



# The Ethiopian Herald

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Page 3

## Addis mulls to extend steadfast support to real estate developers

- Mayor inaugurates AL-SAM apartment complexes

BY BILAL DERSO

**ADDIS ABABA**-The government's mere efforts to satisfy Addis Ababa residents' demand for housing cannot bring the desired results, Addis Ababa City Administration Mayor Adanech Abiebie said.

She called on real estate developers and companies's meaningful contribution to alleviating the overlapping housing demands.

The Mayor made the above remark yesterday while inaugurating the 2B+G+20 complex that was being built by AL-SAM PLC and its sister company Sakur Real Estate in a locality known as Mexico in the metropolis. The complex has 360 apartments and 3 floor commercial space.

She also inaugurated the 2B+G+15 complex built by Sakur Real Estate next to Radisson

See Addis mulls ... page 4



## Expert weighs peace accord's economic advantages

- Ethiopia's Eurobond price sharply rises

Page 4

## AU-brokered Peace accord fades away undue pressures on Africa

Page 4



*Ecological strategist struggling to save the endangered Babile Elephant*

Page 7

*The Pretoria deal is a huge victory for Ethiopia*

Page 10

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# News



## Political dialogue crucial towards confidence building: Expert

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA** – Continuous political dialogues between the officials of the Ethiopian government and the other party are very important for confidence building, according to an expert.

Speaking to local media, political science and media scholar Prof. Biruk Hailu stated that confidence-building measures from both sides are stipulated in the Peace Agreement. He added that continuous political dialogues are also vital for the implementation of articles of the accord.

Everybody, that claims to serve the people of Tigray in a way that respects the constitution and constitutional order of the country should be included in the interim administration and in other re-building activities, according to Prof. Biruk.

He also said groups or individuals who reject the articles of the constitution will not be accepted. However, he added, if any party wants to carry out peaceful political activities by respecting the constitution of the country, it should be given freedom to do that.

Recognizing that the ways it has gone so far have been dangerous, the party needs to adjust its path, Prof. Biruk said adding, that it has made a number of historical mistakes within the past years that affected negatively Ethiopia in general and the people of Tigray in particular.

Regarding the peace accord, the scholar stated that the agreement between the government and the other party has pleased Ethiopian living in the country and abroad. And, organizers and participants of the peace talk held in Pretoria of South Africa should be commended for their proper handling of the process and the fruitful result.

According to him, the result was also achieved by the sacrifice of precious life by the members of the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF). The Agreement clearly stipulates that the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security of the country are protected by the army alone.

## India seeks to enhance B2B networking in Ethiopia

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA**—Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia stated that his country is working hard to bolster business to business (B2B) relationship with Ethiopia in a bid to further reinvigorate the bilateral and diplomatic relationship of the two countries.

The Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia Robert Shetkintong told The Ethiopian Herald that the two countries have longstanding bilateral and historical relationship in regards with trade and business exchange.

At present, 11 Indian companies and two textile factories based in Ethiopia are participating in Ethiopia, in the Africa Sourcing Fashion Week host in Addis, it was learnt.

The Ambassador said that, as one of the largest investments in Ethiopia, Indian textile sector has been contributing a lot to the Ethiopian national economy via bringing a scheme for creating 20,000 jobs, and generating Forex to Ethiopia.

He further urged Ethiopian business persons to go to India and see the huge capability and explore their business opportunity there taking advantage of a



Robert Shetkintong

‘Roadshow on Source India’ to be held in Mumbai, India from 28 –30 November, 2022.

“Ethiopia and India have had thousands of bilateral and historical relationships since Axumit kingdom as the two countries have share traditional trade exchange (barter), using horse to travel, and the likes. It means that trade and business activity are the most important parts as well as part and parcel of the long standing bilateral relationship between the two countries,” he underscored.

He further noted that there are over 650 Indian companies registered under Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC)

which have cumulatively generated five billion USD in the nation, and have created some 75,000 jobs.

“India has some 12 textile, 20 agricultural, and four Parma factories in Ethiopia. Of the total factories India does have in Ethiopia, 50% of them are running manufacturing industry, which is playing a deceive role in bridging the skilled human power gap, creating job opportunity, transforming technology, and the likes,” he cited.

He said: “As far as the effort geared towards bridging the skilled human power gap is concerned, over 3,200 Ethiopian citizens have benefited out of the scholarship opportunity provided India in various fields since 1969.”

Furthermore, the bilateral trade relationship of the two countries had reached 1.7 billion USD over the past year, according to the National Bank of Ethiopia, the ambassador elaborated.

As to him, India will mark its 75 diplomatic relationships with Ethiopia soon. Different cultural groups from India come to Ethiopia and vice versa to stage respective festivals thereby further consolidating the ties between the two countries.



Photo - Gebabho Gebrie

## Authority urges stakeholders to contain drug trafficking

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

**ADDIS ABABA**—Ethiopia Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) calls on pertinent stakeholders to ensure medicines, food, cosmetics and medical devices safety keeping standards and curb drug traffic substandard medicines.

Speaking at an event organized by the Addis Ababa Food Medicine Health Administration and Control Authority (AAMHACA) to pharmaceutical professionals, EFDA Director General Heran Gerba said the society is now facing illicit drug problems and poor services delivery in the pharmacy services.

“We all should comply with the rule and regulation of the nation, a pharmacy professional should act professionally

rather than only being business oriented.”

According to her, efforts are finalized to the restructure of the EFDA so as to help deliver services in a more organized and coordinated manner to ensure safety and efficacy of medicines, food, cosmetics and medical devices as per standards, and curb drug traffic using substandard medicines.

She further noted that the nation is working with Ethiopian Revenue Customs Authority and National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) and regional and international bodies.

“As developing nations we fulfill 80-90 percent of nation demand for medicines and equipment through importing. Unless we strive to join hands and work diligently the danger is lofty, it is like a tsunami

but the silent one, to curb the danger we should act early,” she said.

AAMHACA General Director Taddese Atlabachew on his part said, “We are working with all stakeholders to ensure the safety of societies. We had findings through inspections and identified gaps that should be addressed in coordination with stakeholders and awareness creation.”

As per the law of the land, pharmacists and business owners will be accountable for any malpractices such as dispensing medicines without prescription, prescribing with authority, among others.

He urged City Pharmacy business owners and pharmacists to form an association and confirmed to support their effort in the process.

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## Editorial

### A peace accord seen a hit for Ethiopia

Ethiopia never relented from proffering peace-seeking-rational alternatives and coming forth with amicable ways of resolving disputes.

The reason for the aforementioned decision is ascribable to its perception that war, which is a far cry from enduring peace, courts but destruction and vengeance. As such, the Pretoria's peace deal is a better alternative of lasting peace that rings down the curtain on war.

Given the ruin it brings on its sway, there is no profit that accrues from war. There is no one better placed to bear witness to this fact other than Ethiopians, for Ethiopia spent a larger segment of its history locked in bloody wars.

All along the way now, paying heavy sacrifices, citizens have allowed Ethiopia to further cement its unity. As the government introspected "Why we fell prey to the vicious cycle of conflict?" and sought options to troubleshoot the knotty issue, it has managed to bring a halt to the war, to ward off similar catastrophes, weighing heavily on nation's wellbeing, down the road, to let citizen's attention home in on development and to let a room for national dialogue. The government's sagacious move is a panacea promising sustainable peace.

It is necessary to comprehend that the peace accord signed last Monday between the incumbent and the other party is one born out of the conviction to contain the war bleeding the country dry. It aims at giving up the feeling of nursing a grudge. It has set as objectives taking time for repentance and recompense, extending a collective helping hand to citizens subjected to all forms of damages, barring the door on historic enemies and opportunities planning to fish in troubled waters. It as well eyes on harnessing God-bestowed wealth to the full to say adieu to poverty, nation's Achilles heel that compels it to buckle under undue pressure often meant to make it compromise its time-old virtues.

PMAbiy's message in connection with the peace accord is in consonance with the aforementioned facts. "The peace accord is of paramount

significance as it brings Ethiopia back on the track of change, started four years and half back, and allows it surge forward. Our conviction to peace is firm. Also firm is our conviction for the translation of the agreement into action."

These turn of events are sign enough through the sweat of its brow Ethiopia is determined to plant its development tree on the sovereignty and freedom features, forefathers entitled the country through martyrdom. The unfolding is ripe enough to fill our aid-receiving bag with home produced crops.

