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“Ethiopia Produces” initiative key to bolster industries’ economic role

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA- The Ministry of Industry said that “Ethiopia Produces” initiative has been instrumental in enhancing the capacity of manufacturing industries and supplementing the country’s overall economic progress.

See “Ethiopia Produces” ... Page 3

Museum springboard for Ethiopia’s technology, science proficiencies:

Astrophysicist

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – The newly inaugurated Ethiopia’s Science Museum would have an important role in making the country proficient in all sectors, according to an astrophysicist.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Space Science and

Geospatial Institute Researcher Shambel Sahlu (PhD) stated that, the Museum would play its role in making Ethiopia in social, economic, political, and other sectors capable and enabling the country to be competitive with other countries of the world.

The astrophysicist added that, boundless thinking is needed to use unlimited

resources - space. “It is with the society that has boundless thinking and the unlimited resource is in space. In this regard, this science museum could be a bridge to connecting society and the untouched deep world.”

According to him, it is important to change the mindset of society for the development

See Museum springboard ... Page 3



Committee urges Diasporas to vote for pro-Ethiopia parties

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC) has urged the Diaspora community to vote for a party that supporting Ethiopia in midterm elections.

See Committee urges ... Page 3

Ethiopian vows to preserve leading African cargo status

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian Airlines announced commitment to build up its cargo services and invest extra efforts to preserve its rank of Best Cargo Airline in Africa.

It was learned that the airliner has recently won “the Cargo Airline of the Year” and “Best Cargo Airline- Africa.”

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Ethiopia’s unwavering stand towards peace, sovereignty

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‘Being creative is not a hobby; it is a way of life

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News



Oromia to mark freedom icon's centenary

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – The centenary of the birthday of a noted Oromo nationalist and general of Ethiopia's imperial regime Tadesse Birru will be marked in various events in Addis Ababa and various towns across the Oromia State, the organizers disclosed.

In a press conference held in connection with the centenary here yesterday, it was stated that, Brigadier General Tadesse is the father of modern Oromo nationalism and paid a noble contribution in the struggle for freedom, equality and justice.

Speaking on the occasion, Brigadier General Tadesse Biru Foundation General Manager TsehayTadesse said the event was organized to enable the current generation to learn

from the history, legacy and commitment of the late general. The event also aimed to mobilize finance to the foundation which was established by his name.

Tadesse struggled for the political, economic and social empowerment of Oromo people and the foundation was also established to continue his legacy. Accordingly, the foundation has been undertaking different activities so as to address the community's problems, she elaborated.

As part of the centenary, a new book published in Amharic and Afan Oromo will be inaugurated and street races will take place in 46 towns across the Oromia State. Question and answer programs and photo exhibitions are also parts of the grand event.

Event's chairman Demeke Negasa said Taddese is a strong advocate of Ethiopia's

unity and fight against injustice. Following his advocacy which turned into a coup attempt to overthrow the imperial regime, the civil right activist was captured and executed by the then government. "He advocated the empowerment of the people of Oromo through education and an emphasis on self-reliance which inspired many Oromos across the country."

Noting Tadesse's firm belief in education, Demeke highlighted that an eight-week program will be held to honor him. "It is important to emulate Tadesse Birru's heroism rooted in leaving a strong legacy for the next generation."

Tadesse is a father of modern Oromo nationalism and his lectures about Oromo identity and nationhood inspired an entire generation of Oromo.

Ministry, ILO set up Service Providers Association

BY MENGESHA MARE

ADDIS ABABA—Ethiopia set up a Business Development Service Providers Association (BDS) aiming at improving the performance and resilience of its enterprises, entrepreneurs and cooperatives.

The association established with the technical and financial support of International Labor Organization (ILO) said crucial in providing beneficiaries with training, technical and marketing assistance and information on improved production technologies.

Speaking at the ceremony to set up the Association, ILO Country Director for the Horn of Africa, Alexio Musindo said, "The ILO will continue supporting BDS in Ethiopia and the regional governments, NGOs and even private sector will benefit out of the services offered by BDS."

With the intention of developing a dedicated pool of BDSs in Ethiopia, the Government of Netherlands supported ILO PROSPECTS programme to conduct Training of Trainers (ToT) with 32 representatives of local, regional and federal governments, civil service organizations, and the private organizations engaged in business management, financial education and cooperative promotion.

Association president Tamiru Demeke on his part said that, the Association aims at tackling poverty and unemployment problems and build capacities of entrepreneurs, especially



youths and women.

Ms. Paula Schindler, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands said that, the effort of PROSPECT Partnership in building local capacities so that refugees, returnees and vulnerable host communities are able to create better prospect for themselves is worth appreciating, and the Association will play a crucial role along this line.

The association is processing the registration as a professional association to advance the National Business Development Service Provision, a critical component of the Ethiopia's Economic Reform Policy.

Labor Affairs and Skills State Minister, Nigussu Tilahun also stated that, the ministry is committed to solve bottlenecks through expanding the business development service provision at grassroots level along with other national priorities.

The new Association will convene a general

assembly to ratify the association bylaws, memorandum of understanding (MOU) and code of conduct; and it would contribute to the realization of ILO's decent work agenda and by providing quality and standardized business development services, it was learnt.

The Association is formed by 20 business development services certified by the ILO since 2020 with a view to supporting Ethiopian government effort to get the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework operationalized.

An official ceremony took place in Addis Ababa to establish the Association was attended by Alexio Musindo, Country Director of ILO Country Office of Addis Ababa, Tine Staermose, ILO's Special Advisor, Paula Schindler, Deputy Head of Mission at the Netherlands Embassy in Ethiopia and H.E. Nigussu Tilahun, State Minister, at the Ministry of Labor and Skills as well as other local, governmental, and civil society partners of the ILO.

Ministry, KOICA sign agreement to enhance leather sector

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA—The Ministry of Industry and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Ethiopia office have signed an agreement to support a Project for Enhancing Competitiveness of Leather and Leather Products Industry.

The agreement was signed by KOICA Ethiopia Office Country Director Lee Byunghwa and State Minister of Industry Tarekegn Bululta.

In a press release sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*, a total budget of 10,000,000 USD is allocated to the project that will be implemented for a period of four years from 2022-2027.

Accordingly, the project targets to promote the leather and leather products, increase sector competitiveness, as well as contribute to job creation and economic growth of the country.

The project will be benefiting the Small and Medium Enterprises engaged in the leather and leather products sector in productivity, capacity building, infrastructure and market development.

In addition, the support will be benefiting the leather and product sector support institutions by providing the production machines, developing infrastructure and providing capacity building programmes.

It is believed that the project will have an irreplaceable contribution to the national initiative "Ethiopia Produce" being mobilized by the manufacturing sector.

KOICA and Ministry of Industry will be mutually be engaged in the planning, coordination and implementation of the Project.

It is to be remembered that KOICA has signed Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Finance to support two program areas in 2022 for the Ethiopian government and the project signed with Ministry of Industry is one of such programs.

KOICA is a bilateral aid organization representing the republic of Korea supporting the development of Ethiopia for the last 27 years since 1995, currently focusing on manufacturing, health, climate change and peace.

News



Science museum signals Ethiopia's recognition to tech

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA-The recently inaugurated Science and Art Museum which is equipped with diverse latest and emerging technologies is a demonstration of Ethiopia's commitment and attention to science and technology towards expediting its development endeavors, experts said.

Wolaita Sodo University Mechanical Engineering Graduate Biruk Bekele displayed his technological innovation during the inauguration of the museum and expressed his deep gratitude to have such an opportunity.

He makes ready to fly his own airplane and present to the exhibition which he assembled from different materials using aluminum and other metals.

He has gained recognition by the concerning body for his handwork and given green light to accomplish his vision.

"Having such museum and exhibition will have significant impact for individuals with similar talents to share experience, figure out

their potential, and succeed their dream. It is a great opportunity to the new generation to focus on innovative technology which will soon benefit our country to realize its dream of advancing through technology," he said.

As to him, advancing through technology is the essential way that countries could cope up at this time of global competition.

Accordingly, the newly inaugurated Science and Art Museum consists of latest and emerging technological equipment including drones, robot café, small airplanes, military robots, and other latest technological outputs.

These efforts demonstrate Ethiopia's hope and commitment in implementing technology as a main driver of development.

Visiting the technology exhibition at the museum third year computer science student Awad Salih said that, he was eager to visit the museum and take lessons from the exhibition to cultivate his expedition in computer science.

"I have visited different inspiring technological outputs created by Ethiopian students and adults. Such new innovations

in the technology sector will have significant impact in bringing all-round changes in the country," he said.

Ethio-telecom Network Infrastructure Strategy Director Yohanis Getahun said that, is important to connect science and technology output with digital technology so as to ensure inclusive change in the country.

Most countries realize inclusive growth through properly utilizing the digital technology and Ethiopia is undertaking many activities to implement digital technology, he noted.

