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## Africa needs more united Africans to build resilience

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA** – Africans should be united in diversity to build a resilient Africa and discuss ways to manage issues threatening the continent’s security, so remarked Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Premier Abiy made the above remark while addressing the 10th Tana Forum that was launched yesterday at Bahir Dar city of Amhara State.

On the occasion, the Premier underscored that building a resilient Africa means not only withstanding unexpected shocks but also proactively planning and developing innovative homegrown African-led

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*Green diplomacy for the common good of Africans*

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*Exploring every available recipe, ensuring lasting peace*

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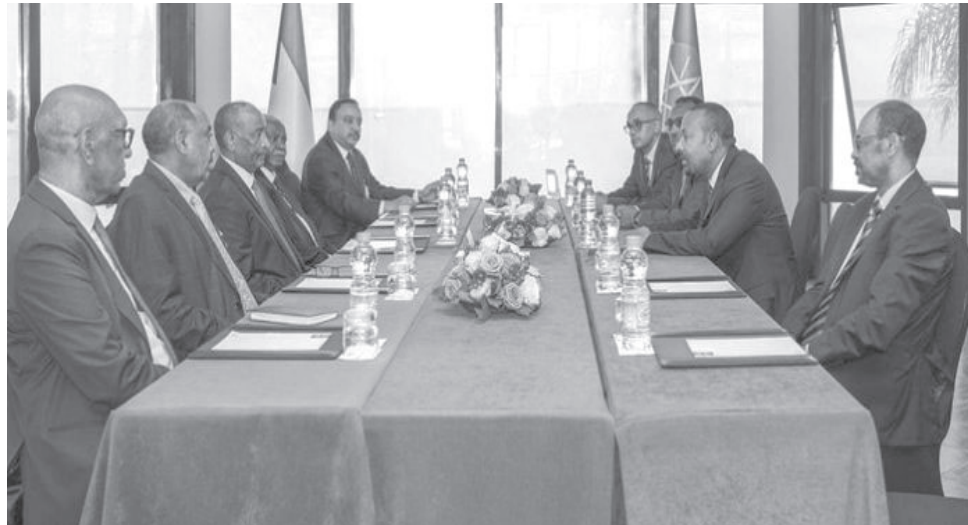
# News

## Premier confers with Sudan's Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan

**ADDIS ABABA** - On the sideline with the 10th Tana High-Level Forum held in Bahir Dar yesterday, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed also held a round-table bilateral discussion with Sudan's Transitional Sovereignty Council Chairperson, Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan in Bahir Dar city.

The two sides discussed bilateral ties and regional affairs alongside the 10th edition of Tana High Level Forum held in Bahir Dar, it was indicated.

Speaking at the bilateral discussion, Prime Minister Abiy underscored that Ethiopia and Sudan are countries with a long-aged history of friendship.



### T-TPLF foe of Tigray people

BY MENGESHA AMARE

**ADDIS ABABA**—The Terrorist TPLF is public enemy number one as the outlawed group has been leaving no stone unturned to extend the sufferings of the peace loving Tigray people, ex official said.

Speaking to local media, the then interim administration and civil service office head and former Wajirat Woreda administrator Hailekiros Redae told local media that to end the sufferings of the people in Tigray, T-TPLF must be held accountable for its heinous crimes across Ethiopia.

As to him, what T-TPLF did against the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) based in Tigray never happened anywhere in the world and will never occur at all as it was equaled by any circumstance and merciless action.

He said that: "T-TPLF has been running towards attaining three core missions since the Derg Regime: coming to power forcefully and setting up noble system; after assuming power, establishing another nation with weak and submissive generation by killing all those oppose them and at last dismantling the country as much as it can if the above two could hardly be made real."

So long as their mission is sustaining power, they don't care about the people of Tigray, Hailekiros said.

As T-TPLF and its cliques do leave no stone unturned to get the People in the state confused, viable messages, using flyers, media and other possible means have to be disseminated to the people of Tigray to well aware them and foil all the conspiracies orchestrated by the terrorist group, he underscored.

## Diaspora community exerts unwavering effort to defend Ethiopia: CEDA

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA**- Ethiopian Diasporas in the U.S. and Canada have been hugely engaged to protect the interest of their home country and established closer contact with lawmakers in the respective states, Council for Ethiopian Diaspora Action (CEDA) said.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, CEDA Board Secretary General Getachew T. Million stated that the establishment has held several demonstrations and other awareness raising activities to promote Ethiopia's reality and expose the T-TPLF lies for relevant stakeholders in the two countries.

During this difficult time when Ethiopia has been struggling to stand on its feet, the Diaspora community has played a notable role in supporting the Ethiopian joint forces' survival campaign financially, professionally and in other ways, the secretary general added.

Apart from the demonstrations, the Diasporas have also knocked the doors of public representatives nearby to inform the latter about the current situation in Ethiopia. Consolidated efforts have also been made to curtail the lies of the Terrorist TPLF associates in exile, who have been engaged in tarnishing the image of the country and some patriotic individuals.



Noting Israel, England and France are built by the due participation of the Diaspora community, he underlined that policy and strategy gaps have constrained them to replicate such success in Ethiopia. "Had the Diaspora community established an international bank here, the foreign currency could not have been embezzled and robbed by T-TPLF. Ethiopia could greatly benefit from permitting the Diaspora community's participation in the overall economy."

Through creating link between the Diaspora and local youths, a strong capacity could be built to adopt many technologies. In this regard, there must be a change in our culture of work. Moreover, he noted that the Diaspora has appeared in person and strived to participate in various development

activities. However, a great number of Diaspora communities with knowledge and financial capacity are still not showing interest to come home.

The absence of lucid Diaspora strategy discouraged them to come and invest at home. They are still serving foreign institutions such as Universities, pentagon, and health institutions, as to him.

The Ethiopian Diaspora Council has planned to do three important things. First, the council facilitates conditions for the Diaspora and foreigners to invest in Ethiopia. Diaspora residing in Canada, France and Italy are able to create a network. Thus, this practice has to be replicated in other parts where many Ethiopians are residing, he stressed.

The other important thing, according to him, is building the country's image through promoting tourism as the nation is preferable destination for tourism. Personally, PM Abiy's various projects thrills me as no one can deny the fact on the ground," he underscored.

He emphasized that Ethiopian Diaspora should come and see the various tasks that are being carried out for the development of the country instead of cursing the country adding that third is investing in posterity of the country through protecting the coming generation from being to unnecessary addictions is council's priority.

## IGAD eyes to scale up regional fishery dev't

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Intergovernmental Authority Development (IGAD) socioeconomic and capacity need assessment of fisheries in Lake Turkana and Baro-Akobo-Sobat basin study report validation workshop held in Ethiopia.

Speaking on the occasion, Eshete Dejen (PhD), IGAD Sustainable Environment Unit Program Manager said utilizing the untapped fishery sector is vital to alleviate food insecurity problems in IGAD regions.

According to Eshete, scaling up cooperation between IGAD member states is said to be critical to use sustainable water management and fishery activities to alleviate poverty.

The workshop aims to support sustainable management and development of fisheries in order to contribute to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security while addressing climate change resilience and enhancing marine biodiversity.

The fishery sector can contribute to accelerated economic growth and

development, income generation, nutrition, employment and export earnings and overall food security.

The focus now should be on increased production and value addition since fish has high domestic market demand, can contribute to improved domestic nutrition, offer good trade opportunities at the global, regional and the national levels.

Eshete underlined inappropriate finance, backwardness, instability, among others are the major bottlenecks of the fishing sector.





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# Editorial

## Rippling Green Legacy beyond Ethiopia

As Ethiopia proved a trailblazer in the freedom fight of Africa, it has pressed ahead with demonstrating it is a trendsetter in the economic sphere too.

It has astounded many bringing forth a gigantic win-win hydropower dam GERD by bootstrapping as well as spurring the aspiration towards the export of agricultural yields say wheat on top of better addressing local food self-sufficiency.

Here it is important to note in breaking loose from the imposition of some less-true donors that tie political ligatures to their humanitarian aid, it has set an example take the “No More” movement that found an echo across the globe. The country is translating into action the catch cry “African solutions to African problem.”

After the wind of change wafted across the country’s sky, the task Ethiopia zeroed-in on taking aboard many is the green revolution on par with a green legacy. In the space of the past four years, billions of tree seedlings were transplanted. As the idea sank in among Ethiopians many were the stakeholders that actively participated in planting and tending saplings.

Beyond its perimeter, Ethiopia is striving to ward off environment related challenges cognizant that single alone it cannot address the climate change treat looming large on the sky of east Africa as is the case elsewhere.

