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Ethiopia, Kenya vow to take relations to new heights

BY BILAL DERSO & MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA- Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D) and the visiting Kenyan

President William Ruto expressed commitment to enhance the two countries multifaceted relations and cooperation.

During their discussion at the Office of

the Prime Minister yesterday, the leaders exchanged views on ways of transforming the Ethio-Kenya all-rounded partnership.

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Safaricom Ethiopia launches service in Addis

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Safaricom Ethiopia yesterday switched on its 07 G networks and service in Addis Ababa and held a national launch ceremony.

It was stated in the launching ceremony that the “07” network in Addis Ababa is offering customers 4G data, Voice, and SMS service between Safaricom Ethiopia and ethio-telecom customers, worldwide international calls, and reasonable price of phones for purchase. Services have been provided in five languages namely Amharic, Affan Oromo, Af-Somali, Tigrigna, and English.

Speaking on the occasion, Safaricom Ethiopia CEO Anwar Soussa said that the

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Mega projects worth 7.6 bln Birr in pipeline here

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA-The Addis Ababa City Administration Mega Projects Construction Office has signed an agreement with contractors to build two mega projects with

a total cost of over 7.6 billion Birr aimed at providing efficient and effective services.

Accordingly, the office has signed an agreement with contractors to construct

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Ethiopia's Public diplomacy bearing fruits: Amb. Dina

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA- The government has taken public diplomacy as the instrument to smoothen Ethiopia's government- to-government and people- to- people relations with various countries including dispatching of groups, an official said.

Speaking to local media, Public Diplomacy Director General with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dina Mufti (Ambassador) said Ethiopia has employed a number of organizations including media, parliament and civil society organizations so as to heighten its relationship with various countries.

“Government to government relations might be spoiled due to many factors, but if the people- to- people ties do have strong bonds, public diplomacy is of paramount importance in helping countries have a deep and viable foundation for true relations.”

According to the director, the #NoMore movement, which was disseminated all over the world, can be taken as a very good

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Promoting tourism to build nation's better economy

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Promoting Pan-Africanism values through technology

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News

Ethiopia takes action to prevent climate change impacts

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia has been taking tangible measures to prevent the damage caused by climate change and to sustain economic development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

In his opening remark at the Khartoum Forum on Climate Change and Migration held here yesterday, MoFA State Minister Tesfaye Yilma stated that Ethiopia is working on a sustainable green economy strategy that is resilient to climate change. “Planting a tree has become a culture in Ethiopia, the youth, the elderly and the teenager all participate in the green campaign joyfully.”

As to him, Ethiopia’s Green Legacy is considered as an experience at the continental level and brings long-lasting results. Climate change has no borders and Ethiopia alone will not bring about change by planting trees. Therefore, other countries should also participate.



Manfred Shulder, the German Government’s Refugee Affairs Coordinator, said that climate change is a result of carbon dioxide emission and responsibility lies with the rich countries. “Climate change impact is not only on migration but far-reaching. The challenge we are facing in Sub-Saharan African countries including Ethiopia originates from the consequences of climate change.”

It is essential not only to reduce carbon emissions, but also the public has to adjust fuel consumption. Because climate change causes migration and it is inevitable that everyone will suffer. Ethiopia’s Green Legacy experience is progressively being scaled up to neighboring countries and throughout Africa, Manfred explained.

The coordinator further highlighted that the



Ethiopian government is taking concern for plant seedling. The work will not only benefit the farmers, but also make the country greener.

According to studies, people migrate for different reasons, but the number of people migrating due to climate change is increasing from time to time.



Panelists highlight media’s role in peace building

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – Media organizations and journalists need to discharge their responsibility properly to get Ethiopia out of the current predicament, panelists said.

This was noted here yesterday at a panel discussion with stakeholders on the “Role of Media in Peace Building”.

At the event, Addis Ababa University Journalism and Communication Assistant Professor Teshager Shiferaw (PhD) stated that reporting of conflicts related issues need more attention than other issues as journalism is not about paving the way for clashes.

According to him, the main challenges that the journalists are facing when reporting conflict related issues is lack of credible sources. In this regard, verification of news is very important.

Referring studies on the matter, Teshager noted that most of the time media coverage on conflicts focused more on war than peace and on events than issues. And, the news coverage is characterized by lack of clarity and one-sidedness.

Reporting of conflict related issues is full of challenges, he said adding, that authorities do not usually cooperate in providing relevant information.

He also opined that the primary role of media

in conflict reporting is to provide reliable information that enables the public to analyze circumstances.

Stating constructive roles of media, the academician insisted that the media have to discourage warmongers and conflict merchants, prevent war and maintain peace, and facilitate genuine dialogue to promote mutual understanding and peace.

Association of Ethiopian Broadcasters President Endeshaw Woldemichael on his part stated that media institutions in Ethiopia have weaknesses in terms of reporting on peace, added that many works are being done to solve this problem and to improve the role of journalists in the process of peace building.

According to him, the media, as a source of information, should be corrected because their irresponsible ways of reporting are more problematic. “We are at a time when solidarity and diversity need to be strengthened more than ever.”

It was learned that the discussion forum was attended by representatives from media institutions, professional associations, universities, and others, and also many papers were presented for discussion.

The panel discussion was organized by the Ethiopian National Media Support (ENMS) in collaboration with the International Media Support (IMS).



AEPAC
American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee

CNN tells lies to IC covering up T-TPLF’s crimes

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC) stated that CNN is misinforming the International Community (IC) telling big lies about Ethiopia again and again.

AEPAC further stated that CNN is often falsely reporting about the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia principally for covering up Terrorist TPLF’s untold crimes.

In a press release sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Committee Executive Chairman, Mesfin Tegenu, said that CNN has chosen an editorial stance of symphony toward Terrorist TPLF.

Based on the analyses of the broadcast and online stories, the CNN helped the fabricated group and blamed the majority of the Tigray people and the Ethiopian government forces. However, this simplistic approach has meant CNN’s coverage has persistently failed due to various facts.

The crime that T-TPLF committed has been confirmed by the UN, Human Right Watch, Amnesty International,

and others. The group attacked the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) stationed in Tigray State. It killed hundreds and detained thousands besides looting Defense’s military equipment, he added.

According to Mesfin, the committee ensured that the terrorist group has been carrying out crime against humanity such as destroying the public and private properties, killing thousands of innocent civilians, committing widespread sexual violence in Afar and Amhara states.

The committee also accused the terrorist group of recruiting children to the battle field, engaging in force conscription, as well as using food aids as a tool of political pressure, and ultimately attempting to overthrow the democratically elected government.

Furthermore, CNN is misleading the U.S. and other western countries because of its fabricated stories. Therefore, AEPAC has extremely been frustrated by CNN, and many have been choosing to boycott the channel. Reuters, Bloomberg, BBC, AFP, and others have been deceived by T-TPLF propaganda, Mesfin cited.

News

Ethiopia's Aviation success paves way for ICAO's Council Membership

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia's election as a member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council indicates the outstanding results the country has achieved in the field, Minister of Transport and Logistics, Dagmawit Moges said.

Ethiopia has been elected to the governing Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The election for 36-member council took place at the end of the ICAO Assembly in Montreal, Canada, on Tuesday.

Minister of Transport and Logistics, Dagmawit Moges, who had an online interview with ENA said that Ethiopia was elected as a member of the council by the highest vote; and this will bring great hope and opportunity in aviation

sector in particular and for the country as a whole.

