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Gov't working to ensure CoHA implementation per agreed terms

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- The government is working to ensure that the AU-led peace accord would be implemented per agreed terms, the Government Communication Services said.

In a statement yesterday, the GCS indicated the fact that Ethiopia is exerting efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance to most of the Tigray region which is under ENDF command.

It further stated as basic services are slowly being restored in some areas. In other areas, a conducive environment is being created to repair damages to basic service infrastructure caused by rebel fighters.

Side by side to these efforts, the commanders

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FDRE Government Communication Service

Gov't to dispatch 40 aid convoys to Tigray

• Opens four land corridors, readies airplane options

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA- At the beginning of next week, the government will transport forty heavy vehicles to Tigray to provide additional humanitarian support, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) said, adding food and non-food aid will be distributed to the community.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), NDRMC Commissioner Shiferaw Teklemariam stated that the federal government is spending 500 million Birr to provide humanitarian aid in the Tigray State. Wheat and nutritious food are being distributed to citizens who are facing problems due to the war in Sheraro, Shire, Axum and Adwa areas.

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Diaspora war mongers keep on tarnishing truce

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Despite the UN asserting the improved flow of aid to Tigray since the conclusion of the peace deal, some members of the Diaspora have been throwing out false allegations, a Co-founder of #NoMore Movement said.

Speaking to local media, the co-founder Nebiyu Asfaw noted that some Diaspora culprits appear to be backsliding on part of the deal that prohibits "hostile propaganda," while the humanitarian aid delivery is confirmed to be improving by the UN. "The

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News



Truce opens door to Canadian businesses: Ambassador Fitsum

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA-The restoration of peace, the availability of countless opportunities as well as the reform created in the nation are good opportunities to do any business at this moment, Ethiopian Ambassador to Canada said.

Ethiopian Ambassador to Canada, Fitsum Arega made the above remark yesterday in the Ethiopia- Canada Business and Investment Forum that was organized in Toronto to promote the former's investment opportunities to Canadian firms.

Ambassador Fitsum stated on the occasion that Canadian investors who want to do business in Ethiopia will be benefited from the country's enormous investment opportunities and growing economic dynamism. Potential stakeholders in Canada are invited to take part in Ethiopia's priority sectors including mining, manufacturing, technology, textile and apparel as well as agro processing.

"Huge business and investment opportunities are available in Ethiopia, but someone may not see this arena in as clear or critical a way as we think. We have passed many troubles including COVID-19, rising fuel price and conflict but luckily the nation has managed to register a double-digit economic growth and the restoration of peace is also opening the door for business."

In the forum, foreign companies that are already investing in Ethiopia presented their experience to Canadian businesses and explored ways of joint ventures which enables the country to attract more investment in various sectors.

Ethiopia envisions to Africa's Space Science center of excellence

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian Space Science and Geospatial Institute (ESSTI) said that it is working to realize the vision of becoming Africa's center of excellence using the technology and skilled labor force in the area.

ESSTI Director General Abdissa Yilma told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the institute has been working tirelessly on science research, infrastructure technology and human development to realize Ethiopia's ambition of becoming Africa's center of excellence in space science and geospatial in the coming ten years. To this end, the institute has been building an Aerospace Engineering Workshop in Addis Ababa University.

The main function of the institute is to collect the relevant information, interpret it, and disseminate the information gained from national space science and geospatial through satellites. So far, Ethiopia has launched two earth observation satellites in collaboration with partners.

The director-general further highlighted that ETRSSI is the first launched satellite which has been two years and eleven months



Abdissa Yilma

though its design is expected to serve merely two and half years. The effective inspection, supervision, and maintenance measures taken on the satellite are the main secrets that have a long span.

As to him, Ethiopia has been benefiting a lot since its satellite launched, especially in areas about agriculture, research and investigation, natural resource conservation, tourism development, GERD information,

and producing skilled human power."

"Though launching the satellite is amicable, it does not mean that sufficiently enough when compared with the wide nature of the country (which covers 1.1 million square kilometer.) It means that the satellite might take one month when the information from the North Pole shifts to the South Pole. In this regard, the developed countries have 100 up to 150 satellites launched at the same period to obtain a lot of information within a couple of minutes."

As Ethiopia has inadequate satellites; it has built earth observation satellites at Entoto thereby working close ties with various Universities to bridge the skilled human power gap. Likewise, the country has been partnered with other countries to use constellation methods (a number of satellites which have similar purpose and values launched at the same time in order to gather a number of information).

Ethiopia is among the 15 African countries which developed its own satellite and ranked next to Egypt, South Africa, Algeria, Nigeria, and Morocco. When compared with the East African nations; however, it is the first country, Abdissa stated.

Foreign banks crucial to improve banking services: Entrepreneur

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian entrepreneur Ermyas Amelga said allowing foreign banks to operate in Ethiopia is important to improve banking services and the finance sector.

He told ENA that allowing foreign banks to operate in Ethiopia will mainly bring competition in the financial sector and stimulate the banking service.

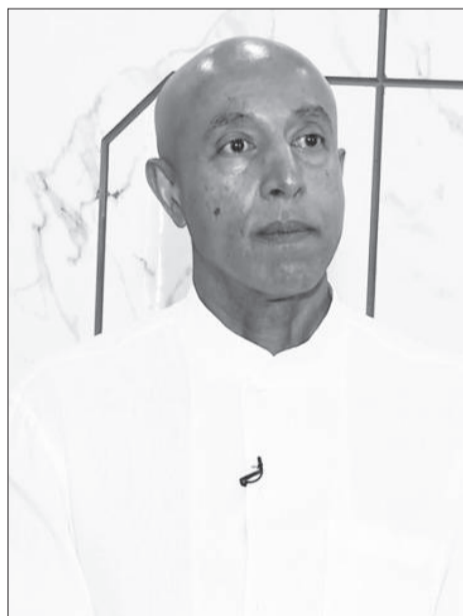
"Foreign banks will mainly create better financial competitiveness in this market. (And) competition is good as it motivates the banking sector to work to satisfy the needs of customers. It makes the banks to introduce new services, improve services, and service fees. So, it will stimulate the financial sector."

According to the entrepreneur, the opening of the financial sector to foreign banks should not be seen as a new phenomenon as the country used to have foreign banks and insurances.

He believes that the restriction of foreign banks has negatively affected the financial system, competitiveness, service delivery and access to the wider population with new technologies.

"We are living in a globalized world. Trade, finance, technology and movement of people are now global. Sitting alone closing doors does not make profitable and it is not right. So, although late it is not new for us. Only few countries with wrong policy have closed the financial sector to foreign banks in the world."

Ermyas argued that the recent opening



of the telecom sector in Ethiopia has improved services, and the same will be true for the banking sector.

"The banking system does not reach out to the vast population. It is mainly for organizations, institutions and for wealthy individuals. The local banks cumulate deposits from ordinary people, but they do not give them credit. They give the deposits collected from the vast population to few rich people. Most of the population is not benefiting. The interests the banks pay for the deposits are not rewarding when compared to the inflation. There are no additional services that benefit the public. The foreign banks will possibly fill this gap."

The entrepreneur stated that East Africa and West Africa banks have now replaced

the European and Americans after the latter exited decades ago.

"These banks are expected to come to Ethiopia. Their major services are expanding mobile banking and credits to SMEs in the vast population. The local banks in Ethiopia are not playing there, and the foreign banks will fill this huge gap."

He thinks that they will not do the same services covered by the local banks because they do not know the country's economy, business environment, customers and they cannot give big credits. "May be they will provide bank services for the big foreign investment companies in Ethiopia because they know them well in other countries."

However, some critics raise concerns about how Ethiopia controls foreign banks.

Respond to this, Ermyas stated that the banks are international banks and give priority to their name and reputation and they certainly will abide by the law of the country.

"The coming of the foreign banks will fill big market gap. They will come with big capital based on directive. Above all, they will bring knowledge and competition as well as professionalism. There will also be an opportunity to train the human power in the sector."

New things should not be feared, the entrepreneur stressed, adding that instead working on risk reduction and maximizing the importance is crucial. "You cannot stop driving fearing car accidents."

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Editorial

No gainsaying aid deliveries, reconstructions are afoot

The enormity of the humanitarian loss and material damage war, wrought by whatever cause, could inflict on a country and its citizens could not be gainsaid.

Such tragic episodes are found recorded in the annals of Ethiopian history. Here, it suffices to revert back to the gruesome scenarios that took place in the country in the course of the past six decades. The scars from such unfolding have not yet fully healed.

Millions were displaced from their abodes, multitudes of social service rendering institutions—roads, schools, health centers, electric & telephone lines have suffered destructions and setbacks. Also the psychological pressure victims could buckle under is evident.

Hence, we are at a historic juncture when we are square facing the aftermaths of a catastrophic war. The national peace ensuring task, we embarked on, is part of this thrust towards normalcy. Alertness to the fructification of the task is something we ill afford to put on the backburner.

We could rise up to the challenge of ensuring a sustainable peace—a breath of fresh air after the ravages of war—if and only if we develop the muscle and exhibit conviction to redress the challenge. Thus, the challenge obligates the concerted effort of all.

Apart from the healing task, this rehabilitation and maintenance job plays quite a role in getting the country back towards exertion on the avenue of envisioned development.

