countries in a way that secures the long-term interests of Ethiopia, according to Sahlework.

Regarding the main focus of the government in the 2015 Ethiopian Fiscal Year, she said that the government will continue the successes recorded in the last Fiscal Year and correct the shortcomings.

She added that the government will make efforts to improve tax revenue, reduce the waste of resources, use the government budget for poverty alleviation, stabilize inflation, and maintain a healthy macro-economy.

She further pointed out that the government will work hard to attract potential investors by doing various promotional activities to promote Ethiopia as an investment destination.

In-depth and action-oriented works will be done in the field of good governance and appropriate adjustments will be made by identifying the source of the problem, she also stated.

The President added that the government’s other focus area is putting the institutions that were destroyed due to war into full operation.

“This Ethiopian Fiscal Year will be a time when we will be highly motivated to solve the social and economic problems that Ethiopians are facing by settling disputes through dialogue, making the National Dialogue successful, and completing the ongoing development projects,” she indicated.

### U.S. lawmakers...

Speaking at the 2nd Annual Ethiopian Fall Festival, the U.S. Senator for Virginia Mark Warner and Virginia’s 8th Congressional District Representative Don Beyer stressed that the U.S. government should shun the equal treatment of the government and the outlawed party. It is also equally important to restore Ethiopia’s AGOA privilege.

“It is time to recognize the democratically

elected government in Ethiopia is the future of the country and we need to stand with democracy and try to address the conflict in a manner respecting the will of the Ethiopian people.”

At the event the elected officials showed up and heard the voices of their constituencies and highlighted that this is the time to rethink the current U.S. policy on Ethiopia

deserves change. “

As to Senator Warner, the African Diaspora that is so strong in Virginia and the whole of the U.S. has to be part of Ethiopia’s efforts and give the campaign a continental feature.

Delisting Ethiopia from AGOA was a very bad move and the Biden Administration should reverse the decision and keep the latter’s benefits, Beyer emphasized.

### T-PLF struggles...

The diplomat recalled that while in power, the terrorist group was working with different actors and established strong root in confusing international community by spreading fake news in a bid to earn acceptance from global community.

The group is skilled in presenting itself as a victim and deliberately labeling the government as the primary actor in hindering the provision of humanitarian assistance. This

is purely emanated from the obsolete political philosophy of the group aimed at achieving the desired economic benefit, Ambassador Eshete elaborated.

"The radical element has looted humanitarian aid meant to the needy people of Tigray for its political purposes including theft of fuel. But the international community turns blind eye in condemning the theft and looting of aid which is in violation of international law."

As to him, diverting aid for political purposes, hijacking trucks to transport combatants, recruiting underage children, and others were among the severe violations of international law that have been committed by the criminal clique.

The people of Tigray face huge misery due to the T-PLF’s hunger for political power and the group is ready to sacrifice anything to regain political power and a lot is expected

from the former to desist its provocation.

The MoFA, in coordination with the Diaspora community and other concerning bodies, have been working to inform the international community and expose the evil acts of the terrorist group. Urging the society to continue their support, the diplomat highlighted that Ethiopians in the Diaspora have played a commendable role in refuting the anti-government rhetoric.

Opinion

Terrorist TPLF's ...

again” aspect. They cry to be vital again for the Westerners and other Ethiopia. More precisely, like they overthrow the Derg government, they want to overthrow the Isaias regime. **At that time**, the pretext of the regime change was a fight between capitalism and communism; they pledged to ‘eradicate’ communism in the HoA and build a democratic system. It is ironic; when, in fact, they were only ‘**paramilitary assets for the Westerners**’ and other opponents of the nation of Ethiopia; they portrayed themselves as democrats. That is why the Democratic party in America has fallen deeply into their view. Evidence was all over that terrorist TPLF was a die-hard communist inspired by the Albanian version. Their governing manifesto was called “revolutionary democracy.” However, **at this time**, the general tries to shape the pretext to overthrow the Eritrea regime by using the present context of a power struggle between the Russians and the West, as evidenced by the proxy war in Ukraine. Later in his speech, he even listed several powerful nations interested in the region. Then the general connected this regional problem to that bigger context; he deliberately underlined Eritrea’s siding with Russia at this particular time in history. The TPLF, **a criminal enterprise**, is desperately trying to take advantage of the **Ukrainian crisis**, and they cry to be (re)vitalized and be used as an asset again.

2. We are the best ‘banda’ for the ‘bada.’

In the talk, the general insists that “if Tigrean resistance (he avoids using the term TPLF) wins, there will be a chance to restructure the whole politics of the region.” this, in turn, would have “far-reaching implications in shaping the geopolitical situation in this part of the world.”

He further mentioned the significance of the western part of the Red Sea in the region. And if, hypothetically, they [terrorist TPLF] lose the war, then there will not be peace in the region since the man in the northern part will control the army. He argued Eritrea could not **dominate** Ethiopia. Another important point. Remember, this was the root cause of the Ethio-Eritrea war that broke out in 1998; who could dominate the region?

If one looks deep into the intents of the terrorist TPLF, one learns about their business model. What is it? It is the to-be banda (“ባንዳ” Banda- in Amharic **is the equivalent of traitor**). You sell out your country to help foreigners or outsiders (**“ባዳ” is Amharic equivalent of outsider**) so that you get power and money. That is it!

The general said they are the world’s best strategic partners in this geopolitical situation. In other words, he was saying they are the ‘best banda’ in the region, so please reconsider us or revitalize us.

*T-TPL’s appeal fervently, with a sense of urgency, to their godfather, represented by the Heritage Foundation. That means they are crying loud for a new beginning. This means a lot of things: time to prepare again, resources, aid, weapon, logistics, and other military assistance like in the past*



They say that one of the **founders** of the TPLF leaders said once that “if you understand it well, to be banda is a business model.” No one understands this better than the late prime minister Meles Zenawi.

He used to be an excellent reader, and he studied the plans and intentions of his masters carefully (IMF, World bank, the Heritage Foundation think tank, UN, EU, US, and so on). He was good at it until he failed his master’s in connection to the global warming agenda in 2009. The demise of TPLF began when he died. Since then, no one has been like him in this business model. Talking to the Heritage Foundation think tank, this terrorist’s general is attempting to **fit in the shoes of his masters to revitalize the TPLF’s status**.

