



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Farewell to legendary Ali Birra

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** - The legendary artist Ali Mohammed Mussa dubbed as Ali Birra who had contributed a lot in Ethiopian modern music, culture, arts and musical performance laid to rest in Dire Dawa City, his hometown yesterday.

Prior to the funeral ceremony in Dire Dawa, Ethiopians gathered at the Friendship Park here in Addis to bid farewell to the late Artist Ali Birra.

Senior officials, religious leaders, senior

and young artists, relatives and fans of the legendary artist paid their respects at the park as well.

A hearse carrying the deceased left the artist's residence in Bishoftu and left for Addis Ababa. Several artists and other individuals presented a eulogy at the Friendship Park.

Artist Ali passed away on Sunday afternoon at the age of 75 while receiving treatment at Adama General Hospital.

After the tributes in the Capital, the legendary artist's body flew to Dire Dawa,

his hometown.

Ali Birra was renowned for his eternal Oromo music. However, the famous, most celebrated and beloved singer has played 267 songs in Afaan Oromo, Arabic, Somali, Harari and other several languages.

Born to his father Mohammed Mussa and his Mother Fatuma Ali in 1948 at Gend-Kore, Dire Dawa city, Ali obtained the name Birra due to being the art of man.

As a child, he studied Arabic and the Qur'an

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## NDRMC delivers 342 mln. Birr worth aid in north Ethiopia

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA** - The National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) has announced that it has provided food aid worth more than 342 million Birr to residents of Raya Bala, Raya Alamata, Shire, Gedem, Korem, Axum and Sheraro.

Commission Public Relations Director Debebe Zewde told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that since October 30 to November 6, 2022, food, wheat, and nutritious food have been provided toward-affected communities in the Amhara and Tigray states.

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## Public pin hope on peace deal: Haile Gebrselassie

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA** - The public at large have pinned hopes on peace accord that was signed between the government of Ethiopia and TPLF, according to a legendary athlete Haile Gebrselassie.

Athlete Haile, who was part of the then efforts to broker peace deal between the government and TPLF, told the Ethiopian

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## Expert blasts forces sabotaging Ethiopia's truce

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA** - Some anti-peace elements living in developed world have been working to sabotage the AU-brokered peace deal coming up with lame excuses and churning out lies, an expert said adding such sinister acts are futile.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Political Science and Legal Expert Prof. Tilahun Teshome stated that the main

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**Peace -**  
the key component to make certain  
Ethiopia's prosperity

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Real World Actors Share Progress  
and Strengthen Resolve at Opening  
of Global Climate Action Agenda at  
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**Victory...**  
And the Day After

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# News

## Conflict actors engage to ruin peace agreement: Redwan Hussein

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Rumors that are surfacing as if the gun fight between the government and TPLF are still continuing are fabrications of conflict actors who have been benefiting from the skirmish, the Prime Minister's National Security Advisor said.

Speaking to local media, Ambassador Redwan Hussein highlighted the existence of some interest groups that have been engaged in misrepresenting Ethiopia's reality. Those groups falsely claimed that the signatories have not abided by the peace accord and ceased hostilities which is contrary to the fact on the ground.

Amb. Redwan; however, admitted the existence of some individuals on both sides who are misled by false rumors and have exchanged sporadic fires. The government and TPLF leaders are in close contact and have discussed ways to handle the challenge.



Though some forces are presenting incidents that happened before the peace deal as if they are happening now, combatants of the signatory parties have not demonstrated hostilities and they are dining, drinking and

burying dead bodies together.

"With only a few days elapsing since the peace deal, we have learnt that not only the people of Tigray but those with guns, had not been forced, they would prefer peace over the conflict. Best indication for this, is the one where they share a meal and drink together with government troops."

"Hostilities could not heal overnight," the security advisor noted, adding that utmost efforts will be exerted to overcome the challenge through transitional justice. Issues that need to be looked at before court as well as social healing activities are amongst the major issues to be addressed.

Though small fights might be inevitable after the peace deal, the government will leave no room for those who benefit through conflicts, hence, it will work exhaustively to address the issue timely for the public benefit, he emphasized.



## Peace accord attests Africans capability to solve own problems

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - The peace agreement between the federal government and the TPLF is a historic gesture that sends a big message that Africans can solve their own problems, the Tigray Democratic Party (TDP) said.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), TDP Chairperson Aregawi Berehe (PhD) stated that the peace accord gives relief to people who suffered from the war in all areas. "The sacrifice Africans made to negotiate by resisting external pressure is a peace agreement that sends a big message that the continent can solve their problems on their own without anyone's interference and that it will continue to maintain its independence."

Recalling TDP's perpetual stand for a peaceful alternative of the conflict, the chairperson highlighted that the peace agreement gives more satisfaction to the people of Tigray, who have been affected economically, socially and politically by losing their lives and property.

The agreement should be implemented quickly as it will take a lot of time to recover from the economic and social psychological pressure. The people of Tigray have started to hope only because of the peace agreement, and stated that the result of the agreement will bring back lasting peace.

The veteran politician further reminded that some foreign forces have been obstructing the African Union from leading the peace agreement for various reasons and expressed gratitude to African leaders for making the matter their own and making the peace agreement come to a successful conclusion.

In order to bring the agreement to the ground, every part of the society should continue to strengthen the culture of solving its own problems. By the same token, politicians and the media are expected to make a big contribution to make this agreement a success. On its part, the society is expected to organize and fight against politicians and the media who make problems worse by focusing on their interests, Aregawi pleaded.

## Watershed management implementation crucial to protect environment: Expert

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**MECHA** - Expert highlighted that implementation of watershed management system has paramount importance in protecting natural resources from deterioration and improving production capacity of land.

Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC) of Addis Ababa University (AAU) in collaboration with concerned stakeholders have been implementing extensive watershed learning projects in various parts of Amhara and Oromia states.

Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC) Regional Office Coordinator and Technical Assistant at Kunzila Integrated project Woreta Abera told *The Ethiopian Herald* that Debre Yacob learning watershed, which is found in south Mecha district of west Gojjam Zone, is among the exemplary watershed being implemented by the center.

He said that the system has a paramount importance in increasing household income by enhancing agricultural production, productivity, and expanding economic opportunities, boosting resource bases and creating awareness.

The learning watersheds were being

implemented in different areas with the objectives of natural resource protection, benefiting the society residing in the areas, improving the livelihoods of the farmers, improving access to water, and creating capacity building among the society in a way to protect the environment from risk. Of the five learning watersheds found in the region, land and water protection activity has been undertaken in about 4000 hectares of land, he said.

WLRC River Basin Expert Melese Bililign said that strengthening community watershed management mainly focuses on rehabilitation, with the aim of restoring and augmenting degraded lands and preventing further degradation. That requires putting in place different land management practices including physical and biological natural resource management and moisture management practices on every piece of land is base for further economic development interventions.

He further stated that the effective implementation of learning watershed is crucial both for protecting the natural resource and benefiting farmers, local community and larger society. The system has increased productivity, income, reduced

soil erosion and land degradation thereby minimizing risks from floods to downstream farmland areas. It is one of the best and effective ways to protect natural resource since resource is limited, he noted.

Farmer Tilahun Gelaye is resident of Mecha district. He said: "Prior to the implementation of learning watershed I had no clue on how to manage different crops at the same time within small areas of land. Previously, productivity of the land was very low. Right after I started implementing terracing production capacity of land is improved and it is important both to benefit us and protect land. Technical support given by agricultural expert coupled with the implementation of watershed has helped us bring about meaningful changes in the area."

Following learning watershed which has brought significant change in protecting the environment, farmers residing in respective areas have been benefited in different ways such as implementation of garden farming, animal fattening, and bee keeping and so on. The system teaches farmers how to best protect and improve the water quality and other natural resources in a watershed, he indicated.