It is in cognizance of this fact the government is doing everything under its capacity to outreach the aforementioned victims with the practically possible immediacy. It has outreached 400 thousand beneficiaries in dire need of humanitarian support in just a week time as part of the upside of the truce and peace deal reached between the incumbent and TPLF.

More specifically 108,000 citizens in Shire, Sheraro, Axum, Adi Deharo, Abi Nebri and Adi Hageray areas of Tigray had become beneficiaries of the recent first round support.

Aside from the Afar-Abala corridor mentioned before, other alternative corridors from different corners are being opened to speedily outreach those in

pressing-need of humanitarian support.

“The government has delivered over 43,000 quintals of wheat and 7, thousand quintals of nutritious food to 287,000 people in need in Raya, Alamata and Korem towns. Additional 6,500 quintals of nutritious food was also being provided that put the number of people addressed by the government to 396,000 citizens within eight days,” stated the government’s communication office.

The ferrying of humanitarian support—food & medicine—to Tigray including areas not yet under the control of the incumbent proves unparalleled. The outreaching process is backed by air transport “...35 trucks of food and three trucks of medicine have arrived at Shire. And essential services like electric and telephone are being restored,” said the Prime Minister’s National Security adviser.

This outreaching effort notwithstanding, some quarters are trying to belittle and discredit the effort in a bid to get the peace deal off the track. From force of habit or hidden motives those who cannot be disinterested attempt to accuse the government of tardiness in the delivery of humanitarian aid. But for those with discerning eyes the allegation doesn’t sit well with the reality. It suffices scratching the surface to disprove the allegation. It is better to lean on objective observers than those that muddy water for personal objective and doesn’t have an iota of care to people of Tigray the government is striving to embrace with considerateness and responsibility.

In the same wavelength, happily, the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) has taken swift steps in putting in place access to the system in Northern Ethiopia. The CBE pledged resumption of full services reconnecting some of its branches. Mayetemri and Bai Kal and Adi Airidi have already retrieved the Bank access system in northern Ethiopia. A similar service is in the pipeline in Tekeze, Adi Goshu, Korarit, Mai Gaba, Setit and Adi Bai. Similar electric services are being restored with added zeal.

The unhampered delivery of the humanitarian aid following the improvement of things following the cessation of hostilities is substantiated by UN officials too. “...we are ready to provide more because the means there are immense,” associate spokesperson for secretary general of United Nations.

Opinion

Speech by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) on the COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

“From the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for inviting me to participate in the Sharm El-Sheikh Climate Implementation Summit and for the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in the beautiful city of Sharm El-Sheikh.

I would also like to congratulate the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and its people for their successful hosting of COP27.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Climate change is a constant source of concern for the global community. East Africa has suffered repeated droughts and floods. Ethiopia is in the eye of the storm.

Nonetheless, we are transforming our difficulties into opportunities. We are strengthening our people’s resilience and safeguarding our natural resources, all while working to provide reliable, accessible, and affordable renewable energy to our citizens and the region.

We have made rapid and significant progress in combating climate change through ambitious climate action and a green pathway for growth and prosperity in three key areas. These include afforestation, reforestation, and green legacy; ensuring food sovereignty; and transitioning to green energy.

These are critical topics of discussion under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that are part of the African climate agenda.

Ethiopia’s position is consistent with the collective interests and statements of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), as well as the Group of 77 and China coalition, in order to build a stronger joint negotiating capacity at the United Nations on climate change issues.

Our ten-year development plan is anchored on building a climate resilient green economy as one of its key pillars. Ethiopia has submitted its ambitious updated nationally determined contribution (NDC), which incorporates mitigation and adaptation interventions and is well aligned with the Paris Agreement’s long-term 1.5-degree Celsius target.

Ethiopia has also prepared its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) in accordance with the Paris Agreement, with the goal of putting Ethiopia on a path to net-zero emissions by 2050. This long-term strategy will be unveiled at COP27.

On the afforestation, reforestation, and the Green Legacy:

We are all in agreement that protecting our natural capital is an essential component of the climate agenda. Restoring natural land and forests reduces greenhouse gas

emissions significantly.

Ethiopia’s Green Legacy is a proud contribution to this effort that complements our nationally determined contributions.

Four years into the Green Legacy Initiative’s implementation, we have planted 25 billion seedlings, which equates to 250 seedlings per Ethiopian. The impact could be equivalent to removing 64 million gasoline-powered vehicles from the road for an entire year.

The Green Legacy Initiative is now the most extensive afforestation and reforestation program in the world, second only to the Amazon. Ethiopia has also put over 700,000 hectares of existing biodiversity and carbon-rich natural forests under a sustainable participatory forest management scheme, in addition to tree planting afforestation and reforestation efforts.

The Green Legacy has fostered a flourishing national green culture, tripling the number of nurseries to over 120,000, and seedlings have been shared with neighboring countries to strengthen regional cooperation for transboundary ecosystem management.

Our Green Legacy Initiative will undoubtedly help to remove hundreds of millions of tons of Carbon dioxide equivalent from the atmosphere and reduce deforestation, implying Ethiopia’s significant contribution to global climate

change mitigation efforts.

Ethiopia’s tangible contribution to the overall afforestation and reforestation pledge is impressive by any standard, but it is even more impressive when it is funded primarily through domestic resources and efforts.

Ethiopia plans to restore an additional 22 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, building on its previous success. In addition, we are creating a green fund and will pursue carbon trading schemes to help raise additional funds.

On the loss and damage, and building resilience through ascertaining food sovereignty:

Despite the fact that Ethiopia is one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots, seasonal food insecurity is a persistent challenge.

We have successfully demonstrated in recent years that it is possible to build resilience while also protecting people’s livelihoods. With the Green Legacy, 1 in 50 seedlings is set to improve food security and income generation. In addition, 500 million plants are fruit-bearing, producing Papayas, Mangoes, and Avocados.

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

News



Ambassador Shibiru Mamo

Africa needs to start to own, tell stories: Ethiopia's ambassador

ADDIS ABABA- (ENA) We Africans need to start to own and tell our own stories, as Africa is a land of immense wonders and beauty, as well as the birthplace of humanity, Ethiopia's Ambassador to Tanzania, Shibiru Mamo, said.

The Ethiopian Embassy in Tanzania organized an online panel discussion under the theme: "Africa through the lens of a fast-changing global media landscape."

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Shibiru Mamo regarded the topic as timely, crucial, and worth discussing.

"Africa is a land of immense wonders and beauty, and it is the birthplace of humanity," he said, adding, "We Africans need to start to own and tell our own stories."

He also urged African journalists to use their talents and work for the development of Africa by depicting to the globe the real picture of Africa.

The panelists presented papers on the imbalances and misinformation in the global media landscape in relation to Africa.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the panelists were represented from different countries with diversified professional backgrounds as well as from various walks of life.

Ethiopia to build 50 mln. USD worth geochemistry laboratory

ADDIS ABABA /ENA/- The Ministry of Mines of Ethiopia and SGS, a world leading verification, testing and certification company, has signed an agreement to build a modern mining geochemistry laboratory with a cost of 50 million USD in Addis Ababa.

Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Takele Uma and Managing Director of SGS, Ziyad Oti signed the agreement on the sideline of the International Mining and Technology Expo (MINTEX) that kicked off on Thursday at the Millennium Hall, Addis Ababa.

Minister of Mines and Petroleum, Takele Uma said during the occasion that the 50 million USD laboratories will play a vital role for the development of the mining sector in Ethiopia.

According to him, up until now, several companies, especially those in the mining sector, used to send their mineral samples abroad to get testing, verification and certification to verify the quality of their samples.

When operational, in just a year's time, hopefully before the next MINTEX exhibition, SGS's laboratory will enable



mining companies that operate in Ethiopia and even Africa to get testing, verification and certification inside the country, he said.

SGS Managing Director, Ziyad Oti said

"We will immediately start to work the feasibility studies and the details needed,"

The company will exert efforts to make the facilities ready for service as per the agreed date, he added.

Gov't working to ensure...

of the ENDF and the TPLF have discussed on the detailed plans for disarmament of TPLF fighters, according to the statement.

Discussions have culminated with an agreement on the plans for disarmament and entry of the ENDF into Mekelle according, as outlined in the peace agreement.

The Government urges that all parties involved in the implementation of the plan fulfill their obligations under the agreement.

It is to be recalled that head of the Ethiopian delegation for the peace talks and The PM's National Security Advisor Redwan Hussein tweeted: "70 % of Tigray is under ENDF. Aid is flowing like no other times."

He added that even to the areas not held by ENDF, 35 trucks of food and 3 trucks of medicine arrived shire, and flights are allowed.

Redwan also indicated that services are being reconnected.

Gov't to dispatch...

By the same token, the government has made arrangements to distribute humanitarian aid to more areas of Tigray where stability has been seen after the South African peace agreement.

Noting the existence of four land routes, Shiferaw indicated that one of the four land routes for humanitarian aid delivery is the Gondar-Humera-Sheraro-Shire-Adwa route. Debarak-Addi Arkay- Mai Tsebri- Shire route is another open humanitarian aid delivery option and has been opened for vehicles.

