



# The Ethiopian Herald

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Council Secretary General Diocese Tagay Tadele

Photo: Hadush Abreha

## AU-brokered accord avenue to lasting peace: Premier

• Hails true Friends of Ethiopia

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – The AU-brokered peace agreement would certainly bring an end to the war that has been going on for the past two years, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said.

Addressing public gatherings in Arba Minch yesterday, the premier said that AU-brokered peace agreement has reaffirmed that Ethiopia's sovereignty and territorial integrity are not negotiable under any circumstances apart from upholding

constitutional order in the conflict-stricken parts of the country.

According to him, the peace accord would pave the way for the end of the war that has

See AU-brokered ... Page 3

## Council commends Ethiopia's peace pact

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA - The Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia (IRCE) appreciated the peace deal between the Ethiopian government and the Terrorist TPLF in South Africa on the November 02, 2022.

The IRCE also urged all stakeholders' commitment towards the fulfilment of the peace agreement.

In its statement issued yesterday in connection with the AU-brokered peace accord, IRCE emphasized that all parties should be responsible towards the fulfilment of the agreement.

See Council commends ... Page 3

## Ethiopians, Africans gain victory via AU-led peace talks

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - The peace agreement signed by Ethiopian government and Terrorist TPLF leaders this week is a victory for Ethiopians and Africans, said American Economic and Political Analyst for Africa.

In his interview with media, the Economic and Political Analyst Lawrence Freeman said that the peace accord to stop the two year war resulted in passing over the western policy of controlling Ethiopia and Africa from independent decisions.

"The agreement is a victory to Ethiopia

and a victory for Africa. However, I don't think that the oligarchies and their policies towards Africa are going to give up so quickly," he said.

The peace talk brought up some very fundamental points, for instance, Africans have to use this victory ...[,], the principal reason that these quarters supported the T- TPLF was because they do not want to relinquish controlling Africa, and they do not want Ethiopia to stand with its aspirations of economic development and to become a model for the rest of Africa, he noted.

For him, the powers are always prefer

See Ethiopians, Africans ... Page 3



Lawrence Freeman

## Various countries extend support to AU-brokered peace accord

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - Various countries and organizations have extended support to AU-brokered peace deal between the Ethiopian government and Terrorist TPLF and vowed to help assist the effort geared towards its practical implementation.

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**The multifaceted benefit of irrigated wheat production**

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**Arba Minch Crocodile Ranch: Tourism–Agriculture Nexus**

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# News



## Ethiopia needs to be ready for next chapter: Activists

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** - One chapter appears to be closed, but really at the same time Ethiopia has to be ready for the next chapter in the struggle for ensuring durable peace, so said the Co-Founders of No More movement.

Having a stay with Hermela TV, Co-founder of No More movement, Simon Tesfamariam (MD) said that: "We should have an open mind in terms of being able to have access to accept. This is not a movie sort of thing to express. Though reconciliation is on the corner and we are going to need to have a light, heart ready to be dimension, compassionate. It has been a senseless war that should not have happened."

Nebiyu Asfaw, Co-founder of No More Movement added that the government of Ethiopia surprised Immortal by agreeing to this 12-point. The 12 point statements have been essentially ending this two year old conflict. One thing that really stood out to be what the agreement that needs to face. It respects the sovereignty. Territorial Integrity of Ethiopia up folding, a little form, which is a significant concession from the teeth out left. That really astonishes the first phase and then within 30 days for complete disarmament.

Simon said, "We are going to have to be hyper-vigilant about how that happens in particular. So, there is a 30 day time frame and a lot of us have had a chance to actually look at the exact details of the agreement. We just have to be very vigilant without being cynical."

"We should be able to forgive. Forgiveness is something that is for we to be able to move on, to carry a light heart, to be able to move forward in the world without feeling of judgment and some forgiveness is an important process of peace," Simon stated.

Ethiopia released a statement in which they were also left out. So this tells that an African solution was found for an African problem. To celebrate this moment briefly but there is a lot more work, Nebiyu said.

## Ethio telecom restores service in Addi Arkay, Alamata, Korem

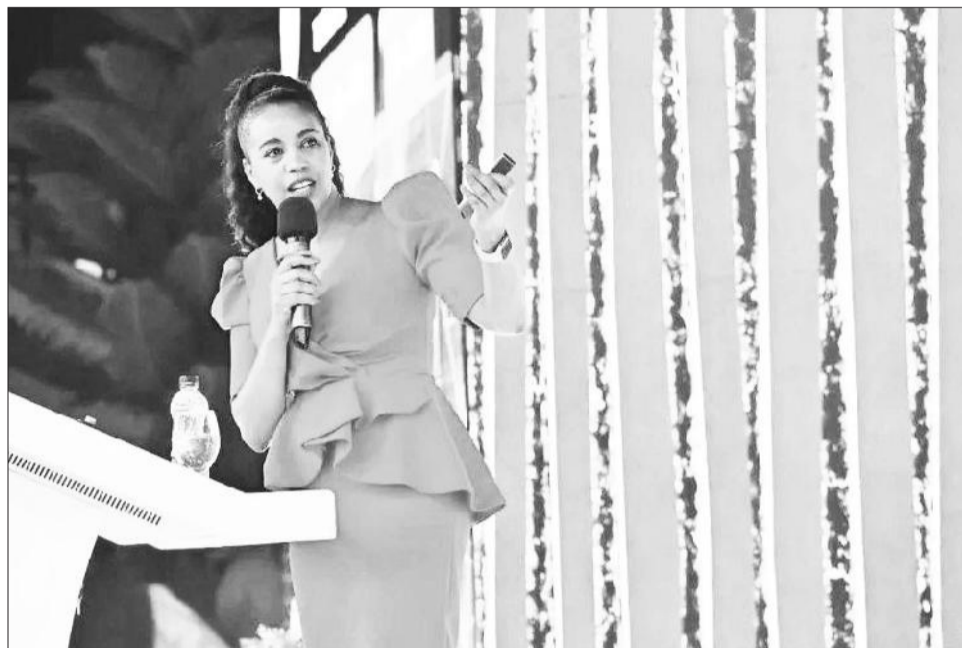
BY BILAL DERSO

**ADAMA** - The state-owned operator ethio telecom announced that it has restored the telecom service in the war-affected towns of Addi Arkay, Alamata and Korem as of yesterday.

Briefing journalists yesterday in Adama town, ethio telecom CEO Frehiwot Tamru stated that the telecom service that was shut down in the three towns and environs was fully restored.

To this end, the operator has sent fuel to fill generators and to restore sites that were deprived of commercial power in Alamata and Korem towns. "We are deploying our technicians for the restoration and replacement of damaged infrastructure in the two towns."

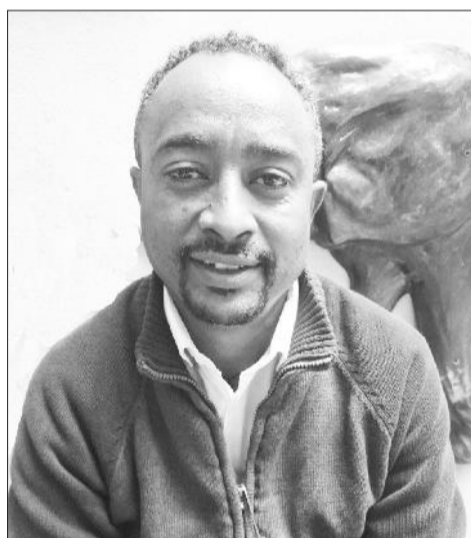
By the same token, the service that was disrupted by the military conflict in Gobeye, Kobo, Kobo Robit, Waja and



Zobel towns was restored some two weeks back.