## High time to hold Alex de Waal accountable

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopia deserves no less than to put Alex de Waal in the dock for crimes against humanity, said Jeff Pearce.

Journalist and Writer Jeff Pearce has urged the international community to hold Alex de Waal, in front of court for his hate-filled narratives.

He further stated that what makes de Waal so dangerous is his aura of credibility and respectability that allows him to spread his toxins on the pages and websites of the New

York Review of Books, The Guardian, BBC, The Financial Times, The London Review of Books, African Arguments, Foreign Policy and the list goes on.

Ignoring facts cannot be dismissed as lack of awareness. The inescapable conclusion is that de Waal is consciously defying the truth, he explained.

As to Jeff Pearce, Alex de Waal is a strange figure, lacking the self-awareness that his own pomposity makes him an irresistible target for lampooning, and he has been mystifying trait

in common with all pathological liars. He lies stupidly about things that can be checked. But no one can dispute that he has power. Here I am suggesting that de Waal should be put in a dock for his hate speech and propaganda for a terrorist organization.

Alex de Waal will likely never see the inside of an African courtroom as a defendant or spend a day in its prisons for his war crimes, his libels, and his relentless drum-beating, but Ethiopia can send a message to the world that it will not suffer the continued abuse of its sovereignty or its integrity, Pearce wrote.





# News

## Diasporas in London hold rally to support peace deal

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** - Diasporas residing in London held a rally to support the peace deal between the government of Ethiopia and TPLF and called upon the Biden administration to revisit its policy on Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Rally coordinator Bekele Woyecha said: "We request the state department to consider its policy on east African, its policy on Ethiopia and Eritrea. Americans need to revisit their policies. They have to work with us positively. We need to work together. The Biden administration has to stop interfering in Ethiopian internal

affairs."

The demonstration was organized reciting the slogan 'I will stand with Ethiopia' in support of the peace agreement and held in front of the American Embassy in London, as learnt from Ethiopian News Agency.

The demonstrators conveyed messages such as 'We support the peace agreement', 'we welcome America's support of the peace agreement', and 'African solutions to African problems'.

The rally was jointly organized by the European Task Force, Defend Ethiopia and the coordinating committee in the United Kingdom.



### Public pin...

Press Agency (EPA) that the peace agreement would lift Ethiopia from upheavals that were seen during the last two years.

Due to the war, children have lost parents and the youth lost their lives. By large, the country has sustained immense property damage. If a child remains out of school for two years because of a war, the situation is indeed a disaster. Therefore, the signed peace agreement would likely to heal the wounds.

"The people in both sides should ignore those who are still preaching for war and the agenda of this time should be reconstruction and rehabilitation of all those affected by the two-year military conflict," Haile added.

As to the legendary-athlete turned a

successful business tycoon, some groups have been hugely engaged in preaching war while leaving in the peace zone. The public should fight those traders of war that cannot leave without instigating conflict and preaching hatred.

"We the people of Ethiopia need to shun their destructive propaganda and learn from our past miscalculations. The signatory parties on their part should pay attention to national interests rather than focus on the past wrongdoings."

Dwelling on the past could not result in peace and the narration should be on the way to create and enhance peaceful condition. Neither victim narrative nor boosting war adventure is constructive, the business mogul stressed.

### NDRMC delivers ...

The amount of food and nutritious food sent to communities in the aforesaid areas is 342,446,800 Birr. Continuing the support, until November 6, 2022, 150,627 quintals of wheat and 140,292 quintals of nutritious food have been sent to both states.

From the point of view of beneficiaries, 371,291 people have received wheat support and children, pregnant women, lactating mothers and 952,798 citizens

have also been given nutritional support, the director elaborated.

Debebe further highlighted that high-level government officials at different capacities have been working to accelerate the provision of humanitarian support in the war-affected areas. "We will sustain our support to war-hit communities through employing governmental and non-governmental agencies."



### Farewell to...

and attended a regular school until being fifth grader at Jedida School. He continued learning in Leul Mekonnen School and attended in Cathedral School after he came to Addis. He also studied music at abroad mainly in College of Santa Monica, California and USA, and developed his artistic knowledge and skills as well as confirmed his desire to serve the public with superior professional skills.

He joined AfrenKelo Band when he was 13 aiming at developing the Oromo Culture and Art in Dire Dawa city since 1962. Ali has learned different musical instruments such as Lead Base, Piano, Organ, and Accordion. As a result, he laid the foundations of Oromo modern music in particular and developed Ethiopian music in general.

Passing a range of challenges, he played in various night clubs and performed with great national music groups in De Africa, Ras. Harrambe, and Hilton hotels.

The artist was speaking seven different languages including foreign languages while playing in Affan Oromo, Somali, Harari, Amharic, and Swedish. He was also music composer and songwriter.

Moreover, Ali sang 267 great songs in his lifetime while the works are heritages and make its driven to the next generation. He had been an ambassador of Ethiopia art in the U.S., Europe, Australia, and Middle East. He obtained over 100 awards at international level and at home. The universities of Jimma and Dire Dawa also awarded him an honorary doctorate degree.

### Expert blasts...

aim of those who are opposing the recent peace agreement of the Ethiopian government and the TPLF is to hinder the efforts of resolving the war permanently and building durable peace across the country. He added that these individuals and groups should know that their objective would not be succeeded.

According to Prof. Tilahun, some anti-peace elements in the Diaspora and special interest groups had been spreading fake

news and falsely accusing the Ethiopian government of abusing human rights.

These bodies are now beginning to undermine the peace deal because it makes their lies and wishes worthless, he noted.

It can be assumed that the individuals or groups who raise objections to the peace accord are those who feel defeated or have lost their personal interests, he said adding, that there are also people living abroad who

are blindly opposing the peace agreement. However, the main issue is determined by the general situation in the country.

"Understanding that their shouting will not bring any result, those who are rejecting the accord should refrain from their ill-advised activities," Prof. Tilahun insisted.

Some anti-peace elements in the Diaspora have to understand that most of the victims of the two-year war are citizens living in

the country, he stressed.

The expert further opined that the situation in the country has already been changed. And, various activities are being done to implement the peace agreement and end the war permanently.

Prof. Tilahun said: "The people also want peace more than anything else. So, working to obstruct the implementation of the peace agreement will not work."



# Opinion

## The proponents, opponents of the Ethiopian peace accord, the way ahead

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Peace is a major precondition and a critical prerequisite for the survival of human kind and the flora-fauna mix across the world. Humankind has experienced two sets of global war that has destroyed a generation of humans and their civilization. The irony is, even today, there are states and political organizations that have failed to learn from history of wars.

According to the historians Richard F. Hamilton and Holger H. Herwig there have been eight world wars across the world in post history context of human civilization. Armed Conflict Location and Event Data for 2022 has identified 14 deadly wars and conflicts that continued unabated in 2022 in the form of drug induced, terrorist, civil war and ethnic conflicts.

Most of the wars have occurred due to the rivalries among local armed political ethnocentric groups who have connections with their foreign allies or other armed groups. Some of these conflicts have occurred or have continued to occur over the control of highly demanded natural resources like diamond and other minerals.

In Africa, particularly in Libya, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Northern Mozambique, Ethiopia, and Cameroon's north-west and south-west regions are six African conflict hotbeds in 2022. The Libyan situation has not improved significantly after years of instability and a major civil war from 2018 to 2019. Terrorist attacks in Somalia and across the border with Ethiopia have still continued to pose insecurity in the Horn of Africa.