The Woldia - Kobo Alamata - Korem line is also open for drivers; the Semera-Abala land route is another open option for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

"International institutions can use the four land routes without restrictions to provide humanitarian aid to northern Ethiopia with the help of appropriate aid delivery ethics. "Those who provide humanitarian in

support Tigray are expected to assist the needy people in the Amhara and Afar states in their line."

The commissioner further stated that in addition to the delivery of humanitarian aid by land routes, the effort to provide alternative support by air transport is continuing. As soon as the works at Shire, Axum and Mekelle airports have been completed, there will be an opportunity for non-government international humanitarian aid organizations to use airplane options.

International humanitarian aid institutions in northern Ethiopia are constantly evaluating whether the support they provide has reached the right people. The organizations and the federal government have reached a consensus to have a joint monitoring system for the correctness and delivery of the aid before and after it is distributed, he remarked.

Diaspora war...

amount of defamation and slander against Ethiopia has been amazingly irrational."

The Ethiopian government has been releasing photos and videos of not just the aid but members of the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) are helping out farmers harvesting out on the farmland. Feedback is getting how the people are happy and welcoming the government troops, Nebiyu added.

"Those conflict actors in the Diaspora were out shutting down on the stress of Europe and the U.S. and throwing tantrum and have brought back the old song of Tigray Genocide. What amazes me is how they think that this old same playbook that has been debunked is going to work out for them and they kept throwing that out."

Wanting to extend hostilities, and to continue to lie about the siege on Tigray, which is already disproven by the UN, clearly shows the depth of their moral degradation, he emphasized.

Opinion

Energy Transition: Is it time for Africa to talk tough?

Thirty-year-old Difasi Amooti Kisebo is one of the demonstrators near the EU delegation offices in Kampala. He and a handful of others have traveled from Uganda's oil and gas-rich Albertine region's district to Uganda's capital Kampala to express their displeasure with an EU Parliament's resolution against the planned construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline.

"EU Stop neocolonialism and imperialism on Uganda's oil projects," reads the placard that Kisebo is holding. Next to Kisebo is Lucas Eikiriza with a message: "Our pipeline is safe, EU stand aside".

While there is opposition to the planned construction of a 1,443km pipeline from Uganda through Tanzania and Tilenga and Kingfisher upstream oil projects in Uganda, Kisebo said that he has, over the last 16 years, patiently waited to see oil flow from this formerly sleepy and remote part of Uganda.

"I have not seen that oil with my eyes, but I'm already seeing the benefits. The roads are very good now, there were grass-thatched huts all over my village, but those have been replaced with iron-roofed (ones) thanks to oil that was discovered in Bunyoro," Kisebo said. "So when I heard that the Europeans want the government to stop the projects, I said that we, the young Banyoro, should stand up against that nonsense just like our forefathers fought the British colonialists."

Total Energies and its partner China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) in February decided to invest more than \$10 billion into Lake Albert Development Project.

The landscape in Buliisa and Hoima districts has drastically changed with a number of needed infrastructures like the Central Processing Facility, an international airport, and well pads under construction.

"Everyone is going to gain. Anytime I'm sure that everybody is going to enjoy this oil and the developments which are coming in," said Peter Mayanja, a real estate dealer and owner of Farm Bridge Investments.

President Yoweri Museveni in February said, "This project is a very important one for this region. This money will boost our economy,"

The EU parliament in mid-September adopted a resolution denouncing the Tilenga and EACOP projects by Total Energies, China National Offshore Oil Corporation, or CNOOC Group, backed by the governments of Uganda and Tanzania.

"Put an end to the extractive activities in protected and sensitive ecosystems, including the shores of Lake Albert," reads part of the resolution. They suggested that to have a chance to limit global warming to 1.5°C, no new oil extraction project should be developed.

The resolution has since attracted criticism from Uganda, Tanzania, and from some of the advocates in Africa who believe that Africa should be allowed to harness their oil and gas discoveries to develop their economies as

they transition to renewable energy sources.

Uganda's Vice President, Jessica Alupo, took the matter to the just concluded UN General Assembly in New York. She said it is hypocritical for countries that have been at the center of polluting the environment to preach to countries that have borne the impact of those environmental violations how to act responsibly. "Our view is that development should be environmentally friendly, inclusive, and provide benefits for all; it should leave no one behind," Alupo said

While Uganda's International Relations Minister, Henry Okello Oryem said, "So the Europeans don't want Africa to develop its natural resources? And yet it is the only way to solve our problems. Our people continue to cut trees as the cheapest source of fuel. So if we don't avail them with alternatives like gas, who will?" asked Oryem.

On the other hand, Proscovia Nabbanja, the chief executive of the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), which has stakes in EACOP, said that the suggestion by the wealthier nations to Africa and other developing countries to leave their oil and gas underground was unfair.

"While I understand the concerns related to climate change, I don't want to ignore the value that the projects bring to alleviate energy poverty, which is a critical issue in Uganda, improving the economy, and also propelling our country to industrialization," Nabbanja said.

Uganda expects 160,000 jobs to be created by the projects located in Uganda's Albertine Graben, bordering DRC. The East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) is expected to create five thousand jobs during its construction.

NJ Ayuk, executive chair of the African Energy Chamber lobby group said that the EU Parliament's resolution was part of the overall move to block the extraction of oil and gas in Africa. He said apart from Uganda's case, there are similar attempts to block fight the proposed onshore liquefied natural gas project at Lindi — which could help commercialize about 50 trillion cubic feet of offshore gas by Tanzania.

Ayuk said that some of the campaigns are being funded by groups from the west to civil society organizations based in countries that have vast oil and gas resources.

Sizeable deposits of oil and gas have been discovered in Uganda, Namibia, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Ghana, Angola, DRC, and South Sudan, among others.

"I want the civil society to fiercely advocate for the environment so that we don't have any kind of environmental risks. But it is important that they don't put out misinformation," Ayuk said. "It is really important because that misinformation comes to the detriment of young people who need jobs. It comes to the detriment of a country that needs investment that wants to grow; that wants to survive on

its resources without going for aid."

He said the drive against investment in fossil fuel in Africa is an ideological position from the western countries against Africa's oil and gas discoveries.

"Africans are asking themselves why should we pay the price and punishment for western countries that have taken our resources, have invested and developed their economies, and now that it is our time, you tell us that we cannot because it is going to hurt the environment. When you were doing it, didn't you think it was going to hurt the environment?" Ayuk asked.

Modestus Martin Lumato, Director General Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), who recently visited Uganda, said that 70 percent of Tanzania's power generation is from natural gas and that abandoning it that fast would negatively impact the country.

"Sixty of our industries are powered by natural gas. In 2010 we discovered a huge deposit of natural gas in the deep sea; Tanzania is looking forward to exporting it. We expect oil and gas companies to invest over \$30 billion in a project planned to produce 10 million tons per annum," Lumato said.

Tanzania's natural gas reserves are said to be equivalent to US\$150 billion- or 6-times Tanzania's current GDP.

COP 27 Africa to Talk Tough

A number of meetings have been held in Africa in preparation for the 27th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP27) that held in Egypt from November 7 to 18, 2022.

In mid-July, a technical committee of the African Union adopted "The African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Transition". It stipulates that Africa will continue to deploy all forms of its abundant energy resources, including non-renewable and renewable, to address the energy crisis in the continent.

This position was discussed at the 4th Africa Climate talks at the University Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, Mozambique, as well as African Climate Week in Togo.

Linus Mafor, a Senior Environmental Affairs Officer leading work on energy, infrastructure, and climate change at the African Climate Policy, said the Africa position was aimed at attaining sustainable energy for Africa.

He said that Africa accounts for 17 percent of the global population and contributes to less than 4 percent of emissions, and it is the least energized region in the world.

"Africa is home to 78 percent of people who don't have electricity; at the same time, it needs to industrialize, it needs to close the development gap to meet the SDG. So there should be a win-win situation. Let Africa use its natural gas as a transition fuel to renewable energy," Mafor said.

According to Mafor, energy poverty is holding Africa from development. "Africa has got a rich source of energy, whether

fossils or renewable. The demand is there, but the supply is not there; we can't progress on SDGs or Africa Union Agenda 2063 if there is a huge energy access problem that is not addressed," he said

The African Union, through UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), has indicated that over the past ten years, less than two percent of the public clean energy investment globally went to Africa.

That finding was buttressed by the International Energy Agency's Cost of Capital Dashboard launched this month. It observed that emerging and developing economies, excluding China, account for less than one-fifth of global investment in clean energy.

One of the key barriers, according to IEA, is a high cost of capital, reflecting some real and perceived risks about investment in these economies

The COP26 in Glasgow noted with regret that developed country parties had not met the \$100 billion goal annually. At COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, the African Group wants developed country parties to agree to honor the \$100 billion in climate finance promise.

The Special Representative of COP27, President-Designate Wael Aboulmagd, has indicated the developed countries have fallen short of delivering the \$100 billion.

"It has never been delivered ... But what people don't talk about is if we had the \$100 billion, would we be much better off? The \$100 is an arbitrary figure that was put out of thin air that has no reality on the ground," observed Aboulmagd.

"We as responsible global citizens said we will come along on the understanding that appropriate funding will be there. So this trust has been broken by failure to deliver year, after year," Aboulmagd said.