It must be understood that any wholehearted effort towards the peace accord is attributable to interest towards spurring the growth of the nation.

In order for the peace talk to fructify there is a call for implementing the resolutions or accords reached on. There is a call for conducting tasks on time with a genuine spirit.

Setting aside the tasks meant for the party and the incumbent, regarding Ethiopians, an all-out effort is called for to actualize the enshrinements of the accord.

Brushing aside umbrage, burying the hatchet there is a call for showing a good will gesture. As the Ethiopian adage runs: "A hyena will squeeze through the burrows a dog made of the( wooden) fence," taking a bitter lesson from our wrong turns of dissension, which lent historic enemies and opportunists an invisible arm in our country, we must close all doors left ajar for such entry points.

All said, it would be failing in one's duty not to record a word of praise to those individuals and organizations (AU) that proved their integrity and trustworthiness in the accord that proved a hit to Ethiopia.

Now the gun is silenced under the Ethiopian sky. Thus doves could hover on the sky with a green leaf in their beak as there will be no rifle that robs them of their peace.

## Opinion

### Managing Africa's debt burden to spur development

BY STAFF REPORTER

Development finance is the efforts of local communities to support, encourage and catalyze expansion through public and private investment in physical development, redevelopment and/or business and industry.

Development finance encompasses everything from individual micro loans to macro investments in business and infrastructure. While it might align closely with mainstream finance, the spirit that drives it is vastly different.

Development finance aims to serve people and communities beyond the pale of mainstream finance. Credit is transformed from an instrument of profit to one of social emancipation and progress.

Africa needs to mobilize innovative financing for development programmes and effectively manage its debt burden, which left untackled, threatens economic growth.

A workshop on Debt Management, organized for policy makers from different African countries and research institutions to share challenges and best practices in debt management,

heard that rising debt was constraining economic growth in Africa, worsened by the combined crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war.

Mr. Adam Elhiraika, Director of the Macroeconomics and Governance Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), opening the workshop said while debt is a significant source of funding for the economic growth and development of African countries, managing it has remained a major challenge for many countries on the back of multiple global economic crises.

"The COVID-19 pandemic and The Russia-Ukraine war have negatively affected the fiscal performance of African countries, where the debt-to-GDP ratio has increased from 57% in 2019 and by 2021 it was to 66% in 2022," Mr. Elhiraika noted, attributing the increase in the debt burden to a growing spending on the health sector in responding to the pandemic as well as the social costs States have borne to mitigate the negative effects of the total or partial shutdown of economic activities. With weakened domestic currency and increasing external debt, Mr. Elhiraika

said, the compounded global crises had exacerbated the debt distress for a number of African countries.

Already the debt-to-GDP ratio for oil-importing countries in Africa reached 73% of GDP in 2022, because of skyrocketing energy costs brought about by the Ukraine crisis. The IMF's latest list of low-income countries' Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) shows that as of 31 May 2022, 16 African countries were at high risk of debt distress, and 7 were already in debt distress.

The International Monetary Fund has strongly recommended the G20 to launch the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) which was established in 2021. It has helped countries in focusing their efforts on combating the epidemic and protecting the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable individuals.

Mr. Elhiraika highlighted that the difficult economic situation facing many African countries has made them account for 52% of the eligible DSSI countries. Out of the 73 eligible countries, 48 participated in this initiative, which succeeded in suspending the payment of \$12.9 billion of debt services between May 2020 and December 2021.

In an effort to help member states, UNECA in 2021 launched the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility (LSF) to lower liquidity premiums and enhance sovereign access to international bond markets for African countries through a regional repo market that conforms to international norms.

The facility has the potential to save African countries an estimated \$11 billion over the next five years on borrowing costs. It has already attracted interest from a number of significant international Asset Managers and its potential value in the first year might reach up to \$30 billion.

In August 2021, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) launched the allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) worth \$650 billion to boost global liquidity. Many developed countries had agreed on the reallocation of SDRs to support low-income countries.

Source: UNECA

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

# News

## Council calls on Diasporas to actively engage in U.S. midterm election

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA**—Ethiopian American Civic Council called on all Diaspora living in the U.S. to make informed decision and vote for their best choices in the upcoming 2022 U.S. midterm election.

Having a stay with international media, The Council Chairperson Deacon Yoseph Romanwork said that in contrast to the interest of the U.S. some Democrats have been working to threaten Ethiopia in all opportunities they get.

Citing the repercussions of HR 128, the chairperson said that they have been challenging members of Congress even the state department as some special interest

group in the U.S. used to have long relationship with anti peace elements.

He stressed that as Ethiopian Diaspora are big in number especially along with Eritrean Diaspora, they can make a difference on election result using their ballot.

He underscored that some democrats have been undertaking unforgettable threats against Ethiopia to escalate conflict in the country and to hinder the construction of Abay Dam, even to hinder the Ethiopian peace deal that was concluded in South Africa.

He urged that when Ethiopian Diasporas travel to polling station they need to remember all of the aforementioned pressures imposed on their motherland—Ethiopia.



## Expert weighs peace accord's economic advantages

- Ethiopia's Eurobond price sharply rises

BY MENGESHA AMARE

**ADDIS ABABA**- Besides solving the public's economic and social problems, the benefits of the peace accord for Ethiopia's economic development is very important, a senior economist said, adding the wealth used for war will be diverted to development.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), senior economist and Global Chairperson of Fairfax Africa Fund Zemedeneh Nigatu stated that the proper implementation of the investment to rebuild war-torn areas will create great potential for the country's economic growth.

"Because of the war, billions of Birr worth of infrastructure have been destroyed, which may set back Ethiopia's economic growth. On the other hand, as a result of the agreement, billions of funds intended to be given to the country in the form of loans and aid can be released."

It was stated that the U.S. delisting of Ethiopia from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has a severe impact on huge factories including Hawassa Industrial Park that earn a substantial foreign currency by exporting large quantities. The sanction has also caused investors to leave the country.

However, in a recent discussion with American investors, they said that if the peace of the country is restored, they will not only solve AGOA's problem, but also show interest in investing in Ethiopia, Zemedeneh elaborated.

As to him, the problem of inflation and the cost of living caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine War is a global problem. In Ethiopia, the problem is accentuated by the lack of foreign currency created in connection with the war. "The Ethiopian economy will grow twice as much next year as the pressure on the country will be reversed and the nation will turn its

attention to development."

Noting the value of a billion dollar Eurobond that Ethiopia borrowed from international investors to increase the flow of investors had significantly declined due to the war, the economist pointed out that since the day after the deal, the price has risen sharply.

"Ethiopia is a country with a population of 120 million, most of whom are young people of productive age, and because of its conducive climate, it is the preferred country for investors. Despite the scar caused by the lack of peace on the flow of investors, it was able to rank among countries that achieved good results in the flow of global businesses."

War is not the choice of any Ethiopian, but because it is necessary. But there is nothing more gratifying than a peaceful end to a war that has lasted for two years and has destroyed irreplaceable human lives and severely damaged the country's economy, he remarked.

## Addis mulls...

Blu Hotel in the Kaznachis neighborhood in Addis Ababa. The complex has 4 penthouses, 112 apartments and 500 square meters of commercial space.

Apart from easing the pressing housing problem in the metropolis, such projects have a paramount importance in the use of space, modernity, quality, changing the appearance of the city, improving the lifestyle culture, and creating job opportunities, Adanech emphasized.

Noting the existence of some business persons who have engaged in land grabbing, the Mayor applauded AL-SAM's meticulous execution of the project and its capability of building a sizable number of homes in a relatively small plot of land.

The City Administration will avail the necessary support of private developers and readies about 100 plots of land to transfer in the forum of auction. The administration also invites all interested actors to participate in various housing development programs.

"We want to make our city as beautiful and new as its name, and comfortable for its residents. Since the role of the private sector is high in the process of renovating our city, we invite you to participate in various housing delivery modalities and to develop your city on the side of the government," Adanech made a call.

Kamil Sabir from AL-SAM PLC said on the occasion that the company does not just want to be another competitor, but instead plans to be the best in Ethiopia's real estate industry. To achieve our goal of leaving an everlasting impression, the company is currently designing a G+30 building housing 200 apartments resting on 1, 460 square meters of land behind AL-SAM apartment building."

Providing homes with the necessary amenities and infrastructure should not be left to a single government entity and AL-SAM will strengthen involvement in the real estate sector to address the ever-growing demand for a place to live, Kamil remarked.