She also mentioned that as Ethiopia is one of the landlocked countries, air transport is an option that it uses to connect with the outside world.

Therefore, she said that her election as a member of the council by a large vote would help it to protect its national interest by closely monitoring the decisions made by the organization.

She further stated that Ethiopia will play a major role in the international civil aviation sector for itself and other countries.

Ethiopia's election as a member of the Council of the Organization indicates the respect and

good view the world has given to Ethiopia in the aviation sector, she said.

Dagmawit also said that Ethiopia's participation in the council, which is important for the universal activities of civil aviation, has many advantages in other fields.

Ethiopia is a founder of the International Civil Aviation Organization and one of the countries that signed the International Civil Aviation Convention.

It is known that 36 countries with high reputation in the aviation sector are elected as members in the general assembly of the organization held every three years.



It is to be recalled that Ethiopia previously served as a member of the organization's council for two consecutive terms from 2001 to 2006.

Ethiopia, Kenya vow to take...

Following the discussion, Primer Abiy stated that the relationship between Ethiopia and Kenya is on a solid foundation, and their cooperation is based on common interests.

Kenyan President William Ruto has tweeted that the two countries have been devising mechanisms and adjusting appropriate trajectories in order to underpin their effort geared towards reinvigorating prosperity.

Citing the utmost effort both Ethiopia and Kenya have been exerting especially to expand and modernize technology, the President highlighted that the discussion revolved around the very important ways that potentially enhance the border trade. Deliberation has also been made in other crucial areas of cooperation that will flourish the growth of the two countries.

In their discussion, the leaders have reportedly emphasized the need to further strengthen the relationship between Ethiopia and Kenya.

After discussing the ways of working together on common national issues, Abiy and Ruto visited the science museum which was inaugurated on October 4.

It is to be recalled that, after opening the first Pan-African Artificial Intelligence Conference organized by Ethiopia, Premier Abiy called on African countries to work together in the field.

In a related development, Prime Minister Abiy and President Ruto attended Safaricom

Ethiopia's nationwide internet service launching program which was being held at the Friendship Square.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Abiy said that Safaricom Ethiopia service launching is a demonstration of Ethiopia's use of information communication technology as the engine of its journey to prosperity.

President William Ruto, on his part, noted that the launch of Safaricom service in Ethiopia will strengthen regional ties.

Applauding Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed administration's attention to digital economy transformation, the President expressed his delight that the Ethiopian government has allowed Safaricom to conduct mobile money transfers on the platform. "When I came to Ethiopia, the people of Kenya gave me homework to do; I thank the Ethiopian government for allowing this service."

Safaricom also announced that it will work to replicate the success of M-Pesa financial services in Kenya.

It was learned that Prime Minister Abiy confirmed in the forum that Safaricom Ethiopia can run mobile money service through the Minister of Finance.

After concluding his one-day working visit, President Ruto was saw off by Prime Minister Abiy and other high-level government officials.

Safaricom Ethiopia...

main purpose of the company is contributing to Ethiopia's digital transformation, inclusion objectives, and providing millions of jobs for the youth in the years to come. The network is currently available in Dire Dawa, Harar, Haramaya, Adama, Bahir Dar, Bishoftu, Mojo Debre Birhan, Awoday, Gondar, and Addis Ababa while it continues to reach 14 additional cities by April 2023.

The CEO further stated that the company will continue to invest in providing network and services to further cities and parts of the country in accordance with the obligation of their unified telecommunications services license. "I am assuring the government of Ethiopia, stakeholders and partners will continue the support as they did earlier for us."

Peter Ndegwa, another CEO of the consortium stated that the company looks forward to sharing the vision of transforming

the lives of Ethiopians, working together to uplift communities and creating opportunities through phone and the likes. "We will be striving to reduce communities' challenges through digital solutions and high quality telecommunication services in Ethiopia."

From Vodacom Group, the CEO Shameel Joosub heaped that the consortium has worked tirelessly together with the government of Ethiopia to reach the exciting moment in Ethiopia's history as the nation embarks upon a fully digitalized era. Therefore, the network will play a positive role in transforming the lives of Ethiopians throughout the country in areas of health, education, manufacturing, agriculture and digitalizing the finance sector.

It was to be recalled that Safaricom Ethiopia has a license fee of some 850 million USD to operate improved telecom services in Ethiopia.

Mega projects worth 7.6 bln...

three agricultural products market center situated in two sub-cities of *Lami-Kura* and *Kolfe Keraniyo* with a total cost of 6.1 billion Birr.

Two of the market center will be constructed in *Lami-Kura* sub-city and the remaining one in *Kolfe Keraniyo* while the other project *Zewditu Memorial Hospital* project which will be constructed within an outlay of 1.5 billion Birr.

Speaking at the Occasion Addis Ababa City Administration Mayor Adanech Abiebie said that the projects will have significant impact in stabilizing the market and shortening the gap between the producer and the consumer.

The project is essential in providing agricultural product sustainably to the consumer, he indicated.

She stated that the agricultural products market center will be completed within the coming six months and the remaining *Zewditu Memorial Hospital* will be completed less than two years.

On his part, Ovid Group CEO Yonas Tadesse

said that considering the significance and service being provided by the projects the group is committed to accomplish the projects timely.

As to him, the project is expected to create over 30,000 jobs.

The group expressed his commitment to complete and handover the projects within the scheduled time by working day and night, he stated.

A local construction company, Yohannes Haile Building Contractor, CEO Yohannes Haile said that the hospital will have modern service providing center.

The agreement was signed between the contractor and office of Mega projects.

General Manager of Mega Projects Engineer Debo Tunka said that the projects are essential towards providing effective service to the city residents.

Accordingly, the recently inaugurated fruit and vegetable market located in *Nifas Silk Lafto* is providing effective service for the city residents.

Ethiopia's Public diplomacy...

example of public diplomacy. "Since there are influential Ethiopians here and there to prettily portray their home country and its intention, we have witnessed a number of concrete pieces of evidence on behalf of many countries towards having a win-win fashion with our nation."

Since the fate of Ethiopia is intertwined with the Middle East, it is crucial to enhance the relationship through displaying the reality on the ground and promoting the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam's significance to lower riparian countries via public diplomacy, Dina remarked.

Opinion

In a context lies...

seek to open journalism schools must get an accreditation from the MCK to make sure that they are established having the required technical facility to training journalism.

Manager of the Media Council Mr Leo M. Mtisya, said,

“We do the same thing the ministry of health does in checking quality. MoH checks whether health schools have toilets, standard houses and medical equipment. So, we also check if there are relevant facilities, studios and even relevant courses in the journalism curriculum. Therefore, by doing so, we ensure that quality of knowledge and skill of media practioners is kept dawn at the root, there at the training schools. So, we do have holistic view of enhancing professional standard”

Ethiopia must look into the relevance of this process where training schools should get the accreditation of either the media council or the statutory media authority as plenty of colleges and universities are opening journalism departments with no standard facilities. The cumulative effect of less standard of technical facility and lack of localized curriculum in journalism schools in Ethiopia is in fact visible in the freshers that are newly joining the media this day. A huge country having more 120 million people and diverse ethnicity that sometimes become a ground for conflict and violence entails the need to have well skilled and informed journalist that understands responsibility and context in reporting. One way this can be realized is through enhancing the quality of training and working on ways that the academia cannot be detached from the industry.

From the discussion we had with MCK manager, we learnt that media members have put in place a mechanism of reporting violence and conflict. Conflict sensitive reporting is part of their code of conduct and reporting of violence is discouraged in a sense that there is no relevance in promoting tensions.

