



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXIX No 034 20 October 2022 - Tekemt 10, 2015

Thursday

Price Birr 10.00

## T-TPLF disruptor of HoA's peace, security: Analyst

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Terrorist TPLF group is a threat to the peace and security of the Horn of Africa (HoA) and it should be disarmed, according to a senior political analyst.

Speaking to local media, history and political affairs author and analyst Prof. Mohammed Hassen stated that the people of Tigray have been suffering a lot because of the T-TPLF.

According to him, unless the terrorist group is disarmed, there won't be peace and stability not only in Ethiopia but also in the HoA. And, if the international community is concerned about the human rights of civilians, they have to insist on the disarmament of the T-TPLF.

However, Prof. Mohammed added, what some foreign forces are doing now is trying to save the group from wiping out. As everyone

*Prof. Mohammed Hassen*

knows, unlike the Ethiopian government, proposed African Union-led peace talks, he also indicated.

*See T-TPLF ... Page 3*



## Today's Diasporas rally aims to inform Ethiopia's truth

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA**-The Ethiopian Diaspora in Belgium is intensifying effort to inform Europeans the reality on the ground in Ethiopia and to expose the destructive activities of Terrorist TPLF, Defend Ethiopia Taskforce Coordinator Ephrem told ENA.

Defend Ethiopia Taskforce and Diaspora Belgium Community Coordinator Ephrem Zewudu said that a rally will be held in

Brussels on October 20, 2022 with the view to informing the reality in Ethiopia to the international community; oppose the unnecessary interference by some foreign powers in Ethiopia, and to inform people about Ethiopia's truth.

Besides holding demonstration, letters of protest will be submitted, twitter campaign will be conducted, digital diplomacy efforts will be made, and in-person presentation will be made to inform the reality and

oppose meddling in Ethiopian affairs, he added.

Foreign powers should not interfere in Ethiopia as the people of Ethiopia do not want this, he stressed, urging the international community to stand with the people of Ethiopia.

Noting that Brussels is a political capital where EU and UN representatives reside, he

*See Today's Diasporas ... Page 3*

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## Gov't agencies exchange views on aid delivery to Tigray

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** -A meeting of various Ethiopian government institutions was held yesterday at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia to discuss humanitarian supplies in the Tigray state.

The discussion specifically focused on ways to expedite the delivery of humanitarian supplies to the Tigray state in the areas that are under the control of the federal government of Ethiopia.

The discussion was led by Ambassador

*See Gov't agencies ... Page 3*

## Ethiopia demands U.S. investors to push for AGOA reinstatement

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA**- The decision of U.S. to remove Ethiopia's eligibility is now hurting the longstanding ties between the two countries.

Thus, Ethiopian Ambassador to the U.S. Sileshi Bekele recently tweeted that :“We urge [American] companies investing in Ethiopia to push the U.S. government for the reinstatement.”

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# News

## Movement launches petition for Borrell's resignation

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – Democracy in Europe Movement (DiEM25) requests the resignation of European Union (EU) High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, as a result of his racist remarks about non-European countries.

Josep Borrell made reckless speech referring Europe as a garden and other countries as a jungle. Accordingly, the union demands the resignation of EU foreign affairs Chief Josep Borrell over his racist remarks about non-European countries. His remarks revealed that the appalling racist and colonial mindset that permeates even the highest levels of European political leadership.

“Europe is a garden. We have built a garden. Everything works and most of the rest of the world is a jungle, and the jungle could invade the garden. The gardeners should take care of it, the jungle has strong growth capacity and the walls will never be high enough in order to protect the garden. The gardeners have to go to the jungle,” Borrell said.

“A nice small garden surrounded by high walls in order to prevent the jungle from coming in is not going to be a solution. Because the jungle has a strong growth capacity, and the wall will never be high enough in order to protect the garden.”

This supposed analogy should be unacceptable, no matter what the context is. The fact that it came from the EU foreign



affairs chief, at a public event with the next generation of EU diplomats, is nothing short of shocking and grotesque.

In calling most of the rest of the world “a jungle”, he has degraded billions of people

in parts of the world that are underdeveloped as a direct result of Europe’s colonial legacy, and shown that, far from wanting to atone for this immense injustice, his top priority is perpetuating it. Borrell’s conduct, put simply, is unfit for the office he holds. We demand his immediate resignation, it was indicated.

The United Arab Emirates also summoned the acting head of the mission at the EU delegation to the UAE, asking for explanation of what it said were racist comments made by Borrell. The UAE foreign ministry said the remarks were “inappropriate and discriminatory” and “contribute to a worsening climate of intolerance and discrimination worldwide,” UAE state news agency (WAM) reported.



## Ministry, SSWC ink accord to commence three water projects

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA - The Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) and Somali State Water Works Construction (SSWC) signed three projects implementation accord at a cost of over 716 million Birr to benefit people of two woredas of the state.

The agreement between the ministry and SSWC would be implemented in Ererworeda at a cost of over 42 million Birr. The project includes digging and constructing 4 deep water wells so as to help the state resist drought.

The same project will be implemented in the town of Togo Chale, and a multifaceted and drought resistant water projects are going to be done, too. This is the project that would incorporate civil works, pipe maintenance,

and electromechanical equipment provision over 90 million Birr, he said.

The other issue dealt with during the agreement was the potable water project implementation in Chelelektu town in Gedeo Zone of Southern Nationalities and Nationalities State. It was also stated during the occasion that for this project which includes civil works, pipe maintenance, provision of electromechanical equipment and other related activities over 182 million Birr has been deployed.

The agreement made between potable water and sanitation State Minister of MoWE Ambassador Asfaw Dingamo and Abebe Negash general contractor and other officials, and the minister and the contracting bodies will work hard to get the projects implemented keeping the right time set, as to the minister.

## BBC accidental report debunks 'Tigray Genocide' falsehood

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - An American political Analyst stated that the accidental report stating residents in Tigray state are preparing rations for Terrorist TPLF militias leads to both political incorrectness to “Tigray Genocide” narrative and discredits two years of lies broadcast by the western media.

In his recently posted article, American Political Analyst, Andrew Korybko said that the artificially manufactured information warfare narrative claiming Tigray under starvation was just discredited by the accidental report of BBC stating residents of Mekelle are apparently preparing food in T-TPLF militias.

The report indicates availability of “food in the regional capital Mekelle the residents have enough not only to stockpile for themselves, but also to give the terrorist group with rations whether under coercion or voluntarily.”

He said: “My factual observation leads to several other “politically incorrect” ones that collectively contribute to discrediting the false allegations of “genocide” in the state even more than they have already been.”

As deduced from the spirit of the report, the presence of food preparation to the TPLF militias confirms that the federal forces have



not impeded humanitarian aid shipment to Tigray like what was falsely claimed by the some special interest groups ‘ Mainstream Media, he argued.

Describing TPLF responsibility over the case, he remarked that T-TPLF itself is responsible for the distribution of food throughout the state as it creates humanitarian catastrophe for the purpose of putting maximum international pressure on the federal government.

As to him, observations confirm that some conflict-profiting powers and their allies are deliberately weaponizing humanitarian issues as a part of their hybrid war of terror against Ethiopia.

The federal forces have allowed humanitarian aids into Tigray and residents can also stock up both for themselves and for the terrorist group militias, he noted.

“Nevertheless, some people are starving, but it is purely the fault of the foreign-backed T-TPLF, which is killing the same people,” he added.

## Ethiopia reiterates commitment to creating unhindered humanitarian access

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – The Permanent Mission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland has come across a statement released by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) yesterday.

Therefore, in its statement, the Permanent Mission stated that it would have preferred to meet and brief the new High Commissioner before he opted to start his work with a press release against Ethiopia.

“ We hope this does not herald a change of direction for the partnership Ethiopia enjoyed with the OHCHR.”

The statement released on 18 October 2022 attributes civilians’ deaths while admitting that these allegations are not verified.

The Government of Ethiopia has expressed its deep regrets for any unfortunate harm that might have happened to civilians and humanitarian workers, the Permanent Mission said in a statement.

It is committed to investigating any such incidences and taking corrective measures. It must be clear that the allegation that ‘the toll is staggering’ is an unnecessary

exaggeration. We hope this will not become a pattern under the new High Commissioner.

The ENDF has taken the maximum care and succeeded in protecting civilians from harm by avoiding fighting in urban areas.

The Government of Ethiopia is committed to expediting aid delivery to all in need of assistance, including by creating new routes for humanitarian delivery, both by air and land transport.

