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T-TPLF's

ravaged electrical infrastructure to see completion soon

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) said the restoration of electric grid and other infrastructure that has been destroyed by the Terrorist TPLF would be completed within a month.

EEP Communication Director Moges Mekonnen told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the corporation has identified an immense destruction of the electricity infrastructure in North Ethiopia mentioning 50 electrical capacitors (conductors) were damaged from Woldia to Alamata towns. It was estimated that the whole restoration would take about four weeks.

The director further highlighted that the restoration of electrical infrastructure remains the EEP's priority in a bid to avail power to the local communities and businesses and help them to resume daily lives and operations. To this end, the supervision and inspection of the electric restoration districts have been classified in clusters with a view to completing the activities within a short period.

Accordingly, the supervision and inspection group to follow up the restoration activities of the Northern East Region, which is centered at Dessie and covers the Afar State and some parts of the East Amhara areas, is established.

To supplement the electricity restoration activities in the conflict affected areas and ensure full provision of power within the stated time frame, the EEP has mobilized all its districts across the country. Currently, the electrical infrastructure maintenance work is being done from Woldia to Alamata towns, Moges noted.

See T-TPLF'S ... Page 3



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Hidden parties in peace talks aim to protect T-TPLF ringleaders

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA- Some parties that are being involved in the ongoing peace talks are deviating from their observer status and

See Hidden parties ... Page 3

Int'l media lacks fairness regarding Ethiopia: Danish journalist

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – International media outlets remained unfair in their coverage regarding the current situation in Ethiopia, so said Danish journalist, added that their false narratives have prolonged and exacerbated the conflict.

Speaking to local media, Danish journalist Rasmus Sonderriis stated that media outlets should be careful with their sources. However, he added, all the reports about airstrikes have been from the Terrorist TPLF sources, footage coming from TPLF's

See Int'l media ... Page 3



Humanitarian aid, citizens' protection non-negotiable: GCS

BY BILAL DERSO

ADDIS ABABA- The humanitarian aid and the protection of citizens are non-negotiable, said the Government Communication Service (GCS).

The GCS Minister Legesse Tulu (PhD) stated that the Ethiopian government is committed to fulfilling its constitutional mandate to ensure the safety of its citizens and the provision of humanitarian aid and basic services.

Noting the humanitarian aid and protection

See Humanitarian ... Page 3



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FDRE Government Communication Service

News



Ugandan Journalist tells world T-TPLF's anti-peace nature

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA—The Ugandan Journalist, Kungu Al-Mahadi Adam has reminded the world that being anti-peace is the very nature of the terrorist TPLF since its inception.

In his article published on the Plus News entitled : "Ethiopia: Will anti-peace TPLF give peace chance in ongoing AU-led talks?" stated that the terrorist TPLF clique is not known the value of peace and humanity during its ruled period about close to three decade.

According to him, T-TPLF veterans are the ones who launched the conflict, disrupting services, inflicting infrastructural damage, and impeding the federal government's essential activates, and putting the region on lockdown.

The Journalist has also remembered that the belligerent group has attacked the Northern National Command Force stationed in Mekelle on the 4th of November 2020 and expands the invasion to the neighboring states gradually in aiming at backing to the capital.

In this regard, the group has expanded the invasion to the neighboring states of Amhara and Afar as well as provoking Eritrean by firing rocket missiles.

"Particularly, using violence such as displacing innocent citizens, massive damages including massacre, stealing humanitarian aids and the likes is the viable and primary means of the terrorist group to achieve its political objectives. That is why the terrorist leader snubs the unilateral ceasefire and peace option that offered by the government of Ethiopia repeatedly", he noted.

He further stated that fabricating false narration activates of crime against humanity, and frantic insistence for foreign support demonstrator the organization's importance and rejection in Ethiopia's larger political context.

Accordingly, leaders of the T-TPLF objective is taking power monopoly (Supremacy), dissolving the Ethiopian state, breaking away, and reintegrating Tigray, and invading Eritrea simultaneously.

Cognizant all this in mind, the terrorist group leaders would not be trusted to engage in Ethiopia's security, financial, and political processes, he stressed.

Djibouti keen to import wheat from Ethiopia

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA—Minister of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Livestock, and Marine Resources of Djibouti stated that the country is committed to become the first wheat importer from Ethiopia as soon as the latter launches wheat exportation.

Having a stay with local media, Minister Mohammed Ahmed said that his country is interested in importing wheat, becoming the first buyer of course, from Ethiopia which will be exported soon following the already existing economic integration between the two countries.

The minister said that Ethiopia has been playing a major role in facilitating fruit production and clean drinking water supply for Djibouti in the agricultural sector.

Appreciating Ethiopia's effort to export basis of forestry, tree seedlings, to Djibouti, as part of its Green Legacy initiative, he said the country is doing this with a view to ensuring food security and tackle impacts of climate change, and said the country shared its Green Legacy Initiative at High-Level Climate Change Summit that was held from October 23 to 25 in Djibouti.

According to the information obtained from



Ethiopian Embassy in Djibouti citing the success of Ethiopia towards the Green Legacy Initiative at the Summit, Minister of Peace, Benalf Andualem, said that Ethiopia has been playing a great role to mitigate climate change through preventive strategies like the Green Legacy Initiative.

He applauded the Government of Djibouti leadership for joining hands with Ethiopia to enhance the Green Legacy Initiative.

The Summit was launched by the president of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E. President Ismail Guelleh, and attended by the president of the Federal Republic of Somalia, H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, representatives

from East African countries, and international organizations.

Applauding the strategic partnership between Ethiopia and Djibouti at the official opening remarks of the summit, President Ismail Guelleh said, "The Republic of Djibouti has built an interconnecting line to harness clean hydroelectric power in partnership with Ethiopia."

Three rounds of tree planting ceremonies have already taken place in Djibouti, with the Ethiopian government which presented a quarter million seedlings to the country thereby further strengthening the two east African countries' green economic integration.

Embassy lambasts Chicago Tribune for misleading story

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA—The Embassy of Ethiopia in Washington DC has published a response to the recent Chicago Tribune's article as the paper failed to ensure objectivity towards intentionally misleading the international community regarding the current Ethiopian affairs.

Writing a letter to the Chicago Tribune Editor Concerning the misleading article published on October 20,2022 Titled: "The world's worst war you aren't watching is in Ethiopia" the embassy said that "We recognize the Chicago Tribune as a leader in ensuring the international community is objectively informed about the facts of the present conflict, but this article badly missed that mark".

Explaining the reality in Ethiopia the embassy said that the article failed to acknowledge that Tigray authorities aligned with the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) instigated the conflict in November 2020 by attacking Ethiopian National Defense Force (EDNF) bases in Tigray, and continue to impede the peace process today.

In contrast to the idea of the article the embassy said that the government of Ethiopia is committed to preserving the national unity, territorial integrity, and sovereignty of Ethiopia to establish a lasting peace for all Ethiopians, including the people of the Tigray state.

To this end, the ENDF recently began retaking control of urban areas of Tigray

Embassy of Ethiopia in Washington, DC



adding that the first outcome of this success has been Ethiopian government creation of new humanitarian corridors and assistance to the World Food Programme (WFP) in getting food and medicine to these Tigrayan community.

The embassy stressed that TPLF has been impeding the peace process and humanitarian efforts, to the dismay of the Tigrayan civilian population and continue to call for secession, an act which would contravene the natural desires of the people of Ethiopia to freely travel and visit family spread across the country, as well as the security interests of our nation and region, and the United States and other allies.

Citing the report of WFP the embassy said that Tigrayan Defense Forces has stolen over 500,000 liters of fuel meant to support humanitarian efforts.

At the same time, the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Canada brought to highlight Tigrayan authorities forced conscription by weaponizing food aid to enforce a "one fighter per family" policy, forcing Tigrayan families to send children to the frontlines or face starvation.

Denouncing the idea of the article the embassy said that it implores the Chicago Tribune to deal objectively with this conflict moving forward.

"Inaccuracies like those presented in your article embolden further aggression in Ethiopia," the embassy indicated.

The Ethiopian Government is committed to achieve a lasting peaceful solution for social and political challenges facing the country through sustaining working alongside the UN and other partners to progress the AU-led peace process, it stressed.

News

Some powers want to keep T-TPLF relevant : American Analyst

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - Many Western institutions, media and governments want to make the Terrorist TPLF relevant in making Ethiopia ungovernable, the American political-economic analyst Lawrence Freeman told ENA. The analyst underscored that Ethiopia has been under repeated attacks by these Western forces due to the country's policy success and its potential in development in the African continent.

According to him, some forces in the West which have the tendency to control Africa have used the conflict in northern Ethiopia as a means to eliminate the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

As Ethiopia has been making significant military advancement in its counter offensive against T-TPLF, various western institutions, media and governments have come out threatening Ethiopia, he noted.

