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## ICHREE report ignores criminal investigation protocols: Int'l Jurist

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA** –The recent report of the International commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) did not follow any of the criminal investigation procedures, according to an international jurist.

Speaking to local media, Dereje Demissie (PhD) stated that the Commission has made major accusations and huge conclusions about the Ethiopian government. “You cannot accuse a government by talking to a bunch of people you have never met whose identity you never verified on the phone,” he added.

Dereje restated that the so-called experts said that they had limitations and lack of resources, access, and evidence, and that they are going to make this report based on two months of investigation. And, all of their investigations were conducted by remotely by telephone and they have never looked at the places; visited any of the areas; collected and analyzed any evidence.

There is no forensics and scientific study of any of the evidence whatsoever, just with phone calls with people that the investigators have never met; whose identity and

*See ICHREE report ... page 3*



## T-TPLF's indulgence exacerbates human cost: Media report

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**- The continued indulgence of the Terrorist TPLF rebels is exacerbating the human cost and this is a critical moment to hold the rebel leaders accountable, an international media report said.

According to the media's report, the T-TPLF leaders have interrupted the flow of humanitarian aid to the Tigray and they should be held accountable for the atrocious crimes they have committed on the civilian population of Amhara and Afar.

The third round of war instigated by the radical element has been contained from spreading. To mask this apparent wrongdoing, the rebels' adept propaganda campaigners incessantly accuse the Government of Ethiopia of a “siege” on Tigray. “Those in favor of ending this



war would be wise to stop drawing false equivalency between the warring parties.”

Warlords in control of the Tigray State falsely accused the government for holding

six million people hostage, but no one talks about the cruel tyranny of the T-TPLF that existed in the state long before the war

*See T-TPLF's ... page 3*

## Festivals peaceful completion show Ethiopians' resolve to maintain peace: GCS

**ADDIS ABABA (ENA)** - The peaceful completion of the public and religious holidays celebrated last week demonstrate the fact that Ethiopians are the guardians of peace to their country.

Ethiopians across the nation had celebrated various public and religious festivals in the month of September including the Ethiopian New Year, *Meskel* (Finding of the True Cross), *Irreechaa* (Oromo People Thanks Giving Day) as well as the celebration of

*Gishen Debre Kerbe.*

In its press statement issued yesterday, Government Communication Service (GCS) said that, all of these public and religious festivals and holidays were celebrated by millions of people including several foreign tourists decorated with religious and traditional values as well as accompanied by grand innovative displays without any security problems.

*See Festivals ... page 3*



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## Letter to European Parliament urging Ethiopia's situation reexamination

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA**- Defend Ethiopia Task Force in Europe (DETF-EU) called up on European Parliament (EP) to re-examine the situation in Ethiopia as a whole taking into account certain facts.

The above came after the Foreign Affairs, Development and Women Committees of the EP that visited Ethiopia from 19-23 September 2022, presented their findings to Members of the Parliaments.

DETF-EU, therefore, expressed its dismay that a decision was taken by the EP members of Parliaments to pass a resolution selectively on “The recent humanitarian and

*See Letter to ... page 3*

# News

## Hora Arsadi colorfully marked

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**BISHOFTU**—Ethiopians drawn from many places of Oromia State and other parts of the country at large colorfully celebrated *Irreechaa* thanksgiving festival at Hora Arsadi, a lake in Bishoftu town of Oromia state.

Speaking at the occasion Hora Arsadi Aba Geda Gobena Hola said that, Ethiopia is home to people with their own indigenous traditions and vibrant cultures, and *Irreechaa* is among the many festivities marked by the Oromo community in the country and beyond.

The Oromo people have *Irreechaa*, which is reflection of indigenous Geda system, he indicated.

“The festival is celebrated both at the heart of county’s capital Addis Ababa at Hora Finfinnee and at Hora Arsadi in Bishoftu town where people from different ethnic groups gathered and attended the festival, regardless of religion, gender and other differences,” he said.

He added that, *Irreechaa* is an inclusive, peaceful and devoid of discrepancy between ethnicity, religion, and other identity. People from all corners of the country in groups have flocked to Hora Arsadi chanting songs, waving flags painted in the Aba Geda tricolor of black, red and white. The attendants dressed with colorful traditional attires and costumes.

Aba Geda Bedada Jima said, “The festival is exceptionally marked this year and the celebrants were decorated with attires of



Photo: Gababo Gebre

different colors, which is another thing that granted the festival with unique and majestic look. It is one of the major binding glue and symbol of Oromo culture and we have to pass it to the next generation as it is the manifestation of Oromo history and culture.”

“Fiyo Temamon her part said that, as we have seen almost the entire celebrants have worn attires which display Peace, Love and Unity and the core value and manifestation of the festival. As the festival is playing a significant role preserving Oromo cultural identity, we have to keep our culture and promote it,” she said.

The official statement of the Oromia state confirmed that more than 10 million people from various parts of the country attended

the 2022 Hora Finfinnee and Hora Arsadi *Irreechaa* festivals.

Briefing Media, Oromia State President, Shimelis Abdisa, said that this year’s Hora Finfinnee and Hora Arsadi *Irreechaa* festivals were celebrated peacefully and successfully than ever before without any security concerns.

Praising security forces for their coordinated effort to peacefully celebrate *Irreechaa*, he said that, the desires to spoil the celebration by anti-peace elements have been successfully foiled and nullified by security forces in collaboration with the community. Other Ethiopians from different parts of the country took part in the thanksgiving ceremony, too.



## Tourists’ inflow to Ethiopia steadily increases

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA**- The number of international tourists that are coming to Ethiopia is growing from time to time though the sector has been hampered by local and global factors, the Tourism Minister disclosed.

Speaking to local media, Tourism State Minister Seleshi Girma said Ethiopia’s tourism industry has been registering auspicious progress amidst pressing challenges.

As a manifestation of the above, a large number of international tourists took part in the recently-marked religious and cultural festivities including New Year, *Meskel* and *Irreechaa* and the government has made commendable jobs in promoting tourist attraction sites. Service providing institutions have also been built across tourist attraction sites.

By the same token, the government has been incentivizing and encouraging tourist guides and other stakeholders in the sector.

The state minister further noted that, the government has carried out meticulous jobs to transform the tourism sector and make the industry a reliable source of foreign exchange. To this end, extensive promotional activities have taken place in the last several months and big media outlets have been invited to cover the events.

In fact, some historical and cultural heritages are still closed due to unrest in parts of the country; however, most destinations are open for tourists, Seleshi remarked.

## MoE says new system vital to curtail examination malpractices

• *SYSTEM costs one bln Birr*

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDISABABA**- The Ministry of Education (MoE) said the newly-introduced system to administer the grade 12 leaving national examination would have a paramount significance to curtail attempts to steal exams and benefit a particular group.

Education State Minister Fanta Mandefro (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the venues for high school exit exams have been changed to higher education institutions to protect examinees from malpractices. Apart from protecting the students from fake information, fake answers and fake exam papers, the new procedure will help them to take the test calmly.

The state minister further highlighted that; there will be strict control in the travel and in the activities in the universities so that exams are not stolen. Also, there will be no digital devices in the universities in order to prevent the students from social media rumors and help them to focus on the exams.



Students could not pass out any electronic items. They could not bring any form of digital communication, including a cell phone. We have set up a system so that students can be saved from fraudulent answers by allowing them to enter through checks such as watches, earrings, hair ornaments and so on. The students will be

made to go through a high-quality inspection system.”

According to the press release of the ministry, the tendency to support cheating on exams by different objectors have been negatively affecting the evaluation of students in different states of the country. To alter this, the ministry decided to change

the modality and provide the exam in public universities to fight against the illegal acts.

