



Photo: Hadush Abreha

Gov't expedites assistance for needy in North Ethiopia

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The government has provided humanitarian support for about 400 ,000 people in need within eight days of operation owing to the peace deal that was inked with the TPLF, the Government Communication Service (GCS) said.

In a press briefing she gave yesterday GCS State Minister Selamawit Kassa stated that around 108,000citizens in Shire, Sheraro, Axum, AdiDeharo, AdiNebri and AdiHageray areas of Tigray were provided with the first round support from October 30- November 6, 2022. Additional 16, 100 quintals of wheat was delivered to the needy in the reported period.

Moreover, the government has delivered over 43,300 quintals of wheat and 7,000 quintals of nutritious food to people 287,000

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Photo: Tsehay Niguse

Prof. Mesfin weighs psychological treatment for war-affected

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA- The necessary preparations and efforts should be made to treat the psychological damage that has happened to many people as a result of the war in northern Ethiopia, a renowned psychiatrist Prof. Mesfin Araya said.

A psychiatrist and Chairperson of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission

See Prof. Mesfin ... Page 3

ENDC inks agreement with civil societies

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) and the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSO) inked a Collaboration Framework Agreement here yesterday to work together on common areas.

Briefing journalists, ENDC Chairperson Prof. Mesfin Araya said the main purpose of the agreement is working together to carry out free, fair, credible, and all inclusive dialogue to bring sustainable peace in the country. "As civil societies exist everywhere, they are important partners for us, especially in identifying the interest of the people and directing the solution."

"Even though the work of the ENDC is complex, the alliance we have made today with the ECSO will provide support to carry out our work successfully in the National Dialogue Process in an inclusive manner," the chairperson added.

Some of the activities that the two parties will be undertaking in collaboration are providing training, exchanges of



Photo: Tsehay Niguse

information, facilitation of meetings and seminars in the context of the areas of the collaboration framework agreement.

Mesfin further highlighted that the commission has carried out various activities during the past eight months to make effective dialogue in the country. In

doing so, the ENDC has completed the preparatory phase and is in the process of finalizing the preparation aiming at avoiding any intervention in the dialogue process. "We could learn that the national dialogue in various countries has failed due to the

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MINTEX best platform to promote Ethiopia's natural resources : President

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – The International Mines and Technology Expo (MINTEX) is one of the best platforms to promote Ethiopia's mineral wealth to the international market, President SahleWork Zewde said.

The president further said: "There are still works to be done so as to commercialize Ethiopia's huge mines resource to the global market."

Opening MINTEX at the Millennium Hall here yesterday , President Sahlework said that the expo would definitely enable international investors, including Ethiopians, to learn the mineral wealth of

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The demise of Ethiopia's musical giant

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News



Cardinal Berhaneyesus

Peace deal viable step for ensuring country's lasting serenity: Cardinal Berhaneyesus

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- His Eminence Cardinal Berhaneyesus and President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Ethiopia has expressed his appreciation for the peace deal and thanked all Ethiopians who have goodwill to do so.

His Eminence Cardinal Berhaneyesus said that Peace is not achieved by the principles of defeat, but first it needs to die for it to bear the fruit.

Acknowledging all Ethiopians willingness for the peace deal held in South Africa, Cardinal Berhaneyesus, thanked all them as they have been incessantly struggling to achieve this result and cooperated for its success.

He said, "Peace is not achieved by the principle of defeat, the lives of Jesus and the Saints have thought Christians that the seed of Peace must first die for it to grow and bear fruit. The spirit of peace cultivates the spirit of humility and forgiveness rather than conflict and dispute."

The Cardinal requested elders, religious leaders, government officials and all those who have good will to ensure the lasting peace of Ethiopia to work hard in a coordinated manner for the implementation the peace deal.

During the feast of Holy Savior November 6th, 2022 the Cardinal had acknowledged African Union and all individual who took the initiative to mediate the peace process.

EU grants 38 mln Euro to improve Ethiopia's children, women livelihoods

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The European Union (EU) has allocated budget support worth 38 million Euros to enable to improve the lives of children and women in conflict affected areas.