## AU-brokered Peace accord fades away undue pressures on Africa

BY HAILIE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA**-The Peace Agreement inked between the Ethiopian government and TPLF proved that external pressures from some quarters are being faded away as Ethiopians and Africans are able to resolve conflict by themselves.

Civil Service University School of Diplomacy and International Relations Head Endale Nigussie told Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the peace accord reassures Ethiopia's unwillingness and

enduring capability to defend foreigner interference.

As to him, the Agreement opens a new era in the continent to resist any foreign interventions from now on.

Currently, the new generation has become well acquaint of the interests of external powers and such western backed organizations, he said.

The Agreement will remain historic through commemorating the Victory of Adwa in defending neo-colonialism.

"The combined efforts of Ethiopians and the Diasporas community bear fruits and left a shining victory across the globe towards withstanding the illegal interventions of international institutions like the UN and UNSC. Ethiopia remains at the forefront in fighting against neo-colonialism."

According to him, the past two year's situations in the country clearly portrays that any sovereign country's internal problems never be solved with external powers and institutions. The mere interests of the westerners were protecting their interest

at the expense of countries sovereignty and national interest rather than providing lasting solutions to any problem.

The westerners have exerted maximum efforts to make the negotiation outside Africa but not successful.

Accordingly, the role of AU in reaching this deal is of paramount importance in which previously accused failing to address crisis in the continent. This is an important step for the continent, as the AU has fully led the way in resolving the crisis.

# Opinion

## Emboldening Pan-Africanism to fend neocolonialism

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Pan-Africanism emerged at the end of the nineteenth century as a response to colonialism, slavery and racism. It stood in opposition to domination and discrimination. The notion of pan-Africanism was intended to encounter and defy the oppressive rule of colonialists. Fundamentally, this was a political, moral and ethical response to the partition of Africa as agreed at the Berlin Conference. They partitioned the continent with no fear of repercussions except in Ethiopia that had defended its independence successfully. These powers controlled the resources of Africa, which they needed as inputs for their industries. Later on, they designed a mechanism of trade with which they continued to exploit the resources of the continent. They used neocolonial tools which facilitated the exploitation of African natural resources. Using these tools; they avoided direct warfare and physical confrontations.

In the process, the colonialists designed a political framework of liberating Africans to manage their own internal political affairs. African freedom fighters had to contend for the leadership of their countries. This contention was a fertile ground on which the neocolonialists saw the seeds of division and bloodshed among Africans. They sided with one against the other with the goal of weakening all of them. The true leaders of Africa who aspired for economic development of their countries had been eliminated. Absolute control of resources by the people of Africa was not consistent with the imperialist goal of domination. Those leaders who had desired to improve the living standard of their people had perished before fulfilling their aspirations. The neocolonialists had been instrumental in the elimination of these leaders.

The West encouraged political opposition groups to promote the so-called Western democracy. These groups had been encouraged to engage in internecine and deadly clashes with the goal of grabbing power. The West, for example, continued to destabilize Ethiopia by encouraging fierce fights among ethnic groups. They fully supported the ethnic based rule with the goal of destabilizing the country, its people and government. This was done to promote the so-called Western democracy through ethnic affiliations which was a contradiction. Through time Africans became aware of the evil intent of the neocolonialists. There are now positive developments in the continent despite deadly skirmishes instigated by the West. In recent decades, encouraging developments are emerging.

At an economic level, according to David Maimela, there seem to be positive signs showing Africa as a “new growth frontier.” Politically, peace and stability are increasingly becoming real, although Western powers plant the seeds of new

conflicts in some countries, such as Ethiopia. They do not want the youth of Africa to enjoy peace. About seventy percent of the African population is young. Though this is a demographic dividend, it is also a double edge sword if it remained unemployed. The “middle class,” which is on the rise, is believed to be a critical factor in economic development that creates employment for the youth. Political observers, however, argue that important features are discernible in the evolution of Pan-Africanist thoughts and practices.

These developments are universal expression of black pride and achievement; return to Africa of the people living in the diaspora; more liberation; and political unification of the continent. With these advances, Pan-Africanism becomes an instrument for reclaiming African history and rediscovering the “African Personality” that had been dominated and subdued under colonial cultural domination. Pan-Africanism had the task of correcting the historical injustices of slavery, colonialism and racism. It also had the duty of freeing and uniting Africa and its people. Here, D. Maimela deliberately used the phrase “its people” reflecting real unity. Ultimately, the unity of states is incomplete without the “unity” of the people. Africans are the real base of unity in the continent.

The “defeat” of ethnicism, tribalism and narrow territorial African nationalism is a precondition for unity. Unity is guaranteed through free movement of the people and the restoration of the African Personality. The long subjugation of the black race meant the suppression, disparagement, vilification, disdain and destruction of Africa and the African. The rebuilding of Africa requires the restoration of African humanity in all facets of life and the elevation of Africa back onto the global stage as people of culture, human civilization and geographic space that guarantee equality. Inequality is the dividing factor that keeps countries at war with themselves. Given equal opportunity, individuals may positively contribute to the family, community, society and the country they lived in. Generally speaking, inequality is inherited from the White supremacists that aspired to rule the world without impunity and rule of law.

The so-called developed Western societies have focused on the crises of environmental degradation, cyclical capitalist crises, and the consequent social upheavals. Concurrently, Africa has a double burden of confronting these and the challenges of neo-colonialism in all its rude manifestations. With the end of colonialism, one would naturally expect that the process of real “decolonization” would follow. So far, there has been African cooperation, mostly at official state and economic sector level, but no real unity and integration has taken place yet. This is a failure in realizing the Pan-African dream of one continent, one people and

one destiny. The cause of such failure is the economic domination of the continent by the Western power, which suppressed the ideals of Pan-Africanism. The realization of full independence of Africa politically, economically and socially meant the clarion call for scarcity, deficiency and shortage of means of survival for the West.

The West has to discover a means of weakening Africa for the purpose of exploiting its resources for its survival, subsistence and existence. One strategy of Western survival is to divide and rule Africans indirectly with the goal of exploiting their natural resources as mentioned earlier. One type of division of people is conducted through ethnic and tribal skirmishes.

These warring people are provided with “food aid” to continue their mutual elimination. Aid is followed by investment by Western enterprises that are hungry for profit. These investors engage in the mining and agriculture sectors with the aim of exploiting the natural resources of the target country. In the mining sector, they look for diamond, gold, silver, oil, gas and other minerals. In the agricultural sector, they import machineries duty free and engage in the production of cereals, coffee, flowers, cotton and other commodities mainly for export.

To reverse the exploitative features of Western businesses, Africa, including Ethiopia, will have to stick to Pan-Africanist agenda. Africans have to reclaim, revive and reassert themselves and defeat neo-colonialism at any cost at any time. Also, they have to rely only on their own financial, human and technological resources. In this regard, there has been African cooperation, mostly at official level, but no real unity and integration has taken place in a manner that achieves the pan-African goal of one continent, one people and one destiny.

The gap between goal and real change is determined by African reality which is shaped by local forces. These forces may determine the future of power structures in the continent. There are signs of great potential for the regeneration and restoration of the continent as free and independent entity. However, new forms of domination and exclusion by the West may exert enormous pressure in a continuous manner. Africans have to replace despair with hope and marginalization with sovereignty. They have to succeed in economic and social development and in the integration of the continent with the global economy. This effort would translate into progress in human development, without which African economic independence cannot be guaranteed.

For some economists, development means the development of productive capacity of the economy as well as social development in the form of education, health and other social infrastructure. In recent years,

there has been optimism about Africa’s development prospects that lifted and sustained exchange of commodities in the global market. Such positive developments have been reflected in increased GDP and per capita incomes. Middle income economies have all experienced high levels of growth. It is reported that economic growth has translated into significant human development outcomes. Poverty rates are falling fast and key social indicators are improving even more rapidly. Africa’s poverty rate has fallen dramatically. It is also reported that despite war and infectious diseases, Africans are now living longer than ever before. This trend is expected to continue. Life expectancy is expected to grow with sharp reductions in maternal and child mortality.

Development consultant Rick Rowden, however, presents a different scenario in response to the above “Africa Rising” account. For Rowden, development means the “transition of economies” based on agriculture and extractive industries focused on manufacturing and value-added services. This refers to the industrialization of Africa. Development has generally been taken as a substitute for “industrialization.” Even if an African country such as Ethiopia achieves higher GDP growth rates, its development implies greater benefit from the use of resources by “all citizens.” Manufacturing and services may increase as a percentage of GDP over time, but this does not guarantee real development that should be enjoyed by all the people. Africans may have earned higher export earnings in world markets, but it may be largely a primary agricultural product with little manufactured goods that would have created jobs.