The new procedure may encourage the provision of fair student evaluation to join university by reducing the influence state administrators have for their respective students. So, the MoE has down sized the role of state administrators only to transport and protect the security of their students while they travel to exam centers.

Speaking at the press conference held yesterday, Education Minister Prof. Berhanu Nega said the ministry classified the exam schedule into two and Social Science students will be examined from October 10 to 12. Likewise, Natural Science students will take the exam from October 18 to 21. The MoE has incurred close to one billion Birr extra cost to implement the new exam provision procedures.

Noting the number of students who take the national exam has been increasing from year to year, the Minister indicated this year 976 thousand students will sit for the exam.

# News

## Premier to meet African youth to share Pan-African vision

**ADDIS ABABA/ENA/-** Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed will meet youth from 54 African countries this month to share his Pan-African vision and sentiment, according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Speaking at the Ethio-South African Fraternity held recently, Fisseha Shawel, African Affairs Director-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: "We are inviting youth from the 54 African countries to join us here and listen to our prime minister on his sentiment on Pan-Africanism as well as continental issues."

According to him, Prime Minister Abiy is a very strong Pan-Africanist who wants to see a prosperous continent.

The prime minister is particularly eager to engage the young population of the continent and share his vision about Africa, he added.

Though Africa is probably independent politically, the director-general argued that "we are not yet liberated in other sectors and other fields."

Ethiopia now wants to come together with all Africans as the country has got the motto: "No More" to end subjugation, suppression, and division.

Therefore, Fisseha noted that strengthening

Pan-Africanism and bringing together the youth population of the continent is the priority policy of Ethiopia for complete liberation and independence of Africa.

African forefathers and currently retired leaders will also be part of the interaction with the youth that come from 54 African countries for the upcoming youth summit in Addis Ababa, he stated.

"The ideas of our forefathers will be transmitted to them (youth). They will interact with them as well as talk about our weaknesses and strengths. They will talk about our opportunities."

In this regard, Fisseha stressed that Ethiopia is keen to work on Pan-African vision and the continent's youth solidarity with South Africa. It will be an imperative role to translate this into a reality.

South African Mission Deputy Head, Matheko Ursula, said on her part that bonds of Ethiopia and South Africa have been the strongest since former President Nelson Mandela received support from Ethiopia in his struggle against apartheid system of racial segregation.

"The people-to-people friendship between South Africa and Ethiopia was cemented when former President Nelson Mandela arrived in Addis Ababa around 26th June of 1962 to

receive his military training in Ethiopia."

Following Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's official visit to South Africa in January 2020, it is being cemented in various spheres, she added.

Ursula pointed out that, the economic diplomacy between Ethiopia and South Africa in particular has been strengthening. The two countries are now exploring close cooperation in sectors that include agriculture, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, and leather.

South Africa will also work together with Ethiopia on Pan-Africanism and continental issues, the deputy mission head said.

Finance State Minister, Eyob Tekalign said Ethiopia and South Africa have been enjoying cordial relationships that are deepening and broadening in political, economic and cultural fields.

He also praised the countries' unwavering commitment to the principles of Pan-Africanism and understanding of each other's ambition in the continent.

Since Ethiopia believes in strong Pan-Africanism, the state minister added that it will consolidate its cooperation with South Africa to see a stable and secure continent.

"This continent has a very bright future... So strengthening this pact of Pan-Africanism and a prosperous Africa, which is yet not to come; we all have a very important role to play in this."

Yilma Terefe, representative of the youth in African Fraternity Night, said the program is intended to promote the vision of the prime minister towards Pan-Africanism.

"The important thing is to follow our leader who is promoting Pan-Africanism and embrace Africanism. African problems can be managed by Africans, and young people should follow past experiences and share ideas on how to solve our problems, brotherhood, and shared common values."

Currently, many African communities and embassies, including South Africa, have been engaged here in Addis Ababa with the mission on the idea projects of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed: namely Plant Africa Fraternity, African Youth Summit and African Fraternity Night.

The Ethio-South African Fraternity, which brought together Ethiopia's high level officials, public figures, youth representatives, and the South African community, was organized by the Embassy of South Africa to Ethiopia, Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## ICHREE report...

demeanor was never verified; and whose credibility could not be accessed, according to the jurist.

Dereje further asked: "Who are these people that were presented to them? Who presented those people? How did they gain the access to them? How did they verify their stories?"

He also noted that, the other really interesting aspect of this was a report that was created again after two months of investigation where they said they did not have resources and they only have two people who are full-time staff to conduct this kind of investigation that covers an area as large as France and a population size that can be like three or four countries.

To do this kind of investigation, you need three to four years, and you cannot do it in two months, he said. "It is really a sad testament to the kind of care and a level of seriousness that you would expect from an organization that is supposed to report on serious allegations to a world body," he added.

He further explained that a simple murder case takes two or three years to try the investigation. It is illegal to make a claim of genocide without visiting burial grounds. Once the burial grounds are visited, it has to be identified that how these people were killed? Were they killed with bullets? Were

they killed with explosives? Were they killed with knives? Are the wounds similar? Were they killed in the same place? Are they come from same area? Were they killed on the same day?

"All of these studies cannot be made by a phone call. You cannot do an international human rights investigation of genocide sitting in Addis Ababa," he also indicated.

The report mentions nothing about T-TPLF's use of children as soldiers which is one of the serious violations of international law, he said adding, that some foreign forces' silence over this war crime gives carte blanche for the terrorist group to continue to use children in their conflict.

According to him, the report did not address the Afar state altogether. Afar is a place where all of the atrocities were committed by T-TPLF, there is a report by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch that directly addressed the killing of over 100 children.

The jurist further opined that the report said that both sides committed human rights violations, and they referred to leaders of the terrorist TPLF as "Tigrayan authorities". However, there is no "Tigrayan authority" right now. When the state government becomes defunct and turns into a rebellion it has to be referred to as a rebel force, not as a "Tigrayan authority".

## T-TPLF's...

began. To this day it is the only state in Ethiopia where no credible opposition discourse is tolerated, the news report added.

"Yet, having stalled and exhausted many opportunities towards peace, the T-TPLF continued disdain for an armistice is emboldened by some policy makers in Western capitals who continue to readily ignore some of its most egregious crimes against humanity. These include the heinous act of deploying child conscripts into battle, often drugged to make them fearless and the use of civilians as human shields."

The other problem is that the insurgents have tried but failed to dictate the rhythm of the peace process. Whenever they sensed a military advantage, they blocked peace efforts by putting forth endless preconditions while obscuring the facts.

The times the T-TPLF leaders engaged in diplomacy or peace has been preceded by military losses, as in the past few weeks where the group's call for truce has increased despite being the instigator, an obvious signal that things are not going as planned by them, it was stated.

## Letter to European...

human right situation in Tigray, notably of children"

In a letter sent to David McAllister, Chair Committee on Foreign Affairs, it stressed that the deed, once again, showed the Parliament's biased position on the nature of the conflict.

To this effect, DETF-EU urged EP to take certain facts in to consideration and reevaluate the situation in Ethiopia fairly and transparently.

As to DETF-EU, the fighting in northern Ethiopia, including Tigray is not a war between two states rather 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 peoples for 27 years and robbed the country's resources."

Moreover, it stressed that the 27-year TPLF rule was characterized by arbitrary arrests, lack of freedom of the press, restricted campaign possibilities for the opposition, brutal suppression of peaceful protests, shrinking space for human rights defenders and civil society organizations and lack of accountability of government officials.