“We follow a new approach. What is good is not to report what happened rather why it is happening. You don't quote the same person over and over again to show the same side. We bring to the story people that can moderate and change narratives of why it is happening. Writing war or no war is not what is chosen. Sometimes by showing bloody images, we realize the intention of terrorists because their intention is to terrorize people. The right approach is you go to religious people and researchers and then dig deeper on why it is happening on a solution-oriented approach”.

As is in any country, what potentially challenges the effort of avoiding nonviolence in Kenya is the trend of hate speech disinformation and misinformation. In terms of putting in place ways to manage this problem, Kenya seems to have gone a significant step ahead. The National Cohesion and Integration Commission of Kenya is legally given a mandate to curb hate speech, misinformation and disinformation. It has in fact a concurrent jurisdiction with the Communications Authority of Kenya on this matter. However, the two have signed a pact to enforce the mandate to curb hate speech.

The experience that Ethiopia must draw from Kenya with respect to curbing hate speech disinformation and misinformation is the

issue of equipping and arming itself with new technologies for tracing hate speech and disinformation in the online media as well partnering with regional fact checking technology groups.

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission along with fact checkers group has developed hate speech Lexicons which they help trace online virality of hate speech and disinformation that propagate ethnic contempt and incite violence. With the help of these technologies the commission produces reports on virality of hate speech and informs government policies and strategies.

In addition to using detection software/tools, the commission has partnered with the regional Facebook and Meta Company to ensure early detection and prevention of hate speech on online and social media. Facebook collaborates with them on early avoidance of these words of hate speech that are included in the Lexicons.

Using technology software and partnering with the social media companies being a good step, there still exists a challenge to decide on what constitutes hate speech and not. For the time being what the council uses to designate a certain word as hate speech is based on the criteria set in the Rabat Plan of Action. Based on the nature of hate speech, is becoming more complex from time to time. New experiences in Kenya show that meaningful words are not necessarily the means by which hate speech is expressed. During the post-election, “Madua Dua” was one of the hate speeches that was spreading in the online media. The word meant nothing but simply means ‘dots’ but it had a meaning that discriminately push a certain group against the other ethnicity. That makes having an exhaustive list of hate speeches to include in the Lexicon a tricky business.

However, having the Lexicons of hate speech and arming themselves with the software technology that can report the online virality of the hate speech and disinformation, the commission has gone a significant step in detection of hate speech. According to Allan Chiboe, a senior expert at African Fact Checkers Group, a group assisting the commission, using software the country informs its peace policy by identifying actors spreading hate speech, techniques used and platforms on which hate speech is most viral. Beyond using these technologies for detection, the partnership created with Facebook and Meta is doubling the effort to early mitigate the effect of hate speech and disinformation in the country.

These good experiences taken all together, they can be attributed to the concerted and united effort of all media stakeholders in Kenya. That is proven by the fact that people from all media regulatory institutions speak somehow the same language on all matters that we asked them to speak in regards to how they manage the media.

Given the fast-changing digital world and the nature of conflict situation that we are in, it is incumbent upon Ethiopia to draw experiences of technology mediated content detection, partnership with social media companies and integration between statutory and self-regulatory mechanisms as well as Tink-Tank groups whose objective is to make sure that media plays a non-violent role.

We spent most our five days trip holding

discussions with Kenyan colleagues while sometimes taking walks through clean and narrow roads and classic buildings owned by Indians and Arabs on one side and shanty houses with blue cake roofs on the other.

Three hours before departing Nairobi after ending the trip, the Ethiopian media team was called for lunch invitation at the Ethiopian embassy in Kenya. No doubt everyone felt at home enjoying Gurage kifto dishes made by one of the diplomats and listening to war and diplomacy stories shared by the eloquent Amb. Brig.Gen. Bacha Debele.

He witnessed to us the same positive experiences he observed in Kenyan democracy institutions. He said, “This country was in a huge violence in 2007 election and each election from there onwards was turning less violent. The media is among key actors to bring this change. Therefore, we have a lot share from their united response to national crisis”.

As we enjoy delicious Gurage Kitfo dishes made by an adroit woman diplomat, the Ambassador discussed his country pressing on issues that are challenging Ethiopia and what it demands from media professionals. He started saying the following as we ask him the position of the new of government of Kenya towards the situation in Ethiopia.

“You already know that we are fighting an enemy that had a hidden agenda of leading Ethiopia into a collapse from its very inception at Dedebit. And, there are other enemies who are reinforcing what TPLF is doing. But we have agreements with our good neighbor Kenya to jointly disable those enemies that seek to terrorize our country. We have signed a MoU. The government of Kenya uniquely values its historical brotherhood with Ethiopia. Our relation goes back to the period of Hailesillase. H/Sillase and Jamo Keniyata had a strong friendship in connection with neighborhood and liberation from colonialism. We opened our embassy in Kenya 1954 before the liberation and an Ambassador was appointed in November 1965. The reason why you see our embassy very close the Kenya's state palace here is the reflection of how much Jamo Kenyeta valued its relation with Ethiopia. I know no history of Kenya where it resolved its problems with its neighbors with arms and guns. They are patient enough. I am sure you don't have heard the sound of car horn or hooter in Nairobi. The reason is that drivers show patience whatever happens and they resolve it with discussion if they got a problem.

Our enemies have in fact no vision of what to do in Ethiopia if they would win the fight except carrying guns and terrorizing people in boarders and towns. I stood a chance to speak to some of them who are fighting in Ethiopia in the name of liberating Oromia. I asked them who and what they would liberate and from whom they would liberate Oromia. They have no logical answer except raising irrelevant individual cases to which they may want to retaliate. From this you can possibly know that they are horses galloped by our historical enemies and the TPLF itself. Therefore, the media should shoulder a huge responsibility to facilitate ways that people can come together and fight the ill perceptions”.

The Ambassador went back to old and recent history to tell us how Ethiopia managed to survive from the ‘Melting Down Ethiopia’ plan of the Qedamay Weyane and the recent TPLF. He told us that in the name of building an Ethiopian army, T-TPLF, from the day it came to power up until it was pushed back to

Tigray, it was training soldiers that can realize the goals of ‘Building Great Tigray’. It was by plan and design that the Ethiopian air force was weakened after Eritrean war.

“No air force exercise was conducted after the Ethio-Eritrean war because they expelled air force pilots and replaced them with people of their own who cannot operate it. Except few Air to ground bombers, air to air fighter jets were parked on the ground for long years” he said.

He added that they weakened the air force because they had a vision that one day if they leave power, they would not be attacked from the air and they can possibly win using the ground military force they trained. He went to telling us that they replaced soldiers keeping stores with local militias and took over 30,000 new modern Kilashinkovs from the store in Mekele. And dozen other artillery units, machine guns, missiles and ammunitions as well as communication radios were looted and used to attack the country which TPLF itself ruled for a quarter of a century. “I can add you the best proof of how much TPLF does not need a country called Ethiopia. They did sold land of this Embassy from the right and left side and you find a sky craping building on both sides, which is dangerous for our security” he said.