It is committed to the African Union-led efforts to find a lasting solution to the conflict in northern Ethiopia. It is also committed to ensuring accountability for any inadvertent violations of human rights

and humanitarian law during this conflict.

We hope to continue to work together with the OHCHR in this endeavor.

The Permanent Mission stands ready to explain in detail the human rights situation on the ground and the national endeavours underway following recent encouraging developments.

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia welcomes the new High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk and looks forward to working with his office and hope to build productive relations.



# News



## Pan Africanism needs be praised, enhanced : Researcher

**ADDIS ABABA** - Pan Africanism needs to be praised and enhanced to bring inclusive solutions for the continent, an independent Pan African researcher said.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, Mahelt Ayele, an independent researcher who resides in Netherlands, said even if there are some works to do Pan Africanism has been contributing in bringing solutions to African nations when faced with challenges imposed by previous colonial masters or the West.

According to her, it is important to have one voice as Africa.

If we see it from the Pan African perspective, the unity of Africans during the recent meeting of the Human Right Council to adopt the resolution extending the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) was successful.

” It was a victory for us. It was a resolution that was really rejected by all African members, except one country which abstained. They teamed up to say ‘no’ and the majority abstained. So, we have a victory. It really matters for Pan Africanism. This is the way to bring a solution to our problems as a country and continent.”

She further explained that our ancestors, including Emperor Haile Selassie and Kwame Nkrumah as well as other Pan African leaders established the Organization

of African Unity. Their ultimate goal was to have political and economic unity, even if their priority was to first free the continent from colonial powers.

The researcher also expressed her observation that East African leaders, including President William Ruto and others, have called for unity in the region. “So the idea is there, the will is there; even if the process is gradual process and not something that can be done overnight.”

Mahelt recommended that Africans bring about economic integration, mentioning Ethiopia’s electric power selling to its neighboring countries, which is part of the gradual process that leads to the ultimate goal that Africans are looking for.

Similarly, Kenya’s Safari.com has entered the Ethiopia market; and these are good examples, she noted, adding that unless we celebrate such gradual processes, gradual steps we might not see that ultimate goal.

According to the researcher, Ethiopia has been a political experiment country in the last two years, paying sacrifice to be a model for Africa in putting the precedent and the right thing as bold guidelines for African countries.

If anyone should be involved in the conflict in Ethiopia and other issues, it is the African Union, Mahelt stressed, noting that no non-African state or entity should be involved.

## T-TPLF disruptor of HoA’s...

The thug has used all the peace alternatives offered by the federal government to prepare itself for another round of war and invade Amhara and Afar states, he said adding, that giving another chance for the group is helping it to rearm itself and prepare for fourth round war.

Prof. Mohammed further explained that some interest groups beat drums when they assume that the T-TPLF is “winning”, but

as the criminal group gets beaten, they call for negotiation by equating a democratically elected government with a terrorist group.

He said: “When fighters of the terrorist group made advance to Addis Ababa last year, some countries were urging their citizens to leave Ethiopia, as well as trying to demoralize Ethiopians and create a chaotic situation in and around the capital.”

## Today’s Diasporas rally...

stated that efforts have been made to create awareness that their stand on Ethiopia is against the reality on the ground and it cannot maintain their interests as well.

Since multifaceted misguided attacks, including economic pressure, have been made against Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Diaspora and Defend Ethiopia Taskforce are exerting efforts to tackle such challenges, Ephrem elaborated.

The coordinator believes that organizing such rallies with African brothers and sisters will make the foreign powers ask themselves.

He further called on all Ethiopians to stand together to maintain the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

The people and Government of Ethiopia have interest to collaborate with the EU and the U.S. in development, growth, security and friendship; but do not allow the powers to destabilize their country, the coordinator underscored.

TPLF has committed lots of crime and violence on the people of Ethiopia during

its 27-year rule and there is no community in Ethiopia that has not been subjected to oppression, atrocity and exploitation, he noted.

However, the western countries had been silent while Terrorist TPLF oppressed and later tried to destabilize the country, the coordinator stated, adding that they unfortunately favor this group.

Ephrem recommended that the misled Europeans and other powers stand to with the Ethiopian people rather than with the T-TPLF which is condemned by the people of Ethiopia and is also against EU values and principles as well as against EU interests.

The coordinator further underscored that the T-TPLF should be disarmed because armed insurgency cannot be allowed and two powers cannot have parallel armies in any one country.

Armed insurgent groups do not exist in all nations, the coordinator said, adding that this is not allowed in all EU countries, he noted. “So, this double standard need not exist in Ethiopia as well.”

## Ethiopia demands U.S. investors...

In his twitter message, Amb. Sileshi stated that the removal of Ethiopia’s eligibility from AGOA is unhelpful since it causes thousands of women and mothers to face joblessness amid hard times.

He also tweeted that he has discussed the removal of Ethiopia’s eligibility from AGOA and its effects with over 50 investors. As to him, investors engaging in Ethiopia stressed the removal from AGOA is unhelpful and forcing thousands of women to lose their jobs. And, The U.S. investors

are also obliged to pullout from Ethiopia due to the removal of the eligibility.

The government of Ethiopia has unwavering stance to peaceful resolution of conflict and improving the livelihood of Ethiopian people, he stated.

A senior economist, Zemedeneh Negatu also tweeted that thousands of people, mostly women and mothers at risk have unfairly lost their jobs. Adding, more loses will be happened unless the U.S. government reinstates the eligibility, he commented.

## Gov’t agencies exchange...

Redwan Hussein, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

During the meeting, there were representatives from the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), Federal Police, Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF), Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission.

The consultants pointed out the necessity of using the Shire airport for quick delivery of humanitarian support till further assistance is delivered via the newly opened road networks in the Amhara State.

According to Ambassador Shiferaw Teklemariam, head of the Disaster Risk Management Commission of Ethiopia, the commission and humanitarian operators

have goods in stock that can be sent right now to those in need in the Tigray State.

Ambassador Redwan stated that all the necessary precautions need to be taken to ensure that humanitarian support reaches the intended people and to avoid the diversion of the support for military purposes.

Representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Birtukan Ayano reiterated the ministry’s commitment to supporting humanitarians and air flights made to Shire Airport.

It was observed that international humanitarian organizations had stated their willingness to aid the regional relief operations of the Ethiopian government.

It is announced that such consultations will be held regularly.

The analyst restated that, within the past two years, the thug killed and displaced civilians; looted and displaced public and private properties; committed sexual violence including gang rapes; perpetrated all kinds of atrocities against civilians. But, some members of the international community, including media outlets, have chosen to remain silent about the aforementioned heinous acts.

According to him, although the terrorist group has been recruiting child soldiers for war; hindering the delivery of

humanitarian supplies; looting warehouses of aid organizations operating in Tigray the international community said nothing about the atrocities of the criminal group.

Interest groups’ silence at a time when the group is committing so many crimes comes from their ambition that if the T-TPLF wins it would preserve their interests in the country as well as the region. When the group was in power for about 27 years, it was enforcing the policies of these interest groups, he also opined.

# Opinion

## Unholy marriage won't bulwark TPLF's demise

BY TESFAYE BEZABIH (PhD)

### PART I

The 2018 peaceful power's transfer signaled the end of the decades-long rule of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). While TPLF was in power, it had implemented a series of political reforms that marginalized other ethnic groups and consolidated the central government. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D) ascent to power was apparently stood by his visions of an ethnically harmonious, unified Ethiopia and initially appeared to be a critical change of course from the divisive policies of the TPLF-dominated ruling coalition to the *medemer* (unity) vision.

During the PM's initial tenure, however, internal political friction between the TPLF and the government intensified, as the internationally lauded liberal reforms enacted by PM Abiy's government did not satisfy TPLF who governed the country for decades with the brand of ethnicized politics.

On December 2019, when most Ethiopians were content to see the TPLF dislodged from federal power and envisioned by *Medemer* (Unity), the TPLF group and its sympathizers were strongly opposing the formation of the now-ruling Prosperity Party and they retreated into Tigray.

The relationship between the Federal government and TPLF was soured on September 2020 when the TPLF conducted a regional election without the recognition of the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE). After conducting the illegitimate regional election, TPLF leaders warned the intervention from the federal government would be considered a "declaration of war."

Following the illegitimate election held by Tigray regional state, on November 4, 2020, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) attacked the Ethiopian National Defense Forces Base located in the Tigray region and robbed the northern command of artillery and military equipment. Their tyrannical act was disclosed on a televised speech the then-top leader of TPLF Sekou Toure Getachew as the aim of the thunder-like attack was to conduct a 'blitzkrieg' assault on Ethiopian federal forces and swiftly capture the major cities in the country (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2d4WAtbhBc>) Later the Ethiopian government declared a six-month state of emergency and swiftly deployed troops to Mekelle, the capital of Tigray, in an offensive ostensibly targeting only the rebel TPLF leaders.

