

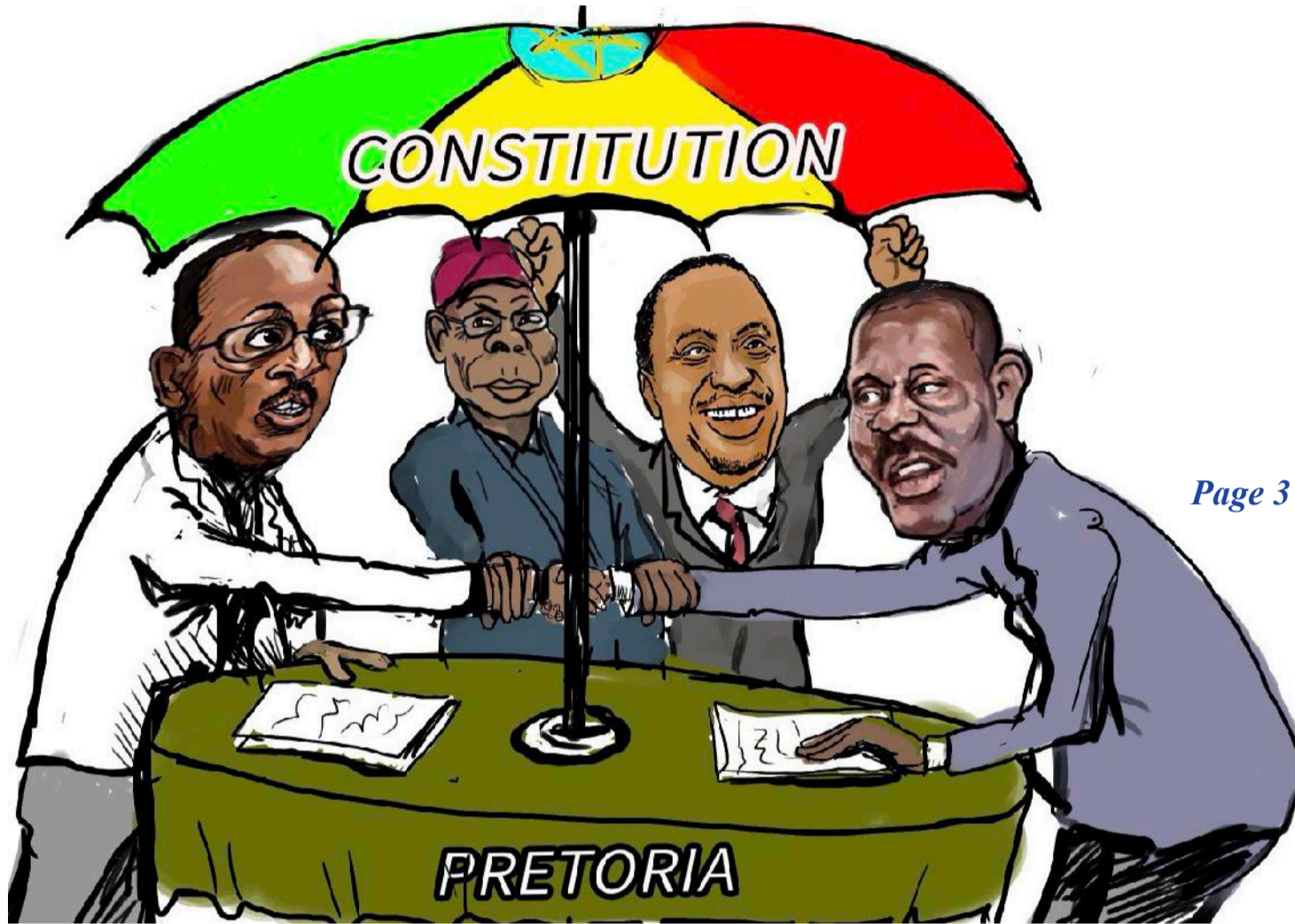


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Page 3

Ethiopia in good position to export wheat

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA- Capitalized on Ethiopia's high soil fertility and amenable climate, 2.5 million metric tons of wheat is produced, which is surplus from domestic consumption and could be allotted to the export market, the Agriculture Minister said.

Having stayed with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), the Minister Omar Hussein stated that the country is in a good form to export wheat and there is a high level of motivation and eagerness among Ethiopian farmers for more technology and market linkages. "Some 680,000 hectare has been developed and 24.9 (almost 25 million quintal) has been produced so far."

Among other things, the homegrown economic policy has given prime attention to import substitution and export promotion in the agriculture sector thereby easing reliance on food imports and foreign aid.



Agriculture Minister Omar Hussein

"We have employed the import substitution and export promotion strategies to keep the trade balance and bring wide-reaching economic progress."

The minister further noted the importance of keeping up with the demand of the farmers

for technology and market linkages that enable the country to exploit its untapped potential in the cultivation and export of wheat and other crops.

For his part, Industry Minister Melaku Alebel said that the progress Ethiopia has witnessed in import substitution and export promotion will benefit both agricultural and industrial sectors and stabilizes the high cost of living. The progress is also instrumental in making a prosperous Ethiopia a reality in enhancing product and productivity.

"A lot is expected from government agencies and other stakeholders to solve challenges of the production sector and to fundamentally transform the country's industry to a modern and commercial one.

Due to the meticulous engagement of the current government, Ethiopian agriculture, which is still at the early stage, is moving forward and its transformation is well in progress.

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CoHA keeps Ethiopia's economic momentum: Expert

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA -The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) between the federal government and TPLF will have a paramount importance in boosting Ethiopia's

See CoHA keeps ... page 4

WFP scales up humanitarian assistance in North Ethiopia

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA—World Food Program (WFP) stated that it has accelerated humanitarian operation in north Ethiopia.

According to the WFP report, the organization has delivered over 2,400 metric tons of food sufficient for feeding around 170,000 people, as well as 100,000 liters of fuel, medical, nutrition and other lifesaving

See WFP scales ... page 4



News

Citizens in Tigray call on signatories to implement CoHA swiftly

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA - Citizens in Tigray state of Ethiopia have called on the signatories to work hard towards swift implementation Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) for the benefit of the country.

Having a stay with local media, people who live in Aksum, Shire and Adwa said that the peace agreement has helped them to lead a stable life.

They stressed that though they deserve assistance to operate their formal economic and other activities to sustain their livelihood, they resume leading their formal livelihood in stable way following the CoHA.

Applauding the effort of the government for its rehabilitation activity, residents called on all parties in conflict, international and local humanitarian organizations, to



work at their maximum potential to bring sustainable peace and rehabilitate Tigray state.

According to the residents, as they were highly affected by the conflict, they want holistic assistances and supports to sustain their living in a happy manner; enjoying

different social, economic and other services.

It was learnt that the aid is flowing to Tigray in an unfettered way and the issue of ensuring unfettered access is no more a concern. The Ethiopian government and international aid organizations

have intensified the transportation of humanitarian aid including food, medicine and others to the needy in Tigray.

Following the agreement, the government has been working to rebuild the destroyed infrastructure to resume the provision of various public services.

Council requests Tigray people's avid support to CoHA

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council has requested the people of Tigray to denounce the destructive activities of some anti-peace elements which have engaged to ruin the recently-signed Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA).

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Council Chairperson Mebratu Alemu (PhD) stated that the people of Tigray should firmly stand against those who want to extend its suffering and block the implementation of the peace accord.

Ignoring the relief that the peace deal would bring to the people of Tigray in particular and the whole war-impacted communities in general, these evil forces have made every effort to extend the public suffering, the chairperson stressed.

"Only Ethiopia's historical enemies who hate to see a peaceful and developed country could stand against the peace deal and we urge all anti-peace forces to refrain from destructive activities."

Apart from allowing unfettered humanitarian aid access and restoring sustainable peace in the war-affected areas, the truce enables the government to restore essential services and damaged infrastructure. Hence, the people of Tigray need to denounce those who fail to take their situation into consideration.

Mebratu further stated that the peace deal needs to be participatory which allows active public participation and



psychosocial support is also something worth consideration to help war-affected communities to resume normal life.

The 54-member political parties of the council have carried out various activities including the provision of humanitarian support and resource mobilization that would enable the implementation of the peace deal. Also, awareness creation activities are also being done to allow the council's branches to mobilize the public and support the accord.

"By putting aside incidents that set us apart, it is important to focus on our unity with a broader perspective and patience. And also, we need to provide the necessary support to the people in need," he pleaded.