Beyond the legitimate concern about Africa’s development there is a need to ensure the end of marginalization of the continent from the global economy. Margaret Lee makes the point clear in her research work in which she concluded that additional official development assistance will “not” help Africa from sliding back.

If they are true to their words, the Western powers need a strategy for cancelling Africa’s debt; remove protectionist barriers against African exports; eliminate welfare payments to their farmers that have resulted in the destruction of African agriculture; ensure that a significant share of the profits arising from exploitation of Africa’s natural resources are used to enhance Africa’s development. Africans, including Ethiopians, have not benefitted from development assistance from the West that has an ulterior motive of neocolonial exploitation. To intensify their exploitation, they had to weaken Pan-Africanism along ethnic and tribal lines.

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

# Business & Economy

## Time demands to launch skill development ecosystem in the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

According to empirics and studies, in the ever increasing global dynamism of the world economy, finding ways and new modalities of sound economy must be pivotal point for fiscal and monetary policies.

Inquire to adhere for knowledge and skill will determine the upcoming forth industrial revolution to be competent and competitiveness of countries.

The mere desire of capo regime, bureaucracy and aristocracy could no longer be solution for emerging notation as the world demand work force tempted through actions and practice based on fundamental changes of circumstances.

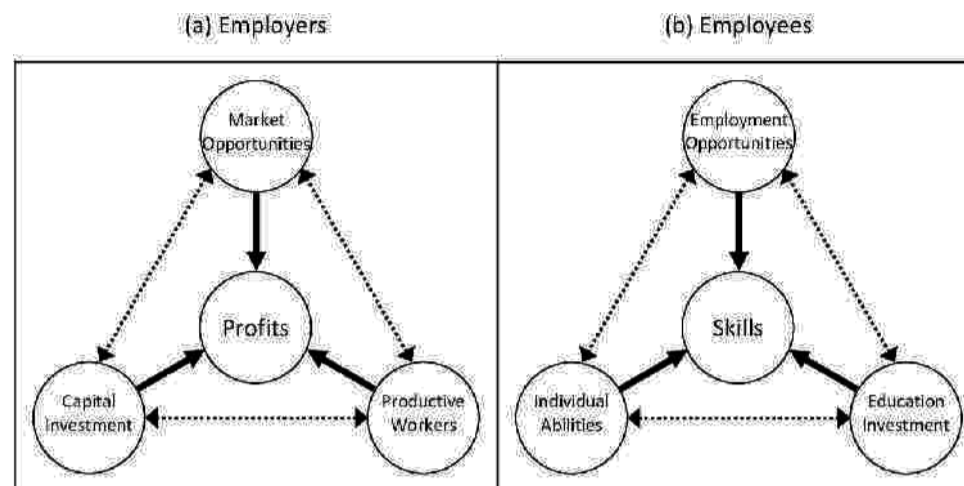
The intellectual bankruptcy and mal practices in Ethiopia in one or other hands associate with skill and talent gap, however, the country own numerous institutions that can transcend the country to the realm of prosperity.

The governing power of knowledge and skill-based practices in the world is rapidly growing. As a result, the technologies created based on knowledge and skills will determine the upcoming fourth industrial revolution in addition to the way of life of people and the competitiveness of countries.

According to various studies, in this ever-changing environment, it is only possible to be effective and competitive when human resources that can create broad-based technologies are developed. Existing procedures in Ethiopia is expected to do extensive and competent work in developing its talent and human are resources if it is to be a competitive international player. Updated, and led with the future in mind. In this regard, Ethiopia is a country with a large portion of young people with great potential. With this in mind, it is our shared responsibility to bring out the true potential of these young people. In bringing out the true potential of the young generation to change Ethiopia, human resource development plays a huge role in all sectors. From this point utilizing it to bring about a substantial positive of view, talent development is not a matter that should be left to the government or some organizations. It requires the strong participation of all stakeholders.

A sustainable talent development ecosystem is built when every stakeholder contributes what is expected of it. In this regard, talent development associations are among the prime contributors. When we come to Ethiopia, although there are various human resource development activities, most are done by the government, individuals, and development partners. In terms of helping these efforts and making the country competent and competitive in the field of talent development, professionals in the field should also play their role in an organized manner. To realize this, it was imperative to establish the Association for Talented Development in Ethiopia (ATD-E).

Association for Talent Development in Ethiopia (ATD-E) is a non-profit organization registered by the Civil Society Organizations Authority of Ethiopia under registration number 6041. ATD Ethiopia contributes in six strategic areas. These



areas are Industry Insight, Capacity Building, Policy Advocacy, Certification and Qualification, Employment Linkage, and Platforms and Communities.

ATD-E plans to have 5000 professionals and institutions in the talent development sector as members in a short period. The association aims to fuel the country's human resources development by creating a favorable environment for experts and industry stakeholders to get to know each other and improve their services. It also aims generate access to vital resources to help its members. In addition, it is preparing platforms for human resource development experts in the country and other countries.

Certifying and recognizing professional talent developers create a conducive environment for employment linkage. Most notably, what is demanded from the economy is the betterment of the public and consolidation of the country.

To change the general objective into practice paving the way for individuals who want eat bread upon their sweat is a must. In precise terms, there is a need to undergo institutional reform to create enabling environment for visionary citizens.

Second, citizens have to take advantage of systems and able to score sustainable development and third, the new wealth reaped from such the new system has to be fairly distributed and price of product stabilized. Finally, the other pillar of the economy is the establishment of partnership in foreign policy without violating national sovereignty.

However, the economy could provide such benefits, over the past 40 years, it was in vain to achieve so even it was difficult to be self-sufficient in producing food items and basic needs.

Such failure has been accelerating inflation. What is worse would be the inflation rate in food related areas more escalated compared to non-food items albeit it is a paradox.

To fill the gap, the country has to make procurement from oversea market. Yet, there are short comings in affording foreign currency and incumbent upon loans from abroad. As a result, the mirrored reflection of Ethiopia seems to be a country unable to rescue itself and the citizenry from begging. What is left for an Ethiopian is good psychological makeup and proud despite all odes.

There is the problem somewhere so that to put lasting solution identifying the source is important. There is abundant water, arable land and workaholic farmers along with universities producing agriculture

professionals.

The question that matters is why starvation and why inputs and mechanizations and implementation failed to modernize the farmers? Why the industry sector is crawling while the country is part of the wisdom world?

The country is not the only entity troubled by its problem. Countries and strategic partners have also felt the complication. They reiterate advising Ethiopia formulating strategies and they are also doing it at this concurrent.

They always come up with two affairs-system and strategy. They begin with saying that Ethiopia is rich with natural resource and human power the short coming is skill and production facilities. Knowledge gap limited to produce machineries unable to afford the cost forced the country to buy. Hence, they consider this for the economy is crawling adding that administration involvement in the economy is another constituent while the economy ought to be left to the private sector based on free market economy.

They also always observed to say the government highly involved in economic endeavors harm the public for instance when it took a loan from banks the private sector would not get cashes. There would be crowding out.

They in short terms claim public enterprises of Ethiopia and recommend the government to focus in safeguarding law and order. They ardently oppose subsidy and advocate competency and madly need capital account liberalization. Neutrality of National bank and limiting its duty to stabilize market are also some aspects such entities demanded.

They also claim that Ethiopia has to be competent in the globe unless it loses what it could get from the competition. However, from the economic perspective, there is no country compete with one another but companies. For instance, in terms of car market Toyota may compete with BMW or Mercedes, but Japan never competes with USA or Germany.

The other is the establishment of stock market for its importance for the availability of capital and generating lucrative foreign currency for newly emerging firms. Nonetheless, the presence of stock market can't help the establishment of new ones and they do not have relation as well.

Three criterions have to be fulfilled for one company to sale stocks. One the company has to be active and operational then it must be productive and third sustainable must be the company. Hence, stock exchange does

not help the establishment of emerging firms.

Foreign investors could generate foreign currency but the deposition is short term as they withdraw it to exchange stocks but banks might be in desperate to pay. On the process their strive to obtain to pay for stock holders the money value would fall to zero as banks may engage in black market.