**The US's Ethiopia's impression amid the**

***TPLF's deliberate act in blocking the humanitarian process could easily be considered political gambling. TPLF's usual scapegoating practices of accusing the Federal government is always heard by the West as a true and undeniable story***

### reform and in the Northern conflict

US interest in Ethiopia dates from WWII (despite some African-Americans displaying considerable interest in Ethiopian history and strongly supporting the emperor against the 1935 Italian invasion. In 1943, the US signed an agreement with the UK that in occupation of Eritrea to lease the Kagnaw base in Eritrea, which became one of their most crucial communication facilities and was of immense importance during the Korean War.

During the 1950s, Ethiopia received most US military assistance to Africa. By 1960 the US had 6000 military personnel in military service Advisory Groups (MAAG) IN Ethiopia; such formations provided 'cover' for CIA officers' stationed abroad.

The 2018 Ethiopia's peaceful power transfer to a government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed opened a new chapter in Ethiopian history and a promising new chapter in U.S.-Ethiopian relations. The new Prime Minister was immediately seen unveiling his ambitious economic and democratic reform programs and warmly welcomed U.S. democracy support and governance programs that the former EPRDF government had firmly rejected. His decisive shift away from discredited Marxist theories promised to attract considerable foreign investment to create jobs and economic growth.

Following the democratic transition, from 2016-to 2018 US provided \$4.2 billion in development and humanitarian assistance to the Ethiopian people. To bolster the momentum of reform under the new Prime Minister, A leadership Administration and Congress provided tens of millions of dollars in further Development Assistance. Innovative programs supported the Prime Minister's economic reforms to promote private sector growth and investment.

Above all, the US applauded Ethiopia and Eritrea's reconciliation process in creating positive side effects of an improved Eritrea-US relationship. We paved the way for lifting sanctions imposed against Eritrea and backing the PM to get the World peace prize.

### A pay-for-play Network in rescuing TPLF from Demise

The West is behind the conflict in the Horn of Africa nation, where fighting broke out in November 2020 when forces of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) attacked bases of the federal army stationed across the northern region.

Starting from the onset of the conflict till now, western media, CSOs, and their hired lobbyist firms, as a pay-for-play network on Ethiopia have never stopped their partial reporting, false accusation of the Ethiopian government for committing crimes against humanity, and full support of the TPLF terrorist group.

It is pretty clear that the international community, the media, and the lobbyist groups are continuing their condemnation of the Ethiopian government though there are a bunch of evidences that exhibit the Ethiopian government is free of any atrocities except the mere condemnation of TPLF. Their continued accusation of the Ethiopian government is out of the actual reality. For example, at the end of June 2021, a shift in conflict dynamics (including the ENDF's withdrawal from Tigray) dramatically changed the operational context.

Access within Tigray has also improved since early July 2021, but several accusations are coming from the west stating access into Tigray is severely restricted even if the government permitted the access and

made the road viable for humanitarian transport into Tigray through Afar, with unlimited cargo movement and full air travel for humanitarian staff. However, the humanitarian staff in the CSO's blatantly accused the federal government of blocking and fully restricting the lack of humanitarian supplies, and fuel supplies.

TPLF's deliberate act in blocking the humanitarian process could easily be considered political gambling. TPLF's usual scapegoating practices of accusing the Federal government is always heard by the West as a true and undeniable story. Such a kind of political game playing on the lives of innocent Tigrayn people and blackmailing the Federal government is becoming the habitual practice of the TPLF and its allies.

Several pieces of evidence have shown that the western media are directly involved in the Northern conflict and fueling the matter. The journalistic profession is quite dead while many are reading and listening to the reports from the pro-TPLF western media journalists like Nima Elbagir's totally unconfirmed, irresponsible and partial broadcasted documentary on CNN, <https://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2021/09/09/ethiopia-tigray-bodies-recovered-sudan-river-elbagir-pkg-intl-lead-vpx.cnn>. MartinPlaut's continuous unconfirmed and biased reports on the war as TPLF is advancing to the capital <https://twitter.com/martinplaut/status/145999055614988289>. kjetil Trovold's irresponsible activism, William Davison's wrong, and shallow analysis which massively escalates the northern conflict and purely misinforms the global community. These journalists and the so-called 'political analysts' are accustomed to get in-and-out of African countries in pursuit of western agendas with specific missions. No more proof is required to show that they are an agent of destruction who operate as journalists or political analysts.

In most cases, their primary focus is the regime change agenda in countries that the powers to be have deemed as being non-compliant. As well as to impose their ideology and exercise their own national interest on one sovereign nation. They have destroyed all norms and standards of journalism.

For them, leaders who are stronger in maintaining their countries' national interests are totally abhorred. Their convergent orchestrated media campaign against the Ethiopian government through false reporting, partial and shallow political analysis, and unintelligible activism show pure ferventism of TPLF group that aims to demean Ethiopia's newly emerging democratic political achievements.

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



# The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays  
By The Ethiopian Press Agency



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The Ethiopian Herald

## Editorial

### ENDF's sacrifices usher in unfettered access to genuine humanitarians

The invincible Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) is paying a huge sacrifice to relieve citizens in Ethiopia's Tigray region from the yoke imposed by the Terrorist TPLF (T-TPLF) and its internal and external cronies.

Avoiding war in urban areas which amounts to thwarting bloodbaths, and of course diametrically opposite to naysayers' prediction, the gallant ENDF has put key urban areas in Tigray region under its control. In its statement last Tuesday, the government heralded the good news of finalizing preparation to open up unfettered access to humanitarian delivery to those in need in Tigray. It clearly stated on October 16, 2022 that no fighting would happen in urban areas. Its latest statement on October 18, 2022 indicated the fact that it walked the talks—the ENDF has seized Shire, Korem and Alamata with no harm to civilians.

Surely, it is big news to those that are concerned about the sufferings of the people in Tigray region in the brute hands of the T-TPLF. The sacrifices that Ethiopia's sons and daughters are paying would grow hope and optimism in citizens that have been cut off from the rest of their brothers and sisters by the greedy thug. In black and white the government says: "The Government of Ethiopia is carrying out the necessary preparations and will coordinate with the relevant humanitarian agencies to provide humanitarian aid through these areas that have come under the control of the ENDF including the Shire Airport"

What flickers hopes to genuine humanitarian agencies and operators are the additional measure that the government announced to take. More humanitarian corridors are being opened via North Gonder-Shire as well as the Kombolcha-Dessie-Woldiya-Kobo-Alamata. It is a pity that the self-styled international media have never regarded this as a big development. Didn't they deafen our ears with news of

"unfettered access to the people in need"? Their double standard is being exposed time and time again.

The new steps taken have profound significance. In the first place, genuine humanitarians will get more access to support the people. Second, aids that are meant to the people will not be repurposed to war. It is in our recent memory that the T-TPLF looted half a million liters of WFP fuel. The IC let the group go unpunished for this obvious crime. T-TPLF as well has used humanitarian food and shelter material to its destructive war. High-energy biscuits of USAID were seized by the group in Kombolcha. In an interview with the EBC in late August 2021, USAID Mission Director to Ethiopia Sean Johnes put it that the [T]-TPLF is an opportunistic entity and their warehouses in Amhara region were completely emptied. What is more, the criminals confiscated several hundreds of aid trucks and used them to transport their fighters.

Worse still, the war-monger group has been using the people as its hostage to advance its evil wishes of itself and that of its paymasters. Tigrayan parents are forced to send their beloved children to join the terrorist's ranks, and aids delivered on the people's behalf has been appropriated to advance the T-TPLF's war of choice. The climax of its cruelty might be—the use of civilians including kids as human shields. All are noticeable to the International Community (IC). Not a few members of the IC have given a deaf ear and a blind eye to the group's crimes. It is an open secret that others have been emboldening openly and tacitly. Had it not been for the wisdom of the people of Ethiopia, their democratically elected government and Ethiopia's all-weather friends, the country could have been torn apart long ago.

The ENDF is successfully defending Ethiopia and its citizens. For genuine humanitarians, this time is second to none to coordinate their work with the Government of Ethiopia and save innocent lives.