For him, this is the extension of the long term policy from forces in the West that do not want independent political leaders controlling African nations like the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Therefore, these forces have engaged in a constant destabilization of Ethiopia and try to make the country ungovernable.

"They want to make the T-TPLF relevant in making Ethiopia ungovernable. Now, if you look at Tedros Adhanom, the Chief of WHO, you see that his statement really violates his position and he should consider resigning because he has really taken a very pro-TPLF position. As a member of a major organization of the UN, this really is a violation."

The American analyst pointed out that forces in the United Nations, European Union and United States want to keep the TPLF around to sustain the divisive ethnic group in Ethiopian body politic, calling that "nonsense."

Freeman also criticized the double standards of the West, repeatedly mentioning the northern Ethiopian problem that of only Tigray the victim. But they don't mention the millions of people who have been displaced in Amhara and



Afar regions.

He argues that they (the West) are responsible for the problem in Ethiopia, adding that if there had been full support for the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed from the very beginning, there would not have been this human suffering.

"If the international community, including UN Secretary-General António Guterres, United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken, US President Joe Biden, the European Union and others had supported the government, this would have never reached these conditions."

The analyst also noted that at this time Ethiopia is under repeated attacks by the "Western oligarchal forces" due to the country's policy success and potential in development in Africa.

This is the extension of the long-term policy from forces in the West he called "oligarchal forces" which do not want independent political leaders to control the African nations.

These forces don't want to see the African government developing their nations, he pointed out.

"We saw many attempts to overthrow African leaders, assassinating them and throughout all sub-Saharan Africa actually."

The analyst believes that it is because of the success of its policy as well as its potential for development that attracted the vicious attack on

the Government of Ethiopia.

"People who understand geopolitics, the reason Ethiopia is under attack is because of its potential in development, its leadership, and economic development. This is not hard to understand," Freeman underscored.

Despite the war in northern Ethiopia, the country is pursuing a path eliminating poverty and promoting development, including light industry and light manufacturing. Hopefully, the country will transform into heavy manufacturing, he elaborated.

The progress on the construction of the Abay Dam and the nation's independent industrial policy in manufacturing parks could be something that would be imitated by other African nations.

These successes by the prime minister and the Prosperity Party have brought about discomfort to these oligarchal parties in the West, and now they are fueling chaos in Ethiopia, the American analyst said.

They particularly, play the ethnic polarization card in Ethiopian body politic which was introduced by T-TPLF, he pointed out.

"There is one nation, a Republic of Ethiopia. There is no Tigrayan nation, Oromo nation, and Amhara nation. There is one nation, that is Ethiopia. In fact, you have seen all the statements coming out of the U.S. congress members, Anthony Blinken, US Secretary of State and the UN which still treat Tigray as a legitimate nation and give equivalence to the actual nation and elected government of Prime Minister Abiy."

At this time the Western forces have been pressing the Ethiopian government to declare immediate ceasefire in order to rescue T-TPLF, Freeman stressed, adding that "this indicates desperation in their part."

Freeman believes that "it is important to militarily defeat the insurgent rebel group that has been trying to overthrow the elected government. The elimination of ethnicity as a political entity in Ethiopia is also important."

Hidden parties...

"threatening" the government to bestow some legal protection for the Terrorist TPLF ringleaders, a source closer to the issue said.

The African Union has been brokering peace talks between the government and the T-TPLF since last Tuesday in South Africa aiming at ending a two-year conflict and bringing sustainable peace in the country.

Commenting on the issue, the Ethio-American Development Council Chairman Nebiyu Asfaw, who stated the difficulty to predict the outcome of the peace talks, pointed to the existence of different parties in the dialogue that want to pull sanction cards.

As to him, those parties are trying to guarantee some kind of legal protection for the T-TPLF ringleaders whether it is to bring them out to exile or to guarantee some kind of a sanctuary for them. "The groups are trying to basically come up with the best possible scenario for leaders of the criminal clique to come out."

"In the past, at least there have been three or four attempts to resolve the conflict in negotiation and in a peaceful manner, but the T-TPLF had basically dragged its feet and used the talks as a way to rearm troops."

Nebiyu indicated there are victory for the people of Ethiopia and for the people of Tigray as the government did everything and exerted maximum effort to avoid war with the T-TPLF. However, the criminal faction did everything to break the truce and went to the war and by doing this, it made deadly mistake in undermining the people and sovereignty of Ethiopia,

Likewise, the corporate media have been operating as the T-TPLF public relations agents and their news sources are either leaders of the criminal group or anonymous 'experts.' Apart from employing remote reporting, those media outlets echo the T-TPLF propaganda in accusing the government of undertaking what the faction intends to do.

The whole thing that the T-TPLF is accusing the federal government is something that the latter has already done, is doing and is planned to do. On the other hand, works are underway to restore electricity in liberated areas, humanitarian aid coming in, which is a demonstration that the government is back in charge, the expert remarked.

T-TPLF's...

Meanwhile, the EEP announced 50 percent completion of the ongoing maintenance works on the Alamata-Kobo high voltage electric power line.

The EEP Head Woldia District Shemelis Woldeamayot told FBC that the high voltage transmission under maintenance was damaged by the T-TPLF and repair works cover transmission lines span areas from Alamata – Kobo and Kobo-Lalibela.

In North Wollo alone, over 46 electric transformers and dozens of concrete poles have been vandalized by the T-TPLF Group, it was learned.

According to Shemelis, the maintenance works will be fully completed within a week so that electric services will be fully restored in these war ravaged areas.

Humanitarian aid, ...

of the people of Tigray are not negotiable, he stressed that the government will not allow the aid grain and medicine that meant to the needy to be stolen by any terrorist group. "The government will oversee the distribution of aid in all parts of the country, including Tigray."

Legesse said on his social media page that the government is working diligently to

speed up humanitarian assistance to all those who are in dire situations in all areas. "The provision of humanitarian aid is government's constitutional duty and it will work in every part of the country."

According to the latest statement by the Government Communication Service, the government of Ethiopia is coordinating with

donor groups to deliver humanitarian aid to the areas under its control. Also, service providers are making preparations to start services in these areas.

It is remembered that the government is facilitating the establishment of public administration and the start of social services in Tigray by talking to the local community.

Int'l media lacks...

sources in Mekelle, anonymous aid workers, and unnamed diplomats.

"That is not good enough especially when you make wide acquisitions that are very incendiary sometimes." according to him, there were a lot of mistakes committed by the media outlets, especially at the beginning of the war.

He also insisted that media outlets need to tell the good stories from Africa, not just sort of the grateful donor darling but the vibrant societies full of progress and creativity.

For example, Sonderris noted, Daily Telegraph's Will Brown wrote that allegedly there were reports that every ethnic-Tigray people in Addis Ababa were being rounded up

into concentration camps and murdered. "How can you write something this incendiary?"

According to Sonderris, he could just have taken a plane to Addis Ababa and walked down the street to listen to Tigrigna music, to talk to some ethnic-Tigray metropolitans, the taxi driver, the shopkeeper the hotel owner, and others in the city. Narratives have consequences. He added that he is sure that all these false narratives have prolonged and exacerbated the war.

He called upon international journalists to take a fresher look at Ethiopia and Africa instead of always assuming the worst and immerse themselves into Ethiopian society if they have the possibility. He also opined that nowadays they can even use Google Translate to read

local newspapers, but nobody does that.

"And do not assume that these self-proclaimed experts like Kjetil Tronvoll, Martin Plaut, and Alex De Waal who stood ready to meet the demand for media sensationalism are neutral," he also indicated.

The aforesaid experts have been wrong again and again in all their predictions. For example, Alex De Waal was predicting the breakup of Ethiopia becoming like a loose confederation, and now he is predicting a state failure, according to Sonderris.

It is very unlikely that Ethiopia will break up and has state failure, he said adding, but if that were to happen the western powers would have a lot of blame.

Opinion

Tax Evasion:

An inherited white-collar crime danger for development

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Taxes are major sources of government revenue that are collected periodically. Evasion is an illegal act that impedes mobilization of tax. It is pervasive in the tax collection process in Ethiopia during the T-TPLF rule. Using data gathered from various sources, studies have assessed and analyzed the level of tax evasion during the rule of the junta. Researchers applied relevant techniques for analyzing and interpreting these data and arrived at the conclusion that there is tax evasion at all levels. These tax evaders failed to declare their income for the purpose of cheating. They also under report income, overstate business expense, exaggerate deductions, overstate or understate trading stocks. Illicit traders that were associated with the junta also deducted personal expenses as business expenses to hide their tax liability. Such individuals cheated both the government and the consumer. They overcharged consumers to achieve high margin of profit while they depressed the income they reported to the tax authorities.

