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## Ethiopia 'all-weather friend' of Somalia : PM Hamza

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA** –Whenever the Somalis face difficulties, Ethiopians stand with their Somali brothers and sisters and show their solidarity, Somalia’s Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre said.

The above remark came during the discussion of Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen and Somalia’s Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre on bilateral and regional issues.

During the occasion, Hamza stated that

Ethiopians have been showing their solidarity with the Somalis on various occasions and the two countries' relationship is like one family.

He also called upon the people of the two countries to stand together in the fight

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### WORLD BANK GROUP

#### WBG stands ready to support Ethiopia's transformative reforms

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDISABABA**—World Bank Group (WB) is ready to use all financing instruments and analytical services to help Ethiopia implement the new phase of transformative reforms as well as support its long-term development needs, WBG said.

See WBG stands ... Page 3



#### Germany optimistic for thriving relations with Ethiopia

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA**- Germany Ambassador to Ethiopia Stephan Auer said his country is optimistic that the diplomatic and economic relations with Ethiopia would further see progress in years to come.

During his opening remark 32nd Anniversary of Germany’s Unity Day here yesterday, Ambassador Auer expressed his country’s desire to boost relations with

See Germany ... Page 3

## Ethio-Kenya cooperation ushers in new pan-African era

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA**- Ethiopia’s effective cooperation and historic business deals with Kenya have ushered a new pan-Africa era, Kenyan Independent Journalist said.

During his interview with International Media, Kenyan-American Journalist Karanja Goshesha stressed that the meetings of newly appointed Kenyan President William Ruto and prime minister Abiy Ahmed were extremely important in that they signed the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) between Kenya and Ethiopia which appears to have been a deal that was already underway.

He said Kenya's largest Telecom Company venturing into Ethiopia is also another move that has major significance for the Horn of Africa.



Though it is purely a business deal, it is a massive deal that is going to be benefiting both countries in terms of revenue, services and movement of information, as to him.

Hermela Aregawi on her part noted that privatizing some state-owned companies in Ethiopia seem to be a big deal in terms of changing directions for Ethiopia and the

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Exerting concerted effort to better exploit the livestock resource

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First digital fair to put financial actors, int'l institutions together in Addis

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# News



## Addis to hold Digital Finance Showcase 2022

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA-** Digital Finance Ethiopia Showcase 2022 exhibition will be held to help assist Ethiopia's digital economy through innovative, accessible and inclusive digital financial services.

Briefing the media on the event that is slated to be held on October 19-29, 2022 in Addis Ababa, Digital Financial Services (DFS) Chairman, NaelHailemariam, said the event would bring the various stakeholders together to share best practices and facilitate networking with other ecosystem players and high-level decision-makers from government and industry.

He further stated that the showcase would enhance interactions on varied issues, including a policy and regulatory environment that encourages competition and supports technological innovations and ensure their full participation in the digital economy.

As to him, the path to digital transformation requires a collaborative effort of all stakeholders, and this is why the Digital Financial Services Working Group-Ethiopia is working hard, the goal of the exhibition is to ensure the full participation of every citizen.

The Digital Financial Services Working Group-Ethiopia, convened and launched by UNCDF and its partners earlier this year, has organized the first DFS Ethiopia Showcase event as part of its mandate to unite all DFS players to collaborate and work towards advancing the country's digital economy.

The showcase will provide a platform for over 40 DFS players including Banks, FinTechs, mobile money operators, payment instrument issuers, payments service operators and others to display their innovations contributing to achieving the digital transformation priorities of Ethiopia, he stated.

## Tana Forum venue for African-led peace mechanisms: MoFA

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA** –This year's Tana High-level Security forum will play a significant role in exploring and exchanging ideas on African-led solutions to continental security challenges, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

Held under the theme "Managing security threats: Building resilience for the Africa we want," the 10th Tana Forum is deliberating on the continent's peace and security concerns till Sunday.

At a weekly briefing he held here yesterday, MoFA Spokesperson Meles Alem said the forum is the venue to explore ways of tackling Africa's pressing peace and stability challenges and the mushrooming illegal seizure of power.

The spokesperson further highlighted



that heads of states and governments, representatives from continental organizations, peace and security experts as well as public figures and others will attend the forum. Accordingly, over 300 participants including officials from other countries and heads of organizations are travelling to Bahir Dar to attend the forum

Concerning the green diplomacy, Meles

stated that delegations of Ethiopian youth organizations have been dispatched to various African countries and received full recognition from the destination states. South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, Rwanda, Kenya and Djibouti are countries that Ethiopia sent youth delegations to promote its Green Legacy success and nurture fraternity through green diplomacy.

"The Ethiopian youth delegation will take part in a tree-planting campaign in African countries to raise awareness of the Green Legacy Initiative and it will have a significant impact on promoting African unity and strengthening relationships."

Noting the Ethiopian set to discuss with their age mates in the respective country in the side line of the tree planting sessions, he indicated such a program aims to enable the youth to contribute share for the realization of the larger regional integration vision.

## Ministry urges institutions to contain child rights violations

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) called on both governmental and non-governmental institutions to fight against children right violations.

Opening a two-day training on Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) aiming to empower local leaders, experts, and security personnel, MoWSA Senior Advisor Zerihun Kebede (PhD) said that many children are being victimized by harmful traditions and the conflict in several areas.

He further said that the ongoing conflict in Northern Ethiopia has caused a range of harmful practices against children's rights in many areas.

The training has been given to governmental and non-governmental officials by All God's Children International (AGCI) in collaboration with Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development, it was learnt.

"The child welfare system needs more considerations. Numerous children are being harmed due to the customary tradition and



poverty and conflicts are directly harming children's life; so, the government is striving to build strong collaboration with non-governmental organizations like the All God's Children International and its partners," he said.

All God's Children International- Africa

Programs Director, Angelyn Salyer on her part said that AGCI has been empowering governmental officials to intervene and help vulnerable children.

About 300 trainers hail from Addis Ababa city, Oromia and Gambela States are taking part in the training, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

## Corporation invites pharmaceutical businesses to Kilinto IP

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC) has invited local investors engaged in the pharmaceutical sector to do business in the Kilinto Industrial Park.

Investors engaged in the pharmaceutical sector visited the Kilinto Industrial Park and they were briefed about the amenities in the park.

IPDC Marketing and Communication Director Henok Asrat explained the favorable conditions for investors in the pharmaceutical sector to invest in the park. He said that the parks were being built to fulfill international standards.



Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

Noting the 2.3 percent annual population growth in Ethiopia, the director stressed that the demand for medicines in the health sector is growing. "If local investors invest in the pharmaceutical industry, they will be successful."

As to him, the government has been paying due attention to attract private investments in the pharmaceutical industries and to improve competitiveness by providing export incentives, customs duty exemption, income tax holidays, and offering land at

competitive lease price.

With regard to pharmaceutical outputs, the sector's primary target is substituting import by producing capsules and small-scale medical equipment, Henok remarked.

Mengstu Regasa, manager of Kilinto Industrial Park, indicated 17 companies entering the park and have been operational in building the design they want.

So far, 13 industrial parks have been built in Ethiopia and 125 companies have been operating in the facilities.

Last year alone, more than 932 million USD was earned and more than 81 thousand permanent jobs have been created by companies in the industrial parks, it was learned.



# News

## Soufflet Malteries appreciates Ethiopia's huge investment potential with conducive Env't

**ADDIS ABABA** - The General Manager of Soufflet Ethiopia Malteries, the company that invested 60 million Euros in the country five years ago, said Ethiopia has a huge long term investment potential.

Speaking with ENA Soufflet Ethiopia Malteries General Manager, Jean Benoit Vivet said, on top of Ethiopia's huge investment potential, there are institutions that go extra miles to support investors.

With a strong will, the Ethiopian government accepts investors and helps them to secure land and make the investment as easy as possible, he said.