“They were doing the same thing in construction of infrastructure. They have built around 300 factories around Mekele alone; including industry parks which has no use. You can be perplexed why by why the Woldiya- Mekele-Haregebeaya railway was built. It was very costly and was such a project that will have no return. You can imagine how much adventure it takes to form caves of railway through mountains that line up from Woldiya to Mekele. It takes twice the cost of the rail way built from Ethiopia to Djibouti. You find no worth and big to be loaded and transported from Woldiya to Mekele. For our surprise, as soon as TPLF leaved power and went back to Mekele, it even asked to continue building a railway from Mekele to Tajiran, the new port of Dbouti. It was not accepted but the reason they wanted to have it was to use it as an outlet. Likewise, it is not for the fertile land of Wolkait Tsegede that they are now fighting; they need Wolkait for an outlet to Sudan which was a reason for them to win the Derge regime. But what is unfortunate is this people cannot stop driving the generation of Tigray into a senseless war. They with the Derg in 1970s and now they are fighting; none of which is producing safe life the people of Tigray. How many productive young generations of Tigray should die for two old generals and cadres to survive from their mistakes”

The Ambassador ends his narration saying that the problem of Ethiopia cannot be resolved unless the people have a determination and commitment to unite against forces whose plan is to see nothing but a melting down Ethiopia. For people to have commitment and determination, the media must build awareness, work to bring adversaries to dialogue and finding way to contain hate speeches and lies by taking the peace and existence of Ethiopia as a common denominator to the measure of what is good and dangerous. We must follow an approach that Ethiopia must see its context in choosing the mode of freedom of journalists and the media.

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

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Editorial

Unflinching principled positions for peace

Since the outbreak of the TPLF-provoked war aimed at fulfilling the demands of its paymasters, the Ethiopia government has been consistent in its resolve to end the conflict peacefully. The incumbent in fact has been going to the ends of the earth to give peace a chance. As a show of good gesture, the government has a series of humanitarian truces while paving the way for unrestricted aid delivery to Tigray state.

While extending an olive branch, the government has also been facilitating the free movements of diplomats and AU, EU, and UN Special envoys to the Horn of Africa to travel to Mekele, the capital of Tigray and discuss peace initiatives.

Despite the government's unflinching stand to bury the hatchet, the terrorist TPLF failed to reciprocate time and time again. The criminal enterprise rejected the bold peace overtures under the pretext of lame reasons. Even worse, showing its contempt to African values and institutions, leaders of the unlawful element dismissed the appeals of the African Union for a peaceful settlement of the TPLF war waged against Ethiopia.

The tyrant TPLF group has rather been engaging in hawkish acts spoiling peace efforts. It has lately launched a war against Ethiopia violating the humanitarian truce declared by the Ethiopian government.

In what could be said a bold and leapfrog step toward peace, the Ethiopian government through the Prime Minister announced the formation of a committee to oversee peace talks with the rogue TPLF group. Briefing lawmakers last June, Prime Minister Abiy (Ph.D) said: "Regarding the peace ... a committee has been established and it will study how we will conduct talks." The committee was formed for this very purpose and the body will make the task of negotiating much easier for both parties, he told the parliament.

Yet, the incumbent also reaffirmed its resolute to end TPLF-provoked conflict by expressing its will to negotiate without precondition.

Redwan Hussien, Ethiopian Prime Minister Advisor on security affairs said the government is ready to negotiate with TPLF anytime, anywhere, and without pre-conditions. In his Twitter message posted on June 2, Redwan indicated that the diplomats are briefed that the African Union will lead the process and "can solicit logistical support from any source."

Since its formation, the Peace Committee has been toiling to chart out the details of negotiations.

On 17 Aug 2022, the Peace Committee unveiled its proposal for peace which includes plans for a ceasefire and restoration of services to the region. Sadly, a day after the announcement of the proposal, the war-mongering TPLF clique declared another fresh offensive in violation of the humanitarian truce. TPLF has been committing heinous crimes since then.

On Wednesday, the African Union issued an invitation for peace talks which the federal government has accepted. The decision "is [in line] with our principled position regarding the peaceful resolution of the conflict and the need to have talks without preconditions," Redwan said.

According to the Government Communications Service statement, the government remains committed to adopting all possible measures to resolve the conflict in a manner that ensures lasting peace and territorial integrity of the country and would continue upholding this commitment.

In spite of the incumbent's consistent desire for peace, the disgruntled TPLF clique has been thwarting peace efforts undermining the AU's efforts. It should be clear that the federal government has been exploring all options to end the conflict peacefully. And, AU's invitation perfectly fits into Ethiopia's long-held position. And, it is time for the international community to put pressure on the terrorist TPLF clique to reciprocate to the incumbent's commitment towards peace initiative.

Opinion

In a context lies the right principle

BY ABERA WENDOSON

A three hours flight of Ethiopian media team on 26th of September, 2022 to the capital of Kenya, Nairobi, with the objective to draw experience from the functioning of Kenyan press had indeed a landing that linked us to solutions born out of problems and minds genuinely partnered to combine wisdoms to respond to the emerging tricks. The six days stay in the city of Nairobi were indeed moments where we proved that way outs and strategies for pragmatic problems are to be less likely found deep in body of literatures rather in stories and experiences emerging out of challenges.

As we crossed the point of 'Karibu' (means welcome, in Swahili) at Jamo airport and started driving to the center of Nairobi, all we witnessed were the fact that the post-election period has turned out peaceful and President Ruto seems to be accepted by both who voted for him and significant others who didn't vote for him.

A frame picture of the president elect William Ruto is seen circulating in every street by young boys. As I enquired young men piloting Uber Taxis, super market owners and hotel servants on what they feel about the result of the election, all it gave me was a sense that Kenyans have voted either 'for win or peace'.

"I didn't vote for William Ruto. But still, he is a vibrant leader. His policy is lifting the poor by empowering small enterprises. He is not



that bad. So, we don't focus on the interest we already have lost in the election. Whatever the result of the election, we just want make shua dat the situation after the election is peaceful and we're upholding respect to one another.

However, in the country of 40 million people with diverse ethnicity and political interest, this peace has not come to reality in the early post-election out of the blue. The culture of media self-regulators, the coordinated effort between statutory authorities, dialogue commissions and sector academia had a lot to play in enabling communities mind their steps in the whole process of the election.

Our first meeting in Nairobi was with people heading the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) whose membership is drawn from over 300 newspapers, 200 radios and 135 television stations. If the Ethiopian counterpart is to be exposed the test of MCK experience, so obvious that EMC (Ethiopian Media Council) is at its infantile. From the deliberation by Leo M. Mtisya, Manager of Kenyan media council,

MCK seems to be bold enough to introduce a new possibility of being independent. Close to one billion shillings are allotted to the council by the government of Kenya despite the fact that what is normally taken as measure of independence is at least to step away from major government financing so that fear of government interference cannot be there.

However, the MCK has maintained the principle of being independent, if not to its best, without being highly influenced by the political interest of the government. It seems to somehow prove that a matter of maintaining independence in the self-regulatory mechanism does not necessarily lie in a total detachment of oneself from government support rather depends on how much it adheres to the basic principles of constructive self-regulation and share national priorities rooted in the real contextual demands of the country (Kenya). The council is not in fact only funded by the government but also by anyone able to provide support the council to implement the code of

conduct.

It isn't fair to comment the partnership between all media regulatory institutions, professional associations and regional media support groups and other civil society organizations work shoulder to shoulder on to bring ways to manage not only the old institutions but also people and institutions operating in digital and social media platforms.

Beyond the 24/7 media monitoring and feedback, one way the MCK is enabling the online media operate with responsibility is through accreditation of media houses that may or may not have online presence.

