



# The Ethiopian Herald

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Photo - Gebabro Gebre

## Ethiopia's deterrence gaining momentum: Defense Minister

BY BILAL DERSO

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopia has been building a modern and able army and its capability has forced enemy quarters to shun provocative attempts, the Defense Minister Abraham Belay (PhD) said, adding the country has now reached a

point where no one can shake it.

The Defense Minister Abraham Belay (PhD) made the above remark while opening the panel discussion held yesterday in connection with the Defense Day.

The minister further noted that, Ethiopia has built the defense force that is feared

from far and the committed and disciplined army has made the desire to attack the nation an illusion. Consolidated efforts have been carried out to equip the army with most advanced technologies and personnel to avert any threat from local and foreign culprits.

See Ethiopia's ... page 3

## Diasporas call on T-TPLF's apologists to refrain from destabilizing HoA

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA** - Members of Ethiopian, Eritrean and Somali Diaspora community urged some foreign forces to refrain from exploiting African countries as well as destabilizing the Horn of Africa (HoA) countries.

Members of the diaspora community made the above remark during their rally that was held last Sunday in front of the White House in support of the Ethiopian government and opposition to the intervention of some

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**TDP emphasizes humanitarian, psychological support to Tigray people**

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## Premier congratulates Xi on his third term reelection

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA** - President of the Ethiopian ruling Prosperity Party (PP) Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has congratulated Xi Jinping on his reelection as Secretary General of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

In his congratulatory message, PP President and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said that

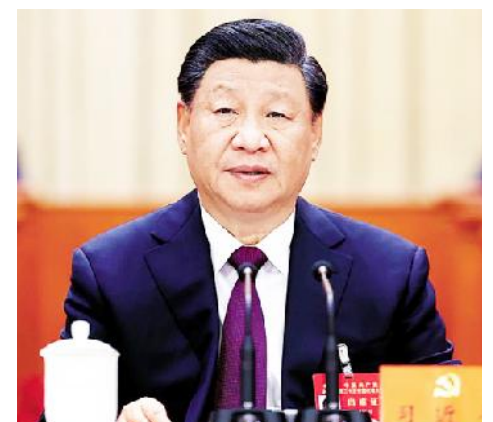
Xi's as leader of the most successful party is conclusive proof of his effective leadership, as evidenced by multifaceted achievements from which the Chinese people have benefited directly.

Abiy also stated that over the previous years of leadership, Xi has played an important role not only in sustaining national economic development but also in safeguarding China's global influence,

overcoming significant global challenges and shocks.

According to Abiy, Xi's unwavering effort to improve the quality of economic development and close the wealth gap among Chinese people is a valuable lesson for developing countries like Ethiopia. "Your party's special emphasis on science,

See Premier congratulates ... page 3





# News



## Some UNSC members urged to avoid steps obstructing peace talks

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** — Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations Ambassador Taye Atske Selassie disclosed that Ethiopia called upon some United Nations Security Council (UNSC) members to avoid taking steps that may cast doubt on the AU-led peace process.

Briefing Media after Friday’s private meeting of UNSC on Ethiopia, Amb. Taye Atske Selassie underlined the commitment of Ethiopian government for the protection of the human rights, humanitarian assistance delivery and protection of civilians, and measures are already taken to facilitate transport and delivery of humanitarian assistance to areas under Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF).

“The Security Council had a private meeting, and Ethiopia was discussed under the agenda ‘Peace and Security in Africa,’ Ethiopia has used the opportunity to update the council on the situation in Northern Ethiopia and the development the past few days,” he added.

Amb. Taye also explained to council members that as safeguarding the sovereignty of the country is a timely quest, the government of Ethiopia and security forces can station and operate from any part of the country including all areas in Tigray state.

He also underscored that the government is committed to and capable of ensuring peaceful means under the AU-led peace effort and AU envoy of the Horn of Africa.

He urged council members to support this process and avoid taking any step that might cast doubts on the AU- led peace process.

## Ethio telecom, MoTRI ink agreement to launch online payment

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) yesterday signed partnership agreement with Ethio telecom to help customers discharge commercial registration payment, trade license and trade name related service payments using digital payment system via telebirr.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, MoTRI Minister, Gebremeskel Chala said that, the telebirr payment system is easy, fast, convenient and secured.

“The telebirr has been launched to ease processes of new commercial registration, amendment, replacement and cancellation,” he said.

Ethio telecom CEO, Frehiwot Tamru also said that, the telebirr payment system has already been integrated with banks and several public and private institutions so far. The company has been working to integrate more institutions and organizations with several service types and make digital payments easy.

The customers of the institution can therefore, visit [www.etrade.gov.et](http://www.etrade.gov.et). login with their account, select service type, fill the application form online and use the payment order number they receive, and easily settle the service fees using telebirr



application or by dialing to \*127#, it was stated.

As learnt from ethio-telecom, the digital payment system through Telebirr has acquired 24.9 million customers within a short period, 101 master agents, 87,000

agents and 23,000 merchants. Besides, the platform has been integrated with 16 banks to transfer money from bank to telebirr and with 13 banks to transfer money from telebirr to bank and over 101.1 billion Birr has been transacted.

## Ethiopia vows to enhance contribution for UN goals

• *Marks UN Day*

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA** - As a founding member of the United Nations (UN), Ethiopia is committed to strengthen its role in the UN peacekeeping missions thereby enhancing contribution for global peace and stability, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

Speaking at the celebration of the 2022 UN Day International Organizations Affairs Director General with MoFA Ayele Lire stated that Ethiopia has been working to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals through creating different implementing strategies.

Citing the issue of global climate change, the director-general indicated the country has been working to fight against global environmental change through launching national green legacy initiative.

“Ethiopia will also continue to echo Africa’s voice for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and its efforts to ensure the Council respects African voices will also be consolidated.”

In a message he delivered in connection with the day, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres stated that the organization is being tested like never before.



“Now, more than ever, we need to bring to life the values and principles of the UN Charter in every corner of the world by giving peace a chance, ending conflicts, working to end extreme poverty, reduce inequalities, and rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and balancing the scales of opportunity and freedom for women and girls and ensure human rights for all.”

“As we mark UN Day, let us renew our hope and conviction in what humanity can achieve when we work as one, in global solidarity,” the secretary-general stressed.

UN Day was colourfully celebrated yesterday in Addis Ababa in the presence of higher government officials, diplomats, representatives of the African Union and other concerned institutions.



# News

## Debre Birhan to host Int'l investment expo

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Mayor of Debre Birhan City announced that the city has been carrying out various activities to host International Investment, Trade and Finance Expo in the near future.

Speaking at an event organized to introduce expo due to be held from January 12-22/2023 under the theme: “Debrebirhan International Investment, Trade and Finance Expo 2023” yesterday, the city’s Mayor Kassahun Embialew said that, the main purpose of the expo is to reinvigorate the investment and industry sectors in north shoa zone of Amhara state in particular, which was seriously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the northern conflict.

As to the Mayor, the event is expected to form global platform for the promotion of investment and trade opportunities and invite governmental institutions, public enterprises, and leading investors worldwide. The expo would provide a number of companies with multilateral advantages such as developing new selling areas, fostering global public-private partnership projects and business to business (B2B) relations.

Over 800 African countries, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean as well as over 220,000 visitors would take part in the event



and benefit out of enlarging sales, business matchmaking (B2B) and networking. In so doing, the expo is expected to improve residents’ livelihood, boost investors, manufacturing industries engagement and create jobs.

Zonal Industry and Investment Department Head Birhan Gebrhiwot on his part said that the expo would play a decisive role in reviving the investment sector, industries, economy and social developments as well as increasing the flow of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country at large.

The Head further stated that, Debre Birhan has over 500 investments engaging in industries, hospitalities, manufacturing, and the likes. Of

these total sectors, manufacturing sector has shared 80 percent (it covers over 360 out of over 500 ones), and it enables the city to create over 70,000 jobs upon completion and running activities in full swing.