Some say the history of Ethiopia is the history of war. Although this generalization cannot be taken at face value, there is still a grain of truth in it. According to a book review conducted by the writer of this contribution, from circa 300 to November 4, 2020, more than 70 local and international conflicts and wars have occurred in Ethiopia out of which 28 were aggressions and wars by external invaders in which millions of Ethiopians have paid in flesh and blood and sacrificing their lives for safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

Over the last 30 years only, more than 120 local ethnic and religious based conflicts have occurred in various regions, zones and districts across the country. The misinterpretation of the federal constitution and the federal system as well as ethnic based extremism and war mongering has inflicted huge devastation in loss of human life and property

One can easily image that millions have perished in these above mentioned wars and homegrown conflicts.

Some historians assess that Ethiopia was continuously at total peace only for 100 years out of its recorded history of more than 3000 years.

It is therefore not surprising to observe that

the entire people of Ethiopia have been jubilant by the signing of an Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities between the Federal Government of Ethiopia and TPLF on November 2, 2022 in Pretoria.

The entire world from east to west and from north to south joined the people of Ethiopia in celebrating this historic event. The US, almost all African countries, major European countries, Russia, Turkiye and most of ASEAN countries congratulated the Ethiopian Federal Government for concluding such an agreement that is of critical importance not only for peace in Ethiopia but also for larger East Africa.

The rapid implementation of the agreement is highly critical for the survival of the country and its people. The agreement will certainly trigger some level of opposing at local and international level and requires careful handling and mobilization of human and financial resources. Necessary care must be made not to repeat old mistakes but learn from them. We are dealing with a huge problem that has been lingering on the country for almost a century.

What did the 12 page agreement document bring for Ethiopia and for the entire proponents of the peace accord?

The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement if implemented to the end according to the provisions of the document will certainly end the worst and the most devastating war in the world after the post war era. Over the two years war, more than 1 million combatants have died and hundreds of thousands of civilians have been killed and according to UN sources more than 5.1 million IDPs have lost their livelihood, their kith and kin and left traumatized. The brunt of the devastation seriously damaged the infrastructure and social service facilities in northern Ethiopia. International economists have estimated that the GoE was forced to expend 1 billion Birr to manage the war on daily basis. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has repeatedly emphasized the importance of peace noting that war is costly in terms of human life and financial expenditure.

Between 2020-2022, the GoE had to shoulder a massive economic, diplomatic and political pressure from the west, the UN systems and a number of EU countries. The orchestrated media war on Ethiopia by western media outlets geared towards defaming and wrongly profiling the GoE.

The AU has labored for one solid year to facilitate the peace talks that kicked off on October 25, 2022 lasted for 10 days. Ethiopia's efforts to ensure the prevalence of peace, according to Prime Minister Abiy was "100 % successful"

This agreement has so far silenced the guns in northern Ethiopia and there is greater optimism that the agreement will come through as the US and other major powers of the world have pledged to support the implementation of the agreement.

The people of Tigray, the militia and regular combatants of TPLF have welcomed the

*This agreement has so far silenced the guns in northern Ethiopia and there is greater optimism that the agreement will come through as the US and other major powers of the world have pledged to support the implementation of the agreement*

agreement and the disarmament on TPLF forces. Citizens in Tigray, Amhara and Afar have all the reason to support the agreement because they have been craving for peace for two years. After 50 years, a new glimmer of hope is on the horizon for the people of Tigray.

A huge task of rehabilitating the infrastructure and service delivery structures awaits the Ethiopian Government. Already, the government has embarked on distributing relief supplies and restoring electric power and telephone line in all the three regions and OCHA has already planned to conduct relief supplies supplementing efforts by the government and the WFP. The IMF and other financial institutions have shown a green light to continue with the negotiations on rescheduling debt payments.

Regarding the opponents of the Agreement, the author of this article has identified four groups of opponents. The first group is composed of TPLF members and supporters who were furious at the success attained by the agreement between GoE and TPLF. They showed their anger by blocking ring roads in Seattle Washington, in London and other US cities.

The agreement divided TPLF activists into two groups. The first group came up with a shameful messaging of insults on the leadership of TPLF and tried to differentiate between what they called TDF and the TPLF adding that TPLF is a political party with no army while TDF is the army of the people of Tigray. They called upon the people of Tigray to continue the war as if the life of all youth, children and the elderly does not matter. This group has been seen enjoying lavish life and driving expensive vehicles while their families and friends are

starving in Tigray. The second faction was happy with the end of the war and eagerly requested the restoration of telephone systems and opening of banking services in the region so that they would be able to assist their families and relatives in Tigray.

The second groups of opponents are foreign journalists and bloggers who ardently supported the TPLF over their war in the three regions of northern Ethiopia. Among such supporters are Alex de Waal, Rashid Abdi, Martin Plaut all who were busy misinforming and fabricating false information about the reality in northern Ethiopia and now enraged because a peace agreement is inked between the Government of Ethiopia and TPLF. They were and are active in their attempt to discredit the agreement and are already misinterpreting its contents.

The third group consists of international mainstream media outlets including BBC, AFP, and AP as well as CNN and Reuters who were busy parroting fabricated news that the Ethiopian Government has bombed Adigrat several cities in Tigray. These commercial international media companies have no care to verify the news from anywhere but deliberately spread false news with no care journalistic ethics.

The fourth group consists of third party states and governments who would like the agreement to falter and collapse because the prevalence of peace in northern Ethiopia, particularly in Tigray is not in line with their national interests.

The signing of this agreement, according to Olusegun Obasanjo, AU representative for the Horn of Africa and the main coordinator of the peace talks is "the first step towards a lasting peace."

There is still more to be done in conducting mass physical rehabilitation programs in reestablishing infrastructure and social service facilities which are urgently needed in the war torn northern Ethiopia.

There is a need for promoting trust building mechanisms and reintegrating family members who lost contact of each other due to the war. Besides, healing the traumatic effects of the two year war in a mammoth task that should start right away but continue with patience and commitment for social restoration and mending socio-psychological depression that resulted from the war. Fear of the unknown future and the resultant instability of the mind is vividly visible among the IDPs which are sheltered in various camps across Tigray, Amhara and Afar.

Here, it is very important to emphasize on the need for providing urgent relief assistance and supply of medicaments particularly for the sick elderly, children and mothers who need urgent attention.

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

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## Editorial

### Cooperation the way to realize a zero-carbon world

Ethiopia is working determinedly to substantially tackle the impacts of climate change; and the challenges associated with it through its "Participatory Forest Management" strategy introduced in 1995 to reduce deforestation and achieve sustainable forest management by the direct participation of communities and "Green Legacy Initiative" launched in 2019.

Particularly since the past four years, setting a plan to become 'climate-neutral' by 2025; Ethiopia is striving to reduce the adverse effects of climate change, secure food security and lessen the socio-economic burdens of the people happening due to the change.

As part of this initiative, over the past four years, extensive seedling plantation activities have been carried out targeting to cover bare mountains with forests, regenerate degraded lands so as to mitigating climate change challenges.

As a result, in merely a four-year period, the nation is able to plant over 25 billion tree seedlings in Ethiopian rainy seasons (2019-2022); surpassing its set target of 20 billion saplings.

In his statement, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed had once said that since the Green Legacy Initiative was announced in 2019 aimed at reducing climate challenge, people from every corner took up the national call to plant 20 billion seedlings in a four-year period.

"Each year, as we surpassed the annual target and together with the final year of the four-year challenge, Ethiopia has planted 25 billion seedlings of agroforestry, forestry, ornamental varieties, surpassing the set target."

Not only that, but as a component of its efforts to collectively tackle the adverse effects of climate change and realizing the incalculable benefits of collaboration in green development, Ethiopia has been promoting transboundary green development at the regional level to curb the ripple effects of the change.

