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Gov't to resume humanitarian delivery to Tigray

• *Rejects comments about 'spiraling' conflict*

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- The government announced its engagement to provide humanitarian aid to the needy people of Tigray via Shire Airport.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Government Communication Service (GCS) stated that the Government, in coordination with humanitarian operators, is making preparations to expand the route through which humanitarian assistance could be transported. A concerted effort is also underway to open the North Gondar route to Shire as well as the Kombolcha-Dessie- Woldyia- Kobo-Alamata route.

It was mentioned that these preparations will also include technical assessments and some of the groundwork needed to restore



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FDRE Government Communication Service

services to the conflict- affected areas.

The statement further highlighted that the maximum care the ENDF has taken thus far has succeeded in protecting civilians from harm. "The ENDF has averted the grim

scenario some have predicted by echoing TPLF's propaganda."

Sharing the above rationale, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister Redwan Hussein tweeted that the conflict is not spiraling as opposed to some who would like to paint it. "It was spiraling when being expanded to Amhara and Afar states. Now that is not the case; the prevention measures are going as intended."

Noting everything is going according to plan, Redwan stressed that there is nothing out of control in the north Ethiopia conflict and the government is waiting for the African Union to announce the date of the peace talks.

It is to be recalled that the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres made an unrealistic statement that "the situation in Ethiopia is spiraling out of control."

Ethiopian to take delivery of two Boeing 787 Dreamliner

• *Marks 10th anniversary of first delivery*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian Airlines Group said it is preparing to take delivery of two Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircrafts with a view to intensifying its leading position in Africa's aviation industry.

The Group marked the 10th anniversary of the delivery of its first Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft in August 2012.

During the celebration, Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tassew said that Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft have helped expand services within Africa as well as connecting the continent to the rest of the world.

"Starting with the first aircraft, now, we are operating 27 aircraft ultra-modern technology being the largest operator of this aircraft in Africa and several parts of the region"

It demonstrates Ethiopian Airlines has been developing the transport industry in the continent being pioneer in operating new



technology aircraft. "We brought Boeing 787 passenger aircraft for the first time in Africa which was followed by Acquisition of the first 757 freighter aircraft again to Africa. In 2012, the Group received the first Boeing 787-800 aircraft."

He indicated Boeing being the closest

partner for Ethiopian Airlines. Today, the Group operates 140 aircrafts out of which 90 are from Boeing. This is a showcase to the strong relationship between Ethiopian Airlines and Boeing as well as how long it has been supporting Ethiopian airlines to reach at this stage.

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Photo: Eyob Teferi

Ethio telecom launches cloud-based contact centre

• *Ranked 23rd from 781 global operators*

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA-The state owned operator ethio telecom launched yesterday at the Science Museum a Cloud-Based Contact Center as a Service (CCaaS) solution that enables subscribers to access services in various options.

See *Ethio telecom ...* page 3



Surafel Getahun

Disarming T-TPLF kernel to viable peace talks: Expert

BY BILAL DERSO

ADDIS ABABA- The success of the peace talks between the Terrorist TPLF and the government that is planned to be held under the auspices of the African Union hinges on the disarmament of the faction, a political expert argued.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Political Science and International Relations Lecturer and Researcher at

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News



Vibrant public participation key for National Dialogue : Chief Commissioner

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA- The active participation of the public is so critical to make the national consultation inclusive, the National Dialogue Commission said, adding that representatives from 1,300 districts will participate in the drafting of the agenda.

The Chief Commissioner Prof. Mesfin Araya told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the commission is making great preparations to fulfill its assigned responsibilities, and in the process so far, it is working to make the consultation inclusive. The door is open to all parties and sections of the society involved in drafting of the agenda.

The commission is currently in the process of preparing the second phase of the three-year planning and professional evaluation, 2022 work program preparation, budget preparation, and works to strengthen relations with foreign organizations.

Noting the commission has set the next areas of focus, the chief commissioner highlighted that organizing sectors that carry out participants and agenda selection as well as training to create awareness through media and communication has been done. Media access in different languages is important to ensure that discussion concepts and processes reach the society, so the sector is completing its work to do this.

Heads of zones and districts from BenishangulGumuz, Afar, Gambella and Addis Ababa, elders, youths, political parties have reviewed the commission's work done so far, Prof. Mesfin elaborated. In line with the government's commitment to support the commission to achieve its mission, various government agencies have been briefed extensively on the commission's work.

"Along with the Diaspora Service, we are approaching concerned bodies to contact Ethiopians in the Diaspora. Also, the commission is going through every phase carefully and due emphasis has been given to avert the intervention of the government and foreign forces that could hinder the consultation process."

Prof. Mesfin further stated that the commission is working to make the conflict areas inclusive in the consultation.

Addis to hold "Invest Origins" forum

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- An international forum called "Invest Origins" will be held to attract diversified quality investments into Ethiopia's expanding market in nationally targeted housing, health, and hotel, education, and ICT sectors.

Briefing the media on the event that is scheduled to be held on 26 and 27 January, 2022 in Addis Ababa, Land Bank and Development Corporation (LBDC) Chief Executive Lensa Mekonnen explained that LBDC plans to host a forum branded 'Invest Origins' to draw high-caliber, diverse investments into Ethiopia's expanding market.

It is planned to attract more than two billion dollars of investment by making the institutions and investors participating in the forum sign agreements to develop the lands under the corporation and make them invest.

She stated that Invest Origins envisions placing Ethiopia among the top 5 international investment destinations for "Property Development" by 2025. It will also aid in attracting socioeconomically



Lensa Mekonnen

viable investments to accelerate Ethiopia's global outreach efforts and advance its development objectives.

The event is organized by the Federal Land Bank and Development Corporation in liaison with Baroque Interiors and Events, Mela Events and Ethel events and communications.

As to her it is expected that 250 in person, 500 online and a total of 750 local and foreign institutions, investors and actors will participate in the "Invest Origins" international investment forum.

The goal of LBDC is to build national wealth through property development that tangibly improves Ethiopians' lives through smart landholding planning and development while keeping cognizant of and accountable for the environment's preservation, she noted.

LBDC is a state-owned enterprise that develops a systematic and inclusive national landholding development, management, and administration system to maximize socioeconomic gains.



Ministry to host Livestock and Poultry showcases

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDISABABA- Ministry of Agriculture disclosed that it will host the 2022 Ethio poultry Expo and African Livestock Exhibition and Congress in collaboration with various local and international stakeholders from October 27 to 29 at Addis Ababa.

Briefing journalists, the stakeholders that organize the events said that more than 70 exhibiting companies from 10 countries such as Ethiopia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Kenya, The Netherlands, Scotland, Turkey and the

U.S. will participate at the events.

As to the press release of the event, more than 4000 trade and professional visitors from Ethiopia and other countries will participate at the exhibition.

The showcases are helpful to enhance the development of livestock and poultry sectors through market linkages, transferring knowledge and technology and promoting dairy, poultry and meat products.

Agricultural Counselor with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Meeuwes Brouwer speaking at the event said that his country has a lot of

companies that have invested and are operating in Ethiopia in the agricultural sector.

He stressed that his country has been providing different support to enhance agricultural productivity in Ethiopia.

He urged that his country should work more with Ethiopia in the agricultural sector for the benefit of the two countries.

It is recalled that in its ten years plan, the government of Ethiopia has planned to boost animal productivity to 11.8 billion liters of milk, 1.7 million tons of meat, 5.5 Billion eggs and 106 thousand tons broiler meat.

