



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## CBE reconnecting banking services in North Ethiopia

- Ready to resume full banking services

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA-The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) is reconnecting some of its branches' banking system in North Ethiopia and has announced full banking services to commence in parallel with the swift implementation of CoHA signed between the Ethiopian government and TPLF.

CBE Commercial Corporate Communications Director Alsen Assefa told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the Bank is doing its level best to commence full banking services in the state.

Accordingly, ten CBE branches in North Ethiopia have already enabled to access bank system and the full services would commence in the coming days in the Shire District of the Bank.

Maytebri, Bai Kal, and Adi Airdi have retrieved the bank access system in the North Ethiopia, he said.

On the other hand, Tekeze, Adi Goshu, Korarit, Mai Gaba, Setit, and Adi Bai are the other branches where the bank access system would retrieve very soon, he added.

Although, it is difficult to restart the banking services immediately the bank is utilizing maximum potentials to provide its services, he said.

Accordingly, Humera, Kafta, Dansha, Aurora, Mai Kadra, Adi Remet, and Ketema Nigus are among the CBE branches that are now operating under the Gonder district of the bank.



## Aid flowing into Tigray like no other time: Amb. Redwan

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA-The recent flow of humanitarian aid to Tigray is unmatched even in areas that are not under the government's administration and essential services are being restored, the Prime Minister's National Security Adviser said.

The Adviser Redwan Hussien (Ambassador) tweeted that aid is flowing like no other times, and trucks of food and medicine had been sent

to Shire. Besides, as flights are being allowed into the areas, 35 trucks of food and three trucks of medicine arrived at Shire. "The agreement just provides places under the control of ENDF with opportunities to enhance services."

He added that no hindrance whatsoever regarding aid, some corners do not seem happier by the fact that African Wisdoms brought a success in Pretoria and hustling to spoil the spirit.

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Ambassador Suleiman Dedefo

## Diaspora culprits form axis to ruin peace accord: Amb. Suleiman

BY BILAL DERSO

ADDIS ABABA- Foreseeing the restoration of peace in Tigray bankrupted their strategy of accumulating wealth, the World Health Organization (WHO) Chief and fellow conflict actors in Diaspora have been

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## Japan hails AU-brokered accord as 'step towards lasting peace'

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*Ethiopia's AU-facilitated peace accord signing*

*In the lens of Pan-African media practice*

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*"The aviation sector supports the economy greatly,"*

*- Wosenyeleh Hunegnaw (Colonel)*

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# News

**KOICA** Korea International  
Cooperation Agency  
**ETHIOPIA**

## KOICA says working to change rural community life

- Allots four Mln USD for a five-year project implementation

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA**— Rural Development Strategy and Model Village Consulting Project that is funded by KOICA has been achieving successful progress in changing the living standard of its targeted areas.

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has signed a project funding agreement with Amhara state Bureau of Agriculture and Finance and Economic Cooperation on May 2017, to change the living standard of the targeted rural community through allotting four Million USD within its five-year duration.

The project has been operating in 20 selected model villages under four Woredas namely Angolela, Tera, Dera, Gondar Zuria, and Legambo.

According to the information obtained from the agency, the project will end in December 2022, and the Project Management Unit conducted an end-line survey assessment as part of the project exit process On August 20, 2022.

The survey indicated that the project has had a positive impact on income of households through enhancing agricultural productivity and enabling the targeted community to properly use irrigation.

Likewise, the project has achieved its objective through enhancing access to safe water from 48.7%, baseline, to 82.3 % in the woredas.

More specifically, the project has vastly operated towards increasing agricultural production and productivity, and one of its well-known successes is the establishment of vegetable production through Green Houses.

Government higher officials visited the project sites and admired the move, and donors are seeking to replicate the project as part of their initiatives.

## TDP urges Tigray Diaspora to take lead in peace deal

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA**- Leaving the age-long false narratives behind, the Tigray Diaspora, elites, religious fathers and the elderly should take the leading role for the realization of the peace deal, the Tigray Democratic Party (TDP) has pleaded.

Approached by a local media, TDP Public Relations Head Muluberhan Haile called on supporters of the TPLF to shift their mindset to unity, peace and love so as to ensure lasting peace in Tigray and the rest of the country.

Failing to understand the actual facts on the ground, some members of the Tigray Diaspora have given a blind eye and a



Muluberhan Haile

deaf ear to the devastating impact the two-year conflict has caused on fellow brothers and sisters back home, he underlined.

“Something the Diaspora community

should realize is that nothing good would come out of a fight between brothers. Thus, it is better they think over their actions and desist from war mongering for the sake of the people of Tigray.”

Moreover, understanding the positive outcome of peace to the overall situation in the country, Tigray Diaspora and elites wherever they are, need to join force and stand by the side of those who put peace first. “It is everyone’s responsibility to ensure peace in the country.”

Muluberhan reaffirmed TDP’s full support to the peace deal that, according to him, emanated from the commitment for seeking political solutions to political problems and addressing the Tigray people’s desire in a democratic manner.

## Peace accord streamlines dev’t journey: Political parties

BY MENGESHA AMARE

**ADDIS ABABA**- The peace accord that was concluded in South Africa is instrumental in bringing lasting peace and helping the country to shift to activities that could bring socio-economic development, representatives of contesting political parties said.

Speaking to local media, members of the Addis Ababa Political Parties Council expressed belief that the peace agreement that was concluded between the federal government and TPLF enables the country to turn its face to development. The deal also garnered worldwide acceptance and recognition.

For the Council’s Public Relations Head Abraham Haymanot, the peace deal has been foiling the conspiracy of internal and external foes that have been working in tandem to destabilize the country. The agreement is chiefly beneficial to the people of Tigrayan as they have been suffering immensely from a number of conflicts and chaos for many years.

The agreement gives relief for the people



of Ethiopia who have been in various challenges and helps them to turn their attention to development and growth in the years to come. “Through this agreement, we have managed to foil the attempts of destructive forces working in tandem with foreign forces to hamper Ethiopia’s journey to development.”

One Ethiopia Party Public Relations Officer and Secretary General Solomon Hanibal said the public need to uphold collaboration with one another in persevering the truce and fostering peace and stability in the country.

“Since peace is the cornerstone of everything, political parties are expected to encourage supporters to sustain the much cherished Ethiopian culture of peaceful coexistence. Not only visiting the affected areas in person, the political parties should also discharge their national responsibility.”

Solomon further called on political parties to set ideological differences aside and contribute share in supporting efforts towards the rehabilitation and restoration of war-affected communities and infrastructure.

## Ministry underscores road project master plan for future dev’t

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**—The newly launched 30 years transport and logistics master plan of Ethiopia would connect all of the country’s large scale development project corridors and transport means, Ministry of Transport and Logistics said.

Having a stay with local media, Transport and Logistics Minister, Dagimawit Moges elucidated that the plan considers sector connection or integration with agriculture, tourism, mining and urban development, and gets a ladder of success in future.



Dagimawit Moges

She said: “The master plan will connect port with railway and other many modes of transport corridors. Every mode of transports has been studied in detail and

the challenges and opportunities as well as weakness and strength are identified.”

According to her, as the new policy has formulated to improve transport sort such as road, railway and airline and others, every executing body is expected to make sure that transport sector development is convenience to the public at large meeting the world standard.

This new master plan is financially supported by the African Development Bank and will serve as bridge to start short, middle and long term implementation of the transport, she said.

During the implementation process, committed stakeholders’ involvement is highly needed to make the transport fruitful and helps it hit the target.

The African Development Bank country Director, Abdul Karim (PhD) stated that the bank has been supporting the road sector development scheme in Ethiopia.

For instance, the bank has providing the road projects such as the expressway that links Mombasa-Nairobi-Addis Ababa and Modjo-Hawasa to Bulehora - Yabelo-Moyale that are being under construction with relevant support, he noted.

# News

## AU becoming stronger in defending African sovereignty: American Journalist

**ADDIS ABABA /ENA/** - The Africa Union (AU) has become stronger in defending African sovereignty by promoting African solutions to African problems, the independent American journalist Ann Garrison said.

It is to be recalled that the Government of Ethiopia and TPLF have signed a peace agreement last week after the peace talks conducted under the auspices of the African Union.

A contributing editor @ Black Agenda and host of the listener funded Grayzone Pacifica Radio; Ann Garrison told ENA today that the Africa Union has become stronger and stronger in defending African sovereignty.

Appreciating the efforts of the AU to bring a peaceful solution to the conflict in northern Ethiopia, the American journalist described the peace agreement reached between the government and TPLF as a great achievement for African solution to African problems.

"I think the AU has been admirable from the very beginning in defending African solutions to African problems. They never wavered. The current African members in the UN Security Council were also faithful in defending Ethiopian sovereignty throughout the past two years."