Thus, share market is a real casino that involves brokers through encouraging buyers and discouraging holders and hastens the exchange rate. It reduced investment fund since there is highly competitive relationship between investment fund and share market.

As time went by, the value one USD has reached 50 ETB. If situations went on similar momentum it would elevated to 100 soon. In this connection the Ethiopian government should not devalued its currency as most items are purchased from oversea market.

Medicine, capital good, petroleum and other important items are purchased from abroad and currency does not have equilibrium. The other adverse effect of devaluation is it is inflationary.

Hence, what is recommended for the nation is contextualizing Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) with home grown and learn from best practices. Second, it is also advisable investigate the fundamental reason of prosperous countries in reaching the helm of success.

What lastly learned is government by itself cannot bring about economic growth and economic development. Second there is no country that has followed in and through the so called free trade modality. Hence, Development urges the cooperation between government and market.

Abdurazak Hussien (PhD), Lecturer in the Economics Department and Post Graduate Program Coordinator at Addis Ababa University said that Ethiopia is proud since it has a story to narrate even if the economic history taken starting from 1950. Because, there have not been other African countries that were autonomous in the mentioned year.

Again the chronology is taken from 1900; there would not be also countries of Europe to narrate their story of economics as many states were not incepted in the year. Hence Ethiopia is lucky that it has something to say that many are forced to be mute.

So the country had started the journey while others were not born however presently the human development index gauge the country at 173<sup>rd</sup> in the world 40<sup>th</sup> in Africa leading South Sudan and Eritrea in East Africa.

Over the last 60 years, the country has been remained to be demonstration centers of economic modal ranging from feudalism to command to developmental state economy.

Of course, like Ethiopia, the world has passed through political regimes weather it is monarchic, military or civilian, but Ethiopia is still in shock draught famine civil war, international transition had its own impact though. Hence, investigating at least the past 60 years economic history of the country might be of paramount significance to reach some sorts of relief.

# Planet Earth

## Ecological strategist struggling to save the endangered Babile Elephant

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

*The Babile Elephant Sanctuary is located 560km east of Addis Ababa and 25km south of the city of Harar. It is located between Oromia and Somali States. The sanctuary, in part, encompasses a plateau, the lowlands of the valleys of the Erer, Dakota, Fafen, Gobebe, and Borale Rivers. It hosts a special elephant species called *Loxodonta Africana Orleansi* and is a tourist attraction site. Nonetheless, the sanctuary is currently in a worrisome situation.*

*Hence, it becomes a concern that needs serious attention and intervention to reverse the situation. During his exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald, Dr. Anteneh Belayneh, Biodiversity lecturer and expert at Haramaya University, elaborated on the Babile Elephant Sanctuary with a special reference to the national, regional, and global multiple benefits. Have a nice read.*

### Why do people call you the father of the Babile Elephant?

I was born and brought up in a place called Gursum town, in East Hararghe. My father was a soldier and often took me to Harar during my childhood. On the way to Harare, I often saw elephants around the Dakota stone.

One day, I was on a bus and got a good look at a herd of elephants crossing the road. They were tall which was even above the bus I was in. As I grew up and gained knowledge, I was enthusiastic to know about the elephant I saw as a child.

Especially, when I started my master's degree program, the question of where are the elephants that I saw in my childhood came to my mind. After asking various questions, I found out that the Babile Sanctuary had been prepared for them and they were living there. And I made the Sanctuary a topic for my MSc Thesis to get more knowledge about biodiversity and elephants. At the time, I wrote my Master's Thesis with a man who came from abroad for his Ph.D. dissertation.

Since I loved elephants, I helped him even after graduation for three years. Hence, I have been working in the Sanctuary for 16 years. That is why they called me the father of the Babile Elephants. I love them; I consider their pain and their sufferings as mine.

### What coincidence had you come across over the 16 years?

Once I was told that a herd of 70 elephants was in a valley called Guble. Although the place is very scary, I was very happy and went to see their activities and felt it was special. When I first went, my intention was just to see and come back home. But I spent the night there in a scary and shocking place to find out about the elephant's nightly activities.

To your surprise, no humankind was there, the silence was an eerie place but the elephants were lovable animals whose lifestyle was adorable. I still love it so much. I camped and stayed the whole night following the elephant. It was an interesting movement and coincidence for me.



### Based on your long-term research, how does the local community feel about the elephants?

The sanctuary is located between Oromia and Somali States. Both the people of Oromia and Somali love the elephants equally. The people, unlike other issues, have a common view in the case of the Babile Elephants. They are one and at peace.

The reason is that the communities follow the elephant during difficulties to save their life since the elephant seeks out areas that have water and food in times of drought. It points out a suitable place for them in times of drought as it senses where water is and wetlands for the semi-pastoralists. They also correlate their existence to peace. Consequently, the elephant is called a peacemaker and ecological strategist.

### Would you tell us about the current situation of the biodiversity of the country regarding the Babile Elephant Sanctuary?

Biodiversity is a global knowledge and a base for human life which includes the economic, social, political, environmental, cultural, and so on. Nonetheless, currently, these biodiversity resources face various problems. Unlike developed countries, Africa, including Ethiopia is highly affected by climate change and lacks the capacity to withstand the effect.

In connection with this, among the wild animals, the Babile elephant which is a high user and consumer of biodiversity is in danger. The current state of biodiversity is not in a condition to accommodate elephants.

There are 1.5 million biodiversity species in the world while a study indicated that extinction of biodiversity has increased 1000 times compared to the past. It means thousands of species such as microorganisms, plants, animals, languages, cultures, and so on will go extinct in a few years which is shocking. This may include the Babile Elephant. If a species goes extinct, its recovery is very difficult and unlikely. Therefore, instead of looking for what is lost, it is possible to save those who are about to be lost through research, and knowledge.

### What are the problems that the elephant faces?

Before we consider the Babile elephant, it is necessary to say a little about the elephants. Although the Babile Elephant is part of the African elephant family species, it is a sub-species that has a special characteristic. However, how long this elephant lives and where did it come from are questions that need huge tasks.

By chance, the elephant has now entered a place called the Babile Sanctuary where it can go nowhere. Because it cannot go down to the desert since there is a great danger waiting for the elephant including the sand that protects it. Even if it goes, the Indian Ocean will be its destination. It can't go to the front side since the high mountains of the Eastern Hararge including the Gara Mulleta are in front of it. Besides, the Eastern Hararghe Mountains are occupied by agricultural settlers.

Other elephants that live elsewhere can move and change their place while the Babile Elephant has nowhere to go and its fate depends only on the Sanctuary. Therefore, the elephant is in a very critical situation and forced to live in an isolated ecosystem.

On the other hand, the sanctuary has faced severe man-made and natural challenges. Illegal settlements, land grabbing, expansion of agriculture, un-researched investment, poaching, climate change, invasive migrant weeds, and frequent drought are factors that affect the sanctuary. The problem has political and economic dimensions that require collaborative action and commitment of the two regional governments in moving the legal settlers from the sanctuary. Because the sanctuary has been shrinking in terms of area, the quality is deteriorating, and the number of elephants is decreasing. Besides, the elephants are exposed to all kinds of attacks concerning destroying the crop of surrounding farmers, and even attacking people in the nearby village. As a result, there is serious human-elephant conflict in the sanctuary.

Now the condition of the elephant is very sad and dire. It is located on the border of Somaliland and the Oromia region. This is one of his biggest challenges. Due to the various crises that the country has, the people of the two regions are pushing border each other. Hence, illegal settlements on both sides with the participation of tribal

leaders, local administration, and many other parties have taken place. This has complicated the problem in the Sanctuary.

### To solve this big and complex problem, what is expected from the government?

To solve the problem, the University researched land encroachment and the cause of illegal settlements and came up with a project. The project is imperative to prevent land invasions and illegal settlements since the settlement is causing the area to become desolate, and the rivers to dry and shrink in size. This means that the area where the elephant consumes and drinks is completely taken over by the illegal settlers and this needs to be reversed.

Who will save them is the biggest question. The government, the surrounding community, and the relevant stakeholders can save them by supporting the Ethiopian Wildlife Protection Authority. The issue of the boundary between the two regional states needs to be resolved. Furthermore, the project proposes to make the sanctuary eastern part of Ethiopia a tourist destination by linking the historical city of Harar, Dakota stone, Lij Iyasu detention area, and Kundudo mountain with its horses. Because saving the elephant helps to save rivers, the communities, and to fight climate change.