Accordingly, the newly inaugurated Science Museum is expected to further create Ethiopia's rich indigenous knowledge, science, and art alongside modern technological advancements.

The museum displays technological solutions in healthcare, finance, cyber-security, data analytics, manufacturing, and robotics among others. It also consists' science and technology exhibition hall dedicated to the development and application of scientific ideas and instruments.

Ethiopian vows...

Speaking to local media, Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tasew said that, the award was a motivational contribution to employees. "For the future, we have plans of enduring cargo services to customers with high quality," Mesfin noted, adding that, the airliner has been offering reliable cargo services to customers with international standards.

As to the CEO, to boost the cargo services, Ethiopia's flag carrier has modified passenger planes to cargo aircrafts temporarily.

While talking about the award, he highlighted that the prize will give a chance to *Ethiopian* to build trust on cargo services and to create partnership with other

international organizations.

Global cargo service providers and freight forwarders, ground handlers, general and cargo sales agents have casted their votes online to *Ethiopian* last month.

Ethiopian Airlines is a multi-award winning and the largest air cargo service operator in Africa.

Committee urges...

Maryland Chapter of AEPAC current Chairperson Elizabeth Tesfaye said that, the committee has been focusing on offices such as the House and Senate including local offices such as county and executive county council, state delegates and governors as well.

"We do voter mobilization education or campaigns to reach out to people in our community, encourage them to vote and voting process and political process at any level. At this point, local, national and state offices, the largest Ethiopian people live

in Metropolitan areas like Washington, D.C. and others. In these areas special concentration will be given to address people to take part in midterm elections in supporting Ethiopia."

"We are targeting the younger generation to start participating in the process. We are supporting anyone just going with AEPAC's mission and goal. We don't go for this or that party, but we are going for who is supporting Ethiopia."

"We really made a difference in voting this time because we worked with the Ethiopian

Community to go out to vote. We can do more in the future. And we are working to endorse them in the November elections. For the next presidential election cycle also we would be more prepared and educated more than right now,"

The young could benefit more with the school system, funds for entrepreneurs and starters, domestic violence, small businesses and others in their areas not only participating in the process, but also we want to start participating as candidates to help their community. If all the Ethiopians

"Ethiopia Produces' ...

Asfaw Abebe, Advisor to the Industry Minister told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the initiative has a key role in addressing the industry sector challenges through mobilizing the participation of relevant actors. Apart from launching the initiative last year, the ministry has created a conducive climate to enhance the role and contribution of the manufacturing industry for the national economic progress.

Accordingly, a new and independent project that provides holistic support for manufacturing industries has been established by the ministry. By the same token, the ministry has employed the initiative to conduct various awareness raising activities and to identify the industry sector challenges.

"Having endowed with untapped natural and human resources, Ethiopia has immense potential to produce and export industrial products to abroad," the advisor noted; adding however, that lack of proper and enabling industrial policy hampered the country from utilizing such potential.

As to him, the initiative has been registering promising results despite the international and domestic challenges and it has been reviving the industry that has been affected by COVID-19 pandemic, north Ethiopian conflict and other local and global factors. Furthermore, the initiative is the reason for the commencement of new manufacturing lines including the production of military uniforms in local industries.

Museum...

of a given country as it is desired.

Shambel further explained that, science museum is common in various countries and they use it for different purposes like shaping their generation positively. It is a way for the generation to follow scientific styles, lead a modern life, explore its history and make it's tomorrow better.

This Science Museum, the first in Ethiopia, will do a lot in terms of building the society's thinking for the future with good, he said adding, that the government's efforts to gradually grow the society's thinking and to bring the country to the level of growth it wants are admirable.

According to the astrophysicist, the government is making efforts to open the eyes of the citizens by building a state-of-the-art Abrehot Library, science museum, parks, and others. All citizens must play their part in the continuation of such projects.

The researcher further underscored the need to strengthen the country's activities that have been done in artificial intelligence and repeat them in other sectors to get to the point where Ethiopia wants to be.

get out and vote, they can have a candidate sitting the council today, the chairperson emphasized.

California Election Committee Chairperson Lelina said for her part that, the committee has been mobilizing education, registration and other activities for the community to participate in the election process. "Why getting involved is important right now is that we all have been impacted by what is going on in Ethiopia. We all know how the U.S. is handling the war in our home country."

Opinion

Intriguing role of NGOs and Civil Society

BY GETACHEW MINAS

The institutional capacity of domestic civil society is traditionally weak in Ethiopia and it is projected to remain fragile. It continues to be underdeveloped and somewhat misunderstood unless it rejuvenates itself in view of the current reality in the country. Those that functioned well are those who depended on the support they access from international NGOs operating in the country. In recent years, due to relative political liberalization, civil societies and NGOs have been able to operate in fulfilling their objectives in the country. Civil society is increasingly vibrant and becoming relevant to the nation's political and economic revitalization. This includes recovery and regeneration of the private business sector. Similarly, academic freedom in various civil society entities is reinvigorated leading to the birth of democracy.

Likewise and correspondingly, the media are slowly gaining credibility, which they had lost during previous regimes that used them as mouthpieces, spokespersons and representatives. This was a great professional disgrace in the past. Actually, civil societies proved to be capable of delivering their services to the poor Ethiopians without any prejudices. The capacities of civil societies to address the complex development agenda have been growing and expanding. Hundreds of national and international NGOs were officially registered with the government mainly to contribute to the development of the country. However, the operating space was replete with excessive regulations. In the past, the bureaucratic requirement could not create and improve the enabling environment for NGOs and civil society organizations to operate freely. Foreign development agencies are expected to assist the NGOs whenever they needed support.

These agencies, nevertheless, remain committed only in words, not serious about development schemes and their implementation. They rarely focused on building the institutional capacity of Ethiopia to engage in planned interventions. In reality, the civil society sector suffers from internal divisions and precludes cohesion around important public policy issues. Several studies provide a quick overview of the potential role of NGOs and other civil society actors in meeting the immense development challenges of Ethiopia.

It has been noticed that civil societies are trying to institutionalize fundamental changes whenever they are consulted by concerned government agencies on policy issues, structure and economic orientation. They may be consulted on human rights, family law, and ethics in government. These are springboards for the country's transition from absolute dictatorship, command economy, and authoritarianism to democracy and economic liberalization. These are taken as positive inputs of civil societies and NGOs to the transition.

NGOs provide efficient mechanism for addressing poverty alleviation in

Ethiopia. They have tried to address poverty reduction through reducing child malnutrition by assisting parents. They also tried to contribute to the reduction or eradication of illiteracy. NGOs made a strategic shift in emphasis from short-term relief to long-term development. This approach increased their acceptance and relevance to the Ethiopian reality. In the transitional period, these organizations proved to be flexible and changeable. They began to emerge instrumental in preventing even greater destitution and loss of lives of the poor people. However, the civil society entities were slow to develop and spread across the country until the crises of famine occurred in Ethiopia. This provided a chance for the NGOs to operate autonomously until they were treated harshly by the previous governments.

The operations of NGOs spread throughout the country due to the rounds of famines that occurred fast. These incidents provided a semblance of legitimacy for the NGOs. But, they faced increasing pressure from various elements, including armed groups. Though they focused on relief operations, they faced political pressure groups. They provided relief assistance to the rebel groups under duress, coercion, threat and compulsion. This situation kept the NGOs at crossroads between rebel groups and the government. They had to walk a tightrope, a slight mistake of which brings disaster to the relief operations. Those engaged in relief operations are forced to break their activities in view of the danger it implies. They may be forced to close down and leave the country for good. Ultimately, the losers are those poor people who seek assistance from anywhere.

Government agency responsible for relief operations plays a pivotal role in the coordination of assistance to the needy. These operations continue until the poor people of Ethiopia become self-reliant. This agency delivers a critical support to disaster prone areas at the early stage of the crises, mainly through coordinating relief activities. The agency continues its operations in cooperation with the drought affected local people. The agency also operates in collaboration with NGOs that have rich experience in crises management and operation. The sheer size of the crises demands the cooperation of external partners or international counterparts that offer support to local NGOs, with focus on a shift from relief to long-term development in the country. However, it has been observed that there has been dominance of the sector by international entities that have lingered well into the current period.

Other factors in civil society groups and NGOs emerged from the wreckage they found themselves in. They have been rendered weak, disorganized and standing on opposite sides of the previous Ethiopian governments, as civil war raged across the country. Local NGOs were decidedly junior partners in these wars that led to a totally dysfunctional economy causing massive starvation. As a result, people perished in large numbers, without any humanitarian aid arriving. The aid has been stolen or

blocked by the rebel groups from reaching the starving people on both sides of the battle field. The rebel groups also snatched vehicles, oil tankers and other facilities from reaching the starving people. Local NGOs made tremendous efforts against famine and massive population displacement.