Also "the African Union several times spoke



to the Security Council in defense of African solutions to African problems and Ethiopia's sovereignty. I have seen the African Union becoming stronger and stronger in defending African sovereignty over some years."

The journalist stressed the need for the African Union to be self-sufficient in terms of finance in its efforts to address African problems without any external influences.

"I know there is some discussion about finding a way to get the African Union away from its western financial support as it gets significant amount of financial support from the West and therefore influence. But there is a discussion about getting away from that and it is a great idea."

Garrison also noted that the peace agreement will help Ethiopia to overcome foreign pressures, citing the bills of sanctions against Ethiopia by US officials. Since the peace agreement has been negotiated, "it is

unlikely that these bills will pass."

According to the American journalist, Ethiopia has done a great job in this whole process in defending its sovereignty noting that the peace agreement is a great exercise to the nation's sovereignty.

"I am glad that Ethiopia is taking the issues of accountability and justice into its own hands. This is Ethiopians agreement that is also being implemented by Ethiopians themselves."

The peace agreement will pave ways for Ethiopia to properly utilize its resources for economic development, she noted, adding that wars consume a great deal of national wealth.

"I am really sad about how much Ethiopia has lost into this war. Wars are very expensive. I remember a hearing by the chair of the National Dialogue Commission speaking on one of your broadcast outlets. He said we are losing everything to this war. Our resources and our young people. That the war is over is great. But there has been terrific loss."

Garrison pointed out that the government needs to solicit international resources for the construction and rehabilitation of war torn areas as part of the peace deal taking into account the sovereignty and national integrity of the country.



### Aid flowing...

By the same token, briefing journalists Associate Spokesperson for Secretary General of United Nations (UN), Stephanie Tremblay said: "We are resuming aid. The humanitarian colleagues are mobilized to provide food nutrition, health and water treatment in Tigray.

Humanitarian assess across northern Ethiopia has improved due to the cessation of hostilities. UN partners have started to provide humanitarian assistance to people in need. We are ready to provide more because the means there are immense," she stated.

### Diaspora culprits...

working to ruin the peace accord, an Ethiopian diplomat said.

Expressing optimism over the ongoing deliberation between the government and TPLF senior commanders in Nairobi, Ethiopian Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Suleiman Dedefo told local media that the people of Tigray have demonstrated overwhelming support for the truce.

He said the people in areas under the government control have been delighted by the provision of humanitarian supplies and the restoration of essential services including electricity and telecom.

Conversely, some ethnic Tigrayan Diasporas have made every effort to undermine the truce and are showcasing disregard to the suffering of the Tigray people. These quarters falsely accused the government for blocking the delivery of medicine to Tigray and putting the safety of the people under its control in danger.

By the same token, some ethnic Tigrayans have outcry and blocked the streets of Europe and the U.S. and demanded the resumption of the conflict. Both parties have attested their demand for the extension of the suffering of the people whom they claimed to represent and defend, Ambassador Suleiman added.

The government has affirmed its readiness and capability to lift the people of Tigray from suffering and sent a strong message that unconstitutional regime change in Ethiopia is not allowed. Post-war recovery requires an immense amount of investment and prime attention should be given to the people of Amhara and Afar who have been ravaged by the two-year conflict, the seasoned diplomat stressed.

## Japan hails AU-brokered accord as 'step towards lasting peace'

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA**— The peace agreement signed by the Ethiopian government and TPLF is as a major step towards lasting peace and stability in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, said Japanese ambassador to Ethiopia.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Ethiopia Takako Ito told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) signed between the federal government of Ethiopia and TPLF is highly welcomed by Japanese government.

She said: "We welcome the initiative and highly appreciate the effort made by the parties as it is very important initial step to have peace and stability not only in Ethiopia but also to the surrounding countries."

The bilateral relation between Ethiopia and Japan is growing steadily and the two countries shared many things in common. Both sides have been enjoying old aged diplomatic relations and working together in different sectors ranging from economy, social, political and other areas of mutual



*Amb. Takako Ito*

concern, she added.

She further stated that the agreement is important and faithfully implemented by the concerned bodies. Likewise, Japan will continue working with Ethiopia in ensuring lasting peace and stability in the country and beyond.

"In order to reconstruct the conflict affected part of the country, the availability of extended hand from international community, establishment of democracy

and human right is a basic foundation for the reconstruction process and future development in the country," she noted.

Meanwhile, presenting paper on 'Japanese diplomacy in a turbulent world' former Japanese Ambassador to UK and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Ambassador Koji Tsuruoka on his part yesterday indicated that the two countries, Ethiopia and Japan, shared many things in communalities. Ethiopia is the only country in the continent that maintains its sovereignty, territorial integrity during that tough time of super powers colonization.

Like Ethiopia, Japan has passed through difficulties ranging from external invasion, civil war and others which pulled back Japanese development coupled with other pressures, he stated.

Addis Ababa University (AAU) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) organized seminar on November 11, 2022, at Ras Mekonnen Hall, AAU under the theme: "Japans foreign policy after WWII: Experiences and lesson from Japan."

# Opinion

## The king of Afaan Oromo songs has gone!

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

The veteran and renowned versatile artist Ali Mohamed Musa but known as Ali Birra ever since his younger days has passed away at the age of seventy five. For more than five decades he has interpreted songs mostly in Afaan Oromo and left a legacy of more than two hundred sixty songs. Ali Birra was not only a wonderful vocalist but also one who composes his own songs on any of the instruments he plays such as a guitar, piano or accordion, writes the lyrics and finally arranges them. This is of course almost unheard of in Ethiopian musical world because most of our artists specialize in one or two fields such as singing songs or composing the melodies or writing the lyrics. Some may be good also in arranging their musical compositions but to be able to do all that Ali Birra used to do is really rare.

Ali Birra was a talented artist as he began his musical works while he was in school. He has always had a great passion for music and whenever he was free he would sing a song. Born in the eastern city of Dire Dawa Ali Birra was soon to establish his name as an artist. According to his own account he gave to radio journalists in interviews, Ali Birra actually was not his name as his true name was Ali Mohammed Mussa but when he and friends first made a musical band and began to sing in Dire Dawa there were he said three Alis and it was difficult to distinguish one from the other. Ali Birra was then famous for a song called Birra and he took the nick name Ali Birra and since then became his adoptive name. He said later on this name was adopted as his legal name and ever since those days he came to be known to the public as 'Ali Birra'.

What is exceptional about Ali Birra was the fact that his songs were so attractive that people who did not understand Afaan Oromo also liked them and sang them. This is not very familiar in Ethiopia or we can say it is rare. But in the case of Ali Birra the saying that music is an international language has truly materialized. Ali was endowed with exceptional voice that can attract the ears of anyone who has some interest in music. Besides, his songs have wonderful melodies and they are pleasant to listen to. Talking about the lyrics we have heard from those who understand the language that the words are very meaningful because they preach love, justice, freedom and equality. Ali was a man of love they say who always stood for the freedom of people. He always opposed oppression and injustice and expressed his feelings through his songs.

Ali Birra was a contemporary of the famous veteran Ethiopian artists such as Tilahun Gessesse, Alemayehu Eshete, Bizunesh Bekele and Minilik Wessinachew among others who are all gone to the great beyond but someone who was a close friend and colleague of his is Mahamoud Ahmed who is still alive and was seen devastated by the loss of Ali Birra. Talking on the occasion of the remembrance of Ali Birra at Friendship Park in Addis, Artist Mahmoud himself a great of Ethiopian music admired the works and

personality of Ali Birra who he said could not express them properly as he runs out of proper words such is his admiration for him.

Even though Ali Birra did not have his own children he has however given life and hope to so many children of Ethiopia through his charity called Birra for Child Care and Development giving them the uniforms they needed and the food they had to eat when they went to school all from poor households. His charity was founded once he returned to his home country after a number of years abroad where he stayed in exile due to the persecution that he had suffered by the government that reigned in the sixties.

Ali had to face several detentions due to his artistic works which preached freedom and justice as well as love and that put him at loggerheads with the then regime and after suffering several arrests and detention he had to go to exile to avoid further suffering and to express his musical talent freely.

Ali always expressed his feelings about his country in very colorful manners. He preached unity of the Ethiopians regardless of their ethnic origin or religious background saying that all Ethiopians must unite as one people and stand together to grow and improve their lives and not get divided. He said we were all children born from one mother and this has shown how patriotic he was. He expressed these feelings in his songs and lyrics as well as in his interviews he gave to the media. That was why Ali Birra was well admired and loved by people who did not understand Afaan Oromo.

However Ali Birra sang also in other languages other than Afaan Oromo. He sang in Amharic, Afar, Arabic, Harari, Somali and even Swedish. This makes him an exceptional artist. Evidently his background coming from Dire Dawa where he was

brought up has helped him be multilingual because Dire Dawa is a mosaic of cultures and customs as well as languages such as Afaan Oromo, Somali, Afar, Harari, Arabic and of course Amharic and people who are born and brought up there often get acquainted with these cultures and languages and for a passionate artist such as Ali Birra it was the right place to be born because he took full advantage of the ethnic variation of Dire Dawa.