CoHA confirms Africans capability to fix own problems: South African poet

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

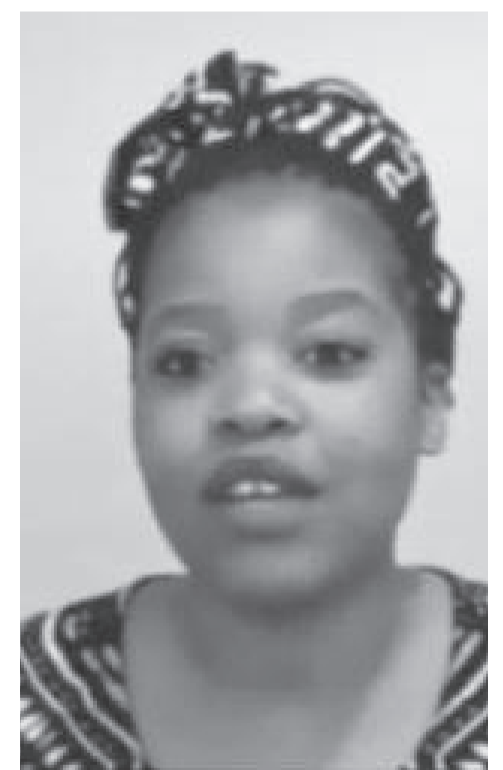
ADDIS ABABA - The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) between the government and TPLF is an indication of Africans' capability of fixing their problems on their own, a South African Poet Shontel Landzela said.

Approached by local media, the poet Shontel Landzela noted that the Battle of Adwa was an indication that the unified remains strong and un-colonized. "The recent agreement gave me hope for Africa's ability to fix their problems and it would take the continent forward by working and standing together."

"What is happening in Ethiopia right now is what has happened multiple times in other countries due to the influence of outsiders. They are using the same system in all African countries and we have to stop it now before it happens again."

According to her, Ethiopians and other Africans should remember that the continent's future is bright when they stand together to struggle the unwarranted influence of some interest groups.

As the African continent is rich with various minerals, an outside influence that aims to instigate tribal conflict is causing a severe problem and Ethiopia has faced the current challenge owing to the fact that it is the heart of Africa. Meddling in African affairs enables some groups to



protect the greedy interests of foreigners and the hand of oppressors is over to the partition of its rich resources.

The poet further pointed out that Ethiopians should strengthen the collaboration with other African brothers and sisters to prevent the intervention of outside forces and to solve problems on African mechanisms.

It is to be recalled that Landzela wrote a poem titled "Dear Ethiopia" to express her delight and support to the truce that was signed in Pretoria.

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Editorial

The peace deal under constitutional framework

Aside from undermining the territorial integrity of a nation, the untoward act of stabbing border-guarding federal soldiers in the back, coming up with own regional troops, courts disaster stripping inhabitants in the vicinity a sense of security.

The indulgency could facilitate an entry point for historic enemies, opportunists and turmoil exporters that could benefit from the weakening of ancient countries like Ethiopia that embarked on the avenue of renaissance. Opening a door for dissension and secession, such an act unheard of in the annals of history casts a shadow on the furtherance of a nation. Hence, such a tragic episode must not be allowed to continue.

A nation's fate must be determined by its own people not by foreign powers that connive with dissenters. It is in cognizance of this fact a disinterested peace broker-- in this case the African Union (AU) — was sought for in pursuit of an enduring peace.

As an aside, the motto 'African solutions to African problems' has found an echo here in Ethiopia in connection with the peace deal setting an example to such conflict-beset countries of Africa.

Flipping back to the gist, though things were brewing, the aforementioned problem was the immediate cause of the war between the Ethiopian government and TPLF.

The saying also goes: united we stand divided we fall. Anarchy must not be allowed to thrive, for otherwise disorder will turn out to be the order of the day. Conducting regional election downplaying a Federal Electoral Board and showing contempt to the Federal government are infringements seen militating against the administrative hierarchical structure. Because threatening and boasting about a de facto state amounts to effacing governmental demarcations. This folly too begs for a remedial solution. This was also one of the salient causes for the clash between the aforementioned parties.

Also elevating or massaging one's ego creating direct contact with foreign countries overriding the central government is also another sign of contravening the constitutional order. This is trampling on the sovereignty of a nation.

Hence, reestablishing or consolidating the constitutional order was called for. This was at the kernel of the Pretoria Peace deal that aimed at spearheading

the delivery of badly-needed humanitarian aid to Tigray and returning back basic services.

The peace deal was tapped on the back by the global community as it held promise of enduring peace and tranquility. There could be nothing heartening than troubleshooting the problems in war beleaguered areas and turning the lives of victims around. As such, both parties are expected to genuinely adhere to the terms entailed in the deal.

On top of restoring electric, telephone and bank services, among others, the government is doing its level best to outreach needy Tigrayans with badly-needed support and allowing humanitarian agencies and donors unhampered access to Tigray.

The incumbent is also expected to support the running of genuine-Tigrayans-brought-forth administrative machinery there. At this juncture it is appropriate to add in elections, insulated from fear and well protected, all democratic forces active in the Tigray region should play a midwifery role to the birth of a genuine freedom and democracy. Drawing lessons from past experiences pays off.

The Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and other key institutions must turn functional in Tigray to get the region back in shape as soon as possible. Constitutional order has to take effect there.

The government is showing commitment to the translation of the peace deal into action. It deserves a high-five. As the government single alone could not address the challenge as fast as possible, to the relief of Tigrayans, TPLF is expected to equally reciprocate.

Besides returning serenity the implementation of the peace deal could help speed up reconstruction and development work. Thus observers have to keep peeled eyes whether or not the parties are adhering to the entailments of the deal or going astray from it.

The territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ethiopia and citizens' adherence to the constitution which are in consonance with the peace deal makes the country's future rosy. Support it therefore citizens from all corners must! All the more so, as Ethiopia is a fortress society of Africa and instability in the former foreshadows a similar fate in the latter.

Opinion

BY GORDON BROWN

On Sunday, loud cheers from Sharm el-Sheikh greeted the announcement of a new initiative – the global loss and damage fund – to right historical wrongs by compensating climate-hit developing countries. This breakthrough brought back memories of another, the £100bn a year agreed at the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit to help poor countries mitigate the effects of the climate crisis.

That money has never fully materialised. If our 13 years' experience of the £100bn fund that never was is anything to go by, eulogies of praise will soon turn into allegations of betrayal. The president of next year's Cop28 will have to answer for yet another fund without funders. Far from the loss and damage fund narrowing the credibility gap on climate action, it is likely to bridge nothing if money fails to flow from rich to poor.

The last decade has been a history of promises made and broken. Before Covid, the cost of financing the sustainable development goals (SDGs) was \$2.5tn a year. Now, post-Covid, and with the price of fighting floods, firestorms and droughts – and the debt burden of low-income countries – dramatically escalating, it is \$4tn annually. Set against an official development assistance (ODA) budget of only \$179bn a year and \$130bn on offer mainly in multilateral loans, the SDGs represent yet another unanimous but unfunded pledge of the international community. To make matters worse, the British development aid budget has now been cut from 0.7% of our

national income to 0.5% for years ahead, and already our overall contribution to meeting all our climate and development targets is down from the promised £16bn to just £11.5bn.

But there is a way forward if we are to meet our goals. About \$2tn (£1.75tn) will be needed each year by 2030 to help developing countries cut their greenhouse gas emissions. This could be paid for, if necessary, by raising global taxes like the airline levies pioneered by France and the UK. As the pathbreaking Bridgetown declaration, inspired by the prime minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, recommends, \$100bn of special drawing rights (the international money issued by the IMF) should immediately be redistributed from rich to poor countries, with half going to finance green projects. President Macron's June summit on climate finance should cancel the unpayable debt of low-income countries in return for those countries taking action on the climate. For those who can pay, debt repayments should be varied in the event of climate disasters.

Public funds will never, as Bridgetown recognises, be enough, so it is vital that every pound, dollar and euro of aid is used to generate other sources of support. Mobilising private finance was the centrepiece of a seminal 2015 report from the IMF and the development banks. Governments, it proposed, should put in place the right incentives to encourage private finance to invest in climate breakdown and development. Indeed, the SDGs' funding needs could be met if we mobilised just 1% each year of the \$400tn financial assets held by banks, institutional investors and fund

managers.

Yet despite billions in pledges, good intentions and a flood of press releases publicising socially responsible environment, social and government projects, too little private investment is yet in play, leading to allegations of greenwashing. Pioneered by Ronald Cohen, impact investing, where corporate outlays are measured not only in risk and reward but in socially beneficial results, has the potential to fund clean energy, renewables and mitigation and adaptation. But this will almost certainly require legislation for impact-weighted accounting, so that alongside profit and loss, companies itemise in monetary terms the real-time social and environmental benefits of their activities.

But all this will take time, and climate finance is needed urgently. It should be kickstarted immediately by transforming the World Bank into a global public goods bank. The international development association is the arm of the bank dedicated to the lowest-income countries. By borrowing on the strength of repaid loans, it can unlock more than \$100bn in additional capital. Merging this with the bank's facility that aids middle-income countries could then quadruple the bank's capital base.

Even more funds could be generated through the innovative use of guarantees offered to the regional development banks by the richest countries, and the Asian Development Bank is already planning to fund climate projects securing guarantees from European governments. If deployed across all multilateral banks, an initial \$10bn in grants, some raised from global philanthropists, matched with \$60bn of

guarantees, could be used to raise a total of \$270bn to support the transition to net zero, and, overall, our regional and international institutions could soon be investing not just billions but a trillion dollars each year.