"It was reassuring to say that there is a system in place with the strong will from the Ethiopian government to attract investors and help them to secure land and various utilities to make the investment as easy as possible. That was the reason that we decided to invest."

Soufflet Ethiopia Malteries is the first investor in the Bole Lemmi Industrial Park which is the biggest malt factory in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is the largest barley producer in Africa and the fourth-largest beer maker on the continent, where the market is flourishing.

According to Vivet, Soufflet's aim is to fully substitute imported malt, which Ethiopia



used to import to the tunes of 100 million USD.

The factory is confident to source 100 percent of its malt barley locally, the general manager said.

Currently, the malt house has an annual production capacity of 60,000 tons per year and is aiming for 120,000 tons a year in the near future if the market continues at this pace.

In a bid to achieve that goal the company

is providing support to barley farmers in the country to enable them become more professionals in collaboration with pertinent government institutions including Ethiopia Investment Commission, Agricultural Transformation agency and others, he said.

"That partnership has been allowing us to increase the yield, to have more area cultivated with malt barley."

Vivet further stated that the company's ambition is to make farmers professionals

so that they are able to produce a quality product that fulfills the most stringent specifications, even from the international standards point of view.

To produce 100 percent of the barley locally, the group is reinforcing the agricultural, technical and commercial support to farmers, he elaborated.

Now the company is introducing free varieties of barley seed that are becoming popular among farmers, he said, adding the malt house is currently the largest producer of certified seed in Ethiopia for malt barley.

"We did research and development to see what the varieties are more adapted from the industrial point of view, from the farmer's perspective, we register these varieties and engage as well in seed multiplications "

This establishment of Malteries Soufflet in Ethiopia is the group's first in the barley sector in Africa, Malteries Soufflet being present in 14 other countries. The malthouse in Addis Ababa is the Group's 28th malthouse.

With this establishment, the Soufflet Group is committed to a project to replace imports throughout the value chain: the barley used is grown locally and the malt is sold directly to local brewers. This will be expected to substitute imported malt barley.

### Ethiopia 'all-weather...

against terrorism.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen on his part stated that Ethiopia gives special attention to its relations with Somalia.

He added that the peoples of the two countries are interconnected in geography, culture, trade, history, and more. And, there are convenient conditions for moving these people-to-people relations to a more important level.

Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of Ethiopia Ambassador Meles Alem told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that Somalia's Prime Minister's visit to Ethiopia is an opportunity to further enhance the two countries' long-standing relationship.

He also pointed out that an agreement has been reached between the two countries to work together in trade, peace and security, capacity building, and other sectors.

It was learnt that Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre will attend the 10th Tana Forum which is going to be held today in Bahir Dar city of Amhara State.

### Ethio-Kenya...

way the economy operates.

The whole idea of African countries doing business with each other is another significant milestone for the Horn. Safaricom's launching of a new mobile money service that would be rolled out in few months has huge implications, as to her.

She said it does not make sense that most companies are using western companies

like western union and at the same time having concern about them meddling in to the country and supporting opposition groups.

Karanja added that the other components like Power Purchase Agreement and the wheat export must draw the leaders of both countries to the geopolitical considerations of that and what it means to be either very closely aligned or speaking in one voice or the opposite of that, he added.

### Germany optimistic...

Ethiopia in social, economic and political spheres. "Our relationship stands on a firm basis. This is why I am confident that we will also weather the current difficulties and Germany stands ready to fully re-engage our relations again."

Mentioning the century-long strong ties

between the two countries, the Ambassador highlighted that Germany adopted a reform partnership with the Government of Ethiopia in 2019 to support the latter's political and economic reforms.

Regarding the relationship with the African Union (AU), he said "We need the AU

more than ever. It has the mandate to lead negotiations to end the war in Northern Ethiopia and to start a long-overdue peace process."

"We celebrate 32 years of German reunification, a historic event brought about by the courageous people of Eastern Europe

and Eastern Germany striving for freedom and democracy," Ambassador Auer also stated.

Members of the House of Peoples' Representatives, senior government officials as well as the AU representatives and other guests were in attendance in the event.

### WBG stands...

WBG's Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa Victoria Kwakwa made the above remark during her recent meeting with Ethiopian Delegation led by Minister of Finance Ahmed Shide.

It was learnt that the delegation has been taking part in the 2022 International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group Annual meetings.

Finance Minister Ahmed Shide exchanged

views with officials of WBG and International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Ethiopia's development priorities like reconstruction, job creation, macroeconomic progress and challenges of the economic sector.

According to the information obtained from Ethiopia Embassy in the U.S, Applauding the WBG for its commitment and support to respond to the multiple challenges that the country encountered, Ahmed Shide said that intervention like tackling the urgent

economic challenges and ensuring macro-fiscal stability to address the tremendous economic hardships are among the development priorities of the country.

The minister also stressed the need to unlock the full potential of the productive sectors with highest prospective to support inclusive job creation and sustained growth, supporting social cohesion and resilience, including conflict recovery and reconstruction.

He also underscored the importance of balancing the immediate-term emergency assistance with the longer-term development interventions.

The Bank is currently supporting Ethiopia to address demands for basic human services such as education, food security, health, and clean water. It has also granted 300 million USD to the reconstruction and recovery efforts in the conflict-hit communities.



# Opinion

## Principles should govern role of international media

BY GETACHEW MINAS

The international media is expected to apply the basic principles of journalism to win deference, respect, admiration, reverence and veneration by its users. These principles are independence, truthfulness, humanity, fairness, and accountability. Failure of the media establishment to adhere to these principles is a grave disaster for the profession. Studies show that most of these media have been biased, prejudiced, intolerant, bigoted, discriminatory and opinionated. Having reflected all these characteristics, the international media is comfortable with misleading the world with assumption, deduction, early judgment and conclusion. Some foreign media correspondents in Ethiopia share and multiply information without crosschecking its origin. They do not pay the slightest respect for their profession, which demands objectivity, impartiality, detachment, neutrality, and fairness. The studies on international media operators do not, however, dare to check if reporters are underpaid.

The skills of journalism are sensitive to situations surrounding an event that deserves the attention of readers. These readers have different interests as they represent various groups, including politicians, opinion leaders, academicians and different social agents. The thorny issues for journalists, local as well as global, may be identifying the right audience for a given newscast, broadcast, newflash, bulletin and update.

The right newscast to the wrong audience may raise questions of relevance of the media for that particular target group. The audience should be informed in advance about which media is engaged in what subject. Treating everyone with incoherent topics leads to misunderstanding on both sides of the media, the source and the target. This creates confusion in a country such as Ethiopia where events are moving too fast requiring latest media technology and skills.

Though fortified with the latest technology, the international media is exposed to misinformation. The question is who the human factor is behind the tech at the source of information such as Ethiopia. She/he may be biased against the country assigned to. Of course, being biased is human, but it should be minimized or cleaned with training and experience. However, if the international media agent is not biased the country of assignment is fortunate to have a fair reporter. But, such fairness may be tinted, stained and shaded with payoffs. This may be accompanied by sweeteners, enticements, inducements, and kickbacks for wrong services. Ethiopia, being a target of international media, has suffered from unfair treatment. This media is identified as full-fledged supporter of the TPLF junta. It shamelessly “glorified” the confirmed terrorism of the junta that murdered thousands of peasants who have no idea about the political situation in the country.

The foreign media journalists in Ethiopia do not have an inkling of the nature of their sources of information. They do not

question if these sources are attached to political parties, civil societies or the junta engaged in war with the government. These journalists carry the seeds of prejudices or biases before and after they landed on the Ethiopian airports or other entry points. Their passports clearly indicate their origin of assignment with clear objectives, but camouflaged with intelligence and espionage tasks, duties and obligations.

The pretense of a spy acting as a journalist lasts until the mask cracks suddenly. She/he may show the wrong ID card at the wrong place, just to find one crying and smiling simultaneously. A professional journalist may find such a duty ridiculous, absurd and silly or preposterous and retire for good with honor and respect. But, a journalist who uses the profession for making money has to face internally inconsistent acts occurring simultaneously that renders him/her shameful, disgraceful and dishonorable.