The EU provided 38 million Euros to enable the commencement of capacity building activities by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The budget support is aimed to reconstruct and restart the interrupted health services in conflict affected areas in the country. It is said that the support would improve the lives of women and children, helping them to recover from the damage resulting from conflict.

Because of the northern Ethiopia conflict, over 3, 000 health institutions have been damaged. And it caused more than 7,000 children to become out of regular vaccinations during the war period.

The budget support would benefit nearly



two million children and women in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples States.

It stated that the support would enable it to resume and strengthen educational services, to reconstruct schools and to enable children to attend education via Plan International. The EU signed an agreement to give the

budget support for Plan International to perform and facilitate the activities.

During the ceremony, UNICEF Ethiopia Representative Genfrano Rotigliano said that the support is a huge relief for those children and women who were out of health services. UNICEF has committed victims to enable access to services.

Nation to apply ease of doing business project

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

ADDIS ABABA—Getting many more companies involved in various business environments in Ethiopia would be of significantly useful in easing doing business in the nation and creating multiple jobs, so stated EU funded project runners.

Evaluating six- month performance on Ethiopia's ease of doing business with its beneficiary institutions at Hyatt Regency Hotel, Addis Ababa Tuesday, GIZ International Services directed EU funded Business Environment and Investment Climate including E-government (BEIC) project stated that the particular aim of the event is to present and evaluate the six-month performance of the project.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), EU funded project (BEIC) Team Leader, Alberto Gomez said, "The objective of the project aims at improving the business environment of the country so that more companies can involve in creating multiple job opportunities."

The team leader also highlighted that though there are a number of institutions in the country, the project focuses on the four major government beneficiaries namely Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT), the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), Ministry of Revenue (MoR), Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI).

The reason for selecting those institutions, according to Alberto, is that these institutions are regarded as leading ones that are going to carry out the reforms of the ease of doing business in the nation; and the government has confirmed this fact.

He also pinpointed that the three objectives

of the project are strengthening the capacity of the institutions by improving their IT capacity to provide digital services, strengthening the digital services or the E-government services, and improving the public private dialogue.

Likewise, from the beneficiaries, Ministry of Innovation and Technology Digital Transformation Program Head, Abiyot Bayu (PhD) on his part said that the ministry has been actively involved in improving the digital services of the nation. It is planned to register the nation in the first hundred countries in the list of ease of doing business.

Ministry of Revenue Information and Technology Center head, Birhanu Mamo also stressed that his institution has been working with the project to upscale the service by providing online service, e-payment and other tax related services to its customers.

The economy and infrastructure at the

EU delegation to Ethiopia Team Leader, Sanne Willems said, "We are supporting the government basically making things easy for making business not only establish themselves but also getting information from the government and work on digital platforms and E- government issues. The bottom line is making it easier for businesses to establish themselves and operate," said Sanne.

Sanne further said that the total project period is five years. As ease of business and investment climate are depending on a lot of factors. This project is one little element from the whole sector. We have tried to ease certain elements to making it easier in the future."

This EU funded project, which is implemented by GIZ International Services in partnership with McKinsey and Company targeted at supporting nation's ease of doing business reforms.



News

UAE focuses on empowering youth for national dev't

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA—United Arab Emirates (UAE) stated that it has always recognized the importance of empowering the youth and enhancing their capacity to participate and contribute to the development of the country.

Holding a webinar meeting organized under the theme “The Economic and Social empowerment of youth,” perspectives from the UAE and Ethiopia, with the Ethiopian stakeholders on youth development and UAE leaders have expressed commitment to provide supports and share the experience of UAE on empowering youths.

In a press release sent to The Ethiopian Herald regarding the discussion, Talal Alazezi highlighted that the UAE has been working hard in empowering the youth thereby helping them contribute their share to development and change.

As to him, the UAE has developed many projects with the objective of encouraging the young to express their thoughts and share their opinions and recommendations on political, cultural, and socio-economic

issues.