And funds could be guaranteed on a sustained basis if the world's richest countries agreed to share the burden fairly, based on their capacity to pay. While this is a proven model, used in 1966 in an attempt to eliminate smallpox, today only \$7bn of UN financing (for peacekeeping) and just \$1bn of health financing (to pay 25% of the current World Health Organization budget) is currently raised through a burden-sharing formula. All the rest comes through passing around a begging bowl.

A world addressing an existential challenge should not have to rely on charity. An action plan for Cop28 that requires donors to contribute to climate finance based on their capacity to pay – and, in the case of loss and damage, based on historic liability for greenhouse gas emissions – should be the starting point for the next round of climate finance. Adequately funding our global goals for the first time would be something to really cheer about. We have the means and the knowhow. What we now need is the political will.

Source: *The Guardian.com*

The author, Gordon Brown is the WHO ambassador for global health financing, and was UK prime minister from 2007 to 2010.

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

Rich nations have promised to pay for the climate crisis – but will they?

News



New tourist destinations under dev't to enhance Ethiopia's tourism capacity

ADDIS ABABA - Tourism State Minister Selamawit Dawit said the three tourism destinations under development in Ethiopia will play a significant role in enhancing tourism.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, the state minister said the tourism destinations under development in three regions of the country would bring a big impact in enhancing the tourism capacity of the country.

According to her, Gorgora and Koysha destinations are near completion and will commence service this Ethiopian year.

Recall that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) launched 'Dine for Ethiopia' Tourism Attraction Projects in Wenchi, Gorgora and Koysha located in Oromia, Amhara and SNNP regional states on August 14, 2020.

"Gorgora is a beautiful area; there is nature and conducive weather. With its access to both water and road transportation, it can be one of the best tourist destinations," she stated.

Similarly, Koysha and Wenchi are nature wonders. So, these areas will contribute for the development of the sector and for job creation as well.

With their big accommodation capacity, the newly developed tourist destinations will contribute significantly for the



Selamawit Dawit

development of tourism, the state minister elaborated.

Noting that tourism service is the combination of many services, including hotel, transportation, and security issue, she pointed out that efforts are being made to address these issues at the required level.

Selamawit further said hotels are being given standards in accordance with their service types and capacity so as to offer alternatives for tourists with fair price depending on their interests.

And to safeguard tourists, efforts are being intensified in collaboration with the pertinent bodies, she added.

Tourism is one of the COVID-19 affected sector and tourists have been almost closed for two years. But now tourists are aggressively moving, and activities in this regard are getting better in Ethiopia during the last six months.

Countries across the globe are also working to stimulate tourism activities by undertaking various advertising and promotional works at international level to increase tourist flow, create awareness for investors about their tourism potential.

Peace is the passport of tourism, the state minister noted, adding that the recently signed agreement has therefore a big meaning for the tourism sector in which the tourism actors are stimulated and many tourists are interested to visit the northern part of the country.

Ethiopia has the UNESCO registered heritages, including the Rock Hewn Churches of Lalibella, Castle of Fasiledes, Axum, and the Danakil Depression, a geographic wonder one of the hottest and lowest lands in the world.

As Ethiopia has a lot of tourism resources, it could easily become a preferred tourist destination country by developing its natural, historical, and cultural resources, the state minister underscored.

WFP scales up...

supplies to Ethiopia's Tigray state

The aid has been delivered to Tigray since 15th November when WFP resumed operations using all four reopened road corridors.

The news release stated that the WFP-led Logistics Cluster has facilitated the transportation of 250 metric tons of humanitarian cargo into Tigray from Gondar, Kombolcha and Semera for eight cooperating partners, including medical items via air.

WFP has already delivered food to over 100,000 people in Mai Tsebri in the northwestern zone and Alamata in the southern zone since roads into Tigray reopened. WFP also reached 540,000 people in Mekelle in early November. Since the start of November, WFP has reached 29 % of its caseload of 2.1 million people with food assistance in the Tigray state.

However, deliveries of assistance within Tigray are not matching the needs and WFP and its cooperating partners urgently need access to all parts of the state to deliver food and nutrition assistance to 2.3 million vulnerable people. In North Ethiopia, two years of conflict has left more than 13.6 million people in need of humanitarian food assistance, WFP indicated.

WFP's latest Emergency Food Security assessment of the situation in Tigray, published in August, found 5.4 million people - 90 % of the region - in need of food assistance. Families in Amhara and Afar are also affected where 7 million and 1.2 million people respectively require food assistance.

As WFP report stated, additional funding must be made available to support both the immediate and long-term needs of people affected by conflict and climate shocks.

CoHA keeps...

economy and keeping the growth momentum, according to an expert in the area.

Addressing members of the House of Peoples' Representatives recently, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said Ethiopia's economy increased by 6.4 % in the 2021/22 fiscal year whilst a plan is set to register 7.5 % growth in the current year. Abiy said on the occasion that the CoHA is of paramount importance in ending the war and stepping up growth

and development of the nation.

Commenting on the issue, an economist and Global Chairman of the Fairfax Africa Fund Zemedeneh Negatu stated that the peace agreement will have enormous opportunities in opening Ethiopia's economy. If the country was able to grow by 4-5 % in the last 25 years, there is no doubt that it has the capacity to regain the momentum.

As Ethiopia has been under sanction from western states, international financial

institutions and others, the lifting of sanctions is very significant in boosting the country's economy. Billions of dollars aimed to be funded were held up due to the conflict, Zemedeneh elaborated.

If billions of dollars that were held up because of the war are released, it will greatly boost Ethiopia's economy and the debt structure will also have a significant impact in enhancing the GDP. For the last three years Ethiopia has been focusing on increasing exports aiming at improving

foreign exchange reserves which was successful.

"In the next few months we expect the release of funds from the IMF, WB and the debt restructuring will also boost our confidence by itself. With a peace deal, there is optimism that Ethiopia can quickly forge an economic comeback. Also, the entry of foreign bank, the partial privatization of ethio-telecom will have a significant role in boosting the economy," the economist remarked.

Opinion

Green Legacy

BY GETACHEW MINAS/EYOB GETAHUN

The Ethiopian government has launched its Green Legacy Initiative in 2019. Its focus is on tree planting on a massive scale. It intends to plant 20 billion trees within four years. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed launched the campaign in 2022, giving it a high priority. The Ethiopian government aimed at planting 6 billion trees during the winter season. Those who do not wish the Ethiopian success have been skeptical regarding the size of the undertaking. Yet, the initiative has given a significant surge to forest development which will enhance livelihood of the Ethiopian people. The initiative has also given an opportunity for the state and its associates to use the media in raising awareness among the people about the value of planting trees for environmental protection. However, there are some segments of the society that do take responsibility for environmental protection.

Some business enterprises do not care much if economic growth causes environmental damage. On the other hand, there are environmental advocates who do not believe there will be economic growth “without” causing environmental damage. A few economists pointed to a contradiction that the business world could not resolve. It could not compromise the appetite for economic growth with the urgent need to check carbon emissions. It is difficult to see economic growth with environmental protection. However, a strong Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may design public policies that involved both the government and private sectors. These sectors contribute to the development and application of technologies that could reduce pollution while allowing continued economic growth. The developed world now implements pollution technology regulations to control the power plants and motor vehicles, which had been major contributors to air pollution. These factors are no longer major polluters.

The process of environmental protection itself contributes to economic growth. Enterprises produce and distribute air pollution control technologies which are used by power plants and motor vehicles. They also introduce protective mechanisms in other pollutants, including the sewage and water treatment facilities. Innovations such as solar cells, windmills and high capacity battery immensely contribute to environmental protection. Cleaners of waterfronts, riversides and shores widen and enlarge suitable zones for housing development. The building boom in the developed countries followed the clean-up of river sides and parks. Apartments across river sides and parks will bring a higher price than the same apartment in other areas. The development of parks may raise the values of the already existing real estate bordering the parks. Consequently, clean air, water and planting of trees as in the “Green



Legacy” project in Ethiopia will preserve nature. All these will contribute to human health and productivity that result in far more economic benefit than economic cost.

As a few observers assert, the climate problem is not caused by economic growth, but by the absence of effective public policy designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There is nothing incompatible with production and environmental protection as long as rules are in place. These rules and regulations should ensure the control of the negative impacts of products and services on the environment. With these rules in place, a concern for environmental sustainability can and will permeate everyday decision-making in the private, nonprofit and governmental organizations we all benefit from. A concern for sustainability is the newest trend in the development of more sophisticated organizational management. The field of management is not only focused on the development of mass production, but it is also concerned with the physical dimensions of environmental sustainability.

Modern managers continue to device production, marketing, and financial strategy along with assessment of their use of energy, water and other materials to reduce waste and environmental impacts. They engage environmental sustainability staff in respect of EPA rules to identify and reduce organizational practices that damage the environment. On the production side, manager’s work to increase environmental sustainability, and on the consumption side, consumers “buy green” by changing their consumption patterns that also help reduce environmental damage. Engaging in the habit of green consumption, for example, adds to the growth of the economy. All consumption behaviors do not have the “same” impact on environmental sustainability. More sustainable lifestyles are emerging and they can be detected in consumption patterns.