Within the framework of this, the country provided the required seedlings to some of its neighboring countries such as Djibouti,

Eritrea and South Sudan. Furthermore, it sent youth delegation to the African countries to raise awareness towards Ethiopia's Green Legacy drive and combatting climate change concertedly to reduce the level of climate change vulnerability in the region and beyond. As a result, it was possible to bring remarkable results in terms of scaling up the initiative and letting the countries jump on the bandwagon.

Currently, the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the UN Climate Change Conference, (COP27), where leaders of the world gather, is ongoing in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

As it is learnt, the leaders are expected to discuss on various matters ranging from the full implementation of the Paris Agreement to ways to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions by half by 2030.

Further, they will deliberate on financing of damage and loss caused by climate change in developing countries.

Obviously, Ethiopia is one among the countries vulnerable to climate change. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) lists Ethiopia among the ten countries most vulnerable to climate change. Even though its contribution to the problem is almost nothing or insignificant, it is experiencing climate-related risks.

However, no matter what; currently, Ethiopia is exerting utmost effort to reduce the impacts. It is endeavoring to make its growth environment friendly, Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE), attached to the principles of green growth.

Its investments in renewable energy opportunities - wind, solar hydroelectric and geothermal sources- as well as its Green Legacy Initiative can be showcased and a matter that can be taken as a stepping stone to combating the global challenge of climate change in this regard.

Therefore, Ethiopia's green development and green legacy efforts should be promoted and supported meaningfully be it financially, technically, as collaboration in global threat demands collective interventions and it is key to bringing about the desired outcome - to realize a zero-carbon world.

## Opinion

### Global leaders urged to scale up action on the Great Blue Wall Initiative

BY STAFF REPORTER

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) today kickstarted its COP 27 activities with a gathering of global leaders who expressed enthusiasm and pledged commitment to accelerating action on the Great Blue Wall Initiative (GBW).

"All of us here are advocates, promoters, and leaders in the blue space. We have to take on this challenge, and we cannot do it alone; it has got to be a collective effort," said President Wavel Ramkalawan of the Republic of Seychelles who also underscored the need for all to "stop talking about the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and the Atlantic Ocean," and instead "talk about the one ocean we must protect."

The "Great Blue Wall" (GBW) initiative is a critical Africa-led effort toward a nature-positive world that enhances the planet's and societies' resilience to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030. It aims to create interconnected, protected, and conserved marine areas to counteract the effects of

climate change and global warming in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. At the same time, unlocking the blue economy's potential to become a driver of nature conservation and sustainable development outcomes.

In her opening remarks, IUCN President, Razan al Mubarak, said the Great Blue Wall initiative has "garnered support from both inside and outside of Africa, raised the profile of the plight of our oceans and returned energy and faith in international collaboration and cooperation."

Mahmoud Mohieldin, UNFCCC High-Level Climate Champion, emphasized the importance of ocean conservation, noting, "oceans are our biggest ally in the fight of climate action, but, unfortunately, we are compromising this solution by not protecting it." Mr Mohieldin said "Oceans are the world's largest heat sink; they absorb around 90% of the excess heat caused by climate change; and they are also very efficient carbon sinks, absorbing 23% of human-caused carbon emissions."

The event, which focused on the nexus of

climate change, nature conservation, and the blue economy, showcased the first-of-its-kind impact-driven regional initiative - the GBW - to scale up and accelerate ocean-climate action in Africa. It also showed how critical international events can be steppingstones towards achieving the GBW objectives; and called on parties and partners for support and partnership.

African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, Josefa Sacko, underscored the importance of collaboration and African-led solutions to African problems: "If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together - we have to work hand-in-hand. The Great Blue Wall is an African-led initiative which speaks to the African Union ethos of African solutions to African problems."

On way forward for the GBW initiative, Nigel Topping, UNFCCC High-Level Climate Champion, highlighted the need to focus on mobilizing financing for climate projects, regionalizing work, and centring

science and rigour to attract investors.

In closing the session, Acting Executive Secretary of the ECA, Antonio Pedro, emphasized the importance of implementation. "It's about moving from demonstrating what is possible to rising to another level of scale and ambition so that we have a combination of nature conservation and the empowerment of local communities to have sustainable livelihoods."

The event was co-hosted by the ECA, the Republic of Seychelles, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the UN High-Level Climate Champions. Other high-level speakers included Ambassador Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Oceans; Nigel Topping; UNFCCC High-Level Climate Champion, Børge Brende, President, World Economic Forum and representatives from the United Nations General Assembly, the Republic of Kenya and Mozambique.

Source: UNECA

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



# Business & Economy

## Peace -

### the key component to make certain Ethiopia's prosperity

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Days before, Ethiopians and everyone who is concerned about Ethiopia heard the long waited news that the conflict burst in the northern part of the country that prolonged for about two years has become to an end. It is a fact that every conflict has the power to destroy infrastructures and put every person's life in danger.

The conflict has made the people of Ethiopia pay lives in order to stand by the sovereignty of the nation. The blowing air of peace, however, has the potential to create more rooms to the upcoming developmental activities and movements of the nation.

In relation to peace and security, Ethiopia has left no stone unturned to put the nation's peace and security anchors on a permanent foundation. It is a simple logic that when a nation is peaceful and secured, it will have the capacity to attract the possible opportunities of its citizens.

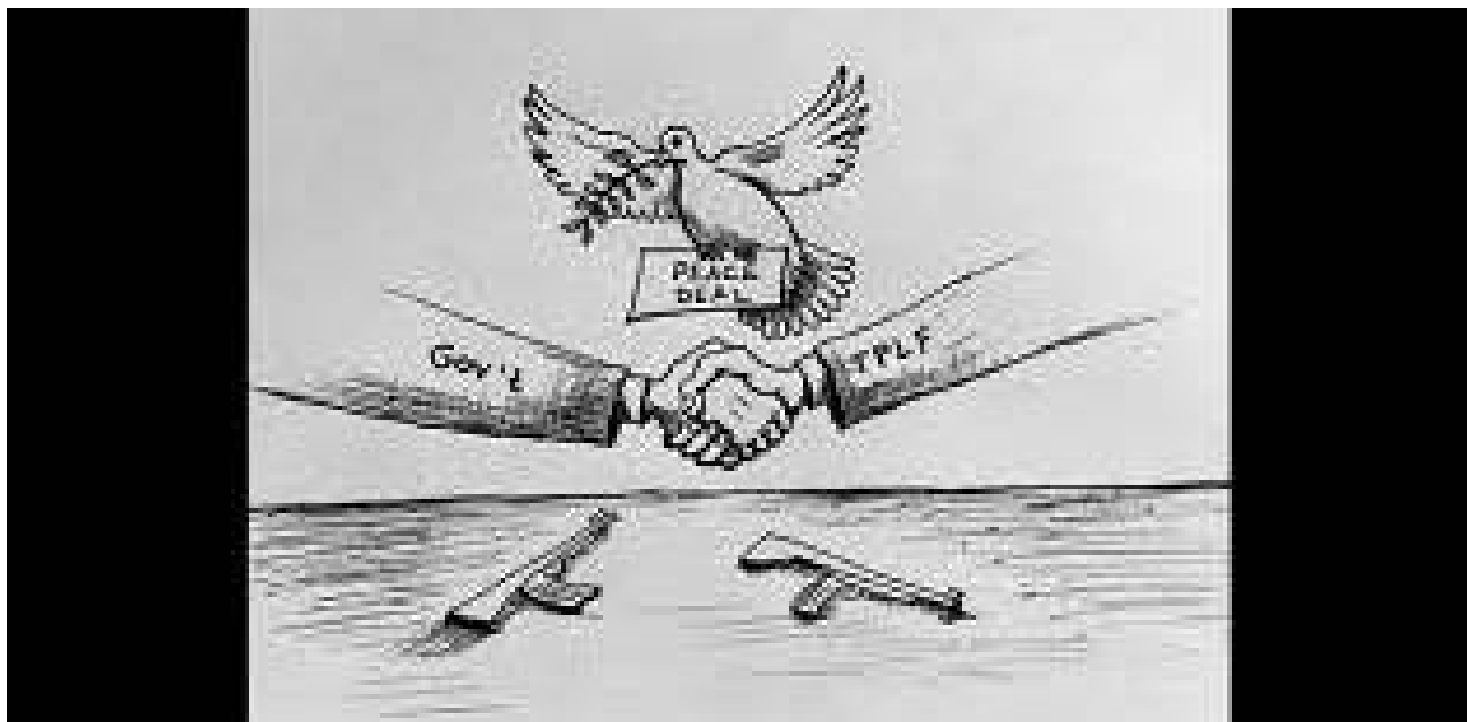
In the Ethiopian context, the Government of Ethiopia has been in active war in the northern part of the country. This conflict has put its own negative impact on the overall activities of the country by warding off the opportunities from different perspectives that citizens could harvest plenty from. Anyone can understand that investors and even citizens need some guarantee to invest their assets in a country.