Human rights organizations have documented these massive rights violations. For instance, in 2017 alone, the last year of TPLF rule, Human Rights Watch, in a letter to the UN Human Rights Council wrote, "Over 800 protesters have been killed; thousands of political activists, human rights defenders, journalists

and protesters have been arrested."

Similarly, the genocide perpetrated against the Anuak in 2003 is another case in point. It has been documented by Human Rights Watch and SOS Torture Network, it said.

The European Parliament can play a constructive role by sharing its democratic experience and by supporting the Ethiopian people's aspiration to live in peace with respect for human rights, rule of law and political pluralism prevailing throughout Ethiopia, including in Tigray, as to the letter.

For this, DETF-EU noted that the war which was started by TPLF itself in the first place, has to stop adding that it is imperative that the TPLF lays down its arms and let the population of Tigray enjoy their fundamental rights such as the right to free expression.

The way out from the current crisis is an all-inclusive National Dialogue to reconcile differences, and usher in an era of peace, development, and national unity. In the final analysis, it is such measures that should be encouraged and supported by the European Parliament, it stressed.

DETF-EU also highlighted in the letter that TPLF highjacked hundreds of UN humanitarian food delivery trucks in the past and recently stole hundreds of thousands of liters of WFP fuel and then turned around and claimed that children are dying of starvation and that mass atrocities are being committed by the Ethiopian army against the people of Tigray to scaremonger the EU and the U.S.

## Festivals peaceful...

Noting that the general public needs to be praised for its great contribution to the peaceful conclusion of the festivals, the statement said those who traveled to different parts of our country to celebrate the holidays received and treated with true Ethiopian love.

The federal and regional states security forces have effectively carried out their tasks in collaboration with the people and foiled the conspiracies of terrorist groups who had planned to use the holidays for their destabilization acts.

The statement noted that media institutions

exerted efforts to promote the festivals with a view to strengthening national unity, promote domestic tourism and entrepreneurship.

The completion of the holidays in peaceful manner confirms the fact that Ethiopia can carry out effective activities even in the face of challenges, the statement indicated.

The government of Ethiopia has extended its highest appreciations to the security bodies and government structures at all levels, religious leaders, elders, youth and media institutions for their contribution in this regard.

# Opinion

## Major macroeconomic uncertainties

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Currently Ethiopia is facing both internal and external instabilities and subsequent macroeconomic uncertainties. Regarding the political, economic and social conditions in which the country finds itself, the government led by the Prosperity Party carries colossal responsibilities, after winning the electoral victory. Following that, social scientists examined the situation of the Ethiopian economy and indicated the way out from the gridlock. The analyses of the current situation relates to the macroeconomic management in the country. This is logically followed by assessment of major challenges arising from current performance. The assessment is related to the main macroeconomic policy objectives of the country's development plan, which are linked to the major economic sectors.

The major sectors are agriculture, industry and services, each having its own share in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), the shares of agriculture, industry and service in the GDP are estimated to be 33 percent, 29 percent and 39 percent respectively and GDP growth is projected to be 8.7 percent for the past year. It is reported that sectoral contribution of agriculture, industry and services to the GDP growth of 8.2 percent are 1.5 percent, 3.4 percent and 3.3 percent respectively. The sectors have registered positive and significant growth. In Ethiopia, agriculture has been contributing to both output and employment. The service sector is closing gaps in terms of output share but remained far behind agriculture in employment. Studies indicate that structural change from agriculture to industry has not been observed so far.

The observed change is from agriculture to services, where expansion of the wholesale and retail trade, real estate, renting and related business are the major driving forces. The share of the service sector to GDP increased while the share of agriculture declined in recent period. Despite its declining share, agriculture continues to be the main source of employment. However, the service sector has not been able to generate significant employment opportunities as expected. This reveals, according to Atnafu G. Meskel, that the labor productivity in the service sector is far greater than the labor productivity in the agriculture sector. This also shows that employment generation in service sector is more expensive than in agriculture. The service sector provides employment mainly to skilled workers. This indicated that wages in the service sector are higher than those in the agriculture sector.

Measures to raise productivity in the smallholder agriculture are important policy ingredients for the growth of the sector. Similarly, the encouragement of private investment boosts growth of the commercial agriculture which is critical for the generation of employment and foreign exchange. However, Ethiopia's economy has been affected largely because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in the northern part of the country. Yet, growth was led by the service and industry sectors. At the same time the hospitality, transport, and communications sectors were adversely

affected by the pandemic and the associated containment measures to prevent the spread of the virus and by the war. Consequently, the country faced fiscal deficit, which was financed mainly by treasury bills. The tax revenue increased with the implementation of tax reforms.

Pandemic-driven job losses impede poverty reduction, according to a report by The African Development Bank, 2022. The medium-term economic outlook is conditional on the resolution of the COVID-19 crisis, the pace of the economic recovery and the defeat of the TPLF. Also, other shocks such as civil strife and climate change may impact on the economy. Studies reveal that real GDP growth in 2021 was projected to fall to 2 percent, but it improved to about 8 percent in 2022, led by a recovery in industry and services. Monetary policy is expected to remain flexible in response to the government's financing requirements. The fiscal deficit would be reduced with increase in tax revenues. The current account improved in 2022 as service exports gradually picked up. However, the economic risks include low investor confidence, in part due to sporadic domestic conflicts, weakness in global growth, and climate change.

The data of the previous two decades showed significant growth in the economy accompanied by creeping inflation, but from 2005, growth was accompanied by galloping inflation. Despite the fiscal and monetary policies to contain inflation to a single digit, it persisted to the extent that "real" interest rates fell within negative territory. Despite overall economic growth, inflationary pressure affected the great majority of the population. Inflation growth has severe implications for the welfare of wage earners and pensioners living on fixed incomes in Ethiopia. Recently, Ethiopia has registered one of the fastest economic growths in Africa, but this has been accompanied by double digit inflation for most of the time. This has led to heated discourse in academic and political circles in the country. Understanding the domestic and external causes of the inflation and its actual impact on the economy of Ethiopia has taken longer time.

Domestic imbalance in resources may result from budget deficits and saving-investment gaps. The budget deficit may be positively associated with general inflation, non-food inflation and food inflation. The gap between domestic demand for investment and net saving is too wide signaling saving/investment imbalances. There is also a gap in the annual average of inflation and growth of money supply, the growth rate of the former being lower than the latter. It is reported that the cost of food in Ethiopia increased 39 per cent in November of 2021 over the same month in the previous year. This clearly shows the existence of domestic macroeconomic imbalances and their association with inflationary pressures in Ethiopia. With the domestic imbalance, Ethiopia also faces the burden of external imbalance.

With external imbalance the country continues to be at high risk of external debt burden. The external current account deficit is moderate with a gradual improvement of export performance, a moderate rise in capital goods imports, and steady inflow of remittances that would lead

to a gradual reduction of the deficit over the long term. With more diversified exports and a slowdown in public imports of capital goods, it can be expected to improve external imbalances. On the issue of debt burdens, the total outstanding loans to central government increased while non-government guaranteed loans decreased. The debt service on these loans, however, has been paid. The issue of debt servicing is mentioned here to show it as one of the key sources of inflationary pressures. Economists explain how a government can finance a deficit in three alternative ways: it can borrow from the public by issuing bonds to the public; it can print money which means borrowing from the central bank; or it can run down its foreign exchange reserves.

Other major macroeconomic indicators include level of poverty, state of inequality and unemployment. The trends of poverty and income inequality in the last decades have been improving in urban than rural areas, but with considerable variation across the different regions of Ethiopia. The decline of poverty with all measures is observed to reduce only in its severity. Similarly, the level of poverty was substantially declining in urban than rural areas. In spite of such a decline of poverty, a significant proportion of the population remains poor in rural areas. This indicates the prevalence of food insecurity in the countryside. Also, the trends of income inequality show increasing trends with more inequality in urban than rural areas of Ethiopia. The rising trend of income inequality over time would exacerbate food insecurity.