One should underline very well that the people of Tigray are one of the founders of the history of Ethiopia; just look at the Axumite kingdom. Given the appropriate chance, one can find them as one of the proud Ethiopians on the planet. In the view of **this writer**, he always looks at the terrorist TPLF and the people of Tigray separately. People and a political party are not **one and the same**. The cadres of the terrorist TPLF are the gangs who controlled these hard-working and wonderful people for about 50 years with iron fist. That was the fountain of the terrorist’s “success” in dominating the region for three decades, but it was for the demise of the people of Tigray. Over the last two and three years, we saw that the terrorist has used the people as its hostage.

3. Using the language and framework of the masters

You cannot be a strategic partner to the West if you only say, yea, we are partners. You have to be relevant to them. You need to convince them that you are the right strategic partner to protect their interest in the region. For that, one has to have a framework of reference, a medium of communication, and the governing principles for guiding the partnership. There is no one like TPLF thugs that understands this game. They are good disciples of the late PM. They have convinced the world that they are real partners. That is why the EU and the US have fallen to them. That is what this general was doing in his speech.

First, he insists on a cessation of hostility for the peace process has to resume. “There is carnage, and it has to stop,” he said. He then goes through different aspects crucial for the peace: unfiltered access to aid, service to resume, constitutional boundaries in place; foreign forces to go out; a credible peace process architecture, a safeguard for the process, and so on. He said they are committed to the robust peace process if these are in place.

We cannot go deep into these aspects due to space. But knowing the TPLF all the

past four decades, we can see nervousness, urgency, and cry for help. All those gold-coated words with standards and principles are fancy words. When it comes to TPLF, the peace process is a time-buying scheme. No more, no less. It seems they are truly losing it on the ground this time. Especially if the people of Tigray are freed from their hands. If cities are restored without them, that grants the end of TPLF. This scares the the terrorist group more than anything. Imagine who can be a human raw material to be sent to war in **en masse** just for carnage. They have convinced and controlled the people using many schemes for over four decades.

However, we cannot ignore how the criminal faction is good at selling their ideas; portraying themselves as agents of peace; and pretending reasonable, principled, and fair groups of people on the planet. They know the game well. They understood the language of their masters very well. If you only have the data (fact or truth) and do not have a framework to communicate to the rest of the world, then nobody understands you. For example, the general said, “there is a rumor or propaganda that the Tigrayans like to fight, but if we are forced to subjugation and control, then we will fight.” Is it not reasonable? Yes, it is. Darwin’s theory of survival of the fittest principle comes here. Their audience understands this very well. However, the fact of the matter is that the terrorist TPLF is the one that wanted to subjugate and control others, as they did it firmly for 27 years in the whole of Ethiopia and more than four decades in Tigray. They like subjugating others.

The terrorist’s circle of life is full.

T-TPL’s appeal fervently, with a sense of urgency, to their **godfather**, represented by the Heritage Foundation. That means they are crying loud for a new beginning. This means a lot of things: time to prepare again, resources, aid, weapon, logistics, and other military assistance like in the past. However, their godfather has many options. The choice right at this time could be others. They felt it somehow. That is why they complained about the international community many times. They felt it had ignored them. We will see how TPLF could survive the war that they themselves triggered many times. Like the father Lion said to the younger one, TPLF managed to throw Derg with the help of others, and now others are returning to it to make it history on the planet. Making the circle of life complete for them.

As they say, what you sow, you reap or what goes around comes around. It feels exactly like that. What TPLF did in the past has come back to it in its fullest. Anyways, like the Amharic saying, ድሮ ነበር እንጂ መጥኖ መደቆስ አሁን ምን ያረጋል ወጭት ጥዶ ማልቀስ- means it might be late for them. This is the situation that the terrorist TPLF is found in today. It is an unprecedented thing though.

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

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

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

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

Fb//Ethiopian Press Agency/

The Ethiopian Herald

## Editorial

### Bold move against neocolonialism

Ethiopia has recurrently expressed its objections over the so-called International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) report as it lacks impartiality and presented merely to cover up T-TPLF's untold crimes perpetrated in various parts of Ethiopia especially in Amhara and Afar states.

The country didn't accept such a fictitious approach as the commission is using the report as a political instrument, not a human rights scheme to safeguard human beings. Ethiopia didn't accept and will never accept it at all for the report has promoted injustice instead of fairness and just.

In a recent assembly to extend the term of ICHREE, almost all African countries expressly opposed the extension of its mandate for additional one year. Cognizant of the fact that Ethiopia has had objections about the partial status of the commission, African countries except Malawi, abstained of course, opposed ICHREE's mandate extension. With due respect of all the countries stood by its side, Ethiopia would like to urge all African states to continue pressing the international community to refrain from levying impositions on African countries in particular and interfering in the internal affairs of developing countries in general.

Africans move here is a clear manifestation of their firm commitment to do away with impositions and the neocolonialism practice in developing countries.

Despite relentless efforts made to acquaint the international community with indescribable atrocities committed by T-TPLF cliques in the northern part of the country, ICHREE publicized a politically framed report stuffed with partisan spirit.

Hence, the extension of mandate of the commission can serve no purpose other than being a mockery of justice. Put another way, the so called experts would continue rubbing salt against hundreds of thousands of T-TPLF's victims. If it is really and honestly working for human rights, where does the spirit of discrimination come from

or is there any hidden mission to be hit under the guise of protecting human rights?

Apart from absolutely underestimating the concrete fact, the Commission has worked to tarnish the positive images of the country and blame the federal government to meet its political agenda via putting a pressure on the country.

It is high time for Africa to well entertain the 'African solutions to African problems' principle. Of course, they have started translating theories into practical actions for the countries are moving in a coordinated manner supporting one another.

Obviously, the commission reported to the United Nations Human Rights Council that it could hardly conduct a comprehensive investigation due to a lack of resources, for instance. Besides, the Ethiopian government has complained over it from the outset since the commission has employed a wrong process contrary to international laws and regulations.

Basically, since the ultimate goal of the group is to darken the reputation of the Ethiopian Defense Forces and the government via deceitfully accusing the government of using humanitarian aid as a weapon, which should have been given to the T-TPLF itself, it will not be accepted at all.