News

Commission sets to boost coffee export, benefit producers

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

MIZAN AMAN- The Ethiopian Cooperative Commission disclosed that it is undertaking various measures to boost the country's coffee export earning thereby improving the benefit of coffee producers.

The 13th National Coffee Development and Marketing Symposium was held in Mizan Aman town last Monday.

On the occasion, Commission Commissioner Abdi Oumer said that the coffee export and the foreign currency earning at the national level has shown promising progress from time to time.

As to him, private exporters are contributing the lion's share through processing and exporting a tangible amount of coffee to the international market while cooperative associations are still contributing less in the sector.

The contribution of the unions is declining. For instance, five years ago, they used to cover 12 percent of the total coffee export but currently, this amount is reduced by five percent, according to him.

"Therefore, the symposium sought to find the root causes and recommend solutions including revising policy. A task force will be established to prepare a proposal that



enables addressing the problems identified", he said.

He further said that enabling the beneficiary of members of the cooperative unions is fundamental to succeed sustainable coffee supply to the market.

Thus, the symposium being conducted is

expected to avail new insights towards ensuring beneficiary of the cooperative union members after consultation with pertinent stakeholders from public and private institutions.

On his part, South West region Cooperatives Agency General Director Aklilu Tegegn said that financial deficit during harvesting

season is among the leading problems mentioned in the studies that necessitates banks' effort in lending money to the unions.

Since the problem exceeds the region's capacity, it needs solutions like policy directive reform at the national level, he added.

The director further stated that the associations need capacity building to compete with the private investors and create awareness to act according to the revenue proclamation to carry out safe coffee marketing.

Presenting a paper on the symposium Senior Foreign Marketing Expert Meklit Tsegaye said that incompetency is observed among the associations in providing large amount of products to the foreign market.

Providing coffee with fewer prices by private exporters hinders the participation of the associations, she said.

Therefore, every stakeholder should exert efforts to address the associations' problems thereby ensuring benefits of the members and the country as well, she recommended.

Accordingly, in line with the symposium, an exhibition of processed and semi processed products of coffee and other products was held.

Ethiopian to...

The introduction of the 787 has played a critical role in supporting the implementation of the vision of Ethiopian Airlines. It has become a core fleet in our operation over long and medium routes. It improved its fuel efficiency, flexibility and provided the best customer service for passengers. The Group would like to nurture this historic relationship in the implementation of future strategy.

He noted that the number of passengers, destinations and its income or revenue has shown rapid increment. The Dreamliner aircrafts have played a critical role for the success or growth of the group.

Ethio telecom launches...

Launching the service, ethio telecom CEO Frehiwot Tamru said the previous contact centre has several limitations and the new contact centre service embraces various platforms that enable the company to provide its customers flexible service 24/7. The former call centre services are limited to voice services.

The CEO further highlighted that the new service provides service through multiple and integrated channels, boosts customer satisfaction by availing instant responses and reducing call waiting times resulting from long queues.

"The service also enables to handle social media inboxes separately, automates and standardizes the process of receiving and responding to customer requests across different communication channels such as voice, SMS, e-mail, websites, social media and Chabot."

Moreover, the new service enables enterprises to better monitor their service quality by expanding customer feedback collection options which was once limited to voice to service quality rating functionalities such as customer satisfaction score, net promoter score

and customer effort score, Frehiwot elaborated.

Meanwhile, the CEO disclosed that ethio telecom has become the 23rd largest operator out of 781 globally through providing competitive services to 68.3 million active customers. Also, ethio telecom is the second largest telecom operator in Africa.

"With a view to galvanizing Ethiopia's digital transformation, we have been hugely engaged in advancing services and empowering customers' experience."

Disarming T-TPLF ...

Dire Dawa University Surafel Getahun mentioned that international provisions prohibit the existence of two armed forces in one country. "If the peace talks between the T-TPLF and the government under the leadership of the African Union are to be successful, the rebellious group should be ready to disarm and talk."

The academician further noted that there cannot be two armed forces in one country regardless of any law or regulation. Therefore, it must be known that there can

be no peace if the T-TPLF does not disarm. "In similar incidents in other countries, the rebels can come forward for peaceful talks unarmed and if the T-TPLF comes with weapons for peace talks, peace cannot be prevailed in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa at large."

By the same token, the International Community (IC) should pressure the rebellious group to disarm in order for the peace negotiations to end successfully. For the peace talks to end successfully, the IC

should put a lot of pressure on the T-TPLF to accept the peace process and end the war.

On the other hand, the government should gather the diplomatic community and inform them about the things it has been doing with a view to making them put pressure on the T-TPLF to disarm and prepare for the peace talks, Surafel elaborated.

Some international organizations and

governments should stop treating the federal government and the terrorist TPLF as equals. There is a tendency of some corporate media and governments to see the T-TPLF and the Ethiopian government as equals and a strong diplomatic work should be done in this regard.

As to him, Ethiopian diplomats in the West have a huge responsibility to prevent the terrorist enterprise from getting support and to make its criminality known by global powers.

Opinion

“Europe is a garden while the rest of the world is a jungle”

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Addressing the European Diplomatic Academy in Bruges, Belgium, on the 13th October 2022, European Union’s High Representative and Security Policy, Josep Borrell made a racist remark noting that “Europe is a garden and the rest of the world is a jungle.”

He also said that the jungle could invade the garden and that the gardeners have to go to the jungle to protect the garden. He added “Europe is a garden. We have built a garden.”

He added, “Aggregate works are the best combination of political freedom, economic prosperity, and social cohesion that humankind has been able to build. There are three things together and here bridges may be the representation of the beautiful things intellectual life and well-being. The rest of the world is not exactly a garden. Most of the rest of the world is a jungle, and the jungle could invade the garden. The gardeners should take care of it.”

He further said, “But the gardeners will not protect the garden by building walls. A small garden surrounded by high walls in order to prevent the jungle from coming in, it’s not a solution. Because the jungle has a strong growth capacity and the wall will never be high enough in order to protect the garden. The gardeners have to go to the jungle. The Europeans have to be much more engaged with the rest of the world. The rest of the world will invade us by different ways of means.”

The above remarks notes that “the gardeners should go to the jungle” tends to give freedom to EU to willfully interfere into the internal affairs of the countries of the “jungle” creating a dangerous but unnecessary and unwarranted interference into the internal affairs and the sovereignty of the country.

Responding to the remarks by the EU Chief, Director of the Information and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Maria Vladimirovna Zakharova has strongly condemned Borell’s statement, saying that the ‘garden’ of Europe was built by looting the ‘jungle’ of the rest of the world during the colonial regime. She said, “To continue this analogy, the European gardener is in a vegetative state. On a serious note, Europe built that ‘garden’ through the barbaric plundering of the ‘jungle’. Borrell could not have phrased it any better: the world’s most

prosperous system, created in Europe, nurtured by roots in colonies which they ruthlessly oppressed.

Here, the author is reminded of an Amharic anecdote which goes *jiraffrasugerforasuyechohal*, meaning “the wiper resounds a cracking sound while flogging the victim”. Europe which is now suffering from untold drought not recorded over the last 500 years is even trying to politicize on the issue trying to criticize drought stricken countries for their inability to control recurrent droughts across their countries.

Now the point is, was Europe always a garden? How did it come to be what it is today? There are tons of documents and mountain of facts that it was Europe which has under developed the rest of the world through the pillages of colonialism that kicked off after the Berlin Conference of the Scramble for Africa in 1814-1815.

Walter Rodney in his book “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, 1972” describes how Africa was deliberately exploited and underdeveloped by European colonial regimes. One of his main arguments throughout the book is that Africa developed Europe at the same rate that Europe underdeveloped Africa.