Ali Birra has toured the world presenting his musical shows to the public. He has presented his music in more than forty countries and has been honored with about a hundred acknowledgements and awards. In Ethiopia he was honored with a Doctorate Degree Honoris Causa from Dire Dawa University and Jimma University. When he returned from exile and for the first time presented his songs to the public the audience went mad with joy and delight.

Ali was also a true performer and when we saw him sing the famous 'Amalelele' with his friend and colleague Artist Mahmoud Ahmed the audience was filled with great enthusiasm and joy. It was an exceptional duo by two of the most wonderful Ethiopian artists each with their own style and voice.

No doubt Ali Birra will always be remembered for his personality and wonderful songs among Ethiopians and even if he is now gone and we will miss him, his legacy however is guaranteed to pass to the coming generations because his language is one of love and friendship, unity and patriotism besides peace, justice and equality. These values are a constant in all of his albums and lyrics.

Ali Birra was accorded a hero's funeral and honored with the presence of a huge crowd including many of the maximum officials of the Ethiopian federal and regional

governments. They all paid tribute to the personality and great artistic career of Ali Birra who reigned in Ethiopia, loved and admired for more than fifty years. Many said the 'king of Afaan Oromo songs' has gone. The Golden voice of multiple generations is gone.

He has brought the Oromo songs to a new high giving it a new and modern style. His specialization at Santa Monica College in the US in music has sharpened his natural talent with new knowledge. He has been an inspiration for other artists particularly the Afaan Oromo artists because they all wanted to emulate him.

The funeral services of Artist Ali Birra were transmitted live on TV fully allowing for millions of his fans and admirers to bid him good bye and listen to the tributes paid to him by the maximum authorities of not only the political world but also the artistic world.

Present at the occasion were among others the Speaker of the House of the Federation, Agegnehu Teshager, the Minister of Finance Ahmed Shide, the President of the Oromia Regional State Shimelis Abdissa, the Mayor of Addis Ababa City Administration Adanech Abebie and the President of the Ethiopian Musicians Association Dawit Yifru. At the end of the official occasion in Addis the corpse of the late Artist Ali Birra was flown to his homeland Dire Dawa for the final farewell and funeral. Ali may be gone physically but his memories will live with us along with his wonderful songs. He will continue to inspire generations with his performances.

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



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## Advertisement and Dist. Department

email: [etpresspromotion@gmail.com](mailto:etpresspromotion@gmail.com)  
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

**Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew**  
email- [workubelachew@press.et](mailto:workubelachew@press.et)  
**Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city**  
**Woreda - 05, House No----**  
**Tel- +251 111 26 41 98**

**Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama**  
Email: [wakuma220@gmail.com](mailto:wakuma220@gmail.com)

## Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

**Website: [www.press.et](http://www.press.et)**

**email: [ethiopianherald@press.et](mailto:ethiopianherald@press.et)**

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# Editorial

## Continued humanitarian assistance has depicted Gov't commitment

The government of Ethiopia has continued to reach war affected communities by delivering aids and accelerating the restoration of services. It has been reported that 35 trucks of food and three trucks of medicine were delivered to shire. And flights are also allowed. Any barrage of disinformation contrary to these realities serves no purposes.

The Government Communication Service (GCS) also told journalists that humanitarian support was delivered for about 400, 000 people in need within eight days of operation owing to the peace deal that was inked with the TPLF.

In her recent press briefing, GCS State Minister Selamawit Kassa stated that around 108,000 citizens in Shire, Sheraro, Axum, Adi Deharo, Adi Nebri and Adi Hageray areas of Tigray were provided with the first round support from October 30 to November 6, 2022. Additional 16, 100 quintals of wheat was delivered to the needy in the reported period.

Moreover, the government has delivered over 43,300 quintals of wheat and 7,000 quintals of nutritious food to 287,000 people in need in Raya-Alamata and Korem towns. Additional 6,500 quintals of nutritious food was also being provided that put the number of people addressed by the government to 396,000 citizens within eight days.

Being committed to its responsibility, the government is keen to ensure adequate and timely humanitarian support for the people in need and has opened another corridor besides the Abala in Afar, the state minister elaborated.

By the same token, corridors have been opened in Shire, South Gondar and its neighboring districts as well as South Wollo, Kobo, Alamata and environs to facilitate the humanitarian response. To this end, four teams have been organized with the initiation of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission to ensure timely support to the needy people.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's national security adviser and Head of the delegation for the AU-led peace talks Redwan Hussein posted on

Twitter that aid is flowing like no other times, he said, adding that trucks of food and medicine had been sent to the strategic city of Shire and that flights were being allowed into the area.

Ethiopia's government has been carrying out fair distribution of assistance in the freed areas even earlier to the peace agreement. This commendable move of the government contributes greatly for the actualization of the peace agreement.

Restoration of infrastructure, the bloodline for the efficient inflow of the humanitarian assistance, is essential and the government is working on it as well. Selamawit indicated that an electric line is being installed for South Wollo and Afar states utilizing the Woldiya electric line. The installation from Bahir Dar to Alamata is also nearing completion. Furthermore, electricity in various areas including Lalibela, Kobo, Sekota and their surroundings has been resumed.

In order to keep up with this effort, the government should be supported with the necessary inputs by the concerned bodies especially those engaged in aid services.

Contrary to the reality on the ground, some entities in the diaspora accuse the government of blocking humanitarian assistance. This is totally denial of the truth. They deliberately obscure the government's effort simply to gain cheap popularity. Instead of wasting their time, it will be better if they extend their helping hand for the people they claim to stand for. And the international community should also impose corrective measure against these entities if they fail come to their mind and go along the peace agreement.

The main objective of the government is beyond supplying humanitarian assistance to Tigray people. Rather, it is working in their favor to enable them support their lives in a relatively shorter period. Over and beyond, some quarters that are trying to spoil the accord must stop their destructive actions sooner than later.

# Opinion

## Ethiopia's contribution to climate change mitigation should not be underrated and underreported

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Climate change is already a global menace and not fake news from China as the former US President tried to tell us. Although the western industrialized countries and developed nations in the Far East are major contributors to climate change-induced disasters, the effects of these changes have become global seriously affecting the livelihood of billions of people across the world.

According to the UN Provisional State of the Global Climate 2022, increasing levels of greenhouse gases have been witnessed in comparison to the pre-industrial era. Accordingly, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by 149%, methane by 262% and nitrous oxide by 124%. This has resulted in the rise of the surface temperature of the world making the last 8 years the warmest ever. Above-normal precipitation occurred in many countries in 2022 while particularly East and Central Africa suffered from drought. Drought in Europe was the worst in the 500 recorded history of the continent. Moreover, ocean warming, rise in sea level, and further ocean acidification have affected the food security programs of many countries and their pace to implement the SDG. The world is making uninterrupted conferences on climate change but the 100 billion USD pledges that was made to assist less developed countries is still a pie in the sky.

As reported in various local newscasts, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is in the

Egyptian resort town of Sharm el Shiekh, to take part in the UN Climate Change Conference, COP27 which kicked off on the 6th of November to proceed up to the 18th of November. The Premier has delivered a speech on Ethiopia's contribution to the global effort to mitigate the multi-faceted effects of climate change.

Some years have elapsed since Ethiopia recognized the need to link development with environmental concerns. In 2011 the country launched a Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) which charted out the foundation for integrated planning on climate-resilient green development in which Ethiopia aims to achieve middle-income status by 2025.

For Ethiopia, the issue of tackling climate change in an integrated manner is not just a programmatic undertaking but a matter of survival for the nation. Before 1991, the nation's forest coverage was estimated only 4 percent. Over the last two decades, however, the country's forest coverage had grown to about 15 percent.

Apart from forest resources, For instance, the country has 12 river basin systems that can be used to generate carbon-free and renewable energy resources. The nation has considerable geothermal (7,000 MW) and wind resources (1,350GW) yet to be exploited. The solar energy resources of the country (2.199 million TWh/ annum) have so far not been touched. The diversity and the natural basis of the country's renewable energy resources provide Ethiopia with a

comparative advantage of access to cheaper, clean and sustained energy sources.

In 2014, Ethiopia developed a country strategy document for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). This was a comprehensive strategy "which will be implemented within Ethiopia's CRGE Strategy framework that sets out that by 2025, Ethiopia will become a middle-income country, resilient to climate change impacts and with a zero net increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over 2010 levels. REDD+ contributes to the achievement of the CRGE targets through improved management of forests and agricultural areas." (National REDD+ Strategy, 2014).

With an estimated emissions reduction or carbon removals of 130 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually, 50% of GHG emissions between 2010 and 2030 will happen as a result of implementing the REDD+ process.