Generally, not only has ICHREE's partial and politically driven report made Ethiopia annoyed but it has also not taken the outcome of the joint investigation of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) into account. In so doing, its credibility is under question mark and compromises its representation of the global community. Hence, its mandate must not be extended at all unless there is a hidden mission to be attained. By and large, what African states showed via opposing mandate extension entails crucial message for colonial masters.

## Opinion

### Terrorist TPLF's desperate cry for (re)Vitalization

BY DEJEN RAS

The Circle of Life, as a philosophical concept. It means that **"we start at the end and end at the beginning."** In the 1994 Disney classic movie The Lion King, there is an episode in which the father, Lion, explains to his son that he should understand the balance of life and respect all creatures, from the small crawling ants to the leaping antelope. But then the younger lion asked to get more understanding, "dad, are we not eating antelopes? The father responds, "Yes, When we die, our bodies become the grass, and the antelope eat the grass. And so, we are all connected in the great Circle of Life." From what we see on the ground, the terrorist TPLF seem to reach their circle of life, and they are crying for (re)vitalization.

**What does it mean?**

This piece explains the concept briefly using the recent rebel leader's plea to the Heritage Foundation think tank as a reference point.

The dictionary meaning of the word revitalization is "the act or process of giving new life or fresh vitality or energy to someone or something." It means that the group is trying to gain its lost "quality" and "strength". For example, terrorist TPLF was vital for the historical enemies of Ethiopia. This was best demonstrated when it worked with the West to overthrow the Soviet-aligned communist military government; it

also served them fight whatever their cause is—**just or unjust.**

They were the darlings of the West and hence, had been highly vital in the HOA.

But they lost their test for their masters during the latter part of their rule in Ethiopia.

The consequence was that they lost central power in the country. They lost "quality" and "strength". To get that status back, they attacked the northern command, which was 80% of the country's army and had been equipped with most of the hardware of the army. **That was entirely a doomed attempt.** The group's craving for coming back to 4-kilo waging a second round of war had been repulsed as well. Since then, the westerners and others have looked for other options for regime change, and the terrorist complained about it via different means (Social media, media, and letters). Their vitality was somehow reduced in the eyes of their masters. The third round of war started by these rebels was partly to gain that momentum again.

**Begging the Heritage Foundation think tank**

This cry of (re)vitalization was highly demonstrated in the recent secretly or purposely recorded and released audio in which one of the generals of the terrorist TPLF, Tsadkan Gebretensae, was speaking

to the Heritage Foundation. According to an activist called Seyoum Teshome, this think tank is the one that shaped the mission of the terrorist TPLF in Ethiopia in the early years of 1984 (1977 E.C.). He justified this by showing a 1984 Washington post article which states: "The Reagan administration in its second term should use **"paramilitary assets"** to weaken the governments of Vietnam, Cambodia, Libya and other unfriendly nations around the world, the Heritage Foundation said in a report presented to the White House last week."

One finds Ethiopia among the unfriendly country listed in the piece. That was exactly what happened in all those countries, proxy wars. TPLF became one of the **paramilitary assets**. President Jimmy Carter once said the following: "During these months, in 1989 and 1990, I also became acquainted with Meles Zenawi, the leader of Tigrayan revolutionaries. He would meet me at airports in Paris, Atlanta, and London when I came into the region, spread his war maps on the floor, and described his progress against Mengistu's forces."

One should observe the circle of life metaphor. From the recent development on the ground, it seems the TPLF's journey is ending. The thugs want to start again as they began with the Heritage Foundation.

Tsadikan tries to update the situation on the ground and the way forward to the think tank.

The way the general tries to persuade his audience is eye-opening. It gives a window of opportunity to look into the rebel group's mindset, approach, strategy, methodology, philosophy, belief, and attitude. Let us do this by shedding light on a few points

**1. Isaias Afwerki is dominating Ethiopia and the geopolitical situation in the region.**

He claimed a higher number of military squads from Eritrea that are closing into Tigray supported by Ethiopian forces. This has to be verified yet. The terrorists are very good at narrating their versions to persuade others. Further, the terrorist's general emphasized that "it is not conflict; it is a **huge war.**" He argued that if Isaias wins, the strategic consequence will be far-reaching: he will dominate Ethiopia; his next step would be Sudan; he will try to implement his style of leadership in the region; he is a friend of Russia; there will not be peace in the region and so on. He provided alternative facts and analysis to justify his claims. He tried to persuade the listeners in the language they could code the message very well. It seems terrorist TPLF is begging for another chance. It means they want a new circle of life.

This piece stresses the **"re"** or the **"once"**  
*See Terrorist TPLF's...page 4*

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

# Business & Economy

## Viable vehicle for economic development—Tourism

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is widely approved that Ethiopia possesses remarkable tourism potentials due to its unique and largely unexplored cultural, historical, archaeological as well as tangible and intangible natural resources. Those resources are cardinal in attracting visitors and are the basis on which strong tourism industry can be built thereby reinforcing the economic growth.

Benishangul Gumuz State is one of the regions which have a potential of tourism in Ethiopia. Cognizant of the fact that national celebrations and tourism events help countries boost economic development through tourism, this state recently hosted world Tourism Day celebration for the 35th time in Ethiopia.

Having a stay with *The Ethiopian Herald* in connection with the visiting program of Shenga Falls located at 32 kms away from Assosa town in Omosha Woreda, Sheik Hojellie Al-Hassen Civil Trial and Assosa Museum tour guide, Suleiman Abdullahi said that, with its more than 3,000 years of history and more than 80 ethnic communities, each with their own distinct languages, cultures and traditions, norms and cultural assets, Ethiopia stands out as a unique country in Africa.

He said that, the most obscure of Ethiopia's regions, practically never visited by tourists, is Benishangul Gumuz, which runs for about 2,000 km along the Sudanese border to the east of Amhara, this remote and relatively underdeveloped area is characterized by a hot and humid climate with a capital town of Asosa.

He said, "The state is very much endowed with numerous tourist attraction sites among others the Abay Dam, Dejaznach Mohamed Banjaw Palace, His majesty Haileselassie I tree cave, cemetery and civil trial of Sheik Hojellie Al-Hassen, Shenga Falls, Mao Komo National Park, AngTok Spring Water."