## Opinion

### Ethiopia deserves support from all peace loving people to end the atrocities of terrorist TPLF in northern Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The west is not officially recognizing Ethiopia's right to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity against a local terrorist force and this is the most appropriate time in which all Ethiopians and citizens of Ethiopian origin in Europe, Africans across the continent, Afro Americans in the US, all Ethiopians in the Middle East and Persian Gulf, all African journalists advocating for Pan Africanism need to rally behind Ethiopia, a country of origins and an important hub for human civilization. Ethiopia is striving to be self-sufficient in food and is ready to export wheat to fellow African countries; the nation's youth are now engaged in Pan African greening initiative to fight climate change.

Ethiopia is single handedly fighting against international terrorism represented by Al-Shabab. The nation is at the forefront in fighting human trafficking and illegal money laundering and illegal financial transactions in the country and across Africa. Ethiopia deserves to be supported and not sanctioned.

The author of this contribution would like to pay tribute to all Ethiopians, citizens of Ethiopian origin, fellow Africans and friends of Ethiopia for their staunch support for the country in the nation's attempts to fight off misrepresentation, misinformation and character assassination of its leaders.

It is interesting to take note of a Press Release from the State Department released on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 reads

"The United States is deeply concerned over reports of increasing violence, loss of life, indiscriminate targeting of civilians, and

destruction in the conflict in northern Ethiopia, particularly around Shire in the Tigray region. We call on the Ethiopian National Defense Forces and Eritrean Defense Forces to immediately halt their joint military offensive and for Eritrea to withdraw its forces from northern Ethiopia. We further call on the Tigrayan Defense Forces to cease provocative actions. The fighting since the August 24 operation by the Tigrayan Defense Forces near Kobo in the Amhara Region contributed to the return to hostilities, which greatly increases the risk of atrocities and further human rights abuses."

Whenever the terrorist group claims to advance at the battle field, the western government and media keep silent and say nothing of the situation but when the Ethiopian defense forces take a legitimate action against a terrorist group in the country, the lamentation is immediate. Moreover, the Release seems to underestimate the capacity of the ENDF and always mentions it along with the Eritrean defense forces trying to international a local issue that is under the jurisdiction of the Ethiopian Government. The Release addresses a terrorist group that has been conducting untold crimes in Amhara and Afar as "Tigrayan Defense Forces" as if there are two defense forces in the country. This is tantamount to de-facto recognition of Tigray as a full-fledged state and not a region part of Ethiopia.

On the same day, Alex de Waal who is a longtime supporter of terrorist TPLF in its quest to destroy Ethiopia writes on *Responsible Statecraft*

"After 50 days of day-and-night fighting, the joint Eritrean-Ethiopian federal offensive has ground down Tigrayan defenses to a point of collapse. There's chatter about peace talks, but sharp disagreement on mediator and agenda.

The Tigrayans want an immediate cessation of hostilities and humanitarian access, while the federal government wants to negotiate "without preconditions" — code for allowing its offensive to continue."

Although Alex made a grave mistake on "joint Eritrean-Ethiopia federal offensive" in an attempt to belittle the capacity of the ENDF and also mentioning the terrorist rag tag army as "Tigray Defense Forces", he admits that the doomsday is close by for the terrorist clique. On Wednesday, the United States and Five of its allies issued a joint statement calling for an end to the war against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, the United States and Five of its allies issued a joint statement calling for an end to the war against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). The Joint Statement partially reads

"We, Australia, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States, are profoundly concerned by the escalation of the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in northern Ethiopia. We call on the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray regional authorities to immediately halt their military offensives, agree to a cessation of hostilities, allow for unhindered and sustained humanitarian access, and pursue a negotiated settlement through peace talks under an African Union-led process. We also condemn the escalating involvement of Eritrean military forces in northern Ethiopia. We call on Eritrean forces to cease their military operations and withdraw from northern Ethiopia. All foreign actors should cease actions that fuel this

conflict."

Earlier, these countries never uttered a word when terrorist TPLF violated the ceasefire and started war against the people of Ethiopia and the Government but as soon as they knew that the ENDF is liberating vast areas in Tigray, they issued their joint statement for cessation of ceasefire to once more give recess for the terrorist junta to consolidate its forces on Ethiopia for yet another round of attack.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 2022, Mr Martin Griffiths, the UN Relief tweeted "I am beyond worried about the safety of civilians and humanitarian staff in Shere, Ethiopia. The situation is increasingly tense. I was horrified to learn that two frontline staff were injured in Shelling today."

All these narratives indicate that the west is legitimizing the terrorist group and is attempting to save and reinstall terrorist TPLF both in Tigray and at the federal level. However, this terrorist group has clearly proved in action that it is the enemy of its own people and is interested only for its wellbeing and would never care even if the entire population in Tigray would perish.

In the future, there is more to be done by way of fixing the traumatic conditions of the victims of war in Amhara, Afar and also the devastating animosity that the terrorist group has sown among the people who have lived together for thousands of years.

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

# Business & Economy

## Financial inclusion a viable solution for poverty reduction

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopia is one of the least urbanized countries in the world and almost 80% of the population lives in the rural part engaged in farming.

The insufficient infrastructure which hampers service provision in this part of the country, limits financial institutions to expand their business.

Currently in Ethiopia only 35% of the population gets banking services.

Solomon Zegege is an economist and works as consultant in various firms. According to him, the financial inclusion means having access to and using one or more formal financial services but access does not bring equal inclusion. Some of the mechanisms that can be cited in this regard are savings, credit and insurance Payments.

He further said that, ensuring access to tailored financial products and services needed by low-income individuals in particular and society in general at fair, transparent and equitable mode is essential.

According to the World Bank, the segment of the population which is making less than 1.9 USD a day categorized as poor.

In Ethiopia amongst the population, 65% of it is unbanked and most of them are women, poor, rural residents, migrants and low-income household. Financial service for the poor is a critical enabler for the reduction of poverty, increase in productivity and wellbeing.

To alleviate financial constraints in the rural part implementing better policy, regulatory frameworks and identifying high-priority areas for innovation is essential.

Medium and Small-scale Enterprises Play crucial role in Ethiopia's economy.

Despite their profound economic impact, these enterprises face a variety of hurdles and access to finance to these sectors is a huge challenge.

Development bank of Ethiopia has 82 branches all over the country and availing credit to SMEs is one of DBE's core objectives.

Assess the policy environment regarding MSEs access to credit and creating fair playing ground for them is its prior agenda.

According to reports through strengthening Banking System domestic credit increased from 26.4% of GDP in 2010 to 35.3% in 2020.

Credit to the central gov't by NBE amounted to more than 17.6 % of the outstanding credit.

Commercial Bank of Ethiopia is the main creditor and more than 60% of or 30 million deposit accounts provided to borrowers mainly small-scale enterprises in which 85.6% of the Banks outstanding credit is given to the public sector.

CBE's 47.7 % of total credit is provided on subsidized interest rate with government guarantee.

The main customers of micro finance institutions are medium and small-scale enterprises. Hence, it may not be wrong if we assume that the highest share of outstanding credit of microfinance institutions goes to these institutions. The credit of micro finance institutions stood at Birr 64.9 billion in June 2021, which is just 6.3% of the outstanding credit by banking system during the same year.

Project and lease financings are the major financing products of Development Bank of Ethiopia.

Lending for small scale enterprises carried out through commercial banks and microfinance institutions.

Its credit mainly goes to the private sector which is more than 80%.

DBE has been mainly providing credit to the manufacturing sector average 65 percent followed by the agriculture sectors on average 16 percent.

Total outstanding loan of DBE at the end of June 2020 is Birr 51.1 billion.

Birr 9.2 billion provided to small scale enterprises and Birr out of it 5.1 billion is an on-lending to the micro finance institutions which is 28.5 percent of the total credit.

According to the recent NBE report, it intervened in the credit allocation by issuing different policies at different time.

The national bank directive compels private banks to buy NBE bills equivalent to 27% of their disbursement.

Movable collateral registry system is implemented to address the lack of collateral for access to credit of micro and small-scale enterprises.

It requires Banks and MFIs to extend at least 5% of their annual credit disbursement in the movable collateral system.

According to Solomon, the top three problems faced by small scale industries are insufficient permitted loan, high

collateral requirement and long loan processing periods.

Some of the shortcomings of policies and practices among others, credit disbursement practice by CBE through government guarantee.

Common government intervention which is direct lending through state owned banks, capacity building, partial guarantee and issuing a regulation which compel private sector to provide some fixed amount of loan to the sector are essential for their business sustenance.

Some of the policies that aimed to increase medium and small-scale enterprises access to credit by DBE and the Introduction of movable collateral registry system with 5% requirement can be mentioned.