Moreover, the government has taken several steps to encourage youth participation like establishment Ministry, Youth Councils, Corporate Youth Councils, as well as Youth Hubs, which are ways to enable the participation of youth in policy matters at national level, and promote youth leadership.

“Youth Hubs are located in various regions of the UAE and are open to anyone aged 15 to 35. These hubs are spaces created by and for youth with the aim of improving cooperation between young people throughout the UAE and providing resources to help the youth discover their life purpose, reach their potential, and grow.”

UAE recognizes the critical importance of supporting the youth and helping them be change engines via enhancing their important role in society.

The discussion provided the youth with various insights on the opportunities and challenges of youth empowerment, exchange knowledge on innovative tools and programmes to empower youth for real change.

Gov't expedites...

people in need in Raya, Alamata, and Korem towns. Additional 6,500 quintals of nutritious food was also being provided that put the number of people addressed by the government to 396,000 citizens within eight days.

Having capitalized on the peace accord signed with the TPLF, the government is keen to ensure adequate and timely humanitarian support for the people in need and has opened another corridor besides the Abala in Afar, the state minister elaborated.

By the same token, corridors have been opened in Shire, South Gondar and its neighboring districts as well as South Wollo, Kobo, Alamata and environs to facilitate the humanitarian response. To this end, four teams have been organized

with the initiation of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission to ensure timely support to the needy people.

About infrastructure restoration, Selamawit indicated that an electric line is being installed for South Wollo and Afar states utilizing the Woldiya electric line. The installation from Bahir Dar to Alamata is also nearing completion. Furthermore, electricity in various areas including Lalibela, Kobo, Sekota and their surroundings have been resumed. Also, the power disruption in Zequala and Dahena towns will be solved soon.

“Consolidated activities have been carried out to rehabilitate people and infrastructure that have been affected by the previous conflict.”

ENDC inks...

intervention of some interest groups and we have taken important lessons from such failures.”

ECISO Executive Director Henok Melesse said for his part that the council is ready to fulfill its coordination responsibility so that civil society organizations can effectively participate in the national dialogue process. “We are delighted that we have finally come to this historic day where we will closely collaborate with the ENDC in the efforts to ensure a successful national dialogue process.”

As to him, Ethiopia requires modern problem-solving mechanisms that are enshrined from its culture and values

to ensure public interest, instead of copying any system from external bodies. “Therefore, it needs to make a good way for facilitating the dialogue whilst the council has been striving tirelessly to end this.”

It was learned that as per the agreement, the parties will work on different activities that support the National Dialogue process adhering to the rules and regulations included in the signed document.

The ENDC was established with the aim of bolstering national consensus on fundamental issues, fostering a culture of trust and dialogue in order to restore damaged social values in Ethiopia.

Ethiopian enshrines Pan-Africanism vision

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- The Ethiopian Airlines has been playing an immense role in strengthening people-to-people and business relations among African countries through shouldering the spirit of Pan-Africanism, a high-ranking official said.

Ethiopian Airlines Chief Commercial Officer Lema Yedechea told local media that the airliners’ numerous destinations in the continent are proving successful is instrumental to ensure the vision of connected Africa. *Ethiopian* is applying the catchphrase “African solutions to African problems” and expanding destinations in various African countries on a yearly basis.

“We are encouraging fellow Africans to share our experience taking the airliner as a role model to success in their own capacity. Ethiopian’s success in the volatile aviation industry is exemplary for other African carriers and inspiring them to implement



meticulous and indigenous leadership and using domestic skill and aim.”

As Ethiopia is the first and the foremost nation that struggled colonization in the Africa continent, its flag carrier has been vigorously engaged to maintain its leading position in Africa’s aviation business and continued the acquisition of shares. “We are shareholders in other African carriers including Togo, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique and the next step will head to other parts of the continent.”



MINTEX best platform...

Ethiopia.

As to her, the sector is vulnerable to illegal exploitation and trafficking. Hence, it needs a close attention to prevent the draining of this national resource.