Consumption trends are more influenced by changing cultural norms than by public policy, and typically should not be subjects of policymaking. Exceptions might include consumption that has a direct negative impact on others such as driving while intoxicated or smoking in a public space. The environmental impact of consumption can also be reduced by new technologies. It is ironic that some people believe that there should be a trade-off between economic growth and environmental protection. They think that both can and must be accomplished. However, economic development cannot be abandoned as most people in the developed world may not change their lifestyles. Forcing them to do so will politically marginalize the environmental advocates. The absence of economic development leads to political instability and the potential for violence.

Climate scientists often mention the impact of climate change on political instability, economic growth and refugee influx. With drastic change in climate, people tend to migrate from their place of origin and become refugees in neighboring countries where the change is mild. When people emigrate in huge numbers, the receiving countries are overburdened causing political

instability on both sides. It also creates economic instability due to unemployment caused by migration. Thus, the impact of climate is multidimensional. The path to climate mitigation is not through slower but fast economic growth and political stability. Both have to be steered toward environmental sustainability and away from environmental destruction to reduce the intensity of the same problem.

Environmental experts have noticed significant changes in tree cover after the Green Legacy Initiative began in Ethiopia. Before the Green Legacy, there were a few eucalyptus trees scattered on the land. But since the initiative began, millions of trees have been planted. The number of trees planted in Addis Ababa as well as in Ethiopia had increased significantly in the past years. The planting seasons represented the success of the initiative, but there is still a need to maintain it. There was no alternative except to continue having such an initiative at a larger scale. Big enterprises

See Green ... Page 7

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

Business & Economy

Commitment in discovering Ethiopia's wealth for growth

BY HENOK TIBEBU

Ethiopia possessed abundant natural sources. In addition, it is endowed with man-made cultural assets being home for thirteen months of sunshine, its climate is also welcoming for all species of life but paradoxically staggering with century's old poverty and different socioeconomic challenges.

Economic growth could be reported from different perspectives of different interests groups but the nation still looks for committed actors who can exploit its wealth for the benefits of the public. Meanwhile there are signs of commitment from the government which proved some of the things that seem to be impossible for years have changed. One of them is the realization of wheat production on summer irrigation that boosts the nation's aspiration for ensuring food security.

The irrigation based summer production has enabled the country to harvest 25 million quintals of wheat on 405,000 hectares of land until October 2022. This inspires to exert more efforts to halt the importation of wheat.

The nation also has untapped livestock resources which puts it on sixth position in the world but still couldn't reach the expected level of meat and milk production. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the increasing urbanization and population growth that results 6.7 kg meat per capita consumption indicates that, the meat demand is growing from time to time.

Meanwhile the national red meat strategy has been introduced for the increment of production and productivity of red meat for export market. CEO of livestock and fisheries development at Ministry of Agriculture Tsigereda Fikadu said that four years development campaign known as "Yelemat Tirufat" that focuses on nutrition indicates that the government pays due attention for the wellbeing of citizens.

It was also indicated that red meat has become one of the priorities on the ten year plan of Ministry of Agriculture.

The plan intends to produce 1.7 million tons of red meat at the end of this fiscal year and it is expected to engage youths and women on the value chain from production up to supplying to consumers.

On the other hand, several border crossing rivers are originated from Ethiopia and these water sources can be backbones of the economy through cultivating fishery and irrigation farm. Ethiopia's water potential is expected to produce average of 100,000 tons of fish per annum, according to researches.

Over the past fiscal year, the country has planned to produce about 79,000 tons of fish and was able to achieve over 73,000 tons. In order to boost productivity, the ministry has given practical training for regional experts.

As to Tsigereda, it is possible to increase fish

production using every dam constructed for irrigation farm purpose. It can also utilize hydroelectric power dams for fishery.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said that, endowed with a suitable environment for cultivation, virtually any type of fruit can be farmed in Ethiopia. Enhancing current productivity on existing fruit types and diversifying to other varieties is possible, he stated.

Launching "Yelemat Tirufat" development campaign which focuses on nutritional opulence recently, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said that, the campaign is aimed at ensuring nutrition. The traditional food container, "Lemat" connects farmers, pastoralists, and consumers. It is about getting adequate nutritional food. Food self-sufficiency is directly related to national sovereignty and dignity, and "Yelemat Tirufat" campaign accelerates the efforts to achieve food self-sufficiency at the family and national levels.

Head of Fishery Desk at Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Fasil Dawit for his part said that, in order to tackle the problems on fishery sector, it is necessary to prepare a bilateral legal framework with neighboring countries and bring some illegal actors to justice.

In this case it was indicated that the sector could be a practical testing ground to achieve the major goals of the four years national campaign of "Yelemat Tirufat". To that end, the Ministry is working to increase fishery production from 73,000 tons which was achieved by 2021 to 247,000 tons by 2029.

Preventing illegal fishing nets, locking down lakes during breeding seasons and preventing illegal fish traffickers are mentioned to be major mechanism to protect water bodies from over fishing and vector borne diseases.

Horticulture is still in its infancy level but if it is boosted it can create job opportunity to hundreds of thousands unemployed youth and meet the demand in the urban markets. The country has planned to utilize over one million hectares of land and harvest 160 million quintals of yield in the current production year.

Horticulture Development Managing Chief Executive at the Ministry of Agriculture, Abdella Negash says that due attention is given in order to go boldly to tap the resources and to cultivate both by small holder and commercial farmers in the central high land parts of the country.

Moreover, it is essential to focus on products like onions, tomatoes, which have significant role in mitigating inflation and to protect the lower segment of the society from the growing price hike. The Consumers Cooperative Associations established in the urban areas also can supply products to consumers by fair price so that stabilizing the market can be realized.

Efforts are also being exerted in terms of breeding special seeds originated

domestically or from abroad. According to the United Nations program countries are required to meet nutrition security by 2030. Thus Ethiopia has to work hard on horticulture sector to replicate what it achieved on wheat irrigation development said Abdella.

Even though the above mentioned focus areas on agricultural and livestock sectors have great potential in exploiting Ethiopia's wealth there are several untapped areas that the nation's economic growth could depend on. Challenges such as the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, internal conflict, in the northern part of the country, Russia and Ukraine war, and drought are factors among others that put hurdles on the nation's economic growth.

The commitment that has been witnessed on the summer wheat irrigation farm can indicate that if the ongoing efforts are continued with no interruption, attaining food self-sufficiency will not be a dream rather it will be a real.

Initiatives like the "Yelemat Tirufat" are expected to play leading role in achieving higher production and productivity as well as securing nutrition. Ensuring nutrition will mean creating a productive future generation.

Ethiopia has 18 types of agro-ecological zones starting from arid areas up to the alpine forests which can be utilized both for sedentary farm and livestock production. But due to lack of technology, modern inputs, capital and skilled labor their contribution to the economic growth is insignificant.

The government long ago has been trying its level best to raise production and productivity of the sectors. It provided agricultural inputs to farmers by subsidizing price and supported them by providing extension services but as they are subsistence and the achieved results did not changed farmer's way of living from subsistence to that of surplus producers. Hence enhancing paying attention of the sector should be continued.

Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa next to Nigeria. The population growth is the highest in the continent which is 3 percent. However the growth of agricultural production does not go in line with the population growth. There is huge gap between food demand and supply. The food production is below the demand as the result, to fill the gap the government mostly resorted to the importation of food which costs the nation meager hard currency reserves.

Not only these, the agricultural sector both the sedentary and the animal husbandry are vulnerable to extreme weather conditions. In time of drought crop failure is a common phenomenon which leaves farmers to sustain their life by foreign handouts. The absence of rain particularly in the low land part of the country put heavy toll on the live stalk resources. Hence to bring viable solution to the sector enhancing the utilization of technology by allocating huge budget should be taken as a way out.

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Planet Earth

Providing access to water, hygiene facilities in IDP camps

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The political reform, that took place in mid-2018 in Ethiopia, has brought various positive outcomes to the country. Nevertheless, those who oppose the reform attempt to destabilize the country and displaced many people from their villages. Currently, with the commitment and direction of the government, many of the internally displaced people (IDPs) return to their place and start leading a normal life.

However, the displaced people return to their villages and start to live a normal life, many of these internally displaced persons face serious challenges which affect their well-being. Especially, the damage to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities become a great challenge for both the people who have returned to their villages and are located in IDP camps in Oromo Special and North Shewa zones in the Amhara State.

Accordingly, a Non-Governmental Organization called Plan International Ethiopia has handed over drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities that benefit over 170 thousand people in the Oromo Special and North Shewa zones in the Amhara Region.

Executing various community-centered projects like drinking water supply, education, health, and other related societal services is significantly useful in improving the lives of many, so stated Plan International.