Allowing technology provider to give digital financial services and micro finance institutions helps them to grow to the level of micro finance banks.

Some public owned banks through partial public credit guarantee scheme give credit guarantee to the maximum amount with the maximum maturity of 10 years.

Banks enabled to increase the number of loans guaranteed as well as the value of guaranteed loans.

Medium size enterprises protected by the credit guarantee schemes accounted for more than 10% of all commercial loans.

As mentioned above, Ethiopia relies on agrarian economy to reduce the dominant role of agriculture expanding the development of manufacturing is essential and in this regard medium and small-scale enterprises are the base.

The enterprises are play crucial role in creating employment and value chain through utilizing other enterprises raw materials as inputs.

In addition, they have been a source of income to the government through paying tax.

However, due to lack of sufficient access to financial credit and working place they are hampered not to unleash their potential in full scale.

It is known that Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa next to Nigeria. It has also abundant natural resources such as vast arable land, surface and underground water and mines. Nevertheless, the resource is still untapped because of various reasons. The non-availability of sufficient technology, skilled human power and local and foreign investment attributed to the lagging of

the economy behind other developing countries.

The government has aspired to transform the economy from agricultural led to that of industry led economy. It constructed various infrastructures such as hydropower dams, roads, industry parks, air ports, health and medical facilities.

In addition to these, it introduced new laws by revoking old laws which have constraint impacts on the free flow of capital, technology and ideas. So far it was possible to attract foreign investors and the beginning of operation of manufacturing in industrial parks enables to create job opportunities for thousands, helps boosting export and garnering foreign currency, substituting import and utilizing local resources particularly agricultural products as inputs in the manufacturing.

The agricultural sector which is subsistence is still the main stay of the economy and is a means of employment for 80% of the labor force. Therefore, to transform the economy from agriculture led to industry led one, the labor force stranded in the rural part of the country must shift to the non-farming which is the manufacturing and the service sector. Currently rural-urban migration is increasing but the labor force goes mostly to the informal sector and to the construction.

In this regard we can say that the small scale enterprises can have chance to utilize the labor force migrated from rural to urban centers.

Currently in urban centers, small and medium scale enterprises are flourishing. They engaged in wood and metal works, beautifying towns, food catering, urban agriculture, poultry, milk production and fattening cattle for meat production.

But as compared to the demand in the urban centers the products supplied by the small and medium sized enterprises is negligible hence, supporting them through providing loan to the enterprises enable them to meet the demand and fill the market gaps.

The Development Bank of Ethiopia recently made agreement with the Ethiopian Cooperative Association Commission to provide the medium and small scale enterprises which planned to engage in livestock farming. Before the provision of the loan it will provides trainings to the borrowing enterprises in how to properly manage the loan. Hence, other financial institutions must follow the foot step of the DBE.



# Art & Culture

## Ethiopian Film Week - Reaching out to the global audience

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Efforts to advertise Ethiopian films abroad seems to be gaining momentum with this year's staging of Ethiopian Film Week that is slated to present local films to foreign audiences. This is an effort that was initiated recently and going strong with the participation of private and public institutions that are committed to making local films become available to filmgoers outside the country.

This year's Ethiopian Film week will take place in London in mid-October and the first film to be present among many others is said to be the country's first black and white film. According to a recent press release from Habesha view, a private company has initiated the project two years ago. "Following its creation two years ago Ethiopian Film Week has gone from 'strength to strength' according to Tigist Kebede, Operations Director of Habesha view."

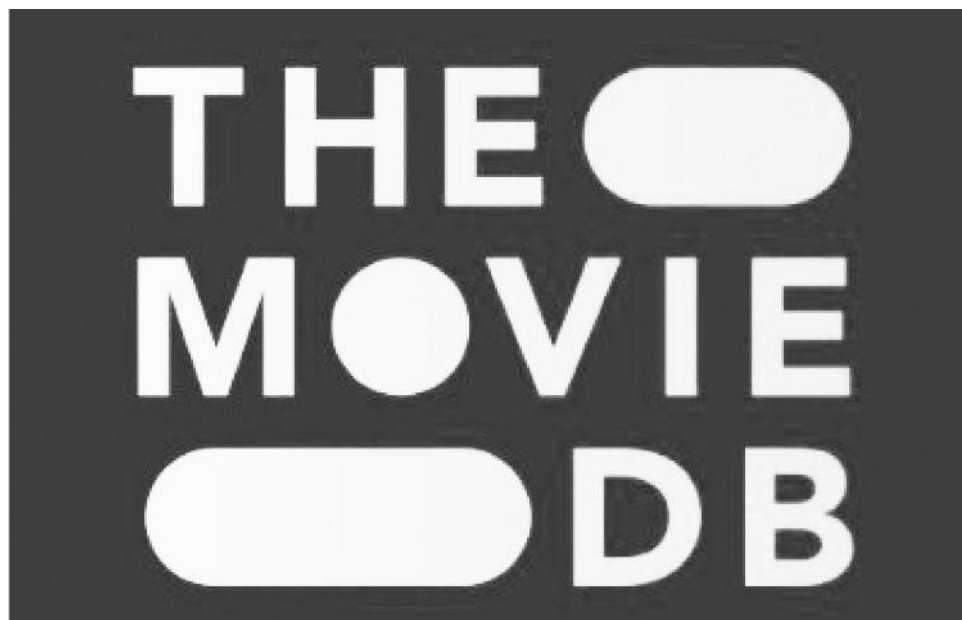
The press release went on to say that, "The multi-faceted media, entertainment and advanced technology company's much-anticipated Ethiopian Film Week is set to return to London for its third year this month with a line-up of original and acclaimed Ethiopian films." adding that, "kicking off on October 14, the screenings will take place at RichMix Cinema in East London and will feature three independent films from Ethiopia... The star of this year's line-up will be the world premiere of the historical Ethiopian film, *Hirut Abatwa Mannew?*, which is being screened outside Ethiopia for the first time."

The press release further noted that people at Habeshaview feel honored "to be able to bring this iconic film to the UK 57 years after it was first shot and hope that the Ethiopian community in the UK and the British public will appreciate just what Ethiopian cinema has to offer by joining us in celebrating our local filmmakers and actors.

"Ethiopia has a long history of filmmaking, and the film industry is rapidly evolving. There are so many amazing actors, filmmakers, and directors, and through Habeshaview, we hope to use our platform to showcase their incredible, untapped talents and create a space where they can exhibit their work."

The recent rediscovery of *Hirut*, which is also considered Ethiopia's first feature-length film, 57 years after it was produced, has generated significant interest in Ethiopia and abroad. In Ethiopia, there was an exclusive screening at the Sheraton Addis Hotel in Addis Abeba."

Saying that Ethiopia is a rich and diverse country both culturally and geographically has long become a stereotype or a hackneyed phrase that did little in changing foreign perceptions about the country. Ethiopia is among the first countries, if not the first country in Africa, for producing a modern feature film known as *Hirut abatwa manew* or "Who is Hirut's Father?" a film, "which is Ethiopia's first black and white 35mm



movie, tells the story of a young woman who overcomes many challenges including the stigma of being a single mother and is forced to fend for herself in the conservative society of Ethiopia in the mid-60s."

The Ethiopian film industry has made some progress over the last 60 years but it has not yet made the expected progress commensurate with its age.

At a time when most, if not all African countries were living under colonial rule, Ethiopians had produced a film which importance is still reverberating in the local movie industry. However, it is sad to say that Ethiopia is now ranking among African countries where the industry is still underdeveloped.

Meanwhile the film business has grown into a global entertainment industry whose annual turnover equals those of the biggest multinational companies. It has outlived its cultural functions and grown into a money making machine.

In the last 60 years or so the Ethiopian film industry has indeed made baby steps to catch up with its African counterparts and we are not so sure whether it has lived up to the promises. Nigeria, Egypt, Senegal, South Africa and even Kenya have a far more advanced film industries whose contributions to the economies of these countries have become the envy of African filmmakers. The problem of Ethiopia's retardation in this particular field is "a tale told by a fool full of anger and fury" to borrow from Shakespeare.

Elsewhere in Africa, the film industry creates tens of thousands of jobs every year, brings huge incomes to the state coffers in tax revenue, plays a positive role in media technology transfer and serves as a catalyst to the tourist industry in many ways. Cinema plays an irreplaceable role in introducing and popularizing African countries for their rich flora and fauna, the cultures, traditions, ancient civilizations that are usually the poles of attraction for tourists from Western and other countries. The budding Chinese film industry is next to none in providing a model of development worth emulating. The Chinese film industry itself is in a way a replica of the Western model but with its local contents and story lines that are authentically Chinese.