Despite its supportive efforts that entail proffering tree seedlings to countries in the region, the sought-for breakthrough in greening the region is long in coming. Though some countries have set ablaze green revolution, there is a lot more to be desired.

It is in cognizance of the call for a collective action Ethiopia opted to kick start an awareness deepening campaign entitled “Planting African fraternity” dispatching some youths to seven African countries to share their experiences demonstrating their passion for covering Africa with a green mantle. Via this approach registered achievements will be scaled up, while gaps bridged.

The aforementioned campaign is one that practically portrays the

accretion principle of PM Abiy. It shows Africans should join hands for joint benefits than never before.

This noble task has to be underpinned by international organizations that espouse the issue of aggressively redressing climate change.

Bolstering this green revolution, African countries must conserve and protect the continent’s resource. It is all the more so as Africa is recurrently hit by a vicious cycle of drought. The abovementioned issue is what has been reiterated in the Tana High-Level forum on Security in Africa, a platform for African leaders and key to collaboratively engage in African-led solutions to security and related challenges.

In the sphere of diplomacy such ventures shows the country’s bent to promote fraternity through considerateness and ones.

The environment issue begs for added attention as Africa is largest and most populous continent.

For instance deforestation has turned a formidable factor disturbing ecological balance of not only Africa, but of the entire world. The felling of trees clearing forests for firewood and tilling plots are attended by denudations, climate change, erratic rain, among other conditions.

Also the fact that food is still cooked in most parts by fuel wood and coal contributes to air pollution.

Energy is generated using coal and wood as a fuel. This brings forth deforestation, soil erosion, air pollution and ecological imbalance.

To surmount the debacles enumerated above awakening people a concerted effort is called for. Tapping into an alternate energy source is a better option. But that tasks an exorbitant expenditure of money. Yet the continent is subject to financial constraint.

Hence, protecting and conserving the environment via planting trees is a must-do task. It must not be seen as a onetime campaign. It must be carried out in a sustainable manner strife-torn east Africa must turn its head towards mutual growth.

## Opinion

### A partisan decision devoid of truth: Think twice before you do once

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is a widely known fact that Ethiopia has been a cradle of mankind, an independent, sovereign nation which has all the time entertained color blind diplomacy; that means whenever countries are fond of establishing either a bilateral or trilateral ties with it so long as they are willing to run a win-win approach, amicable fashion and spirit of fraternity, it does always open doors to have good allies.

However, unknowingly or calculatingly, many counties are envy of Ethiopia’s comprehensive growth and change as well as its stride to make poverty history principally utilizing its water resources and independently carry out activities.

This bold move of the nation has made colonial powers, the west and pro-T-TPLF nations uncomfortable. All these countries have left no stone unturned to lift the terrorist group out of the grave to which it has been willingly going.

For instance, the European Parliament has recently passed a resolution demanding ‘immediate cessation of hostilities by all parties’ calling for wide range of sanctions including arms embargo. Prettily knowing that the T-TPLF group broke out itself the war attacking the country’s eternal fence, the ultimate fortress of the people and the state, they have never uttered a word along that line. Did they send it to do so?

Worst even, the terrorist group had entirely

demolished and looted institutions be they are public or private, health care facilities including prestigious hospitals and universities. This all has been regarded as for Europeans as an enjoyable movie. Where had they been to when all this destruction was perpetrated instead of haphazardly running to save the lives of their best ally—the betrayal and irresponsible sect bargaining its own county for penny sale?

They are shouting now about much-needed improvements to the humanitarian situation in Tigray. Can’t citizens living in Amhara and Afar be regarded as human beings, why these Europeans are crying now when their friend it told in the language it can understand well?

The very thing that needs to be taken into account in this regard is Ethiopia is a well-known and smart country which can solve its own problems within its reach. Apart from the presence of a number of conflict resolutions mechanisms among the society, the government has attempted all possible ways to get all sources of conflict and disagreement dried well. Why didn’t these European countries open their eyes and ears to see and hear such a sacred initiation?

So long as they have been selective in listening to and observing situations opening eyes, the effort of the government is good for nothing for them. They have been full of falsehood fabrications, distorted information, fake news and other irrelevant narrations against Ethiopia.

In principle, a person who has already filled with wrong narratives and fabricated ideas can never pass an impartial verdict. This is what really being witnessed on behalf of the European countries through their Union, EU.

Surprisingly, the resolution called on the Ethiopian government to sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International criminal Court urging the warring parties to guarantee unfettered access to independent human rights monitors and investigators, including UN and African Union investigators.

The question is where is an independent and impartial investigator? Whenever the countries would like to hit a hidden agendum, they always criticize the innocent and leave the criminal alone, free.

A very good point in this regard is the resolution reads, ‘Children were being recruited into the conflict.....The use of child soldiers constitutes a war crime.’

Laughter the best, is it the Ethiopian government which has had a well-built, experienced and patriot soldiers, special force, *Fanos* and other security force recruiting child soldiers? The EU had better look into itself to pass reasonable and just decisions instead of spontaneously running activities merely provoked by terrorist affection and its propaganda.

There are a number of Tigrayans, with many exceptions of course, who have been orchestrating futile attempts to help the

terrorist group dismantle the country. Many are seized red handed, even. Besides, there are many business entities owned by ethnic Tigrayans relentlessly sponsoring T-TPLF. Can the resolution incorporate a dwindled report stating that Ethiopian authorities arbitrarily detained ethnic Tigrayans. If truth be told, can Great Britain or USA. Irelandor any nation that develops hatred against Ethiopia leaves terrorist supporting individuals and entireties free? They will never do it, but try to take things at ease when it comes to Ethiopia, an indication of an express hatred and coordinated march to weaken Ethiopia.

Basically, if a country clashes with another sovereign nation and get in an unstoppable war, it is possible to request to deploy peacekeeping mission, but in a county when a terrorist faction from its own womb try to dismantle it, no need of any peacekeeping mission unless there is a hidden agendum. Hence the EU resolution is devoid of realty except thrown to quench some countries self-interest and meet concealed mission.

Thus Unions request of peacekeeping deployment holds a sly agendum, which will never be accepted by Ethiopian and its determined people. Think twice before you do once.

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



# News

## T-TPLF leaders must face ICC: British Writer

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA** – Leaders of The Terrorist TPLF should be indicted in the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the awful crimes they have committed in civilians in various parts of Ethiopia, a noted British writer and charity worker made the appeal.

The writer Graham Peebles told local media that leaders of the criminal group need to be arrested and be accountable for the dreadful crimes they have committed in the past years. “There are awful and heartbreaking stories I have ever heard ranging from torture, false imprisonment, people were buried alive by the rebellious group which amounts to international war crimes.”

As to him, the T-TPLF ruled Ethiopia through fear and repression and its leaders divided ethnic groups against one another instead of encouraging cultural richness and diversity. Also, the clique sets groups against one another so that the legacy of the past and moving forward based on collective unity is crucial.



“If the country is united against them, they are bound to lose the support elsewhere. The radical element is dead underwater and wants conflict-profiting power representative at the peace talk to influence the government.”

Peebles further highlighted that the letter from the T-TPLF leadership states the role of the International Community in the talks, because they want them to continue pressuring Ethiopia and they want westerners sitting at the table. Some of the global powers have stood firmly behind the outlawed group when they are in power and they are still

standing firmly behind them. They want geopolitical control in the Horn region.

“When they are in power the T-TPLF steals resources from the country and acts as a puppet for some global powers and I do think the energy that supports them is either no longer or weak. The faction would not stop war and they used the ceasefire time for rearming themselves which indicates that they don’t want peace.”

On the other hand, some interest groups including international organizations and the media are not willing to speak about the reality on the ground. Journalists are reporting stories from remote areas and they are writing stories about countries that they have probably never visited. They are certainly not in the country when they are talking about the topic at hand.

Lot of people are writing from Kenya about Ethiopia, whether they are in New York, London, Paris, Brussels or others, it is second-hand information, the writer emphasized.



Antony Blinken

## U.S. says T-TPLF returns hostilities in north Ethiopia

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA**- The fighting since the August 24 operation by the Terrorist TPLF forces near Kobo in the Amhara State contributed to the return of hostilities, which greatly increases the risk of atrocities and further human rights abuses, the U.S. said.

In a statement he made on Friday, the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said his country is “deeply concerned” over reports of increasing violence, loss of life, indiscriminate targeting of civilians, and destruction in the conflict in northern Ethiopia.

Blinken has called on the T-TPLF forces to desist further provocations.