According to Aboulmagd, at present, only 2 percent of renewable energy investment from the private sector goes to Africa.

"With more than 600 million in Africa lacking access to basic electricity, universal access to energy is a priority," he said.

Back in Uganda and Tanzania, Ayuk said that citizens like Zephaniah and Mayanja, and Awadh should be worried about campaigns trying to block projects like Lake Albert Development and EACOP.

"They should be worried because there is a very strong movement saying the money should not come into African oil and gas. I think we need to rally African financing for projects."

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

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

Business & Economy

Enhancing E- government practices to upscale nation's ease of doing business

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Thinking of development and putting investment on a fast-track, a nation must focus on how to maximize customers' satisfaction. Whoever wants to invest and put its fingerprint on the progress of a nation needs to get quality services from institutions especially the ones that put the economy on the wheel.

Economy of a nation must be examined and evaluated in order to make it developed and lift it up to the next level. Public and private sectors are playing the crucial part in the economy. Therefore, there has to be some preconditions to measure the progress of country's economy. That is why the ease of doing business comes along to analyze nations' progress in relation to arranging more favorable environment for businesses.

According to various sources, it was in 2003 when the first ease of doing business report was published by covering five indicators. It is also learnt that Netherland was the first country to apply the ease of doing business. Sources showed that the initial objective of reporting ease of business was to understand and improve the regulatory environment for businesses. The ease of doing business aims to make easier for businesses to start operating in a given country. The automation of the business registration process is one of the preconditions in ease of doing business.

It is true that economic growth has the power to bless a nation to overcome economy related challenges and creating more jobs and improves the standard of living of citizens. With all the process, the government institutions play the highest role in the creation of the environment.

In order to evaluating the achievement of the government, there are external factors that should be considered to upgrade the business environment. Documents show those legal, technological, economic, political and societal factors are the ones to measure the overall business environment of a nation.

According to recent reports, Ethiopia placed 159 from 190 countries in 2020 as New Zealand stood first and neighboring Somalia stood last. The government of Ethiopia has been working closely with multiple stakeholders to lift the nation's rank to better level. Apart from local institutions, the government is working with international organization from the zeal to push the nation forward.

Government institutions have been working with GIZ International Services led EU-funded Business Environment and Investment Climate including E- government (BEIC) project for the exact purpose of improving the nations ease of doing business performance.

On November 08 Tuesday, GIZ International Services led EU- funded Business Environment and Investment Climate including E- government (BEIC) project stakeholders had a meeting at Hyatt Regency, Addis Ababa. Government beneficiaries along with different representatives have participated to report and evaluate the six- month performance of the project which aims at improving the quality of ease of doing business of the nation.

Having stayed with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), EU funded project BEIC Team Leader, Alberto Gomez discussed about the event and the overall objectives of the project. Alberto said, "The objective of the project aims at improving the business environment of the country so that more companies can involve in creating multiple job opportunities." The project contributes for the facilitation and improvement of business and investment environment for the benefit of the country.

Alberto further explained that the particular event is the part of the monitoring of the project which has been held every six month. "There are a number of institutions that are the part of the 'project listening committee' that strategically direct, judge, and monitor how the project is progressing every six month," said the team leader. Stakeholders present what has been achieved, what to be achieved and the committee asked questions and recommended its better opinions according to the objectives of the project.

The ease of doing business, as to Alberto, is all about taking more reforms to create more business, more provisions, and more business-friendly environments. As a result, there are many institutions that have contributed to this reform. However, the project focuses on four government beneficiary institutions. These are Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT), the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), Ministry of Revenue (MoR), Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI).

Along the lines of the government institutions, private institutions have also been included in the project such as Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce, women entrepreneurs, and European Union investors. Both sectors, public and private, are playing their own roles to creating the friendly environment of businesses.

The reason why the aforementioned government institutions are selected is that the government considered those institutions as the leading ones that carry out the reforms in the case of ease of doing business program that is signed by the Government of Ethiopia, Alberto added.

According to Alberto, in order to achieve the planned reforms in creating the ease of doing business, three objectives have been set by the project. "The first is strengthening

the capacity of the institutions by improving their IT capacity to provide digital services and improving the skills of the manpower. The second is strengthening the digital services or the E- government services to get easier and quick services including getting services in a single window. Last but not least is improving the public- private dialogue as the private sector has pivotal part to play together with the government," Alberto explained.

Though there are a number of challenges, the world is on the move to make itself a digital world. This is a small contribution to our goals. The next move for the project is that every stakeholder carries on the implementation of the project and after six months, we will have the same performance report until we achieve our targets, Alberto stressed.

By the same token, beneficiary institutions have expressed the progress of their particular institution regarding the achievement of the project. Ministry of Innovation and Technology Digital Transformation Program Head, Abiyot Bayu (PhD) highlighted about the activity of his institution. As to Abiyot, Ethiopia got the least rank regarding the ease of doing business. In order to improve the rank, there is a task force directed by the Prime Minister. "The task force is working on forming the improvement including refining the institutional organization, rules and regulations and put digital components in the country," Abiyot mentioned.

In this regard, As to Abiyot, Ministry of Innovation and Technology took the responsibility to work on the digital components. In this pillar, the ministry is accountable to develop the country's E- government. The other one is finding a suitable way for the ICT departments in governmental institutions in a way that fit the essence of the ease of doing business. Besides, the ministry is working on providing professional training for ICT professionals.

Abiyot has also mentioned some of the challenges regarding the implementation of the ease of doing business. He said that institutional organization, old-fashioned rules and regulations, the use of digital technologies in government institutions, and the attitude of government service providers are some of the challenges. We need to improve those things.

"Without the technology, we do nothing. The

objective of the project is also on how we can use technology to implement the ease of doing business." The Ministry has planned to register the nation in the first hundred countries in the list of ease of doing business, stressed Abiyot.

Likewise, Birhanu Mamo, Information and Technology Center head at the Ministry of Revenue also pinpointed that ease of doing business is all about making things easy to the customer. The ministry is working with BEIC project to enhancing the service and e- financing and e- payment.

The ministry has connected itself with seventeen local banks by a system called 'Derash' to let clients use e- services and e- payment and other tax related services easily. Due to the implementation of the project, over 30 thousand customers are using the digital platforms to get the ministry's services, Birhanu noted.

The economy and Infrastructure at the European Union Delegation to Ethiopia Team Leader, Sanne Willems said, "We are supporting the government basically making things easy for making business not only establish themselves but also getting information from the government and work on digital platforms and E- government issues. The bottom line is making it easier for businesses to establish themselves and operate," Sanne said.

Sanne further said that the total project period is five years. As ease of business and investment climate are depending on a lot of factors. This project is one little element from the whole sector. We have tried to ease certain elements to making it easier in the future."

This EU funded project, which is implemented by GIZ International Services in partnership with McKinsey and Company targeted at supporting nation's ease of doing business reforms.

To sum up the ideas, Ethiopia has been aggressively working to make business environment favorable to all parties. The nation has always been open for change and improvement. The government of Ethiopia has shown its commitment to work with available stakeholders for the benefit of the nation and upscale the level of the ease of doing business.



Planet Earth

The double faces of Mount Choke

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

In Ethiopia, the Afro-alpine ecosystem is known for its diversified biodiversity and rich natural resources, which are found in the mountain epics. Ethiopia has a huge afro-alpine ecosystem, which takes around 80 per cent of the African afro-alpine ecosystem. This ecosystem is the major source of surface water with its rivers and springs. This ecosystem makes Ethiopia the water tower of Africa and major rivers in Ethiopia are originating from the afro-alpine ecosystem areas. This ecosystem takes comparably stable weather conditions and high rainfall.

In a recent interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Girma Eshete (PhD), a Conservation Biologist and Lecturer of Wildlife Conservation at Bahir Dar University said that Ethiopia has a huge afro-alpine ecosystem and this ecosystem helps Ethiopia to have unique endemic wildlife and plant species. Almost all endemic wild animals of Ethiopia are mostly habituating in this ecosystem and this ecosystem is the major source of water for the country, including the lowland part of the country and its neighbours. Ethiopia has 11 transboundary rivers and most of these rivers originate from this ecosystem.

The afro-alpine ecosystem is found 3,200 meters above sea level and it is the home of diversified plant and wildlife species. Found above 4,100 meters above sea level, the Choke Mountain is among the naturally rich afro-alpine ecosystems and the major water sources of Ethiopia, including the world's longest river, the Blue Nile River. Choke covers around five woreda administrations.

Mount Choke is founded in the East Gojam Zone of Amhara Regional State, around 38 kilometre North of East Gojam Zone capital, Debre Markos town and 325 kilometres from Bahir Dar city, the capital city of Amhara regional state. According to a local media report, Choke Mountain becomes a community reserve area in recent years as the area was affected by overgrazing and agricultural expansion. To protect the area from deforestation and degradation, efforts are underway to conserve the area by mobilizing the community, according to Bekur Magazine.



and covers 53 thousand 558 hectares of land within five woreda administrations namely Sinan, Debay Telat gen, Sedie, Bibugn and Machakel. According to research, the Choke landscape consists of 86 per cent mountainous, 12.5 per cent semi-lowland and 1.5 per cent valley.