Ethio telecom has also carried out

consolidated efforts to fully resume the service in other war-hit areas, Frehiwot remarked.



Ashenafi Lemma



Kidist Sisay



Mooz G/Hiwot

## Public laud AU-brokered peace pact

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopians residing in metropolis have expressed their happiness on peace accord concluded between Federal government and Terrorist TPLF.

Expressing their pleasure towards the AU-brokered peace deal in South Africa, the public said that the agreement may promote lasting peace in the country and paves the way to sustain the ongoing development and prosperity journey.

Expressing his opinion regarding the peace deal, Ashenafi Lemma said that the country paid huge sacrifices as the conflict has claimed the lives of many people, displaced a number of citizens from their homes and gets a lot of public infrastructure and private property damaged. So, the agreement is instrumental in solving all the challenges from which the country and its people have been suffering for long.

He said that it would have been nice if the conflict had stopped as soon as the federal government declared ceasefire a year before as it was possible to reduce the negative

repercussions of the conflict after that.

He said, "Numerous development activities can be achieved in the country and we all would push the nation a step forward at all the time wasted in conflicting. One can imagine to what extent the country can register hopeful development activities if there was not conflict."

He urged that the federal government should work to rehabilitate areas like Tigray, Amhara and Afar states that have been debilitated by the conflict as urgently as possible.

Kidist Sisay on her part said that November 02, 2022 is a unique and dark day we never forget in the history of Ethiopia and we all have to work hard setting vengeance and wrong doings aside to sustainably transform the country.

As to her, apart from claiming the lives of many in the nation, the conflict has been exacerbating inflation which in turn aggravates high cost of living in the country, obstructs the smooth flow of transportation of basic goods and services from one area

to the other and baffles the secured life all citizens.

She said, "Hereafter, the condition would be made safe, as far as my understanding is concerned. The agreement should be well implemented keeping the benefit of all Ethiopians."

Applauding all stakeholders who have worked for peace agreement, Peace Ambassador and Human Rights Activist Mooz Geberhiwot said that the agreement is very important for all Ethiopians irrespective of ethnic differences and other minor disparities.

Citing the importance of the mandate obliging TPLF to disarm in the agreement, he said that there is only one national defense force in a sovereign country which has the right to hold weapon and safeguard the independence of the country.

He urged all stakeholders especially Tigray people should work in collaboration with federal government for the successful implementation of the agreement as it is peculiarly crucial for them.



# News



## Fairtrade Africa to impact workers' life using eloquent project

BY KFLEYESUS ABEBE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The largest trade system in the world, Fairtrade Africa, a million Euros worth project was launched Monday under the theme 'Dignified Opportunities Nurtured through Trade and Sustainability (DONUTS)' so as to improve livelihoods of workers in coffee and flower farmers in Ethiopia.

Fairtrade East and Central Africa Region Head Caspar Pedo said through this project the organization planned to impact socioeconomic and ecosystem conditions of workers.

"We look much more on workers' rights but looked more on the bigger picture what we call social dialogue. Social dialogue is basically regarding

issue of workers representation. Their working conditions can be improved when we provide them with much stronger voice."

Speaking at the occasion, Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority Director General Adugna Debela (PhD) said improved workers' rights and appropriate benefits contributed to the rise of export volume this year.

"Previously, the sector was very complicated and made farmers less benefitted. These discouraged farmers were producing less and was changing their focus to other produces. Taking this into consideration, we have been working with relevant stakeholders to change the livelihoods of farmers. Last year, we exported 300,000 tons

of coffee to international market and earned 1.4 billion USD. This has come as the result of activities we are doing with the number of stakeholders like the fairtrade Africa."

The director general also said working on the environment is timely as it raises productivity and making workers benefited at a sustainable manner.

"As arabica coffee growing country, we take the impact of climate change seriously. So any project supporting us in mitigating the impact of climate change is welcome and we are ready to work closely."

The four year long program is funded by Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, it was learnt.

## Council commends...

Presenting the statement Council Secretary General Diocese Tagay Tadele said that the agreement is timely and important to all Ethiopians to reap the fruit of peace.

"The agreement makes all parties to be a winner and the two sides should respect the agreement. After now, everyone should refrain from inciting violence among Ethiopians" he stated.

Moreover, peace is the only solution to build a better Ethiopia that accommodates its citizens equally.

As to him, all Ethiopians in home and abroad should stand together to rehabilitate the areas affected by the war and deliver enough humanitarian assistance to the public in need.

The council also expressed deep gratitude for all actors participated in the realization of the peace agreement.

"It is time to rebuild the damaged infrastructures together rather than pointing mistakes each other."

Accordingly, all faithful need to pray in their respective religions to see sustainable peace in the country.

## Ethiopians, Africans...

to use Ethiopia's own energy to succeed with their intentions, and they are now coming in droves to get as much energy to keep Africa under developed, to keep Africa industrialized as well as to maintain control on Horn of Africa.

"This is not gone away. However, they are defeated today for the old guard policy and the victory is for Ethiopians and Africans."

The security preparation for a greater progress and other efforts need to be done immediately. Ethiopian government should make a great effort to provide services for the people of Tigray. They [the people of Tigray] have suffered greatly. The government should respond these people to get services, food, medicine, electricity and banking so they can as quickly as possible return to normal lives, he recommended.

Ethnic conflicts should be also managed with official frameworks as it prevents the nation from having a national mission and from managing its sovereignty, he opined.

There has to be real discussions to reconcile political and ethnic violence seen in the last years, he added.

## AU-brokered...

inflicted huge damages on the country.

Taking the opportunity, Prime Minister Abiy called on the people of Tigray to support the implementation of the peace agreement reached in order to avoid war and achieve lasting peace.

The Prime Minister noted that the two – year senseless war that has put Ethiopia's sovereignty at risk has to cease with such deal for good.

According to him, the agreement is a peace victory that reaffirms the historic victory achieved by the heroes of Ethiopia on the ground. "Ethiopians are not any more ready to hear and see Ethiopian children being killed."

He also said that those who paid a great price to strengthen Ethiopia's sovereignty by sacrificing their lives and blood should be thanked. "We will not compromise on Ethiopia's

sovereignty and unity, and that we are ready to die for defending the sovereignty of our country."

At the event, the premier said that: "We have friends who are not only stand with us, but who share what they have. Even if they are few, we have wonderful friends. For these countries, I would like to tell them that Ethiopia is a history-making country and is not thankless."

## Various countries...

According to local media report, Kenya's President, William Samoei Ruto said that the Kenyan government greatly appreciates the two parties reaching an agreement. He added that: "The commitment shown by the two sides is in line with our common desire to achieve peace and security in the area. As Kenya is a member of the United Nation and IGAD, it is commendable that our Ethiopian brothers and sisters have taken steps to end the conflict, open humanitarian corridors and restore services."

He also thanked the South African government and its people for hosting the

peace talks. Likewise, he has passed gratitude to IGAD, the U.S., and the United Nation for their observatory mission to bring the peace in South Africa. He said, "I wish for the greater people of Ethiopia to have an era of synergy and solidarity."

The U.S. Foreign Minister Ambassador Antony John Blinken has expressed his appreciation for the successful completion of the peace talks between the Federal government and the T-TPLF held in Pretoria, South Africa through the African Union. He also expressed his gratitude for South Africa for facilitating the negotiation in collaboration

with the AU.

The ambassador further stated that the U.S. will continue supporting the effort alongside African union in silencing the gun and providing humanitarian assistance.

Similarly, the Turkey government has expressed his happiness and appreciated the two parties' willingness to bring about peace.