The author of this article is also reminded of his personal notes from readings on the subject in which Pierre Jalee in his book (1969) entitled, “The Third world in world Economy” wrote, “The Third World is stagnating economically. The under developed half of the world has the highest rate of population growth, yet less than 12% of the world’s gross product and the per capita increase in wealth is slower than in the other parts of the world. The political decolonization has done nothing to change the system of Pillage. Evolutionary change has not come to pass in Africa and Asia as it has also failed in Latin America.”

While the grim reality of under development of Africa in particular inmates from the slave trade in which Europe traded with human beings from Africa and the pillage of African resources by unequal trade in the form of commercial revolution which funded the European industrial revolution, Africa was robbed of its resources including its mineral resources and agricultural raw materials. Today however, Josep Borrell refers to Africa in a rather derogatory manner as a “jungle”. Such racist slurs will undoubtedly tarnish the relationship between EU and the rest of the world and is totally incompatible with the diplomatic caliber of the European Union.

While in reality the rest of the world

is being invaded by Europe through neo-colonial and treacherous politics, misinformation and destabilization, the EU Chief says that “the rest of the world will invade us by different ways and means”. He is actually referring to the influx of refugees to Europe due to the war in Syria, Libya and conflicts in several African countries which are mostly masterminded by European countries and their politicians who are out to hunt for their neo-colonial national interests.

Over the last two years, the European Union and its officials have conducted a counterproductive propaganda and misrepresentation on Ethiopia over the situation in the northern parts of the country. Ireland has in particular repeatedly meddled into the internal affairs of the country by co-sponsoring a number of anti-Ethiopia sessions at the UNSC and the UNGA. The EU, particularly Josep Borrell was turning every stone at his disposal to ensure that the EU should impose sanctions on Ethiopia.

Speaking of his burning desire to impose sanctions on Ethiopia, he said “December 14, 2021 The EU’s response to the civil war in Ethiopia was “one of my biggest frustrations” of the year. He said “the EU had not been able to stop “mass rapes using sexual violence as a war aim, killings and concentration camps based on ethnic belonging,” pointing to the lack of unanimity among EU governments.” He has been echoing terrorist TPLF propaganda with no care to verify farce from the reality.

He attributes all the crimes he mentioned above as a reason for imposing sanctions on Ethiopia while the world is already aware of the fact that fighters of the terrorist TPLF were in alarming rate of rapes, massacres of children, women, the disabled and even monks and sheiks in Afar and Amhara regions.

On October 15, 2022 Josep Borrell tweeted “Horrified by the reports of continuous violence, including targeting of civilians in Shire, Tigray. Genuine peace efforts do not amount to increasing military offensives nor to provocations. Respecting international law is not an option, it is an obligation for all.”

Here, just like his western counterparts the EU Chief puts a federal government and a terrorist group on equal status and tries to lecture Ethiopia on the on international law that the country has been defending by the blood and flesh of its heroic sons and daughters in effectively keeping peace and stability in Africa. Moreover, He deliberately overlooks a daylight fact that it was the terrorist group that has launched an

offensive on the people and government of Ethiopia two months back. It is interesting to carefully assess why he particularly focused on Shire as the ENDF are focused on freeing the “civilians” he mentioned in his tweet.

The trend in the EU over “the rest of the world” can isolate the continental organization and isolate it from the rest of the world, particularly its relations with Africa. The EU needs to take into account that Africa is gradually emerging from the era of the “dark continent” into a new era of partnership with the rest of the world.

The EU Chief must take into account that Ethiopia and not even the UN systems and EU, was the first to call for peaceful settlement of the crisis in the northern part of the country as this was primarily a national issue under the prerogatives of the Government of Ethiopia. Ethiopia declared unilateral ceasefire which was time and again abused by the terrorist clique in preparing for three rounds of war on the country. Over the last several weeks the group was mobilizing the entire population in Tigray to use them as a cannon fodder and to shield its officials from being rounded up by the ENDF.

Undermining the positive developments in Ethiopia and attempting to tarnish the country’s relations with EU countries does not help to solve the problem in the country and providing diplomatic and propaganda support to a terrorist group does not tally with the objectives for which EU itself was founded.

For the EU and other pro terrorist TPLF western powers, interfering into the internal affairs of Ethiopia and waging propaganda war in favor of the terrorist group has become a priority area even when the war between Russia and Ukraine has continued unabated. While it appears that falsehood is reigning over the truth temporarily, the world will soon realize the capacity of the people and government of Ethiopia in effectively handling the internal affairs of the country.

All told, as the ENDF has already freed Amhara and Afar regions from the attack by the terrorist forces, the group has already become irrelevant as the Ethiopian National Defense Forces are already controlling almost all parts of Tigray. Nevertheless, Ethiopia would still wish to resolve the crisis in the northern part of the country for the sake of peace in the country and the Horn of Africa.

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

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Editorial

Conscious decision to protect sovereignty!

Last Monday, the Ethiopian Government announced its decision to take control of airports, major service rendering federal facilities, and infrastructure in the Tigray State.

According to the statement issued by the Government Communication Service, the decision is made to protect the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to facilitate and expedite humanitarian aid to the affected people in the State; and sustain lasting peace in the State.

Concurrently, it has avowed its readiness to a peaceful resolution of the conflict through AU-led peace talks. In fact, the Federal Government from the beginning has been striving to resolve conflicts peacefully through community mediation and at round table discussion to avoid the undesirable possible consequences of conflicts, not only human casualties; but also economic, social, developmental, environmental costs.

To this end, the government, before the T-TPLF faction incited aggression against the Ethiopian National Defense Force stationed in Tigray State, has been working to settle differences peacefully.

It sent peace delegations of elders, religious leaders, peace mothers and celebrities to the leadership of T-TPLF. Mothers kneeling down before the leaderships of the narcissists group begged for peace. Unfortunately, for those self-absorbed individuals who do not see beyond their own interests, the pleas of the delegates for peace were inconsequential. Even they considered it as if it is a sign of trepidations.

Following the attack the rebel faction incited against the adjacent areas of the Amhara and Afar States, the government has also been expressing its readiness for peace. More than once, it declared a unilateral truce aiming to access unhindered humanitarian aid to the people of Tigray who are in dire need of assistance; and clearly stated its firm stand to hold talks anytime, anywhere, without any pre-conditions; for the sake of peace, of course.

However, the terrorist group could not value the efforts. Rather, they have continued jeopardizing the lives of citizens undermining the peace talks

initiated by the African Union and rebuffing government's peace offer.

Worse than this, the group is risking the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation by joining hands with Ethiopia's historic enemies; but serving group's interest.

Indisputably, the government is duty bound to secure the peace and security of its people, protect nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity; including its land territory and airspaces.

In this regard, the measures taken by the government to control major federal facilities and installations, all airports in Tigray State is a decisive step to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, and conclude the ongoing crisis and the sufferings of the people.

As the Government Communication Service stated, the measures are necessitated not only due to the repeated attacks of the T-TPLF but also because of its active collusion with the hostile foreign powers. Taking the measure is necessary to protect Ethiopia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, in particular as it relates to its airspace as well as to enable it expedite humanitarian aid to people in need.

However, while pursuing these objectives, the Government of Ethiopia is committed to the peaceful resolution of the conflict through the AU-led peace talks. "We believe that there is a need for a comprehensive and negotiated settlement that would bring about durable peace," the statement expounded.

No wonder, if given the time and space, the desperate terrorist faction will not hesitate for a fraction of a second from launching war once again to put the country in more precarious situations.