Mines and Petroleum Minister Takele Uma on his part said that Ethiopia currently earns only about 1 percent from minerals. “Mining is limited in nature, so if we prioritize environmental safety and protection, the

sector can be a way out to the people from poverty.”

He pointed out that work is being done to increase this economic value to 17 percent in the next 10 to 15 years. The expo is scheduled to continue as of yesterday until November 12, 2022.

The event was graced by ministers, Heads of Regional States and invited guests.

Prof. Mesfin...

(ENDC) Prof. Mesfin Araya told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that a community in a war zone is prone to high mental health problems. “What concerns me is the mental breakdown associated with the loss of life and immense property damage.”

“Physical injuries are treated in days, months and years,” Mesfin stated, adding brain damage does not disappear quickly, but can be transferred from one generation to the next. The psychological problems of a brain injury require a lot of work and in order to treat the problem, the continuous efforts of mothers, elders, religious leaders and especially mental health professionals are needed.

Now that the peace agreement has started to be implemented, it is necessary to treat people who have suffered psychological problems and help them get out of the problem as soon as possible.

The noted psychiatrist further highlighted that professionals including himself who

have worked on mental health have a lot to contribute as the mental wounds caused by the war have not yet dried up. Since the crimes happened recently, the process of treating the psychological problem must be up-to-date and a professional and social solution is needed to prevent the problem from being passed on to children and grandchildren.

It is important to forgive mental breakdowns beyond the time given for psychological treatment so that the problems do not spread and continue.

“Apologizing is one of our traditions, but it must be handled well in order for the results to be effective. Especially when problems are getting worse, it is necessary to quickly go to peace, admit mistakes and make amends.”

Wiping away the tears of people who were injured in the war, giving care and forgiveness will help to reign in lasting peace and love, Prof. Mesfin emphasized.

Opinion

Debt sustainability

BY GETACHEW MINAS

With the war in the Northern Ethiopia coming to a close, the country will seriously engaged itself in economic development. This includes reconstruction and rehabilitation of the war affected regions that may need to be financed with external sources. But, this measure requires serious assessment of past economic performance and debt sustainability. The external debt sustainability of Ethiopia is considered to be high. Its public debt is assumed to be sustainable as the government is able to meet all its current and future payment obligations without exceptional financial assistance. This is linked to debt levels and economic growth by sectors. Though the country's economy has grown strongly over the previous two decades, much of this growth was, according to Firew Bekele, in the non-tradable sectors, such as construction, and is driven to a large extent by public investment. While Ethiopia still has an infrastructure discrepancy and insufficiency in many areas, efficient and effective management of public investment is crucial for benefitting from resources allocated for investment. Ethiopia has suffered from excessive costs and delays in the completion of public projects. The weak project performance has contributed to high debt in the country.

Though Ethiopia experienced rapid economic growth in the past, it has at the same time faced high population growth. Hence, per capita income remained low in real terms. Despite the high growth period in Ethiopia, per capita income is below the expected level, showing the importance of maintaining fast growth. In Ethiopia, agricultural growth is believed to lead to the take-off stage while the service and the construction sectors have registered faster growth. Both capital accumulation and productivity improvements in these sectors have contributed to economic growth in the past decades. In this period, investment has registered impressive growth. The public sector has been responsible for a large share of the investment in Ethiopia. Public expenditure on infrastructure and human capital was the priority for the government. Later on, the private sector investment started contributing to investment in various sectors of the economy.

Ethiopia needs to maintain high investment for its growth. However, the question is how to sustainability finance investment and what lessons to draw from other countries. The savings achieved by Ethiopians is "below" the investment required for the country to grow. In "other" countries, the domestic savings is either equal to or above the investment required. Thus, the need for external financing is low. The level of savings in Ethiopia is insufficient to finance its development. Thus, external borrowing to finance the investment has become unavoidable and inescapable. Researchers think that even if borrowing is needed to

finance productive investment, there is no guarantee that it will be bearable. They have explored the level of debt that may be sustainable. But, it is argued that debt "management" is also a critical factor in determining its impact on growth.