Experts in the field recommend latest computerization of the database at all levels of the tax authority for the purpose of effective and efficient tax administration. It is also proposed to assign highly trained and experienced personnel with the required qualifications. There is a need for capacity building for tax officers on a continuous basis. These officers have to be inculcated, instilled and couched on how to handle taxpayers. Quick and courteous service delivery and continuous education for taxpayers to inform them that the tax collected is used judiciously for the socioeconomic development of Ethiopia. Also, the tax office should adopt scientific procedures in collecting data and selecting taxpayers for further audit. All those engaged in affairs related to tax collection, audit, revenue and expenditure need to be efficient in the use of the latest tech available at the global level. They have to be well versed in resource generation for the purpose of economic development and poverty eradication.

Enterprises engaged in industrial, commercial or other businesses react to taxes in different ways. They organize their activities and where they carry them out. In practice, customers worry about them, complain about their operations and, if possible, figure out how to dodge them when they are in contact. The way customers and businessmen interacted during the T-TPLF rule affected the level and structure of taxation. The interaction of enterprises attached to the junta had a negative impact on the level of tax collected. If both had a deep understanding of the purpose of tax revenues generated, they would have tended to exchange goods and services as sincerely as possible without any cheating. This might have helped to generate sufficient revenues to finance socioeconomic development of the country. Taxes are important sources of revenues for conducting public infrastructure and government services for economic development. The discriminatory public services of the junta had slowed down

economic growth and development in regions other than Tigray. This undermined efforts to improve the living standard of the Ethiopian people.

There are reasons for the failure of some governments in developing countries to provide effective and efficient services to the people. Studies indicate that the taxing system in Ethiopia can be divided into three broad categories: taxes on income and profits; taxes on goods and services; and taxes on international trade. It is not, however, immune from tax avoidance and tax evasion. These are believed to be important factors limiting revenue mobilization and generation. Tax avoidance, which was rampant among the TPLF enterprises, implied a situation in which the taxpayer reduced the tax liability by taking advantage of the loop-holes and ambiguities in the legal provisions. In the case of tax evasion, facts were deliberately misinterpreted by the junta and the tax liability was understated. In theory, tax evasion was illegal and carried penalties and prosecutions under the tax laws. Studies show that the illegal economic operation comprised all the various methods of tax evasion. As it reduced the revenue, it should have been checked to the greatest extent possible.

The debate on development finance and development aid has underscored that tax avoidance and tax evasion may undermine the ability of developing countries to finance development programs and projects. This view is based on the perception that the shadow economy in these countries, including Ethiopia, is larger than in the developed world. Information plays an important role in assisting the country to increase revenue and at the same time reduce audit costs. It is indicated that when a taxpayer decided to underreport income to the tax authority, he faces audit and a penalty for cheating, but this did not apply to the junta firms. It is argued that compliance levels can only be explained by cultural aspects such as tax morale, patriotism, guilt and shame. In other words, taxpayers, despite being able to cheat, are unwilling to do so for non-economic reasons.

Tax specialists advise that developing countries should give emphasis to proper and modern tax administration. The issue is “not” the feasibility of certain taxes, but the favorability of its administrative structures. In many developing countries, for example, an income tax that relies on “self-reporting” cannot be administered at all. In a developed country the question is to what extent optimal tax design should reflect the reality of evasion, the necessity of enforcement, and the costs of collection. Ethiopia, like most countries in Africa, has been making considerable efforts in recent years to restructure its tax system. It is believed that this may increase tax revenue as well as reduce distortions in the Ethiopian economy.

A review of the impact of such reforms on the poor is of considerable importance to policymakers. The poor and the vulnerable constitute a significant majority of the population in Ethiopia. However, the

analysis of the distributive impact of the tax system should be clear. The reasons for this are: first, tax evasion, which is considered to be substantial in Ethiopia. This leads to unexpected consequences on income distribution. Second, a substantial portion of tax revenue comes from commodity taxes whose effect on income distribution is essentially determined by household consumption patterns and the market structure. Tax experts believe that studies are not fully conducted with the objective of investigating the level of tax evasion and avoidance in Ethiopia.

There is no scientific evidence if tax payers declare their true income. Similarly, there is no evidence if the true income generated originated from their business. There is also doubt that the taxpayers reported the exact tax liability. To arrive at the true liability, it is necessary to conduct research on the degree of tax evasion and avoidance. The specific objective of the research should be analysis of the controlling mechanisms of tax evasion and tax avoidance. Specifically, it is necessary to assess whether there is reliable report of income by tax payers to the tax office. It is useful to study whether the tax payers report the exact tax liability. The assessment of the tax administration environment is also critical. The main outcome of the study may provide policy makers and the tax authority an opportunity to redesign mechanisms for promoting better tax system. This will help increase tax revenue.

Tax is a compulsory payment or contribution by the people to the government for which there is no direct return to the taxpayers. Tax imposes a personal obligation on the people to pay the tax if they are liable to pay it. The general public shall be taxed according to their ability to pay, which is considered as their fair share and the people in the same financial position should be taxed equally without any differentiation. Generally, tax has the following characteristics. It is a compulsory contribution by the taxpayers. The taxpayers cannot refuse to pay the tax. Any refusal in this regard leads to punishments. For the payment of tax, there is no direct return to the taxpayers. They cannot expect any return in benefit for the amount of tax they paid, because there is no relation between the amount of tax paid by the people and the services rendered by the government to the taxpayers.

Tax imposes a personal obligation on the taxpayers. When a person becomes liable to pay the tax, it is his duty to pay it and in no way he can escape from it. The amount of tax received from the people is used for the general and common benefit of all. In return, the government has to render a range of social activities, which incur heavy expenditure. A part of the expense is sought to be raised through taxation of various types. Thus, taxes are said to be the sharing of common burden by the people. Taxes are legal collections. They can be levied only by the government. Since the tax is paid without any return in benefit, it can be said that there is the prevalence of sacrifice in the payment of tax. The payment of tax is regular and periodical in nature. It is

levied for a fixed period usually a year. Thus, almost all the taxes are annual paid.

Tax is levied on all people without any discrimination of caste, creed etc. Tax is levied not only on income but also on property and commodities. To enhance the revenue and to bring all the people under the tax net, the government imposes various kinds of tax. Taxes are classified into direct and indirect. Direct taxes are taxes levied on incomes, to which the persons concerned make direct payment to the revenue authorities. These include income tax, taxes levied on total spending, company taxes, capital taxes where they apply, and local rates. Indirect taxes are those taxes levied on goods and services, so called because the authority does not usually collect them from the consumers directly but from importers, manufacturers and intermediaries. The duty paid by these people is reflected in the prices that consumers subsequently pay.

Direct taxes are the major types of taxes, which includes tax on income from employment/ personal income tax, business profit tax, tax on income. These also include income from rental of buildings, tax on interest income on deposits, dividend income tax, tax on income from royalties, tax on income from games of chance, tax on gains of transfer of certain investment property, tax on income from rental of property, rendering of technical services outside Ethiopia, agricultural income tax and land use tax. Indirect taxes include turnover tax, excise tax, value added tax (vat), custom duty and stamp duty. Though taxpayers are required by law to pay tax, they tend to evade, and evasion is illegal. This results in losses in the tax revenue.

Tax evasion is associated with breaking the law. It is a gap developed due to the taxpayers’ real conduct that is contradicting fiscal law. Experts think that tax avoidance does “not” result in the breaking of the law. Yet, it is the circumvention of the law. Taxpayers that avoid tax attack what can be seen as the reliability of law.

Tax “evasion” may be defined as any action that results in the concealment of all or part of a person’s legitimate or illegal economic activities from the tax authorities. It is an intentional and illegal avoidance of paying mandatory taxes to the tax authority. Tax “avoidance” is used to describe tax reductions achieved through artificial but permissible arrangements of personal or business affairs. It refers to the legitimate use of loopholes in the tax laws in order to minimize one’s tax burden. All the above presentation indicates the difficult task of the tax authority in Ethiopia, particularly during the T-TPLF regime. It should, therefore, be strengthened with new technologies and expertise to fight tax evasion in the country whatever the regime may be.

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

First things first: Disarm T-TPLF!

Ethiopia is now striving to restore peace, tranquility and development in most places in Tigray regional state. The T-TPLF is the antithesis of the aforementioned issues. Its evil criminal gangs must lay down arms. Ethiopia has one disciplined and well-armed force—the ENDF.

As the cart cannot go before the horse, ensuring peace also cannot come before dealing with the anti-peace force. That is why the ENDF properly dealt with the infamous armed force of the T-TPLF.

The current mayhem in Ethiopia is the outcome of the TPLF terrorist criminal gang. The group managed to control the country's political, economic and military power in the last three decades. After being ousted from power at the federal government, it fled to Tigray state where it illegally grabbed unconstitutionally. Taking advantage of this, it organized youth under the pretext of regional special police forces. It also robbed finance and weapons from the federal government through various frauds to organize and arm its criminal gangs.