Therefore the decision made by the government is a well-timed pace; and a matter it should be executed unwaveringly. The government concurrent to its endeavor to peaceful resolution through the AU-led peace talks, should work determinedly to defend nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity by aborting the ill intents of the terrorist group and its cliques.

Opinion

Emphasizing on Africa's Peace, Security issues: Call of the time

STAFF REPORTER

Last Saturday, participants of the Tana High-Level Forum presided over a State of Peace and Security 2021 report on the continent and held pertinent discussions.

John Dramani Mahama, former President of the Republic of Ghana who is also Chairperson of the Tana Forum Board, presented the State of Peace and Security in Africa Report for 2021. According to him marginalization and economic mismanagement brought Africans into the narratives of radicalization.

A panel discussion was carried out, deliberating on various proposals and policy feedback on the continent's wide range of security sector challenges. Indeed, Africa is now contending with unprecedented, persistent and emerging threats, which impact on the very existence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, political unity and survival of member-states of our dear union.

Without a shadow of doubt, the clearly identified multiplication of principal threats to peace, security and stability are: terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization; upsurge of unconstitutional changes of Government, evident by the latest attempted coup d'état in Guinea Bissau; and Complex political transitions. Coupled with these threats, the public health security challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as climate induced insecurity.

Terrorism and Violent Extremism have now spread to all five regions of the continent. Indeed, countries earlier considered immune

to terrorism have been targeted by terrorist elements, occupying both governed and ungoverned spaces. The regional hotspots are the farthest inner parts of the Sahel and the southern Libyan border areas, the tumbums of the Lake Chad Basin, to the Cabo Delgado province of Northern Mozambique. In fact, the Horn of Africa is a long-standing region battling the effects of terrorism especially Al-Shabaab in Somalia.

Evidently, the year 2021 witnessed a replication of Unconstitutional Changes of Government, with military takeovers in Guinea, Mali and Sudan in 2021 and Burkina Faso in January 2022. This is of great concern especially given the domino-effect of these developments. The recent attempted coup reported in Guinea Bissau is a case in point.

What is more, a number of African countries are undergoing very complex transition processes that are threatening the very foundation of their statehood.

However, a democratic and politically stable Africa is imperative to bring about lasting peace and create conducive ecosystem for the realization of the aspirations of Agenda 2063. Despite these onerous challenges mentioned above, the Continent remains resilient as the union witnessed credible and peaceful elections in over sixteen member states.

It was stressed that all stakeholders must pay attention to both the internal and external dynamics of conflicts in Africa and seek ways to regenerate the optimism of the early 2000s that saw the establishment of numerous

normative frameworks.

It was also discussed, among other issues, that the resurgence of unconstitutional change of government in Africa reflects a number of underlying governance issues that necessitate rethinking the structure of the political system, the content of education, and the responsibilities of organizations in the continent.

The African Union has made political decisions to stamp out the aforementioned security challenges that the continent has been faced so far. The AUC has taken various political measures through stepped up support to peace support operations and coalitions, high number of countries suspended from the Union in one calendar year, Early Warning and Conflict Prevention, Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) and so on.

African leaders should collectively champion peace and security landscape in 2022 by renewing commitment to tackle protruding threats of Terrorism and Violent Extremism, Unconstitutional Changes of Government and Complex Political Transitions, especially in terms of the threat profile. There is an urgent need for more robust, contextually relevant responses in 2022. As a matter of necessity, the African Union should aim at addressing structural drivers of both Terrorism and Unconstitutional Change of Government.

Having more robust engagement on the ground, building relationships with key political stakeholders, and visibly popularizing the AU and the mechanisms of the Peace and Security Council, as available to support conflict

prevention and resolution are critical elements of the African Peace and Security Architecture and African Governance Architecture (APSA/AGA). Early warning also implies early action. This must be the concrete entry points for the follow up actions to prevent conflict, manage and resolve them.

Though the outlook for Africa's governance, peace, and security landscape may appear challenging, however the commitment and strategic vision and guidance of the Assembly, inspires the commission. As the Commission, the PSC and relevant Organs will help deliver the lofty ambitions envisaged in Aspiration 3 and 4 of Agenda 2063 – the Africa we want. We cannot relent as we are encouraged by the words of the great Pan-Africanist, Nelson Mandela: "it always seems impossible until it's done".

It is therefore fundamental that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, continues champion the promotion of effective governance, peace, security and stability in 2022 and sustainably in the years ahead. The theme of the Union for this year 2022, gives Africans another opportunity to secure greater political commitment and investment in human capital, social and economic development towards durable human security.

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

Business & Economy

Support reforms to improve easing of doing business

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

E-government has become a popular focus of government efforts in many countries around the world. More and more governments have implemented and introduced e-government systems as a means of reducing costs, improving services, saving time and increasing effectiveness and efficiency in the public sector.

Starting from 1990, ICT contributed a very significant part to accelerate and change the traditional government system to be more upgraded and to be automated. The use of ICT in public services especially in government administration areas has played a very significant role to enhance the public services to reach its goal to serve the citizens in socio-economic development. Developed countries who applied an e-government system using information technology skills are numerous benefited from the system to integrate citizens with administration. E-government implementations have come out quickly in the developing countries; this is because of empowering tools to elevate efficiency and increase transparency of organizations.

It is vividly clear that e-government improves the development, information transparency and social participation in Ethiopia to facilitate the transformation of everyday activities of government service and automate working processes. The fact that in Ethiopia there have been numerous project activities initiated to maintain sustainable development in a number of private and public and development partners initiated to support ICT to increase the good governance process.

Of the projects is an EU funded project that aims in supporting the implementation of more convenient e-government services in Ethiopia. The EU funded, Business Environment and Investment Climate including e-government (BEIC) project, Key Expert Team Leader Dr. Alberto Gomez noted that the project aims to improve the business environment and the investment climate to promote the private sector in Ethiopia, in turn bringing more investment.