In Ethiopia, the size of public sector debt and its management determine its impact on growth and development. External and publicly guaranteed debt is also of interest considering the effort of the country to generate enough foreign exchange to meet the need for it. While external borrowing increases the availability of foreign exchange in the short term, it will require more foreign currency to repay the debt at a later stage. It is reported that Ethiopia has accumulated a significant debt burden. The economy has not been able to service the debt, and the country has become "eligible" for debt relief. The debt dynamics indicates that the country has started to accumulate debt in recent years. The debt ratio has climbed up and then declined in the past decade. As the real GDP has been expanding, the expansion of public debt has also been growing.

Studies reveal that external debt has declined in recent years. Thus, Ethiopia's external debt position is considered to be sustainable. Measures taken to liberalize the economy were intended to guide public investment toward sustainable development and poverty reduction. Ethiopia has been implementing a series of five-year plans and has introduced a ten-year plan. These plans guided public investment projects in line with the development goals of the government. Researchers underscored and stressed that Ethiopia's period of sustainable growth "coincides" with the decision to scale up public investment in road, power, housing, telecommunication, education, and health. It is reported that physical infrastructure has expanded dramatically in the last two decades. Some of the improvements in public infrastructure are reflected by the increase in road density, expansion of electricity generation, and the increase in the number of schools, hospitals, and universities.

In the past, Ethiopia followed the approach of guiding public investment through development plans. This will ensure the prioritization of projects that are consistent with the development goals and strategies of the country. However, public investment in several countries suffers from inefficient management. Some of the drivers of public investment management inefficiencies in the developing countries include "weak" coordination between the different agencies, projects driven by political consideration, poor budget management and cost escalation and "delays" in large infrastructure projects. To minimize these problems, management tools will provide information for decision-makers to prioritize feasible projects. These tools will also help the initiation and design of viable public projects. They guide the preparation, appraisal, monitoring, and

evaluation of public sector projects.

The project preparation and appraisal process depends on the means of financing. If a project is financed through the treasury, the respective government body will share a concept note of the project with the concerned government ministry. Once the ministry approves the project concept, the responsible organization will prepare a detailed project document for submission to the concerned ministry. After examining the project proposal, the ministry will accept, request an amendment, or reject it. If the project requires assistance or loans, the ministry will check the consistency of the proposal with the policy and strategy of the government, after which it will send it to the Council of Ministers, which will deliver to the House of People's Representatives for approval.

Some projects are considered urgent and bypass the procedure described above. The acceptable threshold for the number of projects that will be deemed urgent in a given period may not be specified. A law has been passed to improve the management of public projects. It aims to ensure that projects are completed on time and with the planned budget and quality. The law classifies projects into large, medium, and small, and it also identifies the formulation, implementation, and post-implementation cycles. The project formulation cycle involves identification of proposals, prefeasibility and feasibility studies, independent project feasibility review, and project prioritization and selection. The project implementation and post-implementation involve monitoring and evaluation. Urgent projects may proceed to implementation without following the regular procedure.

Directives may provide the details of how a project cycle may be suspended. In practice, political decision may replace feasibility studies. The practice of what was considered urgent may not necessarily be defined in relation to public investments. Public corporations play a significant role in public investment in Ethiopia. State-owned enterprises provide several essential services. These services are telecommunication, electricity, transport and logistics, financial services, manufacturing, mining, industrial infrastructure, agriculture, agro-processing, construction, trade and other services. In some cases, the enterprises are the sole providers of the service. These enterprises represent a large part of the public sector debt. A public enterprise is wholly owned by the government. It must be established by proclamation and is a commercial entity.

A public enterprise is led by a board and will have management. The board is responsible for approving its strategic and annual plans. There are public enterprises that are converted to share companies for privatization purposes. The government appoints board members and chairperson

approves significant decisions, and issues directives to the company when needed. In short, there are laws, tools, and institutions for public investment management. However, there may be delays in ensuring that the laws and tools are adhered to in the case of general government project management. Second, there may be delays in ensuring that public investment carried out by State Owned Enterprises is aligned with the country's development objectives. A review of government documents indicates that public investment decisions are made by the board of each enterprise.