Speaking at a ceremony organized to hand over a range of projects to the community in the Oromo Special and North Shewa zones in the Amhara State, Plan International Ethiopia Country Office Wash Project Manager Wendosen Admasu said that the facilities

are built in 8 Woredas with the aim to benefit society who were displaced and affected by recurrent conflict in the region.

According to Wendosen, Plan International Ethiopia is working on drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities that assist the communities. The facilities which are handed over to the communities are clean water supply, toilets, and showers that are built in Ataye city and Debre Berhan city displaced camps.

The rehabilitation work includes 12 kilometers of a clean water pipeline that covers three kebeles and expands over 16 water points, and reservoirs in Ataye city, he added.

Debre Berhan city IDP camps Health Officer Inidabere Sewamne said the water facilities, toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal, capacity building, and awareness training directly benefit and support the health sector activities in the camp.

Tadele Gedamu a Health Officer noted that the water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities as well as waste disposal management training directly benefit not only the IDPs but also the health sectors in the city.

Especially, the toilets that are built in the IDP camp prevent infectious and communicable diseases by avoiding open defecation. The waste disposal facilities help to prevent major outbreaks such as Cholera in the IDP during winter seasons. He further requested the organization to continue providing the region with clean water access, and sanitation and hygiene services.

The 65 years old Ataye city resident Mr. Zeyde Hamade remarked that the conflict worsens the severe water shortage problems that existed in the city. The water shortages



reached a peak due to the damage to the water lines in the ongoing war.

The place where we fetch water is very far away from our residence and are forced to carry jars and water containers for many kilometers. Because paying to use donkeys or camels for fetching water is very expensive since the people are highly affected by the conflicts. Hence, we were subjected to unnecessary costs.

The new water points with water reservoirs

containers along with the service it provides, help children to go to school. It also gives relief to women not to be harmed by carrying water containers and jars, he stated.

According to Ataye City Mayor Asfaw Derbe, Plan International is a model for other NGOs by building drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation facilities for the communities within six months. These moves and activities should be also repeated in other developmental projects in the region in general and Ataye city in particular.

Green...

began to have a keen interest to cover a bare mountain with forest, covering its full cost. Billions of seedlings were prepared for the GLI planting campaign. Most of the agroforestry trees were fruit, coffee, fodder and shade and ornamental trees. The focus on agroforestry boosted the restoration of degraded lands with the planting of trees.

The experience gained in agroforestry is believed to lead to sustainable land use practice in Ethiopia. Professionals believe that agroforestry would result in ecological and economic interaction that “minimizes” the trade-off between agriculture and forestry. In other words, as agriculture expands it requires more land and threatens forest cover. In particular, where agriculture is extensive rather than intensive it requires more land. The use of modern tech encourages intensive use of land in which productivity of land is enhanced. Traditional farming, on the other hand, requires “extensive” size of land to produce the same amount of produce as an intensive modern tech does on “smaller” size of land. The high tech agriculture, however, demands technical inputs, including spare parts and skills for maintenance. These inputs are import intensive and demand

foreign exchange. This implies that the agricultural produce should be exportable and competitive at the international market.

Trees could be planted for fruit, firewood, fertilizer, timber, forage, and pastures. This practice depends on the patterns, contexts, and socio-cultural settings of the communities. To aid in this process, rural resource centers have been formed in various regions of Ethiopia. These centers are business-oriented and are run mainly by women and youth that supply quality seedlings to the GLI, and earn income in return. As Eyob Tufa mentioned, the initiative is important for agri-business firm as it enjoyed increased demand for its seedlings. However, the enterprise has faced drought during the tree planting season that has seriously affected its performance. However, other enterprises have focused on introducing farmers to improved varieties of fruit trees which have created better marketing opportunities for youth and women who produce seedlings of improved varieties.

Researchers believe that planting more fruit trees on farmland would improve survival rates of planted trees. Since farmers use the

fruit trees as sources of food and income, they will care for them as a result of which the trees will survive in the farmland. The fruit yield of avocado trees, for example, increases progressively until they are old, after which the yield begins to decline. But, they will continue to produce fruits for many more years. According to Mulugeta Mokria, having fruit trees in farmland and backyards for years will result in practical and sustainable “impacts” for the environment and livelihoods. Beyond having trees on the ground, the GLI has achieved several notable successes in building capacities, systems, and culture around restoration.

With increase in the number of nurseries, the initiative has created thousands of “green jobs” mostly for women and youth. It has also contributed to a widespread awareness of the importance of reforestation. There is no doubt that the GLI has resulted in the most significant “green culture,” which will be a legacy for future generations. The Ethiopian urban residents are becoming aware of the value of green areas and this enhances forest cover in the country. This awareness among urbanites will definitely result in a commitment to the green

legacy. To strengthen this commitment and obligation, the Ethiopian government plans to restore millions of hectares of degraded land by 2030, through various projects. One of these projects is the provision of sufficient and sustainable high-quality seed sources.

In collaboration with the concerned government organization, some private enterprises are ready to provide seeds in identified orchards. They also train farmers and provide them with collection tools to ensure the quality of the seeds. They also facilitate and support the establishment of the agroforestry platforms that work at regional, zonal, and district levels. These venues are used to share experiences, lessons, and good practices among development practitioners. At these venues are presented challenges of poverty, inequality, malnutrition, and scarcity of energy. Also, challenges of environment including land degradation, climate change, deforestation, water scarcity and habitat and biodiversity loss are addressed. The “Green Legacy Initiative” is a critical move in the right direction and at the right time, when Ethiopia has been faced with environmental degradation and its severe impacts.

Art & Culture

For heroic Diaspora Ethiopians, homecoming is more than routine visit

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

The arrival of Ethiopians from the Diaspora coincides with two main events, namely the handshaking of Ethiopian federal forces and TPLF on the one hand and the celebrations of the two major Ethiopian annual holidays of Ethiopian Christmas or Epiphany and *Timket* or Holy Baptism. Close to one million Diaspora Ethiopians are expected to come back to their homeland mainly in connection with the reconstruction of the war-devastated towns in Amhara and Afar as well as to visit their families and enjoy the coming holidays. The three events seem to be well-synchronized.

Diaspora's relentless fight for justice

The Ethiopian Diaspora coming back home at this opportune moment should enjoy a hero's welcome for many reasons. First, the Diaspora Ethiopians have been fighting and continue to fight against the global misinformation campaigns launched by the TPLF neo-fascists and their international collaborators like the corporate media in America and the Washington hawks within the State Department that are living no stone unturned to turn the conflict into a powerful tool to promote their regional and global strategy of domination.

The Diaspora Ethiopians around the world fought tooth and nail not only against the international misinformation campaign carried out by corporate media and psychological pressure against Ethiopia. They also organized huge campaigns against the Washington leaders that went on for weeks and resulted in the exposure of their belligerent attitudes towards Ethiopia in blatant violation of international laws and diplomatic ethics. The Biden administration seemed to ignore these events, but deep down the Washington hawks must be feeling hurt and disoriented because they never expected such a degree of angry reaction from Ethiopians living in their midst. Under the Trump administration, Africans-Americans waged "BLACK LIVES MATTER" demos and Diaspora Ethiopians seemed to be inspired by them to launch their "ETHIOPIAN LIVES MATTER" or "AFRICAN LIVES MATTER" kinds of demonstrations and they were hugely popular and hugely successful.

Deafening international silence

The impassivity and silence with which the international community watched those tragic events unfolding in Ethiopia was heart-breaking indeed. These images were not broadcast by the corporate media for obvious reasons. The Western corporate media were assigned to the humiliating task of serving as public relations offices of the Washington hawks and their protégés.

In a manner that will certainly prove unnerving to the neo-fascists and their Washington masters, the Diaspora Ethiopians will be here to make contributions to the reconstruction of the devastated infrastructures and the broken lives of so many of their compatriots. They are not discouraged by the fact that the Biden administration withdrew assistance to Ethiopia, a traditional ally of the US for more than a century, imposed sanctions, expelled Ethiopia from the AGOA trade privileges that were given to African countries during the previous administrations and actively collaborated in the joint bid to turn Ethiopia into a new Libya or Syria, working in sync with their proxy warriors.

The Diaspora Ethiopians are real heroes because they were not intimidated by the might of the US administration that has taken steps against immigrants in the past. Most Diaspora Ethiopians are certainly disappointed by the Biden administration although they voted for the democratic party in their hope that it would be better than the humiliated Trump administration that insulted Africa as "shithole places" and suggested bombing the GERD to end the dispute. The Biden presidency is no better for Africa than the Trump predecessor that built walls in its southern borders with Mexico to prevent Latinos from reaching out to the "Land of Opportunities". Ethiopians from the Diaspora are brave, honest and hardworking folks who made it in the US with their talent and hard work but never compromised their integrity and patriotism. Recent news of an Ethiopian surgeon in the US and his friends sending 6 million dollars worth of medical equipment and essential drugs is a case in point to demonstrate the patriotism of Ethiopians wherever they live and work. When they left Ethiopia, Ethiopia did not leave them.

