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Solomon Gebre-Egziabher



Photo: Ashenafi Gudeta

Banchi Teshaye



Eng. Surafel Eshetu

Ethnic Tigray metropolitans remind war mongers public's suffering

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA-Those who oppose the peace accord between the government and the TPLF should feel the immense suffering the people of Tigray have witnessed as a result of the war, said members of the Tigray community here.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), resident of Addis Ababa Solomon Gebre-Egziabher stated that the Cessation

of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) reached between the government and the TPLF is exciting for the Tigray people. The accord is embarrassing to some forces that wanted to use the opportunity to intervene.

The fact that the parties reached an agreement under the leadership of the African Union has shown the world that Africans have the capacity to solve their problems on their own. The participation of all actors is crucial for the agreement to

reach its goal.

Solomon further highlighted that some parties who are living in distant places and peacefully, are not concerned about problems that the people of Tigray are facing on the ground and are opposing the agreement. "Putting aside their own personal interests, those groups should feel the suffering of the people of Tigray and should refrain from this action."

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MoH, foreign aid groups providing medicine, medical equipment to Tigray

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA- Ministry of Health (MoH) and various humanitarian organizations have been accelerating the provision of medicine and medical equipment to Tigray state.

MoH announced that it has delivered medicine and medical equipment worth over six million Birr in the first phase of the provision of health related materials to implement the South African Cessation of Hostilities agreement.

By the same token it has provided medical services and materials worth over one million Birr to Shire Hospital and nine health centers in the second phase of the provision.

In the third phase, in collaboration with National Disaster Risk Management Commission, MoH has been transporting similar materials valued at 1.7 million Birr

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Ready for Tomorrow!

CoHA manifests gov't adherence to Ethiopia's sovereignty: Legal analyst

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) that the government signed recently with TPLF is the manifestation of the former's commitment and consistency in safeguarding Ethiopia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, according to a legal analyst.

The analyst Derege Demissie told local media that the government made various efforts to avoid the conflict and to come up with a peaceful resolution to the difference. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) consistently emphasized on different occasions the need to protect the unity and territorial integrity of Ethiopia and asserted that there is no compromise in the two principles.

Despite all those challenges and pressures from external actors, the government is

See CoHA ... Page 3



Dagnawfire Samuel

Diasporas expected to support peace accord swift implementation

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA- The implementation of the peace agreement that was signed between the government and TPLF requires the active participation of Ethiopians at

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Remarkable progress achieved in Ethiopia's economy amid challenges promising to catch prosperity

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Wretched lives

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News



Addis to campaign against violence in children, women

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- The Addis Ababa City Women, Children and Social Affairs Bureau announced that a city-wide campaign will be held as of today to end violence against children and women as well as curtail sexual abuse and harassment.

The bureau will mark this year's children's day on November 20, 2022 under the theme "Comfortable and Peaceful Ethiopia for All Children," in various activities.

Speaking at an event to discuss this year's children's day yesterday, Bureau Head Hanna Yeshinegus (PhD) stated that the campaign aims to create public awareness and bring behavioral change and sustainable solution to sexual assaults in the capital. Victims of sexual assaults have got rehabilitation and care in Abebech Gobena, Menelik II, Yekatit 12 and Zewditu Memorial hospitals in the capital.

Nurturing a healthy, productive and civic-minded generation is instrumental in galvanizing the desired change in the country, the head said, adding that close partnership among stakeholders is crucial to create a conducive environment to the next generation, women and children.

"We have discussed issues of children and women with stakeholders and non-profit organizations that are working to end violation of children and women's rights in the city. A 991 toll free number was also created to the public to inform sexual assaults, labor exploitation and various offences against women and children."

High time to prioritize reconciliation for lasting peace: Scholar

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA—Religious leaders, public figures as well as the elderly need to play a significant role in creating cohesion and trust among fellow citizens so as to help the latter build trust and fraternity, ethnic Tigray Scholar said.

Having a stay with local media, State University of New York, Oneonta Assistant Professor Beniam Awash noted that priority must be given to preserving and enhancing the longstanding values of togetherness, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence to strengthen people to people ties.

"Despite political ideology differences, putting peace first is quite important. In order to do this, religious leaders, elders as well as public figures are expected to take



the lead. Moreover, ethnic Tigray fellows wherever they are, need to prioritize peace. Putting aside the past, it is essential to focus on carrying out activities that leads to peace and unity," he added.

As to him, regardless of geographical location, the first thing that should be on

the table is peace. Hate politics needs to be demolished once and for all, and choosing peaceful resolution is not committing a crime.

He said, "It is the people of Tigray the first to be mentioned amongst those who get the most benefit out of the signed peace deal between the government and TPLF. Even though there are political queries that need to be addressed, Ethnic Tigray elites, Diaspora community as well as the people need to be patient till the situation in the country gets stabilized. After all, those who are against peace are not normal and their anti-peace move is not acceptable."

In order to have lasting peace, each part must play their role. More importantly, utmost efforts should be exerted in enhancing nation's asset of living in harmony and respect, he opined.

AEPAC intensifying efforts to reinstate Ethiopia in AGOA

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Following the peace agreement, Ethiopian-Americans are intensifying efforts to reinstate Ethiopia in AGOA, said American-Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC).

AEPAC's Chairperson MesfinTegenu has written a letter to United State Trade Representative (USTR) to re-energize the conversation.

"Reinstating Ethiopia within AGOA is a symbolic demonstration of the U.S. Government's support for the agreement and Ethiopia as an ally," he said.

According to AEPAC, the decision to delist Ethiopia from AGOA continues



to damage the Ethiopia's economy. With another major apparel business exiting hundreds more people mostly women lose their jobs. Now peace has been secured, the U.S. must reinstate Ethiopia to AGOA.

Play based learning transforms traditional teaching process

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Plan International disclosed that PlayMatters project has been transforming traditional learning and teaching process to joyful learning in refugee and host community contexts in Ethiopia.

Briefing media, Plan International Country Director Mudasser Siddiqui on Wednesday said that PlayMatters project has been contributing to build sustainable capacity in existing education systems to integrate play based learning approaches for 800,000 learners ages from 3 to 12 in refugee and host community contexts in Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania.

"We are making learning as enjoyable as effective as possible for children who are from Ethiopia and outside of Ethiopia. It is about making sure that play and games are the center of the learning process. Children

are growing and learning in an enjoyable manner."

As for him, the project reached out directly to more than 40,000 children, had sufficient education materials for more than 15,000 children and provided teachers training programs and others. The project has been implemented in five states in Ethiopia.

Its approach is aligned with the Ethiopian curriculum which promotes the use of child centered approaches particularly at the ECD and primary school level. The play based learning approach is intended to transform the traditional learning and teaching process conventionally known as the "Chalk and talk" to an interactive and joyful learning, he said.