Embedded within the Green Growth strategy REDD+ is one of the four selected fast-track programs to support ambitions set in the forestry, energy and other land use sectors. Ethiopia considers REDD+ as an opportunity and viable source of sustainable finance for investment in sustainable forest management, forest conservation, and forest restoration to enhance multiple benefits of forests, including but not limited to biodiversity conservation, watershed management, increased resilience to climate change, improved livelihoods and reduced poverty.

The Government of Ethiopia submitted its REDD+ Readiness Preparation Idea Note (RPIN) to the World Bank-FCPF in 2008 which was successively approved in 2009, creating the way for the development of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) from 2010 to 2012.

The FCPF Participants Committee decided to allocate grant funding of US \$3.4 million in March 2011 through its Resolution PC/8/2011/4, based on Ethiopia's submission of its R-PP. Ethiopia's request was approved by the FCPF (Forest Carbon Partnership Facility) Participants Committee in February 2012 as per the Resolution PC/Electronic/2012/.

Consequently, the Government of Norway and DFID (UK) through the World Bank BioCarbon Fund Technical Assistance Fund (BioCF Plus) jointly provided additional finance of US \$10 million, which completed the financial requirements for implementing the Readiness phase. The grant agreement for the FCPF was signed for R-PP implementation in October 2012 and officially the REDD+ Readiness Phase was launched in January 2013. The grant agreement for the additional finance of the BioCarbon Fund was signed in July 2014 and will be used until June 2017.

*See Ethiopia's contribution... Page 10*

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

# Art & Culture

## 'Silencing the Guns': The beginning of a lasting peace and reconciliation

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

In its historic document signed by all member countries back in 2004, the African Union had coined a term to describe one of the most urgent tasks at hand, namely the need to silence the guns everywhere on the continent without which the vision of African renaissance would remain insignificant or hollow. In other words, stopping all internal conflicts in individual countries has become a precondition for the Africa's rebirth and the realization of Africa's economic union by 2060.

This grand vision had earned the enthusiasm of all Africans and fascinated the well-educated elites as well as the common people. The African media were busy popularizing it, commenting and criticizing it. The idea of silencing the gun in Africa was indeed captivating and inspiring. The hype surrounding the idea often reflected serious intentions while some sections of Western the media considered it unrealistic. This was because silencing the guns in Africa was tantamount to opening the path of Africa's economic independence.

The slogan or motto was floating around for quite some time although its implementation left much to be desired. Africa continues to be captive of civil wars and ethnic conflicts inspired both by internal political actors as well as their external mentors who want to bring to power puppet regimes that would take orders from them and implement their neocolonial master plan while the elites would consolidate their niches of power and wealth.

Ethiopia has just gone through this same paradigm of internal conflicts aided and abetted by external masters with the view to destabilizing the country and establishing a kind of protectorate that would be ran by submissive political and business elites whose agendas converge with those of their paymasters. This has proved to be some kind of pipe dream that could not be realized simply because Ethiopia has a solid anti-neocolonial political tradition that could not allow what happened in other African countries be repeated here.

Now that Ethiopia's domestic conflict is showing signs of abetting with the African Union peace plan that is beneficial to all the parties without putting unrealistic demands on the peace negotiators. One chapter of Ethiopian history is apparently closed and a new one is being written with the recent peace agreement between the TPLF and the Ethiopian government. Meanwhile, a new history is being written, the history of Ethiopia's post-conflict reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation, a history

whereby there will be no loser or no winner, and Ethiopia emerges as the sole winner from the fratricidal conflict.

Historians often maintain that Ethiopia history is largely a history of wars and conflicts feeding on foreign ideologies or a misreading of history. The last 50 years of Ethiopian history in particular has largely proved a disaster in terms of the extent of the losses. The post-revolution Ethiopia was faced with the war in the north of the country, political instability that was unnecessary, absurd and devastating. The nation lost previous time that could otherwise be used for economic development and rehabilitation from the repeated episodes of famines and humanitarian disasters.

The post-2018 reform process in the country had breathed a new wind of hope in the otherwise suffocating Ethiopian political process. Unfortunately, hopes were dashed as a result of a new cycle of post-reform political violence. As they say, history repeats itself as a tragedy and then as a farce and the main losers were innocent civilians, children and women who were sucked into the vortex of blood conflicts with no apparent way out.

Time is a healer as they say and time is now proving that there is a way out of the quagmire provided that the confrontational parties sit down at the negotiating table as they have done recently in South Africa and see eye to eye, to talk and hammer out their differences. It does not matter who wrote the agreement as long as that all parties have now agreed to abide by it and implement it as soon as possible. Everybody has lost from the conflict and now Ethiopia as a whole is the winner from the peace initiative. Ethiopia is now tired of conflicts and eager to get the guns silenced, because it deserves a breath of fresh air after so many decades if not centuries of one tragedy after another.

Ethiopia is now standing at a critical juncture in its modern history when its future will be shaped not by war, as it used to be until recently but by peace and brotherhood. The 1789 French Revolution has liberty, equality and brotherhood as its main slogan. The slogan helped the French of the time to leave behind monarchic and revolutionary terror and unite around the national flag and become one by vowing not to take up arms again to subjugate one another. Human beings anywhere in the world have similar aspirations and dreams. So many revolutions and wars took place in the world for freedom, equality and brotherhood. But few achieved their objectives and the slogan of the French revolution is still reverberating around the world inspiring others to fight for peace and liberty.

Ethiopia too has been in the forefront of countries that aspired for freedom, equality, and peace. It is almost the only country in Africa that fought for freedom for the peoples of the continent who were subjugated to colonial rule. It inspired Africans by its example as a country that never went through European colonialism. Emperor Haile Sellassie, the last Ethiopian monarch was a statesman who fought for peace and a peaceful transition from colonial rule in Africa to freedom. Unfortunately Ethiopia has always been good in advocating peace and freedom for other African brothers and sisters while it deprived itself of these basic rights.

Now has come the time for building a new culture of peace and freedom in Ethiopia. Peace and freedom are mutually complementary processes, the one impossible to achieve without the other. Great leaders and great movements come and go in history but a nation like Ethiopia remains as witness to the hopes and disappointments of generations. Now, Ethiopia is witnessing another hope for lasting peace in its own backyards. It has worked hard for it and deserves to enjoy its fruits and be given another chance for survival. As the guns are silenced, Ethiopia will continue with its peaceful works of greatness that was interrupted several times in the past. Achieving peace is by itself a sign of national greatness.

As anyone can imagine, the culture of peace is not built overnight. Rome was not built in one day. It is as hard or even harder to build peace than to build a city. Peace building may take generations and many decades if not centuries of hard work, great commitment and sacrifice. All the country that we now consider peaceful, stable and prosperous were at one time or another in their long histories, epicenters of great conflagrations, European or American wars, some of which took 100 years to unravel.

What is known as the Hundred Years War in Europe is such an example. What is known as the War of secession in America between the unionist north and the separatist and slave-holding south, claimed tens of thousands of deaths and devastation before it was ended with a Treaty.

Here in Africa, the 1967 Biafra war in Nigeria between separatists and federalist forces equally claimed a million lives and an equal number of wounded before it was concluded with the defeat of the secessionists and the victory of unionist forces. Practically all parts of the world have seen war of one kind or another before they achieved peace and attained the level of economic development they are now

proud of. Ethiopia is going through the same process, although it happened late in human history when the time for conflicts is left behind and the time for civilized dialogue, reconciliation and peace building has already dawned on us. The 21<sup>st</sup> century should be the century of peace for everyone but it looks that this hope too is being dashed everywhere.

Greek philosopher Plato once stated that "only the dead have seen the end of war." It is now time for the living to see the end of war in Ethiopia and the beginning of an era of stability, and fast economic development. Peacemaking is presumably harder than war making. As former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo stated during the signing of the recent peace agreement between the TPLF and the Ethiopian government, this is a new dawn in Ethiopia after so many false dawns had come and gone. He said, "Today it is the beginning of a new dawn for Ethiopia, for the dawn of Africa and for the entire African continent."

Exactly two years after the start of the war between Ethiopia and the TPLF, a new peace agreement has been signed. According to information released in the follow up to the recent cease fire agreement between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF the two-year war has claimed 500,000 lives and displaced more than 2 million compatriot preys to near-famine conditions. Although these figures may be disputable, there is no denying the fact that the scale of the misery of war is staggering. At the end of the day, war brings more tragedy and more loss than gains. No statesman has ever said, "We gained from war!" This is not a matter of winners and losers but the end of all loss to the country.

As war has its price, so has peace. The tasks ahead are gargantuan. The restoration of law and peace, the supply of humanitarian supplies and most of all the silencing of the guns would require greater mobilization commitment and sacrifice than required by the conflict. The agreement addresses the need for transitional justice, and the restoration of a legal administration in Tigray as well as restoration of communication in Tigray and the resupply of services.