During the conflict the Government of Ethiopia had not stopped to open doors for sustainable peace and created investment opportunities in order to create economic development for the citizens. Regardless of the challenges and pressures from both inside and outside, the government has registered fundamental and concrete achievements. Ethiopians, Ethiopian Diasporas, and friends of the nation have exerted their maximum effort to help the country in all endeavors.

Decades before, it was a pie in the sky for foreign companies to invest in Ethiopia due to its very tight bureaucratic rules. Following the reform, but, timely and radical decisions have been executed including liberalization of government- owned institutions.

As a result, numerous companies along with the local ones have been showing their interest to work in the country as the peace talk ended up with good results. The government of Ethiopia has recently declared that the financial sector would be open for the international banks to work in the country via multiple platforms.

Just before declaring the opening of the financial sector to international banks, the government has previously liberalized the telecommunication sector. Taking the decision as a green light, Safaricom has started its services in different parts of



Peace : decisive component for development

the country including the capital city as a competitive partner to Ethio telecom. Such major decisions have the power to convince other international companies to think of investing in the hub of Africa, Ethiopia. Such movements are textbook examples to show government's effort to keep the wheel of economic development rolling even though there are various hurdles.

The peace agreement reached between the Government of Ethiopia and the TPLF has the power to attract the opportunities that the nation has been searching for the past years. It is important to remember that when a nation is at war, most of the resources would be allocated for the military demands. In the current situation of the country i.e. after the peace agreement, however, those resources will be used for the development of the nation.

The above agenda is also supported by the senior economist and Global Chairperson of Fairfax Africa Fund Zemedeneh Nigatu as he was speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency. The economist stated that the peace talk has the potential to solve the economic and social problems of the people that the war has caused. The peace agreement will pave ways to the nation's economic development as the wealth and resources used for the war will be diverted to basic inputs for developing the country.

The senior economist added that it needs proper implementation of investment in order to rebuild the war-torn areas. Such movement will create ample advantages in relation to the economic growth of the nation.

"Because of the war, infrastructures worth billions of Birr 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," Zemedeneh said.

Due to the conflict, Ethiopia has been expelled from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) which was a pressure on the Government of Ethiopia from outside. Most citizens especially women have suffered a lot for the particular reason for the circumstance that they have lost their jobs. It was reported that more than two hundred thousand people were affected by the irresponsible decisions from the US officials.

Likewise, the senior economist shed more light on the issue. He said that USA expelled Ethiopia from the AGOA agreement which lashed severely on huge factories including the Hawassa Industrial Park that generates considerable amount of foreign currency by exporting sizable quantities of items to the international markets. Zemedeneh also stated that the sanction has marked its negative impact on foreign investors to leave the country.

In a recent discussion with American investors, Zemedeneh noted that the investors reflected that if the nation restores its peace, they not only solve the inconvenience regarding the AGOA agreement but also show interest in investing in the country.

Nowadays, the world is hit by inflation. Almost every nation in the world, from rich to poor, is experiencing the challenge. Ethiopia is one of the most affected countries in the world regarding the inflation.

Regarding inflation and other global challenges, Zemedeneh elaborated that there are major global problems. Inflation and the high cost of living occurred by the global pandemic, COVID 19, coupled with the Russia- Ukraine war are the most influential factors for the challenges that the world is suffering from. In Ethiopian context, as to the senior economist, the

problem is seen largely on the lack of foreign currency that is created from the war. He forecasted that, "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."

Ethiopia has borrowed a billion Dollars Euro bond from international investors for the exact purpose of increasing the inflow of investors; however, it was largely declined because of the war. Since the day after the peace agreement, the price has risen sharply, senior economist explained.

Zemedeneh mentioned, "Ethiopia is a country with a population of nearly 120 million of which most of them are young people at the 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."

The economist remarked that war is not the choice of any Ethiopian unless it is mandatory to achieve something important like upholding the nation's sovereignty. 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.

To sum up that has been stated so far, though Ethiopia had been in active war for about two years, the nation and responsible stakeholders have not taken any rest to make sure that the nation keeps existing. Numerous opportunities are on the pipeline for Ethiopia to go forth and secure its prosperity in the coming years. The peace accord will create more chances for the people of Ethiopia to stand in solidarity for the development of their prosperous motherland.

# Art & Culture

## Ali Bira or a giant of Ethiopian, Oromo music

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Barely a couple of months after the untimely and sudden death of the late Ethiopian music icon Madingo Afewerki, another giant of Ethiopian and Oromo music has breathed his last on Monday, after a long illness. He was a member of the last generation of the great musicians, the generation of the likes of the legendary Tilahun Gessesse, Alemayehu Eshete and others less known ones. Modern Ethiopian music has lost its major composers, younger ones like Elias Melka and vocalists whose albums topped the charts for many years although their labors have hardly made them rich but famous.

Fame without its attendants' wealth is like a curse as many of them saw their lives cut short by poverty. Not a few of them left this world without even having the means to receive decent medical attention or enough money to buy life-saving medicaments. In fact, the tragedy of Ethiopian artists is a well-known fact that needs little discussion here. Most musicians and artists in general are celebrated while alive but ignored once they pass their primes and sink further into poverty. Ethiopian musicians can be divided between the elites who make enough money to live like kings and the majority who lead lives of pauperism and neglect.

It is true that Ali Bira did not join the ranks of ordinary musicians in Ethiopia. He was among the elites as they are sometimes called. His rise was sudden and meteoric as he was attracted to the entertainment world while he was still very young. His unique style of singing and his carefree way he was forming his melodies put him apart from those hard-working but little known musicians who failed to attain fame and fortune comparable to Ali Bira's status. In fact Ali's talent resides in his ability to sing effortlessly as if his voice magically comes out of his mouth without him caring much about it. And there is that magic that distinguish Ali's songs, whether romantic or serious ones, and give them a unique characters.

His fame was quick and his political attitude as an Oromo nationalist who advocated against the oppression of his people in the past made him a unique icon around whom many tales of bravado and heroism were woven. This was enough to push him into exile as he was suspected of harboring Oromo nationalism at a time when Oromo political consciousness was relatively less articulated. However his fans both at home and abroad, mainly among those who shared his political views, followed him wherever he went and whatever he said. His songs were always enthusiastically accepted and became hits on the music charts.

Ali spent decades as a self-exiled artist but never ignored his calling and his motherland. He was producing new songs regularly while some of which raised some eyebrows among the artistic authorities of the past who were suspicious of his intentions and angry at the influence he had in the hearts

and minds of his younger fans.

Ali Bira could sing about anything and his voice could adapt to any situation or theme. His songs about nature (like "Awaash nama shokkisa"), he sung while he was living in the small town of Awash or about freedom and dignity of the people, enjoyed equal reception and admiration from his fans. One of his strengths as an artist was not only his ability to sing about any subject but the reception his music enjoyed among young, middle-aged and even older folks who identified with his melodies that have the characteristic of never losing their importance or appeal.