For so long and still tourism attraction sites and assets in Benishangul Gumuz region have not been promoted enough due to a number of factors like generation's low level of understanding their country. Basically, knowing Ethiopia well helps make a difference, bridges generation differences and enables the country to be well-to-do, he underlined.

He further stated that, Ethiopia in general and Benishangul Gumuz state in particular is highly endowed with myriads of tourist attraction sites, tangible and intangible heritages as well as natural and manmade attractions.

Tourism is a circulation of people who travel to or stay in places outside their home country; it is also regarded as a major ingredient in the economic development strategy. However, various external and internal factors have been affecting the sustainable development of the tourism industry in the country in general and in the stated region in particular, he added.

"Although Ethiopia possesses numerous natural, religious, historical, non-natural and cultural tourism attractions, the

economic contribution and its potential are unparalleled. Shortage of tourist facilities, lack of skillful human resources, weak promotion, lack of integration and political will are the major negatively contributing factors along this line," he underlined.

According to Suleiman, even though Benishangul Gumuz state possesses massive tourism development potentials with its unique biodiversity and spectacular topographic features, its economic contribution to the country is unmatched. Yes, the state has endowed with tourism potentials. But, its tourism industry development is in an infant stage though promising steps are now being taken to help the state exploit its tourism potentials.

As to him, the existing generation is expected to well know what Ethiopia is and introduce the numerous tourist attraction sites it possesses so as to get the country affluent and aid independent through utilizing its resources.

According to Suleiman, the Ministry of Tourism and state tourism bureaus have to capitalize on a range of tourism potentials via equipping the generation with the required knowledge of their country and transforming the means by which tourism is promoted instead of running scattered activities.

He said, "The tourism sector is now reviving, though not as expected, despite COVID-19, conflict and other related factors' serious impact on the sector. Benishangul Gumuz state has uniquely been rich in minerals, a number of tourist attraction sites, and fundamentally gracious with the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam by which the country will make poverty history within the shortest time possible if we all work on the 70 islands around it. This would undoubtedly help the country boost socio economic progress, cultural development and balance climate change impacts."

As to Suleiman, tourist attraction sites, countless heritages and other resources are here and there in the country, what matters is producing a generation excellently knowing the inside out of the country. In so doing, exploiting the utmost tourism potential for the country out of the sector would be at manageable and beneficial level.

Suleiman further elucidated that, Ethiopia has a wealth of natural and cultural resources, with some unique cultural and natural features that set it apart from other African destinations. In spite of all the opportunities, a range of obstacles and challenges hinder competitive and sustainable tourism development in Ethiopia.

To mention but a few he said, limited understanding of tourism as a development and export sector among high-level government officers, institutional framework in place but weak implementation capacity, lack of skilled human resources and financing as well as improved coordination at all levels, poor quality of service mainly due to lack of trained manpower, very limited accommodating capacity of international standards for leisure tourism, lack of basic and IT infrastructure challenges for tourism businesses, poor visitor management in



natural and heritage sites and little attention for sustainable practices among public and private players.

As learnt from Suleiman, tourism has been a vehicle for economic development. Intuitively, it could be considered as a valuable development opportunity for Ethiopia. Tourism can provide citizens with work opportunities, help establish small, medium and large enterprises, lead to skills development in tourism and contribute to rural development.

As to Suleiman, the sector has also improved infrastructure and ultimately contribute to the government's coffers. Tourism can be a powerful stimulant for economic growth and development, indeed, he said adding that this is especially true for economies with limited resources, where on a macro level, economic growth can be fostered through foreign exchange earnings and increased state revenue, while on a micro level, it can lead to an improvement in individual well-being through job creation, better revenue or income distribution and balanced regional development.

As diversification of the economy and export driven growth are important contributors to sustainable economic growth, Ethiopia, with limited mineral resources of course, has opted for a strategy of industrialization to help it on its growth trajectory.

Suleiman further expounded that World Tourism Day 2022 was celebrated under the theme 'Rethinking Tourism' highlighting the transformative way of exploiting tourism in

various places. Developing countries such as Ethiopia are emerging as the important players, and increasingly aware of their economic potential.

He said, "The importance of inbound tourism has grown exponentially, because of its growing contribution to the economic growth in the long run. Yes, tourism enhances economic growth by augmenting the foreign exchange reserves, stimulating investments in new infrastructure, human capital and increases competition, promoting industrial development, creates jobs."

The nexus between tourism and economic growth has to be well studied and help the nation make a difference in all aspects using the untapped sector. In fact, the contribution of tourism development to economic growth in the Ethiopian economy would be immense if the country is in a position to well exploit it, he added.

In a nut shell, tourism can spur economic prosperity in Ethiopia and other developing countries when the sector has received special attention and great care. Most of the developing countries are devoid of rich facilities and popular tourist incentives to get promoted as important destination and in the long run promotes economic growth.

To this end, these countries need a staunch support from all sections of authorities, non-government organizations, and private sector in due course of attaining sustainable growth in tourism. Both state and non-state actors must recognize this growing industry and its positive implication on economy.



# In the Sphere of Diplomacy

## Safaricom spearheading Ethio-Kenya economic cooperation

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

The diplomatic relationship between Ethiopia and Kenya dates back to 1954 when Ethiopia established its Honorary Consulate office in Kenya. But this relationship got a new momentum in July 1997 following the 31st Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) meeting in which several MoU's on economic, social and political fields were signed.

Moreover, during the 34th JMC meeting, which was held in Nairobi in November 2012 both parties agreed to elevate the JMC to a Summit level and signed the Special Status Agreement (SSA) with the aim of elevating the economic relations between the two countries to a higher level.

The information obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia (MoFA) indicated that the SSA gave special priority to trade and investment promotion, infrastructure development, food security, and sustainable livelihoods.

The economic cooperation between the two countries, therefore, has been gaining momentum through time in the sphere of trade and investment among others. The two nations have been undertaking various measures to create a suitable environment for economic cooperation of which facilitating infrastructure and legal frameworks are part of the endeavor.