As to him, the project doesn't promote curriculum change. It only promotes joyful learning in schools. It builds the capacity of



parents or guardians as well as communities, but most importantly teachers' skills and motivations to integrate play based learning methods into their classrooms, across subjects, in alignment with existing curricula, at pre-primary and primary schools.

The Ministry of Women and Social Affairs State Minister Alemitu Omod for her part said that the project has its contribution for children bringing basic changes in their educational system. The Ministry is committed in supporting the project.

News

Ethiopia's peace crucial to realize regional integration: Amb. James

ADDIS ABABA- Peace in Ethiopia is crucial to move forward and realize the process of regional integration, South Sudanese Ambassador to Ethiopia James Pitia Morgan said.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, South Sudan Ambassador James Morgan noted that South Sudan is pleased to welcome the recent peace deal reached between the Government of Ethiopia and TPLF.

It is to be recalled that the government and the TPLF have agreed to bring normalcy based on respect and upholding of the country's constitution, territorial integrity, and sovereignty.

The agreement was signed in Pretoria, South Africa under auspices of the African Union with a principle of African solutions to African problems.

The ambassador noted that South Sudan expressed its concern right after the beginning of the crisis in November 2020, stressing the peace agreement has far reaching implications beyond Ethiopia.

"We are talking about peace, this is very important for all of us. It is not only for Ethiopia, TPLF and not for anybody else, but it is a very good thing for the nation of Ethiopia as a whole and the neighboring countries, Africa and international community as a whole," he said.



He explained that all of the neighboring countries of Ethiopia and African continent as whole—there is nobody who was not really calling for peace because Ethiopia is a model.

"When Ethiopia is not peaceful, the entire region is affected; we don't feel comfortable about it. Ethiopia has a very bigger role to play in this region. The role of Ethiopia in this region is more important than the internal crisis that took place over the past two years, because the region could not move forward in its regional integration process which supposed to be spearheaded by Ethiopia," he added.

The peace talk was mediated by former president of Nigeria and that alone tells us it was an African solution to African problems, the ambassador noted.

This is what we have been saying all the

time that African problems can find solutions within the context of the African, he said, lauding: "I think that is very important that the African Union is able to spearhead this peace talks and brought into conclusion."

The ambassador commended and welcomed some of Ethiopia's friends beyond Africa who helped the peace

talks to bear fruit.

"We want peace in Ethiopia so that we move forward. With the issue of regional integration, the continent was also concerned with the crisis in Ethiopia because we have agenda 2063 ahead of us and this agenda cannot be achieved unless this continent itself is peaceful. That is why the African Union, the region, our region in IGAD, the continent as whole and the international community in general, everybody, were concerned," the ambassador pointed out.

He stressed that following this development, the ambassador expressed hope that a lot of support would come from friendly countries and the international community to support the people and government of Ethiopia in restoring basic services to people who are affected by the conflict.

MoH, foreign...

to the state.

Likewise, 33.9 metric tons of basic medical equipment, emergency drugs and surgery materials that has been obtained from the International Red Cross Committee has arrived in Mekelle in this week.

Explaining the existence of an enabling condition to strengthen the provision of pharmaceutical services, the ministry said that different international humanitarian organizations and Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service (EPSS) would intensify discharging their responsibilities for the accessibility of medical services.

CoHA...

consistently working to ensure the peace and stability of the country. Even after the conflict erupted, the government has made various efforts including the announcement of a ceasefire which is the real demonstration of its commitment for peace, Derege added.

Regarding the implementation of the CoHA, the legal analyst highlighted that the signatory bodies are expected to provide specific modalities on how to implement the truce. "I shared Prime Minister Abiy's view that persistent works are crucial for the full implementation of the peace accord. Both parties need to consider their respective constituencies and accommodate each other."

It is to be recalled that Premier Abiy underscored the significance of the peace agreement in ending the war and stepping up growth and development of the nation during his parliamentary address last Tuesday. Abiy further stated the impossibility to achieve peace and development goals of the nation while grappling with the vicious circle of war and called on the public to work to contribute share for the success of the peace agreement.

Ethnic Tigray...

Another ethnic Tigray Banchi Teshaye, who expressed her delight in hearing the voices of her families after two years, pointed out that all stakeholders must fulfill their responsibilities in order for the signed agreement to be successful. "War has never been good for anyone. Therefore, we must work to strengthen the brotherhood of the people by forgetting and forgiving the problems of the past."

Noting some parties have been talking about war while putting their families in a stable situation, Banchi indicated

those elements are opposing the peace agreement without being saddened by the suffering of the people due to the war.

All those who care about the peace of the country and the wellbeing of the people should fight those conflict actors together and make them refrain from these destructive activities, Eng. Surafel Eshetu, another ethnic Tigray, made the appeal. "The peace agreement is a great relief for the people of Tigray and for Ethiopia as a country."

"Our next homework is to work hand and glove so that the agreement can be reached. Peace is where we all benefit equally, so we should contribute our share to its success."

The truce is the platform where Ethiopians won again as a country. It is inappropriate to oppose the agreement while making excuses without considering the suffering of the people. Therefore, ethnic Tigray Diaspora who are in favorable conditions should prepare themselves to fulfill their responsibilities for the success of the peace agreement, Surafel emphasized.

Diasporas expected ...

home and abroad and some Ethiopian Diasporas should shun warmongering, a call was made.

Speaking to local media, an Ethiopian Diaspora Dagnawfire Samuel reminded those groups that have engaged in undermining the peace accord that the two-year conflict has caused loss of lives and immense suffering of the people on both sides of the conflict. "Accordingly, the Diaspora community living in different parts of the globe should support the realization of the truce for the benefit of the people and economy of Ethiopia."

There are still many activities remaining to



Negasi Beyene

implement the accord. Article six of the peace agreement stipulated the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of combatants and such kinds of activities takes time and resources and demand

the participation of all actors including Diaspora Ethiopians.

The truce is a foundation for peace and will be the basic element for future talks and agreements. However, some anti-peace elements in home and abroad have tried to ruin the peace agreement and dismantle the country and the situation demands proportional response from peace-loving Ethiopians, he added.

For his part, an ethnic Tigray Diaspora Negasi Beyene said the people of Tigray have suffered a lot due to the conflict and the peace agreement is a milestone to ensure lasting peace in the state and in the country

at large. "War will not be a source of solution to problems. Due to the conflict that was erupted by the interest and pressures of both internal and external actors, the people of Tigray have been extremely ravaged."

Commending the historic moves of the signatory parties, Negasi insisted the two sides to be committed for the implementation of the Pretoria agreement and Nairobi declaration. "The Diaspora community is also expected to give overwhelming support to the execution of the accord which is expected to be a basic milestone for ensuring peace and stability in Ethiopia."