The other point that needs attention is Ali's ability to sing in many languages, like Amharic, English, Arabic, Somali or Adere languages that require flexibility of talent on his part and made him immensely famous among the millions of fans who adored him while alive and feel the loss of his departure and mourn him. Speaking of his multiple language songs, it might be interesting to comment on his style and adaptation to Amharic whenever he sung solo or with someone else. We can mention for instance the memorable Sheraton Hotel show when he shared the stage with Mohamed Ahmed and produced a musical earthquake that moved and shook the moved everybody in the hall. We should not also forget that Ali sung in foreign languages including Swedish and that he had a Swedish wife he divorced later in his life.

The other point that should be raised about Ali Bira at this point is his ability to explore new styles and melodies and the way he blended them with his original style to magical effect. He has the talent for writing new lyrics that blend traditional and modern approaches while he composed many of his songs beginning with those he did with his composed with his box guitar back in his earlier days when he was simply an apprentice with so much energy and love for music. Night clubs were his places of learning well before he found his authentic musical self or his artistic identity.

An astonishing fact about the late singer was his insatiable thirst for singing, composing, singing as a duo or in composing songs in Amharic and Afan Oromo at the same time. He had great appeal among the new generation as well as the older one and any promising singer or songwriter has never reached their top form without first imitating Ali Bira's style that was a real school for learning how to sing.

Many are the singers from the younger generation who refer him as their inspiration



and teacher who was generous with them and encouraged them to reach their best performances. Tadele Roba, a famous Ethiopian reggae musician, was often quoted as saying that Ali Bira was the one single most influential talent who helped him become a professional musician whose advice and teaching allowed him to become a professional musician who earned his bread from music.

His return to his native land back was a major event for his fans who expected to see him in person and enjoy his music. Ali Bira's homecoming was also a major event for the country as he received a kind of hero's welcome both by the authorities of the time and the general public. He was subsequently showered by many awards, donations and titles. He was made honorary doctor by the Addis Ababa University for his musical talent and his contribution to the development of modern Ethiopian and Oromo music as well as for spending more than 60 years, entertaining the public in times of happiness or sadness.

His long life in exile had its toll as he fell ill several times and survived many ordeals, including cancer. Speaking about this period in his life, Ali Bira once commented that his cure was facilitated by prayer as well as medical treatment. He was a devout Muslim who held religion as an important aspect of his identity. There are a number of Muslim singers who abandoned their religion after

their career success but Ali Bira was not one of them. The last few years were particularly difficult for Ali Bira as he struggled against health issues that made it difficult for him to appear in public.

Ethiopian singers and musicians of Ali Bira's generation are apparently leaving behind a big musical vacuum although they will be survived by their unforgettable tunes and messages. Ethiopian music is losing some of its best artists who disappear without leaving behind visible potential replacements. Advances in modern electronics technology may have made it possible for an average talent to reach the summits simply with the aid of new gadgets and computer-generated melodies.

But who will be Ali Bira's heir to his talent? This is a difficult question to answer because most of the young artists are often captive to a culture of self-adoration and arrogance as a way to fame and financial success. Who will inherit his modesty or his pleasant demeanor? In the case of Ali Bira, the problem is no one among the score of young musician seems to imitate his style or "sing like him" because Ali's style may be inimitable or unique. His life as a person was also inimitable as he enjoyed living and let millions live and experience the immortal pleasure of his music. What else can a generous artist leave behind for eternity?



# Global Affairs

## Real World Actors Share Progress and Strengthen Resolve at Opening of Global Climate Action Agenda at COP27

The COP26 and COP27 Presidents, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions for COP26 and COP27, Nigel Topping and Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, will open the Global Climate Action Agenda at COP27 with their event “Making Good On Promises.”

Forming part of the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Summit, the COP27 High-Level Event on Climate Action includes Sameh Shoukry, COP27 President, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt; UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell; as well as industry, cities and civil society leaders, such as Sophia Kianni and Yuriko Koike.

At the event, COP27 President Shoukry will announce the Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda to enhance resilience for 4 billion people living in the most climate vulnerable communities by 2030. The Adaptation Agenda is the first comprehensive global plan to rally both State and non-State actors behind a shared set of 30 Adaptation Outcomes that are required by 2030 across food and agriculture, water and nature, oceans and coastal, human settlements and infrastructure systems as well delivery across key enablers of as planning and finance.

In step with COP27’s focus as the ‘Implementation COP’, the event also explores how non-State actors are ‘making good on promises’ to achieve a resilient, net zero future. It is staged in the wake of several reports on the state of climate action, which starkly convey the need to address the current implementation gap with honesty, delivery, and accountability. To take stock of progress towards this, the Champions will today release their ‘Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2022’. The Yearbook reports annually on the progress of non-State entities towards their climate goals, and is proof that – while obstacles remain – businesses, investors, cities, states and regions are building resilience and powering rapid changes in the real economy.

The latest edition of the Yearbook demonstrates that there are signals of change, despite the finding that the world is nowhere near on track toward a 1.5°C goal. Action by businesses, investors, cities, states, regions and civil societies continues to increase, with 34 Race to Resilience partners from 139 countries taking action to build the resilience of 2.9 billion people, while 26 Race to Zero partners have mobilized more than 11,000 non-State actors from 116 countries taking action to halve global emissions by 2030 and achieve net zero by mid-century at the latest.

What’s more, there is evidence that climate action is becoming better distributed across the globe, with the Global Climate Action Portal recording a jump of 78% in actors from Asia-Pacific and of 67% from Africa. These figures have been boosted by



this year’s three Regional Climate Weeks, which attracted approximately 8,000 participants after a return to an in-person format in 2022.

To drive regional action deeper, the Champions will also use their opening event to preview results from the five Regional Finance Forums, organized by the COP27 Presidency, UN Regional Commissions and the Champions, to accelerate finance to projects in developing economies that reduce emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change, build climate resilience, and advance the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. A full analysis of the 100+ projects presented at the Forums will be launched tomorrow to coincide with Finance Day, but key findings will be presented in today’s event of what is already a \$120 billion investment opportunity, and which is growing exponentially.

If this COP is about implementation, it must also necessarily focus on accountability, in order to fully address the finance and implementation gaps at the speed and scale required. Today’s Yearbook – capturing the vast array of non-State action under the Marrakech Partnership – is one way of holding all actors to account for the promises they have made. Accordingly, it will serve as a vital contribution to both the Global Stock take and the work of the two High-Level Expert Groups on Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities and the High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance.

UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell, said: “Building the confidence in a faster pathway to solutions means raising ambitions, scaling projects and channeling more money to developing nations. I am delighted therefore to see that this Yearbook of Global Climate Action highlights what needs to happen to reach the 1.5 °C Paris goal, and its goal of resilience.”

UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP26, Nigel Topping, said: “Businesses, investors, cities, states, regions and civil society are powering rapid changes in the real economy and already seeing the benefits, the imperative to go faster has never been stronger. Governments should be encouraged by this progress and respond by creating the conditions to collaborate with non-State actors so we can all go further. While the progress is extraordinary, especially when we look at the transformation of the energy and transport sectors, non-State actors must double down and deliver in response to heightening impacts.”

UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP27, Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, said: “It is imperative to accelerate global climate action through emissions reduction, scaling-up adaptation efforts and enhancing flows of appropriate finance. This has to occur within a more comprehensive agenda for sustainable development that addresses poverty, hunger, unemployment, and enhances women empowerment. The implementation of urgent, ambitious, impactful and transformative action is necessary to support vulnerable communities, achieve a resilient future and carbon neutral transformation, in the context of just transition.”