Mount Choke is commonly known as “the water tower”, as it is the origin of 59 local rivers and more than 273 streams. In addition, the Choke area is the main source of water for the world's longest River, the Nile. According to Research, the Choke area contributes more than 9.5 per cent water of the world's longest River, the Nile River. With this huge surface water potential, Mount Choke is among the major surface water sources of Ethiopia that make the country the water tower of Africa.

With this surface water potential, Mount Choke becomes among the major water source highlands of Ethiopia not only for Ethiopia but also for the downstream countries of the Nile Basin, Egypt and Sudan. This mountain contributes more than 9.5 per cent of water for the Nile River, which makes the area among the most crucial water sources for the world's longest River.

According to Bekur Magazine, Mount Choke is among the highland areas of Ethiopia with over 4,100 meters above sea level. This ecosystem, according to research, helps Ethiopia to get regular rainfall both in the winter and summer seasons. In addition, since the area gets adequate rainfall with smooth and suitable weather conditions, the Choke basin is the most suitable area for agriculture.

Researchers believed that the mountain was created some 24 million years ago by the last volcano that erupted in the area. Though the forest coverage decreased over time, according to the people habiting around Choke, the area was covered by a dense forest. But through time, its forest coverage has declined, though currently, efforts are underway to conserve and recover the area. Still, the has a huge forest-covered area from recent years the conservation of Mount Choke gets new attention as it is named a community-reserved area.

Even though its forest has declined, still, the area's weather is suitable which makes the area among the biodiversity hotspot areas in Ethiopia. Mount Choke is among the biodiversity hotspot areas with its adequate rainfall and suitable weather condition. According to research, Choke has over 85 different plant species including endemic plant species found only in Ethiopia. In addition, this ecosystem is home to over 16 mammal wildlife species and over 41 bird species.

Researchers also argued that this area was a habitat for the Ethiopian Wolf, endemic to Ethiopia, though the wolf is currently not habituating in the area. Efforts are underway to reinstate the Ethiopian wolf to this ecosystem as conservation efforts are underway.

Speaking to Bekur, Andargachew Dessie, a resident at Zelalem Desta Kebele in the Choke area said that in the past the area's forest coverage was huge and very dense. “In the past, due to the density of the forest, people

could not travel within the forest, but now both its density and forest coverage became decreased,” he said. According to him, cutting the trees to build houses, for cooking and for agricultural expansion affected the forest coverage of the area. With the continuous misuse of the forest and lack of conservation efforts in the past has affected the area.

But, starting in recent years conservation efforts and research are underway to conserve this naturally critical ecosystem. Understanding the necessity of protecting and conserving this ecosystem, basin development projects, and community-based conservation projects were launched to conserve the area and rehabilitate the affected parts of the area. In addition, Debre Markos University also established Choke Research and Development project to support conservation efforts with scientific research.

Though efforts are there to conserve the area, still, it needs strong interventions from all concerned stakeholders. In addition to local efforts to conserve the area, the downstream countries that are the most beneficiaries of the Nile River waters should also support the local efforts to conserve this water tank. Since the rural people livings in the area do have not access to electricity and their income depends only on traditional agriculture, it is a tough task to easily conserve the area without total livelihood change in the community. What makes it tough is that the area is among the densely populated areas and transforming the way of life of the people is a tough task to conserve this ecosystem.

Speech by HE Abiy Ahmed (PhD)...

Ethiopia's wheat production program has also been a success this year. During the dry season, the climate SMART irrigation system produced approximately 2.5 million tons of wheat. We intend to cultivate 2 million hectares during the dry season alone in 2023, paving the way for food self-sufficiency and wheat export the following year.

My government is committed to developing climate-resilient regenerative agriculture and food system transformations that will increase food production, promote health and nutrition, safeguard our valuable land and natural resources, and protect the most vulnerable communities.

Finally, on the green energy transition:

Ethiopia seized the opportunity to capitalize on its substantial renewable energy potential. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is expected to be a vital source of energy for the country and region. Despite Ethiopia's significant renewable energy potential and substantial generation and transmission infrastructure, the country's

electricity access rate remains below 50%.

We are working hard to diversify and expand the energy mix to include other renewable energy sources such as geothermal, wind, and solar, with the goal of achieving universal access by 2030 through on-grid and off-grid technologies.

In the spirit of advancing partnership and collaboration, Ethiopia has been exporting green energy sources to neighboring countries, demonstrating our commitment to connecting countries through the East African Power Pool's emerging interconnected grid.

Ladies and gentlemen,

COP 27, the African COP, is an excellent opportunity for Africa to express our collective stance.

Africa is the most vulnerable to climate change, while accounting for less than 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions and approximately 17% of total global population. Nonetheless, Africa receives less than 5% of the world's

climate fund, which is mainly in debt. Combating climate change requires a collaborative effort and adequate funding.

While we are proud of our achievements and are meeting our nationally determined targets, there is still work to be done to protect our people and the environment. Ethiopia is, indeed, in the eye of the storm. Climate change could push more than 100 million people into poverty by 2030 if appropriate adaptation measures are not taken. Ethiopia is near the bottom of the carbon emissions scale, but it is disproportionately vulnerable to climate change.

Eight out of ten Ethiopians live in rural areas and rely on erratic rain-fed subsistence farming. Those who have made the least contribution to climate change suffer the most. These inequities cannot persist.

Our home-grown economic reform program is putting the necessary investment conditions to attract more private and concessional climate financing. Nonetheless, concessional funding is

required to scale our successes in proportion to the growing challenges.

Increased funding must reflect the magnitude of Africa's challenge. Countries must honor their climate pledges, provide the necessary financing, and address the outstanding issues of loss and damage and the carbon trading mechanism in ways that allow for faster results.

It is past time to address the growing financial and technological needs. Pledges must be translated into new resources and support. The time to avert the worst effects of the climate crisis is running out. We must now scale up our efforts.

Ethiopia's climate-conscious actions, green legacy, food sovereignty, and green energy, hopefully, will promote regional diplomacy inspiring more nations on the continent and beyond.

I hope that at COP27, we can work together to accelerate implementation. Africa demands progress for its people and the planet.”

Art & Culture

The Wonderful Maze National Park, *Emerging tourist site*

BY KFLEEYESUS ABEBE

If anything I witnessed during this journey, Southern western State is one proof that Ethiopia is a land of contrasts and extremes. It is however unfortunate that Ethiopia hasn't made its tourist destinations multiple enough to harness increased touristic activities.

For long, exploring, studying and promoting new sites were rare. The tourism sector now seems to be deviating from the old course of operating in a limited focus: developing and promoting established tourist sites. New tourist sites are now being explored, promoted and some even have basked under inscription at the UNESCO.

It is with this spirit we have been visiting various new tourist destinations across the South Ethiopia. Maze National Park, one of the youngest Ethiopian National parks was our destination after visiting Gedeo reserved forests, Hambricho mountain, the spectacular Mogo Kaka and Arba Minch Crocodile Ranch in Arba Minch. We woke up very early and started our journey from Arba Minch. We ate our breakfast good in Wolaita Sodo. It was a 216.4 km back from Arba Minch. The landscape that made the road winding is good to feast one's eyes on but difficult to go through. On our arrival, one of the journalists told us the presence of lions in the park. Our bus couldn't get into the park anymore. We had to change another car. Some got lucky to find a car but some of us were cut out. It was a bit scary knowing there is a lion inside the park.

It was for the first time that I found myself inside a national park that is full of different animal species. To see Swayne Hartebeest by your naked eye is such thrilling experience. Swayne Hartebeests are endemic mammals and exist in Ethiopia with a population that is third in the world. The 220 square KM park is a natural beauty as its vast plain landscape is covered by savanah grassland with Scattered Deciduous Broad Leave Trees. It also possesses rivers. In fact, the park's name is derived from Maze river: the largest river that crosses the park and drains to omo river.

Having this beauty, the endemic mamals and topography, Maze should have been among top tourist destination like Nechisar National Park or Semien Mountains. It should have facilities and promoted adequately. But Maze isn't yet adequately accessible as it has gravel road and hotels or resorts aren't in near by. It is with this regret and commitment the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region commemorated World Tourism



Day inside the park. The United Nations World Tourism Organisation themed the day 'Rethinking Tourism' considering the sector has been hit by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic-induced lockdowns and restrictions. But tourism in Ethiopia has also been affected by war and instability.

The region seeks to increase its visibility in tourism sector by coming up with new ideas and mechanisms. So, it adapted 'rethinking tourism' to exploring and developing new tourist destinations. It is exploring, expanding tourism and bidding for registration of additional heritages on UNESCO list.

Parallel with slogan of World tourism, Gofa Zone culture and tourism head Hailemariam Tesfaye says the state is in an encouraging moment to revolutionize the industry through various activities.

"Though we have rich resources of tourism, we haven't adequately benefited from the sector. We haven't developed and

promoted tourism as development policy was largely focused on agriculture and industrialization. Now, this seems to be changing.

Hailemariam also says the state wants to building on the unprecedented political and public recognition of the sector.

"The government is attaching equal emphasis to the sector and we are attempting to revolutionize the sector by adding tourism sites like Maze National park and others. We are also working to fulfill necessary facilities around so that tourist can visit the place easily. Works to register heritages on UNESCO list is also our major task ahead."