Explaining the stand of his country, he stressed that the U.S. is fully engaged with the African Union and other international and regional partners to organize and mediate peace talks as soon as possible.

It is to be recalled that the federal government ceased hostilities effective from June 28, 2021 and opened the door for peaceful discussion under the auspices of the African Union. However, the T-TPLF has repeatedly rejected the government's initiative for peaceful dialogue.

## Commission underscores pastoralist dev’t growth significance

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA**—Ethiopian Cooperatives Commission (ECC) said not only is agriculture, which includes pastoralist, vital in speeding up economic changes but it is also instrumental in benefiting the livelihoods of the citizens.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopian Cooperatives Commission (ECC) in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands officially launched the establishment of Ethiopian Pastoralist Development Forum aims at benefiting the pastoralist and the country by unlocking the potential of the sector.

Speaking at the Occasion, Minister of Agriculture, Omar Hussein said that currently the world economy is seriously challenged by different problems ranging from COVID 19 pandemic, conflict, climate change and others and many countries dependent on importing food items have been facing challenges.

As to him, leadership coordination, technical support and financial affordability of

stakeholders are crucial for bringing desired change.

ECC Commissioner Frealem Shibabaw said, “The pastoralist sector has been facing sever challenges which will both affect the livelihoods of the pastoralist and economy of the country. Accordingly, the commission in collaboration with the concerning stakeholders has held discussions to avoid challenges and benefit both pastoralists and the country.”

As the government is aggressively working in agriculture especially in wheat irrigation system for the sector has an abundant potential to drive the economy, meaningful change will be brought about, she added.

Minister of Irrigation and Lowlands, Aisha Mohammed said that due to lack of necessary support and low attention given to the pastoral sector, the sector is not contributing what is expected of it. Following the homegrown economic reform, the sector has given due attention in order to exploit the potential of the pastoralist sector and contribute its part to the development of the country, she stated.

Even if the sector is given attention, still much effort remains to fully exploit its potential, she noted.

Advisor at ECC Shimekit Maru said that the forum focuses on four main areas: livestock development, financial service, improve policy and legal framework development, and institutional, human resource and system development. Government organizations, donors, NGOs, private sectors, cooperatives were among the partners of the forum, he indicated.

It was stated that the Livestock subsector contributes about 40 % of the agricultural GDP and generates approximately 20 % of the national GDP which is very low. Ethiopia’s international market is less than 1 % of the global meat trade. The sector is expected to generate over 270 million birr in 2028. Feed shortage, insufficient genetic improvement, poor animal health service, Illegal trade, and others were among the problems facing the sector. Strengthening regulatory services, revising and improving legal and policy issues and others were discussed as solutions, he stated.

## Africa needs...

solutions.

Abiy said: “I especially want to applaud the youth who have shared their perspective on security through their essays and reiterated that African youths should be integrated into the decision-making process to ensure recreate the resilient, diverse, equitable, and inclusive Africa we want.”

African governments, development institutions, and non-state actors must collaborate to strengthen the continent’s analytical capacities and adopt artificial intelligence for a more competitive pan-African digital economy, according to the Premier.

He further stated that new technologies shape international relations and make cause vulnerabilities in the areas of digital and technological sovereignty. “We cannot discuss security without technology.”

While technologies’ economic, social, and labor implications are apparent, Africans need to start producing strategies on the

geopolitical dimensions of technology in a way that corresponds with African values and enables them to participate in the innovative emerging technologies, he added.

Premier Abiy also insisted that a pan-African data governance strategy must be considered to help the continent realize an African single market for data aligned with the African Union Agenda 2063.

Regarding the continent’s security issues, PM Abiy opined that the issues of water, energy, and data governance require special attention.

He added that Africa is vulnerable to climate change and the population experience water scarcity. And, most of the African population resides in rural areas and most survive on subsistence farming relying heavily on rain-fed agriculture.

Today, Ethiopia continues to invest in renewable energy including hydroelectric power plants, solar energy, and wind

farm making the country and neighboring countries energy resilient, he said adding, that this is in addition to Ethiopia’s strong stand to not only relive its acute electricity shortage but also export electricity by efficiently utilizing our resources.

Relating to Ethiopia’s summer wheat production, the Premier indicated that, in Ethiopia, rain-fed agriculture yields 30% of our expected production. “To mitigate this we have substantially expanded commercial irrigation and paved its way to wheat self-sufficiency by black planting heat-tolerant water-efficient wheat varieties that adapt to arid and semi-arid agro-ecologies.”

Additionally, Ethiopia has launched the Green Legacy Initiative which focused on boosting forestation and afforestation in 2019 and the target was to plant 20 billion eco-friendly seedlings, PM Abiy further stated.

“Today we have not only met our targets but surpass them, planting 25 billion trees

with a survival rate of over 70 %. And, we have created over 125 nurseries across the country with the potential of eight billion seedlings.”

According to him, the Initiative has also created close to one million jobs. Ethiopia will continue to forge a sustainable system of green living, green behavior, and a green economy.

As communities grappled with climate change and its implications, governments are experiencing the impact of the energy crisis increases in the price of oil and gas and disruptions energy supply chain which strongly highlights the urgent need for innovative solutions, he also said.

He further reported that the Ethiopian government is making significant policy interventions along that line. “Recently we have adopted policies to create an emission-free transport system including supporting policy intervention in the adoption of electric vehicles.”



# Opinion

## Strategic Patience, Flexible Policies to defend and develop the country

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Bilateral and multilateral policies of developing countries, including Ethiopia, have to change in light of recent developments. A fixed and inflexible strategy is implausible in light of increasingly confrontational and hostile neighbors. Well versed leaders of the developing countries sketch elements of a peaceful strategy. This strategy “binds and unifies,” rather than classifies economic, diplomatic and geopolitical aspects of the relationship. There is, of course, a need to build strong coalitions with partners who have allied objectives. A domestic economy is energized by “strategic patience” and high sustainability in growth. Regional struggles, light conflicts, skirmishes, clashes, do not seriously affect continuous growth. Yet, developing countries, including Ethiopia, have suffered from border and military disputes. However, as the countries concentrated on economic development, they continued with their positive engagements.

These engagements have to be preceded by new intellectual framework that is based on the Ethiopian reality. This requires identification of policy choices and development of a strategic perspective for the country in postwar conditions. The intellectual and the political elites have to coordinate and embark on this task. Intellectual inputs have to be solicited by the state for the purpose of stimulating thoughts and outlook in the Ethiopian policy making community. This helps to illuminate the complex situations over the long-term, including postwar recovery, which requires “strategic patience”. Recovery is not an easy task. It demands deep patience by leaders of all colors that aspire to achieve better standard of living for the people that have been exposed to wars and local skirmishes all leading to poverty, death, physical disability, and loss of property. Ethiopia has suffered enough from the wrong policies of the TPLF junta that had destroyed the lives and properties of poor people.

Due to Covid-19, Ethiopia has been in a period of economic stress and a health crisis. The unprovoked aggression by the TPLF junta to regain its lost power was an addition to the difficulties. It massacred the Ethiopian elite force, after inviting them dinner. However, there was a magnificent military response from the Ethiopian side. The junta made a second attempt marching to the capital city to snatch power by force. In its march, it massacred innocent people, peasants, and elderly. But, it suffered heavy defeat by the people and government and withdrew back to its region hundreds of miles away. The hunger of the TPLF for power has not yet been satisfied and it has attempted to snatch power for a third time by occupying the Amhara and Afar regions. The purpose of all these attempts was to grab, seize, clutch and grapple power

for stealing the resources of the country. However, the gallant and united Ethiopian forces fortified with strategic patience repulsed the junta back to its place of origin.

It is believed that the government figured out the need to define political relationships from a more strategic perspective. This helps to undertake actions that put Ethiopia on a sound path based on tactical patience. Its relationship, for example, with its neighbors should be one of the most dynamic ones. Its reforms, which lead to its high and sustained growth, depend on the reign of peace in the country and in the neighboring countries. However, a few neighboring countries have harbored ethnic and religious forces that destabilize the country. These countries are believed to take orders from the superpowers and regional influences that intend to permanently destabilize Ethiopia for being an independent country. It has been repeatedly penalized by these powers just to keep it in a vicious circle of poverty, in which the people remain poor and dependent on their alms, charities, donations and handouts. NGOs and aid agencies are there to see the circle moving.