According to the statement from the Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Turkey hopes that the agreement will be permanent and the government of Turkey is willing to support the effort of building lasting peace in Ethiopia."

Meanwhile, the AU Commissioner, Moussa Faki Mahamat on his part said that it will continue to strengthen support for the establishment of lasting peace in Ethiopia. The commissioner has expressed his appreciation to the parties who signed the cease-fire agreement during the peace talks held through the African Union.

It is to be recalled that the peace agreement was signed between the Ethiopian government and the T-TPLF for respecting the constitution and keeping country's national interest on 2 Nov. 2022 in Pretoria, South Africa.



# Opinion

## The dynamics of political and economic transition

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Significant political trends are affecting the regional dynamics of the Horn of Africa. These are the current political transition in Ethiopia and the evolving security forces at work. Ethiopia's transition has affected its relations in the Horn. Explaining how states in the region are affected by external influences largely depends on understanding the Ethiopian transition during the TPLF regime that claimed to be power of the Horn. The implications for the future of the region must also be considered with the junta acting irresponsibly. As political experts explain Ethiopia's security influence in the Horn puts it on a par with other strategic players in the region. Its proximity to the Red Sea and the long history of independence has made it the dominant foreign policy actor in the region. Its involvement in the Horn largely depends on the current political transition underway in Ethiopia.

The political transition offers the prospect of significant reforms but it also carries risks of economic and political instability. The country has been exposed to local military forces such as the TPLF junta that had operated in ways that delinked deployments on land, in the air and at sea. Had it not been thrown out of power, the junta could have been a security risk evolving as a military regime in the country and in the Horn. The current Ethiopian government has been able to develop a new approach to manage relations with neighboring countries that had been tarnished by the junta. The TPLF regime had antagonized neighboring countries as they reacted to its despotic stance. This would have implications for the future of peace in the region, with negative impacts on the political, economic and security of the country.

Currently, Ethiopia is in the midst of major political, economic and social upheavals, with major bearings on the wider Horn region. The deep changes that are underway are rooted in and guided by the internal political transformation, with EPRDF coalition replaced by a single party, the Prosperity Party. Political scientists think that the recent turning points and their cascading after-effects have been informed by this political context and in turn radically reshaped it. The profound changes that are underway are deeply rooted in and guided by the internal political transformation. However, the combination of a tightly controlled political and civil society landscape and the dominance of the TPLF regime had fuelled increasing resentment among the people. The driver of the resentment was a major wave of protests that focused on the junta.

With the decline of the influence of the TPLF, the Prosperity Party/PP could garner relative influence. Although the PP has remained in control of the state at the federal,

regional and local levels, it is important to note the significance of the political shifts underway. The PP is an outcome of the merger of eleven political parties into a new national party. The transformation of the EPRDF from a coalition to a single party is bringing political tensions over the "balance" between a pan-Ethiopian identity and the various national identities created under Ethiopia's Federal Constitution.

The TPLF junta had remained detached, remote and unfriendly focusing on its regional base. It had been harboring a secret design to come back to the center of power. It had planned to conduct a war of aggression on the Federal government with the goal of regaining its power, which it had lost in popular vote. The TPLF had lost its space for political and civil society activity that had decreased dramatically. Finally, it lost the war of aggression it conducted on the Ethiopian people. Also, many of the "opposition" parties lacked significant grip in Ethiopia, with key leaders having spent significant periods of time abroad. Many parties have split in exile, sometimes more than once. As a result, some parties were little more than platforms for individuals. The political opening has seen a wave of such individuals returning to Ethiopia seeking inclusion and relevance, but many have failed to act as party leaders.

The protest against the TPLF junta had created several networks for mobilization of political support to the PP. Most of the demonstrations were initiated locally and gained the cooperation of the diaspora that helped politically and financially. Consequently, some of the more potent political parties have emerged as strong challengers. The challenge became stronger as the parties merged to create strong opposition. The credit for such political developments in the country goes to the Prosperity Party. Those parties that could not organize themselves to win election resorted to protest movements. This unleashed a wave of unrest rooted in identity politics, which has compounded the displacement crises. There have been millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) within the country due to social and political conflicts.

Conflicts were mainly related to the borders between regional governments. These conflicts were mainly inherited from the past. Thousands of the IDPs were located in camps due to targeted attacks on ethnic groups. Studies indicate that there has also been conflict around sites where farmers from central highland areas of Ethiopia were resettled in government programs in western lowland areas during the imperial and Derg eras. Another acute pocket of conflict and displacement, also related to identity and historical settlement patterns across what is now a regional administrative boundary, exists between different zones.

Despite the attempt to achieve unity, deep historical fractures persisted. These are reflected in the form of protest and a wave of unrest rooted in identity politics. This had been the guiding policy of the TPLF on economic and other security issues. Its strategy underpinned industrialization and export promotion that favored the junta supporters until the recent shifts to Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda of the current government. The shift in economic policy has already begun contributing to the positive engagement of the international financial institutions. Earlier the TPLF had shifted from its faltering program of agricultural development-led industrialization (ADLI). The program had led to faltering agricultural output that failed to stimulate other processing and light industrial sectors to generate employment. The Growth and Transformation Plans had focused on physical and social infrastructure and on the promotion of industry. These plans had "not" been applied in all regions indiscriminately.

Ethiopia had historically run a trade deficit which, according to some observers, had led to balance of payment pressures and worries. The major cause for the imbalance had been control on capital account and limits on foreign investment. These had left the country reliant on foreign aid and borrowing to avoid foreign exchange crises. Pressures from aid flows, both bilateral and multilateral donors and lenders, had remained strong and concentrated. To finance its massive projects, Ethiopia had also looked for commercial loans. These had led to a significant rise in imports of inputs, including heavy machinery and fuel. With the low growth in export, the current account deficit had widened severely in the past decades. Despite increased foreign direct investment and continued flows of aid during the TPLF regime, the balance of payments pressure had persisted. The country had struggled to preserve adequate hard currency reserves to cover imports.

The TPLF regime had resisted the economic liberalization strategy recommended by the IMF and the WB through the introduction of a floating exchange rate and the lifting of restrictions on foreign investment in the banking, financial services and telecom sectors. Domestic private banks had existed, but the sector was dominated by the state-owned CBE and DBE. Unlike the TPLF regime, the current government has made a series of moves that have important economic implications, especially related to the role of foreign investment in key sectors. However, due to the war instigated by the junta and the pressure imposed by the Western powers, the political transition has been stalled and hindered. Also, the external pressures on the economy have made it difficult to earn the hard currency required for financing imports.

The current Ethiopian government has taken a series of measures that have important economic implications. These are especially related to the role of foreign direct investment in key sectors and to the government's efforts to enhance the private sector. The government has attracted investment by the Ethiopian diaspora and has also encouraged stronger relations with the Gulf States for attracting their investment. It has announced its intentions to relax restrictions on foreign investment in key sectors. Previous governments had justified the continued state monopoly on key enterprises as major sources of revenue for the state. The focus of the government has been on improving quality of services and lowering of costs. Similarly, the boosting of exports, including electricity, has been a key pillar of the economic agenda. Privatization of manufacturing and processing factories is expected to be under the reform agenda.

The government of Ethiopia has encouraged the diaspora to support economic growth and development of the country. Shortly after he became Prime Minister, Dr. Abiy Ahmaed visited Ethiopians in the diaspora in the US and Europe and encouraged them to support the development of the country. Several measures are undertaken to relax restrictions on investment and property ownership by the diaspora. But, under Ethiopian law dual citizenship has not been allowed, and many in the diaspora have become reluctant to give up citizenship in their host countries. This seems to have limited their ability to invest in Ethiopia. The PM has also attracted investment in the tourism and real estate sectors, which are historically key sectors for Gulf investment in Africa. The UAE has committed itself to investment and support to Ethiopia with access to hard currency. There have been other investment groups, including MIDROC, that have become active in many sectors, including tourism, mining, agriculture and export.