Conflicts can take place between two or more parties but peace building and reconciliation requires the attention, resources and commitment of the entire world. However, this is bound to prove easier than war making because the whole world will be involved in peace building in Ethiopia and that is where the hope for lasting and sustainable peace and the beginning of a new era of genuine reconciliation is built on.

## I'M GREAT

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

*In a world that's fake*

*I build my self-image*

*So i cannot face*

*The negativity of life*

*In reality that's a lie*

*Perfectionism rules*

*Until it collapses*

*It makes me unhappy*

*And awfully greedy*

*Not to accept life as is*

*I can see that's the myth*

*Works for me no longer*

*It just makes me weaker*

*To see life as darker*

*Life isn't always bright*

*I just need to accept*

*That peace and serenity*

*Comes with this reality...*

# Law & Politics

## Ethiopia's AU-facilitated peace accord signing

### *In the lens of Pan-African media practice*

BY WORKU BELACHEW

#### Part I

The African-Union-led Permanent Cessation of Hostility Agreement (PCHA) formally signed on November 2, 2022, would not only set the way for peace to reign in Ethiopia, but the entire process has once again branded Africa as a continent that is gifted with the wisdom and capability to translate the buzzword 'African solution to challenges facing the continent.'

The critical questions here are: To what extent have African media houses that have a relatively wide online circulation practiced Pan-African journalistic practices to eventually achieve the aspirations of Africans? And do African media approach sensitive issues such as peace and security in a different way as compared to so-called global media? This piece of work attempts to give a bird-eye view of news reporting of some global media and certain notable African media houses concerning their framing of news stories on the PCHA event. The news items of the media houses that also have high online visitors are observed in relation to some key aspects that have also become patterns in the media reporting of the conflict in Ethiopia. For instance, the phrases "unhindered access," "communication shutdown," and "starvation" have been appearing in most media reporting of the conflict. On the other hand, "African solution to an African problem," "AU-led peace talks," and "Silencing the guns" have frequently been mentioned. Many mention the latter in the context of fulfilling Africa's aspirations expressed resolutely in Agenda 2063.

It requires a rigorous study to determine as to why the patterns appear in the media outlets but let's see some theories related to issue in discussion.

Mass communications theory have it that media houses make conscious decisions in choosing what to report and how to report a kind of event which take us to the concept of "Media framing". They frame a kind of event deliberately to influence public opinion, as to available literature, see more on <https://masscommtheory.com>. But one cannot overgeneralize the fact that the framing is the sole decision of the media houses.

A comparative media study by Hallin and Mancini (2004) suggests that there are four "dimensions" that play a part in influencing the media's decision. Hallin and Mancini's dimensions are: Political parallelism, Journalistic Profession, Media market and Role of the State. Political parallelism has to do with whether there is link between media houses and political parties or journalists political affiliations and so on. Journalistic Professionalism on the other hand is about the degree of autonomy of the journalists. According to their study, there are internal and external forces that exert influence on the journalists, not to mention journalists' ethics ...: What is more, Media Market delves into the circulation of newspapers or the outlets. Last but not least is the role of the state – restrictive or supportive.

#### The Pan-African aspirations

It is important to attempt to see what the aspirations of Africans are clearly and succinctly. Of course, some of them are expressed in black and white in the popular document of Agenda 2063. The rest comes under various topics. As regards the latter, the Pan-African Vision of 2063 says it all: "An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena. Here one can easily see that we Africans have a vision of achieving peace through the efforts of our own citizens.

The document, Agenda 2063, #8, also under 'African Aspiration for 2063' states the confidence in the people of Africa in dealing with conflicts using African wisdom. Part of the aspiration reads: to "realize her [Africa's] full potential in development, culture and peace and to establish flourishing, inclusive and prosperous societies."

Concepts such as "peace" and "realize [...] full potential" may stand out in the aspiration. And this tells us that Africans have the determination to unlock their full potential and take peace and other matters into their own hands. Or put it this way, though war and conflicts are not unusual in Africa, the initiative and practice of acting proactively and reactively to deal with the problems should be a matter of Africans and their institutions. This calls for the struggle to lessen, if not completely avoid, foreign meddling. Often, people use the catch-all phrase "African solution and African problem"—a term that African scholars are highly debating on claiming that it fails to properly reflect the challenges Africa has been facing. Somehow, the "African Solution" works despite the direct and indirect influences on the decision of Africans and their institutions. But the term "African problem" raises many questions. Do African problems really originate only from the conflict of interest among people of a given nation? Yes, conflicts are unavoidable. But there are potential causes of conflicts. Say for instance, interstate border wars in Africa, in most cases, are related to colonial demarcations. Geopolitical interests and actions to dominate the big market and other resources of Africa at least play a great part as well.

Last but not least, aspiration #4 of Agenda 2063 explicitly argues and puts mechanisms to fend off potential and actual challenges of peace and security in Africa.

**ASPIRATION 4. A peaceful and secure Africa**  
Mechanisms for the peaceful prevention and resolution of conflicts will be functional at all levels. As a first step, dialogue-centered conflict prevention and resolution will be actively promoted in such a way that by 2020 all guns will be silent. A culture of peace and tolerance shall be nurtured in Africa's children and youth through peace education.

#### How some global media framed PCHA

The 10-day peace talks held between the delegation of the GoE and TPLF started on October 24/25, 2022. The world had eagerly been waiting for whether the talks resulted

in closing the two-year deadly chapter of war in Ethiopia. November 02, 2022, was the date scheduled by the African Union Panel to announce the results. Media houses representing both international and domestic ones were on the alert to break the news, no matter what. But the announcement scheduled at 4:00 in the afternoon was postponed by a few hours. Time had been ticking and the scheduled hour finally came. On and after the conclusion of the event, media houses reported about the PCHA in various ways but two frames were highly observable—the so-called "pressure frame" and the "pan-African frame".

CNN- Its headlines read 'Warring parties in Ethiopia agree on 'permanent cessation of hostilities. The story was published on November 3, 2022. CNN's story properly named the parties as the "GoE" and "TPLF." The first paragraph of the story that media practitioners rather call it as a "lead sentence" is framed from the perspective of Disarming, Demobilizing and Reintegrating (DDR).

"Ethiopia's Tigray rebels will eventually "disarm" and "reintegrate" with national forces, according to the statement. "We have also agreed on a detailed program of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration for the TPLF combatants, taking into account the security situation on the ground," it read. The phrase "will eventually" is important here. It is a public knowledge that the CNN has not been impartial in the two-year war in the north. And maybe, "eventually" could mean, after all the bloody events, the result is "DDR". For anyone who contemplates the CNN's barrage of disinformation campaign, it wages against Ethiopia, the final Pan-African solution of resorting to peace might not be welcome. The story actually quoted the statement made by the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa Olusegun Obasanjo. Obasanjo's statement is ---minutes long. But only the "DDR" perspective was picked by the CNN.

On the same day, the accord was signed, Aljazeera published a story headlined: 'Ethiopia: Government, Tigrayan forces agree to end two-year war'. The organization of the story that the media used was just a mix of "DDR" and "pressure-framing". Here is its lead story: "The parties in the conflict in Ethiopia's northern region of Tigray have agreed on a "permanent cessation of hostilities", the African Union mediator said, just more than a week after formal peace talks began in South Africa."

It continues: the parties agreed on "orderly, smooth and coordinated disarmament" along with "restoration of law and order", "restoration of services" and "unhindered access to humanitarian supplies". The usage of the frame, whether intentionally or unintentionally tells us that most media are more interested in reporting on the dichotomy of winner/loser.

One can get a relatively different framing in a report published by Reuters. While it broke the news of the signing of the PCHA, describing it as a "dramatic diplomatic breakthrough." it also highlights the fact that the process was an

AU-led one—a fact that other media outlets shied away from mentioning.

In the second paragraph of its story, Reuters wrote this: "Just over a week after formal peace talks mediated by the African Union (AU) began in the South African capital Pretoria, delegates from both sides signed an agreement on a "permanent cessation of hostilities"."

Yet, DW's news presentation seemed to have zoomed in on the "Pan-African framing. "The first three paragraphs of the news story, not to mention the lead story, in one way or another, had mentioned the role of the African Union. Both the headline and the lead sentence attempted to give due credit to the AU-led efforts.

CGTN's news story as well could be described as a "Pan-African framing" of the event. The presentation of the entire story is quite mesmerizing for any reader who wants to get a different perspective, the writer believes.

Let's have an overview of the news story. The media house itself has a motto that goes: 'See the difference. But, is there really a big difference?

The news is headlined 'Ethiopian government and TPLF sign peace agreement in South Africa and presented with a nine-paragraph story highlighting some key concepts that have become a pattern in the media reporting of the northern conflict. Some of these are; "Cease hostilities;" "African Solution to African Problem;" "orderly, smooth and coordinated disarmament;" along with "restoration of law and order;" "restoration of services;" and "unhindered access to humanitarian supplies;" "AU High-level Panel;" "communications shutdown of internet and telephone services in Tigray region has been among world's longest".