On the other hand, the Nigerian film industry has become so efficient and competitive that it has its own niche in the global film business. Nollywood is nowadays mentioned next to Hollywood and Bollywood and is producing hundreds of films every year for the Nigerian audience as well as for export. It has well-developed its own identity based on Nigerian history, cultures and traditions. Incomes from export of Nigerian films are growing steadily and have become reliable sources of hard currency in addition to creating thousands of jobs to members of the young generation.

South African movies that conquering the global audience particularly after the end of Apartheid in the country and the growing demand for information about the country and its people that remained sealed off from the world during the long years of white rule.

On the contrary, the Ethiopian film industry possesses everything it takes to become as influential and as profitable as its other African counterparts. However, it lacks one major ingredient and that is lack of penetration into the global market due to the relatively obscure status in which Ethiopian films are kept due to the absence of aggressive public relation work both at home and abroad. This has kept Ethiopian filmmakers intimidated by the steady growth of the genre in other countries. Another disadvantage that Ethiopian filmmakers got is the fact that their films are made in the national languages and fail to access to the global audience that needs to understand what the films are all about.

Nigeria and the other African countries enjoy relative advantage in this area. Their films are either made in English or translated into English because they have rich, experienced and professional institutions that are engaged in these activities besides its colonial past that facilitate the work. Ethiopia has a long and very rich story-telling tradition but filmmakers turn their backs to it and try to imitate Western-style story telling techniques and themes that are not reflecting Ethiopian realities and the life of the people. Ethiopian films are made by Ethiopian whose mentality is not yet changed.

Ethiopian filmmakers often try to imitate Western cinema traditions and fail to look

into their own traditions and the issues that agitate the people in their daily lives. That is why most of the local films have turned out to be mediocre imitations of one another and are stuck in the so-called "romantic comedy" genre long abandoned by foreign filmmakers even the Indians who pioneered the genre in the 1950s and 1960s.

If Ethiopian filmmakers want their productions to conquer the world they need to make a radical change of perception and adopt a new approach to themes, techniques, acting and the other elements of film production. They have to dig into their rich history, traditions, and cultures and make new and modern films without losing their Ethiopian identities.

Nigerian films are celebrated everywhere in the world because they introduce their traditions to the world in a way that captures the imaginations of the global audience. They make use of techniques adapted to their cultures and are unknown to the external world. They approach new and modern themes with traditional eyes that give their films their own identities.

The Chinese too are proceeding along similar paths as they make use of their tradition of martial arts to introduce the global audience to the blockbusters genre with Chinese contents and colors. They do not try to blindly imitate Hollywood that is already past its prime but bring to the silver screen films that are tales of courage, patriotism with insight, complexity and amazing by any standards.

The Ethiopian film industry is stuck in time and produces and reproduces similar films that have become boring and often an insult to the conscious of the audience that may know about movies better than the so-called self-styled connoisseurs or movie gurus. Ethiopian films are done without professional knowledge and training and aim at making as much money at the box office as possible by appealing to the base instincts of movie goers, who are often inexperienced youngsters. They appeal to the senses and not to the rational or reasonable mind that seeks both to entertain and teach some kind of lesson.

It is therefore incumbent on Ethiopian filmmakers to look inwards at themselves in a professional way and make amends before they eye the foreign audience or the foreign movie market turns towards them. It is only when they make films that appeal to the local audience in a satisfactory way that they can have the courage and the boldness to look outwards at the global marketplace.

They should for instance create national institutions for the translation of Ethiopian films into foreign languages without which they may not find audiences abroad or prove their worth. Like music, cinema is increasingly becoming an international language through which cultures speak to one another. Economically speaking good movies make as much money abroad as do rare commodities. They are consumed and appreciated.

# Comical Reda

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

A telltale sign of the TPLF's imminent defeat is not only emerging on the battlefield, but also in the media and diplomatic circles as well. The terrorist group is now engaged in a desperate call for support and sympathy to get an opportunity for avoiding being decimated by Ethiopian forces, and the liberation of Tigray people from its grip.

T-TPLF leaders, like Getachew Reda, are currently bent on devising new approaches to their propaganda strategies and narratives to maintain the loyalty of existing supporters and to win new ones from both home and abroad. To that end, they are fabricating lies and constructing narratives some of which are quite laughable insulting the intelligence of their audience.

Here is how a listener reacted to the latest press briefing by Getachew Reda: "Getachew's interview is always funny and his speech is always full of lies. His tone and body language are telling us a lot about TPLF's hopelessness."

Since the start of the third round of the war, late August, Reda has been busy with giving press interviews and making messages on social media with unprecedented frequency. The reason was to cover up the fiasco of their military adventurism that caused heavy military and diplomatic setbacks to the terrorist group.

Reda's endless series of press briefings that are packed with naked lies reminds us of, Comical Ali, [Muhammad Saeed al-Sahhaf], who was the foreign minister of Iraq under the Saddam Hussein regime. Some people are jokingly commenting Reda must have done his internship under Comical Ali.

Back in 2003, during the Iraq war, Ali was in denial that US tanks were in Baghdad, even as television pictures showed them in the city. Now in 2022, Reda telling his loyal supporters that The TPLF was scoring a spectacular defensive victory over the Ethiopian forces, while the truth on the ground is that T-TPLF forces are in tatters and on the run, and town after town is being liberated from the reign of the terrorist group.

Since the start of the war 2 years ago, the Ethiopian national flag is not seen in any territory under the control of T-TPLF. Ironically, it was the TPLF-led regime back in 1996 that introduced the current version of the Ethiopian flag. The flag that T-TPLF fighters hold is the flag of the Tigray regional state. When Getachew Reda gave his press briefing last week, the flag seen standing behind him was that of the regional state's flag, not the Ethiopian flag.

In his briefing, Reda was pissing in our pocket and telling us it was raining. "Nobody in Tigray has ever made moves seeking secession. No one among Tigray

People has ever been mobilized with the agenda of creating havoc in Ethiopia. No political leadership in Tigray has ever intended to march into Addis Ababa and hold power there," he said.

That is quite comical. If that is the case, what were Reda's and his comrades' intentions when they were heading last year deep into the heartlands of the country until Debre Sina? Why did the T-TPLF crown itself with the illegal title, 'The Government of Tigray', and its military wing, TDF [Tigray Defense Forces]? Why did it conduct regional elections before the start of the war in total disregard to the constitution? Why did they launch a premeditated unprovoked attack against the ultimate defender of the Ethiopian state and its people, the ENDF [The Ethiopian National Defense Forces]?

Equally comical and laughable is Reda's desperate deception to mislead the interpretation of the ongoing war in north Ethiopia. In a nutshell, the war is started by the T-TPLF to satisfy its leaders' insatiable lust for power and wealth, at the expense of the blood and tears of the Ethiopian people and even the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation.

While this is the truth, T-TPLF's leaders like Reda are trying to mislead the international community with a distorted description of the conflict saying the Ethiopian government is waging a war directed against the Tigray people. No one, including the Tigray people, would buy TPLF's ridiculous explanations of the war. TPLF did this to secure popular support for its terrorist and secessionist objectives.

The Tigray people have practically seen and felt the difference in their life when they are under the protection of Ethiopian forces. They believe that the Ethiopian forces aim to defend the peace and security of all Ethiopians including Tigrayans against terrorists like TPLF and ensure the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Ethiopian state.

During the 7 plus months of the Intern Administration under the Federal government, the Tigray region was well into the process of rehabilitation, and several extensive works were being conducted to return the economic and socio-political situation of the region to normalcy until it was terminated by the insurgency of TPLF rebels on late June 2021.

Like his comrades in the TPLF, Reda portrays his terrorist organization as a representative or equivalent of the Tigray people. In his latest interview, he never mentioned the name of his party, TPLF. Instead, he used the phrase 'Tigray people' in places where he should have used his party's name.

T-TPLF leaders use Tigray people as both political and military shields. They use unarmed and poorly trained civilians on the war front line as a human shield. They use villages and social facilities as a place

of hideouts for their weaponry and fighters.

When the Ethiopian forces take measures against T-TPLF forces, the terrorist group leaders make up stories alleging Ethiopian forces made attacks on Tigray civilians. There are reliable reports indicating that TPLF leaders have made several fake civilian mass graves using the bodies of fighters they collected from various battlefields. The fake grave shenanigan intends to fabricate evidence for the imaginary politically motivated 'Tigray genocide' campaign of TPLF and its sympathizers.