The poverty gap indicates the abysmal, terrible, dreading and appalling conditions of the poor. In addition, the extent of "food poverty" is slightly bigger than total poverty simply because most of the disposable income of the poor households is devoted to purchasing food items. Poverty in medium-size towns is largely triggered by a lack of sufficient food at the household level. Added to poverty is the lack of employment opportunity that makes the burden on breadwinners even harder. Unemployment in Ethiopia has recently increased to about 23 million unemployed people which have been equivalent to the total population of some neighboring countries. Moreover, every year almost half a million new graduates are joining the labor market adding up to the existing stock of unemployed people. This situation leads to severe food insecurity, as income and purchasing power of families decline from time to time due to inflation and lack of employment opportunities.

Another challenge to economic performance is the quality of institutions that impede progress. Corruption is rampant and it is a serious impediment to productive work in Ethiopia. TPLF instigated political instability; violence and terrorism are reported to be rampant in the northern parts of the country. Regarding rule of law, Ethiopia is not performing well due to terrorist activities. Its performance in the rule of law is measured with eight primary factors.

These are: constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice and criminal justice. Ethiopia's overall rule of law score decreased placing it at 26 out of 31

countries in the Sub-Saharan African region and 16 out of 19 among low-income countries. Significant trends for Ethiopia, however, included "improvement" in the factors measuring constraints on government powers, open government and fundamental rights.

Based on the above issues, two major economic reform directions are required. These are "stabilization" of the macro economy by removing both domestic and external imbalances and "liberalization" of the economy in line with mandatory and obligatory directives. It is generally accepted that the rate of growth of developing countries is significantly determined by: their ability to integrate with the global economy through trade and investment; their capacity to maintain sustainable government finances and sound money as well as their ability to put in place an institutional environment in which contracts can be enforced and property rights can be established. Regarding inflation, which is a macroeconomic constraint in Ethiopia, easing it requires not only domestic monetary policy, but also cultural transformation.

Cultural transformation of consumption means diversification of consumption and substitution towards non-mainstream feeding pattern. A case in point could be marginal movement away from standard cereals towards other edibles. Another area of intervention in removing the structural bottlenecks in stabilizing prices is the establishment of independent consumers' associations. Such associations shall be apolitically established based on the free will of their members. As they operate the associations need to promote the free choice of members. Regarding macroeconomic stability, it requires rehabilitation. Restoring macroeconomic stability requires a necessary and sufficient condition to get-rid of the current war and conflict, which is a hindrance for rational economic reform.

Finally, policy makers need to focus on institutional changes that would enable subsequent economic rehabilitation, including removing domestic and external imbalances. As there is strong evidence that the monetary component of inflation is money growth, prudent monetary policy shall include productive use of the available financial resources, tight monetary policy, and fiscal discipline allowing acceptable level of development financing. Further, insulating the Central Bank of Ethiopia from political interference is indispensable. This helps it to regulate domestic borrowing which often leads to inflation driven by political business cycle. Furthermore, the independence of the Central Bank is a necessary and sufficient condition to establish a well-functioning financial system, capable of finding high quality projects that can produce at a lower cost, and hence providing for lower inflation and increased competitiveness besides improving the welfare of individuals. Also, lowering of inflation requires the removal of "illegal" foreign exchange dealers that disorient the banking system.

**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

### Time exhibits T-TPLF Warmongering nature

One is tired of listing what T-TPLF has been doing to dismantle Ethiopia merely sticking to 'my way or no way' principle. Their ideology also reads, "If we lead the nation, it could persist since we can do anything we would love with a very weak and fragile nation; otherwise it will be dismantled whatever the cost may be going even up to hell and working with any foreign and national foes."

Putting the entire evil act for falling the country apart into practice, the terrorist group has left no stone unturned to work against the country. To this end, it has been working with many anti-peace elements and enemy quarters. For instance, the group along with all internal and exterior enemies of the nation has several times tried to create turmoil and instability taking national holidays and religious festivities as an advantage like the recently marked ones *Maskel, Irreechaa, Yoo Masqala, Gifaata, Yaahodee* and others in which a number of citizens usually participate.

Unlike that of the previous years, no peace related problems have been witnessed in celebrating *Irreechaa* following the well-organized security and the relentless contribution of all peace-loving people to the wellbeing of the country. Thus, the all-rounded conspiracy orchestrated by the group and its masters to tarnish the prestigious religious and cultural values of the celebrations has been attractively foiled. Instead the festivities tempo to attract many more tourists and their status to well introduce Ethiopia to the rest of the world has dramatically risen.

In connection with the peaceful celebration of *Irreechaa*, Oromia State President acknowledged all parties contributing their share to the peaceful celebration of festivities. Everything has now become quite clear that gun fires here and there, bomb explosions at every public gatherings and public holidays had been systematically run by T-TPLF and its cliques. As of the time when the terrorist group

was pushed to its permanent cave, Mekele, no bombing, shilling and creating turmoil among the society is observed except sporadic killings by their paid irresponsible factions. This indicates that they themselves had been active actors of chaos and turmoil in towns, cities and even among rural farmers.

Obviously, terrorist TPLF could never pass a day without creating mayhem as it has been a conflict-loving creature since its inception. Thanks to the coordinated effort of all a number of national holidays and events attended by numerous congregations had been celebrated peacefully since the general public knows every detail those turmoil makers are terrorist group's cliques to make their masters merry.

However, the international community is yet to know more about the devilish activities of terrorist TPLF. The international community is really duty bound to discharge their responsibilities by making terrorist TPLF and its big mouth leaders accountable for their inhuman actions in various parts of the country.

Cognizant of the importance of peace and its high degree of association with the overall change, the Ethiopian government is seriously looking forward to enhancing peace efforts contributing to the national serenity.

Since no international media has showed firm commitment to cover atrocities committed by criminal T-TPLF, they have never uttered a word about the recurrently committed enormous harms and untold damage, but time has prettily exhibited all true natures.

As the ongoing efforts by the government of Ethiopia demonstrate the fact that upholding peace is a major guarantee to ensure democracy, good governance as well as peace and tranquility, the international community should genuinely recognize this effort and act accordingly if they have run activities devoid of prejudice.

## Opinion

### How to minimize the effects of climate change

Each year, low-emitting countries are the greatest sufferers and, paradoxically, pay the biggest price in losses and damages resulting from climate change.

The most vulnerable communities are the ones who are facing the reality. According to the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh is anticipated to experience an average loss worth US\$2.2 bln. per year, which is comparable to 1.5 per cent of its GDP, owing to floods.

The adaptation community contributed significantly, but primarily online and outside the negotiation rooms. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates the inaccessibility of climate discussions for individuals in the Global South along with systemic barriers. The disadvantaged and most affected must be allowed to participate in the COP process.

Especially because solutions will not come just from the conference rooms packed with experts, large businesses, and government leaders, but they must also come from the ground.

The world's poorest have the most resilience and indigenous knowledge for dealing with crises. It is a way of learning by doing. We don't know what will function, but we must try to adapt. Only those from vulnerable communities can teach the rest of the world about climate resilience.

This worldwide catastrophe is the outcome of a faulty economic paradigm fuelled by capitalism, European colonialism, and the increasing domination of powerful men. Despite recognizing the harmful consequences and viable remedies, the global community

is not acting quickly enough to address the climate crisis.