One can irrefutably say that only two phrases or patterns appear as pan-African issues—"African solution to African problem;" and "AU High-Level Panel". The rest of the five phrases/terms are often used by most western media houses and one middle-eastern media mentioned above.

If we take a look at one of the terms, we can infer the purpose of the framing, whether or not the media house did it intentionally is still debatable. But the news story tells us this: "...communications shutdown of internet and telephone services..." The thing is that the story informs the reader that the government has shut down communication and the internet at all. The argument is exactly the "blame term" that most western media and rights-based institutions have widely used. On the flip side, the government of Ethiopia says communications infrastructure was damaged by the antagonist force in what could be described as a strategic move to weaken the central government's capacity to control the tragic event.

For its part, TRT World published a story under the headline of 'A New Dawn.' It also did a follow-up story of 'Excellent News'. In both stories, the media house neither reproduced the western media narrative nor did it have a Pan-African perspective.



# “The aviation sector supports the economy greatly,”

- Wosenyeleh Hunegnaw (Colonel)

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Today's guest Colonel Wosenyeleh Hunegnaw was a former Director of the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority. He had been serving the Ethiopian Air force in various capacities before he was appointed to the position. He was born and raised in bale Goba town of Oromia State. He attended primary and secondary education in Goro town. After completing high school education, he joined Holeta Military Academy to take training which made him physically capable of the defence force.

As a matter of luck, Colonel Wosenyeleh was one of the young Ethiopians selected to attend missile training abroad. Soon, he was selected to join the air force technical school and graduated in radar surveillance. Then after, he was assigned to the Assab front where he served his country as Head of the Radar Assembly section for many years. After that, He was assigned to Dire Dawa Airforce base. He again joined the air force training center to attend an advanced electronic management course.

While working at the Dire Dawa Air force base the Derg regime collapsed in 1991. Then, he heeded the call made by the government to rejoin the air force and offered various courses at the air force technical school.

When the Ethio-Eritrea war ignited, he was assigned to be part of the air force in Mekelle town. While he was there, he studied management and received his first degree from Mekelle University. He also attended commanded staff training which is given to high-level military officials. He was then assigned to lead an air force based in Mekele. He then transferred to the Air force headquarters in Debre Zeyit. He became a colonel while he was in the Ethiopian Air force where he served for 29 solid years.

He was then assigned as General Manager of the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority which he served for a dozen years. The Ethiopian Herald made a brief stay with him, raising issues related to the aviation sector, particularly civil aviation's contribution to the overall development of the country. Have a nice read.



Photo: Ashenafi Guadeta

## How do you explain aviation? What does aviation mean to you?

Aviation comes from the Latin *avis* meaning “bird,” an appropriate translation given that aviation deals with travel by air, specifically in a plane. The aviation industry is the business sector dedicated to manufacturing and operating all types of aircraft. Air traffic controllers, when they are awake, are concerned with aviation safety.

Civil aviation means any air transport operation, both commercial and non-commercial, as well as both scheduled and non-scheduled operations, but excluding operations carried out by state aircraft referred to in Article 3 of the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation. Civil aviation has the responsibility of monitoring operators. This institute has to be established as per the rule that is endorsed by the house of people representative.

Enabling operators to provide air transport service and keeping the necessary standard is the main responsibility of civil aviation. It assures the fitness of the operator be it in manpower or technologies. Travellers who know aviation ask whether civil aviation is well organized or not before they choose the better operator.

When we see it from the perspective of Ethiopia, civil aviation is administering the air space of Ethiopia which includes Air navigation. The arrangement of civil aviation differs from country to

country. Some organize civil aviation independently while others are established in different forms as per aviation law and regulation. In the case of Ethiopia, civil aviation works with air navigation and other civil aviation works jointly. In short civil aviation means a legal entity that works to respect and be respected the national and international aviation rules and procedures.

## What is the reason for the aviation sector to record a high level of development? How do you explain the overall development of the aviation sector?

From the perspective of civil aviation, to create a strong operator, there should be a strong supervisor like Ethiopian civil aviation. If there is a big airline and there are ineffective civil aviation, the world in general and travellers, in particular, do not trust the operator. The world of civil aviation does not trust the operator.

If Ethiopian Airlines becomes efficient in its capacity and plan to travel to the US, the American civil aviation organization first audits the standard of Ethiopia Civil Aviation but not Ethiopian Airlines. If the audit result falls under category one, they will allow the Ethiopian to fly within its territory. If civil aviation is below the required level, it might be blocked. The stronger system of civil aviation, the stronger operators. By and large, when there is strong civil aviation in a country, the operators would be better contribute to the economic activities.

To say that Ethiopian civil aviation is progressing, it is imperative to see the issue from two perspectives. When we see it from a private operator's perspective, much remains to be done. On the other hand, the very reason for the progress of national carriers is, that Ethiopian Civil Aviation and Ethiopian Airlines are working collaboratively.

Ethiopian Airlines is established under a strong foundation, going on to keep the momentum. In order not to make Ethiopian airlines below the standard, civil aviation has been doing whatever is possible. If we see Ethiopian Airlines alone, it is a pride to Africa as a whole. The leaders and the group that came continuously to the institution are very strong. It has shown continuous progress.

In this case, Ethiopian Airlines has reached a great level. Ethiopian civil aviation has also reached a wonderful stage. By and large, the aviation industry is at a record high. The task done so far is not equivalent to the expected as some airlines established recently bear fruits more than Ethiopians. If wealth is taken as a factor for development, rich countries could not build an airline stronger like Ethiopia. Thus, both the regulatory body and the operator have a greater impact on the effectiveness of the aviation sector. Ethiopian Airlines has its policy, a strong system that is regulated by the government. There are African countries that have better knowledge and expertise in many respects, but they do not have any



***The stronger system of civil aviation, the stronger operators. By and large, when there is strong civil aviation in a country, the operators would be better contribute to the economic activities***





# Herald Guest



airlines recognized internationally. For this to happen, the workers, the managers and other stakeholders have greater contributions.

## How can the aviation sector contribute to the national economy?

Internationally, the aviation industry has greatly contributed to the overall economic progress. In the case of Ethiopia, the country does not have a port and in most cases, the people are traveling by air. Thus we can say it has a greater contribution to the progress of the national economy. If Ethiopia Airlines do not exist, other operators will come, but there must be stronger civil aviation than operators. The aviation sector supports the economy greatly. It facilitates everything.

## Various airports have been built throughout the country. One of the mandates given to the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority is monitoring the construction of these airports. Some rumours have been raised about the quality and standards of the airport. Would you comment on that?

In my opinion, there is no shortage of airports in Ethiopia. Are we properly utilizing the existing ones? Building an airport requires a huge amount of capital. Therefore the existing airports are enough and good. This does not mean that there are no things that need further improvement. Some gaps should be **addressed**. These are included in the 10-year development plan.

However, the existing airports have been providing very minimal service for a small number of aeroplanes. This shows you that the numbers of private operators are very small to utilize the airports well. Are the entire airports in the country beneficiary? Are they returning the cost spent to build them? The costs of many airports are covered by the income gained from a few airports. This tells you that there is no shortage of airports. **Airport should not be built in every nook and cranny. What is left in the airports is the absence of frequently flying aeroplanes.**

## How do you evaluate the contribution of private developers?

The private sector has not been involved highly in the aviation sector. There are some reasons for this. The aviation policy has not been yet endorsed. We tried our best when I was the general manager of Ethiopian civil aviation. It responds to the question: who is the operator? How does the plane land and who monitors it? There is no financial source that encourages private operators. The government has not been supporting the aviation sector as it does in other sectors.

There is less aviation investment in the country. When peace and stability return to their previous status, the aviation industry, especially private developers would be the backbone of the economy. In Kenya, there are 47 private operators but here in Ethiopia, only 13 operators are licensed. However, those who are operational are not exceeding six. Much

remains to be done in this regard. Thus, the government should devise an aviation policy to support and encourage private developers.

## Do you believe that the civil aviation of Ethiopia is developing as per its age?

The government should give due attention to civil aviation as the entity does not hire professionals simply from the market, it would rather need to offer additional training for the manpower recruited to fill the knowledge gap. After you do all these, the manpower that is expected to serve for some time is repeatedly raised with questions directly related to salary and other benefits. Even if effective tasks were done to uplift the aviation sector, we were not able to stop the turnover of human power. The leaders of civil aviation are now striving to change the obstacles as the bottleneck should be resolved. If we need the aviation sector to be stronger, it should give due attention to its manpower development.