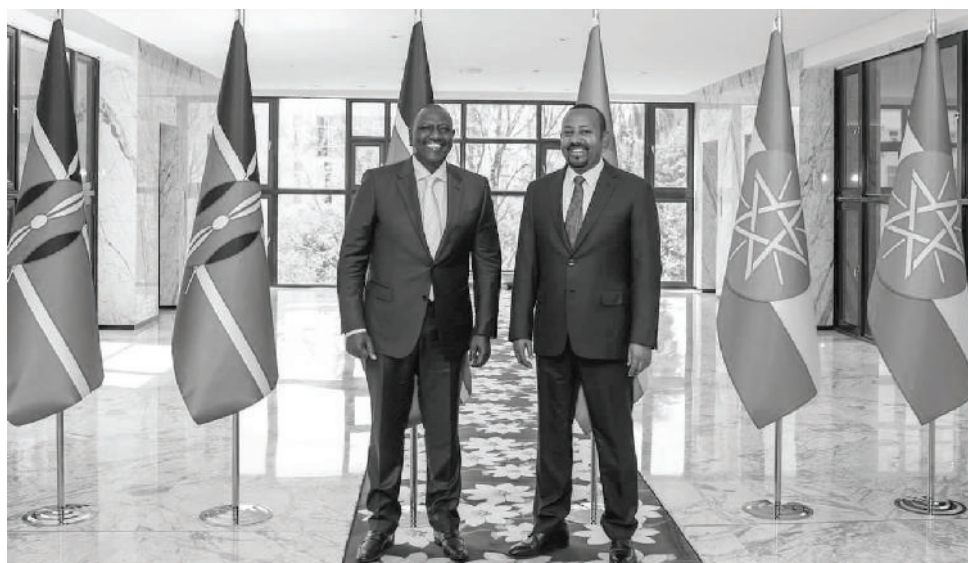
In 2018, Ethiopia undertook a swift reform to liberalize its economy including telecommunications aimed at attracting more investment. This opened a golden opportunity for Kenya's Safaricom to participate in bidding with other partners and won the uppermost share of the Ethiopian Telecom sector accredited for private owners in 2021.

On 29th August 2022, Safaricom, the Kenyan telecom giant began a pilot-faced commercial launch of its Network and services in Dire Dawa to ensure the provision of quality services. This has been followed by trials across eight other cities in various parts of the country. On the 6th of October, Safaricom Ethiopia launched its services in the capital city of Addis Ababa in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) and Kenyan President William Ruto among other high government officials.

"It was just a little over a year ago when we signed the historic Telecom licensing agreement that has paved the path to our gathering here today the licensing agreement signed in 2021 came hot on the heels of a major policy shift Ethiopia has chosen our decision to liberalize the Telecommunications sector was anchored in the understanding that our ambitious economic growth strategy is reliant on leapfrogging Ethiopia into the digital era, Abiy said on the occasion."

Expanding reliable connectivity in every corner of the country is not only essential for providing access to telecommunication; it is critical to address binding constraints in critical sectors like agriculture Health Care Logistics education tourism and Manufacturing.

"When designing our homegrown economic



reform agenda we prioritize the ICT sector as one of the key drivers of economic progress since then we have gone far in implementing important Milestones including the launch of digital Ethiopia 2025," Abiy noted. A strategy for Ethiopia's inclusive prosperity that recognizes the value of the digital economy with a bargaining use population eager to innovate and create Ethiopia offers untapped potential and is already returned on investment in many sectors.

Expansions in the Telecom sector in particular will enable the growth of taking startups and insight into problem-solving innovations to mushroom. A well-planned and executed technology deployment that is accessible to millions of people has a catalytic effect in creating the necessary environment for our users to be the engine of our economy and they use their entrepreneurial skill to compete globally, the premier stated.

Ethiopia is on an unstoppable growth trajectory. The people have been working over the past four years to unlock the immense potential the country possesses as a nation. The international investment entities which have taken part in building network and data infrastructure are a testament that Ethiopia is an attractive investment destination for Global investors all the way from the United Kingdom to South Africa from Kenya to Japan.

These investments are also expected to ensure that knowledge transfer and local capacity building are at the core of operations. The liberalization provides an enormous opportunity for Ethiopia to leverage the technical and operational know-how of entrants into the market like the global partnership for Ethiopia so the management of Safaricom Ethiopia as you proceeds in fulfilling the licensed network coverage obligations in the specified duration. "I ask you to also accelerate the Smart City, digital education, and inclusion programs envisioned in all regions and dispense your corporate social responsibility in your new home," Abiy stated.

Speaking at the occasion, President William Ruto expressed the event as a beautiful celebration of the character strength and promise of the deep relationship between Kenya and Ethiopia which dates back to six decades ago. It testifies to the deep brotherly ties exemplary neighborliness and effective partnership that has characterized the essence of the excellent special

relationship between the two countries. It is a relationship that was forged by historic friendship and selfless collaboration in this freedom struggle that evolved into the nucleus which anchored Pan-African solidarity given that we are in this great city which remains the Glorious home of African Unity. It is, therefore, wonderful to witness the splendid transformation underway in Ethiopia which is integral to the momentum of progress taking place in the region.

An important characteristic of this transformation everywhere occurs is the convergence of critical dimensions of rapid sustainable progress aligned in ways that are impossible to ignore and appropriate to acknowledge and embrace. "This event is the culmination of a fruitful convergence between the local and the global. This bottom-up alignment lists a regional dimension thus a local company Safaricom Ethiopia came into existence when Kenya's Safaricom attracted an international investment joint venture comprising organizations from South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Japan."

When the government of Ethiopia resolved to liberalize the Telecommunications sector in 2018, it was inspired and determined to use the opportunity to harness the potential in bringing together the best of local regional are international strategic resources. It is also another key milestone among the two countries' shared journey of progress underscored by many success stories in infrastructure development, cross-border trade, peace and security, and defense cooperation including diplomacy. "We are encouraged by this strong affirmation that the excellent tradition of neighborliness synergy shall continue and flourish," President Ruto said.

Another way of appreciating this event is by considering the convergence of capital and technology which effectively unlocked the Ethiopian government's vision of catalyzing economic performance by liberalizing its telecommunications sector through a highly strategic approach the launch of Safaricom Ethiopia, therefore, is a record-breaking event. It has attracted investments that will over the next 10 years rise to 10 billion USD thereby creating millions of direct jobs through the rollout of services and many more indirectly.