The dynamics of political transition in Ethiopia have constituted economic and social factors of both domestic and external origins. The regional vision of Ethiopia has been reflected in its integration efforts. Under the current government, there have been shifts and continuities in political and economic relations with other countries in the Horn. Similarly, there have been important shifts in the relation with the Gulf States as mentioned earlier. Among the specific regional situations are the Ethiopia-Eritrea rapprochement and Ethiopia's relations with its Somali periphery. In the Nile Basin, GERD is a major factor that has defined the key role of Ethiopia in the dynamics of socio-economic and political transition in the region.

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

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The Ethiopian Herald

## Editorial

### Ethiopia triumphs!

In a mammoth breakthrough, Ethiopia and the terrorist TPLF group have reached a peace deal as per of the AU-led negotiation after ten days of intense consultation in Pretoria, South Africa. With the peace deal, Ethiopia has paved the path towards a more peaceful, sovereign, and united nation.

The federal government and TPLF have formally agreed to the cessation of hostilities as well as to systematic, orderly, smooth, and coordinated disarmament. In addition, the agreement also included the restoration of law and order, restoration of services, unhindered access to humanitarian supplies, and protection of civilians, especially women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

Ethiopia has emerged victorious in the peace accord against all odds including the coordinated unjust foreign pressures. The deal has proved Ethiopia's integrity and even-mindedness as the notion of the signed agreement perfectly fits the country's long-term constitutional demands.

Most importantly, the landmark peace deal was concluded in a way that would further cement the country's coveted values of sovereignty and territorial integrity. It was in fact TPLF's violations of these noble values that led to a bloody war.

The AU-brokered deal also sheds light on the continental bloc's capacity to help resolve conflicts under the notion of African solution for African problems. This notion is a stand very much echoed by the Ethiopian government and the peace-loving people of Ethiopia.

Despite repeated provocations and treacherous acts of the T-TPLF, the Ethiopian government has been open and determined to peacefully resolve the conflicts provoked by TPLF criminal clique. And yet against the background of the resumption of the TPLF war, the federal government reiterated its commitment to give peace a chance and engage in genuine AU-led dialogue.

The incumbent has been unflinching to enter a peace deal with the

criminal enterprise without trading its national sovereignty and territorial integrity. This is what exactly unfolded in Pretoria's peace agreement.

The agreement also attests to Ethiopia's consistent position to a peaceful settlement of the conflict under the auspicious of the African Union. Most importantly, the peace deal showcases the government's unreserved stand for the alleviation of the suffering of citizens in the conflict and facilitates an expedited resumption of basic services in Tigray, Amhara, and Afar regional states.

The agreement signed on Wednesday in South Africa is monumental in moving Ethiopia forward on the path of the reforms, the government embarked in the past four years, said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in a statement issued on Wednesday.

"Our commitment to peace remains steadfast. And our commitment to collaborating for the implementation of the agreement is equally strong. We count on your continued support in reconstructing conflict-affected areas in the Northern part of the country and an enhanced partnership with Ethiopia in our countrywide development endeavors."

Ethiopia's causes and stands have been well received in the agreement, said Abiy as he addressed people gathered at the launching of the national poultry, dairy, and honey production development program, themed "YeLemat Trufat" yesterday in Gamo Zone, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' State. The meaning of "Lemat" is a traditional food tray.

The peace deal is a great opportunity for the country. And, TPLF should live up to its words this time by upholding the constitution and the rule of the land. Now that an agreement is signed, it is time for the international community to support both sides in their effort of implementing the agreement so that the country can gain more acceleration on its already embarked democratic and development path.

## Opinion

### A glimmer of hope for peace and development in Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The long awaited outcome of peace talks, between the Federal government of Ethiopia and TPLF, has been revealed creating variety of feedbacks from both sides, positive and negative.

The talk which started on October 25 and concluded on November 1, 2022 was facilitated by Olusegun Obasanjo, the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa, along with former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and former Deputy President of South Africa Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. Representatives of IGAD, UN and the US are participating in the talks as observers.

Briefing journalists on the peace talks, the Special Mediator stated that "This moment is not the end of the peace process. Implementation of the peace agreement signed today is critical for its success," adding that this would be supervised and monitored by a high-level AU panel.

Prime Minister Abiy tweeted that "Our commitment to peace remains steadfast. And our commitment to collaborating for the implementation of the agreement is equally strong."

Although the details of the agreements signed between the representative of the Federal Government and TPLF are yet to be revealed, the live deliberations of the content of the agreement read by the heads of the representative from both parties indicate that agreements were reached on 8 basic issues.

The first item of agreement in the opinion of the writer is based on the respect to be accorded to the constitutional order of the country, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation and the need to ensure that a single national army

that is the ENDF is to keep order and peace in the entire country and that total and permanent disarmament of TPLF forces must be put in place through a process in which the ENDF will chart out disarmament program from the first 5 days of the signing of the agreement and to be followed by a series of action on practical disarming of TPLF forces and submission of their armaments to the ENDF.

This point of agreement is another great success for the country as it supplements victory at the battle front is crashing TPLF forces with a victory at the peace talks inn which total disarmament of TPLF will be completed in 30 days. On the other hand, it provides for the swift actions of the ENDF to disarm any armed group in Tigray and maintain sustainable peace in the region. It will also mean that the so called TDF will be disbanded guaranteeing stable and peaceful life for the people in the northern part of the country. Disarming TPLF would mean restoration of the rule of law in Tigray.

The second item of the agreement calls for immediate restoration and rehabilitation of social service facilities like banks, internet and other communication facilities, schools and health services. The two year war has not only resulted in the destruction of social services but has led to untold number of human loss and dispersal of family fabrics in Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions. Lack of electric power services and banks as well as telephone lines had seriously affected the livelihood of the people in the northern part of Ethiopia.

The third item related to ensuring the peace, safety and stability of the population in the war affected areas and making sure that their human and constitutional rights are protected.

Given the fact that hundreds and thousands of women, girl children and even the elderly are raped particularly in Amhara and Afar regions, it would be incumbent upon all concerned to respect the rights of children and their families.

Moreover, the 4<sup>th</sup> item in the agreement document provides for the establishment of a provisional regional government in Tigray which will be tasked to coordinate all the rehabilitation programs in the region and conduct daily regional government activities. The Ethiopian Government is tasked with establishing a provisional regional administration to conduct economic, social and all other services and run government administrative activities in a smooth manner. It is to be noted that there is no legal government in Tigray at this point in time and that the TPLF government structure in Tigray is to be dismantled.

The fifth point of agreement reaffirms the provision in the constitution international relations and communications and all diplomatic activities fall under the prerogatives of the Federal Government of Ethiopia. It is to be recalled that TPLF has instituted an illegal foreign relations office in the nomenclature of the government in total violation of the constitution of the country and foreign relations and overseas diplomatic activities.

Provision of uninterrupted relief supply services is the 6<sup>th</sup> item in the agreement in which the federal government will ensure equitable distribution of relief supplies for the population affected by the war was another important point of agreement reached between the signatories to the agreement. It must be remembered that TPLF was using relief food to feed its fighters and confiscated half a million on of fuel from

the WFP depot to transport its fighters. The Government of Ethiopia has recently issued an international call to all concerned to provide relief food for the war ravaged population in the northern part of the country.