We are experiencing the same global catastrophe, but we aren't in the same boat. It's like we're on the Titanic and the Global North is on lifeboats. Millions of people are drowning in the freezing water because the wealthy refuse to share, even though they are fully aware of the consequence. They can't keep doing business as usual while green washing with empty climate summits.

The unprecedented mobilization like the global climate strike of young people around the world demonstrates the massive power they have to hold the world's climate decision-makers accountable.

Youth groups have previously shown that they are capable of acting and promoting climatic issues from frontlines to headlines. As youth representatives from Bangladesh, we spoke on stage during the COP26 to emphasize the need to make the COP accessible for young people and the need for transformative actions for a resilient future.

The engagement of children and youth in climate actions is quite restricted in our nation. Young people on the front lines of disaster response and adaptation provide humanitarian assistance and lead adaptation initiatives as first responders. Bangladesh just finished its second term as president of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF).

While Ghana designated a youth ambassador before taking over the presidency, Bangladesh missed the opportunity to involve young people in the CVF. Still, at least it has committed to

guaranteeing youth participation at the COP25 by signing the Children and Youth Declaration on Climate Action.

Bangladesh has already labeled the long-term Delta Plan (BDP 2100) – a holistic plan to integrate the activities of delta-related sectors across the country – a gift and safeguard for future generations. But regrettably, it is ignoring the youth in the implementation process.

Bangladesh has emphasized young people's participation in the National Youth Policy and the National Adaptation Plan. However, successful measures to involve children and youth from the local, national, and global levels have yet to be witnessed. The government has not allowed young people to participate in the country's delegation and negotiation processes.

Youth participation in climate action is an undeniable element of inclusiveness. The young people must be included in the decision-making processes and even execution of climate policies, plans and projects partnering with young people at all levels.

The youth is already doing its part, by convening frequent discussions and lobbying, closely working with key ministries and parliamentary platforms like Climate Parliament Bangladesh to engage young people in the driving seats on climate action. The government and other development partners must reciprocate.

The upcoming COP27 must be more inclusive. A good start is the annual pre-COP which will include a Youth COP as well as an '#AccountabilityCOP'. But in the run-up to the conference, there must be more young people represented in national delegations and

in meaningful engagement in sub-national, national, and regional talks.

It must expand access to badges and financing for youth, particularly those from the Global South, and allow observers to actively engage in negotiating sessions.

At the moment, we are worried that COP27 will be worse than COP26. There have already been requests that the venue is moved from Egypt due to concerns about human rights violations as a consequence of the country's restriction on civic space and the lack of rights to free expression, association, and peaceful assembly, as well as the persecution of the gender diverse groups.

Human Rights Watch already labeled Egypt's presidency of the COP27 a 'glaringly poor choice.'

On the road to COP27, we young people will present our agenda and continue to advocate for effective outcomes. If global leaders play less on hypocrisy and invest more, COP27 can be a breakthrough in climate justice for vulnerable peoples. In addressing this catastrophe, we advocate for climate justice for all people everywhere which is a new frontier of human rights.

(Ed. Note: This piece first appeared on the Inter Press Service; it has slightly been adapted for this page.)

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

# Business & Economy

## Ethiopia's natural asset beyond energy: The Abay Dam

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Ethiopia is carrying out economically viable, environmentally sensible and socially responsible hydroelectric projects thereby coming up with sustainable development and addressing a range of socio-economic demands of its citizens.

The flagship of all Ethiopians unity and fraternity across the globe, the Abay Dam, is a regal hydroelectric plant targeting at fulfilling an ancient dream of Ethiopians. The Dam, which is a huge hydropower project, is about to be completed and will be the largest hydropower project in Africa.

Benishangul Gumuz State, which is the center of the prime Ethiopian development icon—the Abay Dam, recently hosted World Tourism Day celebration 2022. The tourism industry is now showing progress as the country in general and regional states in particular are given due emphasis to the sector. As the major part of the tourism attraction sites, the Abay Dam has been a proved pathway to declare independence and keep sovereignty intact.

When Ethiopians were leading a subsistence life and the country was submissive of every drop poured from the US and some western powers, it was not that much exposed to the command of 'do's' and 'don'ts' since the country was that time under the entire control of the latter, the Adwa grudge remains the same.

The problem started coming from the country's ambition to come out of poverty and backwardness via effectively utilizing its natural resources fundamentally from the case of the Abay Dam as well as its intention of being independent, well-to-do and quite a sovereign nation. Even the center of the more than twelve times convention of the United Nations Security Council was in one way or another the issue of the Abay Dam.

World Tourism Day under the theme, "Rethinking Tourism" was recently marked at Assosa town, Benishangul Gumuz State, where the Abay Dam is found. Tourism Minister, Nassissie Challi, launching the celebration of the Day said that of the numerous tourist attraction sites found in the State, the Abay Dam with the 70 islands has come to the forefront as it is an emblem of independence and a valuable weapon to make poverty history.

She further elucidated that the construction of this grand dam has prettily disproved the thoughtful reads, "Ethiopia could hardly construct dams at its disposal as it is a poor nation. These days Ethiopians from every nook and cranny of the universe, ranging from a poor woman to high profile investors, are making history and are about to effectively complete the grand Abay Dam, which is Ethiopia's flagship of freedom, independence and source of pride."



### Abay Dam under construction to be completed soon

As to her, Benishangul Gumuz State is well endowed with numerous tourist attraction sites, natural and manmade heritages as well as minerals such as gold, marble, coal and others.

She further underscored that Ethiopia needs to transform the traditional way of running tourism activities into a modern approach so as to garner benefits it deserves out of the tourism sector.

According to Ambassador Nassisse, Ethiopia is highly endowed with numerous tourism potentials despite its low level of benefiting from the smokeless industry mainly due to the traditional means of utilizing tourism potentials and other related natural and manmade factors so far.

She further said that the tourism sector has helped the country boost people to people ties, cultural development and balance climate change impacts apart from providing it with economic and social benefit and building the image of Ethiopia well. The Abay Dam, particularly, she said, is of paramount importance in building the image of the country and balancing climate change ailments apart from becoming a viable energy source.

She also stated that the celebration would also be instrumental in grabbing the attention of citizens towards the Abay Dam, raising public awareness about tourism and the numerous tourist attraction sites in the country in general and in the state in particular.

She further elucidated that as Ethiopia has not yet benefited out of the tourism sector so far as it deserves, the rethinking or new approach would help the nation come up with paradigm shift thereby transforming the way the tourism sector has been treated for years.

Benishangul Gumuz State President, Ashadli Hassen on his part stated that

utilizing untapped resources properly and completing mega projects such as the Abay Dam within the shortest time possibly would help build the image of the country and confidently tear the trap of aid dependency and enlist itself under the category of middle income countries.

He further explained that timely completing new projects like Gorgora, Wonchi, Koisha and other similar mega projects in different parts of the country is also of instrumental in making our country affluent apart from building its image.

The celebration of the day in the state is indispensable for paving the way to effectively utilize tourism potentials and attracting investors towards it, he added.

As to him, hydropower plant offers a number of advantages to Ethiopia since it has possessed a range of rivers that have not yet been effectively utilized. "The Abay Dam is our pride, bold written identification card, a feasible means to make poverty history, a boarding pass for the country to easily and confidently line up with other developed nations whenever grand international or continental platforms are created."

The hydropower generated from the Abay Dam is a renewable source of energy and fueled by water with a view to making a clean source of energy.

He said, "We are lucky enough indeed! The Abay Dam is a domestic source of energy, allowing all parts of the nation to have their own energy without being reliant on international fuel sources. The Abay Dam is a hydropower source that has been providing the country with a number of benefits beyond electricity generation by providing flood control, irrigation support, clean drinking water and minimizing the impact of climate change. Energy would also be affordable as the Abay Dam provides all citizens of the country with low-cost electricity and durability over time

compared to other sources of energy."