There is a sharp increase in public investment in Ethiopia in both levels and as a percent of GDP. The government recognizes the importance of investment for growth and development. Therefore, there has been a rise in investment. However, the role of regional governments in raising funds is limited. As a result, they use their resources to pay wages. Some of the reasons for the limited role of local governments in financing investment are weak capacity and inability to mobilize revenues. Domestic saving in Ethiopia is below the financing needs. Savings is lower than needed despite the improvement as Ethiopia started from a low level. As a result, external financing is necessary to fill the gaps. However, the fiscal system is highly centralized, and there is a concentration of fiscal-decision making power at the center.

The composition of expenditure shows that the federal government has been responsible for a large share of the expenditure. The Ministry of Finance (MOF) plays a crucial role in mobilizing and allocating government finance. In particular, it is responsible for supervising the finance of the federal government. It also ensures harmonization of the fiscal relationship between the federal government and regional governments. It prepares the federal government budget and subsidies for regional governments based on a formula for budget allocation for regions. It also estimates the resource requirements both from internal and external sources.

However, the Ministry will have to develop a new formula for budget allocation for rehabilitation and reconstruction of war affected regions. But, this exercise must be preceded by sector need assessments for fair and balanced treatment of citizens who lost their lives and properties in that part of Ethiopia. The rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts may need to be supported with local resources, loan and foreign aid that guarantee "debt sustainability" such as efficient and responsible management of domestic and external resources.

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

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Editorial

Beyond praise, accelerate practical support!

The recent Pretoria peace deal signed between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF) has been drawing worldwide appreciation. The spirit of the breakthrough accord reverberates beyond the country and met the expectations of Ethiopian friends and proved naysayers wrong. In fact, the AU-led negotiation has shined a new light on the continent setting an indelible instance that Africa can resolve its problems.

With both parties now showing a good spirit to live up to their words, regional and global partners are expected to contribute their share for the implementation of the deal to the fullest.

The world has enough reasons to cherish Ethiopia's peace deal. From saving millions of human lives to stabilizing the Horn Africa region, the deal brings lofty benefits to Ethiopians who have been languishing in a two-year conflict that ravaged the country. Particularly, the peace agreement will cultivate a rosy future for the country and the Horn region.

With hostile propaganda being replaced by development news, Ethiopians are letting the bygones be bygones and zooming in on rebuilding their country. Talk of war and condemnation is leaving way for peace and reconciliation Ethiopians have now begun putting their heads together to develop strategies for rapid and effective rehabilitation activities.

The agreement is quite significant and its interpretation and implementation requires good faith and relentless commitment from both sides. And, it is time for the international community to help support both sides apply the deal as scrupulously as possible. Thus far, since the announcement of the peace accord, the international community has been expressing its praise.

According to the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the international community is showing its partnership to provide the necessary support

for the success of the Pretoria peace agreement.

In his weekly presser, MoFA Spokesperson Meles Alem said that Ethiopia's firm stance on 'African solution for African problems' has brought significant results.

The Spokesperson also stated that various countries and international financial organizations have sent messages that they welcome and support the agreement reached by the Ethiopian government and TPLF to end the conflict.

"The friends and allies of Ethiopia expressed their willingness to support the efforts to rebuild the areas affected by the conflict, resettle the displaced and return the TPLF militants to a peaceful life," he was quoted as saying.

Ethiopia has proved to the international community that it is capable of sorting out its problems. And, international organizations should funnel funds and provide technical support in the country's effort to reel from the devastating impacts of the war. Prior to the peace deal, there had been massive yet unjust pressure on Ethiopia some in fact on the pretext of humanitarianism and human rights. Now that the parties to the conflict have signed peace agreement to allow unhindered humanitarian assistance and ensure transformational justice; this is a crucial decision to restore stability and order across the country and beyond. On the other hand, those entities that played negative roles for the conflicts should reconsider their stand and help the country rebuild itself.