The 7<sup>th</sup> item in the agreement stipulates that all peace keeping and ascertainment of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country will be managed by the ENDF and the federal police forces.

The 8<sup>th</sup> component of the agreement is linked with ensuring public safety and peace in Mekele, the regional town and disarming all armed groups with and without the structure of TPLF.

Although the entire process of implementing the agreement on the ground is yet to unfold, it is necessary that the AU would monitor and evaluate the terms and conditions of the agreement to ensure lasting peace in the country.

Although the agreement is confined to the territory of Ethiopia, its effective implementation will certainly contribute to a lasting peace in the Horn of Africa and effectively demonstrates that Africans can resolve their problems in their own capacity with no need for foreign intervention into African affairs.

There is longer way to travel in the implementation of the peace process in the country and the international community is expected to support Ethiopia's efforts for lasting peace in the country instead of trumpeting false propaganda and hatching shameful conspiracies on the country.

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



# Business & Economy

## The multifaceted benefit of irrigated wheat production

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Until recent times, Ethiopia was the major importer of wheat due to low capacity to meet the local demand. There was huge gap between what the nation produced and what it needs. As a result, enormous amount of hard currency was allocated for the importation of the products. According to sources, the nation imported minimum 17 million quintals of wheat annually and transported from the port to various parts of the country. But it is a good news that in the last two and three years Ethiopia has been registering tremendous result in boosting wheat production.

As it is known, the agriculture sector is rain fed and subsistence and farmers survived for centuries in hand to mouth living. But recently they began implementing the dry season wheat production through irrigation farming and successful result has been registered.

The government backed wheat cluster farming and obtained recognition and appreciations by the international institutions and partners.

Among the testifiers in the international platform, the African Development Bank President Aknwimi Adisna (PhD) is a known one.

“No one will see Ethiopia as wheat importer country even during this budget year of the country but it rather prepared to export 2.6 million metric tons of wheat to provide to its neighboring countries.” Aknwimi said. He made the statement months ago in G 7 countries summit in the presence of Development Ministers from Canada, France, European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States. He further said that, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) assured him that Ethiopia will not resort to purchase wheat in the 2022/23 budget year.

According to sources of the African Development Bank, the bank is the major supporter of Ethiopia’s endeavor to be self-sufficient in wheat production. It provided Ethiopia 61000 metric ton of wheat seed which has the capacity to resist drought. Among the results of the wheat cluster farming, in 2018 the land coverage of wheat farming increased from 50 thousand hectares to 167,000 hectares by the year 2021 and by the beginning of 2022 it rose to 650,000 hectares.

“Ethiopia has set to export wheat to Kenya and Djibouti in 2023 which is an unbelievable achievement for a country characterized as aid dependent for long. This success serves as a valid example that showcases Africa’s capability to be food self-sufficient.” Adisena said.

According to the United States Agriculture Office information, in Ethiopia the wheat sector registered a tremendous achievement and enhanced its productivity. The government in the last three years provided huge support to the sector by providing extension services, irrigation development, modernizing farming through utilizing



*Ethiopia on track to export wheat soon*

technology and other inputs. While inaugurating the 2022/23 dry season wheat production in Somali Region recently, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said that wheat farming scheme in the region endeavors to boost wheat production and will divert the nation’s history of food aid recipient.

According to the Minister of Agriculture, Umer Husein, by the new budget year of Ethiopia, the Ministry planned to increase Wheat irrigation farming by making double and to cultivate 1.3 million hectares of land and to produce 52 million quintals of wheat in the dry season. It also planned to cultivate 101 million quintals during the main rainy season and totally to produce 153 million quintals of wheat.

It is confirmed by Agriculture and economy professionals who visited the farming areas up to each house hold and said that in the last three years practicing wheat cultivation in the new farming areas have been developed. In addition, farming techniques are improved. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed also told the members of the House of People’s Representatives that Ethiopia begins exporting wheat to the neighboring countries this year.

However, some still question that whether exporting wheat is timely or not and further expressed their anxiety that wheat production activities might be for the sake of meeting political consumption. Others argue that the cultivation ignores the farmer’s interest and the cultivation of other crops and perceived the project as a campaign work.

Others also claim that the project insists on expanding production areas of land and enhancing productivity without paying attention for better market to sell the product with good price.

Adane Tufa is an instructor at the Addis Ababa University in the Department of Agricultural Economy. He appreciated the government is doing good job in raising wheat production and productivity both in the rainy and dry seasons but he raised questions that what does the nation obtained from the surplus production of wheat, does

it fulfill the local demand and ready to export to abroad. As to him, it needs study and research. But he did not deny the better achievement registered in the sector and said that, keeping on the effort is essential.

As to Adane, sustaining the achievement registered both in the dry and wet seasons of production of wheat is vital. Particularly supplying selected seeds which enhance productivity such as fertilizer, pest and herbicides to farmers in a subsidized price is essential. In addition, inculcating farmers that engaging in wheat production helps to change their way of life is of the utmost importance. In addition, the government should rigorously work to ensure tenure security of farm land and create healthy value chain to obtain feasible market to the production.

Dagnachew Lule (PhD) is Director of the Ethiopian Agricultural Commercialization Cluster.

As to him, his institution emphasizes the development of agricultural commercialization and cluster farming has brought tremendous impact on raising wheat production. He further said that, cluster farming is not simply combining small holder farmers’ land or is not established for once and terminated immediately, it rather helps to change subsistence farming in to surplus through utilizing inputs such as technology, extension services, mentoring farmers to prepare their farms on time and harvest their products on time. Ultimately farmers enable to produce surplus which helps them to engage in other production activities such as producing selected seeds, value addition or similar to fruits sector, realize exporting their products.

For instance, during the dry season of 2021/22 production year, wheat irrigation farming farmers produced 40 quintals of wheat per hectare on average. The output surpassed the previous production amount by eight percent. In some areas farmers produced 80 quintals of wheat per hectare on average.

The average product indicates the picture of the practice nationwide. As to the director, the cluster farming played pivotal

role for the registered robust result. As to Dagnachew, in fact study is not conducted weather farmers are satisfied by the achieved result or not. Farmers also accept new way of farming not spontaneously rather in a gradual manner. Even professionals themselves were hesitant by raising question in how wheat is cultivated in the dry season. Some farmers also explained their feeling that the choice to cultivate what type of the crop must be left for them but gradually they changed their attitude and began to engage in the cluster farming.

He further said that in the past the areas of farm land covered by tomato and onion was smaller than the other crops but when the dry season wheat irrigation farm is experimented and brings good result, farmers showed their interest to cultivate their farms in the cluster scheme and witnessed the value of the program. In other words, cluster farming mechanism increased the size of the areas of wheat farming.

Farmers also could draw lesson that producing wheat both in the dry and wet seasons in cluster farming possible and raise their income.

As to Dagnachew, producing wheat in dry season at national level is not a political affairs rather it targets ensuring food security. As to him, last year’s excess products of wheat illegally found its way to the neighboring countries through brokers but had there be the necessary supervision put in place most of the product was supplied to the domestic market and closing the gap between demand and supply would have been realized.

The most surplus wheat producers, Ukraine and Russia, are engaged in war. Thus, had Ethiopia not been practiced dry season wheat farming, the consequence that would have been faced was unpredictable.

Therefore, not to face similar challenges, expanding cluster wheat farming in the arid areas of the country which have vast cultivable lands such as Somali and Afar regions by providing extension services is essential.