### What are the damages created by illegal settlements?

The illegal settlers are harming not only the elephant but also the biodiversity of the sanctuary. The dense forests that existed some years back are now drastically reduced. Large trees, which are used as a shelter for elephants, are being decimated entirely and almost use for coal and the construction of houses.

I remembered, in the past, when we went to the sanctuary for a visit or study, we used to use GPS to find each other. Now all the forests have been destroyed, and not only the elephants but also the camels and the cattle are suffering from the lack of food. Therefore, since the issue is deep and complex, it is appropriate to see the challenges beyond the elephants and apply the project.

It is also important to expand the "Dine for Nation" project in the sanctuary to save the lives of the elephants since it can link tourist destination areas with natural resources. Besides, bringing the initiative to the eastern part of the country will help to reduce the spread of deserts, and the drying up of rivers, and improve the lives of pastoralists.

### What do you think would be the role of the media in re-securing the sanctuary?

The role of the media is huge in saving the sanctuary. It is important to make the situation a national agenda since it enlightens the donors, the government, the policymakers, and the community. The media should inform all stakeholders by presenting a series of programs and reports. And the university should continue to strengthen the activities it has started.

### Thank you for your time.

You are welcome.





# Society

## Pleasant four years in Addis Ababa: Amb. Fernando Zalaquett

BY LULSEGED WORKU

Addis Ababa, as the capital city of Ethiopia and the hub of various embassies; and a residence for several diplomatic communities, always creates strong emotional attachment with its visitors; and leaves special memories in the heart of every delegate.

Its year round pleasant weather coupled with the welcoming and friendly culture of residents which make the capital one of the most stunning and attractive, Addis Ababa always leaves a long lasting memory in diplomatic communities.

This has been asserted several times when those outgoing ambassadors and diplomats reflect their views to local media. Chilean Ambassador, Fernando Zalaquett, is among those who witness the beauty of Addis Ababa and Ethiopia as a great country, especially its marvelous landscape, unique weather, extraordinary nature, and the millenary culture of its people.

After four years of service in the capital, the Ambassador is about to leave Addis Ababa. Following this, *The Ethiopian Herald* had moments of togetherness with him concerning the experiences he had within the last four years.

According to Ambassador Zalaquett, the last four years in Ethiopia were enjoyable and interesting, both personally and professionally: “throughout my four years of stay here in Addis, I have witnessed the goodness and hospitality of Ethiopian people. “I had a chance to visit several rural areas of Ethiopia and its tourist attraction sites. They are so beautiful and refreshing. The people whom I accidentally met are the most amazing people. They were always gracious hosts; they value their culture and respect their guests.”

The political and economic transformations including its “Green Legacy” under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed are very impressive; and gave the framework and atmosphere for greater cooperation between Ethiopia and Chile.

Using all the available means Chile’s government has been trying its level best to further strengthen its bilateral ties with the Ethiopian government in the area of education. This is in the form of providing scholarships to Ethiopian students in areas of public management, agriculture, aquiculture intellectual property, and in other areas.

“In addition to this, recently, the two countries have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in areas of Political Consultation; Cooperation between Diplomatic Academy; and we are about to sign a Treaty on Commerce and Investment. In this regard, it is important to mention the Chilean investment in Bahir Dar in the first production, the production of blueberries,

“

*Ethiopians are truly wonderful people who value their long established culture and prestige. They have enabled to preserve their cultural values for centuries. The various cultural practices, including Ethiopian songs and dancing style, historical and archaeological places, its delicious traditional food among others, are amazing*



Chilean Ambassador, Fernando Zalaquett

which are already exported to different counties. As part of the effort to strengthen cultural cooperation, the first Chilean-Ethiopian coproduction movie, entitled “Superno”, and received many international awards was produced.” As to him, Chile has supported the film through sponsoring and taking part in its production.

With regarding to the Ethiopian government efforts to handle all its challenges systematically is worth appreciating. For instance, government’s energy to prevent and reduce the burden of COVID-19 pandemic; and the mechanisms it has been following to handle differences in a peaceful manner and to solve conflicts show how strong and committed the government is.

Despite the fact that the pandemic was serious, the economic progress of the nation was not halted. The commercial activity of the nation and public life were moving smoothly. In this regard, he reminds that during the worst days of the pandemic, the Chilean Foundation “Africa Dream” sent dozens of medicines and therapists to help and assist Ethiopian people in need at the localities of Dilla and Ziway.

Ambassador Zalaquett also remind that in November 2020 the Government of Chile awarded few worldwide celebrities, among them was the Ethiopian icon Athlete Haile Gebrselassie, who received the “500 Centenary of Magellan Strait Discovery Prize”, as a recognition of the greatest gold Olympic medalist, world athletic champion, and currently successful entrepreneur, who has been a real source of inspiration for its

compatriot and especially for the young generation of Ethiopian people. In addition, a tree was planted at the boarder of Magellan Strait that is the unique natural connection of the largest oceans in the world, the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean, under the name of Athlete Haile Gebrselassie.

When asked how he explained Ethiopia and its culture, Ambassador Zalaquett said, “As I mentioned earlier, Ethiopians are truly wonderful people who value their long established culture and prestige. They have enabled to preserve their cultural values for centuries. The various cultural practices, including Ethiopian songs and dancing style, historical and archaeological places, its delicious traditional food among others, are amazing. The paintings and sculptures I bought from young Ethiopian artists and other artifacts that I saw in different galleries are good indications that Ethiopian culture and art are still intact and powerful to convey message.”

The Ambassador also said that the cultural integration of the two countries is also found in a good position. “Using all the available means, my government is working to further deepen its bilateral ties with Ethiopia not only in cultural fields but also in other areas of cooperation as mentioned before.” Due to the aforementioned reasons, Ambassador Zalaquett said that the last four years were very fruitful diplomatic years and a great professional experience, not only bilaterally but also multilaterally, as Addis Ababa is the seat of the African Union. In the end, he said that those years in Ethiopia will remain forever in the memory of his heart.

## Law & Politics

# The Pretoria deal is a huge victory for Ethiopia

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

The peace deal signed between the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the other party is first of all a fundamental event that can change the trajectory of Ethiopia in the immediate future and in the long run. As Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed put it, the Pretoria deal is a victory for Ethiopia. It is a victory for Ethiopia because it has reasserted Ethiopia's sovereignty, its territorial integrity and its unity. It has also dismissed foreign intervention from Ethiopian skies as Ethiopia has been insisting all the way round the intervention of foreign powers in the internal affairs of Ethiopia was unacceptable. Ethiopia is may be a poor country but it has always conserved its sovereignty throughout history even against stronger armies and more powerful nations. Ethiopians have once again shown to the world that their sovereignty and territorial integrity cannot be put for any kind of negotiation whatever the cost.

The Pretoria truce between the FDRE and the other party is therefore a reassertion and reconfirmation of the country's internal unity and integrity in front of the world. Certainly it had its costs because thousands had to be sacrificed to reach this point and there had to be a lot of destruction that could have been avoided because in the end this conflict in the north has not changed things except another reminder that Ethiopia's sovereignty is not in any way a point of concession or negotiation.

The premier was in a visit at Arba Minch when he talked about this Pretoria deal and he announced that Ethiopia's demand from the deal was all satisfied. He said the terms and conditions Ethiopia put in the peace talks have all been answered positively. The term he used was 'hundred per cent'. There has been no intervention of foreign powers who had been insisting that they broker the peace deal practically at their conditions and this has been turned down by Ethiopia and eventually this condition was accepted.

All traditional enemies of Ethiopia who wanted to see a dismembered Ethiopia must have been disappointed because Ethiopia is a country with immense resilience and has patriots who are ready to pay every sacrifice to conserve the integrity of the territory and its unity. In the end the constitutional order was protected and conserved and was to apply once again to both parties. Ethiopian laws have been given international recognition and not the terms and conditions of some countries wanted to impose.

The chief negotiator of the peace deal, the former president of Nigeria Olesegun Obasanjo said after the deal that this was an excellent example of how African problems could be solved by Africans. Hence, he said African solutions to

African problems. This is a very important lesson to all other Africans as problems crop up every now and then in the continent. The problems get complicated whenever there are foreign interventions and very often these interventions are not free from some geopolitical advantages; these powers would like to take in the process and that was what Ethiopia rejected all along despite repeated meetings and sessions of the United Nations Security Council which had been insisting that some foreign forces be deployed to help in the settlement and that their intervention would have to be an imperative but such motions were always emphatically rejected by Ethiopia because this was strictly an internal matter and Ethiopia was capable of resolving it using its own mechanism. At best it had said it would accept an African force to be a part of the solution and that in any case the integrity and sovereignty of the country would never be put under discussion or be on the table for any form of peace negotiation and that was eventually what happened.