Reconstruction and business opportunities

Diaspora Ethiopians are real heroes because the financial and material contributions they are making towards the reconstruction of the country did not come at a small cost as life is not always rosy for all of them. For these Diaspora Ethiopians commitment to the welfare of their motherland is sometimes stronger than any religious devotion. Life may be hard for many of them but it is not as hard as watching their compatriots suffer humiliation and poverty due to domestic enemies and their foreign backers. Some of them have already gone as far as fighting at various fronts. For many of them, no job, no money and no success is more important than defending the survival of their motherland.

Even the American economy is suffering

as a result of the expenditures of the failed Afghan war where various administrations spent trillions of dollars and left empty-handed. Ethiopia is an economically small country with an immense potential for growth and a huge sense of self-reliance and endurance. The peace time endurance Ethiopian athletes displayed the Olympics is only a tiny part of the bravery and stamina ordinary Ethiopians usually display during times of trials. Look at all the women and children who spent more than six months in the wilderness suffering hunger, rain and sun and diseases.

This is Ethiopian resilience inaction after every standing structure, including houses, hospitals; shelters for displaced people were destroyed...etc. This is Ethiopian bravery at its best. And now look at those young women and children who suffered misfortune and are now eager to go back to their decimated villages, their burnt huts and farms and their livestock decimated. That is bravery at its best. "We want to go back as soon as possible and rebuild our lives and change our conditions to the better!" claimed a young Ethiopian girl from Gondar speaking on the radio. As a rule, Ethiopians are unbeatable, resilient, optimistic and forward-looking whatever tragedy they face and the losses they suffer. Like the girl in the episode above, they are often contemptuous of hardships and those who make those things happen to them.

The Diaspora Ethiopians are coming to make financial and other contributions and the positive impact of this kind of initiative will be huge. Imagine for instance a million Ethiopians in the Diaspora drinking a cup of coffee each day and paying one US dollar for each cup of coffee. Can you imagine how much money they would raise in a week, two weeks or more? that would simply be huge. Try to multiply three million cups of coffee by one dollar and you have three million dollars. Change this into the local currency at the bank rate and you have one hundred and twenty million Birr! This is only a rough estimate of a single act of fundraising.

Ethiopians are also good at turning misfortunes into opportunities. Their country is agonizing at present but the Diaspora Ethiopians are using this to come home and visit their families who are carrying the double burden of the war and inflation. This is no doubt a welcome news for so many underprivileged families and their dependents. Even then, for most Ethiopians seeing their families is more important and more fulfilling than the festivities that usually accompany homecomings.

Learning from foreign experiences

The Ethiopian Diaspora community has a lot of lessons to draw from similar experiences around the world. The Chinese, Indians,

Israelis and other people have managed to return to their native lands and rebuild their war-shattered economies. Diaspora Ethiopians have increasingly become very influential in the economic reconstruction of the country. They are involved in real estate development, manufacturing, in financial contributions to the GERD project and now in emergency relief and reconstruction operations. Ethiopia receives annually more remittances than it gets from its export sector. More than 3 billion US dollars are transferred annually to the country through remittances and similar transactions. Contributing to the economy is also one aspect of heroism.

No doubt the Diaspora Ethiopians are going to have a good time here although it may be far from being a holiday in a coastal town. These may be tough times but nothing will prevent the guests from enjoying the usual Ethiopian hospitalities or specialties. Most of them may be nostalgic of Ethiopian food and beverage cultures that are some of the best in the world according to the opinions of culinary specialists.

Twice occupied, twice liberated Lalibela

The historic tourist town of Lalibela was twice occupied by the TPLF and twice liberated by the federal and allied forces. International organizations like UNESCO did not lift their small finger to speak against the invasion and the potential destruction of the historical and cultural relics that are considered world heritages. No matter how international organizations reacted, Lalibela has braved the awful consequences of the invasion and emerged alive although the extent of the destruction to the stone churches is not yet clear.

Historic Gondar is preparing and waiting to welcome its Diaspora tourists to come and enjoy the timeless sights, visit the villages where – troops on the other side ran amok and caused so much tragedy. At night they can still visit the hotels and *azmari bets* where patriotic songs and dances boost the combative mood of their visitors. Tewodros Kassahun, a.k.a Teddy Afro is the rave in the bars, cafes and night hangouts in Gondar and other major towns in Amhara region.

Diaspora Ethiopians can come both as fighters for the cause of their motherland and as tourists and spend money that will go into reviving the local economies badly affected by the fighting and the lootings in the region. The same can be said about beautiful Bahir Dar and Semera, the capital of Afar Region. Diaspora Ethiopians who can withstand the hot weather in Afar can travel to scenic places where volcanic lava is boiling deep in the earth's crust, a sight popularized by tourist posters. Afar too deserves its share of Diaspora Ethiopians who can make contributions to its economic revival.

Society

Cherishing one's cultural value for brighter future

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Giving a special value to nations, nationalities and peoples' identity and culture has a significant and lasting impact on the unity of any country. In this regard, cherishing the cultural and historical identity of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' of Ethiopia has a key role in unifying and creating mutual understanding among the people. Lately, the Russian folk musical performance organized by the Russian Embassy in dedication to the National Unity Day was marked here in Addis Ababa, at the premises of the Embassy.

At the event, several government officials and invited guests were seen enjoying Russian folk music. Using the opportunity, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a chance to interview Russian Press Attaché and the legendary Ethiopian Playwright, Poet and Critic Ayalneh Mulat on the value of preserving cultural identities for the good of the nation.

According to Maria Chernukhina, Press Attaché of the Embassy of Russia, unity and cultural tolerance are two sides of a single coin. Like that of Russia, where there are more than one hundred nationalities, Ethiopia is also a land with several nations and nationalities. For this very reason, preserving one's culture is not an option. "Ethiopia and Russia have a long-standing relationship, and this year we are celebrating the 125th anniversary. The musical concert which was celebrated on November 4th in connection to the Russian National Unity Day also manifests our wish to share our culture with African countries, Ethiopia in particular, because Ethiopia is a big friend of Russia. For years, we have been sharing common values and common traditions regarding Christianity and others. The possibility of sharing Russian culture in the form of folk music with Ethiopia is a big opportunity to share cultural exchanges between the two countries. This further promotes People to People relations."

Seconding the view of Maria Chernukhina, the renowned Ethiopian Playwright, Poet and Critic Ayalneh Mulat said that the folk music and other cultural practices that are still kept by Russian people are a reflection of their dedication to cultural identities and current achievements. "If they



want to create something new, they use their forefathers' indigenous knowledge as and utilize them as a springboard for new innovations. There is no change out of the blue. For Russians, development means building something new out of the foundation of their predecessor. Based on the basis of their forefathers, they create something new. This culture of valuing the old identity is reflected almost in everything. It can be seen on their art, science and military spheres as well."

Civilization and development are not all about copying others' achievements. Rather, going back to the earlier times and appreciating the achievements of those people in the remote past is important. "Whoever sees the experiences of those economically developed nations, S/he will realize that their current economic or political success has a strong foundation that traces its ground on the past. All great nations have become "great" because they have given special respect to their past and value the achievements of their forefathers. Let alone those ancient countries whose origin goes back before the birth of Christ, nations with a recent historical ground value the accomplishments of their founding fathers. Be it Japan, Korea or any other young nations, their civilizations emerge from their cultural ground."

In this regard, as to him, we,

Ethiopians, should always value and nurture our traditional identity and use our past achievements for tomorrow's progress. The more we appreciate the achievements of our forefathers; we create a better, and deliver a safe Ethiopia to the coming generation. The more we appreciate, love and respect others' culture, the more we will have a new generation whose foundation is love and tolerance.

Ayalneh said, Ethiopia is a land with several ancient civilizations and achievements. It is also the land where one can witness the harmonious lifestyle of different nations and nationalities. "These are our opportunities to grow and prosper together. Great nations have influenced others through their culture because they treasure their traditions. This is what we should learn from them. If we fail to appreciate what is ours, no one will do that for us." As noted by Ayalneh, we Ethiopians have a lot to share with the world. As a land of diversity, we should capitalize on what we have in hand.

When asked the meaning of unity, Ayalneh said that we cannot bring unity from the barrel of a gun. Instead, it is by the means of art and culture. We should learn to share our cultural value systems with each other. The northern part of the nation should enjoy the culture of the south; the southern

people should learn the culture of the north or the East. The same is true for the west. This brings people closer and enables them to understand each other.

Regarding the use of art, particularly, music for unity, Ayalneh said that we have wrongly interpreted the value of art in the area of unity; we have wrongly understood the power of music in areas of peace and unity. We use music or any other forms of art to arouse the heroic feeling of soldiers, to kill each other instead of using it for peace and unity. "I am saying this from my personal experience. In times when I and the other members of 'People to People Music Tour /Hizeb Le Hizeb/' were engaged in cultural exhibition carried out around the world to "give a tour de force of Ethiopian music and culture throughout the world and a way to thank nations for the assistance they had provided to Ethiopia during the famine, it was our cultural values and the traditional music performance that opened the door in the foreign land."