As those who are accredited are given an equal privilege with all other media people to access information from any source, this privilege would encourage others who stayed unaccredited to be legal and professional as, otherwise, no one stands to protect them as journalists when they encounter risks of violation. Even those who are organized as bloggers are given media training for a couple of weeks and provided certificates to constructively contribute to democracy. Not only accreditation of media houses and journalists, colleges and universities that

See In a context ... Page 4

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

Business & Economy

Promoting tourism to build nation's better economy

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

'Land of Origins' and 'Thirteen Months of Sunshine' are some of the prominent introductions for expressing the tourism attractions in Ethiopia. The country is a hub of natural resources coupled with both tangible and intangible cultural heritages.

According to documents, until 2022, the UNESCO has registered a total of 1,154 world heritage sites from 167 areas. From those heritage sites, 897 of them are cultural heritages, 218 of them are natural heritages. The remaining 39 of the sites are mixed properties.

Ethiopia is one of the very few countries that could register many historical, tangible and intangible heritages under UNESCO. UNESCO has registered nine World Heritages attractions. For this figure, eight of them are cultural sites and the remaining one is a natural conservation site which is the Simien National Park. The park is the home for a number of native and endangered animals including Ethiopian wolf and Gelada baboon. Besides, the nation has registered some of its intangible heritages such as Timket (Ethiopian Epiphany), Meskel, Geda System that includes Irreechaa festival, and Fichee-Chambalalla under UNESCO intangible heritages.

The above mentioned data shows that Ethiopia has the potential to be one of the countries that tourists love to visit. With its incorporated heritages, the country can benefit from tourism income. The Ethiopian government has left no stone unturned and exert its maximum effort to get the best out of the sector. To this end, the government has been working closely with every responsible stakeholder to unlock the tourism potentials from every direction of the country. From every potential of tourism, the government and responsible bodies have been working closely with both internal and external entities.

For Ethiopians, September is a month that is used as a bridge to promote Ethiopians from the rainy season to spring. The people of Ethiopia celebrate numerous holidays and festivals during September. From the Ethiopian New Year, and Meskel (Finding of the True Cross) Irreechaa (Thanks Giving), to the Oromo people; and celebrations of New Year by different nations like Wolayta, Hadiya, Yem among others, Ethiopia celebrates the holidays and festivals in this particular month.

As the month is filled with different celebrations, Ethiopia can take the opportunity to promote its tourism and attract tourists from all corners of the world. The government has been working on registering those public festivals celebrated in September every year. These festivals can be tourist attractions and bring the needed income from the sector. As the Ethiopian festivals are unique to the world, the nation can be a place that tourists visit



Irreecha festival: one of Ethiopia's outdoor celebrations icon for tourist attraction

each month because the nation is blessed with natural resources and marvelous cultural heritages.

In addition, the country has been striving to expand its economic base using its water power. Ethiopia is known as a water tower of Africa due to its water resources. In this regard, the nation is building its biggest dam project on the world longest river, Abay (Blue Nile). Apart from its main purpose of generating power, it was reported that the place will be the new water tourism site in the coming few years. It was also reported that the dam, Abay Dam, will create numerous islands so that the dam will be the ideal place to develop resorts and other tourism facilities.

Lately, Authority for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) of Ethiopia and the Embassy of France have jointly organized an exhibition dubbed 'The Historical Archaeology Exhibition' at Ethiopian National Museum. President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Sahlework Zewdie attended the exhibition. On the occasion, the President said that working together implies a lot can be done in the sector. A textbook example could be the partnership between the Ethiopian Heritage Authority and the Government of France in order to boost archeological development.

It is known that Ethiopia has built strong and peaceful relation with the rest of the world in which France is one of them. As to President Sahlework, the Government of France has been playing its better part and has made its great contribution on archeological research. The government has also opened the France Center for Ethiopian Studies since the establishment of the Department of Ethiopian Heritage.

It is true that Ethiopia is rich in its ancient history and has a track record

of archeological researches. The nation possesses a number of untapped tourism resources that need to be studied though not many have been researched, the President disclosed. It was in 1896 when the Government of Ethiopia and the Government of France established the historical and archeological partnership. The time that the relation started shows the two sister countries' commitment to play their share and develop the sector, the President added.

Further, the President said: "I believe the exhibition, which was opened in connection with the 125th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between Ethiopia and France, contains many artifacts that have never been shown to the public. The exhibition also includes the artifacts of most parts of our country."

By the same token, Director- General of Authority for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (ARCCH), Abebaw Ayalew (Ass. Prof.) on his part said that the Authority has been conducting historical and archeological researches and studies for the past five decades and more. In this regard, the Government of France has been playing an indispensable role, especially in establishing the Ethiopia-France Archeological Research Center and training Ethiopian citizens.

France Ambassador to Ethiopia Rémi Maréchaux said that the two nations' historical relationship started dates back to the reign of Emperor Menelik II. The Ambassador also added that the parties' 125-year of strong partnership in the fields of archeological and historical research. "Among others, France will support the Ethiopian Authority for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) that is at the forefront of the common ambition," the Ambassador

vowed.

Tourism Minister Nasise Chali has also added that France's support for Ethiopia's tourism sector development and in particular in widening the historical and archeological studies is appreciable. "We will extend the necessary support to enhance the Authority's contribution to the progress of the country," she said.

Moreover, based on the initiative of Prime Minister of FDRE, Abiy Ahmed (PhD), the nation has been constructing a number of parks that have attracted tourists from all walks of life. The Prime Minister has inaugurated those parks in the capital within short period of time and many more around the country are in the pipeline. Just days before, the Prime Minister 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.

On his social media account, Prime Minister Abiy shared stated: "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."

To sum up, tourism has become one of the best ways to build a better economy of a nation. The Government of Ethiopia along with responsible actors has been trying to create a favorable environment to the tourism sector and get the best out of it. At this moment, the government has worked with multiple actors to ensure the quality of service delivery.

Art & Culture

“Tomorrow Is Another Day,” Nebiy Mekonen, a living literary legend

BY KFLEYESUS ABEBE

Newyear is about having hope in hard times even when things aren't likely to change. And, who knows about hope than those who emerge from hard times and living the life. Ethiopian poet Nebiy Mekonen is among such people who had seen the test of life; talk about it and spread hope among generations.

Nebiy was a member of the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Party (EPRP) and was imprisoned for nearly eight years, from 1977 to 1985. But he wasn't defeated. He rather said, “Tomorrow Is Another Day” with his translation of Margaret Mitchell's novel *Gone With the Wind* into Amharic. At the time of its publication, it was one of the longest books ever published in Amharic. Nebiy made some conscious changes during his translation of the book. He said the translation is as close as he could get to Mitchell's words, except for one conscious change. He named his translation *Negem Lela Ken New*, which are Scarlett's famous last words, “Tomorrow is another day.” In an interview with an American Scholar, he said, “There is some hope in this title. Hope for us prisoners, hope for Ethiopia.”

The translation process of the book itself is telling that Nebiy is very optimistic and a devoted person as he translated the book in uncomfortable environment. He translated the book using three thousand cigarette-paper pieces while he was in prison. Writing then was a source of hope and a solace of his pain as he once said, ‘When I am sick inside, I cure myself of the illness by writing’. The American Scholar narrates how Nebiy translated *Negem lela ken new* or “Tomorrow Is Another Day” as this: “Nebiy started translating the novel from English into Amharic when he began reading it the fourth time. He used the only source of paper available—the lining torn from empty packs of cigarettes. At first he tried to work discretely in a corner, afraid that prison informants would accuse him of penning subversive messages.