# Art & Culture

## Arba Minch Crocodile Ranch: Tourism–Agriculture Nexus

BY KFLEEYESUS ABEBE

Cultural and Natural blessings have made Arba Minch among favorite places to visit. I have been wishing to visit the place especially after the elders of Gamo showed courageous and thoughtful act of averting bloodshed back in 2018. The dance, costumes and traditional lifestyles are also exquisite helping people to know about Arba Minch. Arba Minch is equally or more known for its wildlife and plants. It has become a preferred resort city these days as the lakes, the thick forests and the banana plantations are eye-catching and refreshing.

You start to witness the natural richness of Arba Minch beginning from the entry. Upon return from Zayse, we had a brief stay in Arba Minch. We have seen some of the lodges and hotels and noticed there is a growing touristic activity in the city. Tourists go to Nech Sar to look at different wildlife or to ride boat onto Lake Chomo is a popular excursion from the city. There is another significant site tourists shouldn't miss: Arba Minch Crocodile ranch. You might see crocodile if you go to lakes but may not be safe especially in lake Abaya. But in Arba Minch ranch you can be assured of your safety and get explanation about the lives of crocodiles.

Arba Minch Crocodile ranch was established in 1984. It is a pioneering crocodile ranch in Ethiopia and East Africa at large. The ranch that lies on an area of 3 hectare of land was established with the purpose of conserving reviving crocodile population in lake Chamo and Abaya. It also contributes for conservation of globally threatened crocodile population. The ranch is considered a vital center of research and education. Along this, the ranch is an attraction site generating income for local people.

Ranch's manager Mesert Debelw says the ranch is on top of the travel list of tourists who visit Arba Minch. Accordingly, it sees more than 200 visitors each day.

"This is among major tourist site both in the zone and the state. It is unlikely anyone



who visits Arba Minch not to visit this place. Crocodile is Arba Minch's brand. So, it has many tourists to this place. At least 200 local and foreign tourists visit this place daily."

The ranch is currently undertaking renovation and expansion to raise its revenue.

"This place is under the direction of tourism and culture bureau. So, the bureau is doing activities that raise its touristic value and income. It begins from the designing. The food of crocodiles which are cow meat and fish is to be produced here by raising animals inside the compound. Previously, we purchase their foods from outside."

It was first time for me to see crocodiles this close and by my naked eyes. I can say it was surreal feeling but exciting. I also sensed that from my friends have same feeling. The guide was very comfortable becoming closer to the crocodiles. I have also seen some even getting into the fenced compound and cleaning the floor to them. It was all thrilling for someone who never saw crocodiles before. Having this mind, I asked

the guide Thomas Tama the impression of tourists and whether he had unforgettable memories while working there.

"People get very impressed when they see the crocodiles but some get frightened and even run. We encourage and tell them they are under protection. There is nothing to fear. Many of them return and enjoy their visit. There was no incident that any visitor suffered attack. Of course, some drop their belongings like eye glasses and the like but now we provide precautions. Therefore, there are no incidents of injury or damage of properties."

The guide provided us information on the life cycle of crocodiles like; how do they multiply, how do they bring them, how they are being treated at the ranch and when there time reach how they slaughter them. In addition to income that is generated from tourism, the ranch also source income by exporting crocodile meat and skin to the international market. Ranch's manager Mesert Debelw says crocodile meat and skin are being exported to France, Australia Italy and China. However, the ranch wants

to build sustainable market by finding and encouraging the local market. This recent initiative seems to be yielding fruit as the ranch sold 1,500 crocodile skins the previous year.

"Previously, we largely depend on foreign market but the COVID 2019 and the war affected our sale. We realize we need to encourage the local market so as to have sustainable business. We don't have shortage of produce. Since we have been depending on foreign market, we haven't built market chain locally. We are currently doing that and sold 1,500 crocodile skins the previous year."

The ranch now housed more than 2,700 crocodiles which are in different ages. Upon completing the renovation and expansion project, Arba Minch Crocodile Ranch is anticipated to house more crocodiles and increase activities thereby it became more enjoyable. On top of this, it will also become self-reliant. For now I found the ranch to be fascinating tourist site any tourist who made stopover in Arba Minch should visit.

## Fame

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

*When I think of fame  
It gets me in the game  
Of hustling and writing  
In life that gives me meaning  
Sometimes when I am manic  
Thoughts in my mind make me think  
That being famous will be my reality  
And then I think of all the dignity  
I can get from my writing  
And through all the hustling  
I will finally find meaning  
In a life that is boring.*





# Science & Technology

## Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) to provide core contribution to icipe

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIER

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), has signed a Partnership Agreement, with *icipe*, to provide the Centre annual core funding, as per the press release sent to The Ethiopian Herald.

Core funding is financial support provided to institutions for the production of valuable global public goods, and support of general operations, research, and management and administration costs. Such resources not only ensure smooth day-to-day functions; they contribute to greater impact and stronger organizations as they enable the improvement of processes, thus enhancing productivity and efficiency.

For research and development institutions like *icipe*, core funds safeguard resilience and capacity for innovation by enabling long term, visionary planning. They allow infrastructural upgrades, from important physical and intellectual infrastructure to scientific equipment; as well as staff capacity strengthening, communication, finance and research management docket. Significantly, core funds support the exploratory phases of novel research areas, helping to generate the evidence base needed to attract project investments. The funds also serve as a bridge for researchers and projects between funding phases. Indeed, without core funds it would be difficult for research and development institutions to effectively undertake their main business.

ACIAR joins a list of *icipe* core donors that includes: the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida); the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; and the Government of the Republic of Kenya.

The core contribution agreement builds on ACIAR's longstanding project-based investments in *icipe*, especially in the promotion of edible insects as a way of From through the Cultivate Africa's Future Fund (CultiAF), ACIAR and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, invested CAD 1,870,500 in the *icipe*-led 'Integrating insects in poultry and fish feed in Kenya and Uganda' project (INSFEED phase 1). The project established the scientific basis, including the identification of suitable insect species and their nutritional attributes; tested the technical feasibility and economic profitability; and laid the foundation for favorable social and policy conditions for using insect-based feeds, in the two countries.

From October 2018 – October 2021, ACIAR and IDRC invested CAD 1,495,900 in the 'Insect feed for poultry, fish and pig production in sub-Saharan Africa' project (INSFEED phase 2). The outcomes included the development of cost-effective insect rearing, harvesting and post-harvest techniques, and their adoption by



L-R: Dr Segenet Kelemu, *icipe* Director General & CEO, and Prof. Andrew Campbell, Chief Executive, ACIAR, during the official signing of the core funding Partnership Agreement between ACIAR and *icipe*

smallholder producers. The risk factors associated with insect-based feeds along the food chain and the mitigation strategies were expounded. This knowledge formed the basis for policies and standards for safe and sustainable use of insects in the food and feed sector. The potential effects of insect-based technologies on livelihoods were assessed along the value chain. In particular, by applying a gender lens, the findings facilitated the development and testing of gender responsive insect feed supply models.

ACIAR has expanded investments in *icipe*'s edible insects activities with an AUD 3 million grant for a project on 'Upscaling the benefits of insect animal feed technologies for sustainable agriculture intensification in Africa' (PROTeinAfrica), to be implemented from March 2022 – June 2025. The initiative will build on the outcomes of INSFEED, while also boosting economic, environmental and social sustainability in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda.

Closely aligned to PROTeinAfrica is the creation of the Emerging Insect Technology Hub (EIT-Hub), a platform for collaboration and knowledge-sharing around emerging insect technologies, among research and industry partners, scientists and investors in Africa and Australia, established in 2022 by ACIAR, *icipe* and Agri Futures, Australia.