The Dam is a giant natural resource that has to be well exploited to help Ethiopia get prospered via fairly and effectively utilizing its water.

"Surprisingly, the construction of a number of huge projects in the country was held back following many factors. One of these projects, the Abay Dam, was exposed to such a malignant approach. Yes, the Abay Dam is our national pride, the manifestation of the new generation's new patriotic gesture and concerted spirit for change as well as the confirmation of our capacity to deal with every undertaking as properly and timely possible. The effective completion of the third dam filling is also of an exhibition of Ethiopians firm commitment to change their country. The Abay Dam is a miraculous weapon in the fight against poverty and a tool to help some 60 percent of Ethiopians breathe a sigh of relief," he said.

He also said that building the Dam to bring light is a fundamental right for Ethiopians to bring electricity to the more than half population who don't have access to it at home. In so doing, mothers who have given birth in the dark, girls who fetch wood for fire instead of going to school for centuries would be made history as through the grand project, Ethiopia will be a beacon of prosperity, and this sacred journey starts here—from Abay Dam.

Since lack of electricity in Ethiopia has contributed to an economic lag that in turn has left the country in an immensely precarious situation, building a number of dams has to be well capitalized. As it is also repeatedly heralded that the Abay Dam is close to completion thanks to all Ethiopians from every corner of the world for their relentless effort to make their country great all the time. Really, the Abay Dam is the well embossed national emblem that needs to be appropriately taken care of.

# In the Sphere of Diplomacy

## Ethio-Somalia's united front against terrorism

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) was among the first leaders who congratulated President Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud upon his election as president of Somalia on May 2022.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) had also issued a statement to congratulate former President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on his reelection as President of Somalia. In the statement, MoFA has expressed that the Government and people of Ethiopia look forward to working with the President and his administration in the spirit of the longstanding and amicable relationship between Ethiopia and Somalia.

Since his election, the president has been undertaking various working visits in the region. On September 28, the President on official state visit in Ethiopia where he was accorded a warm welcome from higher government officials including Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

During his stay in Ethiopia, President Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud had discussions with PM Abiy and other senior government officials about bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. The two leaders expressed commitment to further strengthen relations particularly on enabling a stable Horn Region.

They raised and discussed various issues of mutual and regional concerns ranging from collaboration to overcoming threats of terrorism and extremism to bilateral economic cooperation.

A Joint Communique issued on 30 September 2022, at the end of the official state visit by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud indicated that the two nations agreed to strengthen the longstanding bilateral ties and relationship of the two peoples based on respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of both countries.

After paying tribute to the gallant Ethiopian Defense Forces who paid the ultimate sacrifice for peace, stability and nation building in Somalia, the reiterated their determination to effectively collaborate in the fight against their nations' common enemies of terrorism and extremism and directed their respective security agencies to strengthen existing mechanisms of cooperation and agreed to exchange intelligence

Both Leaders also applauded the recent successful offensive by the SNA against Al Shabab in the regions of Hiraa and Galmudug. In the Joint Communique, the leaders call upon the UNSC to consider the request of the Governments of Somalia for the lifting of the arms embargo imposed on the country for more than 30 years to ensure



that Somalia is sufficiently equipped to effectively address the security threat posed by the Al Shabab terrorist groups.

They have emphasized the need to work together, minimize the effects of undue external interferences that could potentially undermine their joint effort for peace and stability in the region and effectively combat terrorism. To this effect, they have agreed to hold regular bilateral consultations and to collaborate in multilateral and regional forums to promote their common national interests on the basis of mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two countries.

The leaders noted that the two countries and the sub-region at large, are facing recurrent drought and other multifaceted natural disasters induced by climate change, threatening the livelihoods of the peoples of the region. They stressed in this regard, the imperative to collaborate and the need to redouble efforts to overcome these challenges. They also called upon international partners to continue to support affected communities including in the area of building long term livelihood resilience.

In the Communique, Ethiopia pledged to increase scholarships and training opportunities granted for the civil servants and security forces of the Federal Republic of Somalia with a view to enhancing the implementation capacity of government agencies. It is to bear in mind that Ethiopia has been granting scholarships every year to Somalia students in higher learning institutions for a first degree as well as post-graduate studies. In the academic year of 2019/2020 alone, Ethiopia granted over 315 scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate Somalia students.

The two leaders also emphasized the

importance of expanding cooperation in the areas of trade, economy and infrastructure as well as communications in addition to the well-established political and security collaborations. Directed the respective government offices to hold the Joint Ministerial Commission in rotating manner in the soonest possible time, to discuss and set directions and implementation mechanisms on issues of mutual interest, according to the Communique.

The Joint Ministerial Commission was established in 2013 to further strengthen the political, economic and social cooperation between Ethiopia and Somalia. Both countries are committed to taking their relations to a higher level through deepening ties in defense, Foreign Ministries, Trade, Air Flight Service, Capacity Building and Public Administration cooperation, Education and Health.

In regional peace and security matters, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia have been working together after Ethiopia-Eritrea rapprochement. Following the restoration of bilateral relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and Eritrea and Somalia, the three countries agreed to work in coordination to promote regional peace and security with the intention to build close ties. Ethiopia, Somalia and Eritrea held a tripartite summit and issued a Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation on 5 September 2018. The three countries also held a second tripartite summit and reaffirmed their commitment to an inclusive regional peace and cooperation. With the framework of IGAD, Ethiopia and Somalia is working in collaboration with regional economic integration and peace and security.

Since peace and security of the two nations is intertwined as they are

neighbors, Ethiopia and Somalia are closely cooperating in the security and military fields. Ethiopia supports the Somalia reconstruction efforts through the capacity building of Somalia security institutions. It has been providing training for Somalia defense and police forces. As part of support to stabilize Somalia, Ethiopia has deployed more than 4,000 peacekeeping troops under AMISOM, which replaced by AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and played a critical role in security gains made in the fight against Al-Shabaab.

Recently, Ethiopia has been deploying troops to Somalia to assist the fight against the terrorist group. On September 20, the Vice President of Somalia's Jubaland region and senior military leaders of Jubaland welcomed the 6th Motorized Peacekeeping Battalion Commander deployed in the region.

At the reception program, the Vice President of Jubaland, Mahmed Said, said that Somalia and Ethiopia are brotherly countries, united in history and culture.

He said that the Ethiopian peacekeeping battalions are sacrificing their lives every day for peace and stability in Somalia. "On behalf of all the residents of the region, I wish the 6th Motorized Peacekeeping Battalion a good working time for those who came to the Jubaland region to maintain peace."

The sector is ready to do a lot of work for the peace of Jubaland region. The Commander-in-Chief of the 6th Motorized Peacekeeping Battalion, Col. Wedaj Bogale said that the 6th Motorized Battalion, which is under the umbrella of ATMIS, is ready to ensure safe peace in Jubaland.

The relations between Ethiopia and Somalia had begun when Somalia has got its independence in 1961. The two countries had seen ups and downs in their relations since then. Their relationship is deeply rooted regardless of the type of government that they have. Taking into account these deep-rooted ties, they restored their diplomatic relations by opening missions in their capitals. Ethiopia opened Embassy in Mogadishu in 2007 and has consulates in Garowe and Hargeisa. The Somali Embassy was reopened in 2006 in Addis Ababa.

The information obtained from MoFA indicated that Ethiopia has played and continues to play a critical role in the process of the State formation and reconstruction efforts of Somalia bilaterally and through IGAD. Since the establishment of Somalia Transitional Government in 2004, Ethiopia and Somalia have been working in coordination in the fight against terrorism, and towards ensuring lasting stability and political transformation in Somalia.