TPLF leaders shell villages under their control with mortars and other heavy weapons deliberately and then tell the victimized community that the shelling was done by the Ethiopian forces. Thus with such brutal and inhumane way, they try to win the support of the victimized people.

One of the most hilarious things Reda mentioned in his last interview was his narration of the situation in which the Tigray forces retreated from North Wollo, after causing untold miseries to the people of that province. The TPLF forces were forced to leave the area after suffering heavy losses with counter-offensive attacks from the Ethiopian forces. During their control of the area, the TPLF forces committed war crimes, including the summary killing of unarmed civilians, rape of women and children, and torture. They have looted and destroyed public and private properties with a scale and cruelty much worse than they did last year.

The people of north Wollo are still in disbelief of their freedom from the inhumane occupation of the terrorist group. They are happy that the gallant Ethiopian forces have rescued them. The road is open for transport and telephone communications has already been restored and the displaced resident has already begun returning to their villages. They are reminiscing about their horrific experience of living under the TPLF occupation and express determination to see to it that the terrorist will not return.

But Getachew Reda's funny narration of the retreat of TPLF forces from North Wollo is this; "Our forces departed from north Wollo in a disciplined way saying farewell to the people."

To sum up, Reda's interview clearly shows how the TPLF leadership is in a frantic mood to find a way out of the current desperate situation. A drowning man will clutch at a straw, as the saying goes. TPLF leaders have no qualms and no shame about telling any lies, making any narrative, and doing everything, if they deem helpful to secure their survival and get away with their crimes. The question now is should we take Reda's interviews seriously any longer?

*T-TPLF leaders use Tigray people as both political and military shields. They use unarmed and poorly trained civilians on the war front line as a human shield. They use villages and social facilities as a place of hideouts for their weaponry and fighters*



# Law & Politics

## Terrorist TPLF has no option but to face justice

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

For almost half a century, the terrorist TPLF group has been largely engaged in instigating war and conflicts. And, yet the disgruntled clique has been forming alliances with regional terrorist groups to spoil the peace and stability of the Horn of Africa. Yet, the criminal enterprise with the help of foreign entities has posed security threats to Ethiopia. But, the people of Ethiopia have been resolute in defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

Crashed at the hands of the Ethiopian joint defense forces, the terrorist group has now no option but to surrender or lay down arms and face justice. The rogue element has been thus far committing serious human rights violations in Tigray, Afar, and Amhara states with impunity.

Till this day though, the killing squad receives no punitive action from the international community. In fact, the silence of the international community served as a green light for the unlawful organization to perpetuate its terrorist attacks on civilians.

However, the valor of the Ethiopian servicemen and women has begun crushing the enemy and liberating the people of Tigray from years of draconian rule and crackdown. And, Ethiopia will stop at nothing until the group faces justice and its sovereignty and territorial integrity threats are neutralized.

It is worth reminding that the criminal organization for nearly three decades had placed the lives of innocent civilians and the entire country between the hammer and the anvil. In the aftermath of the tyrannical rule and the nefarious deeds of the disgruntled group, the whole thing in every nook and cranny of the country was persistently hanging in the balance and moving into uncharted territory.

Nobody had expected new dawn would come to Ethiopia as a consequence of the criminal deeds of the illegal group and its continuous rule with an iron fist. At that specific point in time, the whole population and the henchmen of the regime were walking a tightrope.

The hypocrite clique was toppled from power after a long struggle by Ethiopians residing under Ethiopia's skies, the entire country could not believe its eyes and ears while some of them cried tears of joy.

Dejectedly, failing to learn from its past blunders, the terrorist TPLF group embarked on posing a threat to the population as a whole playing a part in a broad spectrum of treacheries and orchestrating crimes. Apart from financing and giving training for their stooges residing in the length and breadth of the country and triggering turbulence, the group continued leaving no stone unturned to turn the lives of Ethiopians into a living hell aimed at turning upside down and backing the country into a corner.

The ragtag bunch sustained sowing the seeds of hatred and discord among the various Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples of Ethiopia along Ethnic and religious lines. Even though the government pulled out all the stops to get to the bottom of the problem



in an atmosphere of calm, the desired goal had not been attained on the grounds of the illegal group's continuous unlawful acts at different points in time.

With time, giving the cold shoulder to the efforts of the government to end hostilities, the ragtag group in the early morning of 4 November 2020 ended up attacking the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces and triggering unimaginable human suffering.

It is recalled that following the criminal acts of the terrorist group, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces jumpstarted undertaking law enforcement operations in furtherance of disarming the illegal group, bringing escapees to justice, and other related aspects. After accomplishing its mission with flying colors, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces left the Tigray State in the shortest possible time.

However, the criminal organization through time set in motion launching fresh attacks in Amhara and Afar states and committing crimes with no ill consequences.

The illegal enterprise had played a part now and then in extrajudicial executions, sexual assault, plunders, and other actions in violation of the law. Above and beyond, in addition to abolishing healthcare institutions, higher learning institutions, and other social infrastructure, a wide spectrum of heartbreaking inhuman butchery has been perpetrated against noncombatants by the disgruntled group.

For the sake of truth, in the aftermath of the attack by the criminal enterprise hundreds of thousands of non-combatants have been displaced as a consequence of the unspeakable acts of the group. Albeit the incumbent declared a humanitarian ceasefire aimed at giving peace a chance, the group continued beating the drums of war and its provocative actions in Amhara and Afar states.

By the same token, turning a blind eye and a deaf ear to the unilateral ceasefire, the disgruntled group has been sending a human wave of civilian troops into the two states and partaking in ransacking, extrajudicial killings, collective rape, and other criminal acts. From orchestrating a wide spectrum of mayhems to attacking the Northern Command of the Ethiopian

National Defense Forces, the group has been in many instances endeavoring to increase the suffering of innocent civilians and pull to pieces the country.

In a similar vein, for its evil mission, the rogue element kept on enlisting child soldiers forcefully from every part of the Tigray state and making use of them as cannon fodder. Moreover, the group has been engaging in a smear campaign against the incumbent and the positive moves unfolding all over the country to win the hearts and minds of the wider international community with fictitious stories.

Though the incumbent has been moving heaven and earth to end hostilities the criminal enterprise has been downplaying the peace talks under the veil of several lame reasons. As the group feels like a fish out of water in the absence of conflict, by any means whatsoever the criminal faction should be destroyed from the face of the earth once and for all.

Now suffering a defeat at the hands of the Ethiopian army, the group should be brought before court to give justice to victims.

Leaders of The terrorist TPLF should be indicated in the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the awful crimes they have committed against 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 the 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. A 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.

Disarming the Terrorist TPLF and halting its warmongering character should be the centerpiece of the proposed peace talks, a veteran politician said, stressing the failure to do so may exacerbate the problem.

Speaking to local media, the politician Andargachew Tsige stated that the federal government's peace talks with the armed group without disarming the latter are improper and will prolong the north Ethiopian conflict. "Resolving the clash through negotiation and in a peaceful manner is impractical unless the T-TPLF forces have been disarmed."

Noting the T-TPLF's defiance of the peace talks and sticking with its callous behavior, Andargachew indicated the criminal faction has blocked all the way for the federal government's peace initiatives. "Unless the repeated peace calls are substantiated by the rebel group's commitment, it will deepen Ethiopia's economic distress by prolonging the conflict."

"In its very nature, the T-TPLF has been an unreliable partner for peaceful resolutions." Commentating on the issue, Serkalem Geberekirstos (Ph.D.) said that the discussion, communication, and negotiation that the government would pursue with the rebel group should deter the T-TPLF's provocations.

Apart from its immense contribution for the peace and stability of Ethiopia, the negotiation would have paramount importance to stabilize inflation and other economic benefits, the scholar emphasized. Both sources further recommended the preconditioned exile of the T-TPLF leaders on the ground they will not be involved in Ethiopia's politics any longer.



# Women in Focus

## Efforts geared to enhance women's empowerment in STEM

COMPILED BY BETELHEM BEDLU

Education contributes to various aspects of girls and women's lives, however their education was strongly influenced by socio-cultural norms and attitudes which lead them to a minimum share in higher education and STEM fields.

More girls are in school today than ever before, but they do not always have the same opportunities as boys to complete and benefit from an education of their choice. Too many girls and women are held back by biases, social norms and expectations influencing the quality of the education they receive and the subjects they study. They are particularly under-represented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, and consequently, in STEM careers.