It is possible to identify who guides, governs and influences these global media agents in Ethiopia. One indicator may be the objective, program and project of the media operating in the country. These agents have to be strictly spotted, identified and detected by specialized forces of the government. These forces may communicate with colleagues operating in the country where the global media agents originate. They may be assisted by diplomatic corps and private means. Once the origin of media agents that are assigned to Ethiopia is identified, strict diplomatic contact is of the essence. These agents come to the country under different guise just to avoid closer detection. An easy cover is professional journalism. Local media agencies should be in a position to examine if the global media agent is not using the profession as a cover for espionage. If the professional spy is also a professional journalist she/he is a real danger and should be expelled from Ethiopia immediately with a short notice of only one day.

The response of countries to the expulsion of the double dealing journalists from Ethiopia is a good indicator of the true origin of media attacks on the county. These attacks have to be analyzed in terms of their origin and content, which may reveal the true nature of the offense against the country. One may guess the nature of the transgression, violation and infraction on the inviolable sovereignty of Ethiopia. But, conjecturing is not the basis for political action as it may lead to wrong actions by the aggrieved party or government. The sovereign state may be attacked by agents of the Western powers who have their own strategic goal of dominating the natural resources of Ethiopia using local proxies such as the TPLF. These proxies may not be aware of the “ulterior” motive of the Western white man whose country is running out of natural resources due to excessive exploitation.

These resources are exploited by Foreign Direct Investors that come to Ethiopia from the West. They exploit them cheaply in collaboration with the local TPLF junta or agent. These resources helped in raising the standard of living of the Western countries. Once they achieved high standard of living, they find it hard to climb down. They will

design a strategy to maintain the same level of happiness at the expense of the poor countries such as Ethiopia. The people of Ethiopia have resisted the Western exploiters, colonialists and neocolonialists in open armed struggle or warfare. They confronted and beat the Italian occupiers at the battle of Adwa and forty years later at Maichew. Ethiopia also faced and succeeded in preventing foreign aggression or proxy war with Somalia. The Western powers also designed a new strategy of internal warfare along ethnic, tribal, and clannish lines to immerse the country into a continuous bloodshed among people of the same origin and destiny.

This strategy requires deeper understanding on the part of Ethiopians to prevent, avert and thwart it for good. But, this response demands greater understanding by Ethiopians of the exploitative nature of colonialism and neocolonialism through reading their own true history. The history is replete with the devices used by the white man that uses local agents for implementing its exploitative intent. It seems that the enemy of Ethiopia is its long independence from foreign domination. But, this is a weak enemy in light of its future path of development and strength. Its weakness is poverty which is deliberately imposed by the white man. This man wants to provide alms for the poor people, whose resources it wishes to exploit extensively. Ethiopia’s resistance to foreign influences is believed to inspire and stimulate other developing countries to decide on their destiny in the region. This has to be accompanied by the strict control of the international media.

The role of the media needs to be defined by the policy of the government that defends the sovereignty of Ethiopia. Both the domestic and external media should succumb to this policy. Being domestic does not make a media trustworthy and reliable than the external one unless it is constantly checked by an agency responsible for media services. Some local journalists may operate with hidden motives under the supervision of external media operators. There are, of course, trustworthy local journalists who devote their time and energy to the excellence of the media they represent. In fact, their performance may not be fully appreciated by higher authorities who devote little time to their staff. It is, therefore, strongly believed that a successful media is fully supervised by the relevant overseers and directors. The success of a media may not be ascribed, credited or attributed to a single entity or person only.

The success and achievement of one is commonly shared by all media personnel who contributed to its attainment. Their contribution is normally in line with what is required of them in their job description. They have to know the role of international media in Ethiopia. This means they have to participate in well-organized seminars and workshops conducted by elite media specialists of Ethiopian origin. In these seminars papers prepared by the national elite are presented for discussion. Participants are required to contribute to group discussions with reference to their practical experience in the field of

journalism. Some of these participants may have rich experience, but failed to share with others due to load of work. The media personnel in Ethiopia are overloaded with the identification, collection, screening and preparation of reliable news for the media.

Latest and relevant skills are required for media operations. The skill to gather reliable and timely materials for newscast, newflash and broadcast generates fame for the media agency. In the early days, the Ethiopian media had been overcrowded with graduates in linguistics. These graduates had to be trained in media skills while they were active on their jobs. Through time, the media personnel excelled in their profession. In fact, some of them owned their own media, after quitting the Ministry of Information, which is now defunct. Moreover, the media tech is still progressing at global and country levels, which demands early exposure to it. In the recent past, the TPLF junta filled the media structure with its ill-trained, unskilled and lopsided personnel.

The only criterion for placement of personnel in the Ethiopian media network had been ethnic allegiance to the ruling junta. Media skill was secondary to political loyalty, commitment, faithfulness, fidelity and devotion. To succeed under the junta rule, a journalist had to have the double insignia of high skill and ethnic loyalty. This situation made the journalist to double-think when favoring superb skill over ethnic loyalty. The latter has nothing to do with personal effort as it is a parental inheritance. It is, however, a liability as it exposes one to dangers faced by the Jews due to Hitlerism in Germany.

The ruling junta, the TPLF, has identified the Amhara as the Jews of Ethiopia, just to garner fragile support from those suffering from hunger for power. The junta breeds junta until the cycle of human tragedy is broken in Ethiopia. In this endeavor, the role of the international media to encourage ethnic bloodshed has to be ended courageously.

The global media are being listened to and read by the Ethiopians abroad who seek information on what is going on in their country. But, these media may be exposed to the propaganda of the TPLF, operating within and outside of the country. They deliberately fail to present the claims of the government to restore the rule of law. This may bring to justice the extremist leaders of the TPLF who are implicated in crimes against humanity. These events prove the bias the global media are exposed to due to either misinformation or partisanship. The latter may be obtained through friendship or financial interests. There is no other reason for media personnel to avert the truth and distort what is currently happening in Ethiopia, except personal involvement that introduces bias. The international media have been trying to scare the Federal government of Ethiopia from bringing to justice those TPLF criminals that tortured and killed innocent people.

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



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## Editorial

### Expanding Green Initiative to the continent

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen has recently said that realizing the necessity of extending the Green Legacy success and expanding the experience, Ethiopia has planned to send youths to various African countries. "The government has carried out various activities to give the Green Legacy initiation a continental phase," he said, reminding the youth that they ought to shoulder the responsibility to share Ethiopia's greenery success for fellow Africans.

Indeed, this is a judicious initiation as the issue of greenery is very relevant at continental and global levels. More importantly, the results go beyond mere environmental concern as the Deputy Premier said, "This diplomatic activity is part of Ethiopia's foreign policy of building fraternity with African countries."

Actually, the Ethiopian government believes that environmental protection is the epicenter of economic development as it has a multifaceted advantage. Green growth is the selection of economic activities that promote environmental and social development besides curbing the consequences of climate change, which is a threat to the world as a whole.

Realizing the benefits, Ethiopia has been investing in the green legacy campaign and planted more than 25 billion tree seedlings over the past four years surpassing the target 20 billion. As a result, environmental protection and tree plantation, these days, are now becoming Ethiopians culture which gives them moral strength to share the experiences with other African communities. The decision to share the legacy is proper as the effort made by it alone will not bring a significant impact on climate change and deforestation. That is why Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed called upon partners to sustain Green Legacy in a video speech he made last June for Stockholm+50, a conference to celebrate 50 years of global

environmental action. He stressed the necessity of working together to have a healthy environment.

