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Warlord leaked audio proves T-TPLF's disregard to Tigray people

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – The recently- leaked audio of the terrorist TPLF warlord Tsadkan Gebretensae is a clear indication for the Terrorist TPLF's disregard for the people of Tigray, an ex- official from the Tigray State Interim Administration said.

On the leaked audio , Tsadkan shamelessly said that his forces are fighting a proxy war to preserve the interest of some global powers in the Red Sea.

Wojirat District Civil Service Head with the then Interim Administration Hailekiros Redae told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the T-TPLF has waged war against the country simply to achieve the interest of some global powers. The people of Tigray have immensely suffered by the radical group for the past four decades.

Hailekiros further highlighted that the terrorist enterprise since establishment has not cared for the people of Tigray and it is using the people as hostages. "The recent leaked data is proof that the group is fighting for the interest of third parties."

While triggering the war, the rebels have full support from some global interest groups



and that is why leaders of the criminal clique boldly claimed that if they don't win the war, the interest of those global powers will be at risk.

The T-TPLF renewed the conflict merely to exacerbate the suffering of the people of Tigray who have already been troubled
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Industry exports hit 61 mln. USD in three month

BY TAMERU REGASA

ARBA MINCH—Ethiopia secured 61 million USD from industrial exports in the first quarter of the current fiscal year and the performance has surpassed that of the past year's same period, the Ministry of Industry disclosed.

Presenting the performance yesterday,

Planning and Follow up Director with the Ministry Mengistu Hiluf said that Ethiopia has been achieving best results through launching different industrial initiatives and enhancing the manufacturing capacity of industries. Coping up with different national and international challenges, the sector has been contributing a lot to enhance the overall economy of the country.

The director further highlighted that the textile industry has a lion's share in generating the aforementioned amount of foreign currency. Also, the sector has saved over 67 million USD by locally producing and substituting commodities that would otherwise imported from abroad. Likewise, the sector has 19,000 jobs for unemployed
See Industry exports ... Page 3

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FDRE Government Communication Service

AU peace talks invitation consistent with Ethiopia's positions

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – The African Union (AU)'s official invitation is consistent with the Ethiopian government's prior positions, the Government Communication Service

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Why even-minded nations detest ICHREE's flawed report?

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Million Birhane: All-rounded artist

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News



Commission working to transform prisons to knowledge, production centers

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA –Close partnership has been formed with relevant stakeholders to transform penitentiaries to knowledge and production centers and enhance the skill, knowledge and attitude of inmates while preserving their human rights, the Federal Prison Commission said.

The commission conducted a recognition and award giving event recently for those who have made remarkable jobs in the law enforcement operation and their line of duty.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner General Damena Darota said consolidated activities have been carried out to change prisons into centers of knowledge, productivity and technology to modernize the service.

The commission has also built a college to provide an adequate skilled labor force while the project is expected to be finalized till the end of the current Ethiopian fiscal year. Also, strong collaboration has been established with agriculture transformation institutes to ensure technology based productivity in Shewa Robitand Batu(Ziway)prisons.

Besides, the commission has contributed over 34 million birr collected from employees of the Amhara and Afar states' prisons to finance the restoration of damaged infrastructure by the Terrorist TPLF belligerence.

Justice Minister Gedion Timothewos (PhD) said on the occasion that the recognition offered by the commission indicated that there are a lot of reform activities in the future, especially in modernizing prisons across the country. Though the commission has carried out many activities during the past few years, a lot of measures remain to be done in the years to come.

The minister added that prisons should be centers of education, public values, productivity, training, constructive, and the like through making close ties with concerned bodies. "Therefore, the commission should be working day in and day out to realize institutional construction and reforms to bring meaningful changes."

Participants drawn from the ministries of justice, defense, and finance as well as sportspersons attended the event.



Ethiopia renews commitment to landscape restoration

• Succeeds Regreening Africa project in advance

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia is more committed to realizing land restoration of 22 million ha of degraded lands and forests by 2030, Ethiopia Forest Development (EFD) said.

It has also announced that Ethiopia has achieved a five-year project of Regreening Africa with Trees ahead in time.

In his opening remarks at a one-half day workshop on Regreening Africa: Inclusive and Evidence-Based Approaches to Accelerating Land Restoration in Ethiopia, EFD General Director Kebede Yimam said on Wednesday that due to various anthropogenic and natural factors, Ethiopia's natural resources have been degrading through time.

He, therefore, said that in the efforts to combat these problems through landscape restoration, Ethiopia set ambitious target of 22 million ha of degraded lands and forests by 2030 which was pledged on Bonn

Challenge and New York declaration.

According to the general manager, Ethiopia has also prepared 10 years National Forest Sector Development Plan, National REDD+ Strategy, National Restoration Mapping, 10 years Bamboo strategy and Action plans including other policy and legal frameworks which are useful to implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national greening.

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

It was learnt that the aforesaid project has set a target of regreening 200,000 ha of degraded land by reaching out 120,000 households. In four years, a total of 217,056 ha was put under restoration via reaching

out 156,206 households in Oromia, South Nations Nationalities and People, Amhara and Tigray State.

Regreening Africa Programme Manager Mieke Bourne on the occasion told *The Ethiopian Herald* that through such regreening program, great lessons learned like adapting all types of restoration to local context, practicing Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), working with local structure and government to reach out very large number of people, bringing behavioral change on how look at land restoration activities and the like.

She, moreover, said that the program has enabled farmers to integrate land restoration with soil and water conservation apart from familiarizing local community with elements of economic incentives and livelihoods.

As to her, the program has created enabling environment for grazing management and the integration of information, data and science on community prospective.

Gov't, Inkomoko to support refugees

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ministry of Labor and Skills announced that it has agreed with Inkomoko Ethiopia to support refugees. About 150,000 enterprises have been organized for providing financial and training support to refugees hosted in Ethiopia.

In a joint press briefing held yesterday, Labor and Skills State Minister Nigus Tilahun said that the government is always committed to ease the living condition of refugees providing direct supports and facilitating collaborations with developmental organizations.

"We have the platform to facilitate trainings to refugees in camps and refugee areas. Furthermore, the ministry has been engaging in creating financial support to refugees so as to allow them in doing business," he said.

Inkomoko is also a developmental organization working on capacitating refugees for some years, so, the government



will extend its cooperation with Inkomoko, he noted.

Chief Executive Officer of Inkomoko, Jullienne Oyler has also told *The Ethiopian Herald* that Inkomoko has graduated 600 and more refugee living in Assosa and Jijjiga. The organization has also plans to support micro and small enterprises [owned by refugees] in the coming years, she said.

Refugees trained in the last sessions have been capacitated to have knowhow about business model, introduction to

bookkeeping, cash flow and inventory management as well as investment readiness for small businesses, she said.

Over the last 10 years, Inkomoko has served more than 41,000 entrepreneurs in Ethiopia, Rwanda and Ethiopia. Under this new strategy, Inkomoko will invest 400 million USD to support micro and small businesses across eight countries by 2030, it was stated.

Inkomoko has been working in Ethiopia under the name AEC Ethiopia for long.

News

Firms flash signals of hope in Ethiopia's emerging capital market

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian financial advisory firm, i-Capital Africa and Kenyan firm, Nairobi Securities Exchange forecast that the emerging Ethiopian capital market will have significant role in transforming the regional economic integration.

The firms have also noted that such market would create warranted system of exchange across the East African Market.

Recently, the two organizations signed partnership agreement to work with building capacity in security exchanges as the Ethiopian Capital Market formation is nearing to completion.