Actually, the people in the northern part of Ethiopia where war is waged between rebel groups and the government have faced both famine and war. Whoever wins the war does not remove the famine immediately unless fully supported by foreign relief organizations. But, these entities come with double or triple missions apart from the relief one. They enter the country with open and hidden agendas. The latter one is filled with a mission to destabilize the federal government by creating disagreement on external resource allocation and distribution. These issues are designed by external donors that intend to germinate and incubate disagreements between the regional states and the federal government that may go out of control. The external donors mostly use their trusted NGOs for allocating resources to the regions affected by war and the resultant famine. These organizations deliberately go against the government, whenever they felt it is weak to challenge them.

Various NGOs show divided loyalty to the federal government. Some of them tend to gamble on the weakness of the government. But, when the government becomes victorious, they tend to stick to its policy and directives. Similarly, both the local and international aid agencies succumb to the wishes of the winner. And they do the same in regions where the social and economic crises are acute. The NGOs closely watch power centers that controlled valuable resources of Ethiopia and closely align themselves with them. New NGOs that are led by honest managers are bound to operate freely at the initial stage. They may operate contrary to the strategy of the government that addresses the social needs of the country. They finally redefine their roles related to the environment they find themselves in.

They begin to abandon their relief operations in favor of long-term development in line with the goal and objectives of development plans of the government. They design their programs and projects to be endorsed by the government. In this manner, they find their role well-defined by the situation in the country. This is a strategy of survival that provides them with a kind of confidence that allows them to operate freely. Once settled, they pretend to succumb to the rules and regulations of the government on the role of NGOs. Yet, they take secret instructions from their alien superiors, supervisors, controllers and overseers on how to fulfill their clandestine missions. These foreign forces may have several field operators that have to be coordinated in performing secret or open services. The field workers, mostly local and highly educated persons, are given instructions on how to operate. These workers wear different masks for diverse missions.

The local staff are employed or engaged

by NGOs that serve the interests of foreign powers that either want to destabilize or assist the Ethiopian government. This is dependent on the submission of the government to the supremacist policies that are realized in the guise of development projects. These projects have horns, sharp or stunted, implemented differently in varying situations. The problem with the local staff engaged in externally financed projects is that they may not be able to know the changing policies of alien powers. Being local, they are not trusted by their employers. Their duty is "not to ask but take orders" in fulfilling their daily assigned duties. They are, for example, instantly ordered to take a trip to the farthest corner of Ethiopia and collect information unrelated to their duties. They are like cogs in a machine, moving in different directions by the whims, impulses and fancies of the NGO manager.

Amazingly, in a country that is filled with corrupt personnel in the bureaucracy, the NGOs are relatively free from fraudulence, deceit, duplicity, dishonesty and deception. These behaviors are exhibited and displayed within the public sector, where some civil servants practice various and strange types of corruption. The exemplar duties of these foreign organizations operating in Ethiopia have to be adopted by those working along with them. In fact, this helps in detecting the goals, objectives and strategies of the so-called development projects as they are being implemented in Ethiopia. It is wise of the responsible agency dealing with the NGOs to be able to dissect the "Triple edged" strategy of foreign aid during inception, adoption and implementation of projects.

The three edges are aid, disruption and recovery. The first edge, aid comes in the form of grain that could not be replanted due to chemical processes in the country of origin. This elongates the duration of food aid dependency. The second edge is disruption of farming life which results in mass hunger. Once poor people are in a cycle of poverty, they do not see bright future in aid dependency. But, they are helpless to break the cycle by means of hard work, which is essentially traditional farming. This style of farming needs at least a hectare of fertile land, draft animal, farm tools, storage facility, sheds and huts. But, this again is not a good practice for applying modern farming technology. In today's Ethiopia, though late, a new agricultural system is being encouraged by the government in some rural areas. In this system, farmers are advised by agricultural agents to combine their small farms for the purpose of applying tractors, combine harvesters, threshers, and reapers that raise farmer's productivity per unit of land. Such efforts will eliminate or reduce poverty and hunger thereby diminishing any excuses for NGOs with disguised missions and intriguing roles to operate in Ethiopia anymore.

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

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Editorial

Unwavering stance for peace despite challenges

Rocked by terrorist attacks and marred by backlogs of socioeconomic and political setbacks, Ethiopia over the years has been in limbo to ensure lasting peace and stability. And, battling the collusion of internal and external terrorist elements and unwarranted foreign pressure, the country has largely remained hell-bent to restore tranquility and defend its sovereignty.

Most importantly, the country has been open and resolute to resolve terrorist TPLF-provoked conflicts peacefully; the latter failed to reciprocate though. And yet, on the backdrop of TPLF's renewed war; the country has consistently reaffirmed its commitment to give peace a chance and conduct a national dialogue.

To address its years of conundrums and ensure lasting peace, the country has outlined peace initiative and national dialogue. These tall orders and conciliatory gestures are meant to resolve current conflicts and redress long-standing public concerns by reaching a consensus on major national issues respectively.

In fact, maintaining the peace and security of the country is still the top priority of the incumbent. To effectuate these most sought-after goals; the country has been throwing its full weight behind the planned national dialogue. The big initiative is very much aligned with the government's annual plan.

Addressing the joint session of the Houses of Federation and Peoples Representatives, President Sahle-Work Zewde vowed her government's persistence to peaceful resolution of the conflict in the northern part of the country.

The Government of Ethiopia has also facilitated a conducive environment for the forthcoming National Dialogue, and the Commission tasked to oversee the process has taken over the responsibility, President Sahle-Work Zewde noted.

President Sahle-Work also highlighted the indispensable role of active participation of all citizens and stakeholders to make the National Dialogue fruitful as she called on all stakeholders to stand by the

National Dialogue Commission to bring about the intended results.

To resolve the conflict in the north, Ethiopia has shown readiness to negotiate with and is still committed to a peaceful resolution through the AU-led negotiation. Nevertheless, the government ought to take proper measures if the other side is not ready for peaceful alternative.

According to the President, conflict and internal displacement are among the major challenges the country is facing, and the government has taken a wide range of measures to address these challenges.

True to the president's words, over the years, the country had been going through divisive rhetoric pushing it to the brink of collapse, particularly during the watch of terrorist TPLF's regime.

It is clear that some of the major setbacks the country is currently facing can be traced to false narratives that have eroded the nation's sacred values. Unlike previous bogus attempts, the planned National Dialogue is meant to create a middle ground and ensure the continuity of the state and the well-being of its people.

The national event will help bring every voice and create a gray line. So far, the process has been democratic and independent. The National Dialogue Commission has now prepared a strategic plan where regional states' chiefs deliberated on Tuesday. In the session, higher government officials and commission members vowed to make the bid task a success.

A deep overhaul by the incumbent to pave the way to democratization and national rehabilitation is expected to make that big order a success. The government must maintain the determination it has demonstrated so far.

Equally true, the public must be openly involved in the whole process to meet the noble mission. The public should be the main driver to make the grand work transparent and acceptable to all.

In fact, the national dialogue is going to happen amidst unwarranted foreign pressure. While Ethiopia stands ready to collaborate with states that can contribute constructively, it must also be clear that foreign entities have no choice but to obey the will of the Ethiopian public.

Opinion

Climate action plans could help address injustice, inequity in African cities

Equity and justice feature prominently in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 6th (IPCC) Assessment Report Working Group II, published in 2022. The report focuses on the impacts of climate change, as well as vulnerability and adaptation.

In its summary for policymakers, the report states: "Inclusive governance that prioritizes equity and justice in adaptation planning and implementation leads to more effective and sustainable adaptation outcomes (high confidence)." This is a welcome, albeit long overdue development.

The report offers widespread evidence in support of a focus on justice across different sectors and regions. It reflects rapidly mounting concern for climate justice — in both advocacy circles and in the public discourse — and a sharp increase in the volume of information on this topic.

Arguments concerning climate justice include the need to address historical inequities, contest established power, and consider diverse perspectives and needs in planning and delivery. Only by confronting these issues directly can we deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and climate goals.

Africa's cities need to respond better

As outlined in the Africa chapter of the IPCC, Africa is highly vulnerable to climate risk. The continent features strongly in discussions on equity and justice, which argue for low carbon development without interfering with the economic growth.

With their concentration of people and growth, African cities are particularly important places to focus climate action. They have been slow to develop adaptation and mitigation policies and practice, but there are ample lessons worldwide and within the continent from which to draw motivation.

Organizations such as 350.org and Climate Justice Alliance are fighting for equity and justice locally and

internationally. We can glean approaches by studying and understanding these efforts, but we need to make them locally relevant.

Across the globe, cities are rapidly integrating climate action in their plans to reduce emissions and the impacts of hazards, such as droughts, floods, fires and heat-waves.

A few African cities have made progress by building justice and equity into climate response programs. Kampala is converting organic waste into briquettes for cooking. This provides an alternative livelihood strategy, reduces the number of trees cut for charcoal, and decreases the amount of waste going to landfill.

In response to neighborhood flood risk, residents in Nairobi have invested in reducing their exposure. In addition, they have mobilized youth groups to disseminate environmental information and engage in activities such as tree planting to stabilize riverbanks.