Opinion

Reauthorization of AGOA: Essential to benefit low income families

BY GETACHEW MINAS

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is a “nonreciprocal trade preference program” that provides duty-free treatment to U.S. imports of certain products from eligible sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries. Ethiopia had been a beneficiary of this program. Unfortunately, it lost all its benefits from AGOA since January 1, 2022 when U.S. President Joe Biden decided that Ethiopia, Guinea, and Mali did not meet the requirements of the Act and had terminated the designation of the three countries as beneficiary SSA countries.

Ethiopia argued the decision would affect “the livelihoods of more than 200,000 low-income families mostly, women who have got nothing to do with the conflict. Biden’s decision came despite efforts from U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Congress woman Karen Bass (D-Calif.) urging the President “to reconsider” his decision. They were concerned that the suspension of AGOA benefits would be counterproductive and disproportionately harm the most vulnerable Ethiopians.

Initially, Ethiopia was considered as one of the fastest growing states among the IMF member countries. It was noted that its growth resulted from government investment in infrastructure and sustained progress in the agricultural and service sectors. Most of its population was engaged in the agricultural sector, while the service sector has exceeded agriculture as the principal source of GDP.

Studies indicated that Ethiopia used to have the lowest level of income-inequality in Africa and one of the lowest in the world. Despite progress toward eliminating extreme poverty, Ethiopia remains one of the poorest countries in the world, due to both rapid population growth and a low starting base. Its agriculture was affected by rainfall variability associated with global weather conditions and worst drought. This development created food insecurity for millions of Ethiopians.

The government was heavily engaged in the economy with “negligible” role for the private sector. Its major engagement was in infrastructure projects that included power production and distribution, roads, railways, airports and industrial parks. Key sectors are state-owned, including telecommunications which is now partially privatized, banking and insurance. It was engaged in power production which is currently being exported to neighboring countries. Under Ethiopia’s constitution, the state owns all land and provides long-term leases to tenants. Reports indicate that title rights in urban areas are poorly regulated and subject to corruption. The AGOA preliminary “evaluation” of the economic sectors also referred to Ethiopia’s foreign exchange earnings being led by the service sector.

The major foreign exchange earner is primarily the state-run Ethiopian Airlines, followed by exports of several commodities. While coffee remains the largest foreign exchange earner, Ethiopia is diversifying

exports. These export commodities are gold, sesame, khat, livestock and horticulture products which are becoming increasingly important. Manufacturing represented a low share of total exports, but its exports should increase in future years due to a growing international market. The evaluation also referred to the banking, insurance, telecommunications, and micro-credit industries which are restricted to domestic investors. It is reported that Ethiopia has attracted roughly billions in foreign direct investment (FDI), mostly from China, Turkey, India, the EU and US.

Studies indicated that investment in Ethiopia has been primarily in infrastructure, construction, agriculture/horticulture, agricultural processing, textiles, leather and leather products. To support industrialization in sectors where Ethiopia has a comparative advantage, such as textiles and garments, leather goods, and processed agricultural products, Ethiopia plans to increase installed “power” generation capacity. To achieve this objective, it has built dams and expanded to other sources of renewable energy. The government devalued the Birr to increase exports and alleviate a chronic foreign currency shortage in the country. It also encouraged agricultural and industrial production for domestic and external markets. It used the opportunity provided by AGOA to export certain products duty-free to the US market thereby earning foreign exchange it needed.

The US Congress authorized AGOA to encourage export-led growth and economic development in Sub Sahara Africa and improve U.S. economic relations with the region. In terms of tariff benefits and general eligibility criteria, before its termination to Ethiopia by the President J. Biden, AGOA covered several products and included eligibility criteria that included trade and development provisions. U.S. imports from AGOA beneficiary countries “represented” a small share, which was less than one percent of total U.S. imports. These were mainly concentrated in energy-related products. Oil was consistently the largest duty-free U.S. import from AGOA countries. Despite remaining the largest U.S. import under AGOA, U.S. oil imports from the region had fallen. Among non-energy products, apparel was the major export for a number of AGOA countries. U.S. non-AGOA apparel “imports” faced relatively high tariffs and were excluded from duty-free treatment.

To give AGOA countries a competitive advantage over others, certain products were given preference. As a result, a handful of African countries made significant benefits, for example, from the export of apparels. Apart from apparel and energy products, South Africa accounts for the bulk of U.S. imports under the Act. As the most economically advanced country in the region, it exported a diverse range of manufactured goods than other beneficiary countries. Vehicles, in particular, had become its major export under the Act. Most observers agreed that the Act has successfully led to increased and more

diversified exports to the US from sub-Saharan African countries. It was reported that Congress would wish to address a number of issues and challenges as it considered possible “reauthorization” of AGOA. Among these challenges was how current and potential beneficiaries could better utilize the program and its duty-free benefits.

Studies suggested that even among some countries that made significant use of the AGOA preferences, the lower-skill apparel production which the Act had encouraged had “not” led to the production of high quality manufactured products. Other issues referred to the “nonreciprocal” nature of the AGOA preferences. Some argue that the US should focus more on two-way trade agreements with the Africa region, particularly with more advanced countries such as South Africa, given improving economic conditions in the region in recent years. The EU, for example, had negotiated Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with several African countries that provided some reciprocal tariff benefits. This could put US firms at a competitive “disadvantage” relative to European firms in some African markets.

As mentioned earlier, Africa still comprised many of the poorest countries in the world. It also faced significant economic challenges. Some observers argued that changing economic conditions warrant an evolution in U.S. policy toward SSA, with focus on private sector investment and increasing two way trading. Recently, the economic potential and abundant natural resources have attracted “other” foreign investors from countries such as China, which has now become the region’s largest trading partner. In view of these developments, US policy makers have underlined the need to assess the Act with respect to its initial goals, including whether it addressed effectively the changing economic circumstances in Africa. Most observers were, however, positive about the program, but some have expressed concerns about specific provisions of the program.

Policy makers wanted to see if the AGOA preferences granted to a broader range of least-developed countries beyond just Africa. Others would like to see a broader program that addressed concerns over the ability of US businesses to effectively compete in the region in achieving sustainable development. The US initiated programs such as Trade Africa, which centered on a potential trade and investment agreement with the East African Community. In addition to the tariff preferences, the AGOA legislation included mandates for an annual meeting of U.S. and African government officials to discuss trade and economic issues as well as specific guidelines on development assistance directed toward SSA. Countries must meet specific eligibility requirements to qualify for these benefits through export of apparels.

Apparel production has been an important component of AGOA because it was seen as a manufacturing sector with relatively low

technological and investment barriers to entry. Newly industrialized countries could easily benefit from it as having high “job” creating potential for relatively low-skilled labor forces. These issues were of relevance to many African countries, including Ethiopia. The US has envisioned AGOA as a stepping stone to potential broader trade pacts with African countries. However, some agricultural products subjected to tariff-rate quotas still remained “ineligible” for duty-free treatment. Products from AGOA countries must meet certain rules of “origin” requirements in order to qualify for duty-free treatment. Duty-free entry is only allowed if the article is imported “directly” from the beneficiary country into the US. At least 35 percent of the appraised value of the product must be the product or manufacture of a beneficiary developing country.