At the event to sign the partnership agreement, The Founder and Chief Executive Officer of i-Capital Africa Institute, GemechuWaktola (PhD), said the capital market in Ethiopia will create opportunities to build capable financial and business organizations.

"We believe that business opportunities are being lost due to the absence of formal Capital Market in Ethiopia and the share of capital market in the GDP is very limited. We have learned that the Ethiopian government has ratified a proclamation to organize a



Gemechu Waktola

new institution (Ethiopian Capital Market Authority) that could help regulate the stock market," he stated.

Since the capital market is very new to Ethiopia, the instructional and human capacity is at infant stage, so the i-Capital Africa is playing its part in creating trained human resource in the sector, The Ethiopian Herald learnt.

The Kenyan national, Nairobi Securities Exchange PLC Chief Operation Officer,



David Wainaina

David Wainaina also told journalists that the capital market in Kenya has been developed for the last 70 years now.

The share of the sector in the Kenyan GDP hits 24 percent. Now, Kenya needs to integrate the regional economy via Capital Market institutions. The decision of the Ethiopian Government to form Capital Market Authority is substantial and will allow foreign investors to penetrate the untapped Ethiopian market, he commented.

Warlord leaked...

by the past conflicts. Apart from diverting the aid intended for the needy people, the gangs have shown cruelty by recruiting children to war.

"Earlier, the outlawed group had looted fuel and used humanitarian trucks to transport its combatants, but some global powers remained silent which clearly indicates that

they are supporting it," he stated.

It is to be recalled that the T-TPLF mouthpiece Getachew Reda publicly revealed that the U.S. government and its European Union associates wanted them to enter Addis Ababa and overthrow the Ethiopian government.

In his interview with Tigray TV, Getachew

further revealed that the Americans told them to forge an alliance with other groups and take over the capital Addis Ababa. Getachew's testimony will likely add more things as several diplomats were caught on a leaked video colluding with the T-TPLF representatives who wished to oust the current Ethiopian government by force.

Industry exports...

youth in the reported.

Industry Minister MelakuAlebal said "Ethiopia Produces" Initiative and other meticulous initiatives have led the ministry to witness such great achievements; adding that a lot of industries that have impaired owing to different negative factors have resumed operation. The

initiative is also instrumental in attracting different local and foreign companies to Ethiopia's industrial sector.

"The issue of manufacturing industry is the issue of existence and it considers all stakeholders' attempt to support the total economy of the country and changing the livelihood of the citizens."

Though the sector has been registering commendable results, the performance has not yet satisfactory especially when it is compared with Ethiopia's untapped resources implying that more work is needed to address maladministration and other shortcomings, the minister emphasized.

AU peace...

(GCS) said.

Recently, the entities leading the African Union peace talks have made an official invitation for peace talks to begin and have announced both the date and venue.

GCS, therefore, issued statement yesterday in connection with the invitation .

According to the statement, the government of Ethiopia remains committed to adopting all possible measures to resolve the conflict

in a manner that ensures lasting peace and territorial integrity of the country and would continue upholding this commitment.

In his twitter message, Redwan Hussien, Security Advisor to the Prime Minister, on his part noted that the invitation is in line with our principled position regarding the peaceful resolution of the conflict and the need to have talks without preconditions.

It is to be noted that Ethiopia has been

showing its readiness for peace talks under the auspices of the African Union without any preconditions and to talk anytime, anywhere, and also to resolve all problems throughout the country peacefully as conflicts lead to failure and destruction.

In this regard, the government of Ethiopia formed a committee that has seven members, led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen.

Enemies release satellite images in support of T-TPLF: Academician

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- The attempt to publicize Ethiopia's military data by taking satellite photos is designed to benefit the Terrorist TPLF group and violated international laws, according political science and international studies expert.

At the end of last week, BBC Amharic published the information on its social media page that showed Ethiopian military deployment through satellite images. The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) talked to the expert about the implications of exposing military information to the extent that it undermines the sovereignty of a country by taking it from a satellite.

Accordingly, Political Science and International Studies Assistant Professor at Bahir Dar University Yayehu Genet said one of the problems that globalization brings is this type of information embezzlement. Any sovereign countries are equal according to international laws and one country cannot take information in a manner that undermines the sovereignty of another, be it through technology or otherwise.

The academician further highlighted that the attempt to publicize Ethiopia's military data by taking satellite photos was intended to benefit the T-TPLF group and violated international laws. It is evident that developed countries use different opportunities to steal the information of developing nations.

As to him, this act of hacking and handing over information makes countries look at each other in danger as taking, using or handing over military or other information of a sovereign country without its consent violates international laws. "It is obvious the information is intended to support the terrorist group; and according to international law, other countries cannot intervene in a war between the government and the armed forces of a sovereign country."

"Therefore, they cannot have any morality to condemn Ethiopia by pointing out that groups that take data of a country without permission have already violated international laws." "I saw a description; the ongoing war in Ethiopia cannot be a threat to America or other Western countries. But the political stability of the Horn of Africa country will have its own impact. This can be solved through IGAD and the principles of solving African problems by Africans, not by supporting terrorist groups."

[...]

Opinion

Monetizing Human Suffering/Rights in Africa Using Western Press-titute Media

BY ALMARIAM

PART TWO

“If it bleeds, it leads to fame, fortune and power.” Alemayehu G. Mariam

In another report, Elbagir wrote: Ethiopia’s government has used the country’s flagship commercial airline to shuttle weapons to and from neighboring Eritrea during the civil war in Ethiopia’s Tigray region, a CNN investigation has found... Experts said the flights would constitute a violation of international aviation law, which forbids the smuggling of arms for military use on civil aircraft.

The fact of the matter is that Elbagir did not attempt to inform the reader use of civilian aircraft for military purposes is permitted by the 1944 Convention on Civil Aviation.

In August 2021, the US government ordered civilian airlines to transport fully armed US personnel evacuate Afghanistan under the Civil Reserve Air Fleet program. For revitalizing and reinvigorating the “CNN effect”, Elbagir was given the Emmy.

Nima Elbagir, the Queen of Fake News is preceded by Samantha Power, the Queen of Beggars

Arguably, the greatest monetizer of human suffering for fame, fortune and power is the current USAID boss and Queen of Beggars, Samantha Power.

Power was awarded the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for her book, “A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide.”

Power purportedly examines U.S. foreign policy toward genocide in the 20th century. She indicts US administrations for failing to prevent “genocides” in the world.

Power claims the US failed time and again to respond to genocides by downplaying the severity of the atrocities or pleading ignorance after it was too late.

Power wrote in Problem from Hell: The United States had never in its history intervened to stop genocide and had in fact rarely even made a point of condemning it as it occurred... People have explained U.S. failures to respond to specific genocides by claiming that the United States didn’t know what was happening, that it knew but didn’t care, or that regardless of what it knew, there was nothing useful to be done. I have found that in fact U.S. policymakers knew a great deal about the crimes being perpetrated. Some Americans cared and fought for action, making considerable personal and professional sacrifices. And the United States did have countless opportunities to



mitigate and prevent slaughter. But time and again, decent men and women chose to look away. We have all been bystanders to genocide. The crucial question is why.

Power found fame, fortune and power by selling her book from hell.

From 2009 to 2013, Power served on the National Security Council staff as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights.

In 1999, Power became founding executive director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the Kennedy School.

From 2013 to 2017, Power served as Obama-Biden’s US Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Obama called Power, “one of our foremost thinkers on foreign policy.”

Forbes magazine called Power, “the moral compass of American diplomacy” and “a powerful crusader for U.S. foreign policy as well as human rights and democracy” when it named her one of the “World’s 100 Most Powerful Women.”