Some local governments are ramping up their climate change management efforts. Yet, city government responses are often sector-specific and can't succeed by themselves — the challenge is too massive and urgent.

More projects and programs are needed that use a collaborative or co-productive approach for meeting equity and justice goals. We must have innovative ways of bringing in different sectors and actors— to really hear their perspectives and explore potential solutions. Such an approach might require safe space for experimentation.

In addition, we have to develop methods for scaling urban solutions that ensure adaptation responses meet the needs of the most at-risk groups across cities and institutionalize strategies in city planning and implementation.

Epistemic justice

Epistemic justice refers to the extent to which different

people's knowledge is recognized. Scientific evidence abounds that solving complex problems benefits from multiple types of knowledge bases. Yet city governments provide little opportunity to integrate diverse viewpoints.

In the context of inequality, ensuring that the voices of marginalized and at-risk people are included is crucial for generating appropriate locally owned solutions.

The FRACTAL project (Future Resilience for African Cities and Lands) engaged a trans-disciplinary group of researchers, officials and practitioners that worked across six cities in southern Africa between 2015 and 2021.

FRACTAL exemplifies how city stakeholders and researchers can co-produce knowledge around climate impacts and potential adaptation responses in cities such as Lusaka, Maputo, and Windhoek.

Although climate science was an important part of the project, the initial stages provided time and space for participants to share "burning questions" in their cities and collaboratively decide how to address these.

Some cities developed climate risk narratives to guide future decisions. Others developed climate change planning documents and platforms that thought about adaptation projects through a holistic lens. Importantly, participants, built trust and capacity, for city actors to take this work forward collaboratively.

When prioritizing adaptation actions at the city level, local governments have tended to use criteria based on their frameworks and data, providing just one perspective. However, more bottom-up data is required to meet the needs of those most at risk.

Arguments concerning climate justice include the need to address historical inequities, contest established power, and consider diverse perspectives and needs in planning and delivery. Only by confronting these issues directly can we deliver on the Sustainable Development

Goals and climate goals.

Such data can better capture challenges that citizens face, such as accessing water during droughts or recovering from flooding that might have washed away homes and possessions.

A recent project in Cape Town sought to do this. Local activists from low-income neighborhoods collected data on issues around water services and explored diverse ways, including film, comics and maps as ways to share this information with other residents and city officials.

Collaborations between NGOs, researchers and local governments can strengthen the type of data available and contribute to more nuanced understanding.

The National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda, for instance, collected local data that informed planning and the development of solutions to reduce climate risk with sustainable building materials and improving water and sanitation services. This work positioned them to negotiate effectively with local government to support further efforts.

Across the globe, cities are rapidly integrating climate action in their plans to reduce emissions and the impacts of hazards, such as droughts, floods, fires, and heat-waves. They also are rapidly expanding opportunities to access climate funding.

The time has come for African cities to determine how they will engage in the climate action and justice space to ensure they meet the serious challenges they are confronting.

(Source: <https://www.ipsnews.net>)

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

Business & Economy

Numeric accords of statesmen outweighs over mere verbal politics

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Maintaining monetary and fiscal policy are the foremost duties of sovereign nations and the pillars of governance in modern democracy where the demos agrees along with ensuring law and order. The interest of different elements and fundamental changes of circumstance demands nations across the globe to put in place strategic input and sound foreign policy pursuant to mutual benefit.

The ill wind numerously defined to trace its inception might not be counter production for Ethiopia to avert age long complications; it would rather advisable to focus on being on the upstairs of economic development against all odds.

Apart from commencing mega projects and clairvoyant views incepted among leaders, chronology ushered in the country certain elements were not an able to refrain from being hell raisers.

Economics is vital component for humans' life and livelihoods and it is a question of existence for Ethiopia and other nations. Without economics there is no survival.

Where we are today? Where are we going? And what is to be done are question that matters so as to find clues to address much complications we are encountering at this concurrent.

These grand people and country which ought to be respected has frequently to be seen threatened and humiliated. Both nature and human are determined to threaten Ethiopia. Ethiopia has never attacked other countries instead intended itself to help and give hands at times of emergencies. Believing that the world should adhere to the principle of justice Ethiopia developed a culture of submitting complaints to the international council.

All over, Ethiopia must foster strategic partnership and take advantages of multipolarism. From a diplomatic point of view, a strategic partnership entails an exceptionally close relationship between countries or other entities that are vital to promoting each other's strategic interests. Strategic partnerships are mostly created with highly valued partners, which are carefully selected based on a realistic assessment of the significance of the partnership to the long-term interests of the nation concerned.

Before to tracing where our economy gauges, essential it could be what we want from our economy. Beyond producing self sufficient amount our development has to focusing on sustaining the country and handing over better country for the posterity.

Most notably, what is demanded from the economy is the betterment of the public and consolidation of the country. To change the general objective into practice paving the way for individuals who want eat bread upon their sweat is a must. In precise terms there is a need to undergo institutional reform to create enabling environment for visionary citizens.

Second citizens have to take advantage of systems and able to score sustainable development and third the new wealth reaped from such the new system has to be fairly distributed and price of product stabilized. Finally, the other pillar of the economy is the establishment of partnership in foreign policy without violating national sovereignty.

However, the economy could provide such benefits, over the past 40 years, it was in vain to achieve so even it was difficult to be self-sufficient in producing food items and basic needs.

Such failure has been accelerating inflation. What is worse would be the inflation rate in food related area is more escalated compared to non-food items albeit it is a paradox.

To fill the gap the country has to made procurement from oversea market. Yet there are short comings in affording foreign currency and incumbent upon loans from abroad. As a result the mirrored reflection of Ethiopia seems to be a country unable to rescue itself and the citizenry from begging. What is left for an Ethiopian is good psychological makeup and proud despite all odes.

There is the problem somewhere so that to put lasting solution identifying the source is important. There is abundant water, arable land and workaholic farmers along with universities producing agriculture professionals. The question that matters is why we are starved and why inputs and mechanizations and implementation failed to modernize the farmers? Why the industry sector is crawling while the country is part of the wisdom world?

The government would make all necessary efforts in this Fiscal Year to solve the conflict in the northern part of the country and to create a peaceful country, so said President Sahlework Zewde.

The President made the above remark when addressing the opening ceremony of the second year's first joint opening session of the House of Peoples' Representatives and the House of Federation.

Meanwhile, President Sahlework noted that Ethiopia has been working to strengthen its relationship with the countries in the region by considering that there are many things that interlink these countries.

Ethiopia's main challenges are continuing its positive economic development on a sustainable basis and accelerating poverty reduction which both requires significant progress in job creation, as well as improved governance, to ensure that growth is equitable across society.

In her opening speech, Sahlework stated that all necessary efforts will be made to end the war in the northern part of the country by implementing all peace alternatives.

She pointed out that the government will respond to the belligerence of the terrorist



Pr. Sahlework Zewde

TPLF that rejects the peace alternatives.

According to her, the biggest step that the government has taken in the past years is to resolve differences through peaceful dialogue in order to end the mass killings and conflicts in some parts of the country.

She added that the government will never close the doors of peace, and still calls for peace talks by making all peace alternatives open.

Sahlework restated that the cooperation of all is expected to make successful the proposed peace talks assisted by the African Union.

Regarding diplomatic activities, the President stated that various remarkable activities have been carried out continentally and regionally within the past Fiscal Year.

Sahlework further noted that Ethiopia has been working to consolidate its relations with neighboring countries by realizing that it has interconnected with these countries by infrastructure, trade, culture, language, natural resources, geography, and religion.

According to her, Ethiopia's diplomatic activities allowed neighboring countries to work together for their common benefit.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) will also enable Egypt and Sudan to get electricity at a reasonable price, she said adding, that Djibouti has already been getting electricity from Ethiopia, and efforts will be made for Kenya, Sudan, and South Sudan to get electricity.

"The construction of the dam will be completed in accordance with the scheduled time, and we will continue to conduct the necessary discussions and negotiations by examining any questions that may arise regarding the dam from the point of view of the benefit of Ethiopia," the President also indicated.

By understanding the current situation of international diplomacy, the government will work in coordination with friendly countries in a way that secures the long-term interests of Ethiopia, according to Sahlework.

Regarding the main focus of the government

in the 2015 Ethiopian Fiscal Year, she said that the government will continue the successes recorded in the last Fiscal Year and correct the shortcomings.

She added that the government will make efforts to improve tax revenue, reduce the waste of resources, use the government budget for poverty alleviation, stabilize inflation, and maintain a healthy macro-economy.

She further pointed out that the government will work hard to attract potential investors by doing various promotional activities to promote Ethiopia as an investment destination.

In-depth and action-oriented works will be done in the field of good governance and appropriate adjustments will be made by identifying the source of the problem, she also stated.

The President added that the government's other focus area is putting the institutions that were destroyed due to war into full operation.