# Law & Politics

## Criminal TPLF's arch lobbyist in UN banner

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is interesting to note that Dr. Tedros Adhanom, the shamefaced Director-General of the World Health Organization has continued mystifying the wider international community with barefaced lies. He has sustained working in close association with his former bosses who have already committed war crimes that include summary killings, gang rape, ransacking, and other heinous atrocities.

Notwithstanding the fact that the criminal enterprise has been working around the clock intending to raise the stakes and up the ante, Tedros has sustained turning a blind eye to the existing circumstances on the ground. Albeit the disgruntled TPLF group in broad daylight turned the lives of noncombatants into a living hell in Amhara and Afar states, he utterly remains mute and fails to openly condemn the atrocities of his partners in crime. He rather continues abusing his international post for the narrow political interests of the tyrant group.

To everyone's dismay, rather than making an extraordinary effort to get to the bottom of the problem in an atmosphere of calm, the Director-General has been many a time and oft echoing the interest of the killing squad simply for puzzling the global community playing a part in a smear campaign against the government. Other than that giving the cold shoulder to the fact that the incumbent has been moving heaven and hearth to beat swords into plowshares, he has continued confounding the international community with cock-and-bull-story.

Irrespective of the fact that the incumbent has been making a supreme effort to make peace happen, the ragtag group kept on downplaying the peace talks and launching fresh attacks in the northern part of the country. The sad thing is that though the Director-General knows the nefarious deeds of the bandit group like the palm of his hand, he persistently fails to stand by the truth and familiarize every Tom, Dick, and Harry with the unvarnished truth.

In a similar vein, he has not ever made an effort to de-escalate tensions except taking sides with the rebellious group and twisting the knife in the wound of TPLF victims. In addition to spreading imaginary stories and fictitious stories, the so-called Director has been leaving no stone to lay unfounded accusation against the Ethiopian government.

Directing propaganda against the government deliberately ignoring the absolute truth, he has sustained twisting facts and parroting the hidden agenda of the criminal gang. He has not ever made an effort to condemn atrocities committed in Amhara and Afar states by the criminal organization that has been working its fingers to the bone intending to back the country into a corner and throw the lives of noncombatants into chaos.

Regardless of the fact that the incumbent has been carrying out a wide spectrum of



constructive measures on a national scale that deserve respect and appreciation, Tedros sustained masking in the UN banner kept on perplexing the global community with the usual fictitious stories. The other sad thing is that even though the criminal syndicate demolished a broad range of social infrastructure on purpose in the northern part of the country, he remains tightlipped till this very day.

Tedros has been endeavoring day and night to sweep under the carpet the unspeakable crimes perpetrated in Amhara and Afar states by the illegal group infringing the humanitarian truce. He did not even utter a single word of condemnation when the criminal group stole humanitarian aid delivered by humanitarian agencies to the people of Tigray.

As far as this, he has been standing by the side of the illegal group that has been sparing no efforts to turn the country into turmoil. For the sake of truth, he has not ever stood against the evil deeds of the crooked group that has been working morning, noon, and night to escalate tensions.

By the same token, under the veil of humanitarian aid and other related aspects, the disgraced Director-General has been using his position to tarnish the positive images of the country and upping the ante. It should be borne in mind that on the subject of his misconduct, lately, the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia had submitted a complaint to the Executive Board to initiate an independent investigation into the misconduct. Besides, in recent times, the American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC) stated that it is time for serious scrutiny of the WHO Director-General's role in the terrorist TPLF provoked war.

Though some entities know the fact that the group has been working time and again intending to bewilder the global community

of WHO, he was lobbyist for T- TPLF."

Recently, he also posted a picture of a mother crying that left many people with confusion as to what his post was about. Though some thought the post was about humanitarian, many Ethiopians understood that the picture was not posted with the intention of humanity rather with the intent of sending message to T-TPLF rebels, it said.

Moreover, T- TPLF's recent operation against the government of Ethiopia has called operation Tigrayan mothers and Tedros was directly letting the T- TPLF and his supporters know he stands with them.

Similarly, the Director-General, had also posted a word 'Pride' a week ago. While many people thought that it was regarding a celebration on that month, he was actually representing his pride over the rebel gaining military victory.

In fact, the Director of WHO does not supposed to neither promote an inside war nor show support for a rebel group. More importantly, it is against the very principle of World Health Organization. This is something that needs to be investigated and reported to the proper authorities, it stressed.

The WHO head's silence on the terrorist TPLF's theft of fuel and diverting humanitarian aid leads the people of Tigray to a terrible situation, a prominent journalist said.

A journalist and Contributing Editor at Black Agenda Report Ann Garrison lately stated that Tedros, who is a prominent advocate of the T- TPLF, was unresponsive for the crime the group committed on the people of Tigray in hijacking the humanitarian aid destined to the needy people.

The WHO chief keeps silent when the criminal clique steals fuel from the WFP warehouse and manipulates his position to lobby for his former comrades, in a clear violation of the UN code of conduct.

While the people of Tigray are in a dire humanitarian situation, the T-TPLF is using the aid meant for the needy people to recruit soldiers. By doing so, the group demonstrated its disregard to the people of Tigray which it always claims to represent and defend.

As to the journalist, 'contrarily' lobbyists including the WHO chief and their humanitarian interventionist allies are ignoring the T-TPLF human rights abuses, looting aid and mobilizing resources for war. The seizure of food aid and the use of humanitarian supplies to recruit forces forced the people of Tigray to flee to neighboring states.

It is to be recalled that the UN World Food Program (WFP) Chief David Beasley expressed his 'shock' in his twitter message that "Tigrayan authorities stole half-a-million liters of fuel from WFP warehouse and left millions in a brink of starvation. This is outrageous and disgraceful. We demand the return of this fuel now."

coming up with layers of conspiracies, Tedros and the likes of him sustained missing the point and blackening the positive images of the country.

Presently, in the face of horrifying atrocities committed in Amhara and Afar states, Tedros as always has remained closed mouth and demonstrated sympathy to the criminal enterprise. For the love of putting their hidden agenda in place, some foreign entities have been echoing the groundless allegations of the Director-General.

WHO Director-General continues to abuse his position and the UN organization's platform to serve as Terrorist TPLF external spokesperson and lobbyist, according to an international media.

WHO Director-General has been posting cryptic single words on his social media particularly in his twitter page. While many people believed that those posts were with regard to corona virus pandemic and actuality, he was actually sending a message to T-TPLF and its supporters, as to the media.

"It is well known, the Director was a top T-TPLF official. He used to be also the Foreign and Health Ministers of Ethiopia. In all of his positions, not only he was incompetent but also he used his positions to prosecute Ethiopians. Ever since he became Director



# Society

## Harnessing tourism's potential to benefit local people, to economic growth

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Tourism potential is one source of income as well as a good instrument to promote the image of any nation. Ethiopia, as a land of several tourist attraction sites and diverse religious and cultural heritages that are celebrated on streets uniquely and warmly, has a lot to offer to the global community in this regard.

The recently marked festivals such as Demera and Meskel, (the Finding of the True Cross), Irreechaa (Thanksgiving Day of Oromo people), Gifata and Gaaro-Woro, Wolaita and Shinasha peoples New Year festivities are good indicators for this. As it is recently witnessed, several local and foreign tourists have flocked to attend those annual festivals in areas where the festivals took place.

After the tide of the Coronavirus pandemic and some kind of political instabilities, the tourism sector has seen revival within a short period. The measures the government has taken to sustain peace concerting with states' administrations; plus its commitment to reinvigorate the tourism sector, thereby boost its contribution to national economy can be taken as a good remedy in this regard.