Power, like Elbagir, was a “journalist,” (or as I would prefer to call both of them journaLIEsts) and reported Bosnia, East Timor, Kosovo, Rwanda, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

In June 2022, Power gave a “major foreign policy address” around the theme of “revolution of dignity.”

I bet my bottom dollar that Power in that speech was angling for Antony Blinken’s job after he is put out to pasture following the 2022 midterm elections.

There it is: Fame, Fortune and Power. (Pun intended.)

If it bleeds, it leads to fame, fortune and power.

There is gold in them than hills of African suffering, death and destruction. Elbagir’s and Power’s guiding principle is, “If it bleeds, it leads to fame, fortune and power.”

I understand Sister Samantha. I really do. She does not want to acknowledge it but she is driven mad by white supremacy Messianic complex.

Just like Rudyard Kipling was tormented by “White Man’s Burden”, so is Samantha Power tormented by “White Woman’s Burden.”

As a white supremacist colonial journalist, Kipling believed it was the White Man’s Burden and divinely ordained duty to save the damned and wretched “half devil, half child” colonial savages from themselves, their savage wars and famine.

So it is for Samantha Power.

Take up the White Woman’s burden —

The savage wars of peace —

Fill full the mouth of Famine

And bid the sickness cease;

And when your goal is nearest

The end for others sought,

Watch Sloth and heathen Folly

Bring all your hope to nought.

So, Samantha Power sheds crocodile tears for the slothful, heathen half devil, half child starving Ethiopians!

I also understand Sister Nima Elbagir.

Pamela Newkirk has explained the torture

of black journalists in the white media in her book, “Within the Veil: Black Journalists, White Media.”

Former Wall Street journal legal correspondent Arthur S. Hayes explained that he felt pressured to change the way he thought and wrote: In order to succeed, you have to adopt that voice and that voice, in my analysis, tends to be the voice of an affluent white male.

In Elbagir’s case, in order for her to succeed in the fake news world of CNN and aspire to receive a fake Emmy award, she had to become that voice, and that voice in her reporting on Ethiopia was the voice of the rich white liberal elites of America.

The rest of us they consider suckers and fools, we should heed the words of Malcom X:

The media is the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and the guilty innocent, and that’s power. Because they control the minds of the masses. The press is so powerful in its image-making role; it can make the criminal look like he’s the victim and make the victim look like he’s the criminal. If you aren’t careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed and the loving the people who are doing the oppressing.

Don’t let fake news control your minds.

Fight the CNN Effect.

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

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Editorial

Be voice for the voiceless!

The general call “Be voice for the voiceless” can be interpreted as “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.” Conventionally, this call is to encourage us to pay attention to the needs of individuals or groups who would need our support in any possible ways.

Nevertheless, these days, it is proper to herald the call to save the Tigray people from the destructive hand of Terrorist TPLF. Currently, the Tigray people cannot speak for themselves. Their rights to life are mercilessly being robbed by the Terrorist TPLF. They are being denied the right to life and get basic needs; instead they are being forced to march to the TPLF’s war that it waged to fulfill some interest group’s evil wishes.

Implying this, the ethnic Tigrians’ rally held in Addis last Tuesday is the clearest indication of the current situation of the Tigrians in the Tigray state. In their peaceful demonstration, they condemned the series of atrocities committed by the T-TPLF. They also condemned the terrorist’s launching of the third round war and its recruiting children for the war. Above all, as they are highly concerned about the current sufferings of their relatives and family members, they spoke loudly for the international community to refrain from supporting the tyrannical system of the T-TPLF directly and indirectly.

About three years elapsed since the Tigrayan people began suffering in the cruel hand of the terrorist group. It attacked the northern command and the launched war on the neighboring states that disrupted the proper relationship of Tigrayan state with its surrounding states. It can be recalled that on Nov. 4, 2020, T-TPLF leadership ordered to launch a coordinated attack on the unsuspecting Northern Command of the Ethiopian Federal Defence Forces stationed in several military bases in Tigray. Through this attack, this terrorist group demonstrated its wicked inherent nature that brought great loss to the Tigrayans and other people in their vicinity.

Besides that merciless attack, the T-TPLF robbed most of the Command’s military equipment and killed thousands in horrific circumstances. Following this attack, some of the terrorist leaders appeared shamelessly on their own media outlets and admitted that their forces carried out this “pre-emptive attack”. One of them even described it as a “thunder-like action” and planned to remove the federal government and ultimately overthrow it. Sadly, the group’s leaders had been committing these and other atrocities on the expenses of the lives of Tigray people.

It is very unfortunate to hear that tens of thousands have already lost their lives and hundreds of thousands of people in Tigray are in desperate need of help due to the destructive measures caused on them by the T-TPLF.

Disastrously, the Terrorist TPLF has brought the Tigrayan people into great destruction in several ways. Among these, it separated the people from their Ethiopian brothers and sisters. Though all Ethiopians from different background have connections that are inseparably interwoven in social values, the T-TPLF in its wicked strategies has disrupted this long-standing harmonious relationship among Ethiopians. Through recruiting children and the elderly and marching them into conflict by force, it has put the lives of the Tigrayan mothers into miserable state. Setting the ‘policy’ that denies them the right to basic necessities; if a family member does not join its fighters, the family cannot have the right to get any social service. Besides these, the T-TPLF has been destroying basic infrastructures such as bridges, airports, telecom centers, financial agencies and the like. When the Ethiopian government sent the technicians to repair the infrastructure, the terrorist killed the experts. As a result, the Tigray people sadly do not have access to basic services.

In essence, the terrorist group has cut off the people from the rest of Ethiopians deliberately to use the innocent people as its cannon fodder and instrument of propaganda.

Opinion

UN should think of its mendacious WHO’s Chief

BY STAFF REPORTER

How the world made a mistake in reelecting the man ill-fit to run the colossal World Health Organization (WHO)? The World should ask and respond to this question for itself as the WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom abuses his power and serves the interest of its party called Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF) instead of discharging his given responsibilities.

Some people, who clearly comprehend the misleading statement of Dr. Tedros has not trusted the statement released in social media.

At times when various infrastructures including health facilities were destroyed due to the war ignited by this terrorist group, the man who currently led WHO not wanted to condemn such evil acts.

On the 3rd of November 2020, the outlawed TPLF viciously attacked the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Force. From that moment onwards, Dr Tedros Adhanom, who is said to be an active member of the TPLF’s command and control structure, unleashed a propaganda campaign against the government, a statement from the Ethiopian foreign mission claimed.

Dr Tedros Adhanom backs illegal activities committed by the TPLF and shies away from exposing the rebel movement’s alleged atrocities against schools, public health facilities, institutions and infrastructures in



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



the Amhara and Afar regions where there is an ongoing conflict with federal forces.

If we take the recent report, Health facilities in Raya Kobo Woreda and Kobo City have been completely looted, burned to ashes and destroyed by the terrorist TPLF. The

terrorist TPLF has repeatedly committed countless heinous atrocities against the society by destroying public facilities, looting and burning properties, raping, killing and torturing civilians in the areas where it invaded in Amhara and Afar region.

The recent reports revealed that nine health centers and hospitals, that were providing services to the local community, including Kobo Town Hospital, were completely demolished by the terrorist group. Even though the terrorist group has repeatedly caused myriads of human and material damage to the community in the area, Dr. Tedros did not want to say anything such crime against humanity.

Instead he 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 coronavirus 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 of WHO, he was a lobbyist for T-TPLF.