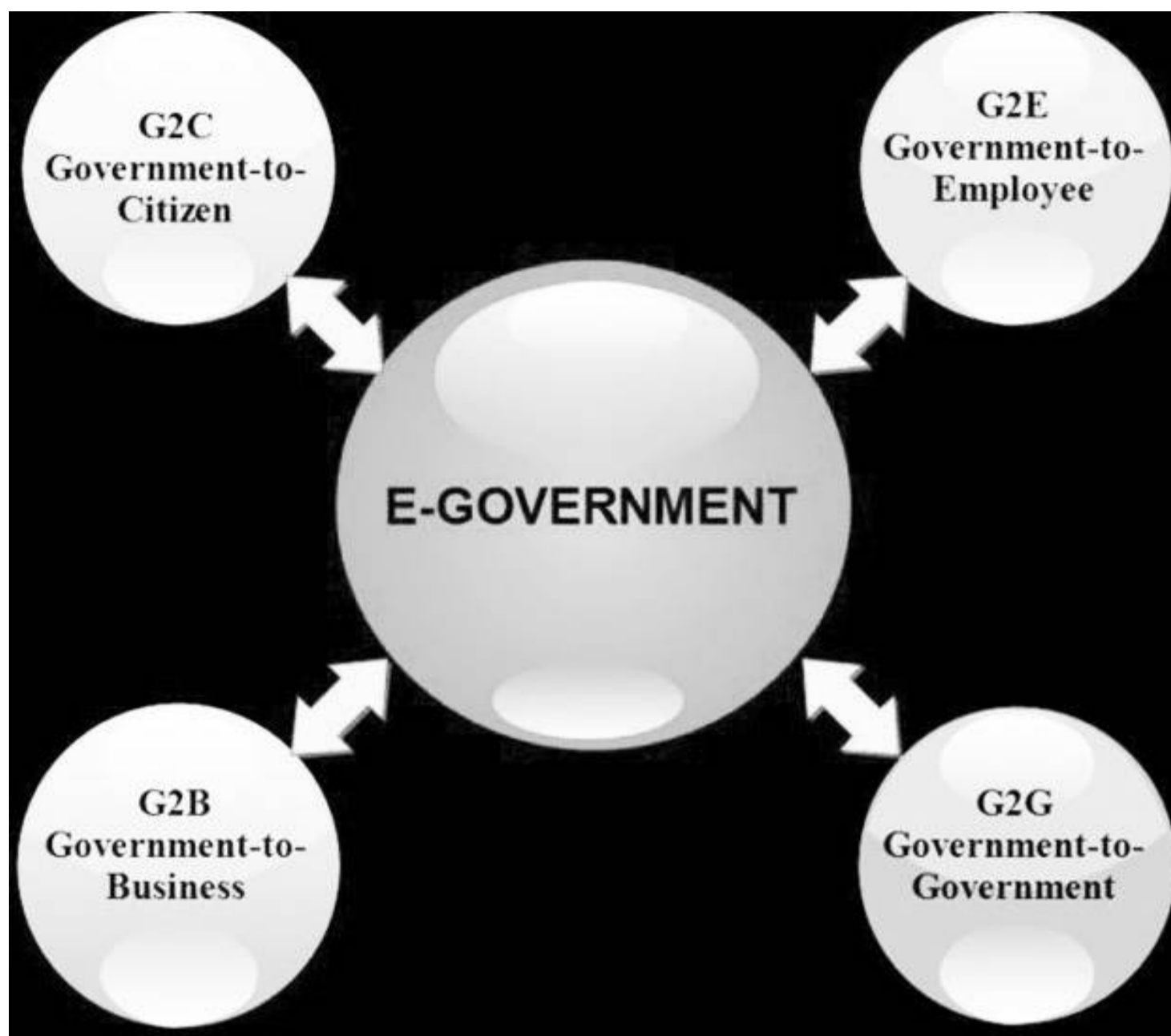
Through the project, they support the enhancement of the Ethiopian government's online portals, promising a more direct and convenient access to e-government services, besides creating a sustainable Public Private Dialogue.

"There will be more jobs and more opportunities for the people of Ethiopia," he underlined.

From ensuring government portals' accessibility by users to enhancing its security features, the project's activity focuses on improving the user-friendliness of e-government services aligned with globally accepted standards.

He further noted that, in pursuit of this goal, the BEIC team is employing different methodologies conducting a thorough user-based research that aims to identify gaps in the user-friendliness of e-government portals related to the Ease of Doing Business processes in Ethiopia.

The research targets selected government



institutions including the Ministry of Revenues, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, Ministry of Innovation and Technology and Ethiopian Investment Commission. The project is gathering data by analyzing the performance of e-government portals, reviewing previously conducted customer survey reports, focus group discussions and key informant interviews with IT directorates of selected Ministries, departments and agencies.

The team is expected to present its recommendations to the public sector, serving a variety of different ends by improving e-government service delivery. As part of the research, frequent end users of e-government services were identified from the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (ECCSA), Ethiopian Professional Association of Accountants and Auditors (EPAAA) and Customs Clearing Professionals Association (CCPA).

According to him, the BEIC team conducted separate half day consultation workshops with each association in September, 2022 in Addis Ababa. The discussions were insightful as they enabled the participants drawn from the associations to provide critical feedback on the performance of government e-portals. Some of the issues raised include intermittent system connectivity, lack of user training and the need to strengthen government portal systems to mitigate security risks and threats.

The inputs obtained from the workshops will be used to enhance the user friendliness

of government portals, making it easier for enterprises as well as citizens to deal with administrative procedures and benefit from more friendly, easy to use and improved e-services.

Amina Sherefa EPAAA Finance manager, for her part said that it is ideal time to develop a portal with various domains to ensure business friendly services, this in turn beckons investments. "The training on designing a user friendly portal let me know a lot, because it saved my time and finances. Though there are commendable efforts, in realizing digital services in the public and private sector, still stakeholders should work more than ever before. In my view, the government should put in place mandatory directions on pertinent stakeholders to develop a portal and inform the community to the end users through media," she said.

According to her, the government should urge all private and public as well development partners' institutions to use an active portal.

She further said that as history tells, a closed market only facilitates bribery and corruption in the public sector and government. Business and citizens can obtain information at a faster speed and it is possible at any time of the day.

The society is moving towards mobile connections and the ability of an e-government service to be accessible to citizens irrespective of location throughout the country brings the next and potentially biggest benefit of an e-government service

as we live in what is now termed as the Knowledge worker era.

"The project should incorporate more institutions to support them to design user-friendly portals and extend human capital development and the building facilities."

In my view, the anticipated benefits of e-government include efficiency, improved services, better accessibility of public services, and more transparency and accountability, if it is being implemented in the right way."

Customs clearing General Manager, Gebissa Ejerso also noted that these days the market and other services are becoming online and it is high time to ensure accessibility.

It is high time to ensure digital service in all service provisions, the efforts to put in place digital services are promising, but efforts to create an informed society should be strengthened.

"The world becoming a village and the technology advancement has brought safer and easy as well reliable system that we all should join. I have gained skills and knowledge from the project."

Stakeholders should dream of making Ease of Doing Business simple and reliable.

BEIC, the EU funded program being implemented by GIZ International Services in partnership with McKinsey and amp; Company, aims to support reforms to improve the Ease of Doing Business in Ethiopia.

Art & Culture

The philosophy of Gondarine farmer

BY KFLEYESUS ABEBE

Gondarine farmer might live adjacent to country's highest peak Dashen mountain or around lake Tana or flatland near Ethio-Sudanese border. The life principles are though very similar. He lives not as such a comfortable life but there is such unexpected understanding of life. He may not be learnt but he has abundant understanding of life. It is on this understanding of life, a hard rock, his culture, belief and principles are built on. The culture and his life are manifestations of the philosophy I will try to touch in this writing.

Life for a city boy is searching pleasure at all cost. There may not be constant in this search. If it demands to renounce one's opinion, belief or principle, a city boy might do it with out hesitation. Hypocrisy usually runs the city life. A city guy preaches virtue and religion but at the test of time you would rarely see him living up to his words. The first thing I believe the Gondarine farmer understood is to live honestly and truthfully to one self: Truthfulness. But you would ask how come one be truthful at all times. It is to understand life and face it as it is. Life is fragile. Life is short and full of challenges. What do we make the best of it is when we are true to ourself. For Gondarine farmer work itself is life. He gets delight by tending his animals, protecting the environment and defending his land. He lives to work, he values his work and he is grateful to God.

Life is full of challenges in Gondar for one thing since it is periphery the farmer is morally obliged to defend his country and the border (for him his farmland). For other Gondarines who live adjacent to mountains they had to withstand the cold weather; farm and feed their family. And, it is an insult to waste anything that has come from this hardwork. So, he must be strong and should carry weapon to protect his property from bandits or any other threat. It is in Gondarine culture to exult bravery and kindness. The famous poem /letegebew tyit lerabew injera /Gun for the arrogant but injera



or food for the hungry tells this fact.