The provisions in AGOA were significant since apparel production had played a unique role in the development process of some countries, including Ethiopia. Moreover, the duty-free benefits applied to a sector with relatively higher employment in these countries. Not all AGOA beneficiaries were eligible for the apparel provisions. Duty-free treatment for apparel products under AGOA required beneficiary countries to adopt an efficient visa and “tracking” system to prevent unlawful shipping. Apparel production has been a significant component in some countries’ economic development, particularly in Ethiopia. It typically required low-skilled labor and minimal capital expenditures, allowing lesser-developed countries to become globally competitive. Some research suggested that success in low-skill and export intensive industries such as apparel might help lead to a more “diversified” manufacturing sector.

However, the U.S. apparel sector has been deemed “import sensitive,” and has some specific protections. As mentioned earlier, it has rules of origin which governed how much of the product must be made in the beneficiary country. The restrictions on U.S. imports of apparel made AGOA’s preferential treatment for these products advantageous. The relatively high preference might help explain how some AGOA producers, especially the least developed countries (LDCs), became competitive with lower cost producers in Asia and elsewhere. Textile and apparel products that qualified for duty-free treatment included apparel assembled in one or more AGOA beneficiary countries. It also included apparel made of SSA regional yarns and fabrics and apparel made in a designated LDC of third-country yarns and fabrics.

AGOA’s provision made a special rule that allowed US apparel imports from least-developed SSA countries to qualify for duty-free treatment. Here, the inputs used in the production of the apparel could be imported from “non-AGOA” countries.

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Editorial

A landmark deal being fulfilled!

Since the landmark Pretoria peace deal signed between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front, there have been staggering improvements in the humanitarian situation in Tigray state. The federal government has been living up to its words allowing the free flow of aid via road and air as it also continues expediting the restoration of damaged social infrastructural facilities including power and telecom services. Experts have been deployed and are now working round the clock to fulfill the much-needed services.

Now that a peace deal is agreed upon, things are taking a turn for the better rekindling a glimpse of hope for affected communities in Tigray, Amhara, and Afar states. In fact, it was a long-held belief of the federal government to return the country to normalcy and the Pretoria peace accord is a last-ditch effort to cultivate trust and show unwavering resolve to address the situation in an atmosphere of calm and give a lasting peace a chance.

Living up to the terms of the agreement, the incumbent is wasting no time reconnecting people to the power grid and rehabilitating conflict-ridden areas. So far, trucks loaded with essential aids have been arriving in Tigray by road and air.

The different institutions that are presiding over the restoration works are working day in and day out to restore services.

Recently, Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) said that the restoration of power lines that pass through Humera, Welkait, and Shiraro is underway.

The war-ravaged power lines that used to transmit high and low voltage are being repaired in a bid to restore power soon.

"Around 200 EEP workers are now deployed to fix the power interruption via exerting utmost efforts in Humera and Shiraro."

As Welkait's high voltage generator or distributor is one of the highly damaged lines, EEP workers are right now doing their level best to regain the service, and necessary preparation has been made to complete the restoration in the shortest time possible.

Despite the leapfrog development, some Tigrayan Diaspora and other

foreign entities including low-rated international media outlets are pulling out all the stops to distract the breakthrough peace deal with opening the floodgates for cock-and-bull-stories.

As Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed told lawmakers this week, there are entities here and abroad who are displeased with the peace deal. Some agents of war and entrepreneurs of conflict are toiling to prolong the suffering of war-torn communities and sow doubts about the peace deal. True to his words, some Diasporas leading a lavish life abroad are spreading fabricated information to thwart the agreement and continue profiting from an endless war.

In contrast, relief agencies have been giving thumbs up to the positive moves of the federal government. Besides its support, the incumbent has been allowing continuous unhindered humanitarian assistance and working with humanitarian operators to get access to the region via road transport.

The relief agencies are now able to deliver essential support to the people of Tigray. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) indicated lately that aid convoys have entered Tigray via the Gondar corridor. In its Twitter message, WFP stated yesterday that critical relief food will now be delivered to communities in the coming days. More relief food, nutrition, and medical cargo will follow immediately via all routes possible. It said 15 WFP aid trucks entered Tigray state.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) disclosed that the first convoy of aid supplies arrived in Mekelle, Tigray state on Tuesday. "Our first convoy of aid supplies has arrived in Mekelle. Two trucks delivered medicines, emergency, and first aid kits to support health facilities in Tigray to treat patients with conditions that need urgent care," ICRC tweeted.

However, despite the massive hotchpotch and fictitious accusation to disrupt the implementation of the peace accord, the Ethiopian government is undisputedly determined to translate the agreed terms into action. And all the babble of misinformation is sure to burst and the dust will settle down as the government is living up to its words.

Opinion Ethiopia

poised to introduce East Africa's first low-cost carrier

BY SARVESH LUTCHMUN

Ethiopian Airlines has been Africa's undisputed leader in the civil aviation industry since decades. Addis Ababa being the diplomatic capital of Africa, the Bole International Airport has also been largely successful in becoming a transit hub for both African and non-African destinations. Innovation has been one of the pillars of success coupled with the high-quality service which trounces to a great extent several well-known international airlines.

As the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic persists, low-cost flights can represent a lucrative economic model for the path towards economic recovery for the country. Low-cost flights can be very fascinating. In Europe, for example, the cost of a return air ticket between London and Warsaw by RyanAir can be as low as 48 dollars for a 2 hours' flight, covering a distance of 866 miles each way. At the other side of the world, airlines such as AirAsia offers a 99 dollars' return air ticket from Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) to Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam).

The advent of low-cost flights within East Africa is plausible and could, in all likelihood, incite an aviation boom



While a continent-wide low-cost airline would be more appealing, a regionally-focused air travel market would be the best approach in the short term

in the region. A low cost business model providing air tickets at a much lower cost will facilitate the movement of people and promote trade and investment, assisting significantly in accelerating the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Agenda 2063. Enhanced air connectivity in the region will solve a major barrier to intra-regional trade and investment, and contribute to the spirit of the African Union Commission's flagship project of a Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM).

Low-cost airlines are not a new sensation in Africa, with the most successful ones operating in Southern Africa such as FlySafair, Lift and Fastjet. In East Africa, Kenya has the presence of Jambojet and fly540low. However, these Kenyan low-cost airlines mainly offer domestic flights, leaving a vacuum for a regional leader in this fragment of the aviation industry.

While a continent-wide low-cost airline would be more appealing, a regionally-focused air travel market would be the best approach in the short term since continental processes can be quite slow and problematic. Apart from its domestic destinations, the airline can comfortably

provide low-cost flights to Asmara, Djibouti, Entebbe, Juba, Khartoum and Nairobi, among others.