"This Ethiopian Fiscal Year will be a time when we will be highly motivated to solve the social and economic problems that Ethiopians are facing by settling disputes through dialogue, making the National Dialogue successful, and completing the ongoing development projects," she indicated.

The government Of Ethiopia is going above and beyond to strengthen the capacity of the private sector and also to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) to support development.

It is doing that by providing different incentives. There's a promotional effort to attract investments, depending on the sectors they think are catalytic to growth. The government is planning to invest heavily on industrial zones across the country that will house textile, leather, agro-processing and other labor-intensive factories. The hospitality industry is also another one they are eager to attract investments.

At this very current the government and warring parties must urged to shift their face to the development sector according to high authorities.

For over two decades, Ethiopia's foreign policy has been centered on economic diplomacy, at the core of which is attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Diplomats have been tasked to promote investment opportunities, incentives, laws, rules, and regulations and recruit investors in the priority sectors identified by the Government. Therefore, as part of its annual plan, each diplomatic Mission takes the assignment of recruiting a specific number of investors, based on which the annual performance of the Mission and the individual diplomats is evaluated.

At the end putting the clock of peace back to Ethiopia is emphasized as a pre prioritized matter all should yearn for.

Art & Culture

Why Ethiopian Musicians deserve to win this Year's All Africa Music Awards

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Africa in general and Ethiopia in particular have a long history of musical development dating back to ancient times. According to available information on the history of African music, "Major and minor migrations of African peoples brought musical styles and instruments to new areas. The single and double iron bells, which probably originated in Kwa-speaking West Africa, spread to western Central Africa with Iron Age Bantu-speaking peoples and from there to Zimbabwe and the Zambezi River valley."

When it comes to the history of Ethiopian music, the situation is pretty similar. According to the same source, "Some Ethiopian religious music has an ancient Christian element, traced to Yared, who lived during the reign of Emperor Gebre Meskel (Son of Kaleb of Aksumite Empire) in the 6th century. Yared was considered the father of Ethiopian-Eritrean traditional music as well as he composed chant or Zema and the use in liturgical music."

Modern secular Ethiopian music dates back to the 20th century and has grown faster than anyone anticipated thanks to positive developments in music technology as well as the influence of Western musical traditions and the growth in the business of recording and selling popular music. "From the 1950s to the 1970s, Ethiopian popular musicians included Mahmoud Ahmed, Alemayehu Eshete, Hirut Bekele, Ali Birra, Ayalew Mesfin, Kiros Alemayehu, Muluken Melesse and Tilahun Gessesse, while popular folk musicians included Alemu Aga, Kassa Tessema, Ketema Makonnen, Asnaketch Worku, and Mary Armede. Perhaps the most influential musician of the period, however, was Ethiopian jazz innovator Mulatu Astatke. Amha Records, Kaifa Records, and Philips-Ethiopia were prominent Ethiopian record labels during this era. Since 1997, Buda Musique's Éthiopiennes series has compiled many of these singles and albums on compact disc."

During the 1980s, the Derg controlled Ethiopia, and emigration became almost impossible. Musicians during this period included Ethio Stars, Walias Band and Roha Band, though the singer Neway Debebe was most popular. He helped to popularize the use of semina-werq (wax and gold, a poetic form of double entendre) in music (previously only used in qiné, or poetry) that often enabled singers to criticize the government without upsetting the censors."

According to another information, "The most prominent internationally acclaimed Ethiopian singers are Aster Aweke, Alemayehu Eshete, Gigi, Teddy Afro, Tilahun Gessesse and Mahmoud Ahmed. Tilahun Gessesse was popular through 20th-century and nicknamed "The Voice" due to his prolong tenor vocal. In 2001, Teddy Afro debut his album Abugida and quickly become famous singer in his generation, nicknamed "Blatenaw" (English: The boy).

Some commentators also compare Teddy Afro with Tilahun Gessesse by musical



style and patriotic sentiments. Through her performing with prominent Western jazz musicians such as Bill Laswell (who is also her husband) and Herbie Hancock, Gigi has brought Ethiopian music to popular attention, especially in the United States, where she now lives. Through her 1999 album Hagere and "Abebayehosh", Aster Aweke is renowned for her

voice that attracted broader audience."

Throughout the last few decades, new and influential musicians have emerged on national and Pan-African music including the Cora Award among others.

"The 2021 All Africa Music Awards (also known as AFRIMA), were held on November 21st, at the Eko Convention Centre in Lagos, Nigeria.[1] This marked the fifth time in eight years that the venue is hosting the show. The show was hosted by South African actress Pearl Thusi, and British-Congolese comedian Eddie Kadi.[2]

The ceremony, under the theme 'Still We Sing', was broadcast on DSTV channel 198, GOTV 98, HIPTV, TVC, PlusTV Africa, AIT and AfroMusicPop among others. AFRIMA has taken place each year since 2014, except in 2020,[3] owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

Iba One from Mali, and Wizkid were the most awarded artists of the night with five and three awards respectively, followed by Kenya's Nikita Kering. Beyoncé bagged the 'Best Global Act' award, as the D.R. Congo's Koffi Olomide was gifted the "Legend Award".

This year's All Africa Music Awards will

take place next December. The award, otherwise known as AFRIMA is a prestigious cultural event that is held every year and brings to the attention of the global audience the talents and potentials of Africa as a center of international music

and a dynamic hub of the music industry from which the entire world is expected to benefit.

Africa has already made its presence felt in the music and cinema industries thanks to the talents of younger musicians and movie actors who have impressed audiences not only on the continent but also globally

attracting huge investments from big businesses and their commercial outlets.

One sign that AFRIMA is a huge event is the fact that it earned huge publicity well before the actual event and the African Union is involved in setting the venue and date of the actual event while the voting process is overseen by insiders of the artistic industry and established names in African music. According to the latest information, "the 2022 All Africa Music Awards will be held from 8-11 December 2022. It will feature a four-day fiesta of music, glitz, and glamour aimed at celebrating Africa. The 2022 All Africa Music Awards will be held from 8-11 December 2022. It will feature a four-day fiesta of music, glitz, and glamour aimed at celebrating Africa." Public voting for the

award is said to have already started.

Accordingly, seven of the best contemporary Ethiopian singers have been nominated for the award and audiences around the world are already invited to take part in the online voting process. The nominees are, "Addis Legesse, Betty G, Gutu Abera, Hewan Gebrewold, Jano Band, Lencho Gemechu, Maranata Tegegn, and Tedi Afro, are nominated in various categories." Last year AFIRMA. According to Agence de Press Africaine (APA), a news website familiar with cultural developments on the continent of Africa.

"The International Executive Committee of AFIRMA selected a total of 382 nominations across 39 categories, to represent all five regions in Africa, as well as in the Diaspora. Leading the nominations on a regional basis this year is the Western African region, with 134 nominations, representing 35 percent; while the Eastern African region follows closely with 69 nominations, representing 18 percent.

The Southern African region races closely with 68 nominations, representing 17.8 percent; Central Africa pulls in its weight with 52 nominations, representing 13.6 percent; while the Northern African region follows closely with 49 nominations, representing 12.8 percent.

"Dominating the list with the most nominations, this year, is the South African maverick, Costa Titch, with six nominations for his 2021 smash hit, Big Flexa, in Song of the Year; Breakout Artiste of the Year; Best African Collaboration: Best Artiste, Duo or Group in African Electro; and Best Artiste, Duo or Group in Use of African Dance/Choreography."

Winning continental or international music awards is not only a matter of personal or commercial success. It is also a powerful image building exercise that is useful in boosting the images of Africa as well as Ethiopia in the global arena where the continent's name is usually tarnished by exaggerated news of famine and conflicts. In this sense, music awards have powerful political implications and can be used to revamp the belief in Africa's brighter future.

Accordingly, seven of the best contemporary Ethiopian singers have been nominated for the award and audiences around the world are already invited to take part in the online voting process. The nominees are, Addis Legesse, Betty G, Gutu Abera, Hewan Gebrewold, Jano Band, Lencho Gemechu, Maranata Tegegn, and Tedi Afro, are nominated in various categories." Last year AFIRMA. According to Agence de Press Africaine (APA), a news website familiar with cultural developments on the continent of Africa.

Why do Ethiopians blame Western Nations for the prolonged war in Ethiopia?

Northern Ethiopia has been a war zone for the past twenty two months. Several atrocities have been committed, and more than three million people are internally displaced. When the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) declared a victory in less than a month after November 4, 2020, attack on the Ethiopian military command by the Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF), Tigray's situation seemed to be normalized, and TPLF forces had scattered from every major city in Tigray.

However, the war was far from over as TPLF revived its forces with the support of foreign powers and squandered every opportunity for peace.

What was the Western and Biden Administration's role as the TPLF regrouped and reemerged for more rounds of war in June 2021 and August 2022? What do the U.S. and West need to learn from the 22 months of senseless conflict? Is there a need for a change of action from the U.S. and Western nations to bring lasting peace to the Horn and stop needless human suffering?