Equal or maybe more, Nebiy's optimism and patriotism are also visible in his poems. One of his poems “It is this, your Ethiopia,” urges the youth that it is only when they wake up themselves, their country could be upto their expectation. It seems that Nebiy shares the views of John F. Kennedy: “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country,”

This is Ethiopia

It is this, your country

In this sphere,

Let it not get dark but if it is dark,

the night along the moon

The awoken won't sleep

The sleeping won't wake up



Nebiy is also famous for writing observations. His series published in Addis Admas entitled *Yegna Sew Beamerika (An Ethiopian in the U.S.)*

This is it,

Your world

slept alone,

hiding from the rest of the world!!

'cause its fate turned upside

“Sleeping beauty”

Your constant

What will you do then?

It is this, your country

Don't trouble its heart

Stop nagging her!

Either sleep together

Or wake up with her!

Nebiy shows every life aspect of Ethiopians is closely intertwined with this land, his/her country. It is true somebody's world perspective are shaped by the people he lived with and the land he/she grown up. For a country that is tradition, custom and religion still plays a big role, this is very sensible. This is what Nebiy showed in his work of art. In one of his poems, Nebiy says he find himself within his country.

You are within me

A retreat to pray but with you

Looking for myself but in you

A dialogue with self

To find myself that is in you

If the self is lost, what is there for a man?

Laugh inside your laughs

Cry inside your tears

I will find myself

For you are my native land, I find you nowhere but in myself

Nebiy through his life has observed that the Ethiopian society being hardliner. Beginning from his youth, he had witnessed the society resolved things with conflict and violence. That may have given birth to his poem ‘Tinish bota’ or a tiny space. In this

poem, he insisted people to have a moment of rethinking their decision. He asked what if we gave

Tiny space

This year;

In case we fight so we use it to make peace

Or to pick quarrel in time of peace

Just a small place to shelter

Just a small place to take refugee

Why not

Why not, we left a space for just in case

'cause we can't be absolute

We shall agree

to leave a small place in our good hearts

For our brains to sleep on

We shall leave a tiny place

We would use just in case

Like the previous year for this year too

In case we fight so we use it to make peace

In time of peace to pick quarrel

When we get jail to take amnesty

When we forgive to keep words

We shall leave a tiny empty space

There isn't a state of absolute work or absolute rest

In our good heart, we shall look for empty space

A small place Like pagumen

For this New Year

Nebiy is also famous for writing observations. His series published in Addis Admas entitled *Yegna Sew Beamerika (An Ethiopian in the U.S.)* were a well-read series that was eagerly anticipated every week on his paper. He is also a journalist and playwright. He is also the co-founder and editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper *Addis Admas*. His series of articles *Yegna Sew Beamerika (An Ethiopian in the U.S.)* has attempted to point out things Ethiopians could emulate from the outside world particularly from America in terms of adapting technology, adjusting culture, modernization, democracy and other pertinent issues. The series also showed things Ethiopia and Ethiopians are in better state and should be proud. The articles usually have satirical nature. They create humor through irony and other literary devices but ultimately send strong messages to the readers.

Nebiy has recently republished his books all in one and organized book signing ceremony. The compilation and coming of Nebiy's work to printing gives a chance to young readers and anyone who missed Nebiy's ideas and literary works.

Science & Technology

Science museum brings multipurpose smart technologies

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIER

In the newly built Ethiopian Science Museum, new science and technology innovations are on display in the oval shaped building. Drones, robots, small aircraft and military robots and similar other science and technology products either posted or on auto mode moving.

From its entry up to the interior, the newly inaugurated Ethiopian science museum is absolutely remarkable. It comprises of an incredible modern technological and digital innovations.

The museum has been equipped with the state-of-the-art technology exhibition with us at the new Ethiopian science museum.

That will definitely shape the future of Ethiopia, as witnessed by this Science and Technology column writer of *The Ethiopian Herald* after the writer had visited the outer and inner side of the Museum on Wednesday October 5, 2022.

Among these innovators, Ahlam Suleman is a young lady who presented her own creative work representing the giant telecom provider in Ethiopia, ethiotelecom.

Ahlam, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) consultant with the AI-Arts that provides consultation services to the telecom provider states that she is displaying the concept of smart art which converts any video and photo into art, she told *The Ethiopian Herald*.

For the telecom sector, any customer can get registration from any place of their convenience and get our services without visiting the office.

“The Science Museum is a great opportunity for the telecom sector in order to use the AI technology and provide its services in smart way and to proactively identify and detect any sorts of fraud or danger. This technology can be used in any sector including for smart agriculture in order to transform the sector,” according to Ahlam.

The science museum inaugurated this week has a great contribution in making our city a smart city, for her part the Addis Ababa City Mayor Adanech Abebe said.

The Mayor, who attended the inaugural event and exhibition, said on her social media page, “The science museum that was inaugurated and went operation has a great contribution in making our city a smart city; she said that this can be used as a center of excellence in technology and science.”

She also invited the residents of the city, especially those who are inclined towards science and technology, to come and visit.



“We are very grateful to our Prime Minister for contributing to the development of the next generation through science and technology by working on a center of excellence project that will raise the profile of our city,” she added.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has also called on Africans to use artificial intelligence for the development and prosperity of the continent. The Prime Minister opened the Pan African Intelligence Conference held for the first time in Ethiopia at the premise of the newly opened Ethiopian Science Museum..

In his speech, he pointed out that science is the basis of daily activities. The Premier said that Ethiopia is in a revolution by preparing and implementing a digital transformation strategy.

In particular, he stated that the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute has been making progress in the fields of agriculture, health, education and government administration in a short period of time.

He said that the science museum that was opened today will enhance the creative potential of the youth in the field.

“As Ethiopia aims at alleviate poverty and increase shared prosperity, we believe that leads to transformation. That would be a catalyst to spur our ambitious economic growth and the state’s competitiveness in this globalized and digital era. That is why two years ago we conceived and put to work our digital Ethiopia 2025 Strategy. The strategy complements our other social economic strategies such as our homegrown economic reform agenda and the 10 year development plan as well as international commitments like the sustainable development course and the African Union’s Continental digital strategies. Technology and the digital economy are both the pillars for our homegrown economic reform agenda,” according to PM Abiy.

The two-day conference was organized



by the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute and was being held at the Science Museum, which was inaugurated this week under the theme Empowering Africa with Artificial Intelligence.

During the two-day period, it is expected that scientific articles revolving around the level of development of artificial intelligence technology and its potential contribution to the development of the continent would be presented and discussed.

In addition, it is said that the experience of the United Arab Emirates in the field was presented. Related issues would be presented and shared during the following discussion events.

The Science Museum has two huge buildings and is laid on over 1400 sqkm of land. Moreover, the museum has permanent and temporary exhibition centers.

It is said that the museum is a place where science is explained in an artistic way and art is displayed in a scientific way. Built in harmony with nature, the museum’s power is generated from sunlight. The outer part of the museum is built in the shape of a ring and a dome.



Society

Promoting Pan-Africanism values through technology

BY MENGESTEAB TESHOME

With more than 60 percent of its population under the age of 25, sub-Saharan Africa will be the world's youngest region by 2030; it will be home to more than one-quarter of the world's under-25 population.

Though Africa's real potential lies in its youth who are brimming with ideas and ready to embrace the coming technical revolution, the human development effort to tap it is creepy. As Africa's youth population is rapidly growing and expected to double to over 830 million by 2050 there are still a number of barriers than before that bars especially in educating the youth with the technology disciplines.