It was not the political ideology, the parade at Meskel Square or the military strength of the then government that helped us to open the door of the West. It was our cultural values and music performances that melted the hearts of our donors. In this regard, we should not forget the power of art in uniting people from different walks of life.

Law & Politics

Turning Pretoria peace deal into action

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

On the heels of the Pretoria peace deal inked by the federal government and TPLF with a view to ending the northern conflict and restoring stability in the country, Ethiopia has embarked on bringing home the bacon by implementing the peace agreement almost immediately.

In good truth, the agreement which includes a ceasefire beyond a shadow of a doubt plays a paramount role in guaranteeing peace and providing a firm ground for safeguarding the country's sovereignty and territorial unity. Aside from that, the peace accord would smooth the path of reinstating essential services, paving the way for unrestricted humanitarian assistance, and even ensuring permanent cessation of hostilities.

Albeit some entities know the constructive steps surfacing following the suspensions of hostilities, they have been unremittingly engaged in throwing cold water on the efforts of the federal government and confounding the global community with faulty information. In spite of the fact that nobody benefits from war and other destructive acts, some entrepreneurs of war have been changing nonstop the narratives of the existing circumstances on the ground.

No matter what scaremongers and wet blankets say Ethiopia has jumpstarted putting the peace agreement into action in a rewarding manner with no trouble.

As things currently stand, Ethiopia's adversaries that are displeased with the cessation-of-hostilities agreement and its implementation have been leaning over backward to thwart the agreement and ignite another round of war. They have been as well throwing themselves into dragging the positive initiatives of the implementation of the peace process through the mire with the usual fake news.

For the sake of truth, Ethiopia has passed through many ups and downs, on account of a wide spectrum of setbacks that emanate from the war that lasted two years in the northern part of the country. However, in the present climate, the federal government has set in motion restoring essential services and allowing unrestricted humanitarian in the Tigray state.

In the aftermath of the Pretoria peace agreement, the government has been implementing the peace process aimed at safeguarding peace and tranquility, which are the foundation and pillar of every nation in the world. As the agreement gives rise to ending the conflict and the suffering of innocent civilians in the shortest possible time, all and sundry should stand by the side of



the government for the realization of the peace agreement.

As implementing the peace agreement is a new dawn for Ethiopia, and plays a huge role in taking the country and the entire horn of Africa to the next level, pertinent bodies should join hands more than ever before. In sharp contradiction to the positive changes, to everyone's dismay, some groups have been getting themselves involved in pouring cold water on the positive achievements of the government attempting to blacken and distract the implementation of the peace process.

The government of Ethiopia and TPLF, signatories of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) in Pretoria, announced that the implementation of the truce is underway in a good manner.

Accordingly, Government Communication Service (GCS), Legesse Tulu stated that the government has been fulfilling its responsibilities for the realization of the peace accord to ensure the equal benefits and unity of the people. Lasting peace comes from inner desire and our commitment to look inward and heal our wounds. If we are able to look at the bigger picture and hope for the future, then lasting peace can be achieved.

Externalizing and echoing problems that are arising from doubt and fear can never be part of the solution. Accordingly, it is important to take concrete steps and the federal government is fully executing its responsibilities based on the CoHA, the minister added.

The government is also facilitating humanitarian aid and medical supplies from partners to Tigray through all corridors which are part of the Pretoria Agreement. Groups of professionals in each sector are working together to restore basic services and some public

institutions have already resumed operation.

Legesse further stressed that this tangible effort and the desire of the government to implement the CoHA should be replicated by the TPLF side; adding that curtailing the destructive activities of some groups which want to ruin the truce, is something worth considering. Optimism and committed action from every Ethiopian are crucial to establish lasting peace in the country.

For his part, commander of Tigray combatants Tadesse Werede said that in some areas, leaders of the TPLF forces and the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) are meeting in person and discussing the implementation of the agreement. The disarmament process is progressing well according to the agreement reached in Nairobi, Kenya.

TPLF forces have been receiving orientation in the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) process and various activities have also been carried out to raise public awareness in this regard. The orientation would be completed soon.

After the disengagement of forces from areas of deployment, they would be transported to rehabilitation and orientation centers and all the necessary preparation has been finalized to this end. "Other activities have also been carried out in accordance with the CoHA in a clear manifestation of our commitment to implement the truce," Tadesse noted.

The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) between the government and TPLF respected the constitutional order and asserted that any group should operate in accordance with the law of the land, a governance and law expert said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), the expert Aaron Degol stated

that the peace accord was conducted with a party that was operating outside of the legal system and to prevent its destructive activities that went to a full-fledged war.

Law enforcement is the best way to describe the CoHA, as the federal government has been doing in the past. It is the correct expression of a movement to reverse destructive activities and restore the legal system because a state has acted beyond its authority and violated the federal system.

As to the expert, establishing an Election Commission is the exclusive power given to the Federal Government under the Constitution, and states are not empowered to form those commissions. "Tigray is one of the 11 state administrations and the federal government was right that the state's 2020 election was unconstitutional.

"The constitution clearly states that the federal government has the sole authority to enact laws regarding elections and political parties and it has been decided that the House of Peoples' Representatives will enact laws regarding the matter. Therefore, the establishment of the election commission is not state jurisdiction."

By the same token, Ethiopia has one defense force and the constitution allows state governments to organize state police but does not explicitly authorize them to establish a special force. Tigray has gone beyond Special Forces to organize a defense force and this is also against the law of the land, Aaron elaborated.

Foreign relations are also the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government and state governments cannot be related to foreign bodies as sovereign countries and the truce also restored this authority, the expert elaborated. "States that border with neighboring countries could enhance the people-to-people and economic ties only with the federal government's recognition and approval.

It is unconstitutional to establish and operate a foreign relations office with a foreign body without the recognition of the federal government. Thus, the CoHA is the instrument to preserve Ethiopia's territorial integrity and respect the country's sovereignty that derives from the constitutional order, he stressed.

In the present circumstances, as the government has been fully engaged in implementing the cessation of hostilities agreement, all stakeholders should stick up for the government with the purpose of ensuring law and order. More to the point as the peace agreement has a share in creating a culture of harmony and nurturing a better country for each and every one residing under Ethiopia's skies, everyone should join hands for the successful implementation of the peace accord.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

No Kings and Serfs!

“The Beautiful Game Meets Ugly Western Bigotry...” one headline says about the so-called western media’s demonization of the hosts. Like many western countries where all kinds of human rights abuses are under many guises the hosts would surely have their own problems. But the western media’s onslaught is not about human rights; it’s out and out racism. An official of the hosts was right to comment, “It is ironic when this tone is struck in countries in Europe that call themselves liberal democracies. It honestly sounds very arrogant and very racist;”

This is not about defending the Qataris. They can do it for themselves. It’s about defending the beautiful sport which by and by is not only being politicized but weaponized, too. The same media outlets which turn their backs to human rights abuses on their own doorsteps and inside their own houses now trying to spoil an event the aim of which has been, is, and would continue to be peace and brotherhood is abhorrent to say the least.

Several months back it was written UNHCR, “... is deeply concerned by the increasing number of incidents of violence and serious human rights violations against refugees and migrants at various European borders, several of which have resulted in tragic loss of life.” This following also comes from the same source, “What is happening at European borders is legally and morally unacceptable and must stop.” And yet the ‘moralistic’ rhetoric comes for such places. It’d have been better if they stopped playing the nice-kids-on-the-block game and took care of their own backyards.

Someone writes, “Every single country has

its own sovereign laws & values that must be respected by any foreigner & Qatar has every right to enforce them!” that says it all. One could go to these countries where the patronizing media spew their toxic writings from and try to break a single law, even the most harmful one for that matter. One would get the welcome one never expects.

Take all the noise about beer sales being banned. What did they want to do? Throw beer fest or something! There are laws about alcohol consumption in many countries, things you can and you can’t do. It’s “Play it right or else...” Why should alcohol ban in Qatar World Cup be such a hot issue in the so-called mainstream western media? Some made it sound as if something out of the ordinary was committed. They even had ‘analysis’ and was top agenda on some ‘talk shows.’ It is sad, though not surprising, to see so much campaign-like shenanigans being hatched to discredit World Cup 2022 for the only reason that it is being held in a country which is refusing to compromise its laws and draws the line loud and clear where the line should be drawn. Author Stephen King writes; “If you can’t go to a World Cup game without a beer, you might have a problem.”

The arrogance spilled onto the pitch though by individual actors. The arrogant and very inconsiderate act of Rudiger is a case in point. The guy didn’t even try to hide his improper actions. Then the Japanese came, saw and conquered one of the most ..teams in World Cup history. This game wasn’t only significant for the unexpected Japanese victory but also one seemingly minor but disturbing act of disrespect and arrogance by one player. No one familiar

with the game questions Antonio Rudiger’s defensive skills. The only thing is in that game he showed the ugliest character anyone would have expected of him. (Of course, one thing about this fellow is that in his defensive duties at Chelsea or elsewhere he is the type who wouldn’t care to take a foot or two along with the ball!) He actually mocked a Japanese forward laughing at him while the cameras were rolling and millions were watching all over the world. One fellow’s graphic description says it all; “Rudiger lifted his leg and you know. Don’t look down on the opponent like that because at some point they can go upstream. I think it’s very unprofessional. It shows arrogance. Rudiger laughed. But now only one team can laugh.” Some are making him individually responsible for the ‘humiliating’ defeat.