This will also make a tremendous contribution to the growth of national revenue. "We are also witnessing the

culmination of a beautiful African event that should be replicated consistently throughout our continent," he underlined. It is the convergence of resources and opportunity to develop transformational infrastructure that will unleash charges of prosperity that will uplift the two nations and also their people. Africa has come of age and it is time to configure strategies so that the economies attract global capital that will help deliver sustainable prosperity here at home.

According to Ruto, the telecommunications sector is one of Kenya's biggest employers providing opportunities for millions of young people both directly and indirectly. It enhances the performance of every sector delivering improved services more efficiently and enhancing citizen satisfaction. This is good news for the government and the people at the Golden Age of productivity and prosperity is at hand powered by a robust ICT ecosystem harnessing innovation in the digital economy and financial technology.

He also congratulated Safaricom Ethiopia for seizing the opportunity to take full charge of emerging opportunities on the path to a destiny of abundance the promise behind Safaricom Ethiopia's entry as the second national telecoms operator is already being felt. The Firm has so far recruited 460 Ethiopian staff and 50 graduate trainees to create the seminal talent cohort of digital innovators it is also working with regional universities to recruit an additional 100 graduates. This year 1500 Ethiopian businesses are working with Safaricom Ethiopia to develop supply chains and network landlords with intentions to expand these growing partnerships and supply chains throughout the country.

Expressing his self-assurance on the success of the telecom plc, Ruto said that he has been assured that the company is committed to providing commercial services in 25 cities and meeting its license network coverage obligations required by April next year. "I commend you my brother Dr. Abiy for steadfastly embarking on this Monumental Game Changer in Ethiopian and Regional infrastructure and ICT landscape. This is an emphatic signal that the African Unity of our time has come of age."

A continent united by opportunity ended up with Pan-Africanism driven by trade and reliable connectivity. It is indispensable for competitiveness and the development of a world-class technological and innovative capacity.

"I am confident. therefore that your [Abiy's] government will positively consider Safaricom Ethiopia's pending request for a license to provide mobile money service within the existing national framework and for realizing your transformational vision in terms of the bold and exciting national 10-year perspective plan championed by your excellency and which is indispensable in unlocking new potential in Ethiopia," he said. Safaricom's participation makes this project the largest investment made abroad by a Kenyan company the new Safaricom will definitely strengthen Safaricom's performance and Propel its Medium as well as long-term growth for our mutual benefit.



# Law & Politics

## Human Rights as fig leaf to external intervention

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) has conducted a sham probe and came up with a political document laden with conspiracies to serve as a political fig leaf to the continued unjust pressure on Ethiopia.

Deviating from the reality and preparing a fake report marred by misinterpretations, and invalid conclusions, the Commission has tried to cover up terrorist TPLF's atrocities and incriminate the federal government with unfounded allegations.

Obviously, human rights issues have been used as a pretext for external intervention. From Libya to Yemen, foreign entities have been trying to meet their interests under the guise of the protection of civilians and human rights. And, Ethiopia has been a victim of foreign meddling since the onset of the TPLF-provoked war.

There is no denying the fact that since the onset of the disgruntled group's assault on the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, some foreign entities have been whitewashing the reality on the ground, emboldening the group to escalate tensions and turning the lives of noncombatants into a bottomless pitch over and over again. What's more, failing to stand with the truth, some foreign affiliates have been adding fuel to the fire and inflaming an already intense situation by bringing misleading information into play. The report of the Commission in this regard is part of the continued external pressure.

For the sake of pursuing its hidden agenda going on behind closed doors, the Commission has tried to drag through the mud the positive gesture of the government. In the present circumstances, led by the criminal enterprise and some foreign entities, Ethiopia has been facing a range of unfounded accusations.

Disheartened by the discoveries of the JIT, some nations consequently rushed into establishing the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia using the UN Human Rights Council as an instrument, a politically motivated decision directed at the Ethiopian government and its people.

It is public knowledge that the incumbent has been working in close collaboration with the joint team of the UN Human Rights Body and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission with the intention of conducting an investigation for the most part on atrocities perpetrated in the Tigray state.

However, taking sides with the illegal group the Commission has distorted facts and parroted the narratives and propaganda of the unlawful group, pointing the finger at the Ethiopian government.

## THE POLITICIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

As a show of good faith, the incumbent established a committee and entered into actual works to bring human rights perpetrators before the court.

The Commission has continued dragging its feet to divulge the nefarious deeds of the terrorist group that has been working around the clock with paid activists and sympathizers to sweep under the carpet crimes perpetrated in various parts of the northern part of the country with no ill consequences. For the sake of truth, the unmarked graves located across various locations of Amhara and Afar states in black and white demonstrate the true behavior of the rouge group.

Though the group in a number of instances has become involved in a smear campaign against Ethiopia and partaking in saber-rattling activities working in close collaboration with internal and external actors, the Commission report does not say anything about the truth unfolding across the country. The other thing is in the face of the incumbent's unflinching stance to make peace happen at the earliest possible juncture.

In a similar vein, the criminal organization working in close collaboration with some foreign entities has been spreading unbalanced and fictitious stories and propaganda warfare, increasing pressure on Ethiopia and parroting the hidden interest of the criminal enterprise.

Apparently, a number of countries have come to realize ICHREE's far-fetched political agenda and denounced the politicization of human rights issues in Ethiopia. As most nations right from the beginning know the concealed truth going on behind closed curtains, they have rejected the Commission's report.

Lately, African and other members of the Human Rights Council gave the cold shoulder to the politicization of the human rights circumstances in Ethiopia. They voiced solidarity with Ethiopia and objected to the EU-sponsored resolution to renew the mandate of the ICHREE.

At the Human Rights Council in Geneva on

7 October '2022, African and other members of the Human Rights Council rejected the politicization of the human rights situation in Ethiopia. They expressed solidarity with Ethiopia and opposed the EU-sponsored Resolution to renew the mandate of the ICHREE.

In a press release issued lately Ethiopian Permanent Mission to the United Nations said that, Ethiopia is grateful to all members of the Council who opposed the resolution and also to those who showed solidarity by denying support to the resolution and voting abstention. Through their vote, they opposed intervention, destabilization, and encroachment on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia,

Through their vote, these countries gave recognition to the genuine national efforts well underway in implementing the recommendations of the Joint Investigation Report by the Office of the High Commissioners for Human Rights and the Ethiopian National Human Rights commission consistent with the principle of subsidiarity. They recognized the government's effort to ensure accountability and redress to victims as well as its commitment to resolving the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia through peaceful means.