The city has conducted research in collaboration with Debre Birhan University, some 76 selected sectors which are fond of using local materials, capable of producing a lot and exporting products thereby reducing foreign exchange challenge.

Participants drawn from local and international investors, trade corners, microfinance and insurance, youth entrepreneurs, and the likes will attend the event in Debre Birhan city.

## TDP emphasizes humanitarian, psychological support to Tigray people

BY BETELHEM BEDL

**ADDIS ABABA**- The measures that are being taken by the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) are important for the access of humanitarian aid and psychological rehabilitation of the people of Tigray, The Tigray Democratic Party (TDP) said, calling for more support.

TDP Chairperson Aregawi Berehe (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the action being taken by the sacrifice of the heroic ENDF will free the people of Tigray from their human and psychological pressure and bring them back to peace. The party has full confidence that the ENDF will wipe out the terrorist group that has exposed the people to grave danger and return the state to peace. “We asked the government to fulfill its responsibility till the end.”

The Terrorist TPLF claimed that it stands for the people of Tigray, but it left the people aside and the entire leadership gathered in Addis Ababa, owned property, collected wealth, sent their children abroad for education and treatment, and have been living an affluent life.

The criminal faction has been using the people for its purposes by making the people dependent on humanitarian aid due to hunger and not asking for their rights. Not only that, but during their time in power, T-TPLF leaders inflicted the same political and economic oppression on the people of Ethiopia, the veteran politician elaborated.

Noting the T-TPLF was ousted from power by public resistance and forced to flee from power to Mekelle, Aregawi indicated the faction organized itself for war in order to escape from responsibility. “Donor groups are using the humanitarian aid they meant to the people of Tigray to feed the army, causing the people to suffer in malnutrition. T-TPLF robbed 1,600 trucks loaded with humanitarian aid and cars loaded with thousands of liters of fuel and using them for military use in a manifestation of absolute brutality.”

The people of Tigray have fallen into a problem that they have never seen in history by forcing the youth of Tigray to engage in war. TDP called on the international community to stand by the government to provide the necessary support to the people affected by hunger and psychological distress in the areas under the control of the ENDF.

When the T-TPLF realized its failure, it pretended to be a peace seeker, and the clique was struggling to save itself. The government should continue its actions without being intimidated by the loud voices of biased and bribed media, the chairperson pleaded.

## Ethiopia's...

“Ethiopia establishes a strong army equipped with trained personnel and up-to-date military capabilities that sends a strong message to our historic enemies that the country has the capability to thwart any destructive attempts.”

Noting Ethiopia’s enemies have tried to throw the country continuously, Abraham stressed its current ability to build an army that can win without fighting. “Ethiopia is blessed with brave soldiers who prove that its territorial unity will not be violated by anyone.”

In a research paper presented at the panel, the Authority for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage Director General Abebaw Ayalew said though the Ethiopian army was less equipped and trained and hard pressed by severe logistical and communication challenges, it fended off foreign aggressors armed to the teeth for several years.

The determination to remain independent and defend Ethiopia’s soil from foreign aggressor remained unrelenting in following Ethiopia’s victory over Fascist Italy and mushroomed into the modern army in the subsequent years, the historian elaborated.

High-ranking military officers of Ethiopia’s current and previous regimes as well as other guests attended the panel discussion which was also accompanied by a photo exhibition.

It was stated that Ethiopia established a modern army in 1952.

## Diasporas call on T-TPLF's..

foreign forces and attended by Ethiopians, Eritreans, and Somalis living in and around the Washington DC.

During the rally, protestors asked some members of the international community, including the U.S., to stop their support to the terrorist TPLF, ethnic and religious-based divisions, exploitation of any African country, spreading of misinformation, as well as scapegoating of Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia. “The US, EU, and UN stop destabilizing the Horn of Africa.”

According to the demonstrators, the T-TPLF launched the conflict by attacking the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) and fired missiles at Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, to advance its belligerent agenda of territorial expansion and regime change in Eritrea. And the group is not acting to better the entire region.

The federal government of Ethiopia has dutifully respected the unilateral and permanent ceasefire that it had declared

repeatedly. Yet, the T-TPLF unleashes continuous wars and pursuit of destructive agenda, marchers also stated.

“It is waging successive wars and losing thousands of ethnic-Tigray youths needlessly. Millions of Ethiopians are suffering and lost their properties all because of the T-TPLF.”

The demonstrators further stated that the criminal group has massacred thousands of civilians. And, the region is facing countless unnecessary deaths.

There are countless reports of atrocities including the forced recruitment of children to their baseless war, the campaigners said adding, that the T-TPLF has also stolen the World Food Programme’s fuel and food aid to use for its military operations.

During the rally, Eritreans and people of Eritrean descent affirmed that they have always fought for peace and continue to strive for peaceful relations and resolutions. The U.S. and the international community should condemn the Terrorist TPLF, they added.

## Premier congratulates...

innovation, and technology has successfully paved the way for China's journey toward multidimensional prosperity.”

The technological breakthrough that has resulted from the CPC's strategic focus and your specific leadership attention has not only helped China stand strong domestically, but has also contributed to its positive influence in the global landscape, Abiy further noted.

He added that Ethiopia has learned a lot from the CPC's experiences with human-centered development, effective governance and grassroots public service, shared prosperity, and selfless leadership for the benefit of

citizens.

Under Xi’s leadership, China is a dependable strategic partner for Ethiopia. Both countries have been truly cooperating and effectively working together on a number of issues for the benefit of their peoples, according to Abiy.

“Your reelection as General Secretary of CPC will strengthen the CPC's already strong relationship and cooperation with the Prosperity Party,” Abiy said. He added that the PP and its entire leadership, including himself, will continue to collaborate with the CPC.



# Opinion

## Deliver Us from the TPLF (D)evil!

BY ALMARIAM

### PART ONE

Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name...  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from the TPLF (D)evil." (Lord's Prayer adaptation.)

Thank God Almighty; we shall be delivered from the TPLF Devil soon!

#### Can you talk/negotiate with the Children of Lucifer?

It is official, at least from the Ethiopian Government's side. Redwan Hussien, National Security Advisor to PM Abiy Ahmed on October 20, 2022 tweeted "AUC has informed us that the Peace Talks is set for 24 Oct, 2022 to be held in South Africa. We have reconfirmed our commitment to participate."

But terrorist TPLF has kept mum. That's because there will be NO NEGOTIATIONS! A couple of weeks ago, terrorist TPLF agreed to travel to South Africa for "peace talks" but at the last minute chickened out.

*The million-dollar question is: Is it possible to negotiate with the Children of Lucifer?*

I have studied the negotiation strategies and tactics of the TPLF over the years and arrived at key empirically supported conclusions. For the TPLF, negotiations are elaborate zero-sum games of deceit, duplicity, treachery, trickery, pretense and smoke and mirrors.

Infected with zero-sum thinking, TPLF leaders are convinced they can outsmart, outmaneuver, outfox, out manipulate, outplay, outperform, outcheat, outhustle and out bully their opponents. They are convinced in any negotiation, they must win all the time and their opponents must lose every time.

In the past, those who have negotiated with the TPLF have made a Faustian bargain. They have sold their souls to TPLF to gain a few crumbs.

#### The "zero-sum" negotiating strategy of the TPLF

Fighting in the bush decades ago, the TPLF leaders perfected their negotiation strategy: Weaponize "negotiations" to annihilate your enemies.

In the bush, the TPLF would invite leaders of opposition elements, dissidents within its ranks and others it suspects or wants to destroy to a "negotiation", wine and dine them and then literally slaughter them overnight.