Gondar was a capital of Ethiopia during 17th century. This might have influenced Gondar in many ways. The practice of nobility might have instilled characteristics of loyalty, bravery, duty, honour and service. Like British royals, Gondarines are modest in their speech, they treat people with curtesy and kindness and expect the same from other people. They are also consistent in their actions. You may call them conservative but they maintained traditions of respecting each other, the elderly and religious fathers. To be grateful to God and going to church and praying is also fundamental part of the culture. They try to make their culture and faith very compatible in their nature. Along truthfulness, they want to live with honor. They prefer to die than to live with shame. Like

the ruins of the castles and nostalgia of the empires, Gondarines typically farmers are known for their bravery, pride and kindness. Here in the capital Addis Ababa it is common for Gondarines to be regarded as people with distinguished pride though sometimes it is told with intentions.

What led me to write this is the unique story I heard recently. The story is farmers are met with heavily armed soliders in the border area. They knew they can't repel the soliders by their powers but they have grown farmers in the area soliders are expanding. Therefore, farmers choose to die than their harvest is taken by outsider. Some of them fought with the soliders while the others harvested the produce.

Through out his life, a Gondarine farmer is careful not to disgrace himself, his family or his country. He keeps his word against all odds. He

also tries to be faithful to his country. He won't attack others but never allow defeat. There is a saying, "man will die even of aging leave alone fighting." To live without honor is a kiss of death for Gondarine farmer.

Another thing that is facinating about Gondarine farmer is the thought of centerity. Even the farmer who isn't considered to have knowledge about politics preach unity and togetherness among Ethiopians. He knows he can't live with dignity while his country is divided or invaded by other countries. Accordingly, he will do everything in his share for this cause.

In conclusion, life for Gondarine farmer is like what Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "the purpose of life is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

MANIA

MANIA

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

I can feel that my mind is free
The world is a warm place to be
Nothing seems vague or unclear
All my problems seemed to disappear
If my life continues this way
This is a paradise I say
The sun is brighter and warmer
The wind blowing is cooler
I can feel my heart throbbing in wonder
This is happiness and no other

The wise , the fool

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

In keeping their head
Above water
The wise draw
A quick lesson
From others' blunder,
While the fool
With a deaf eye
To many a wrong turn
Their life squander!

Global Affairs

How digital can drive a green recovery

As much of the world was starting to glimpse recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, it now finds itself amid a cost-of-living crisis brought on by disruptions in global energy and food markets that are the result of conflict and climate change.

This again highlights how societal and planetary imbalances reinforce each other, as well as the need for a truly inclusive and green recovery. One that is foundational for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that digital is no longer optional. Countries with existing digital foundations were much better equipped to respond to citizens' needs, including through the effective delivery of public services such as healthcare, social security benefits, and remote education. Digital will play a similarly important role in shaping a global green recovery.

Beyond building national socioeconomic resilience, digital transformation is also proving a key enabler in advancing global climate commitments. Countries supported by UNDP are leveraging digital in innovative ways to redouble their efforts to adopt renewable energy, transition to a circular economy, and to protect biodiversity.

Ecuador is building a digital traceability system for monitoring land use change and to track commodities through the supply

chain. Papua New Guinea has piloted a mobile phone application to assist law enforcers to quickly record and report environmental harms such as illegal logging and bush fires.

Whether it's emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) or more established digital tools like the mobile phone digital can be a fundamental driver of change. It is reshaping the dynamics between the economy, governments, businesses, and civil society and is an important tool in rebalancing our planetary, societal, and economic priorities.

However, digital is fast becoming the global metric of both inclusion and exclusion. With 37 percent of the world's population still offline, the digital divide, notably, the lack of accessible broadband, gaps in digital skills, and marginalized groups excluded from technology, has become a key barrier for countries wanting to capitalize on the potential opportunities of the increasingly digital economy.

And digital technologies themselves could constrain a Green Recovery. The industry's carbon footprint could account for about 14 percent of global emissions by 2040. If digital were a country, it would nearly surpass the US as the second largest contributor to climate change. And this impact may worsen, with emerging technologies also contributing to increased

emissions.

Digital and a green recovery

Integrating sustainable development in digital is central to ensuring a green recovery – one that drives inclusive digital access and capacity, promotes openness and open data, and fosters innovations that increase the efficiency of digital technologies and mitigates their environmental footprint.

In this context, the UNDP Global Centre for Technology, Innovation and Sustainable Development organized its flagship event 'Digital for a Green Recovery' on the sidelines of the World Cities Summit in Singapore. The event highlighted three priorities for an inclusive and green digital transformation.

First, we must put people at the center of innovation. This includes ensuring the availability of foundational digital infrastructure so that everyone can benefit. We must also ensure that the technical standards and explorations of emerging technologies are 'human-centered', founded on the local needs and aspirations of populations, but also 'environment-centered'.

Second, we need to strengthen collaboration between innovation ecosystems. Innovation doesn't happen in a vacuum. It requires an enabling ecosystem comprising policies and regulations,

investors, incubators and accelerators; and educational institutions. Digital can be a potent enabler for connecting dispersed national and global innovation ecosystems in pursuit of sustainability.

Third, data is the lifeblood of digital transformation and could be an important equalizer for countries in accelerating their efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, a number of countries lack even foundational data infrastructure, such as data centres, communication networks, and energy grids. We need to accelerate efforts to build data capacity to ensure that existing digital divides are not widened.

Digital is an indispensable enabler for driving a green and inclusive recovery. But it is truly a 'whole-of-society' endeavor.

As a platform to showcase innovation, best practice, and to foster partnerships, the UNDP Global Centre for Technology, Innovation, and Sustainable Development will continue to convene global discussions, support and align innovation ecosystems around the world, and guide governments in leveraging the potential afforded by digital. Through driving the experimentation, adoption, and scaling of digital, we can shape a Green Recovery that works for both people and planet.

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

Towards zero hunger in Africa: 5 steps to achieve food security

Global food systems have been battered by overlapping crises in recent years. Key among these are the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russo-Ukraine war and extreme weather events resulting from climate change. These have resulted in forced migration, loss of employment, climate stress, loss of biodiversity, and economic instability.

In Africa, which is home to 1.5 billion people, these shocks and stressors have slowed – or even reversed – decades of progress in improving food security and nutrition. For example, 37 million people in the Greater Horn of Africa are facing acute hunger in one of the region's worst droughts in decades.

These multiple crises have forced the world to recognise that improving nutrition and food security requires more resilient global and national food systems. Food systems are the sum of actors and interactions along the food value chain – from input supply and production to transport, processing, retailing, wholesaling, preparation, consumption and disposal.

As set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG2), the journey towards food and nutritional security for Africa has a clear destination – zero hunger. The target is to ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all people by 2030.

The recently launched Africa Agriculture Status Report examines the continent's progress towards food and nutritional security.

We co-edited the report, which has six key themes. It charts a roadmap to get to the goal faster while adapting to a changing environment. Our report coincided with World Food Day 2022, whose theme is safer food, better health.

Without transformative change like the Asian Green Revolution, African food systems will continue to impede human development. They will also continue to be overly dependent on food imports. Without a strong drive for sustainable agricultural practices, the continent's food systems will worsen environmental destruction. Urgent action is needed to anticipate megatrends, rally political will, mobilise investments and strengthen capacity.

Five ways to transform African food systems

The need for true cost accounting

Development practitioners working in Africa need true cost accounting for our food systems. It should explicitly consider all the environmental, social and human health outcomes associated with the way food systems are organised. For example, 74% of agricultural production growth in sub-Saharan Africa since 2000 has been achieved through area expansion and only 26% from increased yields. This is far from ideal. Reliance on area expansion has converted forests and grasslands into cropland on a massive scale. The result has been substantial damage to the region's stock of natural resources and ecosystem services.