The government of Ethiopia has to struggle on three fronts, local and external, which have worked to destroy the country along ethnic and religious lines. The third front is poverty. None of these fronts are easy to tackle without strategic patience and flexible policies on the part of the government, which has proven the excellence of its patience, endurance, tolerance and persistence. As global experience reflected, the superpower uses surrogates and proxies as instruments of its policies and programs in a country like Ethiopia. The moment these agents show “sign” of weakness, they are ignored by the superpower that provided them with all kinds of resources, including intellectual, financial and military support. The TPLF junta is currently exposing its internal weakness which is a liability to the global power.

Among the weaknesses of junta is over-centralization of power that leads to decision making process unrelated to the reality of the country. It has been known in making inferior decisions on political, economic and social issues. This has caused a loss of confidence by citizens and private businesses that reduced investment leading to inferior economic outcomes. As an authoritarian regime, the junta’s economic performance has been poor toward the end of its reign. This was due to exploitation of the country’s resources by the junta and its associates. Another weakness of the junta has been purging of the armed forces and replacing it with its own ethnic groups. The replacement has been done with political purges veiled as an anti-corruption drive. To the surprise of the junta itself, the purges caused resistance within and out of the ruling authoritarian regime.

Despite political challenges, the junta has

been able to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). This indicates the level of support the TPLF has been accessing from alien sources. These external sources have no interest in the economic development of the country, but they only wanted access to the natural resources of Ethiopia. The junta has been instrumental in opening the economy to FDI, in which it has a certain amount of share. In these foreign enterprises, local staffs have been employed as instruments of exploitation of their own country. The junta identified and engaged its own agents in FDI enterprises as if representing the interest of the country.

The junta has been able to attract FDI on a large scale, as it developed special economic interests, in which foreign companies have been free to operate. They could build production facilities and create jobs for local staff that have been associated with the ruling junta. These enterprises have been largely immune to the difficulties which other Ethiopian entrepreneurs have been facing. When there is “low” trust in local conditions, the best path for capital flows for FDI has been by the diaspora that has association with the TPLF junta. As FDI flows require high institutional capabilities, distorted and unbalanced information is reduced. But if local institutions are weak, FDI is affected unless the operators are affiliated with the junta. The affiliated diaspora have been key intermediaries who are able to overcome problems and foster capital inflows into Ethiopia.

Diaspora Ethiopians associated with the junta have been important elements of its economic strength. They have assisted the junta in plundering the foreign exchange of the country through duplicitous, dishonest and deceitful means. Recovery of plundered foreign exchange by the former ruling junta demands strategic patience on the side of the government. The junta must have hidden stolen foreign exchange in different banks abroad under private names. It may be tasking to claim these resources because both the banks and the junta would have common interest in keeping the money out of the country. Such international robbery demands flexible policies by the government on how to access the resource of the country hidden abroad. Innocent looking muggers on both sides should be exposed to the international community. Ethiopia should devise a strategy for making the superpowers aware of the theft committed by the junta. Some officials of the superpower country have no idea how a poor country’s resources are rustled and shipped into their country.

The current government of Ethiopia inherited a totally devastated economy for several reasons. The economy has been in shambles due to war, sabotage, civil strife, conflict, discord, and damage instigated by the TPLF. The civil strife has claimed the lives of thousands of innocent people, who

lost their lives for reasons they do not know. Their relatives have been left without any support. They have lost their cattle, farm tools, stores, crops all of which have been stolen or burnt by the junta. The rural people in the Amhara and Afar regions have not yet recovered from the torturous treatment of the junta. The junta shared the spoils it caused in these regions. Everything has been robbed and taken to the Tigray region. It burnt the houses and properties of the rural people it invaded. In the past, these people used to feed and help the starving people of Tigray when their crops failed. Now, things have all been forgotten as if nothing happened or crops never failed.

During the reign of the TPLF junta in Ethiopia, most of the output and services embodied in high GDP and industrial growth have been ploughed back as reinvested capital. Of course, all the investors have their roots in the ruling party of the junta. The suppression of domestic consumption in the country generated large savings to the junta. The saving and investment rates were high, thus generating current account surpluses and export. The TPLF policy decisions on managing the exchange rate led to accumulation of foreign exchange which has been kept in foreign banks. There has been a relaxation of exchange controls in favor of the junta enterprises. This has led to a rapid flight of foreign exchange. The local currency began depreciating fast. In practice, the TPLF junta introduced a highly managed exchange rate, shaped by policy makers and not the currency market.

In the recent years, developing countries have been consciously trying to rebalance their economies. Economists propose strategies for rebalancing the economy that has been out of balance due to mismanagement. The first is to move away from export oriented to domestic oriented drivers as engine of growth. The second is to move away from consumption to investment as the bigger component of economy. Third, it may be useful to move away from agriculture to industry and services as a dominant growth and employment engines. Fourth, it may be necessary to move to modern sectors such as renewables, electric generation to green industries. Finally, it may be wise to shift from the present to the future, in terms of emphasizing industrialization, artificial intelligence, space, advanced software and semiconductors. These measures demand strategic patience and flexible policies on the part of the Ethiopian government. It should be buttressed with intellectual inputs that simultaneously defend and develop the country.

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



# Business & Economy

## Horticulture achieved encouraging results amid the impact of COVID pandemic

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

The data of the Ministry of Agriculture show that the horticulture sector, which includes flowers, vegetables and fruits, spices and herbs, which was severely tested due to the Covid-19 pandemic, has recovered and recorded more performance than planned last year. In 2021/22, it was planned to earn 589 million Dollars from the export trade of horticulture sector and it was possible to get 628 million Dollars. Doing so, Ethiopia became the second largest exporter of flowers in Africa, earning more than 541 million Dollars.

### Effective performance of the horticulture sector in 2021/22

Abdella Negash, Head of the Horticulture Development sector at the Ministry of Agriculture, says that the attention given to the development of the sector during the fiscal year has contributed to the improvement of the performance. According to his explanation; In addition to the Ministry of Agriculture, the relevant offices of land, water, electricity, transport, and investment issues have made joint discussions to solve the problems of the sector. Expanding the operations of companies that have been cultivating vast lands with limited capacity; being able to develop better varieties by removing old and unwanted varieties and implementing efficient methods that allow companies to quickly get the resources they need for their products have allowed the sector to record better production and productivity in the fiscal year.

Abdella reminded that the government has carried out reforms in institutions at all levels. He said that the reform has contributed positively to the efficiency of the sector. "One of the reformed sectors is the agricultural sector. In this way, efforts are being made to bring the services of the horticulture sector, which were being provided in a scattered manner, to one place, to lead the sector in a better performance and to provide intensive support. These efforts also contributed to the success recorded in the sector," he said.

President of the Ethiopian Horticulture Exporters Association, Tewodros Zewdie on his part said that in the year 2014, it was possible to do better activities in the horticulture sector and the foreign currency earned in the fiscal year is better than the income earned in previous years. He recalled that the trade increase in the sector, the strengthening of the logistics capacity of investors and better coordinated operations contributed to the improvement in performance withstanding the pandemic's impact.

Recalling mobility restriction in the main market destinations due to the COVID-19 pandemic had a great impact on the horticulture sector, Tewodros said that the sector has been able to show better performance with the coordinated activities carried out by the government and the



*Ethiopia's horticulture lures foreign investment*

Ethiopian Horticulture Producer and Exporters Association as the restrictions on activities are being eased and it is a sector that has made a great contribution to the country amid the impact of the epidemic.

### Participation of local investors

Participation of local investors has an irreplaceable role for the sustainable development of a country. Economic science research experts say that supporting local investors is a matter that should not be questioned and will bring real economic change. Apart from their role in providing products and services, the investors have a great contribution in creating jobs for citizens, substituting import products and increasing exports, so they should be supported by the government to magnify their role.

Though bold fact the participation and share of domestic investors in the investment sector is constantly improving, it is not enough. There are many reasons why domestic investors' investment participation and share as well as competitiveness are not high.

As to Tewodros, the investors stated that their stake in the sector is not as good as expected that he agrees with. "The main reasons for the lower participation and share of the investors are financial availability, lack of awareness and logistical problems. It is difficult to get the necessary finance for the sector. Investors' understanding of the sector is insufficient. The logistics problem, especially in the fruit and vegetable sector, are obstacles that have adverse impact on the participation of local investors and the overall development of the horticulture sector," he said.

Abdella pointed out that though most of the investors in the sector are foreigners, participation of local investors is also improving. "In order to solve the problems that investors have been raising in the past, the stakeholders will be brought to a platform and consultations about the problems will be held. It has been confirmed that this has an important role in solving the problems of the sector and improving its performance," he said, referring to efforts being made to increase the participation of local investors.