Many hold that if the young population is the best-educated and globally connected the continent has ever entered the world of work; the region could step to an unmatched demographic advantage. It is high time to devise a strategy to properly harnessing and arming with progressive and Pan-Africanism values.

In an effort to change the business as usual approach and to promote the Pan-African vision, a platform is organized here in Addis Ababa, where the Prime Minister and other senior officials are expected to meet youth

from 54 African countries this month.

Source from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, indicated that Africans should strengthen Pan-African cooperation to resist external interference in their internal affairs by subscribing to the Pan-African initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in order to chart and implement their own vision themselves.

Strengthening Pan-Africanism and bringing African youth for common good and bringing the continent out of darkness is not an option. Speaking at the Ethio- South Africa Fraternity Night that was held in Addis Ababa recently, Fisseha Shawel, African Affairs Director-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that strengthening Pan-Africanism and bringing together the youth population of the continent is the priority policy of Ethiopia for complete liberation and independence of Africa. According to him, retired African leaders and the current generation has the responsibility in shaping and sharing best experiences to the new generation.

"The ideas of our forefathers and experience will be shared, through interactive fashion and discussion on our weaknesses and strengths, as well as opportunities." Fisseha also noted that Ethiopia is keen to work on Pan-African vision and the continent's youth solidarity with South Africa. It will be an imperative

role to translate this into a reality. Ethiopia's unwavering commitment to the principles of Pan-Africanism and understanding of each other's ambition in the continent has a vital role in sustaining Pan-Africanism.

South African Mission Deputy Head, Matheko Ursula, on her part said, ties that exist between Ethiopia and South Africa is the strongest since former President Nelson Mandela received support from Ethiopia in his struggle against apartheid system of racial segregation. According to her, this strong cooperation is still intact this time where the economic diplomacy between Ethiopia and South Africa is positive. The two countries are now exploring close cooperation in sectors that include agriculture, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, and leather. South Africa will also work together with Ethiopia on Pan-Africanism and continental issues, the deputy mission head said.

Since Ethiopia believes in strong Pan-Africanism it will consolidate its cooperation with South Africa to see a stable and secure continent. "This continent has a very bright future. So strengthening this pact of Pan-Africanism and a prosperous Africa, which is yet not to come; we all have a very important role to play in this."

Ethiopia is a country that plays a key role

towards Pan-Africanism; it still has a responsibility for this generation towards opening the youth. This generation may not expect to fight colonization or color segregation or may fight because of political ideology differences. As a generation where technology is taking the lead in all political, economic and social Affairs, the youth should take all technological advantages to create a better Africa and emancipate itself from poverty, ignorance and unemployment.

As it was recently noted by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, while inaugurating the Science Museum, "As we launch a technology exhibition and open the first Pan-African Artificial Intelligence (AI) conference, all are essential for networking, learning and co-creating across the continent, as we strive to empower Africa through digital transformation."

Starting from the time it came into existence Pan-Africanism had been expressing itself through different means and inspiring African youth to struggle for better Africa. This is a time where technology and Artificial Intelligence have taken the lead. For this reason, using the Pan African spirit as springboard Africa should exert its energy and invest its capital to produce a skilled and technologically equipped generation.



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The Ministry of Health

Japan's grant of ten mobile clinic vehicles, its approach

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Ethiopia has many development challenges, but it also has great potential and opportunities. Before the COVID-19 pandemic started, it was one of the fastest growing economies in the world - its annual growth rate averaged about 10 percent over the last decade, and its real GDP increased fivefold in 20 years.

The government of Ethiopia has been undertaking a series of economic reforms with the aim of becoming a middle-income country. There has also been a steady progress in terms of improving access to and quality of basic social services such as education, health, and water and sanitation. And the government is committed to continue its efforts to further promote its socio-economic development to "leave no one behind," as stated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been supporting the government's efforts to realize "Quality Growth" which is defined as a growth that is inclusive, sustainable, and resilient. Consequently, JICA focuses on the following four priority areas: (1)

agricultural and rural development, (2) industrial development, (3) infrastructure development (energy, transportation, and water), and (4) education and health according to Morihira Katsuki, (PhD) Chief Representative to JICA Ethiopia Office message.

"JICA has traditionally embraced the concept of "self-help" and "ownership" of partner countries, and our cooperation in Ethiopia is no exception. This philosophy comes from Japan's own experience of development," he noted in the message.

More to the point, the government of Japan and Ethiopia has signed recently a 35 million USD grant aid for the procurement of 10 mobile clinic vehicles to be utilized by hospitals in Afar, Somali, Benshangul Gumuz, Gambela, and South West Ethiopia regions. It is expected to provide benefit to around 800,000 pregnant and lactating pastoralist women located in far distances from health facilities in the regions.

State Minister of Finance, Semereta Sewasew and Ito Takako, Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia signed the agreement today.

During the signing ceremony, Finance State Minister Semereta Sewasew said

that the government of Japan, since the commencement of cooperation of the two countries, has extended development assistance through various modalities. The major focus of the development assistance has been on infrastructure development, agricultural productivity, human development as well as private sector.

"Over the last two decades the Ethiopian government has been committed and continues to reduction of maternal and child death through the expansion of primary health and strengthening community health programs," she pointed it out. The much need support is critical in some areas that are more ravaged by internal conflict and recurring drought which is considerably affecting the health service delivery.

Equally, Health Minister Dr. Lia Tadesse said that her ministry has been applying multiple approaches to reduce maternal and child mortality and morbidity by improving both access to health service and strengthening equity and quality of maternal and newborn child health services.

The ministry has been investing on accessibility and equity of maternal and

newborn, and child health services by increasing the number of health facilities and upgrading health center capacity, and improving access to surgical interventions, she added.

"As a result of this investment maternal and newborn health outcome indicators have significantly improved according to our latest data, like antenatal cares but we still remain with a long way to go in terms of our indicators, especially reaching to the SDGs and we must continue to invest more," Lia noted.

Japan's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Ito Takako said on her part that the regions identified for the support have poor health service coverage and high maternal mortality rates.

Indeed the health sector is one of the priority sector for Japan's development cooperation in Ethiopia, she added.

"The mobile clinic vehicles will be equipped with ultrasound, electrocardiograph and basic medical equipment and are expected to benefit around 800,000 pregnant and lactating women in the five regions," Ambassador Takako elaborated.

International News

South Africa submits \$8.5bn plan for greener energy

South Africa has submitted an investment plan to donors who have pledged \$8.5bn to help the country's transition to renewable energy, according to two sources familiar with the matter.

On Thursday, presidency spokesperson Vincent Magwenya confirmed that the plan was ready but declined to say whether it had been submitted.

"A draft of the investment plan, which outlines the investments required to achieve South Africa's ambitious climate targets ... has been finalized and will be shared with key stakeholders before it is submitted to cabinet for approval," he said.

The officials are racing to finish the deal before the COP27 climate talks that will take place in Egypt, starting on November 6. The proposal could become a potential model for other emerging economies that seek to transition from coal to renewable energy.

The funds have been promised by France, Germany, the European Union, the United Kingdom and the United States during the last climate talks in Glasgow, to kick-start South Africa's move from coal to renewable energy, mostly offered in the form of concessional loans.

In order to get the needed \$8.5bn from donors, South Africa must show its plan will reduce its carbon emission by more than it was planning to do under already existing climate commitments.