It was recalled that 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 a message to T-TPLF rebels. 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

Similarly, the Director-General, had also posted a word ‘Pride’. While many people thought that it was regarding a celebration at that time, he was actually representing his pride over the rebel gaining military victory.

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

The UN should think of its leaders who are going far from its vision of creating a world in which all peoples attain the highest possible level of health, and mission of promoting health, keeping the world safe and serving the vulnerable, with measurable impact for people at country level.

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

Business & Economy

Strategic measures to regulate inflation, stabilize economy

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Population for a country is the core wealth. Being the second populous country in Africa, Ethiopia is blessed with human resource and can make a means of growth but if it managed this asset properly. In Ethiopia population growth is the highest in Africa with high dependency ratio and poor family management. Therefore, creating well trained human power can support the nation's economic growth.

In order to attain structural change, the government introduced homegrown economic reform. In addition, it has been implementing the 10 years perspective development plan. Nevertheless, new international phenomena and local incidents are affecting the macro economy of the country by creating anomalies.

Recently, the Ethiopian Economic Association made discussion on issues of the country's political economy, land policy, conflict and post conflict economic rehabilitation mechanism. As to the study paper presented on the occasion, the economic crises witnessed in the country is multi-dimensional.

Currently, inflation has been galloping, huge foreign debt, shortage of foreign currency and anomalies in the fiscal policies particularly that related with conflicts taking place in the northern part of the country are critically harming the nation's economy. As per the report of the association, the ongoing inflation which is in its alarming rate attributed to the new economic structural reform, finance supply, interest rates, the over value of foreign currency, export, tariff on imported goods and foreign currency reserve.

On the occasion, the Ethiopian Economic Association Research and Policy Study Director, Degiye Goshu (PhD), presented paper with regard to the cause of the aggravating inflation and the cost it does incur. As to him, the two digit inflation rate has been squashing the people for many years.

Ethiopia has become one of the 10 countries critically affected by high inflation rate in the world and in Africa and it has been the third inflationary hit country next to Sudan and Zimbabwe. Some figures also indicate that the inflation rate registered in Ethiopia surpassed most sub Saharan African countries and other countries outside Africa. Particularly, in the last eight years, in Ethiopia, the chance to escape from poverty has been deemed. Among the criterion put to evaluate income growth basic social security or safety net can be mentioned here. In these regard, the majority of the population rest at the verge of poverty and inflation erodes citizens chance to alleviate poverty.

According to the welfare regime index since



2016, it is declining and worse to these; inflation has been aggravating the situation. On the other hand, some problems witnessed in the economic structure aggravate inflation. Though the role of the agriculture sector in the nation's economy is declining since 2008, the growth of the manufacturing sector in the economy is insignificant.

On the other hand, the huge amount of money circulating in the market has aggravated inflation. The circulating money should go in line with the available goods and services in the market and considering its character is essential. The supply of money to the market surpassed the economic growth which in turn destabilizes value of the money.

According to Degiye, foreign influence particularly, export and the declining of the purchasing power of the Birr since 2018 does not bring positive outcome on export it rather brought negative result.

The government often claims that the devaluation of Birr against the Dollar boosts export and enhances the industrial sector competition capacity but whether the claim is correct or not study has to be made and if it is not correct corrective measures has to be taken. Devaluating the purchasing power of Birr does bring only short term benefit. Though the intention was to boost the competition capacity of the export, it has its own negative repercussion.

As to Degiye, the devaluation of the Birr purchasing power negatively affects the inflow of Foreign Direct Investment. Some argue that, the increment of the foreign currency earning of the nation in the last budget year related with the Birr devaluation. But Degiye does not agree with

the statement. As to him, in the budget year, the price of coffee grew by 700 percent in the international market, the coffee price also increased in similar way and the registered income in foreign currency which is 1.4 billion Dollars does not give sense to the population with more than 100 million. Such amount of hard currency probably is big to countries like Djibouti or Eritrea. When the earned money is divided to the population it means nothing. He further said that, in the last ten years as compared to the nation's economy size, the volume of export is declining.

According to economists, Ethiopia mostly exports agricultural products to the foreign market which in turn have its own negative consequence on domestic supply of agricultural products.

When the Ethiopian export goods and services are evaluated it is indicated that the nation's export accomplishment capacity is very low and categorized one of the 6 countries in Africa which have low export performance. Export also brought shortage of commodities on domestic market and the export volume is plummeted from 17 percent in 2011 to 7 percent in 2020. If the nation has sufficient products to be exported, it does not matter but with the absence of sufficient products only serves to earn foreign currency that does not make the nation competent in the world market. As to Degiye, in general, the nation exports food and food related items which in turn raise food prices in the domestic markets.

This happens because the nation suffers from shortage of foreign currency and obliged to export food commodities only to earn foreign currency. The government predicted that, the nation will register 6

percent economic growth in the current budget year but it is reasonable to request where such growth is obtained. If the government intends to attain the growth from the service sector the growth does not trickled down to the ordinary citizens.

Depending on the service sector does not enable to manage inflation and push the population only to consume and demand commodities imported from outside. In addition, it aggravates the supply side problems. As to the economists, the service sector is equally important to the manufacturing sector. Therefore, by increasing the manufacturing sector rapidly supporting the service sector by supplying raw materials is essential. The government should pay attention to solutions which can stabilize inflation and forwarding viable policy is essential.

In addition, evaluating the measures whether they bring solutions or not is vital; as to the study paper presented by Degiye, in general, the nation's political economic journey from 2006 to 2022, according to the international criterion is fair to say that the economic transition is not successful. It can be explained that the political development surpassed the nation's economic achievement.

In general, the economic problem is related with the inflation and anomalies on the nation's macro economy. In addition to this, improper implementation of the economic policy aggravates the situation. Therefore, the government should formulate solution in relation with promoting the production, accelerating industry sector growth, introducing conducive land policy, finance budget, tax and investment, improving trade and foreign currency garnering system.

Art & Culture

Come to Ethiopia

BY ALEM HAILU

If nostalgia beset your mind
Come to Ethiopia
A cradle of mankind!

Come to Ethiopia
With no hesitation
Ancient civilization
Will engross your attention!

Before identity quest
You smother
Come to Ethiopia 'cause
Lucy, your great,
Great grandmother
You could watch closer!
A melting pot of
Over 80 ethnic groups, who
With cordial hospitality,
Will embrace you
Without standing to ceremony
Or formality.

Come to Ethiopia
A mosaic of culture
A true place for adventure!

If you need
An original taste of
Coffee Arabica
Come to Ethiopia
A beacon light to Africa
To freedom fighters
Up to America.

Come to Ethiopia
You will meet there
People who have to borrow
Valour from no where!

Come to Ethiopia
Triggering off no
Feelings of discomfort
Mosques churches abut.

Come to Ethiopia
In a way description that defy
A church by a Muslim name goes by!

Come to Ethiopia
An exemplary country
To deter common enemy
To spur development
In a spectacular bent
Muslims and Christians unite!

Come to Ethiopia
Whose name on the bible
Times beyond number bubble!

Come to Ethiopia
For his persecuted
Followers, the Prophet
Mohammed a high-heaven marked!

Come to Ethiopia
Now on the path of renaissance
Mutual regional growth and
A sustainable peace
Are whose unwavering stance!

Come to Ethiopia
A country with its own
Alphabet and calendar!
Of course you will wonder
when you get
Yourself eight years younger!

Come to Ethiopia
To feast your eyes
On breathtaking water falls
Scenery and greenery



God-hand-made caves
Endemic animals and birds
Live volcanoes
Obelisks and
Rock-hewn churches.
You shall feast
Your eyes on Harar wall
For the Muslim
A holy city on row four!
You will stand a chance
For Ivangadi
A traditional spectacular dance
Also Konso's terrace.