In addition, there are incentive systems that can increase the share of local investors in the sector, Abdella said. According to him, while engaging into the sector, local investors are required to provide the necessary finance in local currency (Birr). Credit availability is another incentive. If the investors can provide some money, the government will provide the maximum amount through loans.

### Challenges of Horticulture sector

Alike the other investment sectors, there are problems to be mentioned in the horticulture sector. According to Tewodros' explanation, Lack of land, energy, finance and resources as well as lack of coordination are the main challenges in the horticulture sector. As to him, although many companies want to expand their operations, land is not being supplied to investors as required. Supply of resources required for production is also insufficient. The problem of power outages has prevented the organizations involved in the sector from working at their full capacity. The relationship and cooperation with educational and research institutes is also small compared to the capacity of the sector.

Pointing out that discussions have been held with the federal and regional governments to solve the problems, Tewodros said that the monthly consultation forum led by the Ministry of Agriculture and comprising the stakeholders of the sector has enabled some of the problems to be resolved. He expressed his hope that the other problems will be solved next.

While explaining about the challenges of the horticulture sector and the solutions, Abdella said, "The problem of land supply is one of the challenges of the horticulture sector. Regions are expected to select and prepare specific areas for investment. It is necessary to ensure the security of the land and create a way for the investor to develop without any obstacles. Sometimes there are questions that arise in connection with enforcement of tenure. For example, there are problems associated with the expansion of cities when reaching the farm area. Sometimes the lands may be under city ownership. Efforts are being made to solve these problems in cooperation with the

relevant parties. Special attention is being given to investors so that they can import the resources they need for their investment activities and get appropriate support."

### Plans ahead

The horticulture sector is expected to earn more than USD 770 million in 2022/23 fiscal year. It is clear that for this plan to succeed, the challenges identified as problems in the sector need to be addressed. Abdella said that the horticulture sector has been neglected without getting the attention it deserves because other crops have been given a lot of attention in the agriculture sector. He stated that currently, the development of horticulture has its own strategy and roadmap and the development of the sector is being supported by policy. According to him, most of the investors involved in the horticulture sector are involved in flower cultivation. By improving the operating system and creating favorable conditions for investment in the sector, preparations are being made to benefit from the high-potential fruit and vegetable sector.

In addition, "The government is undertaking reform works in the field and is moving with special attention. Investors should, thus, use the opportunity to create good chance for the country to benefit from. It is necessary to use this opportunity as there is an organization to solve the problems that have a negative impact on the efficiency of the sector. Regions should prepare enough land for investment and create other favorable conditions, create and develop a system where they work together with the federal government. If there is a better environment for regions to allocate investment land, many investors are interested in engaging in this sector. If this can be done, the sector will generate a large amount of foreign currency for the country. Besides, the work on fruits and vegetables will play a big role in ensuring food security," he said.

Tewodros on his part said; "If the government can provide the necessary resources for the development of horticulture, the existing investors will expand their business and new investors will be attracted to engage in the sector. Better performance can be achieved if better land supply and support system is developed. Therefore, it is necessary to meet the resources that will increase the efficiency of the sector and develop the procedures."

Ethiopia is a country with high investment potential in the horticulture sector. In order for the country to benefit from the potential of the sector and to make the growth of the sector sustainable, it is very important to support local investors engaged in this sector; strengthen their participation and increase their share. Supporting local investors allows a country to rely on its own producers. It also helps to avoid the risk of problems caused by the volatile world politics. Therefore, in all efforts to increase investment in horticulture, increasing the participation of local investors should not be overlooked.



# Planet Earth



## Green diplomacy for the common good of Africans

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

The ideology of Medemer coupled with Green Legacy initiative are the widely known activities in Ethiopia since Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) came to power in 2018. It promotes synergy in all potentials, capacities, ideas, human and material resources for peace, development and democratization. Similarly, with the Green Legacy Initiative, which promotes mounting of forest coverage and conserving nature to combat climate change and global warming, mobilizes tens of millions and planted tens of billions of trees for four consecutive years.

Medemer, as an ideology and philosophy aims synergizing all resources for political, social and economic transformation. Apart from synergizing all resources to ensure prosperity at home, the ideology gives due attention to regional and continental cooperation and integration for mutual development as it thinks national and regional developments are interrelated. Based on this thinking, foreign policy approach provides due attention to building strong relations with its neighbors and the continent as a whole with a view to synergize all the resources for mutual development, peace and prosperity.

On the other hand, the Green Legacy initiative launched in 2019 helped Ethiopia to plant over 25 billion seedlings according to information from the Ministry of Agriculture. The four year massive plantation programme, the Green Legacy initiative, was successful planting over 25 billion seedlings which is beyond the target that is 20 billion trees within a four years period.

In short, Ethiopia is successful in applying both the Medemer and Green Legacy initiative at home hitting the intended goal at home. Now, Ethiopia starts exporting these initiatives to its African brothers so as to stand together for a common development agenda through integrating

the regional and continental resources. As Ethiopia's foreign policy is shaped with the principle of mutual development through cooperation, which is the pillar of Medemer, it started to strengthen fraternity with its African counterparts sending representatives to strengthen people-to-people relations parallel to planting trees in seven African countries. The youth who represented Ethiopia in this campaign will plant trees in their countries of destinations to promote both fraternity and Green Legacy.

The Ethiopian Youth with the motto of 'Planting African Fraternity,' have been arriving in different African countries. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, the Ethiopian youth will deploy to Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia, Rwanda and Kenya in addition to South Sudan. As per the schedule, the youth would plant trees in all parts of their country of destinations. Corresponding to this, the youth will hold discussions with representatives of peoples of their country of destinations.

On the 11th of October, a farewell programme was organized for the youth at Entoto Park. Speaking at the event, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen calls the youth to plant everlasting African fraternity during this historic tour. The Deputy PM and FM Demeke stated that Ethiopia has played a crucial role in combating colonialism to liberate African nations from colonial powers promoting Pan-Africanism. Ethiopia's efforts in combating colonialism and promoting Pan-Africanism help the continent to stand in unison establishing an umbrella organization---AU.

On top of that in recent years, Ethiopia has sent its peacekeeping forces in different parts of Africa to maintain peace and stability. With great military discipline, the Ethiopian peacekeeping forces had been and are playing a decisive role in restoring peace and stability in the countries they deployed. Strengthening this role in Africa, Ethiopia has gained a special place in the

eyes of the international community.

According to Deputy PM Demeke, internally, Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative has achieved a lot as it helped the country to plant over 25 billion seedlings. This four year plantation period helps the country not only to increase its forest coverage, but also contributes to planting billions of fruit trees which are imperative to ensure food security and nutrition. Apart from combating climate change and deforestation through increasing the forest coverage, the Green Legacy initiative in Ethiopia is contributing to ensure economic development and food security. Hence, since climate change is a global and continental crisis, for Demeke the effort of combating climate change needs cross border cooperation and responses.

Understanding the necessity of working together to combat climate change, Ethiopia since the early period of the initiative gives attention to regionalizing the Green Legacy initiative though the outbreak of COVID-19 and other factors limit it. Now, Ethiopia launched the journey of Green Diplomacy by sending its youth representatives to replicate best practices of different African countries.

According to Demeke, without limiting themselves in planting trees, the youth should strengthen fraternity with the people of Africa so as to heighten the strong bonds of Ethiopia with the people and countries of Africa. For Demeke, Ethiopia is doing exemplary work for the rest of the world in planting seedlings for green development is key in combating climate change. As climate change is a global phenomenon, African countries should work in a coordinated manner to stamp out climate change impacts. Ethiopia shows its commitment working with its neighbors and the African continent as a whole are expected to second the green legacy move.

"Your journey is beyond planting trees as you are planting an everlasting fraternity. You are Ambassadors of Ethiopia to

strengthen brotherhood and friendship with our African brothers and sisters. The seedlings you are ready to plant in these countries is nothing but planting fraternity and friendship that helps to make diplomatic relations everlasting," Demeke noted.

Though the Ethiopian youth journey symbolizes Green Diplomacy, it aimed at strengthening people-to-people relations, fraternity, and cooperation, integration and promoting Pan-Africanism. The goal of Green Diplomacy is integrating, connecting Africa for mutual development. It is all about strengthening African fraternity and revolving Pan-Africanism for the development and prosperity of Africa and its people.

Medemer ideology believes "We can achieve what we dream by synergizing our resources, knowledge and ideas," and the goal of Green Diplomacy initiated by the Ethiopians is to realize this approach for the development of Africa by strengthening the relations among African nations to realize integration and cooperation. This new initiative is a historic event to strengthen African fraternity aside from promoting green legacy across Africa.