The park is noted for its population of the endangered Swayne's hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus swaynei*), and is said to be second only to Senkelle Swayne's Hartebeest Sanctuary in importance for that subspecies. Other animals who are common here are

African buffalos, Anubis baboons, Lions, Leopards, Vervet monkeys, oribis, Bohor reedbucks, waterbucks, bushbucks, Lesser kudus, Greater kudus, wheetahs, warthogs, servals, and Bushpigs. Maze National Park is home to 37 species of mammals and 196 species of birds. It is anticipated to be among major tourist destination.

Maze National Park is a secured place as park rangers are nearby and people in Gamo are hospitable. For instance, when we were left alone, it was a visitor who give us a ride. At the end we learnt his being a mayor of a nearby town. It is important to know Maze is hot and dry. So, having essential preparation, it is entertaining to go to Maza National Park, to build your camp site and watch bird and other species. My stay was enjoyable. For anyone who needs a retreat from crowded city and busy life, visiting the southern Ethiopia is a perfect fit.

Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region kept on marveling me and everyone in the field visit.

Is there really a God?

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

*All the craziness in the world
With all the injustices that unfold
All the pain and misery
Is this how it's supposed to be?
Some see life as a pleasant journey
Others as a never ending misery
Some are cruel and still get ahead
While others suffer for being good
So is there really a God*

Society

Preserving endogenous culture rewards

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Preserving cultural identities and delivering them to the next generation is one of the unique attributes of human kind. Culture- as a means to reflect the identity of a given society and manifestation of value systems- is an invisible code that is passed to the next generation in an abstract way. In most traditional societies preserving their identity is not only a social obligation but also a political commitment of individuals in power. Whenever politicians value the socio-cultural identities of a given society or group the reaction is obvious-they will get the same response from the masses. Lately, Russian House in Addis Ababa, what is commonly known as the Russian cultural Center has marked the National Unity Day. At the event Ethiopian graduates of Russian universities, representatives of the Russian Red Cross Hospital, the community of Russian businessmen and many friends of Russia were attended and a cultural event that reflect Russian Unity was displayed. Cultural shows (including photo exhibition) that reflect the unity and identity of Russian people were part of the program. This writer had a chance to visit the photo exhibition entitled “Kasan’s icon of Mother of God” and other traditional items that reflect the culture of Russian people. While visiting the exhibition, this reporter had interviewed an Ethiopian graduate of Russian University, film Director, Birhanu Shiberu, about the unity of Russian people and their special value systems towards cultural legacies.

According to Birhanu, despite the fact that Russia has been through different regimes (including a socialist system which was against all forms of religious practices) the religion and cultural identity of Russian people is preserved for centuries. Russians have a strong value to their culture and religion. No matter what kind of political principle a given party or regime follows it values the culture and identity of the society. It even values the culture of other societies who are not Russian. “While I was in Russia, I was able to see an Ethiopian made shield and spear which was well preserved in one of their museums. The shield and the spear were gifts from Ethiopian Emperor Menelik II and Empress Taitu to Russian citizens who used to serve at the palace. The Shield and the spear are still preserved within their museum and whoever has the chance to visit the gallery will witness how careful they are towards other’s value systems as they are careful to theirs. We should learn a lot from the experience of Russians in preserving



cultural practices and items.”

Whenever we talk about religious and cultural values of the society directly or indirectly we are also talking about the political culture of that given society. Because most cultures have some political background they trace from remote past. In this regard, valuing the cultural ground of that society is valuing the whole system. Culture is all about the identity and uniqueness of a given society. Whenever one talks about culture S/he is talking about the moral values of a particular society. In this regard, preserving the cultural identity of a given society is not an option; it is a must to do.

Indeed, cultural preservation is a complex subject which entails a careful balance of several elements. Ethiopia as a nation with various cultural practices is needed to give more attention in preserving its cultural values. Careful balancing and recording of several elements of culture has always had a positive impact on the whole system. If not it costs us a lot. For instance, once I was assigned to produce a forty minutes of documentary film on Ethiopia with

some crew. We were dispatched to the four corners of the country. The moment I started to direct the documentary, I realized that some members of the crew were collecting information cursorily without considering its impact. They were collecting shallow information. This is totally unprofessional and distorts the true images of that particular society and its cultural identity. For that reason, I was forced to go in person to the location to collect the needed information. Ethiopia is truly a massive land with unique cultural identities. This unique and complex identity needs a thorough study. Most of the religious and cultural structure of the people of Ethiopia is still untouched by scholars.

Preserving the past always has something to contribute to the current generation. The regime change might have its own political implications but the cultural identity of the society should always be preserved and kept for the next generation. The more we give value to the cultural values of others the more we cement our unity. This is what I learnt from the Russians. The more we neglect cultural preservation, the less flexible our

world becomes. When we are ignorant of the importance of cultural protection, our thinking gets narrower. If we tend to culturally homogenize, we will lose the value of learning from multiple perspectives. This limits our ability to solve unusual problems and, in some situations, can be harmful.

The young generation, in this regard, must grasp the value and need for cultural preservation. A society is always respected, no matter how modest it is. A person’s cultural heritage and identity should be something to be proud of. The current generation certainly holds firmly on to the existing community. And move it on to the next generation so that it can continue to flourish for many more generations. Preserving cultural diversity helps not only those whose traditions we protect but it also preserves indigenous philosophies and ways of thinking about which we can learn. Furthermore, living in a dynamic world makes life more interesting. As a land of multitudes Ethiopia has a lot to contribute to the whole world. Using the available resource and valuing endogenous diverse cultural practices the nation can be a mosaic of culture.

Law & Politics

Pan-African journalism vs AU-brokered peace

BY WORKU BELACHEW

Pan-Africanism is a buzzword for most African studies scholars. Though having a wide array of definitions, many agree that pan-Africanism is still relevant to the continent's overall development. In his paper back in 2014 'Pan-Africanism: A historical analysis,' Prof. Tessema Taa of the Addis Ababa University argues that there is no saturated consensus on the definition of the concept. But he concludes that Pan-Africanism will assist the fulfillment of the mission and vision of African Unity and will remain a cornerstone of African people's pride for generations to come in a sustainable manner.

Despite the absence of consensus on the definition of Pan-Africanism, one can at least furnish a working definition of it. We may use some concepts from a statement of former AUC Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma's speech presented on the occasion of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Organization of African Unity and the Debate of the Assembly on Pan Africanism and the African Renaissance. "Africa must build confidence in itself, in its ability and obligation to be drivers of its destiny," she argued. What is more, the pan-African aspirations discussed earlier also hint the fact that Africans should unleash their full potential and capabilities.

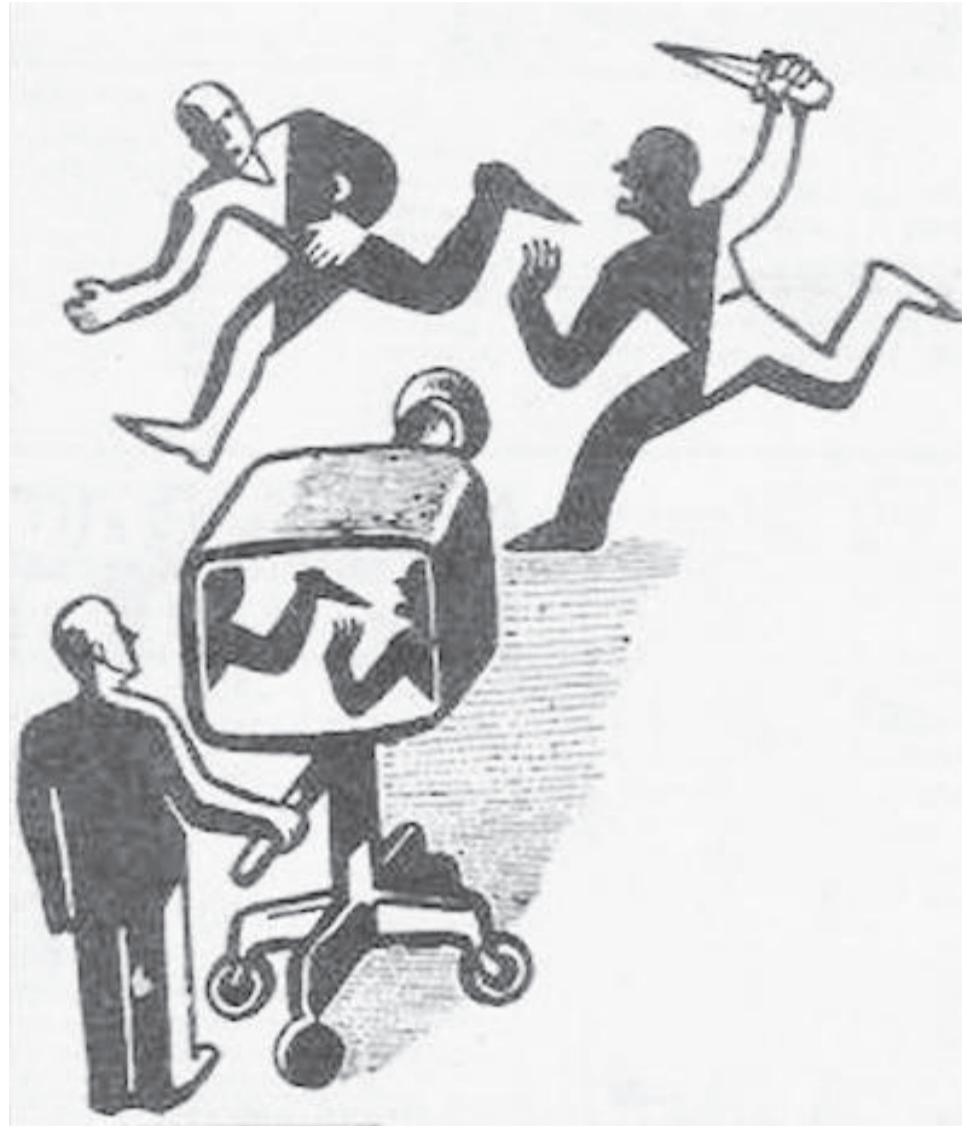
Hence, one may say that Pan-African journalistic practices are; among others, journalistic works of African media houses and journalists alike aiming at promoting the aspirations and visions expressed in Agenda 2063. More specifically, to our purpose, it could mean works aligned to the effort of devising 'African solutions' to challenges the continent is facing and contextualizing 'African solutions' with the continent's blue print—Agenda 2063—in the journalistic works of African media houses.