The project could also, to all intents and purposes, benefit from favorable government policies including revised airport taxes and reduced costs relating to terminal and gate services, combined with a favorable visa regime, bearing in mind Dr. Abiy's announcement of a visa-free entry policy for all African citizens back in 2018. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) can also influence reduced landing fees in the region given the benefits its member states will reap from the venture.

Certainly, a comprehensive market research taking into consideration the relevant economic and financial aspects will be required. But at the outset, any economist will easily identify the huge unexploited market for low cost flights both in the region and on the continent, and given its dominance in the market, there is a clear scope for success for Ethiopia.

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

Business & Economy

Remarkable progress achieved in Ethiopia's economy amid challenges promising to catch prosperity

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) attended the 6th round of the 4th regular session of the 2nd year of the House of People's Representatives to respond to the questions raised by MPs. While responding to the questions, the Premier raised various issues on the overall achievements of the country. For instance, he discussed about the registered achievements in the economic and political issues of the nation coupled with ensuring its peace and security.

The House representatives have raised queries in relation to the economy and the nation's achievements. According to the Prime Minister, the nation's economy has been encountering numerous man made challenges in the past few years. The previous years could be remembered as one of the most challenging years. The internal conflicts along with the Russia-Ukraine war, drought, and the global pandemic COVID-19, have put their strong fists on the world economy. Despite all these tests, Ethiopia's economy is so resilient that it cannot be broken easily. It is better to put the trajectory of the economy as it is crystal clear to both national and international economists. The economy has proved itself to the whole world.

The Ethiopian economy, in 2014 Ethiopian fiscal year, has reached to 3.16 trillion Birr which is equivalent to 126.7 billion USD. One can easily remember how hard it was for the country to reach 100 billion USD in the past. This time, the per capita income of Ethiopians reached to 1,212 USD, the Prime Minister added.

As to the Premier, Ethiopia has built East Africa's giant and leading economy. According to the World Bank report, Ethiopia has the third giant economy in Sub Saharan Africa. The trend of forcing farmers to pay taxes in other African countries has been practiced and can be clear how much assent is transactional in a specific area. On the other hand, when it comes to Ethiopia, the practice is very low. This could not include the actions the government is taking this time. Therefore, it is expected more than the figure aforementioned.

Building a giant economy in Africa was the objective of the government and it is pursuing the achievement. The government used the challenges, internal conflict and the pandemic, as opportunities for change, and they made it stronger. It is persuasive that all Ethiopians need to work hard beyond their existing potential to achieve better than this, the Premier stressed.

Furthermore, with all those challenges, as to the Premier, the nation's GDP raised by 6.4 percent last year. If the peace accord goes smoothly, it will project to 7.5 percent this year. It would be the right decision to stop dwelling on agriculture-



led economy. Instead of staying limited on a single sector; it is prudent to try new development sectors as the nation has the potential to entertain those new sectors.

Likewise, the Premier also mentioned sectors' contributions and their progress on last year's GDP. He said that the agriculture sector scored 6.1 percent boost last year. Wheat production, for instance, has shown tangible progress in different parts of the country. Apart from wheat production, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said that in the 2013 fiscal year, the country imported around 5 million quintals of rice. By expanding rice production in Amhara and other regions including Oromia and southern part of the country, around 8 million quintals of rice production is expected. Though it is very early to think of exporting rice like wheat, its exportation will take no longer time. Due to a number of reasons, Ethiopia shows its potential to export rice like wheat in the shortest possible time.

In line with the attention given to wheat production, maize production also hits better achievements. Besides, the nation's fruit production has its own remark. Though its period is short, fruit production of the nation shows concrete output which shows the nation's untapped potential in fruit production, the Premier stated. Not only fruit and maize registered better figures, but also coffee has put its mark on the nation's progress. In the past four years, more than 4.7 billion coffee seedlings have been planted. This number excludes the seedlings planted in the green legacy initiative. In this fiscal year, more than 20 percent rise in coffee production is expected. Continuing to score with such better accomplishment via exploiting its potential, the country will become 'the bread basket' within

shorter period of time. The development trajectory that has been started in agriculture sector needs to continue until Ethiopian farmers stop using their cattle for the purpose of farming.

The next point raised by the Prime Minister was about the industrial development. He disclosed that even if the sector shows little decrease compared to the previous year (2013), it registered a 4.5 percent increase. The reason behind the decrease is the challenges that the nation encountered regarding construction and shortage of cement supply. It is true that it has its own negative impact, but the manufacturing sector achieved better.

The third point raised by the Premier is the service sector. The sector scored a 7.6 percent growth. The sector's contribution in the nation's GDP is high. Nevertheless, there are number of sectors under the service sector, some contributed better. One of them is the Ethiopian Airlines. From the time of the global pandemic, the Ethiopian Airlines has carried all the pressures and become the pride for Ethiopia and Africa as well.

The other service sector is Ethio-telecom. When the reformist government assumed power, Ethio-telecom had around 37 million subscribers; however, at this time, the institution has 68.9 million subscribers. The increment is not only in the number of subscribers, but in its accessibility and profit making. Mobile banking service which was launched just last year is used by 25.5 million people who transact over 134 billion Birr. Ethio-telecom has provided automated service of around 20 public institutions and more than 40 service delivery institutions.

Moreover, the finance sector played a significant role for the development

of other sectors. The finance sector advanced to 21 percent. The sector owns 2.3 trillion Birr overall. Over 80 million people become bank customers, and 1.6 trillion Birr is deposited. Besides, 353 billion Birr was loaned which registered 29 percent increase compared to the previous year. The financial sector put the foundation stone for the development of the aforementioned sectors.

In relation to price hike of basic commodities, the Prime Minister stressed that it has become the challenge of every single country in the world. Variation between supply with the demand and the conflict were some of the reasons for the inflation. However, it is important to notice that in the past four months the nation's inflation is on decreasing rate. The other commendable deed that all should be proud of is students' feeding. At this moment Ethiopia feeds 9.5 million students twice a day.

The government has been working on changing universities to become autonomous. In this regard, universities should stand by their own feet and be excluded from government's budget list. Within short period of time, Addis Ababa University will be autonomous, and other advanced universities like Bahir Dar, Haromaya, Jimma, Mekelle, will follow its footsteps. Universities need to create citizens who can solve problems, Abiy stressed.

One thing everyone should know, as to the Premier, is that this must be the time to stop living with anti-pain. The country needs to search homemade solutions for its problems. Once the corner stone is laid for the solution of the problems, many of them will stay no longer being headache of the country. One of the solutions will also be avoiding dissipation. This surely brings changes.

The premier also focused on expanding the best practices throughout the country so that the nation's prosperity will be imminent. "We Ethiopians have been experiencing better service provision. But it is the least compared to other countries. We must upgrade our way of giving services through trainings," he underlined.