Nowadays, climate change is not a single issue, it is rather a political, economic and diplomatic issue as it becomes a threat for the survival of all living things on this planet. Understanding this, Ethiopia invests its maximum efforts in combating climate change and taking necessary actions. According to Demeke, "Taking timely actions to combat climate change at home is one thing," adding "Expanding and advancing this initiative to Africa is an additional blessing."

For Demeke, the mission of this project is internalizing green legacy, fraternity, diplomacy and cooperation concepts for the common good of all African countries. It is all about strengthening public diplomacy, green initiative, planting permanent fraternity and heightening diplomatic relations.



# Art & Culture



## A glimpse of heaven

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

I have had a glimpse of heaven  
 When I was seventeen  
 My mind had shut down  
 Its whispers and its frown  
 And in the silence  
 I felt my true presence  
 Life was sweet like heaven  
 I never thought I'd listen

To any more of negativity  
 I was in peace and serenity  
 The sunshine was brighter  
 The wind blowing was cooler  
 My heart was throbbing in wonder  
 I could feel mind was free  
 The world was a nice place to be  
 This was my glimpse of heaven  
 That lasted till eleven  
 When I was seventeen

## I Am Me

BY BINIAM ZEWEDE

I wish nothing but the best for me  
 If I could be the change I wish to see  
 To have a place in everyone's mind  
 To be remembered by the world  
 I would dedicate something different  
 So that,  
 They'll be proud of my work  
 I strongly believe and strongly think  
 The time is not gone, till young  
 It is true that!  
 I can bring something new to the world  
 That could help a lot, so much more  
 Tomorrow is coming and today is going  
 I feel I could turn back today  
 The day and the time that is going  
 Once it has been said,



Time and tide waits for no man  
 But what I just mean now is...  
 The time is waiting for one man  
 That is me  
 I am me!

## Hooligan hypocrites

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

As we are  
 Famed for hypocrisy  
 Do allow us to  
 Lecture you  
 About democracy  
 Though we know  
 Prior to us  
 You have the practice  
 In the timeline, upstarts  
 Usurping the know-all  
 Permit us  
 About democracy to  
 Goad you please!

The divide-and-rule  
 Machiavellian gesture  
 As an adventure  
 We admit  
 And still exercise it  
 Fomenting many an  
 Ethnic-based conflict.

We adore to fish  
 In troubled water  
 To sure meet  
 Own objective faster.  
 Just like a canopy feeder  
 With our wings



Eclipsing the water  
 Striking out light helps us  
 Unsuspecting fishes  
 To pick better.

In a  
 System of governance  
 And religiosity  
 You took the lead  
 But our piece of advice  
 How to dine, how  
 To put on attires  
 You have to heed,  
 Forget not

Boiled-wheat aid  
 You may need.  
 Disgraced, it is better  
 For food your pride  
 You barter.

Don't think  
 Humanitarian issues  
 Or aid  
 Is what first comes  
 To our head.  
 The economically weak  
 Their mind we—  
 Hooligan hypocrites—

Don't  
 Allow them to speak  
 Leave alone  
 Their own roadmap  
 To design and  
 God-bestowed  
 Wealth to tap.  
 Worshippers of devil  
 Head- to -toe  
 We are evil.

It is our duty  
 To exhume a  
 Terrorist party  
 That shows alacrity  
 To execute assigned task  
 The reason behind its back  
 Remiss to ask.  
 TPLF is our right arm  
 We don't want  
 On it to happen  
 Any harm.

We don't mind  
 For genocide  
 A hotbed TPLF members  
 Or dissenters may find.  
 Introducing  
 Modern colonization  
 Is our covert intention.



# Society

## A single life matters

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Imagine, once you were leading a comfortable, luxurious and modern life in one of the most developed nations where modernity is its identity. There, you spent good and bad moments for not less than 31 years.

However, in one of the unfortunate days, following the sickness you faced (mental disorder) you found yourself being homeless; and sheltering in a den at your homeland.

Having no one to help or support you at hometown, you end up in sleeping in a den for not less than 20 years in a situation putting your safety in danger.

This is not a fictitious story that you may read it on novels or watch it on Hollywood movies. Rather, it is a true story of a 70 year old Ethiopian woman who was compelled to lead life in the den for the past 20 years.

Jemanesh Deneke was earnestly pleading and crying for the past twenty years needing support from Kirkos Sub City, Woreda 09 Administration to offer her a house where she can live safely and peacefully. However, her beseeching could not win the hearts of those people who were administrating the Woreda. Her plead fell on deaf ears and blind eyes among them.

As if she is destined to live in a forest like a wild animal and lead miserable life, they



Photo- Mayor Office of Addis Ababa

gave her the cold shoulder. Thus, she was compelled to lead a miserable life for the last twenty years by making a plastic shelter in the forest.

However, as Addis Ababa Mayor of Office reported, thanks to Kirkos Sub City Administration, now, it seems that fortune starts smiling on her and good things tend to happen to her. Following the initiation by city officials to better meet the needs of the homeless and restore pride to those disadvantaged group, she has now become the owner of a house. The old days, where she used to sleep in a jungle suffering from extreme cold weather and blistering heat,

risking her life has now concluded. In turn, a new day has come- to start a new life within her new house.

After 21 years of struggle and hopelessness, Jemanesh has now become the owner of her house. As it is learnt, administrators of Kirkos Sub City joining hands with Woreda 09 have handed over the key of her new house. What is more, the leaderships of the sub city and the kebele have passed decision to equip the houses with all necessary house equipment.

In fact, since the past two or more years, the Addis Ababa City Administration has been working aggressively to support pro-poor

segments of city's residents in every possible ways. Using all available resources, it has supported several senior citizens whose life was stacked between life and death

Aside from establishing feeding centers in various areas and enabling those vulnerable groups to have their meals in their respective places to creating job opportunity plus subsidizing them by all available means, it has been executing pro- poor-centered activities. As a result, the life style of several deprived people has changed dramatically.

So far, the Administration has supported thousands of people. It has renovated houses of elders, helpless and disabled people and reconstructed shabby houses and delivered to the needy. By doing so, it can help many people who were forgotten for years, have now started leading a dignified life.

This is what leadership means- standing for all people in all economic circumstances.

This has happened to Jemanesh. For the reason she has no one to help her, this woman suffered a lot for two decades. She experienced hell on earth. However now, thanks to the commitment of the City Administration, effort of the Kirkos Sub City and Woreda 9 administrators, she has seen the glimpse of hope. However, as there are many people who are living in extreme poverty, helping them to sustainably through devising sustainable mechanism should be further strengthened.

## Investing in girls is investing in our common future

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Every year, October 11th, global community marks International Day of the Girl Child with the aim to bring awareness and solutions to the unique challenges that girls around the world face every day, to amplify their voices as well as renew commitment so as to enable girls enjoy and exercise their rights; play a full and equal part in their communities and societies.

Last Tuesday, October 11, 2022 the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl Child was marked globally under the theme "Our time is now—Our rights, Our Future."

Ethiopia also observed the day warmly with a theme "Let us prevent violence against girl child by giving due attention on child raising," at the even held in Debre Birhan Town, Semien Shewa Zone of Amhara State in the presence of Women and Social Affairs Minister Dr. Ergoge Tesfaye, state ministers and Semien Shewa Zone Administrator Mekasha Alemayehu.

Speaking on the occasion Minister Ergoge Tesfaye (PhD) said that while we observe the International Day of the Girl Child in Ethiopia, it is mainly to aware the life challenges that young girls encounter and to betterment their life journey.



Photo: AMC

Following the conflict surfaced in some parts of the country, mothers, women and children have been exposed to severe challenges and compelled to live in challenging situations.

Mentioning that protecting women from any form of violence is the responsibility of all, the Minister said that investing on child girls play constructive role in country's development and prosperity. The concerted efforts of all stakeholders and pertinent bodies are of critical importance so that the rights of young children and women are ensured and their future journey in life is eased.

In many cultures and societies, the rights and basic needs of girl children are denied. Young girls face increased risk of sexual abuse and exploitation as well as other harmful practices that negatively affect their survival, development and ability to achieve to their fullest potential.

Amahara State Semien Shewa Zone Administrator Mekasha Alemayehu for his part said that the contribution of girl children in the overall development of the nation is incalculable. Thus, protecting young girls from any violence needs the concerted efforts of all stakeholders.

Raising awareness should be the prime

task to create an informed community that protects the violence and traditional harmful practices at the grass root level.