However, the shift of South Africa's economy into renewable energy is estimated to cost at least \$250bn over



The proof of its worth will probably only be known once a second summit is held

the next three decades.

South Africa is the world's 12th biggest carbon emitter – 430 megatons of CO₂ in 2019 – placing it five places ahead of Britain, an economy eight times its size.

Currently, 80 percent of South Africa's

power generation comes from coal fuels. Consequently, it aims to become a hub for green hydrogen and electric vehicle manufacturing.

Magwenya reiterated the government's position that there was a funding shortage to be addressed in the deal but would not

say how big it was. The country has been experiencing its worst year of electricity outages, with state-owned energy provider Eskom, which generates more than 90 percent of South Africa's power, struggling to meet demands.

French author Annie Ernaux wins 2022 Nobel Prize in literature

French author Annie Ernaux, known for her deceptively simple novels drawing on personal experience of class and gender, has been announced as the winner of the Nobel Prize in literature.

Ernaux was honored "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory", the jury at the Swedish Academy in Stockholm said.

European leaders gather in Prague, Russia not invited

Leaders from about 44 countries are gathering to launch a "European Political Community" to boost security and economic prosperity across the continent, with Russia as the one major European power not invited.

Thursday's meeting in the Czech capital, Prague, is the brainchild of French President Emmanuel Macron and is backed by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

It is taking place amid the backdrop of Russia's all-out war in Ukraine, which began on February 24, and as pressure



builds to allow Ukraine to join the European Union.

The summit will involve the 27 EU member countries, aspiring partners in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, as well as neighbors like Britain – the only country to have left the EU – and Turkey.

"This meeting is a way of looking for a new order without Russia. It doesn't mean that we want to exclude Russia forever, but this Russia – Putin's Russia – has not a seat," EU foreign policy Chief Josep Borrell told reporters.

"Unhappily, you cannot build a security order with Russia. Russia is isolated," Borrell said. Critics claim the new forum attempts to put the brakes on EU enlargement.

Others fear it may become a talking shop, perhaps meeting once or twice a year but devoid of any real clout or content.

In a speech unveiling his idea in May, Macron may have fuelled the enlargement concerns. "The war in Ukraine and the legitimate aspiration of its people, just like that of Moldova and Georgia, to join the European Union, encourages us to rethink our geography and the organization of our continent," he said.

But even with the outpouring of support for Ukraine, in the form of weapons, so it can fight back or shelter people fleeing,

Macron said, "We all know perfectly well that the process which would allow them to join, would in reality take several years, and most likely several decades."

What is needed, Macron said, is "a new space for political and security cooperation, cooperation in the energy sector, in transport, investments, infrastructures, the free movement of persons and in particular of our youth".

The inaugural European Political Community summit at Prague Castle will kick off with an opening ceremony, followed by a series of meetings where leaders will discuss the key challenges Europe faces; security, energy, climate, the dire economic situation, and migration.

No EU money or programmes are offered, and no formal declaration will be issued after the summit.

The forum, an EU official involved in preparations said, "does not replace existing organisations, structures or processes and does not aim to create new ones at this stage".



This is Ethiopia

Witnessing Ethiopia's renaissance via science, technology

BY TEWODROS KASSA

There are several ways where countries show their greatness to others. This could be in the form of art, science or technology. In addition to referring historical books as a witness for their greatness, nations that were great in the remote past are seen echoing the deeds of their forefathers through the form of technological innovations; they are seen reincarnating the ancient civilization through the means of technology, art or other means. Ethiopia was among those ancient countries with great civilization. However now, after centuries of ups and downs the nation has revived and started the journey of renaissance and fruits of greatness are seen all over the nation. The mega projects, promoting and investing in technology are areas where nation's renaissance is being witnessed. What is more, the recently inaugurated science museum is another indication of Ethiopia's renaissance.

The newly constructed Ethiopian Science and Art Museum has gained a greater attention from everyone. Different experts are witnessing that the museum has become a great milestone for promoting the country's economic growth endeavours towards a better position.

This week, the Ethiopian science museum was inaugurated and hosted the first Pan Africon Artificial Intelligence (AI) 2022 workshop and exhibition from October 04-05, 2022. The primary vision of the Pan Africon AI 2022 workshop and exhibition is to create favorable employment and start-up businesses and activities in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.

During the workshop, the contributions of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) in health, agriculture, finance, manufacturing, transport and other service sectors have been presented and discussed widely. Newly developed products by the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute were also displayed.

Tourism experts said that the accomplishment of such a mega science museum will attract numerous local and international tourists. More importantly, it will ignite science tourism to Ethiopia by promoting its capacity to host various science exhibitions and workshops.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) inaugurated the Science Museum, a modern building specifically designed to serve as a science museum since last Tuesday. The Science Museum which covers an area of over 6.78 hectares of land in the heart of Addis Ababa around the National Palace has two huge buildings. The largest building is laid on an area of more than 15,000 square meters and the total width is about 132 meters.

The museum has permanent and temporary exhibitions that would serve to display noble



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inventions and discoveries of those kids. More importantly, the Science Museum will have innumerable scientific, social, cultural and economic benefits to Ethiopia, Africa and the world. As the museum was built in harmony with nature, it gets electricity from sunlight and the exterior of the museum is shaped like a ring and a dome.

The Prime Minister underscored that the success Ethiopia has made in technology sector in a short period of time will lay foundation for attaining digital Ethiopia a reality.

According to him, the contribution of the newly built Science Museum to realizing digital transformation in the country is immense. The Museum is also expected to lay foundation to help children grow with scientific and innovative mind, the prime minister said, noting that Ethiopia's success being registered in the technology sector will lay foundation for making digital Ethiopia a reality.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) tweeted, "As we inaugurate the Ethiopia's Science Museum; launch a technology exhibition and open the first Pan-African AI conference today (Tuesday October 04, 2022), all are essential for networking, learning and co-creating across the continent, as we strive to empower Africa through digital transformation."

Moreover, Ethiopia is striving to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for achieving its development aspirations and universal benefits of its citizens. To this end, the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute is fulfilling this great national responsibility. Beyond this, efforts are underway to contribute for continental development and integrate Africa via Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Recently, in her letter named "A Letter to Ethiopia" Office of the Prime Minister Press Secretariat Billene Seyoum wrote that the museum embraces state of the art human creativity and could be a tangible asset for the country.

"I walked around reviewing the Science

Museum project site in Arat Kilo, passing by the dome theatre covered in silver aluminium, a feeling of awe swept upon me. In my imagination, I had fast forwarded to a time post completion at which point the theatre was filled with people, young and old, walking up the stairs and into the halls, filling the empty seats and getting ready to watch a performance or a film.

Half an hour later as I was walking through the flower gardens, a mini-soccer field and a children's play area of the Phase 2 part of the Sheger project site, a thought that I have never experienced in my entire life crept upon me. As rain droplets lightly fell upon my face from the pregnant sky, I wished for the first time that I could be 20 again and relive you -Ethiopia- from this moment of awe and wonder."

"I travelled your many corners, valleys and highlands. Laughed and cried with you through triumphs and upheavals, and experienced you on the ground and witnessed your vastness from above. Your diversity in flora and fauna is as mesmerizing as the diversity of your children and their talents as well as aspirations. From top to bottom and across your width and breadth, you are blessed with bounty, which your children are yet to fully recognize how immensely lucky we all are," she noted.

Accordingly, despite the continues conspiracy of enemies home and abroad, Ethiopia will never bend from marching forward through undertaking impressive achievements in the political, social and economic affairs.