Their votes are a testimony of solidarity but also an encouragement for the government of Ethiopia to pursue its endeavors in the promotion and protection of human rights. The two vote's margin for the passing of the resolution and the abstentions are a clear message to the sponsors of the resolutions that undue interference in internal affairs is unworthy and unacceptable. It also underlined that the established mechanism lacks credibility.

Commenting on the hybrid war Ethiopia has been fighting, the European and American Affairs Director-General told ENA that Ethiopia has been tackling multi-pronged diplomatic battles with its ample experiences in thwarting global odds in its history.

European and American Affairs Director-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Eshete Tilahun told ENA that although the country is walking on a difficult path it is fighting side by side for peace, development, progress, and democracy. "We are showing the world that the current Ethiopian struggle is not just a one-dimensional struggle," he pointed out.

According to him, there is still a lot of unfair pressure from the international community and organizations against Ethiopia since the TPLF attack in the northern part of the country.

Recalling the joint investigation report of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights into alleged human rights violations as an example, the director-general explained that the findings were submitted to the Human Right Council in Geneva and endorsed

unanimously without any reservation as well as without any precondition.

And Ethiopia established an Inter-Ministerial Taskforce as a follow-up to implement the recommendations.

But "those who have ill-ambition against Ethiopia and want it to bow down to their influence have been trying to exert undue pressure by establishing the International Commission of Human Rights Expert on Ethiopia (ICHREE)."

Recall that the ICHREE presented its initial findings on the alleged human rights violation in Tigray and accused the Ethiopian government of crimes against humanity.

However, the director-general stressed that the influence of another party is not something that needs coercion since this country is committed to the protection of human rights.

In connection with this, he observed that the international giant organization, the United Nations (UN), is not serving the very purpose of its establishment. As a result, Ethiopia has become one of the victims of this wrong global approach.

Eshete noted that, Ethiopia has had ample experience throughout its history in facing such odds before, but it thwarted all threats by galvanizing the people.

According to him, "The agenda of the United Nations is eroding over time and turning into a platform of influence. It is necessary to fight this as the challenge of our time. Let alone this diplomatic struggle, we Ethiopians have overcome many more dangers in our freedom fights. To preserve the price paid by the previous generation and to take care of the freedom of the country, it is necessary to face such challenges."

Noting the decisions by the UN regarding the results of the ICHREE study are largely based on the voluntariness of countries, he pointed out that some countries, especially economically developed countries, may take individual policies and measures to implement such decisions.

Eshete pointed out that no matter how the unwarranted pressures are being reinforced; Ethiopia has kept its diplomatic struggle with the support of the African Union, its member countries, and global friends of Ethiopia to prevent unfair decisions.

As long as the desired goal of foreign entities is twisting Ethiopia's arm under the guise of a wide spectrum of weak reasons, all African nations should move heaven and earth to stand together and halt foreign pressure.

As some groups leave no stone unturned to put unwarranted foreign pressure on Ethiopia and the rest of Africa bringing a number of strategies into play, African nations should work hand in glove to turn aside external foreign pressure and say no to fictitious stories that make an effort to escalate tension and move the country into uncharted waters.



# Society

## Disability is not inability

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Life has different faces and paths; it has several ups and downs; happiness and grief are part of this life journey. Disability is among the challenges humankind face during their life. In addition to the physical challenges the psychological suffering of individuals with disability is severe one. Not only those direct victims of the problem, parents or family members are among the people who will suffer the pain. However, with all these challenges, there are some individuals, groups or organizations that would stretch their hands to support individuals with physical disabilities. Addis Guzo organization is among such institutions that are founded with the mission of supporting individuals with physical disability. This organization was founded some years ago by Swiss born husband and wife - Bernhard and Christin Oberli- whose heart is full of compassion for those individuals with physical disabilities. Addis Guzo- which is a non-profitable organization- assembles wheelchairs and provides other relevant services to individuals with disabilities. Due to its service, several Ethiopians have become beneficiaries.

Muna Taju, is the mother of a three years old Ferhan, who has become handicapped starting from six month. The moment Muna realized her daughter was experiencing

physical disability she took her to a public hospital. However, the process to get the service there was not easy as she expected. While she was looking for other options to help her little daughter Muna heard from a friend about Addis Guzo- a nonprofit organization.

"I heard about Addis Guzo from friends. Starting from the time I heard that good news, I was relieved. After I got a letter of recommendation about my economic status from Kebele I went to Addis Guzo and explained about my daughter's physical situation. The man who was examining my daughter gave news of hope. Before I heard such good news, I was highly stressed. While she was eight months of age my daughter could not even hold her milk bottle and had difficulties walking or sitting by her at the age one year. However, after she got treatment at Addis Guzo I saw a radical shift in her status. She was able to walk and sit. She even started to say Mom or Dad clearly, which she could not do before. She is able to identify her father and mother. Currently, there is a dramatic change in her life. The cause behind this change next to Allah is Addis Guzo. I really thank them."

According to Muna, the treatment her daughter got at Addis Guzo is beyond her expectations. "Am happy with that and am trying to give her more love and care now. They give us training including the way we

should feed our children and the physical exercises they should get. There are some children who could not swallow their food. This type of child needs special care. Whenever I returned back home I practiced what they trained me. I have given everything I have for my daughter to fill her gaps."

In addition to individuals like Ferhan there are other individuals with disabilities who are getting physical and psychological support from Addis Guzo. A woman who prefers to be anonymous is among those individuals whose lifestyle has changed because of the training she got from the Organization. According to her, if it was not because of Addis Guzo, life would be harsh for her and her family members. However, currently, she is an independent woman with skills and monthly income.

"Frankly speaking, Addis Guzo deserves appreciation. It is helping several individuals with disabilities. I am among them. If I didn't join Addis Guzo and get the training, life would be difficult for me. I have three children. My husband is disabled as well and his income is not that much satisfactory. However, due to the training I got from Addis Guzo I am able to support my family."