In this regard, public institutions, community, religious leaders and development partners should enhance efforts to curb the harmful traditional practices practiced on little girls and work in collaboration for the common good.

On the occasion, young girls drawn from the states conveyed their messages for attendees. And the Ministry has provided various education materials, food and non-food items to the children and students affected by the conflict.



# Law & Politics

## Exploring every available recipe, ensuring lasting peace

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Over the course of the years, Ethiopia has been going to the ends of the earth to attain peace and stability amidst layers of socioeconomic and political obstacles. Despite little headways since the 2018 reform, the country is still beset by a wide range of setbacks that require short-term and long-term fixes.

It should be borne in mind that the terrorist TPLF group for nearly three decades had been sowing the seeds of hatred and discord among Ethiopians along ethnic and religious lines and turning the country into a living hell.

After the new leadership took office on the heels of a popular protest, the country has been making progress, holding a historic poll as the ousted TPLF regime and its cronies tried to thwart the reform fabricating conflicts here and there.

In fact, since 2020, Ethiopia has been fighting hybrid wars triggered by the criminal TPLF clique putting the road to peace and democratization bumpy.

In point of fact, in the face of terrorist TPLF's strings of wars and unwarranted pressure from some foreign entities aimed at twisting Ethiopia's arm under the veil of a broad range of cooked-up stories, the country has been striving for bringing about peace and tranquility.

Albeit the federal government in several instances has been making every possible effort to end the conflict, the terrorist TPLF group has sustained downplaying the proposed peace talks under the guise of a broad range of lame reasons. It rather perpetuated confounding the wider international community with fictitious stories and engaging in a smear campaign against the positive moves now and then the incumbent took.

Regardless of the fact that the criminal organization sustained brushing off the proposed peace, the government has been making every possible effort to end hostilities. As a show of good gesture, the government released some members of TPLF criminals and toiled to allow unrestricted humanitarian aid to Tigray state.

And yet, the unlawful group continues to carry out fresh attacks and provocative acts while the incumbent has been going the extra mile to bring about lasting peace.

Making clear its unflinching stands to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, the government has remained committed to resolving the conflict peacefully.

To overcome the main contentious issues and pave the way to lasting peace, the government has been preparing the country for an inclusive and open national dialogue. With important legal and technical preparations finalized, the National Dialogue Commission has been undertaking various activities in partnership with pertinent bodies.

As national dialogue plays a paramount role in bolstering national unity, diminishing ethnic division, resolving confrontation, and other barriers, Ethiopia has been leaving no



# NATIONAL DIALOGUE

unify | engage | mobilize

stone unturned to get to the bottom of the problem in an atmosphere of calm through dialogue.

It is abundantly clear that many national dialogues have been staged in a wide spectrum of the world to resolve predicaments, find a common position, reinforce shared values, and upgrade the culture of patience and other related aspects.

In this day and age, the National Dialogue Commission has been preparing for an all-encompassing national dialogue geared toward resolving perspectives as different as chalk and cheese and finding consensus on major national matters.

As things stand at present, Ethiopia has been putting emphasis on the national dialogue that can give rise to a permanent solution to problems surfacing on a national scale.

On the basis thereof, the National Dialogue Commission has been carrying out its accountabilities and responsibilities with flying colors giving prominence to ensuring sustainable peace on a national scale. The Commission so far had a conversation with a significant degree of bodies such as religious authorities, opposition parties, media practitioners, and more of the same.

In a broader sense, Ethiopia has been making every possible effort the realization of a national dialogue that can at the earliest possible time create a consensus on major national political issues and achieve lasting peace all over the nation.

As the whole thing is moving in the right direction in the present climate, all stakeholders should go the extra mile to ensure peace in all regions of the country playing a part in the national dialogue.

It is crystal clear that apart from establishing dependence, harmony, and common ground, national dialogues serve as a stepping stone to building a democratic system in every part of the country.

As reliable dialogues are an effective gadget for the settlement of disagreements, and political conditions and getting higher debate concerning the nation's path away from an elite bargain, everyone should work shoulder to shoulder with the commission for achieving the desired goal.

To finance this toll order, lately, the Ministry of Finance, United Nations Development

Program (UNDP), and National Dialogue Commission have signed a program document that enables financial support for the national dialogue process.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Finance as quoted by local media, UNDP has allotted 2.2 million USD to finance the national dialogue process and will administer a financial buffer to be opened to collect funds from development partners for the 3-year program.

Some 32.8 million USD is expected to be collected from development partners through the financial buffer that UNDP will open.

In addition to the annual budget to be allocated by the government to the National Dialogue Commission, the fund collected from partners will be managed by an independent trust fund, it was learned.

The set-up of the trust fund is believed to contribute to the commission's mission by strengthening its institutional capacity to carry out its duties, including holding inclusive national dialogue based on schedule and generating recommendations to resolve differences.

And, very recently government higher officials including regional state presidents and Commission members agreed to join hands and make the dialogue effective. Moreover, the Commission prepared a strategic plan that would serve as a cornerstone in the whole process.

The Commission tasked to oversee the process has taken over the responsibility, President Sahle-Work Zewde as she addressed the joint session of the House of People's Representatives and House of Federation.

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

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

In a previous interview with The Ethiopian

Herald Anteneh Tsegaye (Ph.D.), Assistant Professor of Intercultural Communication at Addis Ababa University said, "In principle, national dialogue involves the public at all structural levels, formal or informal, and brings significant actors to the table, going beyond the elites, to deal with issues of discontents and misunderstanding in the course of the nation-building process. In its real sense, for example, civil society leaders, and even external actors, can initiate informal dialogues between key actors, even if they have lesser mandates than one initiated by the state,"

"These informal dialogues can entail trust-building meetings, negotiations, and consultations that lay the groundwork for formal national dialogue. In practice, however, it is often attempted after exclusive elite-based negotiation formats which have failed or are considered inadequate to prevent further instability as lessons learned from the failure of countries in the current conflict zones," he added.

"Ethiopia needs a highly inclusive and bottom-up approach to a national dialogue. Engaging the public and civil society should enforce the Ethiopian national dialogue as the country owns indigenous approaches to dealing with conflicts and reconciliation processes. As history informs, the elites of Ethiopia have been at the center of political fragmentation and agenda-setting for more than a century,"

The Yemeni National Dialogue Conference (NDC) was praised for its inclusiveness and technical quality, but its recommendations were not implemented and the country went on to face a violent conflict and deep humanitarian crisis. Participants' willingness and the technical quality of the process thus do not guarantee a positive outcome. Therefore, success or failure depends on various factors," he wrapped up.

To sum up, the road to a successful national dialogue could prove tough in a country where terrorists strive to spoil the peace and stability of a country. But, given the tremendous efforts, the incumbent and the public are making, the planned national dialogue is expected to come to fruition and strengthen the national cohesion of the country. To realize the objectives of the dialogue, all stakeholders should continue contributing their share.





Ephrem Endale  
Contributor

# Between you & me

## Play it Fair and Square or Get Lost!

Good old Rashid Abdi was in euphoric mode recently. I'll tell you why. He said Tigrayans call him "Uncle." What do you mean by "Where is the rest of the story?" There is no story! The whole story is that the Rashid fellow being called "Uncle" and the euphoria that seems to have taken him all the way to Cloud and some snoozing very 'close' to Heaven! It's not fair. He should have demanded for a bigger chunk of the loaf! Come on, the guy has been working his 'whatever' off for so long and all he gets is 'word crumbs' like "Uncle!" Well one is born every minute; isn't that what they say!

Look for quite some time now there have been these questions that has been nagging a lot of us. Why are so many foreign countries and foreigners trying to claim the front seat in Ethiopian affairs? Why, oh why? I mean when you realize even countries which have a thousand plus problems of their own, which haven't convinced their own people as to their diplomatic or administrative prowess trying to give us the roadmap we should follow you know this world, or rather this age, seems to have more than its share of the weird and the weirder. First, clean your backyards before trying to arm-twist or barge your way into the front rooms of others, into places your advice is not sought or your presence welcomed.

The country of Ireland was told by the Ethiopian government in black and white to refrain from undermining Ethiopia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. I

mean for quite a while the behavior of this particular country in trying to undermine Ethiopia's attempt at reinstating the rule of law has been a subject of questions and speculations. Why is a country in a far corner of the world, a country about which we are not aware having any bad bloods all of sudden so determined to sabotage the interests of this country? Last time some six diplomats from that country were kicked out the understanding among the public was that they'll get the message. "Don't push your fingers where they are not wanted. Respect sovereignty and territorial integrity of a proud nation and the people." I mean how more strongly can you send such messages other than kicking out some of their so-called diplomats? But they don't get it! Do they think this is some kind of a game? Do they think patience will never run out and they will continue rampaging all over their place with their destructive agendas? It would have been the nicest of thoughts to think this action will send them signs Ethiopians mean business and they will learn their lessons. Well they didn't.