In connection to this, African Union Commissioner Musa Faki Mahamat once said the Green Legacy Campaign Ethiopia has been undertaking would be an exemplary initiative that can be followed by other African countries. He added, "Forest development activities like the Ethiopian Green Legacy Campaign are needed to alleviate the problem of the African continent as Africa has been experiencing recurrent droughts due to climate change. Planting trees is giving life. As you know, Africa is impacted by climate change, drought, desertification, and deforestation. And this kind of initiative (Green Legacy) is very important; and I want to thank Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the government and the people of Ethiopia."

Essentially, Ethiopia's commitment to expand the Green Legacy to other African countries is indisputably very proper as it benefits the continent and beyond. Here, it is very crucial for other African countries to follow Ethiopia's example in mitigating the climate change-induced impacts. They ought to demonstrate similar commitment at the highest level to rehabilitate degraded lands and restore forests through the Green Legacy Campaign and massive tree planting campaigns.

In general, as Ethiopia is a pride and a symbol to all African countries to be independent of their colonizers, it has also planned to continue leading in the fight against the consequences of climate change. Hence, all Africans have to be alert and protect the environment and encourage a green economy taking the Green Legacy of Ethiopia as a model. They ought to be well aware that Ethiopia remains to be at the front in combating climate change and desertification with its mitigation and adaptation measures. This surely makes the future of Africa beyond imagination.

## Opinion

### Some notes on the negotiation between the FDRE and T-TPLF

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The AU led negotiation between the Government of Ethiopia and terrorist TPLF is the first of its type to be conducted in the Horn of Africa. Moreover, the current negotiation is the second negotiation ever to be conducted between terrorist TPLF and the previous government of the Derge. The London Conference of May 1991 in which the US sponsored a tactical and shrewd negotiation between the Ethiopian Government and the terrorist TPLF trickled down to a cunning king making process for the terrorist group which came to power under the cloak of what it called the EPRDF. The negotiation ended before it actually began and the Ethiopian high level negotiating diplomats were instantly turned into helpless refugees.

Terrorist TPLF ruled Ethiopia for 27 years by conducting unfathomable violation of human rights and crimes against humanity and massive looting and corruption on public property until it was toppled by popular public uprising and the political actions of a split group in the EPRDF four years back in 2018. The group conducted three series of deadly and savage wars to reinstate itself to the political power in Ethiopia or to destroy the statehood of the country through a well-organized global conspiracy in which the UN systems, EU and a number of other prominent governments were involved.

The government of Ethiopia did all it can to resolve the crisis with terrorist TPLF and to ensure the stability of the country through peaceful dialogue and negotiations with

the terrorist group. Politicians, government officials and religious leaders of the country pleaded for peace negotiations between the government and the group which repeatedly rejected any offer for peace. In fact, during the second round of war of aggression the group waged on the people of Ethiopia, General Tsadikan Gebretinsae noted " what for do we negotiate? The war has ended ".

For the government of Ethiopia, peace is the epicenter of its domestic and foreign policy and diplomacy. The government time and again stressed that peace is making is the top priority for the nation and its people.

However, both the western powers and their commercial media companies have repeatedly exploited Ethiopia's firm stand for peace. The western powers were silent when terrorist TPLF was invading Amhara and Afar regions massacring hundreds and thousands of citizens and engaging in rape spree across the regions, destroying farmlands and infrastructure facilities and lootings public and private properties of the highest proportions hoping that terrorist TPLF will be instituted to political power.

They conducted propaganda war on Ethiopia with their fake news and doctored video clippings that the terrorist group is at the gates of Addis Ababa. Whenever TPLF is defeated, the EU and other western powers are out on bandwagon outcry for negotiations for peace in a bid to buy time for TPLF for preparing for another round of war on Ethiopia. Today, already the terrorist group has become a wounded horse that they cannot ride and the

vast areas of Amhara and Afar regions have been liberated from the yoke of the ethno-fascist group.

Here it is very important to take note of the basic issues of jurisprudence regarding the legal and political status of the FDRE and the terrorist group. Ethiopia is a sovereign country with internationally recognized internal and external sovereignty. In Ethiopia, the sovereign power of the people of Ethiopia and the sovereignty of the country is totally non-negotiable. This implies that the constitution and other laws of the country are applicable in the entire territory of the country including Tigray. The government and the ENDF are legally obliged to ensure peace and stability in the country through the non-negotiable rule of law. The ENDF is the only federal defense force which can lead coordinate, support regional peace keeping forces entrusted to ensure peace in their respective regions. In this sense, no defense force can legally operate in the country apart from the ENDF.

In terms of external sovereignty, the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the only legal entity that can conduct, coordinate the foreign relations, foreign policy objectives and diplomatic functions of the federal government. All correspondences, negotiations and relations with foreign countries that terrorist TPLF has been conducting through its so called Tigray Bureau of Foreign Relations is not only illegal but also criminal offense of the highest proportions.

The sovereignty of the Government of Ethiopia is invariably linked to its legal competence

to effectively ensure the rule of law in all regional states of the country including Tigray. In reality, although both the government of Ethiopia and terrorist TPLF are referring to the "war in the northern part of the country" and "war in Tigray" on the part of the terrorist group, the author of this article prefers to refer to the combat in the northern part of the country and in Tigray to ensure the prevalence of the rule of law. It must be clear that the war in this country is not " a civil war " This is not a war between the people of Tigray and the people in the two regions invaded by TPLF horde of human wave.

To begin with, the regional government in Tigray which has baptized itself as "the Government of Tigray" is an illegal regional government that is not recognized by the National Election Board of Ethiopia. It is alarming to hear the EU representative at UNGA referring to the regional government in Tigray as "the Government of Tigray" in gross violation of international law.

In the same manner the so called "Tigray Defense Forces" to which the western media outlets and their governments refer to is another illegal institution that has been waging wars on the people of Ethiopia for the last two

See Some notes ... Page 19

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

# Business & Economy

## Exerting concerted effort to better exploit the livestock resource

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Though blessed with the largest cattle population in Africa, Ethiopia is not advantageous in terms of gaining corresponding benefit from the resource due to limited capacity in terms of technology, finance, farming techniques and sufficient well trained human resource along with substandard provision of medical service. Thus, the sector's contribution to the economy is insignificant.

Not only these, the livestock in the low land areas of the country is highly vulnerable to natural calamities. To illustrate, when extreme weather conditions occur, the animals meet their death in the wilderness which in turn incurs heavy cost on the livelihood of the pastoral community.

Cognizant of these, to upgrade the status of and to modernize the sector, the Ethiopian Cooperative Associations Commission and the Ethiopian Development Bank agreed to work together and signed memorandum of understanding last week.

On the occasion, the Ethiopian Cooperative Associations Commission Commissioner, Fraelm Shibabaw said that, the objectives of reaching the agreement to work with the Ethiopian Development Bank is that to organize animal scientists specialized in the sector to raise productivity of milk and meat and forage and to lead the sector professionally.

To this end, a pilot project will be crafted and members of the cooperative associations engaged in livestock production that enhances their income by supplying their products to the urban residents, to government institutions such as hospitals, students feeding centers and in such a way, they will play their part in the economic growth.

The two institutions' agreement also plays pivotal role to raise productivity of the sector in poultry, goats, sheep, eggs and milk. The project also aims to create job opportunities to the unemployed youth in urban and semi urban centers.

As to Fraelm, the Ethiopian Cooperative Association organizes Agencies in collaboration with the Regional Cooperative Associations in order to strengthen and improve their working system. In addition, it provides technical support to raise productivity of the associations and helps them to be competent in the local and international markets. Similarly, it arranges legal frame works for their own self-governance.

President of the Ethiopian Development Bank, Yohannes Ayalew on his part said that, his bank will provide financial services by facilitating short, medium and



*Ethiopian Livestock sector needs special consideration*

long term loan programs. It also provides lease finance and trainings in relation to the project activities.

He further said that, the project idea is implementable. The nation has abundant natural resource but due to various reasons, it is not properly exploited it yet. As a result, the population is forced to survive in the hand to mouth living condition. Therefore, supplying the improved livestock products is essential not only to the local farmers but also to the neighboring countries via enhancing all stakeholders' concerted efforts. In these regard, the bank has been supporting the livestock sector for long but the outcome is negligible. The poultry sector in particular, is failed.