'African solutions to African problems' is a good and fundamental principle that could be used in any other African problems that emerge across the continent and there are in fact several such issues even currently. The Pretoria peace deal has shown in practice how this principle can work if Africans really accepted the idea with full commitment as they did in the case of the Ethiopian conflict that has ravaged the country for two years incurring immense damage and losses. With this deal the integrity and reputation of Ethiopia as a peace loving country has been restored and the international media has given recognition to the importance of the deal.

Among the conditions of the deal is the one that reasserts Ethiopian sovereignty in the regional state of Tigray and that there cannot be two armies under one state and hence all armed forces of Tigray will have to demobilize and be integrated to the Ethiopian Defense Forces. This is vital because any contention between a regional state and the federal state will have to be settled with no need to make recourse to wars but to the laws of the country and particularly to the constitution.

Ethiopia is in undergoing changes and these changes must be realized only within the framework of the supreme law of the land and if there is any need to modify the constitutional order that can be achieved only on the basis of the constitution. There are mechanisms that are contained in the constitution that can accommodate changes in the law and that will have to be used and not any form of violence. The peace deal repudiates any form of conflict to resolve issues and in this sense the deal is a victory for all Ethiopians who believe in the integrity of the nation. They may have contributed

to the prolongation of the conflict by trying to help the forces that fight against Ethiopia's integrity and sovereignty but the Pretoria deal has shown them that this could not be achieved.

The end of the battle between the Ethiopian federal forces and the other party has also opened a new significant chapter in the history of Ethiopia from which others must learn. Conflicts are of no use to any nation to solve problems. They only help foreign forces to advance their covert objectives. Ethiopia has been severely challenged by this conflict in the north but in the end it has finished victorious thanks to the resilience of its armed forces and all security forces that paid all the necessary sacrifices during the past two years.

It has won, thanks to the contribution of every Ethiopian and friends of Ethiopia who stood by its side in times of crisis. The premier said a very few countries stood all the way along Ethiopia during the darkest moments of Ethiopian history giving it not only diplomatic aid and rejecting every move that certain powers tried to exert using the United Nations offices but also economically when the country was made a subject of various sanctions that affected its economy. The premier said we will never forget these assistances and will one day repay it when we will have the opportunity. The success behind this deal is also a result of Ethiopians in the diaspora who continued to put pressure on the international community and forces that were trying to battle Ethiopia diplomatically. They held continuous rallies in support of Ethiopia's cause and Ethiopia's integrity which was finally included in the Pretoria deal.

The digital battle that was carried out against Ethiopia was also countered by all those who fought for Ethiopia's sovereignty and many falsehoods were uncovered and exposed to the world to see. It was very important to uncover the truth to the world countering the coverage of the so called international media who had mounted a sustained campaign against Ethiopia and whose analysts and experts filled the air with prophecies of Ethiopia getting inevitably dismembered in various parts following the crisis in the north. However these prophecy has also miserably failed to the disappointment of those who do not want to see a united and strong Ethiopia.

The premier said the other day that Ethiopia is not a country that can be defeated so easily and Ethiopians have great love for their country that helps them resist any form of foreign intervention. Its history is full of attempts of colonization or attempts of some form of foreign domination but the resistance of Ethiopian patriots has overcome these attempts conserved the integrity and sovereignty of the country. That is what has happened in the Pretoria deal as well.

Ethiopia has sent a clear message to the world with this deal. Its survival as one nation cannot be determined by alien forces or by any internal force that allies itself with historical enemies of Ethiopia. It has conveyed the message that Africans can solve their problems using their own internal mechanism and this is a good message for all those who are currently engaged in conflicts and disputes. There are no problems that could not be solved by discussing seating around a table and the Pretoria deal is one example of this. There were many pessimists who were saying that there could never be a peace deal.

But Ethiopia is grateful to all those who took part in this deal and made it a reality. The major protagonist of this deal was the former Nigerian president Olesegun Obasanjo who patiently continued to travel from Addis to Mekelle and consulted with other African forces such as the AU leaders to broker this peace deal showing to all Africans that there could indeed be achieved African solutions to African problems without the direct intervention of foreign elements. In fact in this deal the UN and the US were there as observers and Ethiopia is grateful for their contribution.

What now follows is the process of implementation of the deal and it could present its own challenges. The Ethiopian premier has called on all parties of the conflict to forget the past and focus on the future and resume the peaceful development trajectory the country has been involved in before the beginning of the conflict that has drained the economic potential of the country. He said it is now time to reintegrate the Tigrayan community heavily hurt by this conflict as well as others involved in the hostilities back to normalcy and abandon any intents of revenge. He said the entire country should extend a hand to Tigray so that it can stand on its feet and all those in the country that have been affected negatively by the war. Brighter days are ahead of us if we take advantage of this peace deal totally and we must reject any form of resurgence of violence because there could be those who are disappointed with this truce and would like to reignite violence.

Already we have seen some negative reaction to this peace deal and both the Ethiopian government and the other party should do all they can to stifle such forms of aggression and such missions. In the implementation of the peace deal all parties must play their part or there could be the risk of failure and that is what Obasanjo also warned stating that the Pretoria Peace Deal is only the first step in the process of peace building and rehabilitation. Here the contribution of important actors such as the AU, the UN, the EU and the US will be key.



Ephrem Endale  
Contributor

# Between you & me

## Eggs on their faces!

Undoubtedly the best news we've heard for quite a long time; this news of the agreement. But then there are those who were caught napping. They never even saw in their 'craziest' dream such a scenario unfolding before the eyes of the entire world. Things aren't going to be as cozy as they've been for them after all. I mean some of them aren't even trying to hide their disappointment. Would you believe that! But why? How can a peace deal between the people of a country that is not theirs disappoint them? It's at such times that more and more you are led to believe these people were in it for purely personal ends and all the theatrics was to camouflage their real goals, goals that are about destruction and not building. Let's be frank this is one conflict the naysayers thought would never go to the negotiation table. Well, it did!

This is expected to be the beginning of the healing process for more than a hundred twenty million Ethiopians and the bone collectors don't like it. The peace agreement lays to waste vindictive plans that were already hatched and were being hatched all of the place to see a divided and weak Ethiopia that will easily capitulate to the tiniest pressure from the powers that be. Well that's not going to happen. When you are on the side of the truth there is one word you can say with full confidence; "No!" Pressures that have been tried for the past years and especially the past couple of months didn't work. Intense as they were many thought that this would be the final act before the curtain comes down on the country for good. This is not about flexing muscle or some Rambo talk. It's about the truth.

Sorry; the eggs are on their faces!

We're in times where the most obvious victim is truth which is being dragged face down all over the place; being dragged in the guise of resolutions, statements, threats, sanctions, expert opinions, 'special reports,' etc. that's why it has taken so much time for us to arrive at this historic juncture.

It's perhaps the most illuminating sign that Africans can solve their own problems in a way that no one else can do. But then seeing

some social media narratives to downgrade this fact might not be unexpected. Still, you can't help it but raise eyebrows at the arrogance griping this world by its very throat. I'm not trying to spin some conspiracy theory here, we've already too much of that and no need for more. But why do I feel that even in the highest sections of some groups, they are sizzling with anger and sense of loss! Only a few weeks back we were told Africans can't solve their problems.

"What! What did you just say?"

"They've signed a peace agreement."

"What the hell do you mean they've signed a peace agreement?"

"That's what we've been told. It's all over the media."

"And what were you goons doing all this time?"

"We didn't think they'd go this far!"

"Oh! Is that so? Just give me a couple of days and you'll be seeing who'd be going as far as possible. We weren't throwing that much money into your accounts for nothing! I'll make sure you paid it back, every last cent of it!"

Sorry; the eggs are on their faces!

"Africa wins!" That's what Tibor Nagy tweeted. That, dear readers, is the fact that the world should confront and throw away all those racist prejudice of Africans not being able to solve their own problems. Hey, anyone of you guys worried the spirit of Pan Africanism is not showing strong enough here you are; Africans solving their own problems. What could be more Pan Africanist! While numerous bodies were trying to wiggle their way into the process the answer of Africans were clear; "No we don't need you, but thank you for trying." Not that attempts haven't been made to play the 'supreme something' role and Africans didn't need it.