Come to Ethiopia
Aside from adventure,
You could collect
Invincible athletes
And successful Olympians'
Signature!
Your souvenir picture

With them you may capture!
Of course
You can board 'Ethiopian'
That was there when
The horizon of aviation
History we scan.
Come to Ethiopia
The celebration of
The finding of the true cross
The pilgrimage
To Sheik Hussein Mosque
And epiphany
That have no parallels by any!

Come to Ethiopia
To see first-hand
A country
13 months sunny!

Come to Ethiopia
To enjoy

A Teff-made
Flat bread organic
Found not carcinogenic!
You will gather
Like coffee
Teff and its bread chemistry
Age-old, with it, that were there,
Are blessings
To the rest of the world
Ethiopia Proffer!

Come to Ethiopia
If you want to understand
As to what is meant
By black pride!

If you worry about class
Ethiopia today
Has countless
Hotels shining with stars!

The political oxymoron: The Security Council and the democratization of global governance

BY GIRMA BEKELE

As the 2019 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics winners, Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, put it we live in an “extreme concentration of economic power in the hands of a very small minority of the super-rich.” The gap between the rich minority and the poor majority is growing wider. According to the World Inequality Lab’s annual World Inequality Report 2022:

“The poorest half of the global population barely owns any wealth at all, possessing just 2% of the total. In contrast, the richest 10% of the global population owns 76% of all wealth. The World Bank estimates that 87% of the world’s extreme poor will be in Africa by 2030 if current trends continue. The global discourse to narrow the gap between the “haves and the have-nots” is meaningless without engaging this reality.”

There has been a growing awareness about Africa’s suffering, yet little has been achieved to improve the capacity of African nations to meaningfully develop toward being co-equal members at the global socio-economic and political table. Africans cannot be called global citizens. They have no credible clout in the economic and political equation of a globalizing world.

Poverty is not just the result of a lack of skill or moral and cultural crisis. It is correlated with the social, economic, and political dynamics dictated primarily by nations of the Global North. Of course, African leaders need to take responsibility for their share in the failures. Nonetheless, no African problem today can be understood without also reckoning with the policies of the Global North.

Foreign aid has not helped much in solving the root causes of our poverty. Consider the global financial structures: the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Trade Organization (WTO). These institutions were established with the intent to empower the Global South in its fight against poverty. However, their agendas and policies are often controlled and manipulated by the interests of the Global North and their transnational corporations.

There is also global political hypocrisy that Africa is yet to have a meaningful space in the global arenas of democracy. A clearer



example is that the continent has very little say, certainly not voting right, within the Security Council. As we know, ever since its inception in 1946, the council has remained unchanged with all Member States obligated to comply with the decisions it passes. The fate of African countries is left in the mercies of members with veto power. For instance, Ethiopia has been subjected to the Council’s agenda thirteen times in the last two years, and the African Union, home to the largest human race in the world, had no right to plead the country’s cause. The harsh resolutions against the county have been averted — thanks to Russia and China! Ireland, barely 5 million, has more say over Ethiopia’s over 115 million people, the second most populous in Africa.

In global politics where opinions are dictated by the power of money and geo-political interests, billions of citizens, particularly the poor are affected. In the pretext of human rights, truth is often altered, misguided, and rewritten to favor tyrants and enable them to keep their power. Then follows harsh and unjust sanctions—in short of a weaponization of human rights. Foreign aids have hidden political strings. Ethiopia, for instance, during the Tigray’s People Liberation Front (TPLF) dominated-reign (1991–2018) of the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), has been receiving an average of \$3.5 billion per year from international donors.

Despite massive foreign assistance, during the reign of EPRDF, Ethiopia had been one of the least democratic countries in the world. According to Statista, from 2005 to 2014 Ethiopia’s Government Integrity was “below the world average for the entire period.” The

in opposition to the intrinsic worth of human life.

The Global North has a moral responsibility for the development of Africa in general and the billions of our World’s poor. This entails admitting Africa to the UN Security Council with a voting right. In the words of the newly elected Kenyan President, William Ruto, “A just and inclusive world order cannot be spearheaded by a United Nations Security Council that persistently and unjustly fails the inclusivity criterion.”

It is commendable that Biden has advocated an idea of inclusiveness in his address at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. It could also be a late political awakening for the importance of Africa and a strategy to counter the increasing presence of China, Russian and other countries including India, Brazil, Turkey, Japan, and the Gulf states. Regardless, the global socio-political and economic table that has excluded Africa is no longer sustainable. It should become evident that U.S. military presence has done little to strengthen its ties with Africa. Four years ago, Ari Rickman and Salih Booker of the Center for International Policy said the following, and it is still valid: *“the U.S. military is attempting to prepare African countries to fight an enemy they actually may not have (or at least not to the extent that Washington imagines), while the U.S. government is failing to help those same countries deal with the real killers — namely, poverty and corruption.”*

In redressing the balance, African leaders are also equally responsible for their failed leadership. African, need to come to terms with the problems inherent in our leadership and be willing with, humility, to take responsibility for our actions. Some of our freedom fighters who managed to conquer colonialism between the 60s and mid-70s, promising freedom based on the rule of law, justice, and equality, have fallen into the same patterns as their colonial oppressors. Anarchism, nepotism, corruption, autocracy, and political violence should be addressed effectively. These are evil forces that have devastated the lives of millions of poor on our continent. Ethno-centrism and radical fundamentalism have destroyed social cohesion and have caused gross violations of human rights. There is a need to reject both global inequality and African corruption. (Borkena)

Why even-minded...

“Sanctions in my home country Cuba are devastating tools that put the livelihood of the people in a catastrophic situation. And the sanctions imposed by the U.S. on Ethiopia only affect the livelihood of poor Ethiopians.”

“Cuba opposes any undue pressure on Ethiopia from any interest group,” the Ambassador said, reiterating the commitment of his country to bolster the longstanding and historical relationship with Ethiopia in the bilateral and international arenas. Cuba sent more than 15,000 soldiers to Ethiopia to support the latter’s war against the invading Somalia forces under Siad Barre in 1976-77

and hundreds of Cubans paid noble sacrifices to help safeguard the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ethiopia.

Noting thousands of Ethiopian students who pursued their higher education in Cuba are now serving their homeland in various careers, he expressed his country’s commitment to support Ethiopia in various areas of cooperation. Cuba also wants to take lessons from Ethiopia in the coffee development sector.

In a similar development, led by Côte d’Ivoire, the African Group representing the continent at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), has voiced its rejection of the so-

called “investigation report” of the ICHREE.

Speaking on the occasion, Côte d’Ivoire’s Counselor Konan Francois Kouame stated that the Africa Group understands the ICHREE actually went beyond its mandate and made statements on things that are not within its remit. “We would like to recall that the protection and promotion of human rights is a responsibility that lies first and foremost within states; and that the international mechanisms should play a complementary role but not substitute the national mechanisms.”

The Group further urged the Commission not to undermine the measures of accountability

undertaken by the Ethiopian government. The Group also encourages the Commission to use advantage to investigate the abuses committed in the northern part of Ethiopia that are not covered by the Joint mechanism and to ensure that accountability is upheld.

It is to be recalled that Ethiopia and many countries including China, Russia, Cuba, Belarus, North Korea, Venezuela and African countries that participated in the United Nations Human Rights Council 51st Session have rejected the ICHREE’s report, citing its partiality and for being a politically-motivated one.

Law & Politics

Why even-minded nations detest ICHREE's flawed report?