The armed criminal gang has been observed doing all kinds of evil in the contrary.

First, this force that automatically performs as per the orders of the criminal TPLF leaders started its brutal crimes on the people when it attacked the northern command of the ENDF on 4th November 2020. This led to the law enforcement measure by the federal government which is still underway.

During all these times, the destructive objectives of the TPLF and its armed group have been exposed repeatedly. It has committed barbaric crimes against civilians in many places like MaiKadra, Chenna and Galikoma and the like killing thousands of civilians and destroying infrastructure as well as property. Its atrocities did not remain there. It encroached into neighboring Amhara and Afar states and continued destroying civilian properties and infrastructure.

Furthermore, the group was also caught stealing relief food from the people and distributing it among its soldiers. International relief organizations have also complained that T-TPLF has stolen their fuel which was meant to be used for transporting relief to the people.

Still, T-TPLF and its supporters claim that they are fighting for the people. How can they be considered to stand for the people with all their hands stained with blood and crimes? No sane person can be fooled by the blatant claims of the criminal group and its supporters.

The only solution to ensure peace and stability is through disarming T-TPLF. The group has proven that it is antagonistic and allergic to peace through the crimes it perpetrated against civilians so far.

In addition, it has rejected and failed all the peace efforts of the government, religious institutions and other concerned organizations. Most of all no country in the world entertains two or more defence forces. Ethiopia is no exception. The only armed defence force that is constitutionally recognized and bestowed with the responsibility of securing the nation is the ENDF.

The ENDF has proven that it is a genuine force for the peace and stability of the nation. This has been witnessed not only by the performance of the army but also by the people's response at the recently celebrated defence forces day. The people throughout the country have expressed their respect, loyalty and confidence in the ENDF.

No other armies can replace the ENDF within the sovereign territory of the nation. No one also can partner or share a stake with it to fulfill its constitutional responsibility. It is the only, capable and constitutional institution bestowed with the responsibility of ensuring peace, and stability and safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation.

Therefore disarming the terrorist group should be a foremost priority to ensure peace in the country.

Opinion

Groundless campaign against Ethiopia: Western media's futile move

BY MENGESHA AMARE

What a partial and unjust spot the world is becoming these days! It has remained a mystery why the US and some western countries are not comfortable with the growth and development stride Ethiopia is trekking thereby lifting itself out of the poverty and backwardness it finds itself in. Instead of supporting this ambitious and alert nation to hit its grand target of defeating poverty, where does the spirit of envy of its effort, perhaps due to two cardinal reasons? In the first place, these countries have been disseminating false information, fabricated news, defamation and all sorts of odd styles against Ethiopia assuming that weakening Ethiopia helps entirely control the African continent as the country has seriously condemned and rejected the establishment of lapdog administration.

Second, if they are capable of setting up an administration in Ethiopia where they can twist its arms to the direction they would love to entertain, as far as their assumption is concerned, they can without any effort exploit the untapped resources with which the continent is endowed.

Such futile attempts have been these days severely impeding the economic, social, political and even diplomatic efforts. It is becoming quite clear now that the western influence is targeting subjugating Ethiopia's development and growth in particular and that of the continent in general.

Yes, the US and some western countries have recurrently undertaken a range of activities against Ethiopia perhaps for the aforesaid cases or unknown reasons, since they can justify their reason.

Of the coordinated efforts thrown against Ethiopia in particular, their media such as CNN, BBC, AP, and AFP, among others, have all the time orchestrated sly conspiracy merely taking what they have been informed by T-PLF and its accomplices for granted. Shame on them, this is a partisan, unfair and unjust step, indeed.

Still, the very mission of their media campaign has been obscured for Ethiopia and Ethiopians as well, except mere assumption deducted from their well-organized and systematically orchestrated march against this beloved country—Ethiopia.

They question why they turn a blind eye and deaf ear to the reality on the ground in Ethiopia and why are they becoming the envy of its progress that has to be left for themselves to help them look into themselves.

Or is there any international law that allows particularly the US and some European countries to get prospered and Ethiopia to be aid dependent and weak state in all its history?

The answer is an outright No because there are laws and international conventions stipulating equality and non-interference of a certain country in the internal affairs of any

other nation.

However, most of the time these conventions and regulations have remained paper tigers as many countries would like to impose undue pressure on countries they suspect would be dangerous in refusing their illegitimate meddling and deliberate defamation. What is practically witnessed in Ethiopia is this one. Why for? Time will respond to it.

Hadn't it been for Ethiopia's endurance and its determined citizens' commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty and independence cascaded from their forefathers and formations, it wouldn't have been seen like this at this time. All the organized media campaigns and fabricated reporting targeting blackmailing its precious image and tarnishing its national defence's ethical move and entrenched patriotic gesture would have been triumphant over Ethiopia had it been submissive and developed a cowardice nature.

I don't think there is any nation which would benefit from Ethiopia's being weak and ever dependent one but organized media campaigns and fabricated information disseminated by western media in an organized manner have pushed me to conclude that there might be countries which would potentially fatten their accounts at the expense of Ethiopian.

Cognizant of the fact that weakening Ethiopia would pave avenues for getting the entire African continent submissive and fragile, some western countries and the

US have been marching against Ethiopia. To make this effective and easily hit their set target, almost all western Media have been oriented to frame their information in a manner that tarnishes Ethiopia's image, belittles its defence force's ethical steps and gets the overall development and prosperity of the country dwindled.

Not only is Ethiopia susceptible to such a destructive and dubious move but many African countries are also victims. The groundless campaigns against Ethiopia via employing western media and their futile attempts to make the country very weak, dismantle it if possible, lead nowhere as Ethiopians at home and abroad are now more committed than ever before to safeguarding their country. Even all African brothers and sisters have stood by Ethiopia's side following its footsteps and appreciating Ethiopia's being a model of developing countries in general and states of the African continent in particular.

No doubt, all African countries have to move in unison and seriously fight against the coordinated conspiracy and march against Ethiopia to get all sources of wrongdoings dried for good since they are all in the same boat.

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

Business & Economy

Backing local pharmaceutical industry to meet demand, import substitution

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Healthy community is an asset for a nation that contributes proficient share to the latter's development which in turn makes provision of adequate health service mandatory. In Ethiopia, however, health access needs to go long distance to meet the needs of its population. Among the reasons for the sector's downsizing performance are various challenges the health institutions face such as shortage of medicine, inadequate supply of basic health devices among others. Besides, these shortcomings are pervasive from the city up to the peripheral areas of the country.

The medicine issues must be prioritized. Nevertheless, the local medicine manufacturers faced tremendous upside downs due to shortage of hard currency. The problems are similar to other sectors that have been chronic for long which in turn threatens the public health and remain unresolved yet.

On the other hand, the Ethiopian medicine service institute imports 70 % of the nation's medicine demand and supply to consumers but purchasing only 10 % of it from local manufacturers. The Ethiopian medicine and equipment producers association which comprise senior and new producing companies recently conducted its 19th annual meeting.

According to the study paper, the association with no importing rival and competitive bidding imported medicines and supply to local markets.

However, in the last five years the role of local producing companies in supplying their products to local market is declining. Some local importers who made contract to import but quit due to various problems which are beyond their capacity. Substituting the local importers, government imported 72 medicine items and medical equipment that worth 23 million Dollars in 2020/21. In addition, in the last budget year it was forced to import about 82 medicine items investing 32 million Dollars. Local importers even though they got chance to import medicines by winning bids, unable to do so due to shortage of hard currency. As a result, shortage of medical supply to the local market has been aggravated. In line with these crises, hospitals are unable to treat their patients properly and unable to save lives in some causes.

Not only this, the prolonging of interval to obtain medical treatment coerced patients to purchase medicines with exaggerated price from outside sources that imported with high cost.

State Minister of Health Dr. Derje Duguma said that previously, his Ministry had planned in the last five years to produce 60 % of medicines and medical equipment



locally and to substitute the imported products. But because of various reasons it could not meet the plan. Hence, it was forced to import 85 % medicines and equipment from abroad.

The Ministry supported local medicine and medical equipment producers in collaboration with the Ministry's agent institutions to pursue good governance system. Nevertheless, as to Dereje, the sector still is unable to overcome its inherent problems. In the past, 20 % of medicine and medical equipment was supplied by the local manufacturers but now it is downsized to 8 %.

As to the State Minister, reduction of the local manufacturer's capacity to this level is worrisome. Even some of them reached to the verge of their closure and perform in their lowest capacity. The major factor for recession of their production attributed to shortage of foreign currency which used it for the importation of their inputs.

Most of the time when problems mentioned in the sector directly related with the shortage of hard currency and the government announced its resoluteness to resolve the problem. But direction was taken that the long lasting solution of the problem is substituting the imported products by local one. The Kenyan experience in this regard can be mentioned as exemplary. As to him, 70 % of that country's medicine and medical equipment are locally produced.