There is a saying that "Disability is not inability." Indeed, it is not! Several individuals with disabilities have astonished the world with their great achievements; there are individuals with physical disabilities but strong mental ability that reversed the old saying "Disability is inability." There are also some individuals with disabilities who failed to show their abilities to the world because of lack of opportunities and access to training. In this regard, besides providing physical treatment to individuals with disabilities, having responsible organizations like that of Addis Guzo have a significant role in uplifting the morale of those members of the society. What is more, the old thought of associating physical disabilities with curse or wrath of the creator should be reversed and parents have to take their children to health centers instead of locking them in the house for fear of social isolation.



**Published on every Tuesday in cooperation  
with the Federal Ministry of Education**

## First round grade 12 national examinations begins

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

The Ministry of Education has stated that more than 560,000 students began sitting for the 12th grade national exam in 130 centers in universities across the nation in a calm and peaceful manner yesterday.

On the eve of the first round grade twelve the 2021/2022 national exam, FDRE Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) expressed his warmest wishes and his expectations to all Ethiopian students who sat for national.

The Premier said: "The future confidences of our country, when Ethiopia looks at you, it is hope that she sees. I believe that this 12th grade exam will prove that you are a true hope for Ethiopia. Your parents, teachers and entire community have devoted themselves a lot for years to get you here. You will show the results when you are free from fraud and theft, confident in yourself and take the test. Follow your instructions. Take your test calmly. Don't be afraid of anything. May the God of Ethiopia reveal his knowledge to you."

As well, the Minister of Education, Prof. Birhanu Nega with the State Ministers gave a statement regarding the commencement of the examination and the general process.

"More than 560,000 students started sitting for the 2021/2022 grade twelve national exams in 130 centers in a calm and peaceful



Some of students being invigilated at Addis Ababa University

manner," Prof Birhanu said.

The minister also pointed out that a bridge

in the main campus of Hawassa University collapsed and some students have faced accident.



The Ministers expressed their condolences to the students who were injured in the accident and were taken to a hospital to be treated.

"The students who were injured in the accident will be allowed to take the exam after they recover. We wish all the students who are taking the 12th grade national exit exam to be a good exam for all the students who begin it today across our country," Prof. Birhanu said it yesterday.



## Planet

# Regreening Ethiopia through proven afforestation mechanisms

BY EPHREM ANDARAGCHEW

Land degradation refers to the long-term loss of ecosystem services, and it is a major global problem. Studies indicated that the effects of land degradation cover a significant percentage of the global land area and people. The nature of land degradation takes many forms that affect forests, soils, water, biodiversity, the economy, social services, and so on.

Land degradation happens in almost all terrestrial biomes and agro-ecologies, in both developed and developing countries. Nevertheless, the impact is severe for developing countries since they are heavily dependent on natural resources which are vividly seen in Sub-Saharan African countries.

Ethiopia is a populous country in Africa and its economy is highly reliant on agriculture with rain-fed, smallholder farming representing a significant percentage of national agricultural outputs. The country's agricultural activities are the major cause of forest and land degradation since they require the expansion of agricultural lands and cause overgrazing. Besides, rapid population growth along with fuelwood needs, recurrent droughts, and deep-rooted poverty have been the causes for degradation in Ethiopia's context.

Hence, taking these facts into account, the government has designed strong economic growth strategies and committed to achieving the ambitious development goals protecting existing forests and restoring degraded lands. Otherwise, land degradation poses a serious threat to the livelihoods of the people.

Policies, strategies, proclamations, programs and plans have been developed to safeguard the country's forest coverage. If all the measures have been put in place, they would address the conservation and development of forest resources and landscape restoration interventions. Even the country prepares a 10 years plan which helps to restore degraded land and conserve forest resources.

According to Ethiopia Forest Development (EFD), Ethiopia is more committed to realizing land restoration of 22 million ha of degraded lands and forests by 2030. It has also announced that Ethiopia has achieved a five-year project of Re-greening Africa with trees ahead of time.

Recently, a workshop was held under the theme, Re-greening Africa: Inclusive and Evidence-Based Approaches to Accelerating Land Restoration in Ethiopia. Ethiopia Forest Development



General Director Kebede Yimam said that Ethiopia's natural resources have been degrading over time due to various anthropogenic and natural factors.

Hence, efforts have been made to combat these problems through landscape restoration. In order to strengthen these efforts, Ethiopia set an ambitious target of afforesting 22 million ha of degraded lands by 2030 which pledged on the Bonn Challenge and New York Declaration, he explained.

Moreover, Ethiopia has also prepared 10 years National Forest Sector Development Plan, National REDD+ Strategy, National Restoration Mapping, 10 years Bamboo strategy and Action plans including other policy and legal frameworks which are imperative to implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a national greening plan, according to General Director Kebede.

Taking European Union funded Regreening Africa project into account, the project has been carried out by a consortium comprising Catholic Relief Services (CRS) as the country-lead NGO, World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) as implementing partner, and World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) Ethiopia country office for technical support, Kebede stated.

The aforesaid project has set a target of regreening 200,000 ha of degraded land by reaching out to 120,000 households. In four years, a total of 217,056 ha was put under restoration via reaching out to 156,206 households in Oromia, South Nations Nationalities and People, Amhara, and Tigray State.

Regreening Africa Programme Manager Mieke Bourne told *The Ethiopian Herald* that through such regreening program, we had been gaining a great lessons such as

adapting all types of restoration to a local context, practicing Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), working with local structure and government to reach out to a very large number of people, bringing behavioral change on how to look at land restoration activities and the like.

According to him, the program has enabled farmers to integrate land restoration with soil and water conservation apart from familiarizing the local community with elements of economic incentives and livelihoods. Besides, the program has created enabling environment to manage overgrazing and integrate information, data, and science from the community perspective, Bourne added.

Indeed, land degradation is not new in Ethiopia, and many initiatives have been applied to restore degraded land with the aim of improving local livelihoods and landscapes while building resilience in the face of climate change.

However, sustaining the initiative has remained as the biggest challenge. Besides, having and developing a land restoration project alone is not enough, it is important to focus on factors that lead to the successful implementation of the project through context-specific bases. For this to happen, identifying the living condition and context of the people is key as it is helpful to know the barriers and opportunities.

***Ethiopia is a populous country in Africa and its economy is highly reliant on agriculture with rain-fed, smallholder farming representing a significant percentage of national agricultural outputs***