This gender disparity is alarming, especially as STEM careers are often referred to as the jobs of the future, driving innovation, social wellbeing, inclusive growth and sustainable development. UNESCO is giving special attention to this issue through research, policy and capacity-building work and as part of its efforts to promote the empowerment of girls and women through education.

Despite significant improvements, it is a fact that technology is still struggling when it comes to gender diversity like many industries. Though much effort is being exerted into recruiting women and supporting their participation, the overall participation of women is still below expectation, sources indicate.

A research which was conducted two years ago revealed that female enrollment in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields at 15 public universities in Ethiopia is only 22 percent.

It is imperative that developing countries consider education as a fundamental instrument in their development given the fact that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) four and five mainly focuses on quality education and gender equality.

With an aspiration to develop their country, governments' are ought to implement many projects, such as road and housing constructions, building manufacturing factories. Thus, qualified professionals in engineering and technology are highly required.

As a result, it is essential to produce students with high academic performance, including women, to reduce the gender gap in STEM education, and women have to be encouraged to increase individual and national income, as to same source.

Recently, UAE Embassy in Addis Ababa and the Ethiopian Ministry of Innovation and Technology and other stakeholders discussed the role women in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) field during a webinar organized



by the Embassy on Thursday 13th October 2022, under the theme "UAE-Ethiopia Dialogue on Women in STEM".

The event particularly focused on exploring the two countries' experiences regarding women empowerment in STEM, discussing the efforts exerted by governments and civil societies in this domain to enhance women's representation and support their meaningful contribution to the field as well as exploring opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

Speaking at the webinar, Huria Ali, State Minister of ICT and Digital Economy at the FDRE Ministry of Innovation and Technology, shared the importance the Ethiopian government places on advancing the participation of women and girls in STEM, inclusive of the education and professional sector, as well as addressing challenges that hinder them from fully engaging in the field.

She shared a series of projects and programs being implemented in Ethiopia to ensure the realization of this aspiration, and ensure diversity in research. However, she noted that there remains a need for collective action by all stakeholders, including governmental and nongovernmental organizations,

to further develop women potentials in science.

Head of Political, Economic, and Media Affairs at the UAE Embassy in Addis Ababa, Talal Al Azeezi, highlighted the priority placed by the UAE government in ensuring the full-fledged participation of women and girls in STEM.

As the country is transforming itself into a knowledge-based economy and towards sustainability, UAE consistently underscores the importance of diversity in STEM, as well as the need for girls' and women's inputs for the country's inclusive and sustainable growth, incorporating the perspectives of all its citizens.

He noted that UAE's commitment resulted in a growing presence of women in the STEM education and professional sector. "Today, more than 56% of all UAE university graduates in STEM are women, and there are many pioneer women leaders in STEM, notably in government including: UAE Space Program that launched the Emirates Mars Mission, artificial intelligence, national nuclear energy program, renewable energy, and medicine" he shared.

Congratulating Ethiopia on inaugurating

the Science Museum, he highlighted that the UAE has strong historical ties with Ethiopia and is actively engaging in supporting women in different fields in the country, and hence is looking forward to support women in science and technology, in alignment with the priority agenda of empowering women, as provided in the two countries bilateral cooperation.

Other speakers at the event were Associate Professor Aster Tsegaye, President of the Society of Ethiopian Women in Science and Technology, who noted the contribution of civil society in ensuring more women and girls participate in STEM. Similarly, Beza Tesfaye, from the Ethiopian Space Science Society, shared her experiences as a female young scientist and as managing director of the Space Science Society.

The webinar was attended by Ethiopian female scientists, as well as representatives from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopian Women in Energy Network, STEM Power, Media, and other invited guests. This online event is part of the UAE's initiative to support and promote women empowerment in Ethiopia, in cooperation with the Ethiopian government, private sector, civil societies and other entities.



# “Close the care gap”

BY STAFF REPORTER

The month of October is designated for the International Breast Cancer awareness day to enhance awareness among the global community about the disease as well as collect funds that enable researchers conduct life-saving researches and studies. This year, the annual celebration of the International Breast Cancer Day is being observed across the globe with various awareness raising events. Ethiopia is also marking the Day with breast cancer awareness raising mobilization forum. At the forum, which was held at Churchill Health Station, several issues were raised and discussed among stakeholders. On the event breast cancer and related cases awareness raising education, examination and breast treatment services were provided. By considering the day, Churchill Health Station is also providing breast cancer screening services for free. At the event a woman who received the treatment and survived from the case has also shared her experience to attendees.

Speaking on the occasion, Health Minister Lia Tadesse, said that breast cancer demands a wide range of activities starting from preventing it to providing the required care and treatment to those women affected by the problem. Even though there are several activities that are being carried out by the Ministry, more challenges are still unbeaten. Owing to this, the concerted intervention of stakeholders and pertinent bodies is important.

As to her, sensitizing the causes of breast cancer among the community, the care that should be taken to reduce the vulnerability of cancer as well as strengthening efforts to conduct mammography are among the major activities that got due attention by the Ministry.

“Breast cancer treatment accessibility in Ethiopia is only 15 percent. However, breast cancer surgical treatment is delivered widely. Likewise, the treatment of chemotherapy is also offered in 18 hospitals. The radiation therapy service that was given merely at the Black Lion Specialized Hospital is now widely provided at Jimma University and partially in Haramaya University Hospital. Currently, works are ongoing to expand the services to seven institutions.”

Mentioning that breast cancer is the leading case that affects several women globally and nationally, Dr. Lia said that the Ministry will take further efforts to reduce the sufferings of women and secure their lives. According to her, hand in hand with the efforts of the Ministry the role of other Health Institutions such as Addis Ababa University, the Black Lion Specialized Hospital in concert with the Churchill Health Station is worth appreciating. Addis Ababa Health Bureau Deputy Head, Angatu Mohamad, also said that among the cancer cases affecting women in Ethiopia, breast cancer is the one. This is due to the



reason that close to 65 breast cancer patients came to health centers after their case worsened and their survival rate is minimal. Devising a mechanism, Addis Ababa Health Bureau, is working persistently to reduce the burden of breast and cervical cancers.

**Among the cancer cases affecting women in Ethiopia, breast cancer is the one. This is due to the reason that close to 65 breast cancer patients came to health centers after their case worsened and their survival rate is minimal**

As to her, visiting health centers is the primary responsibility of every woman conducting precaution detection at home which is possible to perform at home, has its own advantage to know about the status, to prevent and control the spread of the disease.

Addis Ababa University Health Science College, Chief Executive Director, Dr. Andualem Deneke, on his part said that the Black Lion Specialized Hospital in partnership with

Churchill Health Station is carrying out activities of pre-breast cancer identification, conducting breast cancer surgery and various human development works. He also mentioned a plan to further strengthen the Health Station and commence chemotherapy in the shortest possible time.

In related development, at the forum the Ministry of Health conducted, the severity of cancer, breast, cervical and other types of health complications were discussed among stakeholders and partners. As it was indicated by MoH, Maternal and Child Health Director, Dr. Meseret Selalem, about 40,000 people will die from breast cancer every year. In order to reduce and prevent the health, social and economic burden of treating cancer after it has spread, it is necessary to know the health status through early diagnosis.

Explaining the work being done by the Ministry of Health to prevent and control

cancer, the director said, so far, early cancer diagnosis and treatment and cervical cancer vaccine is given to selected girls to prevent cervical cancer. The Director said that more activities are also carried out regarding breast cancer.

Head of Cancer Treatment Department at the Black Lion Hospital, Dr. Edom Seife on her part said, the start of the examination at the Pioneer Examination center will encourage mothers and sisters who have not taken the services because they are worried about where to go or lack of convenient conditions.

Extending her gratitude to the Pioneer Diagnostic Center for its commitment to discharge its responsibility, she called on other health institutions to follow the suit. She also urged women and young girls to seize the opportunity and check their health status.

The founder and owner of Pioneer Diagnostic Center, Bruk Fekadu also stated the advantage of the state-of-the-art 3D mammography ultrasound and MRI machines that are providing services at his center.

However, he said, in addition to producing more experts in the field and importing modern services, raising the awareness of the community about the case is critical to reduce the health, economic and social burden of cancer. The Center is also providing free screening services for one month, starting from September 20 to selected government offices; and a 50 percent discount for those who may come to the Center for screening.

World Cancer Day aims to promote awareness on cancer as a public health issue and to strengthen actions towards improving access to quality care, screening, early detection, treatment and palliative care. This year's theme is “close the care gap” which about understands the inequities in cancer care and taking actions to make the necessary progress to address them.