The other thing is, the sector requires training. Indeed some of the training has been offered abroad even if efforts are exerted to provide the training with local capacity. All in all, to develop the aviation sector, it has to be given due attention. The sector requires highly skilled human power. Unless the staff of civil aviation received benefits equivalent to the airlines, they could not be vibrant workers that can change the institution.

## While heading the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Agency for the past 12 years you are believed to have managed to build the reputation of the company. What were your major achievements by then?

Like anybody else assigned to a certain position, I have my weaknesses and strengths. Together with the staff of civil aviation, we discharged the responsibility given to us by international aviation. For this, Ethiopian civil aviation received an internationally recognized award scoring high audit results and was selected as one of the five top civil aviation institutions out of 192 countries.

Now Ethiopia has become a member of the international civil aviation council. It is one of the 36 member countries. We were fighting to get such a rank as the 13 east African states are always fighting to get it. Hence, Ethiopia has now devised an international civil aviation policy together with members of the council.

## On one hand, the war that took place between the government forces and TPLF is a curse for the aviation sector as it targeted some of the airports. Now a peace accord is signed between the two sides, what is your take on that?

Peace and stability are fundamental things for the aviation industry. If there is no peace, a private operator cannot land their helicopter in the jungle. If there is lasting peace and stability, the number of investors who buy helicopters and planes will increase dramatically. When there is an agricultural and industrial investment



within the country, investors need to use their time effectively and efficiently. If you take for instance Mekelle Airport, Ethiopian airlines were flying seven times a day. The same is true at Axum and Kombolcha Airports. Peace and stability are a priority not only for aviation sector development but also for overall economic advancement.

In my point of view, the peace accord is vital as no one hates peace in general.

The government should think about the sustainability of the peace process. The peace deal should not make some groups more content but frustrated others. A win-win point of decision that everyone trusts have to be created. War is a cause of the destruction and economic failure. All should win and leave in harmony.

**Thank you for your time.**

Thank you for the invitation.

## Society

## Diaspora engagement in advocating peace

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Following the peace deal between the Federal government and the TPLF several Ethiopian diaspora communities are expressing their happiness in various ways. As part and parcel of Ethiopia, most of them were seen actively engaged in peace advocacy activities and they were publicly denouncing the intervention of other countries that had been catalyzing the conflict for their own interest.

Various sources indicated that the Ethiopian Diaspora community that lives all over the world estimated about three million. Though the Diaspora communities live in various corners of the globe they are always active participants in nation affairs, according to Wondeson Girma Ethiopia Diaspora Agency public relation directorate director.

The role of the diaspora in public diplomacy as well in mobilizing resources and investment is on the right track. Diaspora Ethiopians have a great leverage to make positive and negative impacts on the political, social and economic development of the country.

Inputs from the diaspora community serve as an opportunity for the government to see internal as well as external issues from different angles. In addition, Ethiopia needs the diaspora to share its experience in areas of democratic values and practices they have acquired over the years. Additionally, in times of no viable and capable opposition parties or lack of strong voice of home grown civil society, the diaspora could play a constructive role.

According to him, the #NoMore movement, staging rallies against ill intentions of some nation's interference in Ethiopia's internal affairs as well putting danger on sovereignty and benefits of Ethiopia is a good indication of the powerful role of the diaspora in overcoming destructive agendas of the external forces.

The diaspora community in exposing the



covert agendas and the misinformation through social media platforms is the other area where Ethiopian sentiment was reflected within the past year. This is another manifestation of how powerful the voice of the diaspora is to protect Ethiopia's sovereignty and to sustain its unity. We hope their efforts will be continued.

“The effort of the diaspora in sustaining peace throughout the country is still strong. From the very beginning the crisis surfaced in the Northern part of Ethiopia the diaspora had been advocating peace and, in my view, that spirit is still alive. The Ethiopia Diaspora Agency learnt that all diaspora communities are supporting the peace accord and expressing their support through various ways. The recent demonstration in support of the peace accord conducted at various cities of

the USA and European nations are the showing case.”

In an exclusive interview with the local media, Defend Ethiopia Taskforce and Diaspora Belgium Community Coordinator, Ephrem Zewdu, on his part said that the diaspora community across the world have been engaging in public diplomacy and informing world leaders about peace. “The Ethiopian Diaspora has played a significant role in the successful signing of the recent peace agreement between the federal government and the TPLF.”

According to him, the immediate task of the diaspora should now be supporting all the peace activities that further cement Ethiopian unity and stability. “We have to play a constructive role for this great deal which is in the interest of the entire Ethiopian people.”

Concerning humanitarian, help he said, the Ethiopian diaspora community is actively engaged to support Ethiopia's effort. “The diaspora is ready to mobilize resources to support affected communities by the conflict in Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions. The diaspora need to disengage from the disinformation campaign against the peace deal. They rather need to support the full implementation of the peace agreement.”

The coordinator also said that the diaspora community is excited by the peace agreement reached between the two parties. “We are happy. We are celebrating the peace deal. Peace should get the chance to prevail in our country. It is in the interest of the Ethiopian people. Tigrayan brothers and sisters are part of Ethiopian people. So, we are eagerly waiting for the practical implementation of the peace agreement.”

The coordinator pointed out that the Ethiopian diaspora community has been engaged in defending Ethiopia because the war was an all-out war that targeted to tarnish the image of the Ethiopian people and the Government of Ethiopia. In this regard, all the efforts made by the Ethiopian government to bring a lasting solution is an encouraging step. The Ethiopian people and government are always committed to peace.

In his message to TPLF leaders and the people of Tigray, Ephrem called on the TPLF to ensure peace through swift implementation of the deal, including disarmament, as it is in the interest of Tigrayan people and the entire Ethiopian people.

No country allows armed insurgency in its own territory. Therefore, the disarmament of TPLF in accordance with the signed peace agreement is the right solution, he underscored. The coordinator also called on the international community to support Ethiopia's peace initiative and address the challenges by providing humanitarian assistance for the people affected by the conflict.

## Ethiopia's contribution...

A National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) was then created under the former Environmental Protection Authority in 2012, which was then moved to the Ministry of Agriculture in 2012. Finally, it was brought under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) in July 2013 to implement REDD+ Readiness Phase (i.e. R-PP implementation) and coordinate all efforts. The readiness program is expected to be completed in June this year.

In addition to mitigating climate change, stopping deforestation and forest degradation and supporting sustainable forest management conserves water resources and prevents flooding, reduces

run-off, controls soil erosion, reduces river siltation, protects fisheries and investments in hydropower facilities, preserves biodiversity and preserves cultures and traditions.

In line with the National Green Legacy Initiative launched by Prime Minister Abiy the nation has planted 25 billion seedlings across the country and in the areas where campaigns have been conducted in catchment development and soil conservation and localities specially selected for their vulnerability to soil erosion, landslides and related natural disasters.

Forestry is one of the main pillars of the

economy to develop an environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economy through protecting and re-establishing forests for their economic and ecosystem services, including carbon stocks, which brings the country a middle-income status with NetZero emission by 2030. Forestry has an abatement potential of 130MtCO<sub>2</sub>e and contributes significantly towards achieving a carbon-neutral economy.

As Ethiopia's vulnerability to climate change has become obvious, planting seedlings every year has become a regular national practice. However, the lack of coordination and strategy on how to retain and develop the planted forest seedlings is

still a shortfall that needs to be addressed on time. This is obvious because the rate of deforestation has always outpaced the intensity and level of afforestation programs.

One important factor is interrelated with what benefits community members can get from the forest development programs. Community ownership of forest areas, ensuring that the rural youth can benefit from such programs, creating continuous awareness creation programs based on practical and closer examples of the adverse nature of climate change, and development of permanent forest enclosures is of critical importance.

# International News

## Rwanda cuts 126,000 tonnes of carbon emissions over last nine years

Rwanda has cut 126,000 tonnes of carbon emissions over the last nine years owing to strategic climate resilience investments made across the country, this is according to the latest official data presented at the ongoing 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Egypt.

The data on green investments released by the Rwanda Green Fund showed that since 2013, funding worth 247 million U.S. dollars has been mobilized for strategic climate resilient investments.

The funding was invested in 46 green projects across the country that helped to cut the carbon emissions.

At least 47,000 hectares of forests and agro-forestry were planted while 31,000 hectares of watershed and water bodies have been protected, it showed.

Over 88,000 households were given access to off-grid clean energy while 120,000 people were supported to cope with the effects of climate change, according to the data.

Speaking during the event, Rwanda's finance State Minister for Economic Planning, Claudine Uwera said Rwanda needs an estimated 11 billion U.S. dollars to mitigate and adapt to climate change effects up to 2030.



## Africa: How Technology Can Curb Illicit Trade in Endangered Wildlife Species

Despite being heavily protected, the pangolin is trafficked more than any other mammal in the world.

As 2,500 people converge on Panama for the World Wildlife Conference from November 14, two leading international officials responsible for ensuring sustainable trade in wildlife outline how both to protect endangered species and to ensure efficient trading. In a guest column for AllAfrica, Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director of Technology and Logistics at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), advocate the wider use of digital technologies to help conserve the planet's endangered species.