Daniel waqtole, President of the Ethiopian Medicine and Medical Equipment Association said that government's support for the medicine producers has shown progress but the supply reversely has

shown shortfall.

As to Daniel, the nation's economy is running short in of hard currency and not only the medical but also the whole sector is affected by the dwindling of foreign currency reserve. Hence, in order to bring about durable solution, the government should allocate its financial resource for the crucial sectors and reduce the importation of medicine by substituting the imported ones. In the country there are manufacturers which have the capacity to produce forty percent of the pharmaceutical products. Hence, to fully exploit their potential, emphasis has been given to the matter with the government collaboration and agreement is reached to work together.

As to Daniel, in order to resolve the sector's problem, attention also should be paid in improving the anomalies in the purchasing system of the medical equipment and medicines. For instance, the local pharmaceutical producers need to compete the bid by Birr to supply their products to local market while foreign producers sell their products in Dollars. The paradox here is local producers exchange their products in Birr and they purchase their industry inputs by Dollar.

Consequently, this needs some kind of adjustment. The Ethiopian medicine supply service spends foreign currency to import products from abroad. Instead, it would rather be better if it provides the hard currency to local producers so that they import easily and boost their production capacity and supply to the market.

Fasika Mekete is an advisor of local medical production department at the

Ministry of Health. As to him, previously the local pharmaceutical producing sector was under the authority of the Ministry of Industry. But following the handing over of the inspection duty to the Ministry of Health, special attention has been given to the sector and facilitative environment was created to promote the sector. Working with the stakeholders in a coordinated manner is underway. Some actions are also taken to improve the legal framework of the industrial production. Efforts will also be exerted to supply sufficient raw materials to the producing sector.

Nevertheless, still local medicine and medicinal equipment producers are facing severe challenges and their producing capacity is declining.

Fasika said that in the future, better situations will be created and the industries' producing capacity and quality will also be improved. He further said that even though some incentives such as tax holidays was provided to the sector, better result was not achieved and some assessment is being conducted to know why poor result is registered. In addition to providing tax holidays, the issue in which what options are available to support the sector is being assessed. Moreover, equipment of the pharmaceutical industries will be calibrated. Supporting the sector through conducting research and study and through provision of market opportunities will be taken as viable mechanism.

As to Fasika, though raw materials utilized as inputs for pharmaceutical industries imported duty freely, the imported materials such as reagents are utilized by other producing sector. The revenue authority workers know how to identify the product types and manuals are prepared to manage the logistical work in simplified manner.

Chairpersons of permanent Committees of Budget and Finance, Industry and Mining, Health and Social Affairs at the House of Peoples Representatives, Ministerial offices and other stakeholders have got enough information regarding the sector's problems and promised to necessary support. In the meantime, the manufacturing sector pledged to cover 15 % of this budget year's local demand of medicines and medicinal equipment by working dedicatedly.

The Ministry of Health with the cooperation of the Armauer Hansen Research Institute and other bodies established forum and pledged to continue their support to the sector. It will also support to enhance the quality of medicines and medical equipment to reach to the level of international standard and their curing capacity will be ensured, the State Minister of Health said.

Art & Culture

'Urban Revival' Ethio-France intergenerational link exhibition inaugurated in Dire Dawa

BY HAFTU GEBREGZIABIHER

As part of the celebrations of 125 years of cooperation between France and Ethiopia, the French Embassy and the City of Dire Dawa, under the patronage of the Ethiopian Ministry of Tourism, inaugurated October 24th 2022 at the Dire Dawa train station the "Urban Revival" exhibition realized by the association "Ecole d'Art au Village", and dedicated to a monument of Ethiopian culture, trade and tourism: the Ethio-French Train.

According to the press release sent to The Ethiopian Herald, the "Urban Revival" exhibition is a documentary and educational project, conceived as a testimony for the contribution of France to the development of key technological infrastructures which have allowed enhancing Ethiopia's connectivity in many aspects.

Ambassador of France Rémi Maréchaux stated during the event that the Ethio-French train is an essential element of Dire-Dawa's identity. He underlined that the exhibition deserves being shared with the youngest generation, as a living intergenerational link, and a key asset to promote Dire-Dawa as one of Ethiopia's exemplary touristic



destinations.

Another exhibition, entitled "Children of Dire Dawa: The future of Urban Revival",

held at the Ethio-French Alliance, was inaugurated in the aftermath by the Minister of Tourism of Ethiopia, the French ambassador and the representatives of Dire Dawa administration, in presence of the children of Misrak Jench School and children of railway workers' families who participated in the creation of the graphics and art pieces.

The exhibitions are based on a documentary work including photography, texts and captions on the train and its users by the French photographer Sébastien Cailleux; and drawings by the artists Wendimagegn Gashaw, Selome Muleta and Leikun Nahusenay. They also

"Urban Revival" exhibition is a documentary and educational project, conceived as a testimony for the contribution of France to the development of key technological infrastructures

present pedagogical contents, elaborated by children of Dire Dawa city during cultural and artistic education workshops.

The French Ambassador Rémi Maréchaux expressed France commitments to continue being supportive of Ethiopian local development strategies, including enhancing human capacities with its institutional and educational partners, in a longstanding relationship of confidence.

He also conferred tribute to the City of Dire Dawa administration and to the Minister of Tourism Ambassador Nassise Challi for their enthusiastic involvement on such a special anniversary.

Sustaining the breath of fresh air achieved through heavy sacrifices

(Short Story)

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

A ringing phone nudged me from my after-lunch nap. It was from Noah a contributing columnist and a PR who wanted to join the print media and took exam to join one.

"Hello. How are you doing? I am good," he said,

"I'm fine," I replied.

"I just called you to inform you that I'm shortlisted for an interview."

"I was sure you could make it to the top given your experience in writing fortified through quality reading."

"I was wondering what could they possibly ask me?"

"Current affairs global and local, your experience and whether you are capable of meeting deadlines and working under pressure. Given the article you wrote in the written exam I'm sure they will reserve a place for you. Ado also you must expect your life story in the reverse order."

"Producing news out of a press release with a striking lead you told me last time did help me a lot in emerging with flying colors. I value your advice."

"Thank you," I laughed.

"Have you read the article I wrote? I shot to you an e-mail. You see I had the draft on a rough paper before I jotted it down after self-editing."

After Aron shut down the phone something impelled me to pursue his article.

/Sustaining the breath of fresh air achieved through heavy sacrifices/

For over half a century now, People of Tigray have been sweltering under the tyrannical yoke of the terrorist TPLF. During these years, aside from being a battleground, Tigray has witnessed throes of famishment. Openly divested of their rights including the human one, Tigrayans have been leading a life succumbing to turning a private asset of the terrorist party. Moreover, from its very inception apart from dishing out destruction- charged narratives that could be traced back to ethnic parochialism, the terrorist group has been putting in place suppressive political structures down to the grassroots and exercising clandestine detaining mechanisms. In so doing, it had tied down people of Tigray from determining their own fate.

In its armed-struggle against the Derg regime under the banner of freedom rallying people of Tigray behind it, Terrorist TPLF had subjected tens of thousands Tigrayans to death and hundreds of thousands to mayhem. But topsy-turvy to what it prophesied, after it grabbed power, tightening the noose, it had enslaved such subjects who, in the meantime, lost a genuine touch of life.

In its struggle as a combatant in the wild lands bordering on deserts, the terrorist group's image was tarnished with soot greased history of tormenting, chasing and slaughtering Tigrayans who had relatively better and reality-based visions for Tigray. The party was also known for sending hit men to assassin marked politicians. Families of dissenters that could not buy the terrorist group's fantasies were also

objects of the latter's bashing by way of threatening Tigrayans out of their sought-for political roadmap and alternative mentality.

The struggle that culminated with success in deposing the Derg regime after a huge sacrifice ended up in a soup as power clustered around finger-counted family members, who tacitly eliminated the inquisitive even combatants seen iconic in the struggle.

The method this group opted to pursue was focusing on ways of ensuring its grip of power. As such it used people of Tigray as a hostage.

It has been laboring to pollute the minds of Tigrayans that have a time -old history of upholding Ethiopia with the demeaning ethnic-parochialism that creates a petri dish for a killing spree.

From the very morning it was deposed of power by popular uprising, Terrorist-TPLF was cannon foddering Tigrayans using the social, political and secretive structural arrangements it introduced earlier so as to achieve longevity if not another chance to ensconce on the pedestal of power.

It seemed Tigrayan youths were being born to be soft targets of meaningless wars the belligerent terrorist group never fails to invoke infusing and hypnotizing the youth with outmoded ethnic-polarized narratives.