TPLF 27 Years of Ruling: The TPLF, composed solely of Tigrayans, a minority group within Ethiopia, led Ethiopia for 27 years – during which they detained and killed thousands of civilians, opposition leaders, and activists, censored the media, and embezzled hundreds of billions of dollars from Ethiopia. In early 2018, after a nationwide resistance, TPLF was forced to relinquish power to a coalition of politicians representing all ethnicities, including Amhara and Oromo people, the largest ethnic groups in the country. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed led this coalition, and people celebrated this peaceful transition across Ethiopia.

TPLF continued to conspire to re-grip Ethiopian politics when it lost its hegemony over most military and economic power. Consequently, the TPLF executed a “pre-emptive strike” on November 4, 2020 that several TPLF senior leaders later admitted was planned to capture the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, by far the biggest constellation of military bases and heavy armaments in the country, which TPLF had placed in Tigray during their 27 years in power.

November 2020: The “pre-emptive strike” in November 2020 was coordinated with an international cyber campaign; recently, a team of data scientists at GETFACTet uncovered the origin and trending of “#TigrayGenocide,” a popular TPLF social media campaign and a cyber-war designed to shape the public perception of the conflict.

According to the data, non-military actors outside Ethiopia coordinated the #TigrayGenocide cyber campaign linked to the TPLF military command's preplanned military attack or “pre-emptive strike” and a cyber war launched hours before TPLF attacked the army base on November 4, 2020.

What happened between January and July 2021 that led to the reemergence of war in July 2021? GoE's (Government of Ethiopia) swift response in mid-November and December 2020 allowed the Ethiopian Defense Force to contain the conflict within three weeks in the Tigray region and prevent the TPLF from advancing toward Addis Ababa to topple the Government. Yet, the war restarted and spread outside Tigray to the Amhara and Afar regions later in the year, costing many lives.

January-February, 2021: At the beginning of 2021, within a month of the operation to contain the conflict, a governmental regulatory body was formed to establish an interim government in Tigray. These appointed leaders were ethnically Tigrayan, and the goal was to rehabilitate the region; the GoE provided more than 70 percent of humanitarian aid assistance to the people affected by the conflict.

In addition, the Government continued the local Government's responsibility of providing essential services until the Tigrayan people elected their local representatives. In addition, GoE allowed international NGOs to support the region and International media to report from the ground.

During this time, prominent TPLF leaders were tracked down and arrested, and most of their mechanized forces, which they had used to bomb cities in the Amhara region and Eritrea, were disabled. The remnants of the TPLF forces left the major cities, including Aksum, Adwa, Adigrat, and the capital city, Mekelle, and scattered to different parts of the Tigray mountains to form a guerilla rebel group.

February – May 2021: During this period, the new United States Biden administration reversed the former U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo's stance on supporting Ethiopia's government action on law enforcement in the Northern part of Ethiopia. Consequently, the State Department released statements targeting GoE while looking the other way to TPLF's aggression.

Furthermore, Linda Thomas, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, pressed the member states to bring Ethiopia's internal issues to the Security Council for possible sanctions. At the U.N. closed meeting, which was leaked by former U.N. migration chief, Maureen Achie, exposed UN higher-up, likely directed by Dr. Tedros Adhanom, part of TPLF leadership and a seating WHO director, and other officials collaborating with TPLF command to pressure Ethiopia.

Maureen Achie and others challenged the U.S. and U.N. allegations of atrocities, particularly the allegation of sexual violence by the Ethiopian military. Despite several U.N. officials at the local offices stating that no credible data is available to justify such accusations, Maureen and others were fired from their posts to cover up Western political interests.

The Biden Administration's attempts to pressure Ethiopia using the U.N. Security Council failed more than five times as of May 2021. President Biden, using his executive power, decided to take a unilateral action to ban Ethiopian Government officials from entering the U.S., which was considered an “initial measure”.

As the State Department, USAID, and other Western organizations piled pressure on Ethiopia with a clear indication of economic sanction or military intervention; and as TPLF forces continued to wage asymmetric guerilla warfare, making it impossible to return Tigray to peaceful normalcy, the GoE decided to declare a unilateral ceasefire and withdraw the federal army from Tigray region.

While this was a golden opportunity for TPLF to pursue negotiations after being allowed to recapture control of Tigray, the rebel group instead called the ceasefire “a sick jock” and seized the opportunity to mobilize the civilian population - including child soldiers for war,

divert USAID food and resources for the ill-defined conflict effort, and launched and expanded the war outside Tigray region that could have ended in June 2021.

June - November 2021: In the second phase of the conflict after June 2021, the TPLF formed an official alliance with their brainchild OLA (Oromo Liberation Army) and invaded different cities in Amhara and Afar regions with an ultimate plan of forcefully overthrowing the federal government by marching toward the capital Addis Ababa. Since June 2021, more than two million people have been internally displaced from Afar and Amhara regions, and TPLF soldiers have committed several atrocities, including killing targeted ethnic groups and civilians, raping women, destroying electric and telecommunication infrastructures, hospitals, churches, and looting food aid warehouses.

With the knowledge of the TPLF's oppressive history and current destructive agenda for Ethiopia, the Biden Administration and European nations continued pressuring Ethiopia using economic power, such as removing Ethiopia from AGOA, a program that assists the economies of sub-Saharan African countries by providing a free trade agreement with the U.S.

Meanwhile, TPLF destruction has gone to the extent of looting and destroying religious sites and heritage sites in the Amhara and Afar regions. The Ethiopian people have been asking why the U.S. and Europe are prolonging the suffering of the Ethiopian people by applying grossly uneven pressure on the Ethiopian Government, which has no choice but to defend the people of Ethiopia from the TPLF's aggression.

November 2021: In December 2021, the Ethiopian Government reversed TPLF's military aggression outside Tigray, recaptured the cities invaded by the TPLF in Amhara and Afar regions, took the higher road, and decided not to enter Tigray. The decision was to give peace to civilians and farmers a chance to resettle for Ethiopia's harvest season.

Meanwhile, TPLF isolated and held hostage the Tigrayan people, jailed and killed civil servants, including electric power, telecommunication personnel, and bank workers, and denied international media and independent organizations from entering Tigray since GoE left Tigray in June 2021.

February - August 2022: TPLF continued to position itself as a gateway for access to humanitarian aid to the people in Tigray and continued blocking the only humanitarian corridor through Abala, Afar, by triggering more than 30 conflicts in the area. In addition, TPLF continues denying families in Tigray access to food if they don't give their son and daughter, with TPLF's one-child policy for military training.

Despite these challenges, GoE declared a humanitarian truce in March 2022 to allow unfettered humanitarian aid to Tigray. Between July 20th - August 9th, 2022 alone, Tigray has received 29,942 metric tons of food, 31,940 metric tons of non-food items, 668,579 liters of fuel, 23.63 metric tons of medicine, and 2,096 metric tons of fertilizer, and 300 million Ethiopian Birr.

Before and during this time, TPLF recruited more than 250 thousand soldiers, including child soldiers, smuggling arms from neighboring regions using military aircraft,

defying the purpose of the ceasefire and preventing farmers from engaging in food production to reduce hunger and food crises in the region.

In addition, OLA, a brainchild of TPLF, launched coordinated terrorist activities in the Oromia region, killing hundreds of Amhara and other civilians to ignite ethnic tension in Ethiopia for political gain and divert the Ethiopian military attention and resource for their subsequent military plan. TPLF's terrorism campaign was not limited to the west of Ethiopia that OLA directed; they continued their coordinated terrorism attack with Al Shabaab in Somalia, costing innocent Ethiopians lives in the past two months.

August 2022: Leading to mid-August 2022, TPLF was finalizing to launch the third round of attack; according to the leaked document from the TPLF central command, “TPLF's final chapter and strategies.” TPLF leaders undermined the AU-led peace process and publicly discredited A.U. and Mr. Obassanjo as “The African Union cannot deliver peace to Tigray” TPLF's spokesperson Getachew Reda published in The Africa Report on August 22, 2022.

Following that, TPLF looted WFP's fuel and aid supplies delivered to the people of Tigray, diverted resources, and launched the third round of war on August 24 outside Tigray in Amhara and Afar regions. TPLF's action displaced thousands and blocked the only humanitarian corridor, risking starving people in Tigray and the neighboring regions.

TPLF's third resumption of the conflict to gain political power by arm struggle is a mistake and proof that TPLF has no intention for peace. Millions of northern Ethiopians do not have any guarantee from another TPLF occupation, displacement, atrocities, and the possibility of their daughters being raped and their sons being forced to join the war.

Since the beginning of the conflict, the U.S. Biden Administration and Western nations have not unequivocally condemned TPLF actions. Several missed opportunities they could have pressured TPLF to bring peace in Ethiopia, for instance, in June 2020 at the first GoE unilateral ceasefire, in December 2021 when GoE decided not to enter Tigray, in March 2022 when the GoE declared a humanitarian truce, and in August 2022 when TPLF was preparing to launch a third round of war, breaking the peace process.