As to Yohannes, to enhance the sector's productivity, there should be benchmark so that, the achievement could easily be evaluated and preparing for further achievement will be possible. In line with enhancing productivity of the sector, there should be viable market which can absorb the products because production needs market. With the absence of sufficient and standardized market, meeting objective the project will be unrealistic.

The sector has a potential to substitute import which in turn enables the nation to save the hard currency allocated for the importation of the livestock products. In this regard, the Ethiopian Development Bank in collaboration with the Ethiopian Cooperative Associations Commission will provide training to members of the association and orientation also will be provided before the projects are operational.

Revisiting the objectives, effectiveness and profitability of the projects also is vital. The bank provides necessary support to the efficient and profitable cooperatives and encourages professionalism.

As to Yohannes, the failure of poultry farm

attributes to none availability of sufficient forage. Hence, engaging in producing forage rigorously is essential. Supplying improved variety of chicken specious to poultry farmers will be part of the project because the local chickens have poor quality in their reproductive rate.

Commissioner's Advisor of the Ethiopian Cooperative Association Commission, Shimekit Maru on his part said that according to studies, despite the livestock sector contributes 15 to 17 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the nation did not effectively exploited the sector. In Ethiopia, annual per capita consumption of egg product is 7 which is the lowest in Africa. Contrary to this, the Kenyan egg per capita consumption is 44. Chicken meat per capita consumption in Ethiopia is 0.8 kilogram while per capita average consumption in Africa is less than 6.73 kilogram. The milk per capita consumption is 70 liters while the World Health Organization recommends that it has to be 200 liters.

This all indicates that in Ethiopia, there is huge shortage of supply of milk, chicken meet and egg to the market. Therefore, to bridge the gap, the Ministry of Agriculture crafted 10 years perspective strategic plan which is being implemented.

As to Shimekit, in the initial phase of the project, 90 animals' scientists' cooperative associations will be organized at the national level. The cooperatives comprised 10 regions and two city administrations. Since all the neighboring countries are suffering from food deficit, the livestock sector will have a potential to tap these countries' markets but if it is well developed.

In Ethiopia, cooperative unions rely on small holder farmers for the success of their business transaction and the project creates more market to their products and in the

meantime, it benefits various stakeholders working in the value chain. In addition, it creates job opportunities to thousands in the vicinity of urban center.

The project will be operational in the surrounding areas of urban centers by targeting the urban consumers and in the areas where reliable demand infrastructure is available.

The logistics works will be carried out by both the public and private sector. The Ethiopian Development Bank provides loan in a very low interest rate through various programs and as compared to the commercial bank of Ethiopia, it is feasible. But if the borrowing cooperatives fail to refund the money, the project will be cancelled. Hence, they should think of finding inputs used for production and market to obtain more profit.

In the first round of the implementation of the project for poultry, each cooperative has 15 thousand chickens, one thousand goats and sheep each and 500 cattle. In Addis Ababa and its outskirt six cooperatives will be established. Likewise, in Oromia 22, in Amhara 19, in Southern Nations Nationalities and peoples<sup>14</sup>, in Somali, Gambela and Benishangul Gumuz each 3 cooperatives, in Harari region and Dire Dawa city administration each 4 cooperatives will be established.

As it is mentioned above, Ethiopia has the largest number of cattle in Africa but paradoxically it suffers from deficit of animals and crop products. To meet the gap, it allocates its meager hard currency annually for purchasing of food products. Therefore, the nation can benefit from this sector not only from meat and milk but also from hide and skin.

Since recently, the government has been aggressively working to transform the economic land scape from agricultural led to that of industry led one. In this regard the manufacturing sector particularly, the agro industry is expected to play pivotal role. The livestock sector can serve as a supplier of raw materials to the agro industry particularly, to the leather and shoe factories.

The industries play remarkable role in creating jobs to hundreds of thousands, create linkage between farming and industry sectors, attract local and foreign investors, meet local leather products demand, boost export and shore up currency shortages and broaden space for the private sector in the economy. Therefore, the collaboration between the Ethiopian Cooperative Associations commission and the Ethiopian Development Bank to scale up the livestock production is timely and helps to transform the sector from the traditional system to that of the modern one.



# Art & Culture

## Is it not a kiss of death giving a terrorist a kiss of life?

BY A STAFF REPORTER

After a mild engagement with Terrorist TPLF subsided following the defeat of the terrorist group that usually uses human waves, making a podium in a shade of a tree with wide spread branches that resembles a roof, a conversant Major from the political wing of ENDF was addressing soldiers and captives of Terrorist TPLF.

The point of this public speaker was clear streamlining the feeling of Ethiopians from both sides exposing the mendacious, barbaric, selfish, bellicose and destructive nature of the terrorist group. He likes dramatizing his speech with body languages. As artistic and flowery was the talk emanating from a pure heart all were listening to him with pin drop silence.

“How are you children of Ethiopia?”

“We are all fine praise to the Almighty!” all said in one voice

“I wish you all a happy new year!”

“The same to you,” they once more replied.

“We hope unlike its predecessors, by the grace of God, the just ensued year will witness a peaceful year,” said some.

“Sure thing!” he said looking up the sky and drew out a handwritten paper from his over cloth and began addressing the audience clearing his throat.

“Though numerous doomsayers cried down a curse on Ethiopia, although a multitude of heinous deeds were carried out against this ancient country and even if several enemies gathering from every corner militated against this emblem of freedom, they could not pull down our motherland from its time-old sovereignty pedestal.”

Pausing he scanned the faces of his attendees who reciprocated with bright eyes and ever-alert hears to listen additional things.

“Over one year has elapsed since Ethiopia began surging forward conducting a peaceful election and establishing a new government, the attempts to blemish and belittle the incumbent as well as open multipronged and multifarious war campaigns notwithstanding.”

They nodded in the affirmative.

“This is made possible thanks to the inexorable—and—devastating collective arm of Ethiopians. It is an arm ever-alert to squash enemies, who indulge in provocative follies transgressing the red line. Embracing votaries of peace and burying the heinous in the very pit they dig for others as a ruse are the characteristic features of Ethiopians. Unity is a fervent passion of Ethiopians as ever before. The sentiment will keep going in the same zeal.”

Clapping hands attended the speech

“Though the just departed year is but a sum of 365 days, when viewed through the

prism of the countless throes the country passed through the time period proves a gruesome one. The country and its citizens circumvented many obstacles to emerge victorious. It was a quirky year when we evaded many pitfalls prepared for our downfall.”

He projected an anxiety stamped face. Some were sobbing with a diffused feeling of grief for the fallen and elation for the victory achieved.

“Yet acid tested the country proved itself worth its weight in gold.”

A thundering applause and whistling filled the air.

“The reason for this resides in the fact that apart from our warranted truthfulness that is coupled with our peacefulness, citizens are willing to pay all necessary sacrifices to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. From a rear guard support up to marching to the front Ethiopians, were active in playing their due role,” he pointed his finger to oxen tied a bit afar and tattered-clothes attired farmers carrying big breads on their backs with the aid of sticks.

All moved their eyes to the area he pointed his finger to.

“It is not to be forgotten, launching a media campaign that there will not be a legal government as of September (Meskerem 25), historic enemies, hypocrite allies and their Trojan horses here, conniving, did labor to put in place a puppet government. Also not forgettable is their attempts to conspicuously tear down Ethiopia handpicking individuals camouflaging the ploy with the cloak of federalist forces. This propaganda campaign attended by an open war rather glued Ethiopians one.”

When he paused for a while some are heard saying

“Journalism has got one leg in the grave following the congenital liars from the conceptual west like CNN, Washington post”

“Also so called journalists and activists like Martin Plaut that tries to out Herod Herod proving worse than terrorist TPLF leaders that pays them handsomely from the chunk of amassed fortune.”