There could be no others witness than the Tigrayan mothers who could bear witness to the destruction and lacerating pain the misdeeds wrought forth specially during the past couple of years when they reached on the crescendo. It has let Tigrayan's

dream of turning around their fate utilizing the change drive go up in smoke.

Obsessed with its enunciated catch phrase of "WE shall go even to hell to wreck down Ethiopia," it exposed people of Tigray to multifaceted challenges and messes. It was diverting the food aid to a diametrically opposite end. The terrorist group indulged in a political gamble with humanitarian aid while many were scouring the sky with empty stomach.

But now Ethiopians including Tigrayans have closed ranks to root out the terrorist group. The weeding task of such ruthless vampires under the cloak of the impish group is picking pace by the day. The time for heralding the full liberation of Tigrayans —body and soul— resulting from the demise of the bogeyman TPLF is drawing nigh. In some liberated towns the felicitation has proceeded apace.

Standing in unison with ENDF, Tigrayans are expected to sustain the breath of fresh air achieved through heavy sacrifices so as to chalk out their own destiny.

No sooner I finished reading the paper he called back and said

"Must I dress to kill—put on three pieces?"

"Yes it could tip the balance in your favor. Also try to be punctual as that count most in journalism. By the way I picked a new word from your article petri dish—a dish in which cells of bacteria are cultured."

"Yes," he laughed.

"I use a hotbed for negative connotation and a springboard for the positive ones," I added.

Ethiopia:

Will Anti-peace TPLF gives chance in ongoing AU-led talks?

BY KANGU AL-MUAHDI ADAM

On Tuesday, the African Union (AU) led peace talks between the Government of the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) started in South Africa with an aim of ending the conflict in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia. The talks are facilitated by Olusegun Obasanjo, the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa and former President of Nigeria, along with former President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and former Deputy President of South Africa Dr. Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, according to Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat.

Representatives of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the United Nations (UN) and the Government of the United States of America (USA) are participating as observers to the AU-led peace process. The talks come amid renewed fighting in northern Ethiopia, and reports that Ethiopian defense forces are steadily eroding TPLF's fighting capabilities, liberating strategic locations and liberating and closing on its on commands.

The genesis of the war stems from the time TPLF's nearly three-decade absolute dominance over the Ethiopian State ended at the start of a dramatic political opening in 2018. Shortly after, hundreds of resentful veterans regrouped in Tigray, from where they carried out meticulously planned pre-emptive strikes on the national army on the 4th of November 2020. Their objective was defeating the army and marching back to the capital to rescue unfettered privileges. If things did not go to plan, they publicly vowed to destroy the nation they once ruled and build a new one to their taste.

The November 2020 episode was neither isolated nor spontaneous. The incident was inspired by TPLF's long-pursued strategy of using violence as a viable and primary means for achieving political objectives.

Attesting to this reality, T-TPLF commanders' ambush of thousands of soldiers on the consequential night happened after they rejected more than ten dialogue initiatives from state and civil society actors. It did not stop there. They resumed hostilities in June 2021 and August 2022, interrupting relative periods of calm after dismissing the federal government's declaration of a ceasefire as a sick joke.

They also escalated the violence by invading and destroying several towns and villages in the Afar and Amhara regions and provoking Eritrea by threatening annihilation and firing rocket missiles into its residential areas.

The group, which was designated by the Parliament as a terrorist organization, in



August this year resumed fighting in Tigray undermining calls and efforts aimed at peaceful resolution of the conflict in Tigray.

In March this year, the Federal Government of Ethiopia led by Prime Minister, Dr Abiy Ahmed declared an indefinite humanitarian truce to facilitate the free flow of humanitarian aid into Tigray region as well as giving an opportunity to peaceful negotiations.

While announcing the humanitarian truce, government said thousands of people from Tigray were trekking into neighboring regions in search for assistance.

Considering this fact, government said, the situation warranted urgent measures to assist the locals, thus committing to exert maximum effort to facilitate the free flow of the needed aid.

This happened at the backdrop of the fact that TPLF uses starvation through interrupting the flow of humanitarian support into the Northern region, stealing the ready to harvest food and consuming the stockpiled one.

Much as government asked TPLF to desist from acts of aggression and withdraw from areas they occupied in neighboring regions, no signs of such were seen. TPLF still occupied some areas in Afar and Amhara regions and as well continued with provocations.

They, on several occasions, commandeered humanitarian vehicles that entered Mekelle. It is worth noting that the group also rejected to observe the government declared Unilateral Ceasefire in June 2021. TPLF's belief that continued fighting in Tigray and neighboring regions would pressure Addis Ababa to succumb and give-in to the North. It is unlikely that they will concur with a contrary decision in the South Africa talks.

Why reintroducing TPLF as a viable political entity should be a no go area? ‘

Legally, TPLF is designated as a terrorist organization. It has been accused of committing treasonous and brutal acts on the national army; compromising the State's sovereignty by colluding with Ethiopia's strategic rivals; and inflicting grave harm to countless lives, critical infrastructure, and the nation's social fabric.

Its leaders have been determined responsible for coercing minors and other civilians into their extremely costly military swarming operations, appropriating humanitarian supplies for war activities, and crafting and sponsoring inter-communal conflicts and violent insurgencies in other parts of Ethiopia. The gravity of these crimes and many more, including massacres committed before and after the start of the war in November 2020, has scarred society's consciousness.

Therefore, the government carries weighty moral and constitutional obligations to demonstrably ensure that truth is sought and justice is done to the extent that public trust in all branches of the government is maintained.

Aside from the moral and legal issues, TPLF is not operating as a viable political body. It lost its capital long ago and has since depended on ethnic agitation and 'violence to survive and restore its prominence.

It is violent subversive activities, relentless propaganda, and frantic insistences for foreign support demonstrate the organization's impotence and rejection in Ethiopia's larger political context. Even in Tigray, the region that TPLF claims as its social base, the veterans had to instill fear and employ violence to maintain control.

TPLF's structure has crumbled as an organization, and the leadership is depleted and confused. Its political activity is mainly carried out by former members and sympathizer groups in the Diaspora, who are insistently soliciting support from Western actors.

Also, the leaders lack a defined political purpose. They seem to pursue the objectives of reclaiming a monopoly of power, dissolving the Ethiopian State, breaking away and reintegrating Tigray, and invading Eritrea simultaneously. Their claim of fighting to avert extermination and break a siege on Tigray is not genuine. There is no proof that the Ethiopian government intends to harm compatriots in Tigray.

TPLF veterans are the ones who launched the conflict, disrupting services, inflicting infrastructural damage, and impeding the federal government's essential activities, putting the region on a lockdown.

The issue is rooted in their political objective of re-establishing supremacy, which is difficult to state in public while professing to fight for Tigray.

The federal government may not trust the group with governmental responsibilities at any level of the state structure. The challenges are clear.

After ambushing uniformed troops, sabotaging the economy, and conspiring with strategic adversaries, the leadership would not be trusted to engage in Ethiopia's security, financial, and political processes.

They may fail to convince the government and the public that they have abandoned violence, including their ambition to defeat the Amhara and dissolve Ethiopia and they now support political and economic reforms.

Law & Politics

Reforming the UN: The call of the day

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

As the United Nations (UN) marks its day last Oct 24, Ethiopia as a founding member of the organization calls for a reformed international bloc to carry out the wishes of the best interests of all member nations and serve all equally and fairly standing with the truth.

It is pertinent to note that some UN organizations in the present climate have been serving as a political tool to implement the political interests of some powerful nations. Also, criticized as rubber stamp the global entity has fallen under the influence of its financiers to partly become a political instrument. Moreover, lack of representation in the United Nations Security Council remains problematic in ensuring an equal and peaceful world.

For example, denying Africa, which is home to billion-and-plus people with rich natural resources, a permanent seat in the Security Council shows that there is unfair practice.