The U.S. and Western nations already bear moral responsibility for playing a significant role in bolstering TPLF, a group that led Ethiopia for three decades with tyranny to emerge as a new force to create a spiraling and brutal conflict in northern Ethiopia. Responsibility for the loss of civilian lives and the destruction of communities and infrastructure that has resulted from TPLF's expansion of the conflict falls not only on the TPLF but also on the U.S. and other prominent Western nations that have emboldened the rebels.

If the Biden Administration and Western nations continue to be silent to TPLF's atrocities and antagonize the democratically elected Ethiopian Government, they are setting Ethiopia on the course of disintegration, which will no doubt have tragic and far-reaching consequences.

This article was first published in GETFACTet website.

Law & Politics

Ethiopia's unwavering stand towards peace, sovereignty

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Notwithstanding the fact that a lot of efforts have been made by the federal government to get to the bottom of the problem in an atmosphere of calm, the desired objective has not been attained yet on the grounds of the hawkish stance of the criminal TPLF group. Since the start of the attack on the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces by the killing squad in the early morning of 4 November 2020 situated in the Tigray State, the federal government has been unshakable in its position to make peace happen making use of all possible means. Regardless of the fact that the federal government has been leaning over backward to beat swords into plowshares, the desired outcome has not been accomplished yet as a consequence of the heinous deeds of the killing squad. What's more, the illegal group has been many a time and oft beating the drums of war and covering up the truth unfolding in the length and breadth of the country. In the face of the criminal organization's unrewarding reaction, the incumbent has been determinedly leaving no stone unturned to end hostilities in the shortest possible time. To everyone's dismay, as nothing makes the illegal group happier than escalating tensions, moving the country into uncharted territory, and turning the lives of noncombatants into a bottomless pit, it has continued posing a threat to the social infrastructure of people and giving the cold shoulder to the peace talks proposed by the incumbent. Though the wider global communities are on familiar terms with the existing developments on the ground, they sustained masking the real reasons and weaning themselves from the peace process under the pretext of a broad spectrum of lame. Dejectedly, as some foreign entities take sides with the criminal organization and work in close collaboration with the disgraced rights group, henchmen, and other internal and external actors, they have urged the group to distance itself from the peace process and up the ante. In spite of the fact that the criminal enterprise has continued beating the drums of war and mystifying the wider international community with imaginary stories, the incumbent has been many a time and oft making every possible effort intending to bury the hatchet in the shortest possible time. In point of fact, the ragtag group has sustained engaging in belligerent acts and turning out to be an obstacle to the peace process. The sad thing is that as nothing makes the criminal gang happier than moving the country into uncharted waters, downplaying the peace process, playing the victim card, and putting the blame on the incumbent, the group has been coming up with layers of intrigues to mystify the international community with the usual cooked up stories. Similarly, rather than putting pressure on the disgruntled group to come to the negotiating table, some foreign entities

have been in the present circumstances parroting the hidden motives of the killing squad and engaging in a smear campaign against the incumbent aimed at pouring cold water on the constructive measures unfolding on a national scale. Although the criminal group has been turning the northern part of the country upside down since the start of the group's war, some nations worldwide have been on purpose or unknowingly taking sides with the group that does not believe in making peace happen but turning the lives of innocent non-combatants into a living hell. Rather than leaning over backward to patch things up and prepare the way for consolidating the peace some entities have been over and over getting off the track and making a supreme effort to put unwarranted pressure on Ethiopia. In the same way, instead of standing up for justice and truth, they have been turning a deaf ear to the unflinching stance of the government to make peace happen and playing at all hours of the day and night placing the blame on the federal government. Some foreign entities as well remained tightlipped and continued equating the federal government with the terrorist TPLF group that has been upping the ante and abolishing infrastructural facilities. It should be borne in mind that by giving peace a chance, the incumbent was able to declare a unilateral truce and withdraw its troops from the Tigray State after undertaking law enforcement operations. Though a lot of efforts have been made by the federal government to put an end to the conflict, the intended target has not been attained yet as a consequence of the terrorist TPLF group's carelessness. It should not be forgotten that some foreign entities have been echoing the unfounded accusation of the criminal organization and perplexing the global community with cock-and-bull stories paying no heed to the efforts of the government to end the confrontation at the earliest possible moment. Despite the evil deeds of the criminal enterprise aimed at moving the country into uncharted territory, the incumbent has been sparing no effort to bury the hatchet making use of all possible means. Even though the incumbent has been extending an olive branch in several cases intending to bring about peace the ragtag group as always has sustained brushing aside the peace process and besmirching the positive images of the country. The African Union (AU)'s official invitation is consistent with the Ethiopian government's prior positions, the Government Communication Service (GCS) said. Recently, the entities leading the African Union peace talks have made an official invitation for peace talks to begin and have announced both the date and venue. GCS, therefore, issued statement yesterday in connection with the invitation. According to the statement, the government of Ethiopia remains committed to adopting all possible measures to resolve the conflict in a manner that ensures lasting peace and territorial integrity of the country and would continue upholding this commitment.



It is to be noted that Ethiopia has been showing its readiness for peace talks under the auspices of the African Union without any preconditions and to talk anytime, anywhere, and also to resolve all problems throughout the country peacefully as conflicts lead to failure and destruction. In this regard, the government of Ethiopia formed a committee that has seven members, led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen. Putting peace imitative as its priority, the Ethiopian government has reaffirmed to work relentlessly to solve TPLF-provoked conflict through negotiation. The government would make all necessary efforts in this Fiscal Year to solve the conflict in the northern part of the country and to create a peaceful country, so said President Sahlework Zewde. The President made the above remark when addressing the opening ceremony of the second year and six tenure first joint opening session of the House of Peoples' Representatives and the House of Federation. Meanwhile, President Sahlework noted that Ethiopia has been working to strengthen its relationship with the countries in the region by considering that there are many things that interlink these countries. In her opening speech, Sahlework stated that all necessary efforts would be made to end the war in the northern part of the country implementing all peace alternatives. She pointed out that the government would respond to the belligerence of the Terrorist TPLF, if the group insisted on rejecting the peace alternatives. According to her, the biggest step that the government has taken during last year is to resolve differences through peaceful dialogue in order to end the mass killings and conflicts in some parts of the country. She added that the government would

never close the doors of peace, and still calls for peace talks making all peace alternatives open. Sahlework restated that the cooperation of all is expected to make successful the proposed peace talks assisted by the African Union.

Regarding diplomatic activities, the President stated that various remarkable activities have been carried out continentally and regionally within the past Fiscal Year. Sahlework further noted that Ethiopia has been working to consolidate its relations with neighboring countries by realizing that it has interconnected with these countries by infrastructure, trade, culture, language, natural resources, geography, and religion.

According to her, Ethiopia's diplomatic activities allowed neighboring countries to work together for their common benefit. Abbay Dam will also enable Egypt and Sudan to get electricity at a reasonable price, she said adding, that Djibouti has already been getting electricity from Ethiopia, and efforts will be made for Kenya, Sudan, and South Sudan to get electricity. "The construction of the dam will be completed in accordance with the scheduled time, and we will continue to conduct the necessary discussions and negotiations by examining any questions that may arise regarding the dam from the point of view of the benefit of Ethiopia," the President also indicated.

By understanding the current situation of international diplomacy, the government will work in coordination with friendly countries in a way that secures the long-term interests of Ethiopia, according to Sahlework. "This Ethiopian Fiscal Year will be a time when we will be highly motivated to solve the social and economic problems that Ethiopians are facing by settling disputes through dialogue, making the National Dialogue successful, and completing the ongoing development projects," she indicated.

Women in Focus

‘Being creative is not a hobby; it is a way of life’

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

Gelaye Deyas is a designer and founder of Gelan Handicraft, which is a social enterprise with an inclusive business model that mainly involves poor, marginalized, and uneducated women and young girls in the market chain as product suppliers.

She was born and raised in Nekemte, East Welega Zone of Oromia State. She learned her primary and secondary education in Catholic mission school which has later on shaped her direction to where she is now.

She then went to Bahir Dar and learned Theology in Bete Denagel and furthered her education in Addis Ababa in the same field. Thereafter, she got the chance to go to India and came with different handicraft ideas that have led a special foundation to her company.

Her stay in Catholic Mission School somehow influenced Gelaye to engage in voluntary activities. She participates in different groups and associations that are working on women economic empowerment.

She has also been involved in the facilitation of Indian environmental technology experience sharing with Ethiopian individuals and professionals working on women; and children institutions, tourism offices and different NGOs like SOS etc.

The Ethiopian Herald had approached designer and founder of Gelan Handicraft Enterprise, Gelaye Deyas, to talk about her career journey and experience. Enjoy your reading.

Please tell us about your career journey and your enterprise, Gelan Handicrafts?