A true cost accounting framework sets out the costs of this approach. It would lead to the recognition that technical innovation is important to improve yields on existing farmland. It would show that this is a more sustainable approach to production growth, better health and improved nutrition.

Anticipate the megatrends

African governments must be prepared for the big demographic, economic, environmental, and social trends shaping the continent's food systems. These include:

rapid population growth, associated land scarcity and rapidly rising land prices

rapidly growing demand for food, driven by rapidly growing urban areas, rising incomes and purchasing power

more frequent and intense weather disruptions associated with climate change

global health crises, economic disruptions, and civil conflicts such as the Russo-Ukraine war

technical innovation in digital agriculture.

Africa's food systems continue to evolve in response to these drivers. Food policies and investment strategies need to change too. We are chasing a moving target.

Role of leadership

Leadership is essential to harness collective effort, shared responsibility, stakeholder engagement and political will to transform food systems.

Political leaders can either push the accelerator or step on the brakes. The complex nature of our food systems requires that key actors, including national governments, international agencies, civil society, farmer organisations and the private sector, work together towards the common goal.

Governments and regional bodies are at the centre of food systems interventions.

Investment gap

Financing is the fuel needed to accelerate transformation. Based on recent estimates from New Growth International, a network based management consulting firm, food systems transformation in Africa requires up to US\$77 billion a year from the public sector and up to US\$180 billion from the

private sector.

Mobilising financing at scale requires African governments to:

define priorities

commit to financing priority actions

enhance coordination between government and private sector

ensure good governance and accountability.

Capacities and capabilities

Africa must invest in domestic human, institutional and system-wide capacities and capabilities. Capacity development efforts should be guided by seven core principles: country ownership and leadership; alignment with national needs and priorities; use of national systems and local expertise; no "one-size-fits-all" tactics; multi-level approaches; and mutual accountability.

We also note that even though agricultural research capacity has increased by 90% between 2000 and 2016 there has been a decline in public investment in agricultural research systems. This threatens Africa's capacity to adapt the latest technologies to local conditions.

Call to action

There's urgency to transforming African and global food systems to make them more resilient and sustainable. Failure is not an option.

Transformation will require a coordinated approach from governments, development partners, the private sector and civil society. It is time to put into action the carefully designed strategies, policy reforms and investment plans highlighted in the latest report.

(Source: *The Conversation*)

Law & Politics

The ridiculous comparison!

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Regardless of the fact that the disgruntled TPLF group has been leaving no stone unturned to turn the lives of innocent civilians into pandemonium committing many wicked deeds, some foreign entities have been unceasingly equating a terrorist group with a democratically elected government.

Working in close collaboration with the criminal organization, some foreign entities have kept on equating the democratically elected government of Ethiopia with the rouge group that has been working around the clock to dismantle and back the country into a corner.

Some low-rated international media outlets and other Ethiopian foes that hate to death the development of the country, also continue turning a blind eye to the horrendous crimes of the TPLF clique.

Lately, the Ethiopian government has issued a statement on the wrong comparison and usage of terms that undermines the sovereignty of the Ethiopian state.

According to the statement, the democratically elected Ethiopian Government and a rebel group from the Tigray region will hold peace negotiations soon. In connection with this, it is unacceptable to imply that the negotiations are taking place between the Tigray Region and the federal government of Ethiopia, the statement added.

The usages of terms like “Tigray Administration,” “The State of Tigray,” “The Government of Tigray,” “Tigray Regional Government,” and “Tigray External Service” endanger Ethiopia’s sovereignty. These expressions are unacceptable since, in accordance with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia’s Constitution, there is no legitimately elected entity in the Tigray region.

Therefore, in order to respect Ethiopia’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and constitutional order, third parties are requested to avoid from utilizing the expressions, the statement added.

Moreover, without exposing and denouncing the evil acts of the terrorist group, some are also accusing the Ethiopian government of violations of human rights.

It is worth mentioning that the criminal enterprise has been working with Ethiopia’s antagonists that have been dreaming of moving the country into uncharted waters to bring into effect their hidden motives going on behind closed curtains and dragging through the mud the positive developments unfolding in the country.

Despite the fact that the illegal organization perpetrated unspeakable crimes with no ill consequences in the northern part of the country for the most part in Amhara and Afar states, some nations failed to familiarize the existing reality on the ground with the unvarnished truth.

By the same token, as some foreign entities do not want to stand by the side of the truth, they were engaging themselves in a smear campaign against the government, tarnishing the good initiative of the country and whitewashing the horrifying crimes committed in the northern part of the country by the terrorist group.



The decision to conduct another investigation without accepting the joint report is also another testimony that shows some interest groups’ intention to prepare a report consistent with their political interest.

The sad thing is that instead of exerting maximum efforts to bring the bloodthirsty criminal organization to justice, they have been over and over again covering up the heinous crimes of the group that does not want to live in peace and harmony with the various Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples of Ethiopia.

Though the criminal enterprise works around the clock with the purpose of rising tensions, moving the country into uncharted waters, playing a part in a smear campaign against the government, and instigating a humanitarian crisis, the so-called media outlets have been masking the self-evident truth and echoing the interest of the evil group.

By any means whatsoever, the media outlets do not have the interest to acquaint the wider international community with the honest truth surfacing in the length and breadth of the country. To this point, they have continued giving the cold shoulder to the truth and remaining tightlipped.

Regardless of the fact that the government of Ethiopia has been going to the ends of the earth to bury the hatchet and restore peace and security all over the country, the criminal faction continued beating the drums of war and launching fresh attacks in Amhara and Afar states. As nothing makes the group happier than spreading cooked-up stories and brushing aside the positive moves of the country, the intended target has not been accomplished yet.

Sad as it might sound, emboldened by the silence of the wider international community, the group has continued now and then playing part in extrajudicial executions, mass rapes, plundering, and other actions against the law. More to the point, as the group works around the clock with the disgraced international

media outlets that deviate from journalism ethics and standards, they have been over and over again covering up the heinous crimes committed in the northern part of the country.

Although the criminal enterprise leaders pulled out all the stops to pour cold water on the positive developments of the country on the subject of the proposed peace process, the incumbent has sustained moving heaven and earth to end hostilities. Needless to say, the group has continued to become an obstacle to the peace process under the veil of many lame reasons.

Even though the government has been sparing no effort to end hostilities, some foreign entities have continued turning a blind eye to the gospel truth and mystifying the global community. Instead of giving credit to the constructive steps of the government, the international community has been taking sides with the group that does not believe in making peace happen and believes in living in harmony and peace.

It is time for U.S. Administration to stop equating the legitimate government with the Terrorist TPLF and to bring Ethiopia back to African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the U.S. lawmakers made the call.

Speaking at the 2nd Annual Ethiopian Fall Festival, the U.S. Senator for Virginia Mark Warner, and Virginia’s 8th Congressional District Representative Don Beyer stressed that the U.S. government should shun the equal treatment of the government and the outlawed party. It is also equally important to restore Ethiopia’s AGOA privilege.

“It is time to recognize the democratically elected government in Ethiopia is the future of the country and we need to stand with democracy and try to address the conflict in a manner respecting the will of the Ethiopian people.”

At the event, the elected officials showed up and heard the voices of their constituencies

and highlighted that this is the time to rethink the current U.S. policy on Ethiopia deserves to change. “As to Senator Warner, the African Diaspora that is so strong in Virginia and the whole of the U.S. has to be part of Ethiopia’s efforts and give the campaign a continental feature. Delisting Ethiopia from AGOA was a very bad move and the Biden Administration should reverse the decision and keep the latter’s benefits, Beyer emphasized.