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

From its formation to release of its flawed report, the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) has been drawing sharp criticism from even-minded countries. The Commission has even been labeled as a political entity that is meant to serve the interests of special groups and their lobbyists, who have been adopting the same tricky means on the pretext of human rights abuses.

More to the point, the Commission has turned out to be the product of interventionist policies and modern-day imperialists. In this particular case though, the formation of the Commission had attracted disapproval from a numbers of countries that came into terms with the evil intention and actions lying behind this political instrument.

It is worth remembering that the resolution to set up the commission received 15 countries' opposition and 11 abstentions.

During the voting, African countries had also called for the resolution to be rejected the proposed investigative mechanism. Six African countries, including Senegal and Sudan, broke ranks and abstained.

And, the report as many predicted ended up being full of contradictions and political accusations.

In fact, some countries have been many a time and oft enunciating their disenchantment in several instances. As all and sundry realized in black and white the obscure motives of the Commission and the desired goal of the interests of Ethiopia's opponents, they have been brushing aside the fabricated report that lacks trustworthiness.

These countries have a solid point though. The political document carried unfounded allegations and appeared to be biased and flawed. That is why most countries have been denouncing the evil deeds of the commission giving the cold shoulder to the indisputable truth coming to the surface in the northern part of the country.

To everyone's dismay, the Commission's report does not say anything about a broad range of summary killings, gang rape, lootings, and other actions against the law that took place in Amhara and Afar states by the terrorist TPLF group.

Regardless of the fact that the Commission's fabricated report has been designed to win the hearts and minds of the wider international community, most nations that took part in the United Nations Humanitarian Council assembly have abandoned the international commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia saying it is a politically motivated one.

If truth be told, rather than pulling out all the stops to familiarize the unvarnished truth that came into existence in the northern part of the country by the disgruntled group, the Commission reports drug through the mud the positive images of the incumbent and whitewashes the unspeakable crimes. Apart from that one can learn with no trouble the fact that the report serves the hidden interest of some groups going behind closed curtains.

As the Commission report is biased and lacks credibility, some nations that took part in the

conference rejected it with one accord without batting an eye.

For the sake of truth, the report fails to give credit to the unflinching stance of the government to make peace happen at the earliest possible juncture. Even though the criminal group has been refusing to beat swords into plowshares over and over again working around the clock to move the country into uncharted territory and turn the lives of noncombatants into a living hell, the report leaves out of account the whole truth.

As some countries know like the palm of their hand the fact that the Commission's report from top to toe echoes the interests of the criminal organization giving the cold shoulder to the honest truth, they ended up rejecting the report and familiarizing the global community with the gospel truth in the shortest possible time.

It is public knowledge that in the present climate, Ethiopians at home and abroad have been going to the ends of the earth to familiarize the cooked-up report of the Commission with the global community.

As a matter of fact, the envisioned destination of the report is to put unwarranted pressure on Ethiopia and twist its arms. Irrespective of the fact that the criminal enterprise has been going to the ends of the earth to turn the lives of noncombatants into living hell, the report turns a blind eye and deaf ear to the indisputable truth.

As some nations know the fact that in the face of the criminal enterprise's military crimes, the government has been honest and enthusiastic to have the alleged human rights infringements investigated, and they have rejected the fake report of the commission.

In the same way, the commission report fails to acquaint the wider international community with the obliteration of social infrastructure in every nook and cranny of the northern part of the country by the illegal group. To the surprise of everyone, the report is self-contradicting and one-sided that pays no attention to the existing reality on the ground. As the report is crammed with bogus stories that push aside the entire truth surfacing under Ethiopia's skies, the global community should criticize the evil intention of the report again and again.

It should be borne in mind that since the start of the war in the northern part of the country brought about by the terrorist TPLF group, some foreign entities have been leaving no stone unturned to twist Ethiopia's arms and achieve their concealed interests. To this point, a number of groundless allegations have been laid at the doorstep of the incumbent to win the hearts and minds of the wider international community.

It cannot be denied that intending to bring about justice and uncover the ragtag group's fabrications; Ethiopia has been working in close association with the Joint team of the UN Human Rights Body and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. Though the criminal deeds of the disgruntled group in Amhara and Afar states turned the lives of countless people into chaos and misery, the report does not pay attention to the circumstances on the ground.

In a similar vein, it is worth mentioning

that apart from killing several blameless noncombatants in the northern part of the country, the killing squad has been turning many parents childless. Dismally, the report does not say anything about the report. It is crystal clear that the Commission's report lays all the blames on the incumbent doors without tangible resources.

Realizing the contradiction and inaccuracies of the report, many countries that participated in the United Nations Humanitarian Council meeting have rejected the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) report, saying over its partiality and for being a politically-motivated one.

Permanent Representative of Ethiopia at the UN in Geneva Amb.Zenebe Kebede delivered his remark yesterday at the UN Human Right Council Geneva, 18th Meeting, 51st Regular Session.

It is known that the 51st United Nations Humanitarian Council is holding its regular meeting from September 12, 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. Yesterday, on the 11th day of its meeting, the Council held an Interactive Dialogue on Ethiopia.

The Council also listened to the report of the ICHREE, which was established to investigate the human rights situation in Ethiopia. The Commission submitted its report to the United Nations Human Rights Council to extend the period of its investigation in Ethiopia, and the member countries discussed it.

Accordingly, several countries that took part in the meeting rejected the report owing to the fact that it lacks credibility and has political implications.

Among the countries that objected to the investigative report submitted by the ICHREE include China, Russia, Cuba, Belarus, North Korea, Venezuela and African countries.

Speaking at the meeting, the Russian representative said that the Commission's report was loaded with a political mission, and stated that it would recognize the joint investigation and report by the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission.

The representative further pointed out that, the report prepared by the Commission did not follow a professional approach and had political influence.

Many countries that participated in the conference said that Ethiopia can solve its internal problems on its own and that they will not accept the report.

Denmark is one of the countries that viewed the Commission's report with suspicion and asked the latter to clarify its relationship with the federal and state officials while conducting the investigation and preparing the report.

Addressing the meeting, the Sudan representative stressed that the report was covered by the joint investigation report previously conducted by the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, so there is nothing special about it.

Speaking on behalf of African member countries at the 2022 United Nations Human Rights Council, Côte d'Ivoire expressed objection to the report and mentioned

that the Commission is going beyond its responsibilities.

The African member states of the Council include Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Namibia, Senegal, Somalia and Sudan.

The member countries of the Council called on all parties to participate in the African Union-led peace process to solve the problem in Ethiopia.

Meanwhile in his remark, Amb.Zenebe said at the Interactive Dialogue with the International Commission of Human Rights Expert (ICHREE) on Ethiopia said: "Ethiopia has been the subject of an unfair and biased scrutiny at this august body for more than a year now."

The activities around this Council seem to be driven by a politically motivated and slanted narrative, he added.

"Such misguided campaigns against Ethiopia must stop at a time the Government of Ethiopia is implementing the recommendations of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) of the OHCHR and the EHRC."

Indicating the fact that Ethiopia abides by its international human rights and international humanitarian law obligations, he said his country objected to the establishment of the Commission which was founded on a series of erroneous premises.

This practice of targeting countries like Ethiopia ultimately undermines the authority and credibility of the Human Rights Council. Without a doubt, the Report is selective and discriminatory, and its conclusions are politically motivated, he said.

The Commission could have investigated atrocities committed by the TPLF in the Amhara and Afar regions. However, it only made fleeting references. It has also completely overlooked the use of child soldiers and the violent and forced recruitment of fighters by the TPLF, including in refugee camps in neighboring countries, he noted, stressing: "This calls into question the Commission's ability to shoulder this task objectively and impartially."