On November 4, 2020, that was exactly what the TPLF did to the leadership and troops of the Ethiopian Northern Command. They invited them to a "discussion" over dinner and overnight slaughtered them. Hours before the slaughter at the Northern Command headquarters, terrorist TPLF leader Debretsion Gebremichael negotiated for delivery of money to Tigray with PM Abiy Ahmed.

When PM Abiy airlifted 1.2 billion Birr to Mekelle Airport, Debretsion had already launched his "mebreqawi" (blitzkrieg) attack. Few truly understand how the TPLF has cleverly and strategically used "negotiations" to seize and remain in power for 27 years!

In 1991, the TPLF used "negotiations" in London to swiftly install itself in power. What a "negotiation" that was!

The TPLF hoodwinked Herman Cohen, then

Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, at the negotiating table into announcing "the rebel leadership has assured us that they plan for a broadly based provisional government leading to a democratic constitution for Ethiopia."

"Broad-based provisional government" ended up being a narrowly based minority apartheid state totally dominated by the TPLF. For decades, every time the TPLF found its rear end in the ringer and boxed in, it squealed like a stuck pig, "We are ready to negotiate! We are ready to talk!"

For the TPLF, negotiations, discussions, mediation, discussion, etc., are all games; Game of thrones; Deadly games. Zero - sum game; that means the TPLF always wins 100 percent of the time and everybody else loses 100 percent of the time.

Ultimately, negotiation for the terrorist TPLF is a "sick joke." So said terrorist TPLF negotiator Getachew Reda.

A quick overview of TPLF use of "negotiations" strategies and tactics is instructive.

In 1984-85, when Tigray was undergoing severe famine, TPLF set up a scam organization called "Relief Society of Tigray" (REST) and negotiated with international NGOs for food distribution. TPLF leaders diverted \$95 million of that aid for weapons purchases and other activities unrelated to famine relief.

In 2000, the TPLF negotiated to settle the dispute over Badme in a "final and binding" international arbitration. When Badme was awarded to Eritrea, the TPLF reneged and demanded further negotiations.

In 2006, TPLF leader Zenawi negotiated in "a handshake" with US General John Abizaid to wipe out Al Shabaab in Somalia. That handshake led to billions of dollars in U.S. military and other aid to Ethiopia. What is less known is the fact that Zenawi had also negotiated with Al Shabaab to continue minimal military presence so that Zenawi could use them as a boogeyman to milk the U.S. aid cash cow.

In 2008, in "elections for regional parliaments", the TPLF won 1,903 of 1,904 seats. The TPLF won by 99.999 percent. In May 2010, the TPLF "won" all the seats in "parliament" by 99.6 percent. In May 2015, the TPLF "won" 100 percent of the seats in "parliament".

Such total and complete zero-sum electoral "victory" occurred in a country where there are 79 registered opposition political parties.

In August 2007, the late TPLF leader Meles Zenawi "pardoned" 38 opposition political leaders to "give impetus to political negotiations in Ethiopia after more than two years' crisis and stalemate."

In October 2007, "in spite of continuing negotiations between the government and the opposition, the political environment continued to deteriorate." In the 2007 "negotiations", the TPLF had a double zero-sum game "win". It validated the 38 railroaded opposition leaders were actually criminals because they accepted a "pardon", and 2) forced them publicly to "admit" crimes they never committed to receive a pardon.

In 2009, the TPLF engaged in "negotiations" for the release of political prisoners, only after the political prisoners "had signed a paper admitting they tried to overthrow the government in an 'unconstitutional' manner."

Double zero-sum game wins for the TPLF again.

In 2009, TPLF thug master Meles Zenawi led the African climate change negotiators to the U.N. Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen and delivered a zero-sum ultimatum: Fork over \$40 billion or we will "delegitimize you."

In 2010, the TPLF negotiated for the release of Birtukan Midekssa, the first female Ethiopian political party leader and current head of the Ethiopian Elections Board, after she "apologized for denying being granted a pardon in 2007" and "implored the prime minister to grant her a second pardon for her to be able to see her aging mother and child."

In 2010, the TPLF engaged donors in "negotiations" to allow them to send election observers and called their election report "useless trash that deserves to be thrown in the garbage".

In 2013, TPLF head honcho and current leader of the attack on the Northern Command Debretsion Gebremichael said, "Ethnic federalism is equality. TPLF supremacy is nothing but a conspiracy. To say Tigreans are supreme (everywhere), that is not the reality. That is a zero, Zero." True. It is a zero-sum game for the TPLF.

In 2016, after the Addis Ababa Master plan faced popular opposition, the TPLF said they wanted to negotiate the plan. Not a chance.

In 2016, when the first state of emergency failed to control the popular uprising, the TPLF again said they want to negotiate. No one was interested.

In October 2016, the TPLF showed their entire negotiating strategy when they massacred 800 plus people celebrating the Irrecha Festival in the town of Bishoftu, some 45 miles southeast of the capital Addis Ababa.

In 2017, when the second state of emergency failed to control the popular uprising, the TPLF pleaded they want to negotiate, too late. Whenever the TPLF talked about negotiations, it also always tightened its political grip and continued its massacres, mass arrests, mass detentions and mass torture of innocent citizens.

#### Cry "negotiations" when drowning in the deep blue sea of oblivion

Today, the terrorist TPLF finds itself between the devil and the deep blue sea. But I repeat myself. I should have said, "The TPLF devil finds itself in the deep blue sea (a/k/a deep doo doo) and is sinking to the bottom fast.

As the TPLF drowns in its own sea of doo doo, its Western bankrollers, paymasters and press-titutes are drowning the world in lies, damned lies and disinformation. The TPLF successfully weaponized the word "negotiation" to seize and keep power for 27 years.

In its September 11, 2022 statement, terrorist TPLF identified its spokesman Getachew Reda and one of its "generals," Tsadkan Gebretensae, as leaders of its negotiating team at the African Union sponsored peace conference.

On July 5, 2021, the TPLF peace negotiator designee Reda told the Associated Press the idea of ceasefire and negotiations is a "sick joke": "So we have to make sure every inch of our territory is returned to us, to the rightful owners. Second, you need to get all the

services. It could be air services, transportation services, electricity, telephone services and everything.

The people of Tigray are part of the Ethiopian Federation. They deserve every service the rest of the country gets. There's no way we will negotiate about anything whatsoever until these services are restored to the people of Tigray.

Abiy government's announcement of a unilateral ceasefire should be treated with the contempt it's so richly deserves because it is so vacuous. It means nothing.

First and foremost, we destroyed his army and they are still fighting to hold onto territory. They have been destroying the livelihood of our people. They cut off lights. They cut off electricity. They have cut off telecom. They are doing everything to make life absolutely miserable for our people. And they tell you, they have unilaterally declared a ceasefire so our peasants can survive the planting season. That is a joke! A very sick one.

So our response is, it should be treated with a contempt it so richly deserves. (Italics added.)

Like the African hyena in the jungle, the TPLF hyena on the prowl having temporarily escaped the trap says, "Contempt for ceasefire and peace negotiations."

Reda has always categorically rejected the possibility of peace talks under the sponsorship of the African Union (AU) and has rejected the AU-designated mediator former Nigerian President Olesgun Obasanjo.

Interviewer: How did you decide to change your mind from just a few weeks ago you were saying no talk under the umbrella of the African Union. Now you're saying you're open to peace talks.

Reda: Well, to set the record straight we have never rejected the role of the African Union. We know the African Union as a continental organization has a role to play in resolving conflicts in Africa.

Unless we get permission, the African union cannot mediate the negotiations. That's it. Finished. What we're saying is that we will not waste time with a person (President Obasanjo) who gives out sacramental bread in the name of St. Abiy (PM Abiy Ahmed).

Recently, terrorist TPLF "general" Tsadkan Gebretensae and leader of the TPLF negotiating team declared there is nothing to negotiate because the TPLF has already won the war.

"What I am answering is the question, 'After this, is it even possible to raise the question of negotiations?' The war is finished. The conflict is getting finished in war. It is being finished in the war. With whom are we going to negotiate? They're not giving us an alternative opportunity. Have forcing the conflict in war. Therefore, it will end in war. The conditions that would prevent conclusion of the conflict by are now being cleared."

On September 11, 2022, terrorist TPLF raised the white flag and declared it want to negotiate. It wants peace.

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

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The Ethiopian Herald

## Editorial

### Hands off Ethiopia! Noticeable global voice

Since all sorts of catastrophes and topsy-turvy facets witnessed in Ethiopia these days are prettily emanated from the T-TPLF's 'preemptive' surprise attack on ENDF's Northern Command—eternal minder—based in Tigray on 3 November, 2020, its disarming and keeping away from Ethiopian politics at all is decidedly viewed as the lasting solution to all problems.

The group committed many untold atrocities and crimes ranging from looting properties to slaughtering innocent people and raping nuns in Amhara and Afar regions. The outrages are beyond words, indeed.

Denouncing all forms of terrorist group's evil deeds, millions of Ethiopians at every nook and cranny of the world have expressly and loudly expounded that T-TPLF must be disarmed and must be away from Ethiopian politics as every Ethiopian in general and people of Tigray regional state in particular have been suffering from the yoke of the terrorist group.

'Hands off Ethiopia! No more TPLF! Stop interfering in Ethiopia's internal affairs! Stop sponsoring T-TPLF as it has sucked Ethiopians blood especially over close to three decades, T-TPLF's crime masterminds have to appear before the law' and other related slogans have been staged and well heard of amid rallies in major cities of the west and USA.

T-TPLF must be disarmed and people of Ethiopia have to breathe a sigh of relief as disarmament, serenity and development are intrinsically linked.

Undeniably, Ethiopia has battled increasingly multilayered and complex conflicts with terrorist TPLF especially over the past three to four years proliferating in Tigray state.

Honestly speaking, if the group is admitted to enjoy politicizing, it is tantamount to passing verdict for Ethiopia's lifetime bleeding. No! Enough is enough! Those nations which would like to see great

Ethiopia are expected to help it do away with T-TPLF as it is not only cancerous for development in the country but it would also be a ceaseless Horn throbbing.

The international community and some special interest groups have to stop meddling in Ethiopia's internal affairs for it is quite capable of devising lasting solutions to all problems inside. Thus, both foreign international organizations, interest groups must acknowledge Ethiopia's sovereignty, its being home to determined and courageous citizens, who will never compromise over its independence and prominence whatever the cost may be.

Cognizant of the fact that most conflicts happened in the country have emanated from divisions based on ethnicity and religion fatigue entertained by T-TPLF, Ethiopians at home and abroad have denounced such a cursed move and condemn it, who has instilled long-lasting hostility, lethal and prevalent along ethnic lines, of course. This half a century aged political discourse needs to be done away with for good for stable Ethiopia.

The very theme of all public rallies across the world has revolved around kernel notions like leave Ethiopia alone to address internal problems itself, keep T-TPLF away from Ethiopian politics, acknowledge Ethiopia's comprehensive and effective conflict management steps that would unequivocally contribute to sustainable peace, development and prosperity.

Interest groups aspiration to facilitate TPLF's re-entry into Ethiopia's political showground under the guise of the AU-led peace negotiation could never be acceptable; instead they are expected to help Ethiopia in the effort geared towards reinstating what has been destroyed by the group. Since disarming as well as keeping TPLF away from Ethiopian politics at all is the lasting solution to all Ethiopia's problems, it has to be done away with for good. Disarm T-TPLF! Hands off Ethiopia!

## Opinion

### T-TPLF can no more belittle over peace

BY STAFF REPORTER

In what came out as the most marvelous demonstration, Ethiopians from all walks of life, in all corners of the country as well as abroad have shown their utmost love and thirst for peace, sovereignty and unity of their nation.

Unfortunately, these people who are this much in need of peace are contending with an evil force, the terrorist TPLF whose appetite for peace is below zero. Since its establishment in the mid-1970s, it is notoriously known for its repeated rejection of peaceful means of addressing differences and finding all means possible to engage in fighting, terrorizing people, and persecution of civilians and those who oppose it.

Even at the latest development of peace talks that were scheduled to take place in the Republic of South Africa, the terrorist group has time and again rejected the calls made for it. With the government's due commitment and repeated calls for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, the terrorist TPLF has now agreed to sit for the peace talks in RSA.

This is because of the miscalculation TPLF makes about resolving differences. It takes advantage of the life of people, and the misguided support of foreign powers and pursues its evil policies. As a result, it has

*The people of Tigray have always lived in peace and love with the entire people of country without any difference whatsoever. They fought for the sovereignty of the country throughout the centuries. They also spent enjoying life with people in all corners of the country throughout the centuries*

pushed tens of thousands of Tigrayan youth to death fighting for its futile ideology. It has also managed to benefit from the tit-for-tat type of relationship it forms with western power for which it always serves as a Trojan horse. By doing all these it has been exercising a highly oppressive regime in the country for almost three decades.

The group has also implemented an ethnically divisive policy in the country which is aimed at setting the various nations, nationalities and peoples of the country against each other. This way it tried to pave the way for stable political power for itself. Because of this toxic political approach of the group thousands of Ethiopians have lost their lives, properties and livelihoods as many people engaged in ethnic and sectarian strife.

Leaving aside this dangerous poison of the terrorist group that is injected in their minds for decades, hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians have taken to the streets of their respective home towns both at home and abroad to show their love and respect to each other rather than being torn apart. They also denounced T-TPLF and its enablers who strive to weaken and disintegrate their country.

Most of all they have loudly expressed their thirst for peace and their love and respect for the people of Tigray who are now

taken hostage by the T-TPLF as its human shield and haven. As they rightly nailed it, the group which claims to represent the people and stands as their political leader is rather abusing their rights, safety and peace among others.

The people of Tigray have always lived in peace and love with the entire people of country without any difference whatsoever. They fought for the sovereignty of the country throughout the centuries. They also spent enjoying life with people in all corners of the country. Unfortunately by now, the Terrorist group has deprived them of their rights to even demonstrate along with their brothers and sisters, sing the song of peace.

It is this ridiculous group, which benefits more from war, than the peace that is sitting for peace talks. Every peace lover wishes to hear good news about the ongoing peace talks so that the people can get relief from the merciless hands of the people. T-TPLF can no more joke over people's desire for peace and stability. The days of such mischief and conspiracy are long gone as the government is effectively taking the right action to free the people.

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



# Business & Economy

## Amending proclamation of chambers of commerce for better performance

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

The sectorial association proclamation promulgated in 2002/3 has various problems which need improvement and the association's members forwarded their plea to the government for the last 20 years that "The proclamation combined trade sector associations and councils have its own inherent problems." Said the members and they are putting pressure to the pertinent government organ the proclamation to be amended in an organized manner.

They mentioned that some of the articles in the proclamation which pose problems were discussed particularly by organizing discussion platform by the Addis Ababa and Ethiopian chamber of commerce. Though the problems are still known by the officials they are not addressed yet.

The proclamation which was introduced 20 years ago stipulates the establishment of the association forcefully which resulted in weak association. Hence, demanding the introduction of new proclamation to redress the problem has been taken as a way out. The proclamation gave various responsibilities to the sectorial associations to federal, regions, woreda, zones and city administration levels which made vulnerable to pose conflict between them.

According to the Addis Ababa sectorial associations' council arbitration institution lawyer Yohannes woldegebriel, the proclamation from its conception has its own problem. The proclamation intended to meet the political interest of the then ruling party to divide the business community. Wube mengistu is the Ethiopian trade sectorial association secretary. As to him, efforts have been exerted for long years to improve the proclamation. In the preparation of the new draft law, the chamber of commerce sectorial association, the government organ and the private sector are participated and the draft law was sent to the former Ministry of Trade and Industry. The other countries' experiences also taken as input for the improvement of the law. He further said that, now the draft law reached to its final stage and hoped it will be endorsed soon by the parliament.

As to Wube, the existing proclamation has articles that hamper the chambers' healthy activities. The proclamation provided power to the chambers in the various levels such as on federal, regions and city level with similar jurisdiction which put them in contradiction and conflict. In addition, there are other problems which restrict their activities.

Some business men also still complain that the new draft law has its own limitations to redress the problems of the old proclamation and they believed that the new draft law does very little difference from the old proclamation. In fact, there is a change on the name of the proclamation but content wise, there is no difference from the previous one. Particularly the city chambers are neglected by the new draft law and have no space to air their views. Therefore, before the endorsement of the proclamation



the members of the chambers should discuss the matter.

As to Yohannes, the city chambers are the base for chambers at regional and federal level. Hence, special attention must be paid to them. He further said that the existing proclamation weakened the business community and the ruling party used the proclamation to fragment the chambers at various levels. Therefore, the preparation of the new proclamation should consider this and be cautious not to repeat the past mistakes. As compared to the EPRDF era chamber of commerce, the Derg chamber proclamation was better and rational.

As to him, the Derg proclamation allows the establishment of various national and city level chambers but the proclamation introduced by the EPRDF was divisive and similar to election board determined the organizational structure of the federal and regional chambers association beforehand and denies the organizational norms. According to the law, criminal law is promulgated by the federal government; the same is true to the election board. Both laws are emanated from the constitutional mandate but introducing proclamation to divide chambers is an ill motive. It shaped and structures similar to the political parties pattern. Therefore, it can be said that, the proclamation does not deserve the chambers of commerce.

He further said that the proclamation put the organizational structures of the association to deter the private sector not to have a consolidated stance to defend its rights. In addition, it was prepared to meet EPRDF political aspiration which bases divide and rule by advancing ethnic politics.

Fekadu Petros, a lawyer agreed with what Yohanes said and as to him, the chamber of commerce proclamation related with political questions. When the Ruling party assumed power in the 1991, it tried to organize the chambers similar with its fake federalism administration but business and trade has nothing to do with federalism. Traders have the right to organize their association based on their profession not to that of political ambition. The proclamation also has a tendency to create rift between the traders engaged in service sector and that of the producing sector.

He also said that the business community

often complained the structural organization of their chamber which left them fragmented. The previous ruling party dominated by TPLF was busily engaged in dividing segments of the society and slander them. For example, business men engaged in service provision and bankers were categorized as rent collectors and the preparation of the proclamation was ill-intended to subjugate the business community. On the other hand, Garage owners, shoe producers, wind mill workers were given special privilege that amazes others business community.

As it is known, the financial sector plays pivotal role in the economic activities but the chambers establishing proclamation does not recognize the bank professional association. They were obliged to be registered as if they were none governmental organization and force fully registered by the agency working on the non- governmental organization affairs.

However, the proclamation gave emphasis for the wind mill and other related associations but ignored the service delivery sector only to divide the business communities. The other complains raised by the traders is that the proclamation prepared intentionally to divide the associations based on their region. The other question which should be answered by the new proclamation is that, whether the member registration is based on their volunteer or not.

Regarding membership, Wube said that for the time being membership registration better to be an obligatory and later on it can be improved. He also said that in the world chambers of commerce with almost 2/3 countries membership, membership is obligatory and in this modality members exert their responsibilities by paying monthly financial contribution and enabled to protect their rights from government intervention and enhanced their bargaining power.

According to the Ethiopian law being membership is governed by voluntarism and mentioned other criterion in details. This approach again creates confusion. Hence, if the government decides to make membership through voluntarism, it has to allocate some form of budget to run their day to day activities but it is not still implemented. Or to make them self-reliance creating enabling environment to generate

their own income can be taken as alternate mechanism.

Hunilign Tigabu works in Addis Ababa Trade Sectorial Association and serves as a board member. As to him, the major problems which weaken the associations integrity by previous ruling party was that, installing fake association in parallel way by the so called "the EPRDF Supporters Traders Association" and by others name. Few business men allied themselves with the ruling party left the main association fragmented. Therefore, such practices must be halted by the new proclamation.

As to Fekadu, strong association can be established when the associations are functional independently free from the government intervention. Wube on the other hand said that as per their capacity they tried to utilize new ideas suggested by members and other stakeholders to utilize as input so that to promulgate better new proclamation and cautiously worked not to repeat the past mistakes. He further said that in the last budget year efforts are exerted to better prepare the new proclamation and the final draft law will be sent to the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration for endorsement. However, if it is delayed more, the members of the associations will be desperate and felt as if they are neglected by the government.

"Independently organized chambers play pivotal role not only for the economic growth but also for building democratic system," Wube said. Hence, the members will continue coercing the government for the speedy endorsement of the new proclamation.

State Minister of Trade and Regional Integration, Teshale Belihu, while attending the recently held meeting of the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce said that his Ministry is rigorously working for the endorsement of the new proclamation in this budget year. But still whether the new proclamation is fairly prepared as they need or not is their concern. As to Fekadu, the new proclamation should uplift the status of the business community and the chambers as well.

The draft proclamation named "The Trade and Industry Chambers establishing Proclamation" has 35 articles with to components namely the Ethiopian Trade and Industry Chambers and the regional Trade and Industry Chambers and their members can be individual business men, Private Limited Companies' Associations, Share Holding Companies' Associations, manufacturing Industries' Associations and Trade Sector Associations.

The Ethiopian Trade and Industries Chambers also have members from regional Trade and Industry chambers and the national manufacturing Industries Sectorial Associations are going to be established by the directives of the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration. But some still doubt that such type of organization might pose problems and comprising cities chambers in this arrangement might be worrisome.



# In the Sphere of Diplomacy

## Fending foreign pressure via public diplomacy

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

These days, against the backdrop of unjustified external intervention, Ethiopians across the world are echoing their voices to safeguard the national interest and sovereignty of their country.

For almost two years, the country has been a victim of foreign pressure and political intrigue which sometimes come on the pretext of human rights and humanitarian aid. Since the TPLF-provoked war, some western countries have been trying to infringe on Ethiopia's sovereign interests with some countries imposing sanctions on the country.

The Ethiopian government and Ethiopian people at home and abroad have been doing their level best to fend off the continued foreign meddling through different means. Ethiopians particularly those living places countries that exert unprecedented pressure in Ethiopia have been serving as public diplomats in giving the right information and countering disinformation campaigns.

These public diplomacy efforts have been seen in terms of demonstrations, submitting letters to respective foreign governments' organs, and media campaigns against undue pressures. All these efforts have helped the nation to resonate its truth to the international community thereby forestalling unwarranted sanctions and laws by some western global powers.

As criminal TPLF collapses and loses more territories due to Ethiopia's defensive measures, some global powers are still trying to intervene in the country's domestic affairs in the name of human right protection. Accordingly, Ethiopians at home and abroad are protesting against these unwarranted pressures widely participating in public demonstrations. From Belgium to Washington, Ethiopian diasporas have been holding mass rallies, talking to senators and congress members, and other officials.

These activities including social media campaigns have been helpful in defending the pressure and allowing other countries to have the right understanding of the current situation of the country.

On Oct 20, 2022, the Ethiopian diaspora living in Europe held a public rally in Brussels, calling on Western powers and some international organizations to refrain from their unfair pressure on Ethiopia and undermining its sovereignty.

Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia living in France, Italy, the Netherlands, and Germany gathered and participated in the rally held in Shuman Square in front of the European Commission, in Brussels. The purpose of the demonstration was to protest the unfair stance and inappropriate intervention of some



western powers in Ethiopia and to inform the international community about the existing reality, said coordinators of the 'Defend Ethiopia Task Force Europe'.

Last weekend, major cities including the capital witnessed numerous citizens protesting against western interventions in Ethiopia's internal affairs. On Saturday 2022, Ethiopians across the country were seen marching to Meskel Square chanting slogans.

"Respect our sovereignty," "TPLF is a mercenary group," "TPLF is the cause!" "End proxy war on Ethiopia," "People in Tigray are our compatriots; Junta [TPLF] is our enemy," and "TPLF should not be given a chance to prepare for the fourth round of attack" are some of the slogans that protestors chanted while marching to Meskel Square.

Many believe that Ethiopians increasingly tend to think that the western powers are primarily interested in reviving the TPLF, the rebel group that was designated as a terrorist group by the Ethiopian parliament.

By the end of 2021 TPLF invaded some parts of the Afar and Amhara regions. By the time, western powers were preoccupied with setting up political conditions internationally by creating an impression as if the TPLF forces were about to control Addis Ababa. There was no call for an end to the cessation of hostility.

Renewed pressure against Ethiopia in connection with the war against the TPLF rebel groups is on the rise as the TPLF forces are losing ground militarily. The Ethiopian government confirmed earlier this week that the Defense Forces controlled three key towns (Shire, Alamata, and Korem) in the Tigray region of Ethiopia.

Local sources also indicate that the Ethiopian government has already started distributing food aid in the areas recaptured recently. Work to restore power to the aforementioned towns is also underway.

Yesterday, the government has announced that the national defense force has continued taking control of major urban centers in the past few days. The ENDF has succeeded in avoiding combat in urban areas while debilitating the military capabilities of the TPLF.

The Government of Ethiopia is working in coordination with humanitarian agencies to continue providing humanitarian aid in these areas. It has also requested operators of essential services to expedite their preparation to resume services in these areas, it said.

The Government is also exploring ways in which public administration and social services in these areas could begin in consultation with the local population. Meanwhile, the Government of Ethiopia will be participating in the AU-convened peace talks to be held in South Africa. The Government of Ethiopia views the talks as an opportunity to peacefully resolve the conflict and consolidate the improvement of the situation on the ground brought about through the sacrifices of the ENDF. The announcement also indicated that the delegation of the Ethiopian Government left for South Africa on Monday morning.

According to President Sahle-Work Zewde, the government of Ethiopia is committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the northern part of the country. The federal government has taken a variety of steps to address the country's major challenges, which include conflict and internal displacement. The President said this on October 10, 2022 while opening the joint session of the House of People's Representatives and the House of Federation for the sixth term and second year.

According to her, to resolve the conflict in the north, the Government of Ethiopia has shown readiness to negotiate with the TPLF group without any precondition.

The Ethiopian Government remains dedicated to an amicable settlement of the

Northern conflict under AU leadership. "But if the other side is unwilling to consider peaceful alternatives, the government will take corrective actions," she said.

The Ethiopian Government has also created an environment that is favorable for the upcoming national dialogue, and the commission charged with overseeing it has assumed that duty. In order to make the National Dialogue successful, President Sahle-Work also emphasized the critical importance of all stakeholders and citizens' active participation.

A week ago, United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, made claims that the war in Ethiopia is "spiraling out of control." His call was echoed by the United States and some of its western allies. They are advancing "there is no military solution to the conflict," while at times adding voice to the TPLF's unsubstantiated claims about "genocide" and "human rights" violations.

Ethiopians are rejecting foreign interventions and proxy wars. TPLF, for the majority of Ethiopians, indulged in an unnecessary war with the illusion that it would restore the power it dominated for nearly three decades. Foreign intervention is meant to facilitate that.

Ethiopians and Eritreans in the United States and Europe have staged protests against western support for TPLF and infringement on the sovereign rights of Ethiopia.

According to the Task Force, the demonstrators held slogans calling on some western powers and international organizations to stop the politically motivated pressure they are imposing on Ethiopia. The organizers of the rally said that they submitted a letter to the EU Commission's head of foreign affairs, asking to refrain from its unfair pressure and intervention in Ethiopia. In addition to EU Commission, Schuman Square is also home to the Belgian Parliament, the American Embassy and other large government institutions.



# Law & Politics

## Stop intervening in the internal affairs of Ethiopia!

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

It is well known that Ethiopia has been involved in a fierce battle against the terrorist so called Tigray People Liberation Front or TPLF for the last two years following the treacherous and savage attack this terrorist group launched against the federal armed forces stationed in its region. This federal force which was stabbed in the back was there to protect and help the region stay safe against any potential attack by any alien force and in fact as much as eighty percent of the Ethiopian Federal forces, the ammunitions and armaments were stationed there for the same reason. During the years the Terrorist TPLF dominated Ethiopian politics the leaders of this group saw to it that the cream of Ethiopian army and its arsenal stayed there deliberately now we know with the benefit of hind sight.

On November 4, 2020 this treacherous and terrorist group massacred thousands of the federal forces allegedly not obedient to the TPLF orders to launch together an attack on the federal government and possibly return to power. Ever since the new reformist government was installed to power in 2018 this terrorist group had been preparing for this day and its plan was discovered to be a return to power by force. It thought that it had all that it takes to be back to power using force because it had in fact monopolized the entire hierarchy of the armed forces and other security apparatus of the nation thanks to their extended stay in power. In fact the manifesto of TPLF says that it was initially founded to liberate the people of Tigray from the rest of the country and found their own republic. It was not stated in public but the members of the leadership of the party knew about it and had always in the back of their mind even when they were leading the entire country.

Throughout the twenty seven years during which TPLF was at the helm of the Ethiopian federal government it had all it takes to monopolize not only the political power, the security apparatus and the economic power but also continued to nurture this idea of forming a separate independent country with the capital at Mekelle once it is ready. When however it found out that its plan was aborted by the insurrection of the youths of ethnic Oromo and Amhara people and eventually ousted it out of power the leadership of TPLF ran away to Mekelle and made their fortress there in open defiance of the

new federal government. Their motto was 'there could not be a federal government that they did not run and that if that is the case, TPLF would fight to destabilize not only the government but also the entire country and would work with all the historical enemies of Ethiopia to achieve its objective.

Following the November 2020 attack Ethiopia had to defend itself and keep the integrity of the country's territory and sovereignty and that is what it has been doing for the last two years. However in this bold endeavour of the terrorist TPLF it was found out that there was the conspiracy and assistance of foreign powers including not only the historical enemies of Ethiopia but also those which Ethiopians believed were traditional allies and partners. This was to come out clearly from the subsequent November 2020 reports and explanations of these nations regarding the affairs of Ethiopia. When Ethiopia declared a sort of state of emergency and rallied its forces to counter the ferocious and well studied and coordinated treacherous attack on its forces stationed in Tigray most of the reports of these foreign forces minimized the extent of the attack and some even justified it following the crude propaganda and bunch of lies of TPLF.

The Ethiopian federal government eventually disbanded the TPLF and following its counter attack the terrorist leaders withdrew from the capital and hid in the jungle far off areas. Following the capture of Mekelle the federal government tried to form an interim regional government and gave priority to rebuilding what was destroyed during the conflict but in the months in which the federal forces were trying to rebuild the region the terrorist TPLF was rallying its forces not only those in hiding but also those disguised and stationed in the urban areas. When the federal government withdrew its forces from the regional state and declared cessation of hostilities, the TPLF declared to the world that it had won the battle and would now continue its assault up to Addis Ababa. To meet its objective it used even youths as young as 13 and elderly people in the battlefield.

TPLF has always had several allies not only in the country at large but also outside the country who gave them vital information via satellite and advised them what to do when. It is clear that this was one of the heritages it built during the twenty seven years on power because it never worked for the benefit of the people of Ethiopia and not even those of its regional state but to the benefit of a few

leaders and their associates and those who served them in their objectives. And that was what emerged when the TPLF was continuously declaring to have succeeded occupying this city and that one and this was enormously publicized by so called international and objective media outlets such as CNN, BBC, France Twenty Four and Aljezeera.

These media outlets continuously tried to glorify the endeavours of this terrorist force and several leaders of the junta were invited to air their views and reports on the conflict. Ethiopia's version of the conflict was never accepted by these forces and the losses it incurred were minimized as opposed to what the federal forces had to do in defense of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. Most of the western media and later on even reputed international organizations were openly observed to have sided with the terrorist TPLF and treated it as if it was a legitimate force battling for a legitimate cause and that the guilty party was the Ethiopian government. This actually tarnished the image of the country and raised angry reactions among Ethiopians both at home and in the diaspora. Ethiopians tried to explain the true nature of this conflict and in any case it was an internal matter to be resolved internally and at most with the collaboration of an African mediation group such as the African Union, AU and any other intervention was not welcome by Ethiopia because of the partisanship of these agencies with the TPLF.

Now that the conflict seems to be heading in clear favour of the Ethiopian federal forces and that even the people of the regional state have had enough of wars and conflicts we observe that these allies of TPLF and their supporters are calling for a humanitarian intervention and save the terrorist force from disintegrating as it actually is in these last weeks. TPLF has declared war against Ethiopia in three rounds and this third one seems to be the worst calculation it ever had even according to some of western analysts who were observing the dynamics of the Ethiopian affairs for the last several years.

TPLF has incurred incalculable damage to the people of Ethiopia particularly to the adjacent regions of Amhara and Afar. It has provoked incalculable human losses and destruction in Tigray and in the rest of Ethiopia as well. Some economists say it has brought the country thirty years back and many of the five million or so inhabitants of the regional state are left to their own devices even

being deprived of the humanitarian aid the region has been receiving from agencies such as WFP and others reserving all the aid to bolster the capacity and resistance of its forces engaged in battling against Ethiopian federal and regional security forces.

During the past days there have been several threats on the part of the allies and friends of TPLF in some western countries and institutions supported by them that Ethiopia should be subjected to harsh sanctions so that it stops liberating the occupied territory by TPLF forces and that there should be peace negotiations without preconditions treating both the terrorist group and the legitimately elected Ethiopian government on an equal footing. This is clearly unacceptable by Ethiopia and any forced intervention in this direction would be resisted with all the means Ethiopians have. The latest rallies carried out throughout Ethiopia and abroad are testimonies to this state of mind.

Ethiopians do not have a tradition of bowing to foreign forces and history is a witness to this fact. Ethiopia's internal affairs are to be managed by Ethiopia alone because it is a sovereign country, one of the founding fathers of both the UN and AU. It has a reputation for standing for peace and cooperation among countries and always opposed alien intervention in the internal affairs of any sovereign country.

Once again Ethiopians say they must be left alone from being forced to put their sovereignty for negotiation with the guise of humanitarian aid or other forms of assistance because that is not acceptable. Ethiopia does not trade its integrity with aid or so called development cooperation because it is one of the long arms of these alien dark forces against the sovereignty of the country. Ethiopians also denounce the kind of biased reports some western media continuously air on their channels aimed to support the claims of the terrorist TPLF which actually is their Trojan horse.

Ethiopians have spoken loud and clear that their sovereignty and territorial integrity is not for sale or a subject of any form of concession. The people of Tigray are Ethiopians and are worth being treated as such while the terrorist TPLF is the enemy of both the Tigray people and Ethiopians in general and any foreign force which allies itself with this terrorist force should know this. That is why Ethiopians have denounced all forms of foreign intervention in their country's affairs.

## Green legacy initiative provides...

but also Ambassadors, International Organizations, and diplomatic communities. As a result, the Initiative has met its set objectives and brought various results that have been registered. Even UNDP has shown interest to share the initiative with 10 African countries.

Alhaji Fall, speaking on behalf of Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa at the UNDP explained that the initiative is a stepping stone to a better future for Ethiopia. Hence, UNDP has the plan to share the Green Legacy Initiative experiences with about 10 other countries and make the Initiative Pan-African since it sets the pace in combating climate change and fostering community resilience.

Apart from fighting the negative effect of climate change, more importantly, the initiative is important to strengthen regional cooperation. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen said that the Green Legacy initiative in Ethiopia strengthens regional cooperation and will ultimately serve as a crucial platform to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Since the inception of the initiative, Ethiopia has been accorded tree seedlings to some of the neighboring countries and has the plan to do the same this year to promote regional cooperation and combat the negative effects of climate change, he stated.

Indeed, Ethiopia, taking the principle of mutual development and cooperation into account, has been providing tree seedlings for neighboring countries which support the fight against climate change. Accordingly, Djibouti has planted for the third time this year. South Sudan also planted tree seedlings which are accorded by Ethiopia's Green Development Diplomacy Youth representative.

The youth who represented Ethiopia in collaboration with Somalia youth planted tree seedlings with promoting of both fraternity and the Green Legacy Initiative. The youth planted tree seedlings in Mogadishu, Somalia. Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Director of African Affairs Ambassador Jamaludin Mustafa said that the youth planted the seedlings which took from Ethiopia on the campus of the University of Somalia.

Moreover, the task of planting tree seedlings through the Green Legacy Initiative is imperative not only to build a green economy and expand the green legacy movement but also to a sense of brotherhood, he added.

Ethiopian Ambassador to Somalia Abdulfatah Abdullahi on his part said that 500 tree seedlings that are accorded from Ethiopia were planted by Ethiopians and Somali youth as a symbol of the two countries' security, development, and economic ties.

Somalia Minister of Climate Change State Minister Adam Ibrahim noted that the Green Legacy Initiative is key to handing over the world we inherited from our ancestors to the coming generation."

He also remembers that Somalia is a victim of drought every year. Therefore, the deed of both the youth of Ethiopia and Somalia contributes to the Green Somalia tree planting program and to reverse the impact of drought on both the lives and livelihoods, he underlined.

Alongside the plantation program, a panel

discussion was held in which the youth of Ethiopia and Somalia participated together for the common development of the two countries. The youth have also created a group of social networking sites where they can continue their relationship and have started to continue their activities, he mentioned.

According to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke, the initiative requires support from bilateral and multilateral development partners. Because supporting the Green Legacy Initiative has an enormous advantage for national, regional, and international adaptation and mitigation of the harmful effects of climate change, biodiversity preservation, combating desertification, ensuring green development, guaranteeing food security, and achieving the SDGs.

It is right that the Initiative has an immense contribution to the efforts to meet international commitments such as the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.



# Society

## “Our people, our strength”

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Ethiopia's age-old greatness and sovereignty, results from the commitment of its brave children. Throughout its history, the nation has been facing several internal and external military threats. However, due to the commitment and boldness of its children, none of the aggression has succeeded. Ethiopia's unbeatable National Defense Forces joining, hands with the people of Ethiopia have been paying the necessary sacrifice to preserve the sovereignty of the country and defend its territorial integrity.

For the Ethiopian National Defense Force that is composed of and structured in a manner representing all Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia, discrimination based on gender, nationality, race, ethnic background, religion, or any other standing have no place. What they are concerned about is, preserving the great Ethiopia and sustaining its unity.

The recent attack that has been incited by the traitor TPLF faction and compelled the National Defense Force to enter in to war is a good indication to this. In fact, the Defense Force, not only to keep the sovereignty of the country, it is also devoted in preserving the peace and stability of the Horn of Africa, which is always considered as one of the most unstable regions.

As it was indicated by FDRE Defense Force, while we, Ethiopians mark the National Defense Force's Day, we are found in a military warfare



where Ethiopia is forced to enter to protect its sovereignty and existence.

Through the TPLF group, we have been in a terrible war, which is a black scar to our history as a country. TPLF, which is a Trojan horse to our historical enemies, has pushed us to a war against our desire. We, Ethiopians know the benefits and the side effects of war. However, our historical enemies have used the traitors to threaten our sovereignty. For this reason, the Ethiopian National Defense Force has kept its promise to preserve the national dignity so as to preserve peace, security and stability throughout the nation.”

Today, Ethiopia is marking the National Defense Force Day, with the theme “The source of our strength is our people.” In connection with the

Day, a photograph exhibition was inaugurated yesterday in the presence of Defense Minister, Dr. Abrham Belay and other high government officials.

Speaking at the event Defense Minister Dr. Abrham said, the photograph exhibition is a historical legacy that encourages members of the military for better deeds. The museum is expected to be a valuable source of information to historians, researchers, writers and other professionals. He said, a museum that displays the transition of the Ethiopian National Defense Force will be constructed. As to him, an agreement was made to make the museum a reality.

The Ethiopian National Defense Force is now found in a perfect structure in a manner that meets the greatness of the Nation; and

it is equipped with military skills that can respond to international peace keeping calls. Using this vision the Force is discharging its responsibilities to sustain Ethiopia's unity and sovereignty.

As it was indicated on FDRE website, marking Defense Force Day has a special meaning to honor the commitments made by the Defense force to sustain national security and unity. The price paid by the National Defense Force is immeasurable. In this regard, the Day has a special place among members of the Defense Force and the people of Ethiopia in general. What is more, marking the Day has special value to create a strong bond among the people and the Defense Force.

Ethiopian National Defense Force is paying all the necessary sacrifice to keep Ethiopia's sovereignty, national interest and unity. Using the moral and psychological support from the people it is found at the edge of its goals. In this regard, it is performing all its tasks cautiously so as to give the victory public base.

The photograph exhibition that was inaugurated yesterday has included all relevant information concerning the National Defense Force transition- from its inception to the current status; the historical transition of Ethiopian Defense Force from 1908- 2022; from Fitawrari Habte Giyorgis Dinegde to Dr. Abrham Belay; from Major General Mulugeta Bulti to Field Marshal Birhanu Jula. The museum will be open for visitors from October 25-28, 2022, it was learnt.



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## Marvelous Talent Development, Akko Secondary Schools

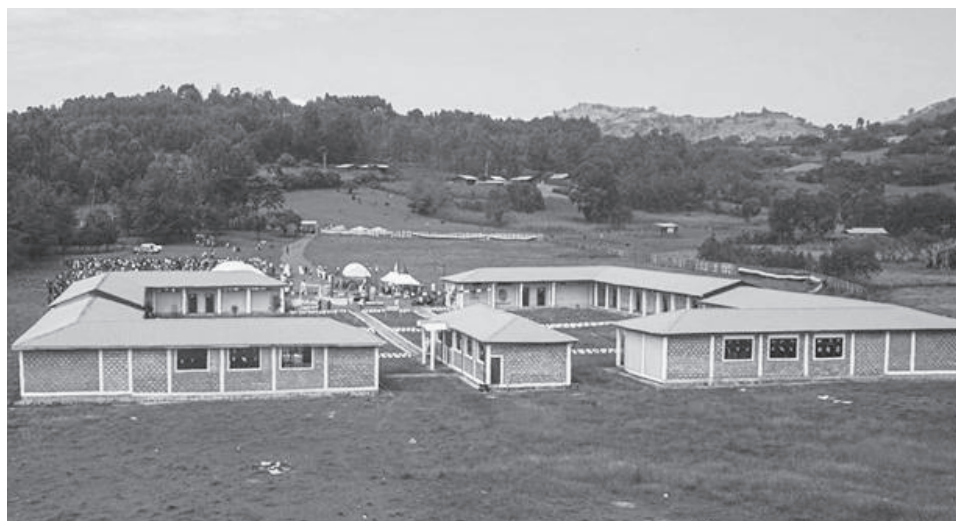
BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Burayu Talent Development School was recently inaugurated at the presence of the top government officials including the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) with the first lady Zinash Tayachew and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mokonen. Its purpose is to provide place for the citizens who have special talents on technological creative works.

On the inaugural ceremony of the Burayu Talent Development School, the Premier said: “The world is highly evolved in technology than it has ever been. To reap the economic and other benefits of technology, it is imperative that Ethiopia produces professionals with advanced knowledge in the field. We need more talent development centers like Burayu Talent Development School so that talented young people can help their country become technologically competent while developing their skills and pursuing their passion. Local residents who contributed in various ways from



*Burayu Talent Development School*



*Akko Secondary School*

the beginning to the end of the school's development deserve gratitude.”

The total site of the school is ten hectares of land from which 5.4 hectares are for

construction including the 4.3 hectares on which buildings were constructed by the budget of 708 million Birr in the project's first phase. The buildings incorporate dormitory, classes, clinic, library and administrative building that could enroll 1000 students who have special talents.

As well, on October 22, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has inaugurated Akkoo Secondary School in Jimma Zone which was built by the Office of the First Lady accompanied by the First Lady Zinash Tayachew, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonen, Oromia State President, Shimelis Abdissa, and other higher officials.

The school was constructed in eight months and has 18 classrooms, a library and laboratory facilities. Some 24 schools were built in different parts of the country through the coordination of the Office of the First Lady. It cost 16.5 million Birr to bring it to the current level.

The school was built by the financial support obtained from Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's book, Medemer which was sold to 110 million Birr.



# Planet Earth

## Green legacy initiative provides platform to fight drought in IGAD region

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Recent drought has highly affected the lives and livelihoods of many people in the East and Horn of Africa region. Especially, the pastoralist communities of the region are vulnerable to climate induce problems. Hence, the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) region (IGAD) recognizes the ferocity of drought and its impacts that spread across the region. It also underlines the increasing climate vulnerability of the Eastern African region to the adverse effects of climate change.

The negative impact of drought along with serious water shortage has driven hundreds of thousands of people out of their homes in search of water and food, and high levels of malnutrition. Besides, hundreds of schools have closed down as the attendance and dropouts numbers have decreased and increased respectively.

During the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought in 2022, the IGAD statement stated that the failed consecutive rainfall seasons have been characterized by delayed start, irregular distribution, and below-average cumulative seasonal rains, while the temperatures have remained above average across the seasons.



The preceding and compounding impacts from other drivers of food insecurity, namely desert locusts, covid-19, conflict and insecurity, floods, and macro-economic factors, have exacerbated the impacts of the drought which in itself is the longest drought period recorded in the region in 40 years, which was highlighted in a Joint Alert in May 2022 issued by meteorological agencies and humanitarian partners.

In order to combat and reverse the negative impact of drought, IGAD, as a regional institution, has been giving direction and

establishing platforms. The member states usually accredited the severity of the drought situation and reached an agreement to look beyond immediate assistance and rethink the region's approach to resilience, in addition to accelerating short-term response to halt the impacts of the drought.

However, IGAD member states agreed to fight the impact of climate change including drought but their commitment is less and implementing programs and initiatives very slowly. Hence, dependence on sectors that are climate change sensitive such as rain-

fed agriculture, water, tourism, and forestry becomes vulnerable to the region.

Cognizant of the negative impact of climate change, drought, and desertification into consideration, Ethiopia has been implementing a Green Legacy Initiative since 2019. Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed said that the Green Legacy Initiative program has aspirations to build a green and climate-resilient economy. It is also imperative to reverse climate change impacts and environmental degradation that contributed to flooding, soil erosion, deforestation, and biodiversity loss.

The initiative has accomplished a lot as it helped the country to plant over 25 billion tree seedlings. It also increases forest coverage including fruit trees which are significant to ensure food security and nutrition. Apart from combating climate change effects, the initiative has been contributing to ensuring economic development and food security. Since climate change is a global and continental problem, it requires cross-border cooperation and responses, PM Dr. Abiy said.

Accordingly, since 2019, the green legacy initiative acknowledges not only Ethiopians

*See Green legacy ... page 8*