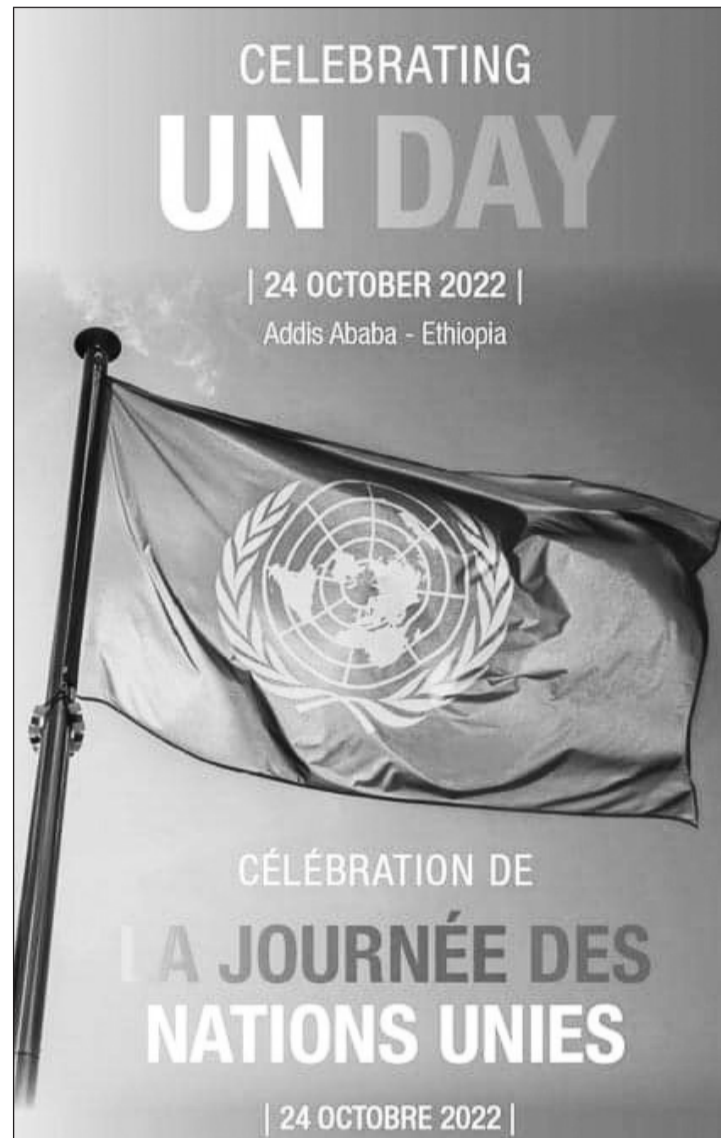
It is common knowledge that the UN in light of the current situation has been getting off the track merely for accomplishing the hidden motives of some powerful nations aimed at twisting Africa's arm under the veil of human rights violations, humanitarian assistance, and other fig leaves.

The current case of Ethiopia rings true in this case. Some UN organs have been taking sides and engaged in disseminating false information in relation with the conflict in northern part of the country.

Some work nonstop to put unwarranted pressure on Ethiopia, interfere in what does not concern them, and engage in a smear campaign against the positive moves of the country as well as blacken the good image of the democratically elected government. Quite apart from that one of the desired goals of the establishment of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is to uphold international peace and order through collective security, it has continued at all hours of day and night getting off track and destructing peace initiatives in the country.

Apart from that the Council every now and again plays a part in throwing gasoline on the fire, making a problem worse, causing a situation to become more intense, and creating uncertainty among the general public and the incumbent. In the aftermath of the nefarious deeds of the Council, some of the disgraced international media outlets have been playing a part in spreading a wide spectrum of cock-and-bull stories to blacken the positive moves of the country and cover up the heinous crimes perpetrated by the criminal organization in Amhara and Afar states.

In other aspects, the media outlets have been collaborating with the disgruntled group and their paymasters to create instability on a national scale and echo its interests and win the hearts and minds of the wider international community in the



shortest possible time.

It is worth mentioning that since the start of the war in the northern part of the country, the UN has been persistently taking sides with the terrorist TPLF group that has been working around the clock to dismantle Ethiopia and move the Horn of Africa into uncharted waters and place the blame on the government. Even though the Council knows the criminal deeds of the group more than anything under the sun, it has been nonstop perplexing the global community with bogus news stories laying the blame at the door of the incumbent.

It is a well-known fact that to this point the Council has been now and then passing a politically stimulated resolution that bleeds the hearts of Ethiopians.

Even though Ethiopia has been sparing no effort to familiarize the wider international community with the unvarnished truth unfolding in every nook and cranny of the northern part of the country, some organs of UN have been on purpose picking sides with the criminal enterprise and pouring cold water on the fact of the matter.

By the same token, since the onset of the terrorist TPLF-provoked war, the United Nations Council (UNSC) at various points in time has passed wrong decisions that raise many questions and mystify every Tom, Dick, and Harry.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Security Council is the higher authority that debates security issues of the world making use of the five nations such as Russia, China, France, the United States of America, and United Kingdom, it has been, again and

again, passing a one-sided decision to accomplish the hidden motives of some superpowers with regard to Ethiopia.

Dejectedly, in spite of the fact that the UNSC is composed of 15 member states, most of the decision-making process is carried out by five nations that have veto power with permanent seats. In consideration of the foregoing, some of them have been becoming biased towards Africa which does not have permanent seats. The sad thing is that some nations with veto powers have been twisting Africa's arm and putting unwarranted pressure placing emphasis on their concealed interests going on behind closed curtains

while others struggle for Africa.

For the sake of truth, in the aftermath of the biased attitude of the council towards Ethiopia, quite a lot of African nations have expressed their disappointment.

In the same manner, as all resolutions on the subject of African nations have been made by finger-counted irresponsible superpowers, Africans many a time and oft have been facing several crises that drag the continent of Africa through the mud. If the UN continues treating Africa unequally and unfairly, the continent for sure will suffer injustice and jump out of the frying pan into the fire more than ever before.

Needless to say concerning the unfair representation of Africa in the UN Security Council, most African nations in many instances have voiced their dissatisfaction and concern again and again.

It is crystal clear that although the federal government has been moving heaven and earth to extend an olive branch, the criminal clique kept on turning a blind eye coming up with layers of conspiracies. Though the UN knows the aforementioned reality on the ground, it has been going hand in hand with the rogue group that hates to death living in the absence of conflict and war.

In the recent past Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on the subject of the issue said, "I join other African leaders in reiterating that a continent of around 1.3 billion people needs a permanent voice and seat at the UNSC represented through a bloc. Issues and decisions that concern the continent cannot continue being addressed without continental representation.

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

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

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

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

He also underscored that the government is committed to and capable of ensuring peaceful means under the AU-led peace effort and AU envoy of the Horn of Africa. He urged council members to support this process and avoid taking any step that might cast doubts on the AU-led peace process.

On October 24, the United Nations celebrates the anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force in 1945. As a founding member of the United Nations, Ethiopia has remained committed to the principles of the United Nations Charter, according to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia.

Demonstrating our contribution to global peace and collective security, Ethiopian men and women have continued to play a robust role from the early days of UN peacekeeping missions in the 1950s. As a firm believer in multilateralism, Ethiopia continues to be committed to global common aspirations for development. Ethiopia is proud and privileged to have hosted the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa for over 60 years.

Ethiopia calls for inclusive, fair, effective, and representative multilateralism to better respond to humanity's most pressing challenges, building on the opportunities to amplify the pillars of the UN charter while celebrating UN Day.

Ethiopia, while celebrating multilateralism anchored on the UN Charter and its cardinal principles, calls for a reformed, efficient, and viable United Nations fit for purpose in the 21st century.

Women in Focus

'A challenge only becomes an obstacle when you bow to it'

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

Life was not a bed of roses for her. At her young age, she faced a number of hardships and passed through multiple testing instances. However, no matter what situation she may be in; or whatever the reason is, she did not feel bored, frustrated or lose hope in life. Hoping for the better, she looks forward and does whatever she can for it.

And as it said, "life is what you make it," beating all the challenges and breaking all the shackles, she can reach to the level of life she is now and to open the way to a better life not only for herself but also for those people with limited opportunities.

Yohana Reta was born and raised in Bishoftu Town, about 42 kms far from Addis Ababa. She spent most of her childhood years in this town along with her family and her peers. However, when she was seven her father, who was in the army, passed away on a battlefield. Thus, raising her children became the full responsibility of her mother.

As Yohana stated, her father was her role model in life. It was him who shaped his children with patriotic sentiment and cultivated them to develop self-confidence, to love and support fellow citizens in every possible way.

Though her father passed away, she has learnt all the good values he had been preaching for long; and has become a woman of purpose who is always striving to boost up her morale so that she would perform better with each day so as to realize her father's good values whatever the cost may be.

"Being children of a soldier is a blessing in many ways. The first and the most important thing is you will learn to love people more and more. And through loving people, you will learn to love your country," she said.

When her father was alive, he had a close connection with her; and taught her the life of a soldier. Even though she was not a soldier, she experienced the life of the army. She learned to live ethically and with endurance, prioritize others' need beyond own needs, and most importantly not think of despair; not to look back; but forward, breaking the notion of "I can't do it".

"When you have a military family, you will not be afraid of death. Instead, you strive to do what is possible; to make history and leave your fingerprint. Not only that; but believing that every dream has a purpose, we value time. Because we know that we all end up dying at any time, we exploit each and every minute



Yohana Reta

diligently without fear and anxiety. And each of our efforts bears fruits," she said.

As to her, even if a person does not have money, but has pure heart and interest to work, no matter what it may cost him, he will achieve his ambition.

Yohana was an intelligent student her family took pride in her academic performance. Being one of the top students, she was also admired by her teachers. However, when she took the National Exam (12th grade) as unexpected and unfortunate as it was, she was not able to pass the entrance exam.