In sum, the peace agreement that earned reverence from the international community remains to be a praiseworthy step to restore peace and order across the country and the Horn region. Besides acclaiming the agreement, the international community ought to support its effective implementation.

Opinion

The need for a new political culture in Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Political culture is defined by the ideologies, values, beliefs, norms, customs, traditions, and heroes' characteristic of a nation. It is the sum total of social organization- traditional and modern, language, customs and traditions, religious institutions, arts, literature, the form of government and economic system.

Political cultures matter because they shape a population's political perceptions and actions. Governments can help shape political culture and public opinion through education, public events, and commemoration of the past. Political culture develops over time and is subject to changes in political system and order.

The recent Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities signed between the Federal Government of Ethiopia and Tigray Liberation Front indicates that Ethiopians have all the capacity to resolve their political differences outside the realms of war and foreign interference in a peaceful manner. It also shows that Africans have the authority and capacity to mediate conflicts under the auspices of the AU with no need for external interference through the principle of resolving African problems the African way. It is therefore a vivid manifestation of the first attempt towards the prevalence of a new political culture in Ethiopia.

The Agreement document is the first of its kind for Ethiopia and did not come from heaven. It must be noted that this is document is not an end in itself but a means to a promising end which could herald the approach of a new political culture and order for the country over the horizon.

As stated by a government official, the Agreement has its own supporters and opponents

but it will certainly serve the purpose for which it has been inked.

One of the most important lessons that both Ethiopia and Africa can draw from this agreement is that there is a huge need to develop a new political culture that is based on resolving conflicts in a civilized manner instead of resorting to finding a political solution out of the barrel of guns.

For the purpose of this modest contribution, the author would concentrate on the need of developing a new democratic political culture in Ethiopia as a tool for ensuring stability, peace and development in the country.

The advent of politics and political culture is a rather recent development in the country usually marred with attempting to resolve conflicts through armed struggle. Over the last 50 years, the issue of formation of political parties and political struggles was compounded with separatist tendencies and aspirations which were the offshoots of student movements based in Europe and North America.

The diverse ideologies and strategies that were designed by the preceding political parties were amalgamated with nationalism, Marxism Leninism Mao Tse Dong Thought and some kind of eclectic socialism that was blended with ethnocentric mindset of its leaders.

Ever since those days and even today, the ordinary Ethiopian perceives politics as something to be avoided as much as one would avoid electric power lines. Politicians are usually considered as talkative, shrewd chameleonic and unpredictable personalities mongering for power and fame. These certainly indicates that over the last several decades our politicians did not exhibit themselves as good examples for promoting power politics in the country.

We have witnessed all sorts of citizens who have claimed to be activists here and abroad but we have so far not witnessed activists for climate change, gender issues and children's rights and other issues. Activism just like any social activity is unfortunately confined to political activism which shows that for some political parties political activism is a priority over socio-economic advocacy.

The recent AU sponsored ACoH (Agreement on Cession of Hostilities) was the first of its kind in the history of Ethiopia primarily because parties with diametrically opposite desires and interests were able to talk to each other in a more amicable and respectful manner to avoid further loss of life, properties and human values in the country.

What specific lessons can be drawn from the ACoH? The author wishes to enumerate some more outcomes of the entire process. Any conflict will out of human necessity and capacity will certainly end up through reasonable and legal negotiations that benefit the victims and all other end users of the results of peaceful negotiations.

Second, there is no need to prove the magnitude of human loss and property as what is on the ground is a vivid testimony. Third, war of any type be it local or in transboundary context is not affordable and is quite expensive as it eats up into the coffers of the warring parties seriously affecting the economic standpoint of a country like Ethiopia.

Third, the consequence of internal conflict in countries like Ethiopia remains devastating and dreadful over time. Unmeasurable traumatic, socio-psychological results of the conflict and the wounds it would leave behind may take longer years and patience to heal. Unless it is

properly addressed, the spirit of animosity, biases, hatred and negative generalizations that precipitates from the conflict over the last two years may occur again even before the previous damages are repaired.

The strategic solution of avoiding any further conflict in the country demands the creation of a new political culture that must be based on the common denominators on which the entire citizenry here and in the diaspora should agree and support.