Make no mistake about it; this action was a display of larger heinous picture of disdain and disrespect of the ‘strong’ against the ‘weak,’ this time in football. When the underdogs turn the table the story is not written from their point of view but from the losing side’s. So the result is not amazing, astounding, and miraculous or whatever adjective one might attach to it; but it’s an ‘upset.’ So it is never about the underdogs! They can’t even hide their arrogance and that mentality of belittling others because maybe they are not seen as soccer powers.

“The West has a selfish greedy childish notion that all good things should belong to them at all costs. Where they are incapable of being in the driving seat they pour cold dirty water on the beneficiary,” someone wrote.

The human rights rhetoric flowing from these same places is indeed like a litmus test of what’s really going on in this world and maybe even what would continue to be the norm. Some of the most human rights abusers trying to play the morality game!

As someone commented, “This is coming from countries that have actively participated in most of the evils that have blighted humanity since Adam and Eve, is gross hypocrisy.”

“This moral lesson-giving -- one-sided -- is just hypocrisy;” This comes from no other than FIFA president Gianni Infantino. That’s not all; here is the cream of it all. “For what we Europeans have been doing for the last 3,000 years we should apologize for the next 3,000 years before starting giving moral lessons to people.” It gives this messy world hope that there’re still fully sane and reasonable people round who hit the nail where it should be hit - on the head. “I don’t want to give you any lessons of life, but what is going on here is profoundly, profoundly unjust.”

All countries have laws that should be respected. One stupid fan even went as far as baring her breast in the middle of the crowd for some photo-op, and in Qatar of all places! It’s sad to note that there are those who hailed her actions as the freedom of self-expression! They have locked her up and maybe she can ‘express’ herself without interference!

The beautiful game of football’s about respecting your opponents whoever they might be. Football is about equality, about peace, about mending fences. There are no kings and serfs, though the mainstream media makes it sound as such.

“To Blend, or Not to Blend...”

Several months back a fellow we knew who was a state employee changes jobs. He spent close to two decades as a civil servant and he had enough of it for more reasons than one. He wasn’t only dissatisfied with what they paid him. But as that scenario applies for almost all his work colleagues he didn’t carry it any further than a single reminder he wrote sometimes back demanding it was high time they gave him the raise he was promised a couple of years back. In fact, he had given up on any hope and was already hunting for other employment opportunities determined to leave the place as soon as he can.

More than his ignored raise the changing chemistry of the place was so messy he must leave before they throw him into one side of the enemy/friend categorization that was rampant. A whole lot of new kids on the block were occupying old offices and most, surprisingly, in high positions. You know, new faces in the corridors turning some places into some kind of individual or group fiefdoms where bias and favoritism tatter once, more or less ‘normally’ run place. By the way, we’re hearing about such things with increasing and disturbing frequency.

The fellow I was telling you about joins

a private company which offered him payment close to double to what he used to get as a civil servant. But then, barely a fortnight passed before he started smelling fish. Something was very wrong about the place. The good-hearted greetings of the first few days have but evaporated and now it is only nods, or head movements that could be taken for nods. He was flabbergasted as he couldn’t attach the change of attitudes to anything. Now having secured his place in the boss’s round table he was supposed to see quite sensitive documents. That was clearly stated in his agreement and he swore to abide by it. But still not a single document has come to his table. Not a single sheet of paper.

For some reason something about him had struck some nerves. Incidentally as a civil servant he had this impeccable reputation of doing his job based on the laws and on the laws only. No exception at all. And he was respected by many for while an equal number aw him like some kind of Lucifer’s chief of staff. His new employers should have been happy to get such a principled professional fellow on whom they can put their trust. Trust about what? Trust about his ability to stick to the rules of the place.

They deposit his first month’s pay and the manager says he wanted to talk to him. Now the whole months he has been engaged in trivial things not in his contract; things low level staff could have taken care of. He was planning to talk to the manager about when he was to begin the work he has been employed for. Now the summons coming from the manager himself he’d use the opportunity to clear the air. A month without any significant thing to do was too much for a professional of his stature. He could have expected a thousand and one things the boss wanted to talk to him about not the bombshell he dropped on him.

No sooner has he sat down the manager says, “I’m reassigning you to a different section. You’ll be deputy head of human resources.” What! To hell with resources human or otherwise! He was a man of numbers and he wanted to stay a man of numbers. He worked in finance in his civil service job because that was what he was trained for. His new agreement stated that he’d head the finance department and now they throw him into some resources pit! He didn’t leave his previous and moderately secure job to be kicked around! Because, that was what was happening! “I’ll think about it;” he told the

boss. The fact was that they were the ones who pushed him hard to quit his job before the time he’d have liked to.

Now the so-called reassignment was a hit not only to his pride but to his professional integrity. The next day he told them he wasn’t interested in the reassignment and would rather keep the position or else... he reminded them they pushed him to resign his moderate pay but secure job. The case is not still settled and he still gets his pay.

Later he heard that it was all about his dedication to his profession that brought about a change of heart of his employers. They got the information that he was no-nonsense guy and it so happened that wasn’t the kind of guy they wanted. They wanted his skills; but they also wanted him to blend in! That’s what this story is all about. If you aren’t willing to blend in you’re not wanted! You’re a risk! So in many instances these days the question is “To Blend, or Not to Blend...” No gray area in between. Believe me, in times of such economic hardships when making ends meet is becoming sort of a luxury, sticking to one’s belief of remaining loyal to “the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth,” tests every nerve and that’s not always a nice thing!

The 22nd edition of the colorful Great Ethiopian Run

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

The 22nd Edition of Great Ethiopian Run took place on Sunday, 20 November 2022 in Addis Ababa with over 40 thousand local and international participants. The above picture was taken at the Great Ethiopian Run while participants with three colors of T-shirts were pictured attending the greatest Run in Africa.

In addition to tens of thousands of Ethiopians, as in the picture, foreigners were also participated in the annual Running ceremony in Addis Ababa. The participants of the 10 kilometer running event are allowed to wear a T-shirt prepared by the Great Ethiopian Run organizer, which is red, yellow and green. The colors are symbols of the Ethiopian flag and the picture shown above is taken while the participants with the three colors joined together. Per the schedule of the Great Run, those who wear green T-shirt starts first, the yellow second while the red starts at the end. But, within minutes, they join and run together which creates a colorful and funny moments.

The participants are walking, dancing, singing and performing funny activities during the event and the above picture taken around the Meskel Square area, the starting point and the destination of the tournament, immediately after the start of the race. The bridge in the picture is the Addis Ababa light rail-way road around the Meskel Square, the meeting point of the rails from Kaliti station and Ayat station.

The Great Ethiopian Run international 10km race is the biggest road race in Africa held every year since 2001. Annually, the event has its own motto printed on every T-shirt and this year's message of the tournament was "education for all children".



Physically disabled people attending the Great Run

The above picture means a lot. The above picture is also taken during the 22nd edition of the 10 kilometers race of the Great Ethiopian Run held on Sunday, 20 November 2022 in Addis Ababa. In the picture, 12 physically disabled women are shown on their wheelchairs attending the running race around Meskel Square.

This picture shows the strength, commitment and readiness of the physically disabled women and the inclusiveness of the Great Ethiopian Run. They are conveying messages of greatness. In addition, these disabled women are also conveying the message of "education for all" by attending this great tournament. These hero women are examples to show that there is nothing impossible. They are highlights of the event conveying strength and beauty.



Football diplomacy!

The above two pictures were taken in Addis Ababa during the opening ceremony of the 22nd FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The Embassy of the State of Qatar prepared a special event in Addis Ababa marking the start of the 22nd World Cup at Hyatt Regency Hotel. The event was attended by Ethiopian higher government officials, ministers and state ministers, and the diplomatic community residing in Addis Ababa. During the event, the participants were attended the opening ceremony in Doha, Qatar virtually.

The Ambassador of the State of Qatar in Addis Ababa during the event presented gifts to the Ethiopian officials and diplomats of different countries who attended the ceremony. The above two pictures show the Ambassador of Qatar in Ethiopia handover the gift to Minister Kejela Merdasa, Minister of Culture and Sports and Ambassador Birtukan Ayano, state minister of the Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia.

The first picture shows Qatar's Ambassador to Ethiopia providing the gift Qatar's national football team Kit and a football to Minister Kejela Merdasa. Similarly, the second picture shows the Qatar Ambassador providing a gift of Qatar's national football team kit to State Minister Ambassador Birtukan Ayano. Ambassador Birtukan Ayano is shown wearing a cultural Ethiopian dress.