Let's have a glance into certain African media reporting of the PCHA.

In a news story headlined: 'Ethiopia and Tigray make peace pact' published in Nov. 3, 2022, Mail&Gardian, a South African outlet, investigative and comment publication highlights on the AU-led peace effort.

The third paragraph of the story is more or less a showcase to the pan-African framing it used. "In a joint statement, negotiators from the warring sides said they had agreed to "permanently silence the guns and end the two years of conflict in northern Ethiopia."

The Herald of Zimbabwe in its publication on November 4, 2022, had just delved into analysis on whether or not the pact would be enforceable or not focusing on



the "DDR" perspective. "Officials close to peace talks aimed at ending Ethiopia's deadly two-year war confirmed the full text of the signed accord on Thursday, but a key question remains: What led Tigray regional leaders to agree to terms that include rapid disarmament and full federal government control? The story barely treated pan-African issues.

A seemingly pan-African news reporting of the event was observed in the Ghanaian Times. Of course, the Ghanaian Times used a story from Xinhua. In a story that goes with the headline of 'Ethiopia govt, rebel agree to a ceasefire,' in the second paragraph of the story, it summarizes the fact that the process was an African Union led by a High Representative of the AU for the Horn of Africa; former President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta and former deputy president of South Africa, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Terms that have been in use to pressurize Ethiopia appear in one paragraph. Otherwise, it clearly states that the process was "facilitated by a pan-African bloc as part of an ongoing process to support the related parties in finding a political solution to the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. It has also described the process as an outcome of 'African solutions to African problems' quoting from the statement made by Mr. Obassanjo. Further, it used the term 'silence the guns' which is in line with the

AU's aspirations.

Various newspapers in East Africa also made reports on the event. Kenya's People's Daily (PD) for instance frames it from the 'Silencing the Guns' aspect. The term appeared once in the headline and for the second time in the news story. The DDR terms are also visible. "The parties agreed on 'systematic, orderly, smooth and coordinated disarmament...."

Nation also published a story on the peace deal right in November 02, 2022. The story with headline: 'Ethiopia's rival parties sign peace agreement,' focused on the fact that the parties will "Silence the guns in principle" and described it as a milestone in the "AU-led mediation process". The two terms enclosed in quotations are relevant in that it fits into the Pan-African journalistic practices.

The Ethiopian Herald on its part in a news story published on November 3, 2022 headlined 'AU-brokered peace talks uphold the constitution,' the very headline and two paragraphs treated principles enshrined in Africa's aspirations. "AU had been persistent in bringing about peace, security, and stability in Ethiopia, he said, adding that the signing of the agreement has proven the practicality of 'African Solution to African Problems. The two sides also read out the joint statement of the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front."

Implication

PART II

For the purpose of this article, the writer assessed certain media houses' news reporting concerning the November 02, 2022 AU-led peace accord signed in Pretoria, South Africa. Six African and five global media outlets that were actively reporting on the northern conflict were selected.

This piece of work mainly attaches importance to whether or not African media houses adhere to Pan-African journalistic reporting in their treatment of the peace accord signed on November 02, 2022. Among the six outlets published in various sub-regions of Africa, four of them framed their news story form a pan-African angle and looked like to have promoted the aspirations and objectives expressed in Agenda 2063. Among these, *The Ghanaian Times*; *The Ethiopian Herald and Nation* did a remarkable job. On the other hand, *PD*, *The Herald* and *AL-Ahram* mainly focused on other aspects. It quoted the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa on the "disarm, demobilize and reintegrate" perspective. There is nothing in the story related to Pan-African issues.

Global media coverage is also observed in this analysis. The reason is just to compare whether or not African media practices are distinct in their treatment of such sensitive African issues.

Hence, one outlet TRT World report neither focuses on Pan-African issues nor other aspects of blaming nor pressure frames. Besides, CGTN in its first parts touched up on the aspirations but it interestingly diverts later by inserting other aspects that are usually the framing of western media houses.

The reporting of CNN and Al-Jazeera was highly focusing on DDR perspective. They seem to have attached high emphasis on a kind of reporting focusing on the dichotomy of winner/loser. The reporting of the rest media houses inclines to Pan-African journalistic practice.

In essence, African media houses should familiarize themselves with the aspirations, vision, and objectives of Agenda 2063. Their treatment of highly sensitive African issues, such as peace and security, should not merely imitate the wording and phrasing of the western media. It is tough to say that the African media houses used a different way of covering the story. In one way or another, whether one calls it for the sake of balance or whatever, they seem to be the victim of the western media style of journalism—focusing on sensational issues. African journalism curriculum and trainings of various sort must be checked again to integrate the concepts expressed the Agenda 2063.

Ed.'s note: The author is also founding member and CEO of African Studies Professional Association.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

'Election Monitors'... Next Time!

I've to confess that for much of the last couple of weeks I've been 'following' the midterm elections. What are they to me? That's not a very friendly question, is it? Well I didn't say they have anything to do with me. But family and friends in the Diaspora tell us we should be concerned. In fact, I read somewhere on the social media some member of congress who is said to have been behind very unfriendly bills against Ethiopia has lost his seat and been replaced by a reasonable guy. Now that's news. Maybe if he had focused on doing what he was supposed to do for his constituents maybe he wouldn't have been given the marching orders. Speaking of politicians on that side of the Atlantic you can't help wondering why some of them are losing sleep to see this country suffering; a country which did no harm to them or their nation! But then, from what our brethren over there tell us it's safe to say most of the sanctions bills writers haven't the scantest knowledge of this country and are just dancing to the tune of the lobby groups.

Anyways, reading and listening to the American media in the days leading to voting day takes one's breath away. No exaggeration! You can't help it but end up with a hundred and one questions as you see the myth of professional, non-partisan journalism being blown to pieces. Of course, having been on the receiving end of their vile, hate-filled and unabashedly racist narratives we might not be supposed to be surprised. But then since everything was about American elections you expect there will be accountability and they'd be playing

by the rule. Their attacks were not at the contenders of 'the other side' but at each other too. We're talking about the media of what is still supposed to be the most powerful nation on earth!

Now, we always thought that when it comes to conducting fair and trouble-free elections the right and the civilized way that's the very nation that comes ahead of almost every other country. Nothing can go wrong since the issues of media partisanship, registration fraud; cheating at the polls, political interference and the like we in this part of the world face don't exist in that part of the world. There can be no cheating of any kind, voter intimidation, threats of election related violence and the like over there!

But wait a minute by same turn of fate those are some the things we've been hearing lately!

By the way while we're at it there is this clip where a beefy fellow practically chocks a female supporter of the 'other candidate' for no reason at all. And the news was that the candidate he supports didn't say anything about the incident!

By the way, some of the news we've been hearing lately are the last things we expected to hear from that part of the world. In one report there was this info of some parts of the country in danger of facing 'famine.' What! No, this is not some proofreading mistake. 'Famine' seems to have entered the dictionary over there. Not that it's destined to happen now or ever. But the very fact that you hear

that scary term in connection with such a powerful nation is enough to remind us that this world is getting really messed up.

Look at what is happening in Europe like the energy crisis because of the Russian sanctions by the West. It might not be an immediate agenda for us whether the sanctions are justified or not. That's maybe for history to unravel. But then hundreds millions of Europeans are facing a real chilly and freezing winter and if one isn't surprised at hearing many are worried as to how they will make it through the winter months nothing would surprise one. The Russia Ukraine war is many things other than actual stories of bombs and bullets. In fact we have been hearing that if the status quo remains unchanged the world might face a nuclear catastrophe. Scary! A nuclear showdown is not about taking out some arms silo or something. It is not about knocking out a few scores of enemy tanks and fighter jets. Sometime back I've heard a lady who should have known much better saying that nuclear war is not our worry; and this is a woman who have been out and about this world and should have known better. No lady, any nuclear showdown is every single human being's worry.