Nation's mega projects are on the pipeline of completion as some of them are about to start. The government has been generating its own income from the previous projects such as the Unity Park to expand the good experience. For instance, the Unity Park has generated over 300 million Birr and reinvested it to construct the other palace which is located around the Unity Park. The palace will be a car exhibition center when it is finished. It is important to remember that the country has untapped resources regarding tourism. "As a result, stakeholders should work tirelessly as our economy will be built by the service sector in the coming years," the premier urged.

Art & Culture

Wretched lives

BY HENOK TIBEBU

Death has become a cheap thing ever since the official outbreak of Coronavirus throughout the world. At the beginning people feared it. They tried to be as cautious as they could in using safety materials and following the protective procedures advised by the Ministry of Health.

Daniel the author didn't quit his job that time. But he didn't like some of the restrictions particularly the one that prohibits eating raw meat. He is a big fan of a red raw meat with a little fat on it. His soul would rejoice when the fat pisses in his mouth, while he is chewing the raw meat.

He was highly paid during those good days so he afforded to enjoy raw meat with a strong spice called 'senafich' that suffocates a nostril and invites balls of sweat on a forehead. Yet it feels great. It was tantamount to having a shot of an old scotch.

However, he couldn't afford to enjoy a similar chance of such taste after he quitted his job deciding to be a full time writer. Whenever he misses the taste of the red raw meat with fat and the accompanying feeling in his nostril from the 'senafich' he would regret quitting his job and say to himself "full time my elbow."

He has a good experience in journalism that would make him a perfect fit in any public relations or media posts, but he is not trying hard to get a job. He is a starving fulltime author who observes the wretched lives of alcoholic young men and women although he still didn't pen down a paragraph.

COVID-19 seems no more an issue not only among the alcoholic slam community members, but also among the majority of ordinary citizens these days. Even though the prohibition to eat raw meat is already lifted the author has no means and ways to afford it. So he could only reminisce the good old days and salivate with memories while suffering famishment. Those young alcoholic men and women spend their days reminiscing and salivating as they drink the hard liquor, sipirri with their empty stomach.

They always shuttle on the streets and

collect some forty or fifty Birr and run straight to the sipirri houses. They drink sipirri with their empty stomachs and they start talking about appetite whetting meals. When they talk about a nice meal drinking hard liquor with an empty stomach, the salivation will push the hunger to its peak. Then they will start getting aggressive on one another.

Most of the times, he could hear them talking about different dishes as he lies on his mattress. "Have you ever been to the Palace Tej house around Megenagna?" says one of them. "Of course it is the Tej that I had their back in the days. Tej is another Ethiopian traditional drink made of honey which kept my face still shiny, responds Faplaw.

"Have you also tasted the raw meat and the gaslight (chopped and fried meat)?"

"Yes I remember it was abundant!"

"Right! I like a person who talks the real truth. Do you remember how delicious it feels when the fat melts in your mouth?" Oh gone are those good days. We had enjoyed such a meal and liquor orgies till we were spoiled. We used to have a great life then.

"Well those days are behind us. May our souls rest in peace!" said Faplaw and they all laughed. They know that they are lost. But they can't admit it practically. Some of them would try to improve themselves by going to the highly respected monasteries for a month. They would fast and stay away from sipirri for a few weeks talking about their spiritual life of a month in the monastery. Then they would start by smoking cigarette. Later everything will be back to routine, sipirri, gossip, crashing ceremonies for food and loafing on the streets to collect money for sipirri.

The author went on thinking about their lives. He said to himself "these are individuals who have their lives ruined by sipirri. But isn't Africa like this? With a lesser voice African leaders always attend the meetings of supper power countries. Isn't it like crushing ceremonies without invitation and talking away leftover meals for the people waiting on them at the sipirri house?"

Most of the times the people who host hail ceremonies give those sipirri addicted young men laborious jobs of cleaning

up the mess on their compounds before and after the ceremony, because there is no such as a free meal. After their labor jobs are done they would get meal and be allowed to take away leftovers for their friends in the sipirri house. Isn't how our leaders dealing with the western nations all these years?" asks himself the author.

The hosts would say "hey keep your hands away from that dish. It is for the honorable guests. You have to stay aside until we call you for the fist. Most of the sipirri-addicted community doesn't like waiting. They would curse and leave the host's place. Masho is one of them. She would say "who are you to tell me to stay aside? I have a wealthy and proud family. It is just that I never go to them. Go to hell with your meals and drinks! I am Masho Kidane!" then she would leave without even having one bite from the meal.

There are other sipirri addicts who don't have any dignity. They would stay lined up until the rich host's of the ceremony tells them to go and dig for the leftover food. They would eat the leftovers and take away for their friends waiting at the sipirri house. Reclining on the mattress behind the wall and hearing them diving on the food that comes from the ceremony the author would say to himself "isn't how African countries live by taking leftovers money and wheat from the wealthy countries?"

Then he got up from his mattress and went to the sipirri house. Thus was because he heard a squashing sound of a plastic bag and the sipirri. People saying "come on eat up" This is a blessed food of St Mary? He was hungry. He has to join them.

The moment he got there the food was half eaten. The sipirri society said "hey Daniel come on join us" But he restrained himself. The one bite chunk they shovel into their mouth is nothing less than a new born baby. He became intimidated as if they would gobble him down too. The food provided could have been more than enough for them. But the hunger couldn't allow them to eat up with a respectful manner. Everyone was taking in what s/he feels could placate his/her hunger. But drops down on the floor, while they were gobbling down the pieces of food could calm anyone's hunger living on the streets.

The rich would throw a leftover of meat

once and gets praise from the poor as well as their likes. The poor do menial jobs the whole year and gets a leftover meal with the order from the rich (host) to stay aside until the honorable guests are done eating and drinking. Some snitch dog from the same miserable walk of life would pick some leftover meat from the side of the street and say to the minister "your excellency you were about to step on this grizzly piece of meat and slip down hadn't I seen it first." Then he will be given a leftover authority to be a state minister or something else.

After enjoying the leftover food, "Hey guys, let me tell you a story", said Faplaw. "One of the poor countries state minister who thinks everything westerners say is always right went to meet the president of a wealthy country," said Faplaw to his alcoholic friends. He also met the first lady Mrs Rabbi Climon. While they were having a conversation Rabbi asked the state minister "who do you think is the most truthful person in the world?"

"I don't know! Who is it?" he posed a curious face.

"I am!" said Rabbi.

This state minister returned home thinking of the puzzle he would get his wife with the moment he got home. He asked his wife "who do you think is the most truthful person in the world?" his innocent wife wanting to please him answered "you are" He replied "no you are wrong!" then she said "If it is not you then it is me!"

"Nope you are still wrong!"

"Who is it then?"

"It is Rabbi Climon you fool!"

His wife tried to divorce him after that day but he was the powerful man in his poor country. This was how his poor country has been led by such a leader who doesn't know his own abilities or disabilities," said Faplaw and finished his story.