It is important now, more than ever, to clearly call out the TPLF for its crimes. It has taken innocent people of Tigray hostage and they are starving. It has confiscated nearly 1,100 aid trucks and exacerbated hunger in the region all to discredit the Federal government. Yet, it misleads the international community claiming that truck drivers refused to return to work fearing retribution by the government.

Apparently, the government made it clear to donors that it stood ready to give blanket amnesty to every truck driver that is on a mission in the Tigray Region. The government has also proposed to create a buffer zone which could possibly be run by the United Nations humanitarian agencies whereby swapping of drivers could be managed for those who do not wish to travel outside of Tigray.

Moreover, the government issued temporary United Nations car plates for the trucks the WFP acquired from Sudan to ensure efficient delivery of humanitarian aid. It has also facilitated additional humanitarian flights. However, in complete ignorance of these constructive measures, the TPLF resumed attacks in different areas of the Amhara and Afar Regions, through which humanitarian supplies reach Tigray.

That is why Ethiopia calls on those who have the conscience of humanity to judge the actions of the TPLF for themselves. That is why the international community, too, must openly condemn the TPLF and collaborate with the government in ensuring accountability in Tigray.

Planet Earth

Renewable energy projects for rural development

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Renewable energy is being championed as a potentially significant new source of jobs and rural growth in OECD countries, and a means of addressing environmental and energy security concerns. In most countries, governments have invested large amounts of public money to support RE development and are requiring significant quantities of it to be sold by energy providers.

Rural areas are at a particular disadvantage in terms of energy, according to IFAD. They are often not connected to grids, and their remoteness makes it expensive to extend infrastructure to serve them. Without energy, smallholder farmers and rural small enterprises face barriers in adopting new technology and linking to markets and modern value chains that would allow them to grow their businesses and improve their livelihoods.

Developing renewable energy has many benefits for rural areas. Off-grid renewable energy sources, such as wind farms and solar power, can deliver cheaper and cleaner power than grid connections. Development of the renewable energy sector also creates jobs and brings a host of social benefits, such as access to information technology.

Carbon emissions that are ejected into the atmosphere leave this planet vulnerable to pollution and greenhouse gas effects. With the growing concern about climate change, global warming, and conservation of energy,

the pace of environmental challenges forces governments, international organizations, automakers, policymakers, and environment analysts to take necessary measures which are worthwhile and harmless to the planet. They also promote vital technologies that curb the negative effects of climate change.

Although Ethiopia has abundant hydro, solar, wind, and bio-energy renewable resources, the energy sector of the country remain a national challenge for centuries. Especially, low generation capacity and efficiency, high costs, unreliable energy supplies, and low access rates adversely affected the socioeconomic development of the country.

Furthermore, the energy supply particularly the electricity source is dominated by large hydropower. But the rainfall differs significantly in Ethiopia from year to year. As a result, overreliance on hydropower can make the supply of energy very unpredictable.

Besides, Ethiopia is a largely rural country, but urbanizing rapidly expanded and the demand for energy is growing at an alarming rate that requires the development of energy resources in line with the growth of the population and economy of the country.

Asres, G.A. (2021) in his academic work entitled *“Renewable Energy Potential, Energy Access, and Climate Change Mitigation in Ethiopia”* mentioned that throughout Ethiopia, energy consumption

is primarily derived from biomass which accounts for 91 % of the energy consumed. The share of petroleum is around 7 % while electricity is less than 2 % of the total energy demand in the country. Ethiopia’s current electricity access is only 44 % where grid connections provide 33 % of connectivity and off-grid solutions provide 11 %.

In fact, Ethiopia has been working to solve the energy problem of the country. Nonetheless, the attempts to fulfill the energy demand of the country remain in progress. Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) Board Chairman Dr. Abraham Belay once said that Ethiopia’s energy need is growing at an annual rate of 13 %.

Ethiopia’s Minister of Transport and Logistics Minister Dagmawit Moges noted that Ethiopia is planning to utilize environmentally friendly transport technologies. Hence, developing renewable energy is one of the key programs included in the 10-year master plan of the country. It also supports the realization of the untapped potential of energy resources in the country.

Indeed, Ethiopia is developing environmentally friendly energy resources which are imperative to this planet. Hence, the country agreed to implement a 20 million USD renewable energy project. The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet in Ethiopia has launched the first of its kind, accessible renewable energy for agriculture project.

Water and Energy Minister Habtamu Itfa during the launching ceremony of the project said that access to electricity is important for social and economic development as well as to prevent climate change. It is also important for the health, and education sectors to supply drinking water, make cities energy users, and expand the industry.

The minister said that more than half of the citizens in the country do not have access to electricity. Hence, a national electrification program has been designed and implemented to address this problem, and efforts are being made to provide electricity nationwide by 2030.

Accordingly, the Project will be implemented in four areas in the Oromia region, three areas in the Amhara region, and one area in the Sidama and Southern regions. The project will provide electricity, clean water, and street lights to over 15,000 people. Moreover, 1500 hectares of land can be irrigated by replacing diesel pumps with electric pumps.

Studies show that Ethiopia depends heavily on biomass fuel for energy sources. Hence, further energy diversification is critical for the sector’s sustainable development, because energy absence impedes rural development. In Ethiopia, the rural economy is lagging behind in the overall development of the country. Therefore, the development of similar renewable energy sources can play a role in alleviating this development issue.



Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

HU efforts on supplementing improved potatoes

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Haramaya University (HU) has been trying its best to improve the lives of farmers through providing improved crops and vegetables. Farmers witness that the better-quality varieties of crops distributed by HU have greatly reduced the wastage of time and money making them more benefited.

In a field observation, beneficiaries of the university’s efforts told The Ethiopian Herald that their lives are improved through using the improved seeds and seedlings.

Haramaya Woreda Tinike Rural District farmer Ramadan Aliyi said that he has been engaged in agriculture for over 20 years. “There was a time when we went impoverished by the old potato type disease, but now we have got Bubu and Gudene disease resistant potato varieties which Haramaya University brought out through research, and we were able to survive the loss.”

Ramadan said that in order to escape from the plot of greedy brokers and traders who are driving the unknown source of potato seeds to the neighborhood to buy



Photo by Fuad Ahmed

the best seeds; they should look for and use improved varieties that have been found and proven through research.

The other farmer and a school boy was Feysal Abdi Mumed said: “The gap in the agricultural sector is that our society does not know that information is a resource. Even though Haramaya University started

distributing the improved varieties of potatoes that we are seeing in the fields, those who have the information and who understood that information is money and wealth have organized into an association and requested for professional and seed support from the university. I am I am benefited from the potatoes at least in triplets.”

Telling the detailed efforts of the university on better-quality and disease resisting potatoes, Haramaya University Research Affairs Office Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Expert, Suleyman Abdureman said: “Our university supported the farmers with improved potatoes named Bubu and Gudune variety seed production of 42 quintals on 2 hectares of land through engaging 6 farmers. They were organized in a potatoes cluster at Tinike Rural District, Haramaya Woreda, East Hararge Zone. The university has also provided on-spot advisory services, training, and technical backstopping to farmers and stakeholders in the zone.

In addition to this, he specified that HU has also provided the enhanced potatoes bubu and gudane variety seed production of 700 quintals through engaging 600 men households and 100 women households.

Demonstration of different technologies in 55 total of Farmer Training Centers (FTCs) in 20 woredas of East Hararge zone 47 FTC, 2 Woreda West Hararge Zones for four FTC (4) and Two FTC (2) Harari Region and two FTC in Dire Dawa Administration were made in 2022.