Nodding yes the Major continued “Though Ethiopians and its people opted to bring forth a democratic state casting a ballot, historic enemies, collaborators and fifth columnists or internal terrorists could not stomach it. Yet the aforementioned maneuverers could not give up their nightmare of eroding our sovereignty, eating at our unity and creating a weak country in the region. They still make a frantic bid to realize their nefarious dream.”

“Though citizens espoused a democratically elected government connivers could not come to terms with citizen’s choice leave alone supporting it. They were supporting terrorist TPLF that waged war against the government from the very morning citizens

put in place a democratically elected government. They do not want to remind themselves the terrorist group has stalled the lives of many, forced numerous for displacement and hunger and demolished infrastructures. Aghast it has inflicted a staggering number of human and material casualties. Despite the grotesqueness of the sad episode, they have persisted with lending it a kiss of life losing their guard that such an act is seen a kiss of death.”

“The conceptual western world, the devil and the terrorist TPLF are cut from the same cloth,” an angry soldier shouted out to the delight of attendees that accompanied his statement with an assenting laughter.

Clearing his throat once more the major continued “But all the obstacles erected all along the way were averted, for Ethiopia has a government and people who could handle challenges sagaciously and courageously. All attempts to put a spoke in Ethiopia’s all-rounded wheel did prove futile. Be it today or tomorrow, our guarantee is the sentiment of national feeling and unity. We have to deploy a concerted effort to add to these jewels on the crown of the country coming up with new gems in the economic sphere. We know we have a robust army in full gear to defend the sovereignty of the country. Though our enemies know this full well, they want to make full advantage of our Achilles’ heel—gap in the economic front. Hence, we have to be firm in all spheres of endeavor.”

Saluting out while he began to leave the podium a private soldier handed him a letter saying “It is found from the pocket of an elderly girl forcefully recruited by terrorist TPLF to join the human wave and victimized in crossfire. It shows the cruelty of the terrorist group”

“Read it yourself!” said the major pointing to the podium yet standing by him.

The private started with the latter was dated [10/10/2022 7:39 AM]

The tragedy of war in brief. And one can imagine those fallen from all sides, who couldn’t record their messages.

“To my whole family

From Rahwa (Mitu)

My dear and beloved parents, siblings and all family members! First of all, I would like to say how are you all? How about your health? I hope this letter finds you safe.

Though I’m doing fine I can’t stand the homesickness and pining for you. I have missed you than never before. Estranged, I long for you just like one suffering a water thirst. I feel like you are as remote as the sky. But what can I do? I have left all things to the creator, God. I never give up praying. I believe that as long as everything is God’s will, it is better to live entertaining hope, right?

Especially I always think and worry about my compassionate and innocent mother Abrehetye to whom I would lay my life on

the altar of sacrifice. Thinking about you I never go to sleep. Mom, I know I didn’t extend to you a helping hand, especially when you badly needed my help. You see I couldn’t get the heart to see you cry in front of me. I had just to leave home without telling you. I know I also left you without a caregiver. I am sorry, mom. As one person should march per family according to TPLF’s leaders, I decided that I had to march in lieu of my brother. Obviously, he could be of much help to you than me. I’m sure you do not find it in your heart to hate me. And please don’t harbor anxiety about me. I am in good shape and safe. Now, the issue that bothers me day and night beyond the limit is the issue of my gorgeous and elite brother Priest (Haleka) Berhe.

A few days ago, I had a nightmare—a bad dream. I think it had to do with my brother Berhe. When I, out of a sudden, woke up and started crying, my friends asked, “What happened to you?” I related to them about the nightmare that bothered me. They comforted me, saying that the dream rather foreshadows a good unfolding. I also pray to Our Lady, Saint Mary to make everything for good.

Halek Berhe, how is your health? Are you attending mass and serving church with your family? I look forward to seeing you playing with your friends.

Please don’t feel sad because I deserted you! I beg you to forgive me, my dear. I promise, when the time comes, I will recompense you. I will see you soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please say hello to Baba (G/Wahd Birhane), my brother G/Hiwot, my sister Tirhas, Mahder, Danait, Daniel (Tsegaye), my brother Alula, my brother Binyam, I wish peace to all of you until we meet again.

Don’t worry about me, because it is the good will of our Lady Saint Mary (Mother of God) to see you again. Also, say hello to all the neighbors, to my mother (Abshay), Aregawi, Cherkos, Markos.

How about Yaye? (Brhane Gedey) Is he safe? Does he look old? How is Migbey? Say hello to Daniel G/her. Is Yeshe getting better? Also, say hello to the whole family. Bye, bye!!

Greetings from my heart to my family. And the place where I am now is known as Raya.

Address: Dejena Regiment, Army-44, Core-441(1), Battalion-3, Force – 4,

Tigray shall prevail!!!”

\*\*\*\*\*

(At the top of the letter head, the notes say)

“One thing I forgot is the cooking pan (stove). It’s in the house I rented. I forgot it. Let Sara and others use it until then, so that it doesn’t take up space. Or keep it for me at Markos House. If they ask to buy it, the price is 2,000.00 Birr.”

Almost all couldn’t hold back their tears.//

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# Science & Technology

## First digital fair to put financial actors, int'l institutions together in Addis

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIHER

Digital Finance Service Group-Ethiopia will hold the first Digital Finance Fair in Addis Ababa next week, as it has been announced by the group on Wednesday October 2022.

The vice president of the group, Nael Hailemariam, said in a press brief that about the event that the conference will be held next week in Addis Ababa, and he also stated that it is an opportunity to promote new digital products and services, create working relationships and experience sharing.

The vice president stated that the event is aimed at bringing together all industry actors, banks, microfinance institution, other agents in the networks, payment service providers and other international development organizations engaged in digital financial services will displays their services and products at the fair.

Endeshaw Tesfaye, head of digital finance at the United Nations Capital Development Fund, for his part said that the forum can help Ethiopia's digital economy and highlight digital transformation.

The head pointed out that financial service organizations have a significant role to play in developing the sector through cooperation.

According to Nael, in the two-day fair, the will also be events including panel discussions from various presenters that can be share their knowledge and experiences in the sector. "More than 40 institutions engaged in digital finance will be participating in the event."

The event was organized in collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund and it is expected that senior government officials will be attending on the day.

The experience of the European Commission in digital financing stated in its regulatory legislature that embracing digital finance would unleash innovation and create opportunities to develop better financial products for consumers, including for people currently unable to access financial services. It unlocks new ways of channelling funding to the businesses, in particular SMEs.

Boosting digital finance would therefore support economic recovery strategy and the broader economic transformation. It would open up new channels to mobilise funding in support of the Green Deal and the New Industrial Strategy for Europe.

"As digital finance accelerates cross



Endeshaw Tesfaye,

Nael Hailemariam

borders operations, it also has the potential to enhance financial market integration in the banking union and the capital markets union, and thereby to strengthen Europe's economic and monetary union."

A strong and vibrant European digital finance sector would strengthen Europe's ability to reinforce our open strategic autonomy in financial services and, by extension, our capacity to regulate and supervise the financial system to protect Europe's financial stability and our values.

Digital finance is the delivery of traditional financial services digitally, through devices such as computers, tablets and smartphones. Digital finance has the potential to make financial services accessible to underserved populations in areas that lacked physical infrastructure for these services, defined by many.

Globally, sixty-nine percent of business leaders say digitalization initiatives are accelerating, and most expect digital technologies to dramatically transform their industry by 2026, research done by Gartner.com finds.

These pressures meet at the Chief Finance Officers (CFO), who now faces a critical dual mandate: Lead the finance function through a digital transformation and enable the organization to accelerate digitalization.