The author would say to himself "Only if these barflies get a chance to be rehabilitated and given a job, they still can go back to a normal life." But he is not even sure whether his own life would go back to normal. He's drinking too much and did not write a single line even though he claims to be a fulltime author.



BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

*I can feel that my mind is free
The world is a warm place to be
Nothing seems vague or unclear*

Mania

All my problems seemed to disappear

If my life continues this way

This is a paradise I say

The sun is brighter and warmer

The wind blowing is cooler

I can feel my heart throbbing in wonder

This is happiness and no other

Science & Technology



Huawei inspiring ICT talent, innovation ecosystem in Ethiopia

The company awards 2022 Huawei ICT global final competition winners

BY KFLEYESUS ABEBE

Chinese owned multinational technology corporation Huawei has presence in Ethiopia with a name Huawei Ethiopia. As it is performing activities to change the innovation ecosystem across the world, Huawei has been arranging annual competition among among global higher education institutions. Ethiopian competitors ranked third in 2021-2022 Huawei ICT global final competition. The award is delivered through Huawei Ethiopia at the presence of State Minister of Education Samuel Kifle (PhD).

State Minister of Education Samuel Kifle (PhD) during the award ceremony said technological advancement is in the best interest and goal of the country. Therefore, such competitions have a role to play. “As MoE, we want to ensure that Ethiopia’s prosperity is in good hands and that Ethiopia’s multi-sector economy and ICT are among the factors for economic growth. Ethiopia has a large number of young people, and there are many talented people willing to pursue their dreams in Ethiopia. Because the future world will be based on ICT, such competitions are necessary to help them develop the skills they already possess.”

He also stated that he witnessed the establishment of the first Huawei ICT academy and is pleased to see the company now have 40 academies. He also underlined that more faculties, students, and universities should participate in the competition, and he also praised Huawei for creating this opportunity for students. Finally, he wished to see more Ethiopian winners by the coming years.

President of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Dr. Dereje Engida also expressed his gratitude on his behalf, saying, “I am so happy to see our students being awarded in this ceremony; they are working hard and lecturers are also supporting them to achieve their target.” He also thanked Huawei for providing opportunities for students to become global citizens through participation in global competitions.

Huawei Ethiopia PR director Mr. Liming Ye in his part affirmed company’s commitment to sustain the effort and contribute share for development of ICT knowledge and practice



“As MoE, we want to ensure that Ethiopia’s prosperity is in good hands and that Ethiopia’s multi-sector economy and ICT are among the factors for economic growth. Ethiopia has a large number of young people, and there are many talented people willing to pursue their dreams in Ethiopia. Because the future world will be based on ICT, such competitions are necessary to help them develop the skills they already possess.”

in Ethiopia. “Huawei has always been committed to building a solid ICT talent ecosystem in Ethiopia. Under Huawei ICT Academy flagship project, we conduct ICT Competition, Seeds for the Future, and ICT Handshaking Forum.” He also added that as

Ethiopia is at the dawn of digital revolution, ICT talent becomes the key assets of the economy. Huawei will tightly align with Digital Ethiopia 2025 strategy and contribute to talent cultivation, of which the ICT competition is the best manifestation.

The company launched its fourth ICT Competition last May 2021 in Ethiopia. The competition was officially launched on 26th May, following Huawei’s strategy to develop Ethiopia’s ICT talent and innovation ecosystem. Over 1,000 participants from different Universities registered for preliminary contest, challenging their understanding of latest technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, Internet of Things (IoT), and 5G...

It is announced to the winners in the award ceremony held on August 26, 2021 to provide a chance to take part in the Global Final in 2022 as Ethiopia’s national team.

This year, on May 25 and 26, 2022, the global final ICT competition was held online. Ethiopian winners from the previous year competed and ranked third. The two students who won the competition are Sileshi Nibret and Dawit Biruk; they are from Addis Ababa Science and Technology University and Addis Ababa University.

Last year, the final competition was held among 20 top performers and six outstanding groups from 7 universities. Individual contestants competed in Network and Cloud tracks while the group contestants presented innovative ideas that solve daily life problems.

The Huawei ICT Competition is intended for students in Huawei ICT academies and those in higher education institutions that are willing to join the ICT Academy worldwide. Through this competition, Huawei aims to provide students with a platform to compete healthily and exchange ideas, thus enhancing their ICT knowledge and practical skills, as well as increasing their ability to innovate by using new technologies and platforms.

Since 2015, the Huawei ICT Competition’s influence has been growing. The 6th Huawei ICT Competition has attracted 150,000 students from over 2,000 universities and colleges across 85 countries and regions. Ethiopian students have been taking part in the competition since 2019.

The global winners received their award from Dr. Samuel’s hand, which included a Huawei tablet, certificate, and medal, and the company also recognized three national winners through Dr. Dereje. In the ceremony, Huawei also announced that the 2022–2022 Huawei ICT competition has kicked off.

Society

End the violence, keep the peace

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

There is nothing that can express the value of peace. If there is anything that explains peace, it is only "Peace" itself. There is no reward one can pay for peace. This is especially true at the country level where absence of peace and stability affects the life of hundreds and thousands of people.

Obviously, because of war, several lives will be lost, hundreds and thousands displaced and infrastructures that cost fortunes will be damaged. This is witnessed within the past two years where the federal government and the TPLF forces faced conventional warfare and thousands of people have become homeless and many have lost their priceless lives.

However, after a number of unsuccessful attempts by the government for peace, now they have agreed to settle their differences in a peaceful manner and sustain peace.

This good news has created special excitement and almost received appreciations almost from every peace loving people, particularly, from those people who have become the direct victims of the conflict.

The agreement, as many people uttered, has opened a new chapter not only for Ethiopia; but also for Africa as it clearly demonstrates Africans' potential to resolve their own affairs by their own.

As Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed stated last Monday November 15, 2022 at the 2nd year 4th Ordinary Session of the House of Peoples Representatives while responding to queries raised by MPs in relation to the peace agreement signed between the government and TPLF, the agreement has a significant role to end up the conflict and sustain peace.

The Premier said that Ethiopia should end the war to sustain lasting peace and sustain its vision for prosperity. In this regard, all kinds of peace talks and negotiations aim at protecting the unity of Ethiopia and defending its territorial integrity.

According to him, Ethiopia will go miles to achieve lasting peace. "For this reason, we will go to places, anywhere, even to places we do not want to go for no particular reason but to sustain peace and to defend the interest of the country.

The premier further expressed government's commitment to solve all kinds of conflicts in a peaceful manner stating the repeated attempts that the government had made even before the commencement of the war.

"As you remember it, from the very beginning, we were asserting that we do not want to hear gunshots. We were also saying that the people of Tigray too should not hear the sound of gunfire. To this end, we sent elderly people to



Mekelle for reconciliation," he noted.

The Ethiopian government has taken one step forward by discussing and signing peace agreements; what is required now is to ensure lasting peace by implementing the agreements. "We must work for this." The Premier underscored the need to diligently work for peace; and support the process so as to actualize the agreement.