Cuban Ambassador to Ethiopia Jorge Lefebre Nicolas for his said the recent report of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) is part of the continued coercive measures being imposed by some interest groups on Ethiopia.

Some interest groups are imposing a variety of sanctions on Ethiopia to bend the nation to their will forcefully, but Ethiopia is in a position to withstand the pressures and step up its development endeavors, the Ambassador told FBC.

Referring to the UN's August 22 report, he indicated the report is not merely a document but also a political tool aimed at putting more pressure on Ethiopia. Some powers in the guise of the UN are acting in an unfair manner and devising such documents only to achieve their political objectives.

As to the Ambassador, the continued pressure from some groups on Ethiopia could prove counterproductive and bring more social and economic complications to the country.

See *Why even-minded ...* page 8

Women in Focus

Million Birhane: All-rounded artist

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Everyone has his/her own definition of life. Depending on the call within the depth of his/her soul the person will give definition to the meaning of life. Million Bihane is among the young and talented artists who define life in her own ways. She is a young sculptor, painter, designer and potter as well. The passion and the love she develops for art begins when she was a little girl when her grandmother used to inspire her with handmade clothes and other handmade crafts. All the birthday gifts she used to get from families and relatives on *Meskerem* -Ethiopian new year- had also their own lasting impact on her current career.

Million Birhane, was born and raised here in Addis. Starting from her childhood Million had a special tendency for art. For that reason, she has made all the sacrifices to follow her dream. Whoever has the chance to see her painting or sculptures he/she would be amazed with the deep philosophy of her works. The visual arts she produces (painting, sculptures, mosaic arts and others) have deep meaning and philosophies. Lately, this writer had a chance to meet and had moments of togetherness with Million.

Who or what inspired you to become an artist?

My Grand Mom was instrumental to my current career. As a little girl who spends most of her time with her grand mom, she was raised to love art and enjoy it in all its forms. My grandmother used to inspire me to love art. My childhood is my golden time where I spent most of my time with my grand mom. She was a creative and talented woman. I grew up watching and appreciating her works. My grand mom is my role model not only in the area of art but also in other areas as well. My grandma had an Old Russian sewing machine. Using that machine she used to make us fashionable clothes. Besides making us clothes, she used to make fashionable clothes for my dolls as well. My grandmother has raised me cautiously with true freedom. She even used to let me play on mud and prepare any kind of models out of it.

Enkutataash- Ethiopian New year- is the day I was born. On that special day it is customary for me to receive several gifts from my relatives and families. Water colors and painting exercise books were among the gifts I used to receive on my birthday. This and other reasons have influenced me to love art. As a little girl who enjoyed stories, tales and fables I had also developed a sense of loving Ababa Tesfaye's Children TV show. Whenever he tells children's stories on the ETV children program, I used to



create a series of pictures in my mind. This has also contributed its share to love art.

As a young woman sculptor what were your main challenges?

Being a woman does not mean we are dependent or incapable of doing something men can accomplish. My life is a witness to this. I have pursued a life that my soul was looking for. Fortunately, I achieved what I dreamt of. When I decided to follow the path of art all the roads were not easy and smooth. I had faced challenges from families and friends. But I was strong enough to say "No". My families were expecting me to follow the other direction- the academic one. However, my soul was thirsty for the art world. However, that does not mean when I refuse to accept my family's way, I did not face any challenge.

Until recently, it was not easy for an Ethiopian woman to follow her dreams. It was either family or relatives who would decide for her. For that reason, becoming an artist by one's interest and decision was unthinkable. Obviously, being a visual artist was considered as unproductive and unprofitable. For that very reason, it was not easy for me to convince my family to follow my dream.

After finishing grade ten, I had a chance to proceed to the next class. However, by then, I already knew what I wanted. I did not want to spend another year in academic class. For that reason I joined Abyssinia Art Center where I found myself and quenched my thirst for art.

For your question, being a sculptor is

difficult for women, is a concept I do not agree with. Whenever we talk about art we are not talking about the physical strength or weakness of a given artist. Rather, we are talking about the spiritual strength of that person. In this regard, I have a spiritual strength to perform all the visual arts with passion and excellence. This includes the sculpture. Being a woman has never discouraged me from achieving my goal. It even enables me to move forward. My prior experiences are full of this fact. Once, I and other men had an entrance examination to join an Entoto Fine Arts Center. The Center had a special policy that encouraged women artists. Unfortunately, my name (Million) resembles more men than women. For that reason, I was categorized with men candidates. However, I was able to pass all the exams irrespective of my gender. This is because I have self-confidence. All the paths I came through have taught me to have a strong mental setting that goes beyond gender issues and have developed a strong self-image constructed out of "I can't do it!!" spirit.

Most of your works have deep philosophies and some of them have a spiritual dimension that tells human relationship with the Creator. For instance, Noah's Ark and Abemelek's story are good examples. Where did this philosophy come from?

Noah's Ark, which is painted inspired by the biblical Noah, is produced dreaming of a better time for Ethiopia. As it is put in the bible, God has destroyed the evil people and Noah, his families and animals were spared from God's wrath. We are found in the era where human

kinds are doing what is evil in the eyes of the Creator. This is an era where selfishness overshadowed selflessness. For this reason, we need kindhearted individuals and leaders that can hear the voice of their creator to be saved from God's wrath. We need to have individuals with a kind heart. The need for kindness, God fearing people and incarnation with a clean soul are reasons behind my philosophy and art work.

Abemelek, is the other kind and godly man who did not see God's wrath. Abemelek was king Jeremiah's steward who was spared by God from seeing the destruction of Israel by letting him sleep for 66 years unconsciously. The life of Abemelek always inspires me to sleep unconsciously till better days come. I dreamt of the life of Abemelek not to see evil days and cruelty among people.

What is your perception about life in general and that of an art in particular?

Life is all about living a life that pleases not only our body but also our soul. In this regard, art has an invisible medicine to heal one's soul. Living for others and standing by their side in times of need is the other aspect of life that pleases our soul. Kindness has lots of rewards that cannot be measured by earthly things. In this regard, I can say for sure that visual artists are the kindest people who are always happy to help others. They have different perspectives on life. For that reason they can hear the heartbeat of others and see what others can't see. Therefore, living honestly, generously and kindly are my life philosophies.

International News

Tanzania, Kenya form new teams to review education

Days after Tanzania opened discussions on improving its education curriculum, Kenya President William Ruto named a 49-member Working Party on Education that will gather views on, among other things, assess and recommend an appropriate structure to implement the competency based curriculum, whose first cohort is in Grade 6.

Tanzanian officials say the views gathered from the public will help make learning more practical to prepare students address current problems better.

And President Samia Suluhu's administration wants the public to present suggestions to a team of experts reviewing the 2014 Education and Training Policy, which will then advise where to overhaul in the current curriculum.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Minister for Education, Science and Technology said on Sunday that the taskforce will address weaknesses in the 2014 curriculum for primary schools.

The 2014 Education and Training Policy was aimed to guide education provision from pre-primary to tertiary levels along with vocational, non-formal, and special education sectors but has not been implemented to change the current teaching curricula.

Since its adoption for implementation, there has been a concern among education stakeholders that the Policy does not meet the current demands of education and training in Tanzania to strengthen economic, social, scientific and technological transformation.

Access to opportunities

Research report by Policy Forum and HakiElimu, the two NGOs in Tanzania had quoted parents and education experts criticising the Education Policy for its inability to address access educational opportunities.