The southern nation, which is home to several nations, nationalities and peoples' and blessed with numerous tangible and intangible tourist attractions is one among the other states that is actively engaged to promote the tourism sector and increase the income from the sector.

As it was stated by State's Culture and Tourism



Bureau recently, the Bureau is working aggressively to increase State's income from tourism through developing tourist attraction sites that are found in the State.

Currently, setting a goal to earn 640 million Birr from the sector at this Ethiopian budget year, the Bureau is working aggressively.

As Bureau's Head Hailemariam Tesfaye stated to local media, there are several cultural, historic, and natural attractions in the State. Thus, the Bureau is working persistently to increase the income the State from the sector.

"We are currently working to increase the income by improving infrastructure and making the sites accessible."

Apart from promoting the five parks that are found within the State (Mago, Maze, Nech Sar, Gibe Valley) the Bureau is working committedly to enhance tourists' satisfaction and extend their length of stay in the State.

Ranging from preparation of Gedeo Coffee (coffee seedling preparation) to the making of cultural coffee ceremony of the people, the Bureau works giving due attention in promoting Murule, Wolshi, Tamana, Chelba wildlife conservation and hunting areas.

What is more, efforts are underway to develop and promote heritages that have already inscribed by UNESCO such as Tiya, Omo Vally and Konso and other cultural values of the community in order to benefit the local community, the Head added.

As to Hailemariam, for those who want to visit the tangible and intangible attractions of the State, an information system is developed. Further, by preparing tourist's guide map and developing various applications, activities are being carried out to promote the attractions through websites and other ways.

As part of its ambition to promote the tourism

sector, the government, apart from developing an efficient system, provides all the necessary support for those who want to engage in the tourism service sector, including provision of land, he elucidated.

As to the Head, out of the 3 million local and foreign tourists that are expected to visit the State's tourist attractions, it is planned to collect 640 million Birr. Similarly, in the current budget year, a plan is set to create job for over 10,000 citizens from the sector.

Mentioning the availability of 17 star rated hotels in tourist attraction sites and in the surrounding areas, he said 10 additional hotels are under construction.

State's Heritage Research Conservation and Development Team Leader Muluneh Tefera on his part said, "The State is a home to several tangible and intangible cultural values that can generate income. For this reason it is important to work accordingly."

There are several cultural values and activities that are appreciated by visitors. This includes the New Year festivals of the Wolaita people's "Gifata" and the Gamos' "Yo Meskele". The cultural practice of Hammer's Evangadi, Ukli Gadi and Bodi, which is fatness competition, are among the various cultural values and practices of that attract tourists to the destinations, he remarked.

The information obtained from the region indicates that 3.3 million local and foreign tourists visited attraction sites last year and 551 million birr was collected.



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## Grade twelve national exam processes

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

The school-leaving examination for secondary education consists of a school examination and a national written examination at the end of the grade twelve.

Schools set their own exams. The Ministry of Education prescribes which subjects must be taught during the exam year. The school examination dates are not nationally fixed: schools are free to test students in particular subjects whenever they wish. The school exam usually comprises several or more tests per subject, which may be oral, practical or written. Subjects outside the national exam framework may therefore be completed before the grade twelve.

There is one national written exam per subject for all students receiving the same type of education. Whether a subject is compulsory or optional, the exam questions are the same across the whole country. The national exam always takes place at the end of the grade twelve and is compiled by the Ministry of Education.

Therefore, it is in charge of the grade twelve national exams. And it has



delivered briefs on the approaches to the 2021/22 twelfth grade national exam.

Prof. Birhanu Nega, the Minister of Education stated that the necessary preparations have been made to carry on the exam successfully noting that the process all about students' achievement and how they can be efficacious only through their own efforts.

On the press conference, he said that the preparation and publication of the exam was done with the help of technology with great care and without any security risk.

"To this end, it is being done in

coordination with the relevant federal and state government officials," the Minister also stated the preparation process.

In the statement, it is stated that the national exam will be given in two rounds, and in the first round, social science students will take the exam from October 10, 2022 to October 12, 2022 while the natural science students will sit for the exam from October 18, 2022 to 21, 2022. All the students across the nation will be seated for the exam in these specified time schedules.

"The candidates are required to attend and

take orientation at the universities where they are assigned to three days before the exam date," Prof. Birhanu detailed it to the media on the press conference he held at the Ministry yesterday.

He also mentioned that the required preparations of bringing students to the exam centers days before orientations for the exams and returning them to their respective residence where they came after the exam is completely done and ready to effectuate.

In addition, in his briefs, the Minister noted that the materials that are allowed and prohibited for the examinees to bring with them when they come to the exam site are described, among which are digital technology products (phone, laptop, flash etc.), sharp materials and other materials re prohibited at the exam center.

By the same token, Prof. Birhanu also called on students and their parents to distance themselves from disinformation and contribute their shares for the success of the exam. The 2021/22 grade twelve exit exam will be held in universities from September 10, 2022 to October 21, 2022.

Planet

# University supports IDPs to get relief, rehabilitation

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Prior to the onset of the reform government, instability was common in some parts of Ethiopia. East Hararghe zone was one area where recurrent conflict has occurred between Oromia and Somalia's Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists due to the border and natural resources (grazing lands and water) issues. The impacts of drought and land degradation were also a reason for the community to displace from the area they lived in.

The intensity of resource scarcity coupled with the conflict became a cause for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC), defines IDPs as persons or groups of persons who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or to avoid the effects of conflict, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border.

The displaced persons were forced to flee their homes without any warning and escaped without having their assets that help them to save their lives. Because the IDPs are displaced and detached from their assets, livelihoods, and networks, they may not easily earn a living. As a result, most of the IDPs remain in insecure and uncertain conditions and fully need the support of the government, international humanitarian



seed producers cooperatives also bought new brand tractor

assistance, and the host community which themselves are oftentimes vulnerable.

People forced to leave their homes, particularly in situations of armed conflict, are generally subject to heightened vulnerability in several areas. IDPs suffer significantly higher rates of mortality than the general population. Their agriculture activities are also highly affected by the conflict which is true in Ethiopia.

Chinaksen Woreda, found in the East Hararghe Zone of Oromia State, was a case

in point in this regard. The area was exposed to several casualties and physical injuries, burning of living houses, and damages to basic services like health facilities, schools, and water schemes during the conflict before the occurrence of post-2018 political reform in Ethiopia. Though the majority of the IDPs across the border have returned, rehabilitating them permanently was a daunting task.



Kamal Kassim

See University Supports ... page 23



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### It's great to see when nation's glory is restored by its children's diligence

Ethiopia is striving to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the prosperity of the country and universal benefits of its citizens. Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute is fulfilling this great national responsibility. Beyond for national prosperity, efforts are underway to contribute for continental development.

To make the opportunity accessible to all Africans, unique in its type and format, the first Pan Africon AI 2022 workshop and exhibition has been organized to start on October 04, 2022. The exhibition and workshop will held at the new Ethiopian Science and Art Museum, located around Arat Kilo.

During the workshop, the contributions of the Artificial Intelligence in health, agriculture, finance, manufacturing, transport and other service sectors will be presented. Newly developed products by the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute will also be displayed. Similarly, Ethio Telecom and Information Network Security Administration will also publicize their products at the event.

The other primary vision of Pan Africon AI 2022 Exhibition and Workshop is to create favorable employment environment for startup businesses and activities in the field of Artificial Intelligence technology.

For further information, please visit the website developed for this purpose [www.panafriconai.org](http://www.panafriconai.org).