The Gartner global team of over 2,200 experts has unparalleled access to the latest digital and technology trends shaping

finance leaders and their organizations. This exclusive new Digital Future of Finance research is fueled by our understanding of how digitalization trends are impacting the future of finance — and the progressive solutions that leading CFOs are using to deliver digital transformation that enables sustainable growth. Through the months ahead, we will continue to deliver cutting-edge digitalization insights that will help to lead your finance function into the new digital era.

### Benefits of digital financing

According to the WB in its projection at the World Development Report 2016, more than 2 billion people have no access to any financial services. Overall, only about 59 percent of men and 50 percent of women in developing countries have an account at a regulated financial institution. Women, the poor, and small businesses often rely on informal financial services, even when they receive public transfers or remittances. Digital payment systems help overcome barriers to accessing financial services.

Mobile money schemes, in particular, allow people who own a phone but do not have a bank account to make and receive payments. In the right environment, these systems can take off and reach massive size rapidly (figure S2.1). Digital payments can reduce costs to recipients.<sup>4</sup> For instance, farmers in Niger realized time savings for spending in a local economy or as a means of exchange in computer games. Digital currencies are both a new decentralized payment scheme and a new currency. Such schemes record transactions in a publicly visible ledger.

Most digital currencies, including Bitcoin, are cryptocurrencies because they use cryptographic techniques to ensure secure validation of transactions. To get a sense of the magnitude of digital payment flows, consider this: In 2014, the volume of Bitcoin transactions worldwide was about US\$23 billion; for mobile payments on M-Pesa in Kenya, it was about US\$24 billion; for the online payment platform PayPal, it was US\$228 billion; and for the credit card issuer Visa, it was US\$4.7 trillion.

The financial sector is transaction-intensive and has always been at the forefront of adopting new technology. Automation has led to a significant reduction in financial transaction costs. This has spawned innovations, such as automated credit scoring using advanced analytics and massive amounts of data. Automating processes allows new, so-called fin-tech firms to offer services often at lower costs than traditional providers, including money transfer across borders, the report adds.



# Society

## Cheating kills a nation

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

These days, cheating during examination has become an increasing trend and the most disturbing matter in the education sector worldwide. As researches on cheating during exam confirm, some types of academic cheating has increased considerably in the past decades.

Particularly, following the advancement of technology, ways of cheating during examination are increasing alarmingly; and is becoming the most demanding task globally.

The case is not different in Ethiopia. Copying from seatmates and cheating during exams are quite common practices among students with the purpose of scoring better results by any means. Worst of all, aside from the cheating experiences of most students, exams were stolen and distributed secretly by some politically motivated, self-interested entities in a manner it seems to benefit some groups; thereby disrupt the educational system.

Unquestionably, such acts have undesirable social, economic and political consequences on hardworking students, the economy of the country.

However, the Ministry of Education, with the aim to curb such trends and generate qualified students, has devised a new mechanism- to offer Grade 12 National Leaving Examination in public universities.



As many agreed, the measure has a crucial role in creating self-reliant citizens who detest academic cheating and unhealthy dependency on friends and seatmates during exams. The measure is not only benefiting individual students but also the whole nation.

While students were taking the examination, a local media had an interview with examinees to hear their opinion concerning the measure.

Tiruneh Zewdu, is a young student from Arsi Zone who is assigned to take the examination in Haramaya University. According to him, all measures that are taken by the government to avoid cheating during exams are timely action. The government has shown its commitment to quality education in several ways. The recent measure that lets grade 12th students take exams in government universities is one of them.

Mentioning the arrangements, hospitality and

the treatment he received from University community is warm; he said: "All the exam arrangements were free from stress. For that reason, he and the rest of his friends have finalized their examination peacefully. This trend has to be kept in the future as well.

Kokob Bekele is the other examinee coming from Welenchiti Town, East Showa Zone of Oromia State. She said, the decision made by the government is timely and appropriate. Examinations must be free from cheating and individuals who try to risk the education system must be discouraged in such a system. She also opined that the national exam provides a good opportunity for students to measure themselves; and to know their true level of knowledge.

Ismail Ibrahim is the other examinee from Arisi Town. He said that all the examination arrangements were fair; and encouraged students to prepare themselves for a better future. This kind of examination encourages the one who studies hard and filters out the one who carelessly wasted his/her time.

Geta Messay came from the town of Wolenchiti. According to him, the measure to conduct national examinations in higher education institutes has a significant role not only for students but also for the whole nation. "Whenever examinations are free from cheating and other activities that damage the educational system of the country, there is always a better future for those students

studying dedicatedly and committedly. This in turn benefits the whole system of the nation." Conducting national examination under such arrangement has a significant role in creating academically qualified, responsible and change agent generation."

Like that of students who took the national examination in Haramaya University, those who attended the 12th grade leaving exam at Mizan Tepi University have confirmed that the measure taken by the government to abort the practice of academic cheating is decisive to create self-reliant students in the future.

Demse Komtikes is among the students who believe in hard working instead of cheating. He said, "We have taken the exam with full confidence and out of anxiety. We were able to get rid of our fear and anxiety and take the exam in a calm spirit. For that reason, our biggest threat- cheating on exams and - was avoided and we are able to take all the exams with confidence."

Demse also said, the measure taken by the government is a caution to those carless students who always aspire to cheat instead of reading. Equally, it motivates those independent students who study hard.

As it was witnessed last Wednesday, the first round examinees (Social Science students) have returned to their respective places finalizing the examination peacefully.

Published on every other Friday in cooperation with  
The Ministry of Health

## Ethiopia's breast cancer awareness campaign

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Breast cancer arises in the lining cells (epithelium) of the ducts (85%) or lobules (15%) in the glandular tissue of the breast. Initially, the cancerous growth is confined to the duct or lobule ("in situ") where it generally causes no symptoms and has minimal potential for spread (metastasis), for World Health Organization (WHO).

Over time, these in situ (stage 0) cancers may progress and invade the surrounding breast tissue (invasive breast cancer) then spread to the nearby lymph nodes (regional metastasis) or to other organs in the body (distant metastasis). If a woman dies from breast cancer, it is because of widespread metastasis, WHO continues.

Breast cancer treatment can be highly effective, especially when the disease is identified early. Treatment of breast cancer often consists of a combination of surgical removal, radiation therapy and medication (hormonal therapy, chemotherapy and/or targeted biological therapy) to treat the microscopic cancer that has spread from the breast tumor through the blood. Such treatment, which can prevent cancer growth and spread, thereby saves lives.

WHO report shows that in 2020, there were 2.3 million women diagnosed with breast cancer and 685 000 deaths globally. As of the end of 2020, there were 7.8 million women alive who were diagnosed with breast cancer in the past 5 years, making

it the world's most prevalent cancer. And breast cancer mortality changed little from the 1930s through to the 1970s. Improvements in survival began in the 1980s in countries with early detection programs combined with different modes of treatment to eradicate invasive disease.

Approximately half of breast cancers develop in women who have no identifiable breast cancer risk factor other than gender (female) and age (over 40 years). Certain factors increase the risk of breast cancer including increasing age, obesity, harmful use of alcohol, family history of breast cancer, history of radiation exposure, reproductive history, tobacco use and postmenopausal hormone therapy.

The global breast cancer awareness campaign, which is held every year in the month of October, has started with free and half-paid screenings for one month at the Pioneer Screening Center starting from September 20.

About 40,000 people die from breast cancer every year, according to the Director of Maternal and Child Health of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Meseret Zelalem, who stressed that in order to reduce and prevent the health, social and economic burden of treating cancer after it has spread, it is necessary to know the health status through early diagnosis.

The Director, who explained the work being done to prevent and control cancer in the Ministry of Health, explained the

work done in early cancer diagnosis and treatment, including the cervical cancer vaccine given to 14-year-old girls to prevent cervical cancer. She said that the ministry is working diligently regarding breast cancer.

She expressed gratitude for Pioneer's efforts to fulfill its social responsibility by supporting the health policy based on prevention; she called on mothers and sisters to use the opportunity, and for other institutions to follow the example of Pioneer.