The Governor of Tokyo, Yuriko Koike, said: “There is truly no time to lose when it comes to climate change. All actors, including the national government, local governments, and companies, must immediately accelerate concrete actions. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government is accelerating its efforts to halve carbon emissions by 2030 and to reach zero emissions by 2050, including the mandatory installation of solar power generation equipment and promoting the broader use of green hydrogen. Time to act. Let’s walk together toward a sustainable future for cities and for the world.”

Source: (UN)



# Law & Politics

## Victory... And the Day After

BY MAIMIRE MENNASEMAY (Ph.D.)

The November 2, 2022 agreement in Pretoria is a victory for all Ethiopians, a victory for peace and common sense. It is a victory for the humanist principles and values that are central to Ethiopian civilization to which Tigrayans have made notable contributions. To ensure the success of this Agreement, Ethiopians need “good faith” and “a lesson” from their history. I will deal with these two issues separately. Good faith means that the parties will deal with each other honestly and fairly and will interpret and implement the Agreement in ways that uphold it rather than destroy it.

The Agreement is quite complex and its interpretation and implementation requires good faith on both sides. Given the horrendous loss of life and property, the two-year war has inflicted on Ethiopians, it is reasonable to assume that both parties will exercise good faith to the utmost in its interpretation and application instead of replunging the country into another horrifying cycle of death and destruction. Those who are inimical to the Agreement will engage in bad faith interpretations of the Agreement. As we already see on social media and some western news outlets, the opponents to the Agreement are mostly pro-war Ethiopians in the Diaspora and pro-war foreigners.

The pro-war Diaspora Ethiopians have not experienced the ravages of the war in their bodies, souls, and daily lives. Their experience of the war is abstract, limited to the images they see and rumors they hear on social media. If these pro-war Diaspora Ethiopians are listened to and engaged in good faith in ways that demonstrate that further war will simply prolong for nothing the suffering of Ethiopians, particularly Tigrayans, they will recognize sooner or later that peace offers much more rewards than war to Ethiopians living in Tigray.

If engaged with good faith and fact-based dialogue, pro-war Diaspora Ethiopians will come to see the indispensability of peace and will support the Agreement. They are after all Ethiopians who care about the welfare of their country.

The second possible source of opposition to the Agreement is certain politicians in certain countries who believe that a weak Ethiopia better serves the geopolitical interests of their countries. They therefore would like to see either the resumption of the war or the persistence of conflicts that will permanently weaken Ethiopia and make her amenable to their interests. Such politicians’ views could change when they realize that a strong, independent, prosperous and peaceful Ethiopia is a better ally than a weak Ethiopia. Good faith and fact-based dialogue is possible with this group.

Finally, the third group opposed to the Agreement is some Western journalists, analysts and academics. They consider themselves “experts” on Ethiopian questions. Over the last two years, these groups willingly served as megaphones for amplifying the propaganda and lies of the

disinformation services of anti-Ethiopian forces. Unable to swallow the fact that there is an ancient, never-colonized African nation with its own written civilization, they somberly predicted the demise of Ethiopia. However, the Pretoria Agreement exposed their ignorance of Ethiopian history, spirit, culture and commitment to the existence of the Ethiopian nation. Their self-respect and their self-esteem as well as the respect and esteem others have for them as “experts” have been bruised irreparably. One could then understand their bitterness and their commitment to a bad faith interpretation of the Agreement, hoping that their bad faith interpretations of the Agreement will convince some Ethiopians to sabotage it. No amount of good faith and fact based dialogue with these groups will change their mind.

The best is to ignore them. Will there be an internal opposition? One cannot exclude the presence of individuals and groups within Ethiopia who think their interests are better served by the continuation of the conflict in one form or another. However, if the parties to the Agreement interpret and implement it in good faith, the internal opposition to the Agreement will not find followers in Ethiopia and will peter out in time. In addition, an internal opposition to the Agreement may be motivated by unfounded fears and impossible expectations. These fears and expectations could be resolved through good faith and fact-based dialogues with this internal opposition.

“The day after” needs however more than “good faith” to give the Agreement a “permanent” positive impact on Ethiopia. The Agreement and its implementations are only first steps. They are preambles to the important task of laying a foundation on which a permanent peace could be built to ensure an enduring democracy and prosperity.

To accomplish this, good faith has to articulate itself with a crucial lesson from within Ethiopian history. Otherwise, the Agreement’s outcome could end up in a historically stagnant cul de sac. Let me explain. Though we Ethiopians love to talk about Ethiopian history, we rarely engage in historical thinking.

Historically speaking, Ethiopian victories have been mummified, because we have failed to unpack the historical implications of these victories and translate them into political, social, economic, and intellectual triumphs. Ethiopians tend to fetishize victories and engage in rhetorical bravado. We forget that victory is short-lived unless it becomes a “social” victory. As a result, Ethiopia’s past victories opened the gates of future defeats. Let me give two examples.

After the 1896 victory at Adwa, Menelik knew that Italy, France, and Britain had colonial designs on Ethiopia. Indeed, he seemed cognizant of the need to “modernize” Ethiopia to meet future challenges and took some timid steps. However, he did not undertake the political, economic, and social reforms necessary to prepare Ethiopia to face successfully the adversities that were looming on the

***The Agreement and its implementations are only first steps. They are preambles to the important task of laying a foundation on which a permanent peace could be built to ensure an enduring democracy and prosperity***

horizon. His successor, Emperor Haile Selassie, did no better. So, when Italy attacked again Ethiopia in 1935, Ethiopia was unable to defend herself. Thus, the 1896 victory incubated Ethiopia’s defeat of 1936: Adwa gave birth to Maychew. And the Emperor fled to Britain. Ethiopia’s victory against fascist Italy in 1941 was another wasted victory.

Having lived in Britain during his five years of exile, Emperor Haile Selassie had first-hand knowledge of what a developed society is. He also knew that it was the technological and organizational superiority of Italians that led to the defeat of Ethiopia. He also knew that foreign powers still coveted Ethiopia. It was obvious then that political, social, economic, and intellectual transformations were necessary if Ethiopia were to avoid future defeats, be they of external or internal origin.

On his return to Ethiopia from exile, the Emperor, however, transformed the 1941 victory into a source of a cult of personality of himself and adopted a modernization scheme designed to serve his absolute power. Inexorably, the institutional rot of Ethiopian society proceeded unabated.

Yet, the signs for the need for deep political, economic and social transformation were there early on: the peasant rebellion of Tigray in 1943; the coup d’état of 1960; the peasant rebellions of Bale in 1963-70, and of Gojam in 1967-68. Thus, the historical emasculation of the 1941 victory gave birth eventually to an apocalyptic famine, and to the birth of two authoritarian governments: the first in 1974 and the second in 1991, preparing the stage for the devastating war of 2020-2022. Thus, Ethiopians squandered two victories: 1896 and 1941. These victories remained the victories of our leaders and did not become the victories of the Ethiopian people, who continued to live in social, political, and economic poverties. Instead of ushering the emancipatory transformations of Ethiopia, these victories became the wombs of new defeats and sufferings. We must not repeat in 2022 the historical errors of 1896 and 1941.

We should convert the victory of 2022 into a trampoline for launching political, economic, social, and intellectual transformations, and for actively extirpating the poison of political and geographical ethnicization that has infected the body-politic of Ethiopia and the psyche of Ethiopians. Otherwise, the victory of 2022 will be a pyrrhic victory and Ethiopians will be drawn sooner or later into a new cycle of violence and suffering.

Moreover, the West’s support for the undermining the sovereignty and unity of Ethiopia during the 2020-2022 war shows that it has not abandoned its centuries-old desire to dominate Ethiopia. Ethiopia must develop her capacities to forestall another Maychew, which this time will be political and economic, brought about through the subversive actions of the West’s puppets within Ethiopia.