Gelan Handicraft was established in 2010. The fact that I was fortunate to learn in mission school as well as the opportunity I gained to go to India really led me to give birth to Gelan Handicraft.

I believe it is through those two exposures that I realized what we could do with the sector. Having the untapped craft resources, the incredible potential of Ethiopian women coupled with the deep interest I have developed for helping people in need somehow relate with what I observed in handicrafts India.

The core idea behind ‘Gelan Handicrafts’ is improving the livelihoods of vulnerable women thereby improving their lives and also standardizing the quality of the handicrafts produced in the country.

Moreover, our major objective is making these women self-employed through creating business, providing skill building and source of income trainings. Similarly, increasing competitiveness of the craft industry and the artisans is the other priority area of the company.

Thus, here at Gelan, we provide various practical and theoretical trainings. Once

we select the women collaborating with our stakeholders such as governmental and NGOs, we offer psychological training. Since the strategic focus of Gelan Handicraft is utilizing and promoting craft skills for job creation and income improvement, then, we provide training based on their interests.

Prior to the conflict in the northern part of the country, we used to work in Amhara, Tigray, Somali and SNNPS. So far, we have provided handicrafts training for number of women constituted from different walks of life in different states

What was your toughest challenge that you encountered and what did you learn from it?

In most cases, we tend to solve everyday problems instead of trying to solve the root cause of the problem. What I had faced in my 14 years of experience in the field is somewhat related to this.

My intention is solving the root cause of the problem that many women face. Empowering them and helping them realize their potential which can make them lead a better life, would solve many other problems also.

However, the trend coupled with the knowledge gap in the area even in those institutions that are majorly working on women was tough. But, the idea behind Gelan Handicrafts was bigger than any of the challenges that I encountered.

How did you reach your level of success?

Despite the challenges that I had encountered, I have had a strong believe that human beings have a call in life. I have grown with this thinking that I examine what I could contribute to the world and question myself what my life purpose lays on.

Fortunately, helping people and empowering women happened to be my purpose. So, no matter how I faced with difficulty, I do not hold myself from realizing it. I am persistent as well as patient which I think had contributed a lot in my work.

Though I still believe that I have so much more to give to the society, understanding my purpose and the fact that I was willing to go for it took the lion’s share for my success.

What is your biggest accomplishment over the years?

I have taken part in different groups and association that are working on economic empowerment. Understanding the deep impact of climate change, we are producing environment friendly plastic bags. Moreover, we work together with UNDP and Ethiopian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change and so far provided training for over 80 TVET students drawn from various states.

I have involved in the facilitation of Indian environmental technology experience



Gelaye Deyas, designer and founder of Gelan Handicraft

sharing with Ethiopian individuals and professionals.

If you have established a family (married), how do you balance the family and work life?

Balancing is not an easy task but it is doable. Making both family life as well as work life go in line needs effort. But I guess having the people who believes in you and who support your dream makes the job easier.

Do you think that Ethiopia is benefiting well from craft industry?

Handicraft is one of the untapped sectors in the country. Comparing with other sectors which have similar contribution to the tourism sector, it is almost forgotten. Having plenty of nation and nationalities that are enriched with incredible crafts, the country could benefit more.

However, much more work is needed. If the nation needs to benefit from the sector, due

attention must be given to the potential that the sector has in the first place.

Countries like India have huge centers that showcase handicrafts of the country which brings huge amount of money to the country. Taking the best experiences of other countries, it is vital to promote and introduce the sector thereby support the people whose lives are depend on it.

Concerned bodies need to take in to account the potential of the sector and try to build center that showcase nation’s handicrafts at one center.

As a woman with lots of experiences, what piece of advice would you like to give to our readers?

I believe that, besides knowing our life purpose, it is important to be a hard worker and committed for what we love the most in life. It is through these important factors in life that a person despite the difficulties can win the life battle and succeed.



More than 500 schools in the Amhara state have not resumed teaching-learning process by the current education calendar

“Many hands make light work”

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Evidences vividly show that the Terrorist Tigray Peoples’ Liberation Front (T-TPLF) has been widely engaged in promoting violence among each nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia. Different people also witnessed that there is no terrorist group that parallel with the T- TPLF group through conducting massive genocide, destruction and sponsoring and aspiring to see its own country’s disintegration.

The T-TPLF former and current leaders believe that inciting violence between and among the different ethnic groups of Ethiopia could return them into power; which is entirely unmanageable and impracticable. Currently, all Ethiopians irrespective of any differences, are fighting against the T-TPLF enterprise and are working together to build stronger Ethiopia more than ever.

However, the terrorist group, refusing to accept its defeat, remains the leading peace and security challenge and is still attempting to obstruct the country’s journey towards sustainable development.

Last year, insurgents of the T-TPLF group in areas they occupied for a short time, killed dozens of innocent citizens that had no any role in the conflict, perpetrated heinous attacks on elders, gang-raped lots of women and children against the Amhara nationals residing in Wollo, Shewa, Gondar and the surrounding areas in a manner it seems retaliation.

Not only this, they also massively looted and damaged public properties, and private service rendering institutions including health, education and financial institutions, manufacturing industries in the State. Following the damage and the pillage on schools, education in the conflict zones had been disrupted forcing hundreds of

thousands of school children out of school.

Beyond killing and slaughtering the Amhara people, the rebel group used the resources it plundered from the State to carry on its malicious intentions against the motherland.

In fact, the Amhara State joining hands with development partners, stakeholders and individuals has been executing various activities to renovate and rehabilitate damaged schools to return students to schools though the outcome is not at the desired level due to various reasons.

As part of this effort, recently, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) has launched education in emergency project- Play Matters Emergency Response Mechanism (PM ERM) - in the six conflict-affected zones of the Amhara State aiming at providing coordinated financial and in-kind assistance to rehabilitate the schools.

The project is said implemented in the North Shewa, North Wollo, South Wollo, Waghimra, North Gondar and South Gondar.

Launching the project, IRC Play Matters ERM Coordinator Yohannes Gebreselassie said that, the project lasts for twelve months with the financial support of the LEGO Foundation and implemented by the IRC in collaboration with other nine international humanitarian agencies.

The project will provide about eight million USD in cash and in-kind support to rehabilitate 152 conflict-affected schools and school children in six zones of the State. 8,000 teachers, educational personnel, and caregivers.

“The project solely targets to deliver a coordinated, rapid, and effective humanitarian response to the needs of children by focusing on their educational well-being, health, and safety.”

Accordingly, the response includes school feeding, school rehabilitation, provision

of education materials; increase access to safe potable water in schools, enhance community-based child protection, among others.

On his part, Amhara State Education Bureau Planning and Resource Mobilization Director Misganaw Amare told The Ethiopian Herald that more than 500 schools in the State remain closed by the current education calendar due to the damage caused by the T-TPLF group.

“The government has been mobilizing the public to undertake swift reconstruction of the damaged schools. However, the community-based schools’ rehabilitation process was not effective due to the financial and material constraint. Thus, there are still numerous schools which are out of service in the conflict-affected areas of the State,” he said.

Moreover, schools are serving as a temporary shelter for more than millions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and still challenging to resume schools in Debre Berhan, Woldia, and Dessie towns.

Therefore, it requires swift interventions of the government, private sectors, humanitarian agencies, and individuals to return the dozens of children that are away from school for the past more than two years, he said.

It is a great success to the T-TPLF to see the Amhara children being out of education and illiterate. The Amhara State calls upon all counterparts to help the mission of reconstructing the damaged schools and aborting the ill dreams of the terrorist group.

According to him, such projects highly strengthen educational performance through solving educational inputs challenges and; arousing children’s learning interest that was severely affected by the invasion of the T-TPLF group against the motherland.

“Education-related projects have a generation based benefit and change the lives of the community through directly or in-directly contributing in the social, economic, and political affairs of the country. Various international humanitarian agencies like the IRC are playing an important role towards rehabilitating damaged schools and returning children to school in the State”, he added.

It is more disappointing and saddening to see children stay at home for the reason their schools were obliterated. The issue becomes worsening while observing how much the children are eager and enthusiastic to resume their education even under the shades of trees. The students feel the brutality of the terrorist group and; clearly witnessed how the TPLF members were stealing and/or destroying the school equipment, supplies and other materials.

Thus, it is important to understand how much the group and its members are against the new generation. It is time to give more attention to the issue and strive towards returning children to school in the State. The active engagements of every citizen home and abroad are important to brighten the future of these children.

According to the Ministry of Education, Ethiopia needs more than 100 billion Birr to fully restore schools ravaged by the terrorist TPLF group and other conflicts in various parts of the country.

Education Minister Professor Berhanu Nega stated that the conflict inflicted by the T-TPLF seriously affected the learning teaching process at all more than three million students of school.

According to the Minister, over 1,200 schools have been fully destroyed due to the war and conflicts in several parts of the country while three universities in the Amhara State have been fully and partially damaged by the TPLF aggression.