Earlier this year, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on world leaders to end the "senseless and suicidal war against nature".

Technological advancements have now created solutions to help stop this war and improve humanity's relationship with the natural world. Digital technology exists to help us to know what is happening in the world and to make better informed decisions about how to live in harmony with our rich but fragile ecosystems.

Take wildlife trade for example. Much has changed since the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) came into force in the early 1970s to prevent the world's commercially-traded wildlife species from becoming extinct. Back then, many people were unaware of many of the species which lived in faraway places, or of how the purchasing decisions they made could impact those species.

Over time, we have become collectively better educated about the need to preserve the multitude of species on our planet. Many now understand why it's important to conserve biodiversity to ensure future generations can also benefit from nature.

### How digital permits help protect endangered species

CITES regulates and controls trade in various species of animals and plants, according to their status in the wild, with strict restrictions against commercial trade in endangered species while allowing a controlled and monitored approach for others. The process to regulate the



export or import of wildlife requires both transparency and rigour at national borders to allow legal trade to proceed while preventing illicit trade.

However, for many countries – exporters and importers alike – border control may still be a process which depends on human resources, with the paperwork to process the transfer of species from one territory to another done by hand.

Ivonne Higuero is Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

As countries implement what we call the national "single window" approach for trade controls in general, some countries are digitalizing the process. In addition, the automation of issuing trading permits has been accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic having posed challenges for in-person trade processes.

As well as reducing processing time and simplifying procedures, the use of technology improves the quality of risk assessment and inspection by border agencies, including customs offices, so helping combat illegal trade in wildlife specimens.

But how does this work in practice? Consider customs officers presented with an animal or plant that appears to be exotic, maybe a protected species. How do they know that the certificate accompanying the animal or plant in front of them is legal or that the species being traded is the same as the one the paperwork claims it to be?

Since many countries currently rely on traditional paper-based means to process permits, human error can creep in, allowing

the fraudulent trade in endangered species.

But an electronic permit system linked to a customs management system can help customs officers; importers and exporters ensure the right species are traded in the right quantities. It facilitates coordination between customs and the government agencies responsible for CITES matters. Furthermore, the data generated from electronic permit systems allows accurate reporting of trade in CITES-listed species, allowing informed decision-making for sustainable, legal and traceable trade.

Today, the parties to CITES – 183 countries and the European Union – are looking into an electronic permit system and exploring solutions that would be cost-effective and inter-operable among countries. These would help customs officers spot illegal attempts to trade in protected species and enforce international trade laws.

One such solution is the eCITES@ASYCUDA base solution. Developed by the CITES Secretariat and the UN Conference on Trade and Development's Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) programme, the system allows a streamlined and automated flow of CITES trade at each step, from permit application, review and issuance to border validation. The result is that trade in regulated animals and plants are done in a legal, traceable and sustainable manner in the country.

In Sri Lanka, the first country to implement the solution, piloting the digital system has increased annual approval rates for permits by 17 percent from 2020 to 2021. This shows that the system facilitates legal trade while helping curb illicit trade, therefore boosting the conservation of CITES-listed

species in Sri Lanka.

The average processing time for permits in Sri Lanka has fallen from 120 hours in 2020 to 39 hours today. Adopting such a solution also provides better data for improved analysis and monitoring. Prior to the roll-out of the solution in 2020, no statistics were available.

Beyond Sri Lanka, the system is also being piloted in Mozambique, where similar improvements are foreseen, as well as in a few other countries that are testing the system.

Global problems require global solutions

Global problems require global solutions and international cooperation is essential for the conservation of wild animal and plant species against over-exploitation through international trade.

The more countries around the world that use electronic permitting solutions, the more sustainable international trade in wildlife species can be, and the greater the level of protection for endangered species globally.

Digital systems can also facilitate the exchange of electronic permits and information across borders, improving international cooperation, increasing transparency and preventing the use of fraudulent permits.

Such systems are particularly useful in developing countries, which are home to many valuable and threatened species, but may not have adequate staff for administering permits and enforcing border controls, and need access to systems that are efficient and effective as they fight the criminals seeking to bypass those controls.

The international community has an important role to play in testing and moving towards innovative technological solutions that are available to all countries, so that we improve the conservation and sustainable use of our natural resources together, while leaving no one behind.

As the UN Secretary-General has said several times, our health and the health of the natural world – and indeed, our planet – are all intricately linked.

Using digital solutions to support nature conservation is fundamentally an act of human interest and at the same time, our responsibility to leave a healthy planet for future generations.

# Verbatim and Caption

## Peace agreement ushers green light for humanitarian access, end to conflict



*The government has emphasized that communication activities should respect the provisions of the peace agreement and strengthen the brotherhood and solidarity of the people. Government communication institutions at all levels should ensure the public's desire to access information by producing and transferring reliable, readable, accurate and up-to-date government information accessible to the public, Minister of Government Communication Services, Dr Legese Tulu.*



*The Ethiopian Mass Media Authority urged communication and media institutions to ensure the implementation of citizens' right to information by delivering information free from hate and conflict incitement to the society. Government communication institutions should work to ensure that the society properly understands the national peace process that has started. Communication experts are further expected to do intensive communication activities so that the people can get government information quickly on current affairs, promote the unity and brotherhood of the people, and help the people get the latest information and participate in rebuilding the areas affected by the conflict, Director General of Ethiopian Mass Media Authority Mohamed Idris.*



*Seventy percent of Tigray is under Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF). Aid is flowing like no other times. Even to the areas not yet held by ENDF. Some 35 trucks of food and three trucks of medicine have arrived Shire. Flights are allowed. Services are being reconnected. The agreement just provides opportunities to enhance services, Redwan Hussien, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister with ministerial portfolio.*



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## AHRI's commendable role in developing research guide

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Research mentorship is a powerful tool. It has the ability to mold generations of researchers, positively influencing their career development by instilling a culture of learning through research, generating knowledge, and communicating findings.

In recognition of the benefit, experts drawn from TDR Global and Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI), worked together with Social Entrepreneurship to Spur Health (SESH) to develop, pilot, and test guide, mapping out several pathways to institutionalizing research mentorship.

Director, TDR Professor John Reeder said that research mentorship is fundamental to science. Mentorship bridges the generational gap and ensures that young scientists can build on the wealth of knowledge and wisdom of their experienced colleagues. TDR has trained over 15,000 researchers on all continents over the last few decades, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

With the rise of virtual technology and online courses, demand for mentoring is increasing, and so are the opportunities

and challenges in building fruitful collaborative relations.

Despite the well-recognized importance of research mentorship, many researchers still encounter obstacles that existing resources do not address. Resources often focus on individual factors such as how to be a strong mentor or mentee, while paying less attention to the broader institutional ecosystem supporting mentorship. In addition, some guides have been tailored for high-income country settings, with more abundant institutional resources. So, how do we make sure that TDR's focus, researchers working in low- and middle-income countries, are also part of the mentorship solution?

This practical guide responds to these gaps. It provides tools, open access resources, and advice for research institutions, tailored for LMIC's settings. The guide is informed by 123 proposals received from 40 countries following an open call for proposals; most of these came from LMICs.

State Minister Dr. Samuel Kifle for his part noted that training and research are fundamental tools for human development. Literate, competent, and

passionate members of the community are essential resources to chart and lead their country's development agenda.

According to him, during the last three decades, Ethiopia has made a huge investment in training its citizens to play a pivotal role in the development of the country. As such, higher training institutions have grown from a handful in the early 1980s to over 50 public higher training institutions to date and approximately 40 research institutions in various fields across the country. In addition, there are private and non-governmental research institutions.

The rapid growth of research institutions has contributed to an expanding group of research scientists. In view of the government's interest in winning over poverty and ensuring comprehensive development, we expect much more from our academics and researchers. Yet, much remains to be done to inspire current academics and researchers as well as students in different fields. The goal is for them to conduct more research that can have a direct impact on human health. Nonetheless, the country has a long way yet to go in terms of quality, relevance, and number of research

outcomes.

As resource allocation is limited, investment is needed in high tech equipment for laboratories, fostering community engagement as well as consistent capacity building of researchers and closer mentorship opportunities. Successful research undertaking benefits from institutionalized mentorship opportunities that guide and nurture junior researchers.

This has powerful leverage in encouraging and facilitating research within our capacity and interest. In view of this, I recognize the role of this practical guide, "Health Research Mentorship in Low and Middle-Income Countries (HERMES)", developed, piloted and tested by TDR Global.

Yes, institutionalizing research mentorship is essential for the growth and development of research in LMIC settings. The practical guide is meant to not only be a call to action for LMIC institutions to focus more attention and resources on cultivating research mentorship, but also to provide these same institutions with useful guidance in enhancing research mentorship programs.