The new political culture that must develop in Ethiopia should not be the prerogative of only the governing party and so called competing parties, (although the author is doubtful of the fact that they are actually competing!).

The needs, interests, value systems and attitudes of the citizens must be seriously considered. In a multi- ethnic country like Ethiopia, diversity of interests and needs must not be cause for alarm or biased branding of this or that group of people. A new political culture can prevail only when the manipulative, divisive and hateful biases and egoistic political interests' are kept at bay. The people of Ethiopia and only the united people of this country should be at the forefront and not politicians with their oratorical and manipulative talents.

A new political culture for Ethiopia is an element of the political system of this country. It is not declarative and nor assertive. It needs to be participatory and people centered in the major decisions affecting their lives now and for the future.

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

Business & Economy

Prospect, challenges of the Ethiopia's economy

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopia is the inhabitant of more than 115 million people with abundant untapped natural resources including vast arable land, conducive climate, surface and underground water and sufficient rain and mine but due to less utilization of technology, shortage of finance the role of the natural resource in supporting the economic growth is very low.

Recently, the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association provided training to journalists in Adama town on economic issues. One of the paper presenters was Zerihun Birhane (PhD) who is working as instructor in the department of economics at Addis Ababa University.

As to him, in the last two decades the government strived to achieve economic growth in the sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and services and some tangible results are registered. He further said that, most investments put on the development endeavor came from the public sector and the role of the private sector in this regard is insignificant.

The government spent huge amount of money on the construction of infrastructure which played an instrumental role for the registered economic growth.

Roads, rail ways, industry parks and hydropower dams, etc can be mentioned in this regard. The construction sector which engaged in the construction of infrastructure created job opportunities for hundreds of thousands and also created market opportunity to cement industries, quarry, and the transport sector to move inputs and outputs to customers. The expansion of industry parks enabled to attract foreign and local investment and created jobs for thousands. It also created market linkage to the agriculture and most agro industries could utilize inputs from local sources. The manufacturing sector also played vital role in boosting export and substituting imports. It also paved the way to the private sector to play its own part. To support the agricultural sector government imported agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides and supplied to farmers with subsidized price. Not only these, it supplied selected seeds obtained both from local and foreign sources.

In addition, it encouraged private sector to involve in agriculture by providing land and tax holidays while they import agricultural machinery.

As to Zerihun, 72 percent of the nation's labor goes to the agricultural sector and most farmers plow farmlands with small size which is below a hectare and such a situation also has its draw back on rising productivity and boost production. He also said farming activities mostly utilize human and animal labor. In the pre and post-harvest seasons about 30 percent crops is wasted. The absence of sufficient warehouses also makes the products vulnerable to insects and snow which in turn reduces the amount.

He further said that the sector is subsistence and vulnerable to the extreme weather



Ethiopia's Growing Ties with Industrial Nations Key to Boost Manufacturing Sector

conditions and due to the current global warming and climate change the sector is critically affected. Hence, to withstand the challenge applying climate smart agriculture must be taken as option including the expansion of irrigation farm by exploiting surface and underground water, using drought resistance selected seeds and providing extension service to farmers.

The sub sector of agriculture which is the livestock sector has huge potential. It is the largest in Africa in number. But due to traditional practice of cattle rearing system, the contribution of the sector to the economy can be said limited. In fact it contributes 20 percent to the agricultural GDP. It has a potential for meat and milk production but so far, the nation fundamentally exports live animals, hide, skin and limited amount of slaughtered cattle as compared to its potential.

The leather and leather products sector utilizes local skin and hides in large proportion. Currently, the sector created job opportunity to thousands and plays pivotal role in supplying its products to local and foreign markets.

As to him, though some progress is observed, the unemployed rate is increasing. Consequently, organizing and creating job to the unemployed helps boosting the economy. To this end, paying attention to the small scale enterprises is essential. Providing loan along with suitable working areas and linking them to the market is essential.

As to Zerihun, there are numerous challenges that need to be redressed. