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## Loyal federal tax payers receive Nat'l recognition

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDISABABA - The Ministry of Revenues of Ethiopia (MoR) has recognized 400 loyal tax payers at national level for the past 2014 Ethiopian Fiscal Year for qualifying 12 compliance related requirements.

The Ethiopian Herald learnt that the 4<sup>th</sup> round federal tax payers recognition

ceremony was took place yesterday in the presence of President Sahlework Zewde.

Accordingly, 40 platinum level, 120 gold level and 240 silver level tax payers were recognized at the ceremony.

During the ceremony, President Sahlework stated that any government needs secured

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## Some global powers misspeak govt's defensive measures: Political scientists

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## T-TPLF steals food 'from mouths of' needy: Bishop

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA - An ethnic Tigray bishop from Fala town has exposed the Terrorist TPLF's hijacking of a humanitarian aid that the federal government and international donors sent to the needy to feed its combatants.

The recently released footage on social media demonstrated the faction's callousness in using humanitarian aid to feed combatants at the expense of the needy in Tigray State of Ethiopia.

Accordingly, an ethnic Tigray Bishop Seyoum Woldu disclosed that about 600 quintals of wheat with WFP and USAID logos that the clique stored to its combatants was uncovered in Fala town warehouses. T-TPLF leaders outcry and falsely accused the government for starving the people of Tigray; in fact it is the faction which refused to give the aid to the needy.

See T-TPLF ... Page 3



## Premier inaugurates tech talent dev't school

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA - Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) yesterday inaugurated a technology talent development school that sought to cultivate a globally competitive generation in the technology sector.

"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," Prime Minister Abiy tweeted.

He elaborated that "We need more talent development centers 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 the beginning to the end of the school's development deserve gratitude, he stressed.



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**Reducing vulnerability of institutions to cyber attacks**

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# News



## EP plans to pass resolution on biased position: Defend Ethiopia

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – European Parliament (EP) has planned to pass a resolution on the recent humanitarian and human rights situation in Tigray based on its biased position, Defend Ethiopia Task Force Europe said.

Its latest statement, Defend Ethiopia expressed its dismay at the EP's plan to pass a resolution on "The recent humanitarian and human right situation in Tigray, notably of children. "We are very disappointed that before EP's Foreign Affairs, Development and Women Committees' who visited Ethiopia in September, presented their findings to Members of the Parliaments, a decision was taken to pass a resolution without the two committees, a finding indicates the Parliament's biased position on the nature of the conflict."

As members of a democratically elected institution, abiding by the rule of law and respect for human rights and democracy, "we call upon you to re-examine the situation in Ethiopia. The fighting in northern Ethiopia, including Tigray, is not a war between two states. Instead, it is a war between a democratically elected government and a regional party unwilling to accept the peaceful transfer of power as provided for in the laws of the country. It is an insurrection organized and led by TPLF, the very group that brutalized the Ethiopian people for 27 years and robbed the country's resources.

The EU can have a meaningful role by supporting the Ethiopian government's effort to expedite aid delivery to all in need of assistance across the country, including those affected by the conflict in Amhara, Afar and in particular those in recently liberated areas in Tigray.

It believed that the way out of the current crisis is an all-inclusive National Dialogue to reconcile differences, and usher in an era of peace, development, and national unity. These kinds of measures should be encouraged and supported by the EP, it stated.

## Tedros turns WHO into T-TPLF's publicity gimmicks

BY MENGESHA AMARE

**ADDIS ABABA** - Putting his responsibility of being an international civil servant aside, Tedros Adhanom (PhD) has relentlessly been working for the Terrorist TPLF and committing crimes equivalent with the outlawed group.

As to some sources, Tedros is fuelling conflict in the northern part of the country compromising WHO reputation and responsibility, and being sluggish in effectively discharging his global responsibility. He is always busy in orchestrating allegations, producing fabricated information and fake means against the Ethiopian government and producing fabricated information in collaboration with others.

Over the previous years, the WHO faced challenges as Tedros was engaged in systematic discrimination and human rights abuses by refusing emergency healthcare to the Amhara ethnic group.

The Director, who has always been obsessed with T-TPLF affiliation, has been laboring to make the terrorist group non-liable



from all atrocities it committed especially over the last 2 years. What a cursed move! Emperor Tewodros tried to unite Ethiopia yet Tedros Adhanom dreams to disintegrate Ethiopia.

He who always obsessed to vacate T-TPLF from untold atrocities they have been committed in Amhara and Afar states, gets the WHO seriously criticized.

"Article 100 of the Charter of the United Nations stipulated that in the performance of their duties, the secretary general and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or any other authority external to the Organization. They shall

refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officials responsible only to the organization.

However, Tedros stands against this article as he has always been a spokesperson of his mother terrorist faction. Using his position as a platform, he is always lobbying organizations doing in favor of the terrorist group."

As to the sources, instead of administering the leading world health agency, WHO, as an international civil servant, he has been forgetting all his responsibilities in this giant organization since the outbreak of the northern conflict following T-TPLF's merciless attack of the Northern command.

Besides, he still continues enjoying partiality stance and rescuing T-TPLF from being dismantled. As a result, he has been a primary terrorist one.

Tedros' action has been compromising WHO's reputation, independence and credibility. Though many have internationally given to him deaf ear actions do speak louder than words, the sources stated.

## Diasporas stage rally to denounce external interference

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA** - Members of Ethiopian Diaspora and friends of Ethiopia in Europe staged a rally yesterday in Brussels to denounce the undue pressure and interference by some world powers in internal affairs of Ethiopia.

It was learnt that aside from the members of Ethiopia's friendly countries' Diasporas, the Ethiopian Diasporas who hail from various countries of Europe like France, Italy, Netherlands and Germany have taken part in the rally at Schuman Square in front of European Commission.

Defend Ethiopia European Coordinators told local media that the goal of the rally is to reflect Ethiopian reality to international community and oppose the interference of some western powers in internal affairs of Ethiopia.

The demonstrators called European commission to end meddling in internal affairs of Ethiopia through entering letter to the office of the commission.

Apart from staging rally in front of



European commission, the demonstrators have held rally at Belgium Parliament, the U.S. Embassy and other organizations in Brussels.

In their slogan the demonstrators said that the people of Tigray have been suffering under the dictatorship of Terrorist TPLF and

now they deserve freedom and respect for their rights like any other human being.

Denouncing the act of EU, the demonstrators called on EU to review its policy on Ethiopia adding that nothing is more unequal than the equal treatment of unequals: the government of Ethiopia and terrorist TPLF.

# News

## Some global powers misspeak govt's defensive measures: Political scientists

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA** - Some global powers are renewing the misspeaking over government's defensive measures against the Terrorist TPLF, political scientists said, adding that resumption of such misinformation is being apparently used to underpin the weakening faction.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Political Science and International Relations Assistant Professor at Bahir Dar University Yayehu Genet said some interest groups have pursued dubious stances on the government's decision to control airports and other federal institutions in Tigray.

Those global powers and international organizations that had been engaged in support of the T-TPLF propaganda for long, have been returned to their initial position this day, the academican elaborated. "Those groups are colluding against the Government of Ethiopia to preserve their political status quo in the Horn of Africa."

Noting several international laws are also being abused by those groups, Yayehu highlighted that the United Nations and its agencies are also being hijacked by some powerful nations. As a result of this, the credibility of international and multinational organizations has been under serious doubt.



Yayehu Genet

"Surprisingly, allegations claiming the Ethiopian government as fault maker are frequently raised from the UN agencies and officials. These allegations are clearly inscribed to pressurize Ethiopia from defending its national sovereignty."

The government and people of Ethiopia should actively fight this information and diplomatic warfare through diplomatic channels, he recommended.

Political Science and International Relations Lecturer at Addis Ababa University Demeke Acheso (PhD) also told the EPA that international humanitarian



Demeke Acheso (PhD)

organizations should support government's measures if they want to live up to their names. Humanitarian organizations could distribute aid throughout Tigray if the state is freed from the criminal faction. So far, the operation of the aid agencies is limited to some places in Tigray due to the rebellious group's belligerent behavior.

The T-TPLF is looting the aid from the needy people of Tigray to feed its combatants and boosting war efforts. The only solution to this challenge is clearing the supply routes from the combatants and allowing the humanitarian aid to reach only for civilians, the academican recommended.

## Loyal federal...

source of income to develop its country and fulfill basic needs of its citizens.

She added that paying taxes on time and properly is expected from any working person. And, only a person who pays taxes properly can demand its rights.

The President further insisted that citizens should do their part by paying taxes properly so that the country can realize the development projects it has started.

According to her, the number of loyal taxpayers is increasing year by year. And, appropriate action will be taken against tax evaders.

During the occasion, Revenues Minister Aynalem Niguse stated that MoR collected over 336.7 billion Birr in tax and related revenues during the past 2014 Ethiopian Fiscal Year, and the Ministry was able to achieve 93.53 percent of the annual target set at 360.3 billion Birr.

She added that much of the revenue, over 196.2 billion Birr, was obtained from domestic tax and the remaining over 140.5 billion Birr came from export tax and customs duties.

According to the Minister, tax is a backbone for the development of a country. The role of tax payers is very essential for the realization of developed Ethiopia in all sectors.

"The footprint of taxpayers is high in all the many infrastructure projects that have been built and are being built in the country," she indicated.

She further noted that just as there are tax payers who pay taxes honestly, there are also individuals and companies those who evade taxes.

Various activities are being done to modernize the tax paying collecting system and to control the tax evaders, she said adding, that the Ministry signed an agreement with seventeen banks to digitalize the tax collecting system.

In addition to President Sahlework Zewde, the recognition ceremony was graced by Revenues Minister Aynalem Niguse, Customs Commissioner Debele Kabeta, as well as state and federal level higher government officials, awarded loyal federal tax payers, members of diplomatic corps, invited guests, among others.

## Tana Forum gives impetus to Ethiopia's tourism caliber

BY BILAL DERSO

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Tana Forum has left a big mark as an additional tourism opportunity alongside the discussion, the Amhara Culture and Tourism Bureau announced.

Bureau Head Tahir Mohamed told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the 10th Tana Forum, which was held recently in Bahir Dar city with a focus on security issues, has left a big mark on the development of conference tourism. Apart from religious and historical events, it has been learned that tourism can be increased by paying special attention to conferences.

Noting movement from one area to another due to meetings has a positive effect on conference tourism, Tahir stated that apart from being a forum, the conference has left a big mark on the development of conference tourism in the area. Prior to the forum, arrangements were made to facilitate guests to visit tourist destinations and a lot of work is done according to what needs to be done around the guest reception.

"Along with the Prime Minister's Office



and other relevant bodies; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the secretariat that organizes the forum have done security and reception activities in cooperation with service providers."

The office head further highlighted that the forum has been successful in hosting guests since its inception and there were scenes that could promote Ethiopia's culture in the reception of guests from the airport. Also, activities of visiting cultural and tourist

attractions in the area have been done.

At the end of the forum, high-level officials including country leaders visited the nearby tourist destinations and were happy with that. This experience has left a big mark as an additional tourism opportunity.

He pointed out that such an event would benefit everyone from small businesses to large service providers in the area and brings an additional resource for economic activity. In the field of tourism, great experience has been taken to develop and promote attraction sites in a better way.

As the forum was held in Tana, the participants had the opportunity to visit many tourism attractions and there is a wide plan to expand the tourism activities next year, including the Tana Forum. Regarding this, a strategy will be made and completed by June 2023.

Apart from keeping the holidays, the attendees can organize symposiums, panels, concerts and similar events without keeping the context of the holidays and an agreement is being made to stimulate the tourism activities throughout the Amhara State, Tahir remarked.

told local media that the combatants, after they controlled towns in the zone, began to tear down homes to build trenches leaving the locals not only displaced, but also homeless.

The government has established a national committee that expedites humanitarian assistance to liberated areas in Tigray State and the committee is led by National Security Advisor of the Prime Minister Ambassador Redwan Hussein, it was learned.

## T-TPLF...

Contrary to the government's commendable efforts to render the humanitarian support to the needy people of Tigray, the support is not actually reached into the hands of the targeted group. The criminal faction has employed the Tigray people to get more aid and the T-TPLF leaders shouted as people are dying, but they are the one who has stolen the aid to bolster the war efforts, Bishop Seyoum elaborated.

The footage further showcased that the situation in the areas is horrifying to witness but it is not something unexpected from a crook group like the T-TPLF. Indeed, the food aid uncovered in a warehouse in Fala exhibited the group's protracted campaign of starving the people of Tigray.

Apart from diverting aid, the terrorist enterprise has destroyed civilian homes, looted their properties and committed other atrocious crimes. Wag Hemra residents

# Opinion

## Unholy marriage won't bulwark TPLF's demise

BY TESFAYE BEZABIH (PHD)

### PART II

On the month of March 2022, the Ethiopian government announced a humanitarian truce in the war-affected areas across northern Ethiopia, yet renewed fighting in the TPLF forces launched complicated the humanitarian situation and dashed the recent hopes for peace after TPLF'S violation of the humanitarian truce (<https://www.ethioembassy.org.uk/tplfs-violation-of-the-humanitarian-truce/>)

TPLF's looting of the UN's World Food Program 570,000 liters of fuel in Tigray's capital Mekelle that was meant for humanitarian aid distribution efforts vividly exhibited the grim realities of war. TPLF's heinous act partly amazed the pro-TPLF multilateral organization like the UN and it vividly displays the rebel group's true color to the world. Although David Beasley-WFP executive director described TPLF's robbing of the fuel as 'outrageous and disgraceful', TPLF did not feel guilty rather it rejected the WFP allegation and disclosed that they have taken the fuel which had lent to the UN months back and did not commit any robberies. Disclosing all the horrible felonies of TPLF, accusing the group of the atrocities which have been committed against the country, the people of Amahara, the people of Afar, the so-called 'Humanitarian Organization' and western media don't have any space and gut to condemn the rebel group. In fact, such a silence merely indicated that the above actors are the fundamental allies of the terrorist group and they are behind the curtain in all miseries.

When the Ethiopian government claimed that the TPLF had opened new war fronts in northwestern parts as well as in the Eastern Amhara region, the west has given an elephant ear to the voice of the Ethiopian Federal government. As the war is becoming fierce and terrorist TPLF is being punished by the Country's National Defense force, they immediately break up their silence and come as peace mediators. In most cases, they were stating both parties should stop the conflict and come to a reconciliation. Such a statement is a usual utterance of the west when they feel TPLF is retreating and being defeated in the war. Their camouflaged peace talks and regular concern on this conflict is to extend the life of the TPLF group in Ethiopian Politics. However, the west should bear in mind that TPLF's primary aim and dream is to ruin Ethiopia unless it comes back to the throne at the palace in *arat killo* and control all the securities and key business firms; otherwise, it prefers to become the dangerous terrorist group in the horn of Africa which ultimately disquiet the horn of Africa.

### Terrorist TPLF as a Swinging pendulum for peace talks

When T-TPLF was opposing the formation of the now-ruling Prosperity Party in December 2019, retreated to Tigray, and rejected to become part of the new political bloc led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, it also rejected several rounds of planned in-house peace talks. For instance, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, a delegation from Addis Ababa comprises a group of elders made up of religious leaders and notable persons including athlete Haile Gebrselassie who traveled into Mekelle for what was billed as a peace conference, yet TPLF rejected the peace talks, besides mothers, other influential peace negotiators had also repeatedly gone to Mekelle and have a discussion with top TPLF leaders, however, the peace talk resulted in nothing. Therefore, the TPLF was responsible for the failed pre-war mediation basically the TPLF leaders were unwilling to drop their preconditions and participate in the bilateral negotiations with the prosperity Party( PP) <https://www.awashpost.com/2021/12/09/ethiopian-elders-and-religious-leaders-failed-to-stop-the-tigray-war-can-they-end-it-now/>. What other actors are not able to understand and are impaired by the nature of the rebel group is that T-TPLF is quite reluctant and rigid for the peace talks and merely believes in arms, not in round table discussions. For that, it has not yet stopped its solo bravado action and white propaganda on the existence of the nation believing that the nation will fall unless it comes to power and leads the 100 and above millions of Ethiopians again. Indeed a lot of illustrative actions were demonstrated and showed the patient effort and determination with which the Ethiopian government tried to accommodate TPLF as a potential partner for development and peace on several occasions, the Ethiopian government called upon the TPLF to cease its destabilizing conduct and to become a force of peace and development. Despite numerous opportunities have given to work with the Federal government, TPLF continued its malicious and anti-Ethiopia thesis on the sovereign nation and waged a war against its own people in different rounds, many were ambush attacks.

Being accompanied by the West's, the international media and the lobbying industries' full support, TPLF's plan to destabilize Ethiopia is often practical by its inhuman action. Since the Ethiopian government has the legitimate right to keep the safety and security of its people, it should be crystal clear that the government has the full right to defend the people and its nation both from internal and outside attacks.

Ethiopia's government unreserved effort to bring peace is always the only

option for ending up the war. For that, the government always believes the peace door remains open as far as TPLF genuinely believes in the value of peace and dialogue. Though the government has disclosed several statements on the value of peace to end the conflict, its initiative and genuine interest in peace have not been given due attention by the West. The government's stand on peace is a primer agenda, yet the west's primary political order of business is blackmailing the government and showing their support to TPLF.

Amid the severe conflict between the Tigray rebel forces and the Federal government interest in peace is always bounteous. However, TPLF's interest in peace talks is often vacillating. In plain language, TPLF and its ally don't want the AU's initiative to take the lion's share of the peace agenda. TPLF primarily wanted to have other western actors to involve in the peace process and requires the participation of international officials as observers however; as the Ethiopian government believes African problems should be solved by Africans themselves, the welcoming of other external actors for the negotiation process is not welcomed. <https://www.thetelegraph.com/news/article/Peace-talks-in-Ethiopian-conflict-are-delayed-17493292.php>

Following the last peace call in which both parties disclosed their interest, western media are twisting the agenda and undermining the effort of the AU in their news reporting. For instance, the Reuters news agency's next to its news headline read as "Ethiopia Peace talks delayed for logistical reasons", narrated issues with doubt of negotiations and brings a vague concern for the international community. The statement is read as follows:

*"The current AU-led peace talk's process excludes Amharas - the largest affected group in the war," the Amhara Association of America, a lobby group, said in a statement.*

*Even in its letter accepting the AU invitation, the leader of Tigray forces suggested he had reservations, asking for clarification on who had been invited as participants, observers and guarantors.*

*"There are a number of issues that need to be resolved before (talks) occurs, and mediators will then face a major challenge ... to get the two parties to commit to a new truce," said William Davison, senior analyst for Ethiopia at the International Crisis Group think-tank. (<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/ethiopia-peace-talks-delayed-logistical-reasons-diplomats-2022-10-07/>)*

The reference point for the news outlet is the pro-TPLF political analyst like William Davison who has been propagating his biased political view on the Northern conflict starting

from the onset of the war and who is publishing unreliable information to the international community. The statement on the news also included a statement stated to them by the Amhara Association lobby group which would they think of such a statement will bring a crackdown and doubt on the Amhara community in Ethiopia and indirectly support their hidden objective.

Earlier the TPLF rejected talks under the mediation of the African Union, however, the rebel group recently announced it accepted the AU's invitation to talks in South Africa, which would be expected to be the first normal negotiation between the two sides since the war broke out in November 2020.

As it has been revealed many times, Ethiopia government's primary interest is to end the bloody war in peace and dialogue, nevertheless, some are arguing that by the name of peace talks, TPLF'S taking a breath for consolidating power to launch another concealed ambush against the federal government and on civilians and the rebel groups lack interest peace talks (<https://www.voaafrica.com/a/6707322.html>)

As the Ethiopian government is punishing the rebel groups plus prioritizing the need to end the conflict peacefully, TPLF won't accept its demise and seems to believe as Edgar Allan Poe said "Even in the grave, all is not lost". TPLF is always scapegoating all of its crimes and blaming the Ethiopian government for all the horrible mess committed in the nation. The group's chameleon behavior and malicious manner is boldly written in the mind of Ethiopians Ethiopian forever.

Even if the West's either knowingly underpin the rebel group or misunderstood the conflict, their international media's partial reporting escalates the conflict and bewildered the international community, the pay-for-play network, and unholy marriage with lobbyist groups like the Von-Batten Montague-york-LC [https://twitter.com/batten\\_von/header\\_photo](https://twitter.com/batten_von/header_photo) lobbying firm, and then to cumulated campaign against Ethiopia won't rescue the life of the TPLF from its total demise.

Ultimately the west and their international media should understand that the TPLF, being the victim of its own ethnic-driven policy, had to opt for force at any given time to stay in power. That is at the root of the conflict in northern Ethiopia today.

**About the Author:** Tesfaye Bezabih is a lead researcher at the Institute of Foreign Affairs. IFA and an Assistant Professor of Mass Communication. He has published several media and communication articles regarding Ethiopia.

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

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## Editorial

### Smear campaign cannot besmirch ENDF's discipline, valor!

Against the backdrop of terrorist TPLF's refusal to accept the federal government's strings of calls for peace and its declaration of another round of war, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) have liberated some areas of Tigray State in their defensive measures.

Though the incumbent has a moral, legal and public mandate to take defensive and calculated measures, it has been consistent in extending an olive branch, proposing a peaceful resolution of the TPLF-provoked conflict time and time again.

In sharp contradiction to the government's good gesture, the hawkish element has been adamant in rebuffing all the calls for negotiation. The group rather continued its belligerence and heinous crimes against the civilian population. And, the Ethiopian government was left with no option but to take defensive measures to protect civilians in Tigray, Amhara, and Afar states. A few days ago, the gallant Ethiopian forces have liberated Shire, Alamata, and Korem areas.

The terrorist TPLF's massive attack was preceded by repeated and grave violations of Ethiopia's airspace by hostile foreign actors supporting the TPLF. It is worth noting that this is the third time that the T-TPLF dragged the country into conflict in a span of two years. It launched this third round of attack soon after the Federal Government announced its readiness for AU-led peace talks without preconditions to be convened anytime and anywhere reads the latest statement of the Government Communication Services (GCS).

"The TPLF is thus solely responsible for the current situation. If given the time and space, it will do this again as exhibited in its latest communication."

The statement further highlighted that the maximum care the ENDF has taken thus far has succeeded in protecting civilians from harm. "The ENDF has averted the grim scenario some have predicted by echoing TPLF's propaganda."

Despite this stark reality, the active collusion of TPLF and hostile foreign powers has been defaming the reputation of the Ethiopian defense forces. In fact, TPLF started the war by mercilessly attacking the Northern Command of the Ethiopian Defense Forces station in Tigray State in 2020.

Clearly, the Ethiopian army has been the center of the hybrid war since. In a latest defamation attempt, the so-called International Human Rights Commission of Experts on Ethiopia threw unfounded allegations of human rights abuses on

the Ethiopian Defense forces. The Commission without the proper mandate and investigation process jumped to a sweeping and incriminating conclusion against ENDF. The flawed report shamelessly tried to accuse the Ethiopian army of weaponization of hunger.

Truly, the evil objective of this coordinated, well-financed smear campaign has been to whitewash the war crimes of the criminal TPLF clique and criminalize the ENDF.

And, now continuing their disinformation campaign, the unlawful TPLF organization, and its foreign enablers and stooges have been putting defamatory accusations against ENDF. The truth is Ethiopia is making engagement to provide humanitarian aid to the needy people of Tigray via Shire Airport.

"The government, in coordination with humanitarian operators, is making preparations to expand the route through which humanitarian assistance could be transported. A concerted effort is also underway to open the North Gondar route to Shire as well as the Kombolcha-Dessie-Woldyia-Kobo-Alamata route," according to GCS.

Yet, the fake accusations rape, killings, and other atrocities are going up, as ENDF continues liberating more areas from the terrorist group.

The undisputed fact is the Ethiopian army is the most-disciplined, well-equipped, and well-trained army. It has been restoring peace and stability in the Horn Africa region. Its bravery and discipline were demonstrated in Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan.

The reputation of the Ethiopian army goes back to the 1950s when Ethiopia deployed the first peacekeeping mission in the Korean peninsula. From Congo to Rwanda, the army has received a pat on the back for its bravery and ethics.

It is also worth reminding that the Ethiopian government has formed Inter-ministerial Task-Forces and filed charges against security personnel who have allegedly committed abuses in Tigray state. But, turning a blind eye to these measures, the rogue TPLF clique and its paymasters have kept tarnishing ENDF with fake accusations.

It should be clear that ENDF is fighting a just war and protecting civilians including the Tigray people remains to be its top priority. It must also be clear that no coordinated campaign can undo its years of bravery and discipline!

## Opinion

### Amidst the alligator's tear of the west, ENDF closes on the terrorist TPLF to free citizens in Tigray

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Ethiopian defense forces are advancing in their legitimate defense against the recent barbaric attacks on the people and government of Ethiopia is gross violation of the 5 month ceasefire obstructing the direly needed relief supply for the needy in Tigray and unprovoked attack on Kobo over the past several weeks.

Even then, in total denial of international law and various conventions that provides for the sovereignty of Ethiopia, the western powers, their media outlets and so called human rights organizations remained totally silent when terrorist TPLF conducted a rampage of massacre in northern Ethiopia and even resorted to reverberating the false narrative that the ENDF has started the attack. The west is accustomed to taking the lies and propaganda trumpeting from terrorist TPLF as the most refined truth with no need for verification.

In total disregard of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, they continued to refer to terrorist TPLF as "the Government of Tigray" and the terrorist armed group as "Tigray Defense Forces, illegally endorsing a regional terrorist group as a government. What could have happened if the same situation happens in Europe and the US? The writer of this article leaves the answer to the reader.

The western powers have recently come up with a barrage of releases and "concerns on the situation in Tigray" forgetting the fact that these are Ethiopian citizens who are languishing under the yoke of a terrorist clique that lives on misinformation and shameless lies and the main purpose of ENDF is to free citizens in Tigray from the barbaric rule of a home grown terrorist group.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October BBC wrote that "Diplomats are warning of a civilian bloodbath in Ethiopia's northern region of Tigray if rebels are pushed out of towns by Ethiopian and Eritrean troops."

Dr. Tedros Adhanom the WHO Director General tweeted "Cities are being carpet bombed, Civilians are being killed and those wounded cannot be saved because of a siege"

Samantha Power, the USAID Chief tweeted "If Ethiopian and Eritrean troops took control of them during the current offensive there was "significant risk of further assaults and killings being perpetrated against civilians.

She added "The staggering human cost of this conflict should shock the world's conscience," she added. A resident of Tigray's main city of Mekelle told the BBC there was almost no food in the city. "The carnage is horrendous. Likely as many as 100,000 have been slaughtered over the last weeks"

It is interesting to know how the USAID chief got the figure of 100,000 slaughtered. She never mentioned where and why and by whom. This indicates the extent to which she is willing to save the killers from Tigray by generalizing the information.

The Government of Norway came up with a presser which read "Norway is deeply concerned about the situation in and around the city of Shire."

The main point is who is the culprit here? Who has slaughtered 100,000, where? Why? And when?

Terrorist TPLF completely disrupted the smooth flow of relief food into Tigray by waging a third round of war on Amhara and Afar regions and yet the western countries are blaming the Government

of Ethiopia for every crime that the terrorist group has committed in Ethiopia.

The Government of Ethiopia has declared its intentions to control all airports in Tigray and to open up Shire Airport for delivery of relief supplies to Tigray both on land and air. The government has already opened the land route from Kombolcha to Dessie, Kobo, Alamata, to be used for relief supplies in cooperation with local and international NGOs.

But speaking to reporters on the 17th of October 2022, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said "The situation in Ethiopia is spiraling out of control. Violence and destruction have reached alarming levels. The social fabric is being ripped apart, said Guterres. "Hostilities in the Tigray region of Ethiopia must end now, including the immediate withdrawal and disengagement of Eritrean armed forces from Ethiopia."

"Civilians are paying a horrific price. Indiscriminate attacks, including in residential areas, are killing more innocent people every day, damaging critical infrastructure and limiting access to vital services. Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes since hostilities resumed in August, many of them for the second time. There are also disturbing reports of sexual violence and other acts of brutality against women, children and men", said the UN chief.

For over three weeks since August, the UN Secretary General has never uttered a word when terrorist TPLF broke the ceasefire and despite all the detailed information at his disposal, tries to cover up the crimes that terrorist TPLF is committing in Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions. The Secretary General is well aware of the fact

that terrorist TPLF has conducted hundreds of killings, rape and destruction of public and private properties in the northern part of Ethiopia but fails to condemn a series of terrorist acts on a founding member of the UN.

Contrary to the assertions of the Secretary General, Redwan Hussien, A Special Security Advisor to the Prime Minister tweeted "There is nothing out of control and everything is going on as planned."

The western countries and their media outlets have already become a pawn in the hands of terrorist TPLF propaganda and are not even interested to verify the facts from credible government sources. They refer to "both parties" putting a sovereign government on equal footing with a home grown terrorist group. They were advising their citizens in Addis Ababa to leave the city based on totally false information that terrorism TPLF is "at the gates of Addis Ababa."

The great betrayal and systematic conspiracy that the western media and governments are conducting on Ethiopia will only help to encourage lawlessness and terrorism in Ethiopia.

Despite the cordial diplomatic relations that Ethiopia has enjoyed, it is regrettable to see that the major western countries are preferring a terrorist organization to a full-fledged sovereign government in their ultimate desire to humiliate Ethiopian people and their government to bow down to their neo-colonial ambitions of controlling the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa.

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

# Business & Economy

## Manufacturing industry should not be crucified for the service

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

It is worth understanding that the manufacturing industry is the right and healthy sector of the urban economy, along with a simple, efficient public and private service sector.

Therefore, the healthy growth of cities should be directly related to the growth of this sector, while it should be an indirect result of the production of the agricultural sector.

For ages, the government tried to explore the economy of the country based on agriculture yesterday and today under the title Ethiopia's Economy Yesterday and Today.

In the past twenty-seven years, it had been said that "we had a developmental government and an agriculture-led economic policy," but the performance was very weak, so that it is very hard to forget about food insecurity and the limited growth that was recorded. The government and private service sectors performance was below the average.

The share of the agriculture sector in the overall economy has decreased, the service sector has increased, and the growth rate of the sectors has increased from 6.3 percent in 2011/2012 to 13 percent in 2017/18. In this situation, it can be said that transforming the economy from agricultural led to that of the industrial sector is unmet.

It is better to look the challenges of the new direction of structural change of the government in this article. Failures that have been in due course are those include implementation and the continuing problems in the agricultural sector, and as a result, agriculture that has not been able to realize production affects the industrial sector in three ways. Due to the problem of supply of raw materials and other inputs, the lack of wide market potential and demand in the country and the drought of investment (Capital) which the sector needs at a high level. It is easy to see that all the three challenges mentioned above, including others, will seriously affect the relations of the manufacturing institutions with the wider society and the whole country, and it will have a strong negative effect. The lack of foreign exchange the economy has encountered is a headache not only for importers but also for the manufacturing industry, so it is heard from the press conference that the actors in the sector are forced to cease function, reduce, and lay off their employees to skirmish with their difficulties, both individually and as a group.

This is because the sector uses a large amount of inputs, including agricultural products, from foreign markets. It used to be that it was called mining and crushing, and it seems not only because it was not possible to start the manufacturing industry sector in the agricultural sector as a resource for the products that the country exports to the foreign market, but also because it was not wanted.



Sesame, nugget, soy sauce... the country produces and supply to the foreign market, but paradoxically, it imports a lot of edible oil from the foreign market and distribute it according to quota.

In general, modernizing agriculture and making it efficient, working to produce products that are used as input for the manufacturing industry in the country in the first type, quality and quantity, investing in the agricultural sector, for the benefit of the masses, pouring knowledge, ensures the benefit of the masses, but it is not an easy task like buying and selling even in the foreign market. It is important to understand that although it is not a source of benefit for a few in the short term, it is useful for all in the long run; it is the beginning and foundation of further processes. In the manufacturing industry sector, products are produced that are small in quantity but more valuable by using resources or raw materials that are large in quantity but cheap in price, with knowledge and technology.

Therefore, even if the foreign currency is cheap, for the sustainable growth of the sector for a manufacturing industry (assuming there are others; *Ceteris Paribus*, With Other Conditions Remaining the same.) It is worth understanding that staying away from the market is a challenge in itself, but staying away from the inputs and raw materials is a relatively bigger challenge.

A local manufacturing facility that imports its raw materials and inputs from China, but the market is right under its nose, it will find it difficult to continue in the long term as a competitor with a similar Chinese facility that supplies its products to the Ethiopian market. Without forgetting that there are still others, both of them, when they stay away from resources and the market, they are listening to the rest.

The growth of the agricultural sector should be ensured not only by the additional amount of production produced for various purposes, but also by the increase in the income of the majority of the producers. When the income of the masses increases, it is used by the economy for consumption and what is left for savings and investment. The consumption demand of the large farmers and herdsmen,

which grows with the income, is the basis for the development of the manufacturing industry.

Even the manufacturing industry startups operating for the domestic market are few and limited to the needs and markets of the city.

Although beer, bottled drinking water, food processing, construction material manufacturing and other factories are profitable for the time being, if they are not connected with the demand and purchasing power of farmers and pastoralists in the wider market, it is difficult to maintain the sustainable growth of the industrial sector, especially the share of the economy.

It is only used by traders and foreign producers, but it is a good example of the needs and market of modern development of the large farmers three decades ago and now.

The farmer did not want to use modern equipment, or it was less, started to use it, they produced more products, they used it, so their demand grew, but without creating employment opportunities for the people of the city, it was offered to him at a high price.

It means that domestic efficiency, profitability, consumption, savings and investment have weakened over the years. At the same time, if the demand and capacity to drink beer, use cement, bank loans, buy insurance coverage, etc., does not increase gradually, the further development of these institutions will stop at one place. It will also be difficult to move to the global market.

Anywhere, it is possible to win for the long term by using the first opportunities, reducing the challenges, enhancing the competitiveness in the process, especially in the manufacturing sector through experience and mass production.

With the problem of supply of resources, the direction of industrial development, which is aimed at the limited domestic and foreign markets, has to be corrected already because of the main reasons mentioned above.

It might be reasonable for the government to rely on self and domestic, homegrown economic aspect notably on capital to realize the structural change.

# Art & Culture

## Continuing the educational reform by taking rectification measures

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

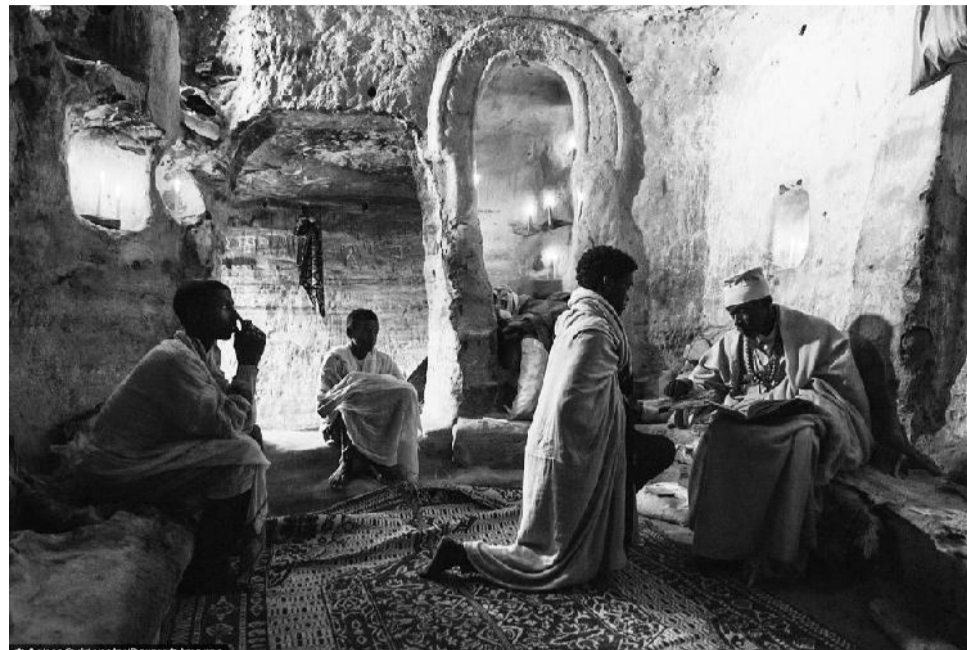
According to critics and academic gurus who have written a great deal about Ethiopia's modern educational system seem to be agreeing on the fact that the educational system has always been in trouble because of the basic principles underlying its development. According to some critics, the educational system was built by bypassing the traditional educational assets that the country had accumulated for centuries. The modern educational system was a kind of short cut towards modernization by adopting Western educational ethos developed thousands of years ago by the Greeks and then adopted by the Western world.

Scholars have repeatedly insisted on the need to adopt Western education on the basis of Ethiopia's traditional system by using constructive values and cultures to address the country's developmental needs at the turn of the last century. Although the cornerstones for modern education in Ethiopia were laid down under emperor Menelik, real progress in that direction could only materialize under the long rule of Emperor Haile Sellassie. In his modernizing zeal, the last emperor sought the assistance of Western educationists and scholars to be actively involved in the process. To this end he invited British, and American educationists and teachers who were believed to promote and implement his vision of creating a new educated generation that would serve in the then budding bureaucracy and in other state apparatuses and institutions.

Thus, Ethiopia's school curriculums were shaped according to Western ones and imitated their principles and philosophies while ignoring the knowledge and wisdom the traditional system had accumulated in the process of its religious as well as secular developments over the centuries. Instead of taking constructive precepts and ideas from the traditional, basically religious school system, and combine it with the newly discovered Western education, the new approach ignored what could have accelerated modernization and chose to spend precious time and energy in the largely unproductive endeavors to adopt alien philosophies that proved not only dysfunctional but also counterproductive and disappointing.

The crisis in Ethiopia's so-called modern educational system reached its zenith in 1974 when students and teachers revolted against the then proposed Educational Sector Review they believed further exacerbated the problems instead of producing effective solutions to bring the system out of the impasse it has been put in over the previous twenty or thirty years after its introduction. The Educational Sector Review was rightly or wrongly perceived as an attempt by the then educational authorities to appease the revolting teachers and students to buy time for the monarchical regime that was tittering on the brink.

The last almost half a century after the 1974 revolution witnessed no significant reforms in the educational system. On the contrary, the Westernization or the process of copying from foreign educational models continued unabated. The revolution had not only facilitated the search for an autonomous educational philosophy, but also adopted a



model worse than the Western one that was dominating the system during the previous decades. The adoption of a Soviet-style educational system on Ethiopian societies not only failed to address the accumulated problems but also added more problems than it created solutions. The so-called socialist educational system was completely unsuited to Ethiopian realities.

To take only one instance, the Marxist-Leninist philosophy that underlined the educational system was based on the denial of traditional and religious values as it rejected the basic principle underlying faith or the very existence of a supreme creator from whom all wisdom moral or otherwise emanated. The attempt to impose a Soviet-style educational system with Atheism or the denial of the very existence of the Creator, was anathema to Ethiopian tradition and belief system. However formidable the challenges were, the search for an education system that could articulate the needs and aspirations of the Ethiopian people had continued unabated even after the crisis of "socialist education".

In the 1990s and during the last decade of the 20th century, Ethiopia's search for a suitable educational approach to solving its many problems had continued unfettered. However the proposed educational reforms did not address the fundamental weaknesses of the system but aimed at improving or overhauling this or that aspect of it. Under the EPRDF for instance, the basic orientation of the educational system was left untouched while certain institutional reforms were implemented. The pillar of the educational policy of the EPRDF regime was to build as many schools and universities as possible throughout the country and bring as many students as possible in these schools and universities. However, that was a huge and ambitious project that did not touch at the core issues of the educational system.

Although that was not bad in itself this approach focused exclusively on putting education in the service of the development needs of the country, which was wrongly perceived as something that could vanish by teaching and graduating hundreds of thousands of youngsters and deploying them into the economic system that could not carry so many graduates. This created a kind of "inflation of educated people as well as massive joblessness and most of all a sharp fall in the quality and objective of modern education.

It was only a leap from one crisis to the other while the shortcomings and challenges accumulated to the extent that educational ethics was undermined, and being educated was only getting the necessary grades by any means (including through buying grades, cheating, favoritism and corruption) and graduating without acquiring the necessary qualifications entitling graduates for employment. Thus a generation of pseudo-educated youngsters crowded the job market and there was compete chaos as the priority was put on acquiring a college degree rather than a decent education, strong knowledge or wisdom.

Nevertheless, the locomotive of educational reform did not stop at any station and the present approach to reforming the system has apparently started from below as more emphasis is once again being given to nurturing the next generation in a new and ethically and morally improved environment free from the above-indicated corrupt practices. The recent decision by the educational authorities to make twelfth grade national exams free from corruption, cheating and like practices may look strange as the decision led to the mobilization of hundreds of thousands of students and their journey to different universities across the nation where they could sit for the exams in an atmosphere of security and free from cheating and other unfair means of getting higher or undeserved marks as it was an established practice in the recent past. It was obviously a massive logistic and management operation but it is bound to pay off dividends according to the authors of the project although it might take more time to an objective assessment of its merits and shortcomings. With the exception of occasional hiccups, its overall success is commendable because the project is implemented in a challenging national political, and economic atmosphere.

Hundreds of thousands of young people recently sat for the school leaving certificate examination in an atmosphere free from intimidation, complication or alleged criminal acts of cheating at the exams that were standard practices in the past. The problem of cheating at the exams had reached such a worrying level that it had made it difficult to separate those students who were hard working and honest from those who tried to pass the exams by dubious means such as using various electronic devices to connect with people outside the

exams halls and relayed the answers to them or stealing the exams in advance and attend the exam sessions with the answers well prepared. There might have been also other questionable methods to in their bid to pass the exams at any cost.

This problem had reached such an alarming proportion so much so that the educational authorities were in great distress every time national exams were scheduled. They were busy trying to seek ways and means of preventing the dishonest students from resorting to cheating. This was a very stressful situation simply because it compromised the ethics and morality of education in general and the rules and regulations that should be followed during exams.

It was indeed a malaise that gave advantage to the incompetent students and undermined the aspiration of hard working and honest ones. As such it had to be stamped out at any cost and the solution was found out to be first prevent theft of the exams and second conducting the exams under maximum security conditions. And the best way was found out to be to move the candidates for the school leaving examination to universities and colleges where the alleged cheaters could not resort to the usual dirty tricks. This was obviously done for the sake of upholding the integrity of the exams and protecting the educational system from such abuses that compromised its objectives and ethical standards.

The educational reforms in Ethiopia can only be multifaceted, interdependent and deep going. The reforms or rectifications also involve more efforts than mobilizing tens of thousands of students for exams. It might include a critical study of the structural, philosophical and fundamental shortcomings of the system, otherwise a holistic approach to addressing the objectives of the reform that is bound to take more time, efforts and resources. Studies need to be made and debates need to be undertaken throughout society because there is nothing fundamental for the country than producing the ideal educated citizen of the future who is free from corrupt practices, ethically solid and morally well-armed in addition to exercising their talents fairly and fully.

The reforms should also include steps to do away with inter-student misunderstandings formerly fomented by anti-peace elements eager to make critical capital about the social diversities in the backgrounds of students prevalent on campuses. The diversities should served further cohesion and understanding among the student body and not promote conflicts or chaos as the anti-peace forces wished. Anyway, it was no small feat of organizational, budgetary and logistic achievement to mobilize hundreds of thousands of students to various exams centers across the country and conduct the exams in a peaceful and dependable way.

Even if there might have been some organizational or logistic problems, the lessons learned from this year's national exams will undoubtedly serve to improve the effectiveness of similar events in the future. The whole process can be hailed as the first step in the right direction of educational reforms that will put an end to the controversial exam system once and for all.

# Science & Technology

## Reducing vulnerability of institutions to cyber attacks

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIER

During the recently held 3rd National Cyber Security Month which is the month of October, a consultation forum was held at Skylight Hotel on the theme; reducing the vulnerability of institutions to cyber-attacks.

Civil Service Commissioner Dr. Mekuria Haile and Deputy Director General of Information Network Security Administration Tigest Hamid delivered speech and opened the discussion aimed at protecting key infrastructures and institutions from cyber-attack.

Fighting cyber security threats and what are the threats that make institutions vulnerable to cyber attacks were the main points which Commissioner Dr. Mekuriya raised stressing the fact that large amounts of data (structured or unstructured) that contain complex data sets are growing rapidly overtime.

The Commissioner said that to ensure the cyber security of institutions, the senior leaders of each institution should pay great attention to the matter.

“In order for our country to show rapid and continuous economic growth by using its productive human resources, it is necessary to work with stakeholders at all levels to develop cyber security awareness and capabilities, in addition to making the young generation competent in technology use and innovation.”

According to Mekuriya most of the institutions of our country pay attention to making their work supported by technology. However, both governmental and non-governmental institutions should pay attention to cyber security alongside their efforts to modernize their use of technology and play their part in the allocation of operational systems, technology and qualified human resources.

In particular, to ensure the cyber security of institutions, the senior officers of each institution are required to pay great attention to the issue. Institutions should use the cyber month (October) as a good opportunity to raise the cyber security awareness of their management and employees.

This large amount of information cannot be handled by old or outdated database and software systems. Organizations should use labels or attributes such as quantity, variety, speed, accuracy of data used to describe the quality or overall state of this data, the Commissioner added.

With the high expansion in cyber security attack methods, it can be difficult and difficult to maintain or protect an organization's performance, growth and position while protecting confidential information due to the fact that one of the main challenges of this era for institutions lays on howo protecting data from attacks and ensure cyber security.

Loss of this significant amount of data can result in loss of customer confidence, loss or theft of customer information, and system disruptions or outages that can lead to



Dr. Mekuria Haile



Information Network Security Administration Tigest Hamid

significant losses and risks at a highest risk.

This vast collection of information can fall into the wrong or inappropriate hands or be exposed to natural or man-made hazards. Outdated and out-of-date security control systems and technologies used to perform data-related operations and to maintain cyber security will not be eligible in the future because it cannot control large amount of data, it can be corrupted or lost.

The vulnerability of cyber security could occur from various reasons such as gaps in professional skills or knowledge and on top of such vulnerability, this information may also lead for more risks to other attacks.

Given that the data sources are the result of many different technologies, it becomes increasingly complex and difficult to maintain security. Inaccurate and unnecessary data can clutter up the database and disrupt operations. High data pollution causes damage ranging from data logic distortion to data mixing or alteration and data corruption.

The other thing that institutions might potentially suffer from cyber-attack is that confidential information may be leak out and exposed to theft, whether intentionally or unintentionally by an insider. Cybercriminals can use vulnerabilities in systems that are connected to sensitive data to carry out theft or data destruction attacks. Data can be corrupted due to human pressure or negative activities as well as natural disasters.

How to protect institutions from cyber attack

Tigest Hamid, Deputy Director General of the Information Network Security Administration (INSA) said that institutions should look inside into themselves and identify the issues that make them vulnerable to cyber attacks, fill gaps, increase the cyber awareness of experts and work together to protect Ethiopia's cyber sovereignty.

“Institutions are required to protect themselves through identifying issues that make institutions vulnerable to cyber attacks and filling gaps, the ability of experts to understand cyber ion order to discharge their responsibility to protect Ethiopia's

cyber sovereignty by promoting and team working.

The goal of marching the Cyber Security Month is to reducing organizational vulnerabilities. In this way, there will be a wide awareness and work on what institutions should do to reduce their vulnerability to cyber attacks, she further stated.

Globally, we have become more dependent on technology than ever due to the increasing number of users of technology and internet, especially social media. Although the growing number of people using the digital environment is a new fact of life; Institutions' lack of awareness and lack of focus on cyber security has put governments at greater risk.

In countries such as Ethiopia, which are entering the digital environment on a large scale, the institutional level of awareness gap on the use of technology is also playing a leading role in cyber attacks that are growing every year. Any kind of cyber-attack on our institutions can cause our institutions to be defamed, loss of income and losses.

“We are at a time when the ability to easily recognize and understand and quickly adopt advanced technologies and applications is critical for institutions to remain competitive in the cyber world.”

According to studies, in terms of the use of technology, 82 percent of the applications used by public service institutions worldwide are vulnerable to cyber-attacks. The director said: “We should update the technologies used by both governmental and private institutions and their operating systems, expand their control and monitoring systems, and by owning and using modern and safe technology, we should jointly prevent and protect against cyber-attacks that may be inflicted on institutions and the country.”

Tigest concluded that as we celebrate the 3rd National Cyber Security Awareness Month; I entrust institutions to look inward and identify issues that lead to cyber vulnerability, to close the loopholes, to increase the cyber awareness capacity of experts and to work together to protect Ethiopia's cyber sovereignty.

***In order for our country to show rapid and continuous economic growth by using its productive human resources, it is necessary to work with stakeholders at all levels to develop cyber security awareness and capabilities, in addition to making the young generation competent in technology use and innovation***



# Society

## Promoting tourism via people-to-people ties

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia has abundant tourism potentials. Its natural beauty, historic, cultural and religious heritages festivals, ancient relics and indigenous incredible artifacts coupled with country's diverse climate and attractive landscapes make the country one of the top destinations to visit.

These blessings present unique opportunities in terms of advancing country's socioeconomic development, aside from being pride to Ethiopia and Ethiopians.

However, as professionals, working on the area stated repeatedly, the country though is blessed with enormous resources compared with other countries, is not benefitting at the desired level for various reasons. Including limitation in promoting the potential tourism resources through a variety of promotional tools, failure in expanding basic tourism infrastructure facilities and services in tourist destinations sites, and producing human capital in the sector among others are challenging the sector hugely.

As Rank Ethiopia stated in its website, with the most UNESCO World Heritage Sites than any other African country (including Egypt), Ethiopia is a hidden gem that is overlooked by many travellers. With such cultural diversity, archaeological pedigree and natural beauty, there's a good reason why the nation is so high on the Wild Frontiers travel list.

In the past few years, however, developing tourist sites and promoting the tourism sector is getting



Photo-ENA

attention as a consequence of its incalculable socioeconomic rewards.

As part this effort, over the past two years numbers of tourist destinations were refurbished and reconstructed. Some more are also in the pipeline. As a result, with in a short time, the recently refurbished and reconstructed sites amongst others are getting popularity from local people and foreign tourists.

Especially, the sites that have become reality in recent years in the capital Addis Ababa, including the Entoto Park, Unity Park, the Science Museum as well as Abrehot Library and Friendship Square are alluring the hearts of domestic and foreign tourists. The number of people, who are visiting

the places, is also increasing from time to time.

Of late, tourists who came from various African countries and visited tourist destinations located in different areas of the capital also expressed their feelings with regard to nation's ample tourist attractions.

According to the tourists, they found the capital, Addis Ababa to be a very impressive destination for visitors.

According to Mohammed Habib Jebel, Senior Expert in Tourism Marketing and Promotion at the Ministry of Tourism; More than 600 visitors from 40 African countries have entered Addis Ababa. Of those tourists, more than 50 are said

working in areas related to the tourism sectors.

Jackie May, a journalist and came from South Africa, was one of the tourists who visited the destinations. "I have witnessed amazing tourist attractions that inspire Africans to pay a visit to Ethiopia. I have found the tourist destinations in Addis Ababa to be very impressive," she stated to local media.

Harriet Muru, Kenyan Journalist, also mentioned that during her visit she saw number of gripping and fascinating things that cannot be bored if seen again and again; but creating some type of psychological satisfaction.

Fatim Tolah, who came from Côte d'Ivoire, also appreciated Ethiopia's move in progressing the tourism sector and underlined the significance of the tour in terms of strengthening Africa's tourism sector. Such kind of tour can boost up inter-African tourism. Thus, other African countries should also draw a lesson from Ethiopia, she added.

The visit, organized by the initiative of the African Union in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nigerian Embassy, is said help to promote Ethiopia's tourism potential and building nation's image concurrent to reinforcing African unity, and cooperation among countries of the region through creating a continental tourism movement.

Ethiopia is the third country in Africa, after Tunisia and Morocco, in inscribing many heritage sites on the World Heritage List.

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The Ministry of Health

## Ethiopia's efforts on digital health

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Ethiopia has led Digital Health Week-2022 Virtual accompanied by events, campaigns and exhibition from October 10-14, 2022 under the theme "Digital health to achieve health for all." Digital Health Week is a global week of action that aims to put digital health on the public and political agenda.

And in the ongoing reform in Ethiopia led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), using innovative digital health interventions and informed policy decisions based on quality data to improve the health and wellbeing of Ethiopians is a cornerstone of Ethiopia's Health System Transformation Plan. And the USAID-funded Digital Health Activity (DHA) which was launched in August 2020 is a five-year project that supports Ethiopia in improving the quality and availability of healthcare services through the deployment of data-driven and patient-centered digital tools.

Together with the Federal Ministry of Health and partners, including the Bill and Melinda Gates-funded Data Use Partnership, DHA is helping build sustainable, resilient, and interoperable health information systems (HIS) that ensure the entire health sector has the data, analytics, and skills necessary to improve the health and well-being of all Ethiopians.

MoH also launched the Digital Health Innovation and Learning Center (DHILC), the first of its kind, in Addis Ababa on

August 6, 2020. The DHILC is a place where health professionals can design and validate digital health tools, synthesize and promote best practices, and scale-up innovations. It was built by the MoH in collaboration with Saint Peter's Specialized Hospital and JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. through the Ethiopia Data Use Partnership (DUP), with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

DHA is doing this through three objectives. Digitization is the one about deployment of various digital tools that enable healthcare providers to deliver standardized services and capture health data to provide data-driven services. And data use is to make informed decisions through data-driven analysis, to improve access to health services through remote care and consultations besides to empower patients to control their care with digital health solutions.

The third objective is governance and capacity building. This aims at improving service delivery by empowering competent and caring health care providers and to nurture private sector, academia and tech start-ups to bolster digital health ecosystem for sustainability.

Then, Minister of Health Dr. Lia Tadesse said: "It is expected that the center will play a tremendous role, particularly in developing and implementing data and demand-driven health systems in the health sector. It will support the use of digital technology to improve our health service delivery,

and remain a place where sustainable implementation and support capacities are built to help ensure government ownership of the systems."

She also commented that the center will help youth participate in the health sector and advance job-creation in other sectors through its capacity-building training. The center is a resource for both MoH staff and external health partners and offers accredited certificate-level training. DHILC features a software development and testing environment for eCHIS and HRIS and serves as a clearinghouse for new digital health tools that will be implemented in the health system.

The DHILC is also a place where practitioners can seek and receive technical and professional support to overcome health system implementation challenges. Based on the experiences of other countries, the

center is expected to solve about 85 percent of users' minor health information system-related problems.

At last, Dr. Solomon Zewdu, Deputy Director Africa – Health and Nutrition at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, said on the inauguration: "The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is extremely pleased to have contributed to the realization of Ethiopia's Digital Health Innovation and Learning Center. It is our belief that this center plays a crucial role in transforming health information systems and the culture of data-driven decision making in Ethiopia's health sector. We also believe that it will serve as an incubation center with the potential to provide technical support for other sub-Saharan African countries to build and implement sustainable digital health solutions in the spirit of south-to-south collaboration."



# This is Ethiopia



[Photo Credit: Tewodros Sahile]

## Gedeo: Combining tradition, scientific knowledge for eco-tourism

BY KFLEYESUS ABEBE

Gedeo is a zone in the South Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's State of Ethiopia, and it is an iconic place for its natural treasures, abundant megalithic archaeological sites and unique custom. Gedeo is famous for producing the global favorite Yirgacheffe coffee. This delicate, fruit flavored coffee does not come idle but from strong conviction and work on conservation. If you ever get lucky and happen to be in Gedeo, you would be surprised by the green nature of the environment. *Enset* (*enset ventricosum*), banana trees and coffee plantations are found on the side of the road.

Across the world, there has been a challenge to preserve plant and animal species; and a wide range of campaign is still going on to fight deforestation and help protect the biodiversity. Ethiopia has been a victim of climate change that has resulted from deforestation and degradation. In response, the nation introduced 'Green Legacy Initiative Campaign' in 2019 and is going on successfully.

The Gedeo people, however, has an age long tradition of enshrining forests, plant and animals species through their well established customs and culture. Someone who cuts down trees or hunts down an animal or murders people will be a social outcast by the Gedeo people. He/she cannot even enter into sacred forests with out the approval and blessing of community elders.

Recently, a team of journalists and actors in tourism sector have been on tour to different tourist sites in Southern State. However, before visiting one of the sacred forests of Gedeo, the 'Wogidan Amba Forest', members of the tour should have got the blessings of the community elders because

the ritual of praying and other ceremonial events must take place before entering to the sacred forest.

Yosef Maru, Tourism Expert and a PhD candidate at Dilla University, said that the Gedeo culture that is characterized by respecting elders, indigenous knowledge and agro forestry system played a significant role in protecting the environments and critical ecosystems.

"This is how Gedeo's welcome guests. This place is called Songo by Gedeos. Songo is a hut surrounded where by trees and large field. It is a meeting place, cultural, environmental, social, and political issues are dealt with; local dispute, and conflicts are resolved by elders, and knowledge is passed onto the next generation. It is in this places decrees such as people to protect the environment are made. There are 525 Songo in Gedeo. Therefore, this place plays important role in Gedeo's traditional agro forestry system."

Community elder Geremew Debnioya also said that the tradition has helped to preserve the ever greenness of the area and ensure people's food security despite high population density. "Gedeo is unique from other peoples. The Gedeos never kill even animals. There is no murder. It is a curse. They do not also cut trees. What you see here is a forest that lived for many centuries. This is a testimony that Gedeos do cut trees. It is a virgin land. Not even pick or plow touches this land."

Geremew said thanks to the tradition, sacred forests like *Wogidan Amba* are intact and hosted various plant species and animals like lion, fox and hyena. As to the elder, the livelihood of the community relies on this heritage; and it is upto the posterity to preserve this heritage, keep the forests and the environment healthy.

Upon registering Gedeo Cultural Landscape on its tentative list, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) wrote: "Strengthening the traditional institutions such as Songo and Baalle in Gedeo supports the management of the existing biodiversity." Dilla University is therefore working to preserve and support this traditional agro forestry system and its biodiversity.

In 2017, the Dilla University Botanical and Ecotourism Garden was established for the purpose of conservation, research, and education and recreation value. Director of the Center Talemso Seta (PhD) said the institution carries out research works that help preserve and multiple of indigenous plants. It also helps the unique Gedeo traditional agro forestry with its researches and promote this environmental conservation practice nationwide and even across the world in general.

"Gedeo people is prominent society in protecting environment. I think you have witnessed beautiful scenery of agro forestry. So, this botanical garden is established with aim of preserving this good practice and culture of the people. So we are closely working with community. We are attempting to preserve the culture and promote to the world in accordance with science."

The Center is also attempting to contribute share for the success of national greenery initiative by providing guidance and distributing fitting seedlings to people. "This place has been working on environment long before the environmental campaign. The start of national greenery, however, made us on the spotlight. We are multiplying indigenous tree seedlings every year and distribute among the public as community service is one of our mission. So supporting

the greenery initiative is our major task."

As appreciated by environmental scientists, socio ecological studies and the UNESCO, indigenous knowledge has helped Gedeos to have remarkable green sites and cope up with the large population density. The Gedeos have developed an agro-forestry system which is regarded as a sustainable land use system in the country hosting a large number of population density of over 1,300 people per km<sup>2</sup> and harboring a rich bio-diversity. The Gedeo agro-forestry system has evolved for a long time without significant degradation and loss of biodiversity because it is based on indigenous knowledge of environmental management and land use system. The components of the agroforestry are mainly coffee, *enset*, indigenous trees, root crops, shrubs, etc. in which, every plant occupy distinct layers of the vertical space of the plant.

UNESCO underlined the Gedeo indigenous knowledge contribute for our understanding of cultural response and adaptability to climate change. The hopes are now high this heritage to join Ethiopia's intangible heritage list under UNESCO. *Meskel*, *Gada System* and *Fiche Chambalala* are the three intangible heritages of Ethiopia inscribed by UNESCO. On top of the registration, the combination of tradition and science is encouraging both to preserve the tradition and make the Gedeo more productive. The research and Gedeo's traditional practice are also essential for the country striving to have favorable weather condition and be food sufficient. The Dilla University Botanical and Ecotourism Garden, therefore, anticipates to promote and support this treasure and make the place center of eco-tourism that tradition and science thrive.