The current curriculum involves seven years of compulsory primary school education. However, after that, further education is voluntary, including four years in junior secondary and two years in senior secondary.

Experts will gather views to address the current needs of education, skills and training structure that would provide



quality education and training recognised nationally, regionally and internationally, according to Prof Mkenda.

State dominance and centralisation rather than decentralisation in the provision of education was the other weakness of the current education system in Tanzania, Policy Forum report said.

Tanzania's education curriculum includes at least three years in university. Children normally start school at the age of six years sit Ordinary Certificate of Secondary Education (O-Level) exams after seven years in primary school, sit for Advanced Level Certificate of Secondary Education (A-Level) exams after four years in secondary and study for two years in senior secondary before and University or higher learning education for three years.

President Suluhu admits the current education system does meet the needs of the labour market in Tanzania owing to its focus on theoretical learning as opposed to practicals.

She had earlier directed the government to make the curricula that would help to

produce skilled labour.

Tanzania enrolls about 1.4 million children to start standard one education in public or government schools every year under the government funding.

In his notice, President Ruto was following up on his pledge about reviewing the competency-based curriculum (CBC) that replaced 8-4-4.

The call came after complaints of 'overload' by parents even though some experts have defended the system as more engaging to children.

Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development director Prof Charles Ong'ondo said the CBC is focused on nurturing the unique talents and abilities of a learner as opposed to academics and scores in examinations.

"The competency-based approach to teaching and learning has been adopted in the region, extending to other countries in Africa and indeed globally," said Prof Ong'ondo.

He noted that Uganda, Gambia, Tanzania, Rwanda have been benchmarking

with Kenya on practices that could be contextualised in their own countries.

Dr Ruto said the review on the CBC will be in accordance with Unesco recommendations.

He noted that Kenya's education system should move in the direction of not just knowledge and exams, but that of knowledge, skills, competencies and value based education. 8-4-4 system involved eight years in primary school and four years in secondary, both of which are compulsory. But learners could opt for university or tertiary. Critics charged that the system focused more on drilling learners for exams rather than preparing them for labour markets.

The Working Party on Education is led by former vice-chancellor of Moi University Prof Raphael Munavu and includes vice-chancellor of the University of Nairobi Prof Gitahi Kiama.

The team, to last six months, will also give recommendations on teacher training, access to education and funding.

Source: The East African

Meta pushes Reels monetization with new ad formats

(Reuters) - Meta Platforms Inc (META.O) announced a series of new ad formats on Tuesday, aimed at creating new revenue streams for the short video and business messaging products that it has identified as key to growth this year.

In a blog post, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram said it was starting tests for a new skippable "post-loop" video ad format to play after its TikTok-like short video product Reels, which it has been promoting heavily.

Another new Reels format features horizontally scrollable carousel ads, which can display between two and 10 images at the bottom of a Reel, the post said.

Describing the company's business strategy at a press event, Meta executives said the new formats could lure Reels creators with ways to earn money from ad placements next to their videos.

"Our goal is to be able to provide the

tools and the monetization opportunities, as you are continually growing your creator following across our platforms," said Nada Stirratt, vice president of Meta's global business group for the Americas.

The executives also touted ads that open direct chats between businesses and prospective customers saying Meta can now use artificial intelligence to optimize whether the ads target new customers or those most likely to make a purchase.

Artificial intelligence would, likewise, power the selection of ads shown in users' Instagram feeds, the company said, citing internal research involving 400,000 advertisers that showed the approach produced more user purchases than other feed ads.

Meta is also opening up new spaces for advertising on Instagram, including the 'Explore' tab that users see when they run a search in the app, the blog post said.

SEPTEMBER 29

WORLD HEART DAY

More awareness on prevention of heart failure

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Heart failure has become a serious and growing health problem across the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region, where prevalence is markedly higher than the global average. In an effort to improve this outlook, an assembly of experts from across the region was convened to discuss how to address the increasing burden of heart failure based on their real-world, professional experiences.

In Ethiopia, the public and private health centres have been advising people repeatedly to get heart diagnosis and underline the need for continued heart follow ups.

In a press release sent to The Ethiopian Herald, the paper highlighted the gaps identified by the expert group and lays out their recommendations on how to reverse current trajectories by urgently improving awareness, diagnosis, and prevention of heart failure in the region.

In connection with this year's World Heart Day 2022 the panel of experts identifies significant gaps in awareness, diagnosis and prevention of heart failure in the Middle East and Africa

Currently, World Heart Day is a global campaign during which individuals, families, communities, and governments around the world participate in activities to take charge of their heart health and that of others.

Different studies conducted on the area calls for urgent implementation of and adherence to region-specific recommendations. Thus, more actions are needed to stop and reverse the steep rise in heart failure happening across the Middle East and Africa (MEA). This was the warning issued by a group of regional experts, who collectively outlined

the primary gaps in awareness, diagnosis and prevention of heart failure in the region and agreed on a set of recommendations for policymakers to take forward.

Accordingly, heart failure is associated with significant morbidity and mortality and considerably impacts patients' quality of life, as well as incurring a substantial economic burden, with a total estimated cost of USD 1.92 Billion. It notes that the average age a person will develop heart failure in the Middle East and Africa region is significantly lower than elsewhere: Africa (53 years), Middle East (56.4 years), North Africa (58.79 years), Asia (60 years) and Europe (70 years).

The experts point to risk factors such as diabetes, obesity, smoking and socioeconomic transition, marked by a sedentary lifestyle, lack of physical activity and high consumption of fatty foods, as the main contributors to the higher prevalence of heart failure in the region. They also agreed that, in certain countries, high prevalence of existing infectious diseases such as tuberculosis shifts the focus and resources from non-communicable diseases like heart failure.

While marking World Heart Day 2022, the experts reiterated their recommendations and stressed the ongoing, wide gaps and unmet needs in awareness, prevention, and diagnosis of heart failures in countries across the Middle East and Africa regions.

"Heart failure is a serious and growing threat to health in the Middle East and Africa, but it does not have to be this way. Policymakers across the region must act now to prioritize heart failure and associated diseases, through better training for health workers, national registries to ensure the collection



of quality data and improved access to novel therapies," said Dr. Ahmed Bennis, Professor of Cardiology, Department of Cardiology in Casablanca, Morocco.

"Whilst local guidelines are available in South Africa too many lives are being cut short in this part of the world due to gaps in how we identify and treat heart failure. This problem also places a huge economic burden on already over-stretched health systems. This paper clearly lays out what needs to be done to avert further suffering. In honor of World Heart Day, we are calling on policymakers to turn words into action," said Dr. Eric Klug, Professor of Cardiology at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

"For the first time, experts from across the Middle East and Africa have published a set of region-specific measures to tackle heart failure in efforts to save lives and livelihoods," said Dr. Viraj Rajadhyaksha, AstraZeneca Area Medical Director for Middle East and Africa region.

More importantly, the experts points out that

the lack of community-level awareness and a high prevalence of associated conditions such as hypertension and diabetes, compounded by poor accessibility and affordability of healthcare, as major barriers to the prevention of heart failure in the region. They urge policymakers to take the following steps to reverse current trajectories. In sum, prioritizing heart failure and its associated comorbidities alongside other infectious diseases, developing and implementing specific clinical guidelines on heart failure, creating local data registries on heart failure, and training more health workers in early identification of high-risk patients, among others are the health expert's recommendations to stay safe from heart failure.

In addition, governments of different countries should also work jointly on improving access to advanced diagnostics and training primary care health workers to use the available technology as well as enhancing access and insurance for novel therapies are important to prevent heart failure.