That particular country's "intent on emboldening the TPLF and calling for coercive actions against Ethiopia using its membership in the UNSC," as the official Ethiopia letter puts it leaves no one in doubt that they are out and about with blazing guns to do us harm. Well if they fail to put their actions in order next time it wouldn't be about seeing off a handful of diplomats all the way to Addis Ababa airport and

beyond. It'd be the final nail in the coffin. In fact that's what some very angry citizens are calling for.

Here is one angry tweet; "Ireland, which has suffered sectarian violence for years, should have been more sympathetic to Ethiopia. But its leaders seem to want Ethiopia suffer a similar violence from divisive politics that took many lives in Ireland." could anyone have put it in better words!

And there is the US Congressman named Brad Sherman tweeting: "Spoke directly to POTUS Biden today regarding potential genocide in Tigray. He is very well aware of the situation and is open to hear my ideas on how to respond, particularly to pressure Eritrea to withdraw troops." Ideas! What ideas? He doesn't have any ideas! And the president took the time to hear him out! I mean the top man of the most powerful country in the world lending his ears to the chattering of some politician who for all practical purposes is trying to benefit himself and his political career! The charts we saw on the social media about contributions to his election campaign don't paint a very good picture of the gentleman. What the hell does he know about a country which is still more of a mystery in all the sense of the term?

What the hell does the good gentleman know about the conflict and the how's, the who's and the whys. Hey the world is on the verge of something catastrophic and the president has the time to hear complete

nonsense from a man who has no right or legitimacy to talk about a region he knows nothing about; Except of course some under the table, behind-the-curtain shenanigans which personally benefit him.

And we ask why are figures waging armed terror in Ethiopia members of groups who publicly have professed their goal was to dismember the country having field days in some African countries? Why? Why are some African countries that have gone through the nightmare of ethnic conflict practically encouraging that same mayhem in Ethiopia: who's selling to who?

In his book "The Unknown Empire" Dean W. Arnold writes... 'Ethiopia's reputation existed as far back as 50 B.C. when it was described by Diodorus Siculus, one of the most reliable Historians: "they have never experienced the rule of an invader from abroad, and although many powerful rulers have made war upon them not one of these has succeeded in his undertaking."

In another part of the book W. Arnold writes; "Ethiopia's past success against invaders provided inspiration for African countries in the twentieth century as they fought to gain back their lands from Western occupation and domination."

You want cordial relationships where the interests of both sides are respected and honored don't you spoil the game! Play it fair and square or get lost!

## Nice Words; Nicer Smiles!

I remember as a child there were this rich couple in our locality and they like giving presents. A few neighbors got presents. They're nice people aren't they? Well, maybe they are. Hmm what am I doing here! No, they are not. Just because they have the extra money- whatever that means- to throw away and throw 'gifts' our way doesn't mean they have secured their place in heaven. It would have been good to think nice of people who you've seen doing nicer things. But this was one of those scenarios where you didn't really get what you see. The couple owned quite spacious land in town with a few structures, and quite large empty spaces. And yet they never seem to have enough. They used connections in high places to drive away people neighboring their property for no fault on the part of the victims. Many have wept much of their lives because of the devilish act of these couple which shattered lives and broke up families. Yes, they were that powerful! They did innumerable damage to the lives of the innocent unless the eleventh hour arrived. Tough times came knocking when they had to answer for many things and their departure was neither nice nor memorable. No one ever found out where they ended up. The final word was that they have gone to their birthplace in the hinterland of the country and practically melted into the thin air. But the big message they left behind was that nice words and nicer smiles are just the very little parts of the whole story; or any story for that matter.

Nice words by themselves never meant anything, if we really think about it.

Especially these days we are unfortunately in times when even some of the clergy whose vocabulary is filled with the most beautiful words on planet earth doing things even we 'the normal' creatures would scoff at. Look at international diplomacy; all those smiles, all those hugs, all those brotherly gestures. And no sooner have the guests boarded their plane home the real story begins.

Many an innocent beauty has seen her dreams shattered because the nice, God-loving, good-hearted dude she married was really nothing but a real dude! All his bad sides, all his evil thoughts have been successfully camouflaged during the courtship. Courtship was what it was before tying the knot, wasn't it? (With things changing so fast we've to make sure don't we?) Probably her entire extended family and 'extended' family of friends loved the dude.

"Have you seen him? He is so charming!"

"I've never seen anyone who could smile 24/7 and manages to force the world to fall in love with him?"

"He's what you can call a dream husband."

Just wait a couple of months into the marriage and you'll get the real meanings of those plastic smiles and empty. Sad that, nice words and sad smiles no more mean what they should.

While we are at it, I watch European football. If that's a confession well what can I do; let it be one! And just as bonus info the team I've been supporting for decades is

doing bad this season, Real Bad! What is the problem? Well some commentators say all of a sudden the team spirit is lacking. Aha; that's talking sense, isn't it! Team work- the magic term. No wonder that we lag behind in most things since team work isn't the order of the day. Especially, no sporting activity.

You find yourself in a group where the storms start hitting hard and being the nice guys you try to steady the rocking boat. If it goes down every one goes under, including you too. Well most of the time you don't feel that heroic. Instead of trying to steady the rocking boat the first thought that comes to mind it finding where the captain have stashed the life jacket. Ending up at the bottom of some sea is not one of the scenarios in which you want to bid farewell to the world. But then this boat could not be steadied by individuals like you. It demands group work, and committed group work at that. I must have already told you committees are the last things I want to face. "The committee will be talking to you on Monday 9:30 in the morning. Now that should have prompted a big "Ah!" the first sign that your case is a lost case is the announcement that it has been to the committee.

I remember years back a wedding which almost didn't happen because of the curse of 'the committee. The groom selects a few of his friends to oversee preparations for the wedding day. He was acting against the advice of close relatives who said there were people within their clan who knew

how to go about such things. After all, wedding festivities are not simple happy birthday events. He refused. He was the type of guy everything of not his generation is backward. Sounds familiar, doesn't it! He argued that the traditional preparations were too time consuming and chaotic and his friends would do it 'the modern' way. He picked them for the simple reason they were his closest friends! Well best friends could sometimes be best for making sure you're carried up to your bed, curse to the limbs which give you away when you most need them. .

Well the wedding organizing group lasted less than a week. Not only did the group break up so did friendships too. It so happened that that curse of 'generation ego' made wild animals out of them. In fact the talks behind the scenes were that two group members actually treaded blows. It was a secret kept under wraps because it would have hurt their individual standings in the society. Finally the relatives with the experience took matters into their hands and everything went fine.

And you can just imagine all the nice words and nicer smiles did nothing to see the group of best friends carry out the duties they were given and keeping their personal interests and egos into temporary boxes. After all, life is a two way traffic where you take some and give some. Many times trouble comes when individuals and groups try to take the whole cake. It simply doesn't work that way!



# In Pictures

## Tenth Tana Forum discussing on various security issues in Africa

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIHER

The Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa, a platform for African leaders and key stakeholders to collaboratively engage in African-led solutions to security challenges is underway from 14-16 October, 2022 in Bahir Dar, the capital of the Amhara Regional State.

The contributions to the 2022 Tana Papers analyze the state of Africa's maritime security and the ongoing threat of terrorism at sea in the form of piracy and armed robberies across Africa's territorial waters. The contributors also investigated the evolving nature of Al-Shabaab, which poses significant challenges to national, regional, and international actors in dealing with the phenomena of violent extremism and terrorism, according to the forum.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the Chairman of the Sovereign Council of the Transitional

Government of the Sudan, Lieutenant General Al Burhan, Prime Minister of Somalia Hamza Abdi Barre, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia Demeke Mekonnen, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia Hailemariam Desalegn attended the forum.

Pre-conference discussions was held on the struggles of former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and his leadership style as a lead up to the official inauguration of the 10th Tana High Security Forum in memory of the former president of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda.

"The Tana High-Level Forum's 10th Anniversary is filling up with experts. We are very excited to facilitate rich African-led discussions over the coming three days (14-16 October 2022)."

The forum is attended by about 300 guests including current and former heads of state, researchers and politicians from various parts of Africa on the beach of Lake Tana in the heart of the city of Bahir Dar to discuss various security issues in the forum.