Coming back to those midterm elections one is pardoned if one's respect for so-called pollsters is dented. After the total flop of many the 'polling results' don't blame us for having second thoughts about future public opinion polls. Why, we have been quoting results of some pollsters for quite some time thinking they couldn't have nothing wrong.

Poor us! Well this time they are! I mean the Red Wave they have been telling the world would happen is far from happening. The contenders, many probably hoodwinked by so-called polls, too were so sure that it would be a virtual Red sweep you couldn't miss the flashes of arrogance here and there.

The so-called mainstream media! Well, well, well! Do we have some news over there! Actually, it's not much of any news for us. Especially over the past couple of years we back here have realized what the so-called mainstream media is made of. Fairness? What fairness! If you raise the term 'fairness' in connection with the so-called mainstream western media you're raising a term that has disappeared from their dictionaries. The bottom line is that the mainstream media's agenda-driven profit-oriented 'policy' has sent it spiraling into the abyss of hate-mongering and conflict-fostering depths. That's the entire story. Did you know much of the mainstream media didn't carry coverage of the peace talks in Pretoria while during the actual conflict they were coming out with all kinds of stories? It seems that fairness and professional integrity have been cast on the wayside with the current catch term being, "It's business, stupid!" In modern journalism if you want to be on the news you don't have to build a bridge, you've to destroy it!

By the way, with the 2024 presidential elections here's a little suggestion if it helps to make things any better; how about election monitors from elsewhere! It isn't without reason we say that this world is getting weirder by the day!

When in Qatar act like Qataris!

Finally, the World Cup is here. Do I sound like I'm excited? Of course, I am! What in the world is wrong with that? I'm not a fan of any particular team when it comes to the World Cup. I'll tell you what I do to make it a little more interesting. I support the underdogs in every match. I mean why I should cheer on a team I now will probably win easily. No action there. But with the underdogs you can forget about their winning and the very spirited fight they put up with the 'big boys' is enough to make the match worth watching. If they lose it will not make any news. "So, what else were you expecting?" But if they win that'd be 'breaking news.' "I told you that the chess board is fast changing and the big boys of yesterday are no more invincible!"

Professional football should be where you could teach the kids, "Look, that's what we call great discipline. Remember football is about peace and brotherhood and not about chaos." But alas, these days we see so much indiscipline on the fields you wonder what really is happening with those rich young guys. Of course they are young! And rich too! What do you mean Ronaldo is knocking on the door to forty! Yes of course he is. That's what makes him real 'young!' you need some class to be still wearing the jersey at that age. Well, I've to admit he's almost a shell of his best days, but the guy still shows flashes of those magic skills of him!

I'll tell you what makes me uncomfortable watching EPL and other leagues. The breakdown of discipline and the mob-like actions of

professional players acting like village toughs. Every time they aren't happy with the referees' decision they refuse to accept it without creating some chaotic scenery. The referees are practically mobbed. It's stupid as stupid can be. The full back almost breaks the legs of the star striker of the other team and when the referee stops play he's mobbed by eleven players. Even the VAR shows details of the horrific foul play and they still try to deny it! What is it with this rich guys anyway that makes them think they deserve special treatment and rules are for 'the masses!' Off field the actions of team managers and coaching staff are no better. Their players commit fouls which should have made them shrink with shame but they still try to play the 'card of innocence' and give the fourth referees some hard time. For all practical purposes professional football should do something about the increasing disciplinary excesses on field and off it.

We had our bad days back here as fans of various EPL teams try to make their statements with fists and knives! There was this hotel which aired weekend EPL games. It was a nice hotel and the crowd was the likes that mind their own businesses and leave others to their businesses. For some reason often times a meeting between the Reds and the Gunners never ended with the fans calling it a day and going to their homes. Skirmishes and group punch-ups were common. One day the skirmishes turned into all out bottle and chair throwing mayhem and entire glass walls of the hotel were turned into dust. Things

sometimes were that bad. People even knifed each other because thousands of miles away some Ronaldo missed a penalty; or some Messi scored a hat trick. Some confrontations have even turned fatal. That wasn't about football.

So you're forced to ask is all this really about football or is it about the money! The shocking amount of transfer money being spent on players leaves you wide mouthed. The transfer fees in professional football seem to have reached a stage where you could safely use the term "crazy!" Hundreds of millions for players who sometime turn out to be total disasters! As citizens of this side of the not affluent world you are pardoned to think "How many hospitals would a hundred and forty million pounds made us

Is there anything as overexposure? I mean are we really having too much of football especially the English Premier League! Is there any such thing? Well I've come across people who think exactly that! They think the media coverage is too much. Well that too is a little problematic to quantify. But all this talk of players bagging hundreds of thousands a week sometimes seems to affect some young souls.

I'll tell you a story. There's this kid who this year is in junior high. He's also a very good student; most of the time finishing top of his class. The kid is also good at football. That's where the real story begins. His career goal is to be a professional footballer. More shocking is his reason for such a decision; this is what he said to his parents; "Do you know any job

that pays two hundred pounds a week!" I mean he might be good, but he's good at the village level and has to a long way to go even to join a lower league club, and also he isn't getting any younger. Those around him had put wrong ideas into his mind. Now his folks are doing their best to take him across the Atlantic to continue his studies. "Yes I'll go." that's what he says. But once he'd stay for and fly to England. Why? Of course, to be a professional footballer and land his two hundred thousand pounds a week job! This writer, too, tried to talk some sense into him that he should at least first finish his college education and only then he can decide what to do with his life. He didn't budge.

Coming back to Qatar World Cup we only hope politics won't spoil it! Signs from some circles indicate that there are groups planning to take their controversial agendas to what should supposedly have been the most peaceful event in a world with unlimited hatred and hostility. The sad part for global sport is that it has already been politicized so much so that innocent sports men and women are suffering for whom they are. Look at the hundreds of Russian sportsmen and women that have been kicked out of global sport. And that country produces some of the best!

The World Cup is about peace and brotherhood; trying to make it anything different would be disservice to the sport and mankind as a whole! They say when in Rome act like Romans.

The bottom line here is, when in Qatar act like Qataris!

Diplomatic Corner

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIER

Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, visited different work units of the Ethiopian Consulate General in Dubai on November 11th 2022.

During the visit, he was briefed by the Consul General, Ambassador Aklilu Kebede, about the activities being carried out to enhance the services offered to citizens, uphold their rights and interests, encourage participation from the Diaspora, and advance trade, investment, and tourism for the benefit of Ethiopia.

The ambassador also mentioned that the Consulate General Office collaborates with the Ethiopian Community Association in Dubai and the Northern Emirates as well as with other national stakeholders in order to ensure the protection of the rights and interests of the Ethiopians.

He urged all diaspora members and organizations to collaborate with the Consulate, pointing out that the government cannot address all of the issues with its limited resources.



The Ethiopian Consulate General Office in Dubai and Northern Emirates was opened in 2004 and is working with a focus on protecting the rights and interests of citizens through citizen-oriented diplomacy and increasing the participation of the diaspora.



Pakistan hails Ethiopian government for signing peace accord with TPLF

Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Jauhar Saleem on Thursday hailed the government of Ethiopia for signing a peace accord with the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) to bring peace and stability in the northern Ethiopia in particular, and the Horn of Africa in general.

The Foreign Secretary appreciated the Ethiopian government's efforts for peace in a meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Jemal Beker (November 10) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.

Ethiopia appreciates Côte d'Ivoire for principled support in UN Human Rights Council

Yesterday, H.E. Shitaye Minale, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and H.E. Maes Ennio, Ambassador of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to Ethiopia, held a discussion on the bilateral relations of the two brotherly countries.

During their discussion, H.E. Ambassador Shitaye expressed her gratitude to the Government of Cote d'Ivoire for its unreserved support in the UN Human Rights Council. As an elected member of the UN Human Rights Council since January 2021, Côte d'Ivoire has twice objected to the Council's resolution against Ethiopia during its 33rd and 51st sessions in Geneva in 2021 and 2022, respectively. By countering the resolution, Cote d'Ivoire has shown its robust solidarity with Ethiopia in front of the international community.

She also said that the Government of Ethiopia attaches great importance to its partnership with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and desires to continue further consolidating the ties, especially on key bilateral, regional, and global matters. The meeting between the Heads of States of the two countries in Abidjan last week, she added, also proved the solid partnership



between the countries.

Furthermore, Ambassador Shitaye briefed H.E. Ambassador Maes and his colleagues on the current situation in Ethiopia, particularly on the recent Cessation of Hostilities agreement reached between the FDRE Government and the TPLF. She stressed that the agreement was the result of the Government's long-held commitment to ensure lasting peace and stability in the country. She further added that the Government remains committed to the full implementation of the agreement. She elaborated that the agreement further exhibited the ability of Africans to solve their own problems by themselves and in their own way.

H.E. Ambassador Maes Ennio, on his part, expressed his confidence that the CoH will bring about long lasting peace to Ethiopia. He also reiterated his country's interest in taking bilateral relations to new heights. He further expressed his commitment not only to solidify the already firm ties but also to broaden the bilateral relations in new areas.

In order to deliberate at length and closely follow up on all bilateral issues, the two embassies have set up a regular biweekly joint session and laid down a joint plan of action.