Look we are reading tweets from those same sources which have been taking sides (though they'd deny it in your face!) telling us what to do, how to go about it and other 'directives!'

Of course the short answer of us masses who are not given to diplomatic niceties is for those wishing to sabotage everything, "Keep your damn noses out of our internal affairs lest you come with roses in one hand and you know what in the other. We DON'T need your involvement while you have more emergency matters in your part of the world. If we need you, we'll call." For those with all the good intentions for the country and its people and also for the people of Africa we acknowledge your good wishes to see the agreement through. Your genuine comments and suggestions would be of help to ensure the smooth implementation of this historic deal.

There are also these narratives trying to cast doubt on the whole thing. One of the foremost (I'm using that word!) twitter activist (OMG!) even at his age, tweets he saw the heads of delegations signing only two pages, trying to suggest there was something fishy about the remaining ten! Everything was all over the social media live, twitter is teeming with images of the final document and this guy tweets such nonsense! Maybe his problem was that this was an all-African game! No he would have never used such stupid arrogant and purely evil tweets if his 'chosen' sides played the kingmaker role of the entire process!

"Ethiopians and Tigrayans signed a 2 page 'Joint Statement'. Nothing else. The full 10 page agreement has not yet been signed. Confusion"

Here is the devil at play; and also he specifically used the term 'Ethiopians and Tigrayans.' Devilish! Just a couple of weeks back their same person was talking about a gorilla war. Well, the egg is on his face!

Some innocent souls who are maybe afraid of things will not work out might second guess. But for the loyal Ethiopia-bashing tweeter battalion it is not about second guessing; it is about frustrated wishes because they wanted to see the whole thing crumble.

The Alex de Waal warmonger in a toxic article on, what else, the BBC writes "It is possible that some Tigrayan commanders would rather

continue guerrilla war than submit to what they regard as humiliating peace terms."

He is calling for more blood as if more than enough hasn't already been shed. He doesn't even try to calm his rioting racist genes when he tries to belittle the peace deal because it was all carried out by Africans. "...the AU allowed only the UN, the US and the East African regional body IGAD as observers, but none of them signed the agreement."

"Their calculation appears to be that the survival of the people of Tigray was at stake."

"More than a million have been displaced since fighting resumed in August, unable to harvest their crops."

"People are dying of treatable diseases as hospitals run out of basic drugs such as insulin and antibiotics. There was no sign of this ending."

How can someone supposed to be running a certain Peace Foundation (The mother of all ironies!) be so malicious! To what lengths would his hatred towards Ethiopia take him?

By the way Ethiopians are not lost in illusions. No one says that now that a peace deal has been reached things would be as easy as child play. No one on their right minds believes that the process would be problem-free and everything would flow smoothly. Like on such all difficult undertakings, the possibility of major and minor hitches down the road are always there; we're well aware of the world we're currently in. But hopes are high that whatever problems that might occur would be dealt promptly and the road to total peace kept clear.

Just to wrap it up here's one tweet I liked; "Ethiopia has decided to develop itself with energy independence (the GERD). If this is permitted to properly blossom, it could be a driving force and model for a new African renaissance, not just Ethiopia. This is why Ethiopia is targeted for destruction."

For the naysayers and ill-wishers the de Waals, the Martin Plauts, the Rashid Abdus and co. ... catch! The Eggs are on your faces! Your services are no more needed!

## "Beware of Greeks bearing gifts"

Doesn't it offend you when a person who has tried everything to make life as hard as possible for you suddenly acts like he's the nicest person since whoever the last nice person on earth was! I mean the guy has done you so much harm you want nothing of him. And the fellow tries to mend fences, fences you know even science fiction technology wouldn't restore. In fact you're so angry with him that you cross roads to avoid coming face to face with him at all places. Of course in case you suddenly run into him a no-nonsense, "Stay away from me, or else...!" might be of some help. No you're not threatening him with something physical because you're the last person on earth who is so sorry the only thing he punches is his mattress. You're telling him something "...or else I'll go to the police." that's not because you're a sissy or anything like that but because you're a law abiding citizen!

Then after several months you run into him at some wedding or something. Before you even know the guy was in that hall he is all over you embracing you as if the last time he saw you

Grazianni was still messing with Addis. The first reaction is that you're shocked. He can't be drunk at that time because they haven't started serving anything yet, (weak reasoning, wouldn't you say. The talk in town is that many wedding guests make sure that their nerves are ...into action.

"Where have you been? I have been looking all over town for you. I could have called you on you cells but I lost your number." One thing about the guy is that he's a maniac liar. That's what he is. I fact he has taken lying to such new heights and no one is 'giving him some credit. What am I saying!? I'm not surprised you reacted that way. But let me tell you lying has become a craft; and profitable one too. Global politics needs gifted liars; the mainstream Western media need liars to dirt around and eligible for some 'international prize. (Yes they tell you that most ...are not...at all. because the winners are already known within the narrow circles.)

Anyways this person who has done you so much harm forcing you lose quite precious

things jumps out of nowhere and embraces you. Initial shock turns into that rage to just strangle him there and be done with it. One bad person put of the way and maybe the world would be a little better.

You gently push him away controlling the urge to push him hard enough for him to fly through the doors. But he won't let you go. His types seldom do. In fact he makes sure that all around you witness his deep regard for a friend.

"So, is everything all right with you? I haven't seen you for some time and I thought maybe you have gone abroad or alienated yourself for some reason. You know that if you face any problem, and I'm saying ANY problem, I'm always there for you."

A couple of months back a fellow we know found himself in a situation like this. The 'culprit' who happened to be a former friend and work colleague cost him his job. Working in the same institution the bosses happened to be the types who liked to hear every gossip real or invented going in the institution. The fellow we know

was a sort of mid-level official and his friend a little way down. And this was about that agree old scourge of jealousy. He creates narratives that the fellow we know was knocking the doors of higher ups trying to unseat the brass, something that never happened. But that was enough for the jittery brass. They kicked him out! Of course, the professional he was, he got a better paying job.

This happened several months ago and recently the fellow was having lunch with some friends at a trendy restaurant when the 'culprit' dropped out of the blue. He taps the shoulder the fellow with 'passionate' words of greetings that could only come from a real friend. The only thing was that this creature wasn't anywhere close to a real friend. Our fellow wasn't having any of it. He springs up and pushes the intruder so hard he almost ended up on his back! Quite a scene ensued. And the fellow's friends who know the whole story practically carried the 'culprit' out of the door.

"Beware of Greeks bearing gifts!"

# In Pictures



## Premier visits development projects, mechanization strides

BY HAFTU GEBREGZIABIHER

Concluding visit to Southern parts of Ethiopia, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed stated that the Gofa zone is one of several locations that demonstrate how Ethiopia is endowed with a range of natural resources. It has vast potential that could readily overflow to help the entire region develop. The diversity of Mount Weyila is yet another representation of our country. Farmers in Docha Dembela kebele have grown sesame, masho, soybeans, teff, and fruits on 80 hectares, showing how nature

has blessed the region.

“In Chenchu woreda of Gamo zone, we have seen weaving and handicraft products that, in addition to being a feature of the local lifestyle and culture, express Ethiopia’s diversity through a unique color composition and art of weaving. We visited a family who grows apples and vegetable as well as raises livestock on their small property, demonstrating efficient land use. A religious institution in the area raises livestock to provide dairy and dairy products to local residents in addition to religious instruction. When

religious institutions support the daily lives of communities alongside their religious activities, it is an exemplary deed that is praised by both the creator and people.”

In the town of Arba Minch, the Prime Minister launched ‘Yelimat Tirufat’ development campaign, which focuses on nutritional opulence. The traditional food container, ‘Limat,’ represents a link between farmers, pastoralists, and consumers. It is about getting adequate nutritional food. Food self-sufficiency is directly linked to national sovereignty and

dignity, and ‘Yelimat Tirufat’ campaign accelerates our efforts to achieve food self-sufficiency at the family and national levels.

In a separate visit to Eastern Showa Zone of the Oromia Regional State, he said that Lume woreda of East Showa Zone had begun seeding summer irrigation wheat intend to cultivate wheat on 200,000 hectares of land only during the summer season. As long as we have dedicated hearts and diligent hands, we will satisfy our country’s demands and have plenty to share with others, the PM added.