Following the peace agreement, as local media reported, several federal government officials and others are reflecting their view about the role and commitment expected from them towards bringing sustainable peace.

In a discussion held recently focusing on peace issues and the preparation made by the government to bring sustainable peace, participants indicated that the preparation of the government towards the peace deal and its commitment to resolving differences in a peaceful manner have contributed a lot to arrive at peace deal.

During the discussion, the issue of sovereignty, unity and sustainable peace are given due attention by the Federal Government officials. It is also said that the agreement has incalculable benefits in terms of ending up the war and maintaining peace in a sustainable manner. It also gives relief to every Ethiopian in general sustainable and the people of Afar, Amhara and Tigray in particular who have been the direct victims of the war. In this regard, the agreement has created some type of reassurance to all Ethiopians and Ethiopia has won the war.

What is more, the peace deal has its own implications. It has confirmed Ethiopia's maxim: "African Solutions to African

Problems," and it is part of Ethiopia's stand towards Pan-Africanism spirit. Furthermore, it is a matter that opens a new political culture and historic chapter in Ethiopia that values peace more than conflict and war. In this regard, it can be taken as a new landmark in Ethiopia's political culture that ensure legalism and constitutionalize.

According to the participants, despite all the efforts to implement the peace deal effectively and sustain peace, it does not mean that there are no groups who are still agents of conflict at the expense of peace. In this respect, all peace loving Ethiopians are expected to contribute their part in areas of peace and stability.

All the successes that are achieved in areas of diplomacy and peace agreement must be repeated in the political and developmental spheres as well. In this regard, all government officials are duty-bound in discharging their responsibilities accordingly. They have to join hands and work committedly for better performance in other sectors.

During the discussion, participants have extended their gratitude for the Defense Forces who paid multitudinous sacrifice, for Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for his leadership role and those individuals who participated in the peace agreement.

Participants have also said, revenge, hatred and all destructive ways have cost the nation a lot. Its history also confirmed this fact. For this reason, by healing all odds that had happened in earlier times we should march towards Ethiopia's development and prosperity. That is why the peace deal and its processes need a due consideration by all parties. And supporting the peace process and striving hard to make the deal a success is everyone's responsibility.



The peace deal has its own implications. It has confirmed Ethiopia's maxim: "African Solutions to African Problems," and it is part of Ethiopia's stand towards Pan-Africanism spirit. Furthermore, it is a matter that opens a new political culture and historic chapter in Ethiopia that values peace more than conflict and war



This is Ethiopia

Mogo Kaka: The unnoticed tourist destination

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Ethiopia has numerous natural and man-made tourist destinations that are familiar across the world including the Rock Hewn Churches of Lalibela, Gonder castles, Aksum obelisks, the walled city of Harar, Abay Fall (Tis Abay), Sof Omar Cave among others. Most of the times, various local and international tourists prefer to visit the aforementioned destinations due to their long lasting discovery and promotional activities.

On the contrary, there are numerous tourist attractions situated across the country but are not still well promoted; thus, less visited by local and international tourists. However, the Ethiopian Government has now started new campaign to develop the destinations and harness the available tourism potentials through undertaking a number of marketing and promoting activities, developing new tourist destinations by allocating the necessary budget and human resource to the sector.

Currently, the tourism sector is among the five pillar areas of the national development strategy that has been given due priority. To realize this objective, the Ministry of Tourism, state tourism bureaus and other stakeholders are working hand in hand.

Recently, a group of media professionals, tourism experts and tour guides have visited the Mogo Kaka tourist destination, one of the unnoticed potential tourist attractions located in Gamo Gofa Zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' State.

Gamo Gofa Zone is known with its tremendous natural and cultural assets. And the zone is undertaking various measures to utilize its diversified cultural assets. The visiting team to the area has observed the efforts being made to make these national treasures tourist attraction spots.

Gamo Zone Tourism Destinations and Services Team Leader Gemechu Bulbula told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that Mogo Kaka is a colourful, marvellous and wonderful tourist attraction site. The Zone is doing more towards introducing this unique tourist destination.

On her part, Arba Minch Surrounding Woreda Culture and Tourism Bureau Head Haregua Petros said that the woreda is doing its level best to make Mogo Kaka one of the tourist destinations visited by tourists regularly. The Bureau is working on how to introduce Mogo Kaka and other man-made tourist destinations in the area to be well promoted and attract numerous tourists, both domestic and foreign visitors.

Currently, the area's infrastructural conditions are being improved so that local and international tourists can come and visit this area. Tourists can hike on foot to Mogo Kaka after making their journey through vehicles.

Mogo Kaka looks like a pile of sand, but when

you step on it, it does not slide. It is difficult to walk side by side on the canals and the hill of Mogo Kaka. There is also a situation where the trip on the hills is like a tightrope walk. Some have described the place as a sand dune in the Sahara Desert. Indeed, when compared to the images of some Arab countries and the regions of the Sahara Desert, it looks like a pile of sand accumulated by the wind.

What is surprising is that the nearby area is green, but there are no grass trees or other plants. Anyone happened in the Mogo Kaka hill will have the opportunity to discover a desert looking area but not a real desert as it is an area with a green environment. There are a lot of people standing and looking at the scene. Journalists take pictures.

Arba Minch Surrounding Woreda Culture and Tourism Bureau Tourist Destinations Development Expert Muluken Gobena told EPA that the Zeise and Gidicho ethnicities comprise the largest number in the Gamo Zone.

The Zeise community is found near Arba Minch Town and has their own traditional administration system until occupied by the Emperor Menelik II. Its current population exceeds 60,000. Zeisite is the language of the ethnicity.

This language belongs to the Omotic language family. The Zeise ethnic group has its own rituals of mourning, happiness, reconciliation, and more other unique cultures. Mogo Kaka is located at an altitude of 1,760 meters above sea level and covers 40 hectares of land. Mogo Kaka is neither ash nor sand; it is of a special nature. Mogo is the name of a leader who ruled the area or kebele in the past, and Kaka means strong nature that is neither stone nor soil.

According to Muluken, information indicates that Mogo Kaka was formed due to a volcano several years ago. They say that the upper part of the soil has been eroded away and this part that looks like a hole is left alone.

He pointed out that if lodges and resorts are built in the area and other tourist facilities are constructed, the site can be an additional tourist attraction for the area, the zone and the country.

In the past, the area has been neglected. Nothing has been done to promote the place at the desired level. Currently, different YouTubers and social media activists are promoting the area's untapped tourism endowments.

In sum, the area is known for producing different types of crops, bananas, avocados, cotton, honey as well as cattle breeding. If the area is developed as a tourist attraction, the local communities can also benefit. This is the time when special attention is being paid to the tourism sector. This place can be used as a tourist attraction and it is being worked at the woreda and regional level. Special promotion work is being done.