In addition, from April 2019 – October 2022, through Cultivate Africa's Future Fund phase 2, ACIAR and IDRC are supporting *icipe*-led activities to adapt, promote and enable wide-scale adoption of the Centre's holistic and scientifically

proven integrated pest management (IPM) packages to tackle alien invasive fruit flies in Southern Africa (Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

"While ACIAR's continuing partnership with *icipe* in research and development is highly important, we also recognize the importance of core contribution, for the Centre's sustainability. Indeed, similar investments made by ACIAR to various organizations have been vital in boosting human and infrastructural capacity, as well as cross cutting research and pilot studies," says Prof. Andrew Campbell, Chief Executive, ACIAR.

"We believe that ACIAR becoming a core contributor to *icipe* marks the beginning of a new and exciting phase, with numerous, mutual benefits for both institutions, for Australia and Africa, and for Africa and the Asia-Pacific region," observes Prof. Kym Anderson, an Australian and Chair of *icipe* Governing Council, who has previously chaired the Policy Advisory Council advising Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

"*icipe* operates in partnership with more than 60 universities and 300 partners, with a huge number of initiatives across Africa and globally, and a holistic approach on human, animal, plant and environmental health. Thus, ACIAR has a strong partner in *icipe* to impact the African continent," notes *icipe* Director General & CEO, Dr Segenet Kelemu.

*icipe*'s wide research and development portfolio will augment ACIAR's regional strategy, which aims to reduce poverty

and increase food security through an agriculture-led integrated framework of development. The Centre's network of partners and collaborators will be useful in ACIAR's vision of promoting regional collaboration as a way of creating new opportunities, particularly for smallholder farmers. There is also the potential of a reciprocal relationship for Australia's own agricultural challenges.

Over the past several years, the importance of stronger Australia and Africa linkages has been rising. There is also appreciation of the need for a strategic approach and discourse, as well as systematic integration, to forge sustainable relationships and realize desirable bilateral outcomes. ACIAR's central role in Australia's national interests and the particular focus on economic diplomacy, combined with *icipe*'s position as a well-respected development and thought leader in Africa, will contribute to the much-desired shift and impacts.

There are also increasing efforts towards more constructive and concerted interactions between Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. The rationale is that the Asia-Pacific region, the fastest-growing economic powerhouse in the world, offers a pragmatic model of development for Africa. Further, the relationship would increase two way trades and attract investments. It would also allow joint efforts to address shared challenges, for example harmonized regulations on national resources management. ACIAR has a long history of investments in the Asia-Pacific region, which could serve as an entry point for *icipe* and the Centre's partners.



# Society

## The unforgettable betrayal

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

November 3 is always remembered in Ethiopia as a day of betrayal, where several members of the National Defense Force got stabbed in the back by members of T-TPLF. The cruelty of the rebel group is not something new to Ethiopians; but the extent of group's heartlessness was displayed when they massacred barbarically their own comrades, members of the National Defense Force.

The National Defense Force had been stationed in Tigray State for over two decades. As a protector of the people and part of Ethiopian society, members of the army had a strong attachment with the people living in the area; and even some of them have intermarried with the society. Not only that, they were also companions who were always committed to stand by the side of the people of Tigray- lent a helping hand to farmers in weeding crop fields and reaping harvests, chasing away locusts, as well as subsidizing children with school materials concurrent to the mission they were assigned.

However, T-PLF- whose mental setting

is adjusted with all forms of meanness shot them in the back while they were cautiously keeping the people of Tigray from any form of threat. Two years have already elapsed since those forces were killed heinously. The day was commemorated yesterday all over the country, especially, among members of the Defense force, with the theme "We will never forget it."

Using the day as a ground, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a short stay with some civilians to learn what they felt when they first heard the callous attack against the national defense force, two years ago.

Ambo Mekasa is a journalist at one of the local media. According to him, Ethiopians have an age old culture of living in harmony. No matter what the status or what kind of profession a person engaged in, there is a culture of tolerance and respect. In this respect, those Ethiopian military forces, which were stationed in the northern part of the country, had been assimilated with the civilians. They had developed a culture of living in harmony with the society. However, the T-TPLF took such action, which has never been heard in the history of Ethiopia. "And,

whenever I remember the day, I feel so pity for those military forces who were brutally massacred by their own companions."

Eshetu Turuneh, Painter and Art Teacher, is the other person whom this journalist interviewed about his feeling when he heard the news of betrayal on the Northern Command. Ethiopian Defense Force had been stationed in the northern part to preserve the peace and stability of the nation for more than two decades.

The new government is democratically elected however, the TPLF were moving in the wrong direction to stir the peace and stability of the nation. Using all their anti-Ethiopian sentiment and secessionism, they have taken the wrong direction. They were against the democratic transition of power for that reason; TPLF and its cliques going back to their place; took the most disgracing, inhuman actions against the National Defense Force stationed in Tigray State.

"We Ethiopians have no such culture throughout our history. Ethiopians are accustomed to live in harmony not only with their friends but also with their enemies. The military force stationed in the

northern was not there to hurt the people of Tigray but to protect them. However the TPLF committed such insane attack."

"TPLF is a group made out the same mental setting that blocks all peaceful coexistence and they were always secessionist and anti-Ethiopian peace elements. The foolish measure they took against the National Defense Force is a clear manifestation of this. The Ethiopian military forces fight for the good of the people and the nation in general. It is a force composed of not a single group. It represents all nation nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia."

According to him, Ethiopian military force is morally disciplined not only in times of peace but also in times of hard times. This was witnessed during the fall of the Derg regime; and replaced by new regime. Even if the members of the then military forces (who were retreating to the capital city) had weapons in hands, they were begging for food and clothes, he added.

In this regard, all the nefarious actions that were taken two years ago against members of the army were entirely embarrassing and inhuman. "We, Ethiopians always honor our heroes," he remarked.

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## Breast cancer requires attention

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

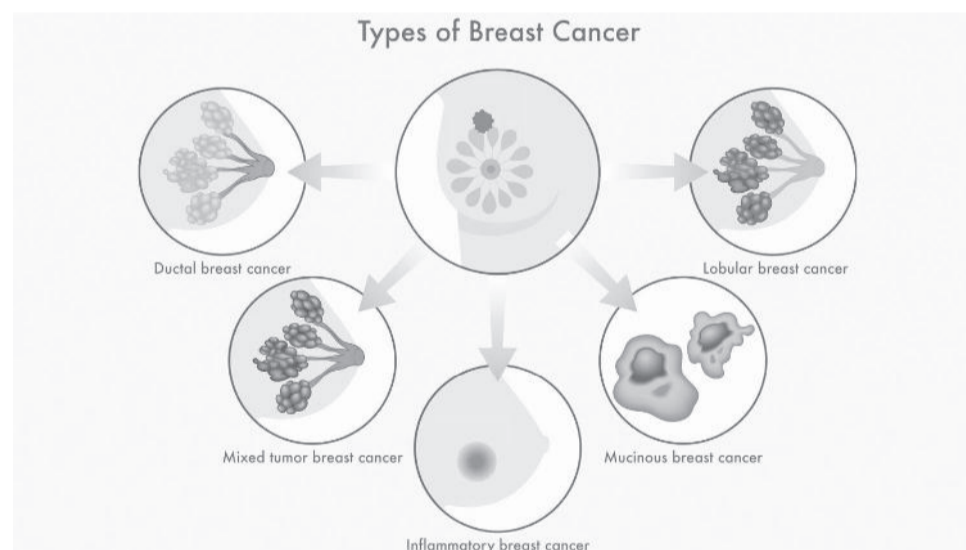
The Breast Cancer Awareness Month, marked in countries across the world every October, helps to increase attention and support for the awareness, early detection, and treatment as well as palliative care of this disease, as to the Ethiopian Cancer Association (ECA).