The historical lesson of 2020-22 war is that outside powers will always try to exploit our problems, faults, and conflicts and weaponize them to weaken Ethiopia. Will Ethiopians, in the wake of the victory of 2022 rest on their laurels, fetishize it, hypnotize themselves through the rhetoric of Ethiopia’s greatness and the valor of her soldiers, and squander the 2022 victory as they have the victories of 1896 and 1941? If they do, the good faith interpretation and application of the Agreement would have been for naught. To avoid the repetition of Ethiopia’s wasted victories, the good faith interpretation and application has to be contextualized with this lesson from our history.

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*The Article was first published by TSEHAI institute*



# Planet Earth

## Ethiopia's multidimensional climate action should recognize at COP 27

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

World leaders have gathered at the Sharm El-Sheikh city of Egypt to discuss and find solutions to the looming global threat of climate change. Since Monday, the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCCC) is underway in Sharm El-Sheikh city attended by participants from over 190 countries including heads of state and governments, regional and international organizations, private and research organizations. Now, all climate-concerned actors are in Africa, in Egypt, to find solutions for the most critical problem of the world this time, climate change.

All actors, decision-makers, financial sources, researchers and stakeholders of the planet are in Sharm El-Sheikh under one roof. The world needs a real solution from the global actors and decision-makers in the climate sector, not new promises. The world's suffering from climate action is worsening from year to year and the devastating impacts are continued to consume human lives and the economy of the world. It is time to change the status quo and business as usual moment, the world is in a critical time and needs only action, just now.

In addition to reaching a consensus to action and putting a practical roadmap to solve the world's climate crisis, the world

should recognize and praise the developing country's efforts in combating climate change. Not only recognizing, but the developing countries that invest beyond their economic capacity to combat climate change should also be funded to support their effort. Every climate action contributes its share to save the world from the further climate crisis and these efforts should be promoted and supported.

In climate action, Ethiopia stands as one of the countries that are top in the list in terms of commitment. Ethiopia's multidimensional actions in combating climate change remain exemplary actions and the world should recognize Ethiopia's endless efforts and should take lessons to expand the actions. Ethiopia invests its maximum capacity both in the mitigation and adaptation climate actions to save the health and safety of the environment.

Ethiopia's climate action focuses on every sector as the country is striving to build an environmentally friendly green economy. Hence, Ethiopia's economic development endeavours give due priority to nature in addition to its direct investments to protect nature through reforestation, environmental protection, and soil and water conservation efforts. In addition, its energy production focuses on renewable energy sources that make its energy sources environmentally friendly.

As a developing country, Ethiopia has ambitious development plans as the country

plans to become a middle-income economy country. Though the country is striving to become a middle-income economy by mobilizing all its resources and capacities, it gives due attention to additional investments to make the economic development journey healthy and environmentally friendly. Its industrial parks are the best examples of building a climate-resilient green economy as they give due attention to environmental protection.

Ethiopia has more than ten industrial parks that are operational and under construction. The parks give due attention to environmental protection, including applying modern wastage treatment technologies. The parks also use only renewable energy sources for their production as most parks are home to different manufacturing factories. Every factory is also responsible to take all necessary measures to protect the environment from any pollution.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia is leading the world in planting trees for the past four consecutive years. Ethiopia plants over 25 billion seedlings with its National Green Legacy initiative to increase the forest coverage of the country.

With an ambitious plan, by 2030, Ethiopia aims to increase its forest coverage from the current 17 percent to 30 percent. Ethiopia's greening initiative was exemplary not only in planting seedlings but also on average over 80 per cent of the planted seedlings are growing with continuous caring. Now,

Ethiopia is expanding its Green Legacy to its neighbours. Recently youth groups were sent to seven African countries to plant and promote planting seedlings to combat climate change.

The fast economic development of the country demands high energy. Its energy production only focuses on renewable energy sources, from hydro, solar, wind and geothermal sources. In addition, to minimize the emissions from the transport sector, Ethiopia is promoting Electric Vehicles.

Ethiopia also gives due focus to protecting and expanding natural parks to make these parks home to diversified biodiversity. In addition, Ethiopia's attention to developing new recreational parks promotes both tourism and natural protection. The Entoto Natural Park, which already started operation and the parks under construction, and the Wonchi and Gorgora projects are among the newly developing tourist attraction sites.

All these actions are climate-friendly actions that Ethiopia is implementing with limited resources just to show its commitment to combating climate change. Such climate actions from third-world countries should be promoted, praised and supported at global forums like the COP 27 to further and expand these efforts globally. Ethiopia should get recognition for its endeavours in the climate sector. Financial and technological support from the global actors would also accelerate such efforts of the developing world countries.



## Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

### HU in the views of Climate SABC international students

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

HU African Center of Excellence for Climate Smart Agricultural and Biodiversity Conservation (Climate SABC) Project PhD candidate international students approached by *The Ethiopian Herald* appreciated HU's theoretical and practical education delivery methods that helped them to gain both theoretical and practical knowledge besides new experiences in the internationalization of education via various activities.

One of them is Kopdo J Esther from Benin who told that Haramaya University is a very nice place for international students to understand theoretical and practical lessons.

Comparing it with different countries she went to for educational seminars and workshops, she saw HU uniquely. "Nonetheless, Ethiopia, especially HU, apart from the learning and teaching process, is the right place to attain new learning and teaching styles, practical agricultural and environmental thematic issues, culture, diversity, and so on. Moreover, the university's natural attractions and agricultural activities, as well as the unlimited support of the teachers, allowed her to pursue her studies properly."

The other PhD student from Mozambique Heraclito Rodrigues Comia said "I haven't

seen any University like Haramaya that has adequate agricultural research areas for masters and PhD students".

The university's unique agricultural area, ecological and various farming activities make students not only meet their required course but also love and do more activities that support their general knowledge, he added.

Similarly, the PhD candidate Ntirenganya Elie from Rwanda said: "Before I came to Haramaya University, I had confused feelings. However, what I have seen and observed on each campus when I first arrived was so amusing and very impressive. I have seen goat, chicken, bee, cow, and pig farming in the compound which is imperative to know more practical knowledge about farming."

The University has also an impressive landscape and agricultural activities. Besides, it is not a university but also a big city that combines education, urbanization, and agricultural activities, he added.

"Additionally, the University provided us with platforms to exchange our cultural values, and history, and develop cooperation and partnership between ourselves. Hence, HU makes us Ethiopian ambassadors when we get back to our countries," he explained.

Equally, the PhD candidate from Burkina



Photo by Fuad Ahmed

Faso, K. Abdourazakou elucidated that it is a great opportunity to be accepted by Haramaya University since the University provided us easily integrated platform to integrate the community and international students.

Likewise, the agricultural experiences and wealth of the HU greatly help students to know about Africa and contribute to the effort to grow and develop the continent. Accordingly, governments and heads of state in Africa

must encourage and support Universities like Haramaya to attract more and more African students who avoid artificial boundaries and work for the betterment of the continent, he noted.

Moreover, HU African Center of Excellence for Climate Smart Agricultural and Biodiversity Conservation (Climate SABC) Project Manager Mulugeta Damie said that HU currently hosts and teaches over 300 students from different countries in various fields and levels.

Apart from working in partnership with several institutions, the University teaches students who come from abroad. This puts the university to be visible and competent internationally since it applies internalization of education, he elaborated.

Currently, international HU students face challenges including an educational equivalence system, cultural differences, language to interact with the communities, and the inconsistency of the entire education system. To overcome these challenges, the university has opened an international office that makes the process smooth from the application to orientations in each department. In this way the University is widening and strengthening the application of the internationalization of education each year, he explained in conclusion.