Dr. Edom Seife, Head of the Cancer Treatment Department at the Black Lion, said that the start of the examination will stimulate the mothers and sisters who have not received the service because they are worried about where to go or because of the lack of convenient conditions.

The founder and owner of Pioneer Examination Center, Mr. Brook Fekadu, recalled that he did a similar movement last year and stated that the modern 3D mammography ultrasound and MRI machines that are the latest in the world are providing services at his center.

However, since it is important to not only have more experts and buy modern machines, but also to develop awareness, they will provide services for free to selected government offices and for those who come for examination at the center for one month from September 20, he said.





# This is Ethiopia

## Promising progresses to harness tourism potentials

BY TEWODROS KASSA

This year's World Tourism Day was celebrated across the world on 17 September, 2022 with the theme of "Rethinking Tourism." On the event various insights and experiences have been shared to recover the tourism sector that has been severely affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Ethiopia also marked the Day colourfully from September 23-25, 2022 in Assosa Town, Benishangul Gumuz State with various events including photo exhibition and fair that show and promote untapped cultural, historic and natural tourism potentials of the country and the State.

Obviously, the tourism sector is one of the five pillar areas of development being identified by the current leadership in Ethiopia. Following this, with the initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), the nation has been constructing a number of tourist destinations; including the famous Unity Park, Sheger Park, and Entoto Park that are currently attracting numerous domestic and foreign tourists from all walks of life.

The timely completion of new tourism projects like Gorgora, Wonchi and Koisha are also of instrumental in making the country one of the top international tourist destinations apart from building its image.

Those tourist attractions in the capital were completed within short period of time and many more around the country are in the pipeline.

Just days before, the Premier also inaugurated the first Science Museum in Ethiopia which opens multiple doors for the nation to go forth in the technology sector. Such facilities can inject positive atmosphere to build nation's digital economy. Besides, the facility will be an ideal place for tourists to pay a visit.

The newly inaugurated Science Museum also hosted the first Pan African Artificial Intelligence (AI) 2022 Workshop and Exhibition from October 04-05, 2022. As



it is learned, the primary vision of the Pan African AI 2022 workshop and exhibition is to create favourable employment and start-up businesses and activities in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.

"As we inaugurate Ethiopia's Science Museum, launch a technology exhibition and open the first Pan-African Artificial Intelligence conference today, all are essential for networking, learning and co-creating across the continent, as we all strive to empower Africa through digital transformation," tweeted Prime Minister Abiy following the inauguration of the Museum.

Tourism experts also lauded the accomplishment of such a mega science museum in the country. The Museum will have a great potential to attract numerous domestic and international tourists. More importantly, it will ignite science tourism to Ethiopia by promoting its capacity to host various science exhibitions and workshops.

During this year's 42nd World Tourism Day 2022 celebration held in Assosa Town, Tourism Minister Nasise Chali said that Ethiopia needs to transform the traditional way of running tourism activities into a

modern one so as to garner benefits it deserves out of the tourism sector.

The country is highly endowed with numerous tourism potentials despite its low level of benefiting from the smokeless industry mainly due to the traditional means of utilizing tourism potentials and other related natural and manmade factors so far. The tourism sector has helped the country boost people to people ties and balance climate change apart from providing countries with economic and social benefit thereby building Ethiopia's image.

"Marking the annual World Tourism Day through various events would also be instrumental in grabbing the attention of citizens towards the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), raising public awareness about tourism and the numerous tourist attraction sites in the country in general and in the State in particular. Ethiopia has not yet benefited out of the tourism sector at the level it deserves. The rethinking or new approach would help the nation come up with paradigm shift thereby transforming the way the tourism sector has been run for years", she said.

On his part, Sheik Hojellie Al-Hassen Civil

Trial and Assosa Museum Tour Guide, Soleiman Abdullahi said that Ethiopia in general and Benishangul Gumuz State in particular is highly endowed with myriads of tourist attraction sites, tangible and intangible heritages, as well as natural and manmade attractions.

The Ministry of Tourism and State's tourism bureau have to capitalize on a range of tourism potentials via equipping the generation with the required knowledge of their country and transforming the means by which tourism is promoted instead of running scattered activities, he recommended.

Mentioning that the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the conflict in some parts of the country and other related factors have hugely impacted the tourism sector, he said, even if it is not at the desired level, the sector is reviving now.

According to him, the Benishangul Gumuz State is uniquely rich in its natural resources, cultural and historic tourist attraction sites. What is more, it is a place where the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), by which the country will make poverty history within the shortest time possible, is located. The islands, estimated to be over 70 and created around the Dam, are also the other attractions that can generate substantial income if all investors work on them.

This would undoubtedly help the country boost its socio economic progress, cultural development and balance climate change impacts.

As to him, there are ample tourist attraction sites, countless heritages and other resources all over the country; what matters is producing a generation excellently knowing the inside out of the country.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) started World Tourism Day in 1979. The celebrations for the same officially began in 1980. It is celebrated on 27 September every year because the date marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Statutes of UNWTO.

## Some notes...

years. The author of this article is not so sure about the Tigrian generals if they have ever received these titles through regular military training and as the result of their meritocratic rank nomenclature of the Ethiopian defense bureaucracy.

During the upcoming negotiation with the terrorist group, it must be stressed that Tigray is an alienable part of Ethiopia and one of the centers of the national identity of the country and that the issue of cession from Ethiopia is absolutely nonnegotiable and illegal. Tigray is no different from any of the states that make up the Federal Government of Ethiopia.

Genuine negotiations between the Federal Government of Ethiopia needs to take into account the issue of legal accountability on crimes against humanity and human rights violations and destruction of public and private properties conducted on the people of Amhara, Afar and Tigray by the officials of the regional government of Tigray must be seriously considered.

The Government of Ethiopia has bestowed full respect to the AU as a negotiation coordinating body with full capacity and competence. This is resolving the African problem in the African way without the tutelage of any foreign power. Both the USA and EU can play a positive role in supporting the AU in the conduct of the negotiations without ever interfering into the duties of the continental organization.

Here it is also important to note that this is not a negotiation among equals but between a legitimate federal government and a rebel group which is out to destroy Ethiopia and replace it with weak and feeble banana republics.

The author thinks that it is important to keep the confidentiality of the negotiations to avoid the ramifications of fake news by the social media and the angry media of Tigray.

On the other hand, both the Ethiopian Government and the terrorist group have given their words to enter into negotiations with no preconditions whatsoever. However,

individuals in the terrorist leadership are trying to push through some preconditions under the guise of seeking clarifications that should not be addressed. The AU has made it clear that this is not possible.

On the other hand, the terrorist group is trying to play a trick on two sets of the same negotiations process dissecting it into negotiations for cessations of hostilities first and then proceed into the actual negotiations. Terrorist TPLF has officially violated the tacit agreement for cessation of hostilities by waging war on the people of Ethiopia from its fronts at Kobo ending a ceasefire by falsely and arrogantly accusing the ENDF for starting the third round of its barbaric attacks on the two regions. Indeed, the Ethiopian government should be aware of the manipulations and conspiracies by the western powers to save a terrorist organization.

While the negotiation is going on the author has a message for the western powers, social media and mainstream local media and

western commercial media to refrain from spreading false narratives on the progress of the negotiations.

Some angry and soft hearted Ethiopians think that the government should eliminate terrorist TPLF by military means only. The contributor of this note thinks that this is a grave error. A military success that is not buttressed with political and diplomatic success will certainly not last long. The Ethiopian Government needs to emerge victorious by combining all three. Terrorist TPLF is interested in elongated and tiresome negotiations to take Ethiopia back to square one for the fourth round of war and to buy time for another human wave war on this country.

Already, all the pervious invasions are affecting the demographic profile in Tigray in which the terrorist group is busy destroying the current and future generation in Tigray. The Ethiopian Government needs to square out on all these conspiratorial entanglements.