"The COVID crisis has been a powerful reminder that we are all in this together, and our choices and actions have the power to protect the most vulnerable among us in a big way. The same holds true when it comes to breast cancer," ECA notes.

Breast cancer doesn't discriminate. Women and men of every age, nationality, income, and religion can come face to face with breast cancer, ECA details supplementing it with: "With your support, we can show every woman that her life is important. By working **together**, we can inspire hope and become a force for good **"to get her"** access to the care she needs."

As to the 2021 report of World Health Organization (WHO), breast cancer cases in Ethiopia are rising, and recent studies show that breast cancer is the number one cancer impacting women, accounting for 20 percent of all cancer in the general population. In 2020, there were 2.26 million cases of breast cancer globally, resulting in over 685,000 deaths.

Early screening and diagnosis and



maintaining a healthy lifestyle lower the risk of developing breast cancer and improve chances of remission and survival, US Embassy Addis Ababa identified on this year's awareness creation noting: "We wore pink to honor survivors, remember those lost to the disease, and to support the progress made together to defeat breast cancer."

The worldwide burden of cancer is substantial and growing. More than one in six deaths globally are due to cancer, with 19 million new cancer cases and 10 million new cancer deaths in 2020. The public health response has been insufficient to control the disease burden, with many low-income and middle-income countries having inadequate capacity to provide high-quality and accessible cancer programs. This deficient response threatens public

health, economic growth, and achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Because most breast cancers cannot be attributed to modifiable risk factors, global breast cancer control efforts cannot rely solely on risk factor reduction, and will require systematic improvements in access to resource-appropriate, quality services to meet the Sustainable Development Goals for non-communicable diseases and universal health coverage. Breast cancer is the most common incident and prevalent cancer worldwide, as well as the leading cause of death from any cancer in women.

Breast cancer accounts for more disability-adjusted life-years lost by women globally than does any other malignancy. And breast cancer deaths disproportionately affect individuals in low-income and middle-

income countries, where most breast cancer deaths occur prematurely (in women younger than 70 years old). Breast cancer 5 year survival rates exceed 90 percent in high-income countries, compared with 66 percent in India and 40 percent in South Africa.

Premature deaths and massive health-care expenditure caused by breast cancer resulted in social disruption and generational impoverishment, orphaning children at devastating rates. In sub-Saharan Africa, 100 cancer deaths in women under the age of 50 years cause 210 children to become maternal orphans.

By 2040, if current mortality trends remain unchecked, 60 percent of the projected 3 million new breast cancer cases and 70 percent of the 1 million new breast cancer deaths annually will occur in low-income and middle-income countries.

Thus, the chronic social disruption from breast cancer will harm low-income and middle-income countries for generations to come. A painful inequality is also marking a missed opportunity to improve women's lives globally through the reduction of premature mortality.

Higher mortality in low-income and middle-income countries results from late-stage diagnosis and inadequate access to quality care, compounded by the non-inclusion of breast cancer diagnosis and management into universal health-care commitments.





# This is Ethiopia

## Re-branding Addis Ababa

BY TEWODROS KASSA

According to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), cities need to plan now to be able to deliver the resources and services needed to ensure their populations survive and thrive. Public transport and facilities, water supply, sanitation, energy, food and security are just some of the pressure points that will be affected by rising urbanization. Sustainable, safe and resilient buildings and civil engineering works are essential for cities to thrive in the future.

Moreover, prioritizing green areas is fundamental to maintain a comfortable city that is conducive for living and; lead towards a better socio-economic development.

Currently, the Ethiopian government is undertaking wide infrastructural development in the capital Addis Ababa and other tourist's destinations. Sheger Park, Meskel Square, Entoto Park, and Unity Park are the major outstanding achievements of the government in making Addis Ababa one of the most flourishing and impressive cities as its name.

Recently, the second phase of Sheger Park, which is part of the Sheger Beautifying Project that was designed with the aim to make Addis Ababa clean and worthy of its name, and to make it favourable to its inhabitants, was inaugurated in the presence of First Lady Zinash Tayachew, Addis Ababa City Mayor Adanech Abebie, high government officials and various members of the community.

While inaugurating the park, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) underscored that the government is working to build a better Ethiopia.

"The second phase of Friendship Park opened today. It combines sports, games, and social interaction. Children learn about science and technology while playing. Young people read and engage in sports. Parents and grandparents bring their children with them to share social experiences. Newlyweds exchange vows in the wedding garden. We will continue to raise better generations for the sake of the future Ethiopia," the Premier tweeted.

According to local media, mass wedding has been carried out in a ceremony held inside the newly inaugurated second phase of Sheger Park in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy.

It is to be recalled that Office of the Prime Minister offered a special gift to couples who wish to conduct their wedding ceremony during the inauguration of the second phase of the Friendship Park inside its wedding garden.

Accordingly, several couples who responded to the offer have got married in a ceremony held inside the wedding garden of the park. The newly opened park is comprised of



Photo - ENA

various standard entertainment providing facilities including children playing grounds, wedding gardens, football and basketball playing fields, art gallery, cafeterias among others and remains open for visitors.

"Marriage is a means of establishing a family, which is one of a nation's core institutions. Congratulations to all who married at the wedding garden on the day the Friendship Park phase two was launched. With the joy of your wedding, you have blessed this wonderful site that welcomes Ethiopians as well as visitors for international, national, and social activities," the Prime Minister tweeted.

Meanwhile, Addis is undertaking massive reforms to attract numerous local and international tourists.

Recently, the city unveiled its new motto to transform the tourism sector and become more competitive in the sector. Addis Ababa City Culture, Arts and Tourism Bureau

stated that concerted efforts need to make fundamental change on tourism industry to help the nation benefit much out of it. The new motto named "Addis Ababa- the vibrant hub of Africa" sought to embrace all Africans to come to their capital and feel at home far from home.

During the announcement of the new motto Addis Ababa City Culture, Arts and Tourism Bureau Head Hirut Kassaw (PhD) said that the tourism sector has been playing a decisive role in the social, economic and political developments over the years and a lot is being carried out to make Addis attractive capital and to ensure its being African tourism centre using the motto drawn from "Ethiopia is the Land of Origin."

Moreover, Ethiopia needs to rethink the new model to effectively use this smokeless industry. Though the country has huge tourism resources, it has not yet gained adequate benefit out of the sector for various

reasons. Lack of marketing and promotion, infrastructure challenge, absence of skilled human power in the area, and the like are the serious factors which potentially hinder the sufficient advantage from the tourism sector.

Expanding tourism destinations, promotion and marketing, improving service delivery, giving serious attention to peace and security, among others, are the main focusing areas of the Bureau in a bid to realize the city's plan to become African center of tourism in the near future.

City's Deputy Mayor, Jantrar Abay on his part said that the United Nation celebrates World Tourism Day every year using various mottoes based on the situations. "That is why this year's world tourism day was celebrated under the slogan 'Rethinking Tourism' to mean that the sector requires new thinking and paradigm to realize holistic significances."

Currently, the city is undertaking various reforms to efficiently exploit the huge tourism resources. The government of Ethiopia has allocated huge budget and human resource for establishing and expanding new tourism destinations like Unity, Friendship, Entoto parks, and Meskel Squire in the city.

He called up on stakeholders to attach serious attention to the tourism sector, which was exposed to critical damage due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and northern conflict. Besides, he stated that the city administration in collaboration with concerned bodies and concerned bodies will embark on promoting tourism development through structural activity via bridging the gap in terms of skilled human power, technology transformation.