She faced a desperate situation. The results were not as expected. The student, who was expected to go to university, compelled to stay at home. At this time, she felt as if her whole world crumbled around her feet; and everything turned against her. Her every dream of making her father feel proud was suddenly lost in vain.

She then decided to take some time before starting another class and she was fortunate to get her mother's and siblings' full support and got through the pain.

Soon after that, she started her accounting class in Bishoftu Town. She took her class seriously though she again could not go further with her class. This time, it was not because she failed or was unable to continue; but it was because she put the best interest of other before hers.

While she was in her school, Yohana was able to meet with couple who came from Netherlands. This couple offered to help her; she told them that she wanted to further her education. Once she started the process, the couple shared their concern to Yohana.

They told her that they were planning to support desperate children but did not know how. Having that in mind, she slept on the idea and then came to understand that supporting desperate children was more valuable to her.

So she made a decision where she, with their support, could establish an NGO to help those kids.

Fortunately, the couple loved the idea and agreed to open the NGO.

That moment was a turning point in her life- to further her education in which everyone expected her to succeed in her academic performance, and to realize her father's ambition.

However, she did not mind putting her dreams aside thinking that what she was doing was more important. After serving for few years, she earned two degrees. The ups and downs, the sweet bitter experiences of her life enabled her to become multidimensional as well as opened her new door to achieve her childhood dream.

She said "helping others is more important than my education". It was with this thinking that she has been supporting children for over eight years.

Under "Safe Heaven", the NGO she established, Yohana not only provided financial support annually but she had been also providing support for 400 children.

She had also supported women living with HIV and AIDS who lived in Lideta Sub City through offering training and initial capital to run their business so that they could support their families.

As to her, skill means living for our passion. Having a clear vision of her passion, thus, has led her to where she is now. She has raised and put her twelve orphan children in a better position. Unlike many children, those twelve kids did not have relatives who can give details on the dates on which they were born.

She named them with new one and assigned different dates as their birthdates, cared and supported them. The fact that she was only eighteen when she started the organization; no one ever believed that she would reach to this point. However, she became the light for many children and helped them become better citizens.

As the saying goes the road to success is always under construction, the 70/30

regulation that the government formulated made her to go in a different direction.

Given her source were the Netherland nationals, the new proclamation prohibited her from generating income from outside. This, in turn, challenged her to cover the expense by her own and forced to give up the organization

After few years, she again founded an NGO called 'Care for Generation Development Charity'. Just like her previous organization, the new company focuses on supporting children and women.

Similarly, since she changed her sector following the withdrawal of her first organization, Yohana opened a college named 'Golden Star' which envisioned serving the society.

Concurrent to providing opportunity for women and PWDs in her college, she has also given a chance for Police personnel and women as well as prisoners to find discount in their school fee. Yohana has also covered full expense for about 20 students.

In the same token, Yohana has founded another company that made its focus on consulting. 'Golden Bridge Trading and Consultancy' mainly carries out activities of organizing workshop and conferences. Moreover, it undertakes entrepreneurship, women empowerment and leadership trainings.

Through the trainings that her company provides, she was able to empower Sidama Police Women to leadership positions. Currently, she is leading her three companies and created permanent jobs for 70 people. The College has so far branch in Hawassa, Hosaena towns, and the Capital. She is planning to open her second branch in Hawassa Town.

Furthermore, she has set a plan to work on youth focusing on entrepreneurship, patriotism and risk taking thereby improving their lives for the better.

"As my father sacrificed his life for his country, I aspire to contribute my share, and I am working committedly in this regard mainly to sustain quality in the education stream and generate well equipped citizens. That is why I named my college a 'Golden Star' which demonstrates the outcome of hard work.

I want all my students to become and shine like golden stars. This is why we need to push the thinking that education is a business; but a responsibility to produce the next generation.

Education center is a place where we create thinking, innovative generation; not a center where we just make money. Thus, I urge everyone to keep that in mind," she accentuated.

School feeding: Way to improve future prospects, support national growth

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

It was in 2015 the school feeding program called “Smiling Children Project” and covering 42 public primary schools in Addis Ababa was initiated by the former First Lady Roman Tesfaye together with the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA), with the aim to support impoverished school-age students who lack sufficient food by providing free meals at schools.

As documents indicate, as of December 2019, 23,621 students in over 50 public schools in Ethiopia have been provided with school meals (free breakfast and lunch) under the Program.

However, currently following the commitment of the Addis Ababa City Administration, the program has been scaled up in a manner to address an increasing number of students in public schools in the capital to meet the growing demand for food in schools. As a result, over the years, encouraging outcome is registered in terms of lessening the burden of lower income parents, helping in reducing absenteeism and cutting dropouts among school children and, assisting students to focus on their learning other than worrying for food.

Subsequently, Administration’s effort and commitment has received recognition globally. Of late, the 8th Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) Global Forum held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, under the theme “Food to Feed the Climate Justice: urban food solutions for a fairer world”, recognized and awarded the City Administration for its ‘Schools Feeding Program’ best practice, beating 133 cities in the world. Hence, becoming the first ever city in Africa to win this award.

As it was learnt, Addis Ababa becomes the first ever city in Africa to win this award.

The delegation of Addis Ababa, led by Mayor Adanech Abiebie, attended the Forum and, received the award.

She shared Ethiopia’s best experience to mayors and participants from MUFPP signatory cities about the people-oriented engagements and putting people first strategy.

Ethiopia is the only African nation to win the award that means the award is not only Ethiopia’s success but also represents Africa. Most of the time, Ethiopia was considered as a food aid recipients country. However, the nation is now registering important gains in various areas; and is now recognized at the International arena on feeding programs. This moment is great history to Ethiopia.

“It is not being rich or poor, it is about the courage to implement public policy and putting citizens first and the award is the outcome of practical engagement. I want to extend my appreciation, congratulations to all who made it possible. I am thankful for our Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for effort to further strengthen the program and generate ideas for productive

While Mayor Adanech Abiebie receiving “The Milan Pact Award”

accomplishment,”

Following the award, *The Ethiopia Herald* approached Gadsise Derese from Menelik II Kindergarten and Primary School Deputy Principal to learn about the activity of school feeding program in the school.

She said that the benefits of the feeding program are immense. It has enabled to create favorable environment and carry out effective teaching and learning activities and reduce the burden of parents. Moreover, it has helped students to attend school regularly; and to be healthy mentally and physically.

The school offers breakfast and lunch for over 1200 students; all students are happy with it. They come to school regularly; and there are no dropouts. The program is a game changer. Now, students come to school with a bright face; and their academic performance is getting improved.

“In my view, the City Administration is engaged in this noble work because it puts citizens first, and tries to ensure the rights of students. When students eat a healthy and balanced diet, they can learn attentively and perform better. On the contrary, if they cannot eat better, they cannot attend school properly and even their academic performance is discouraging. Having balanced and healthy food at school each day can simply not only diet and good health, but also it is a means to attend class regularly, ability to learn attentively and to get entry to a success in education.”

Mentioning that the program is being operational for student ranging from grade 1-8 and wishing it to be applied at secondary schools too, she called on pertinent stakeholders to support the program in supplying various items and finance to ensure its sustainability.

Atse Naod Primary School Deputy Principal Awoke Gebeyehu for his part expressed his delight for the recognition because it



meant a lot to this nation and the city. It has created courage and hopes among the school community, he added.

Because of the program, absenteeism and dropout of students has become almost zero. Further, it has created job opportunities and market opportunity. “In my view, the program needs the active participation of all- the community, government and development partners in order to ensure its sustainability, he concluded.

Even Leulseged, a seven grader student from Atse Naod Primary school, said that the school feeding program has incalculable benefits to students. “I and my friends are happy about it. We come to school without worries. I want to thank every actor who makes it possible.”

Because the school environment is becoming appealing, we do not want to stay at home unless we are sick. The program has benefited us a lot both in nutritional value and psychological relief.

Abebe Chernet Addis Ababa City Government Education Bureau Public Relation and Communication Directorate Director for his part noted that the Bureau is

working aggressively in many projects and programs targeting city’s residents. Among these, the school feeding program that the City Administration has given due attention and working on to increase the accessibility of the service for the school age children in all pre and primary schools in the city is the one.

He further noted that the acknowledgment is a great stride for the City Administration and it is achieved through the collective actions of the school community and the administration bodies. “We will keep on our effort and work with all pertinent stakeholders, because the return of school feeding is incalculable.”

According to him, previously the school feeding program was provided only for identified needy students but the current school meal is offered to all pre and primary school students.

The city administration is spending 4 million Birr for this academic year to feed an estimated seven hundred thousand students.

The program is undertaken in almost all pre and primary schools; and aside from benefiting school children, over 10,000 mothers have secured job opportunities.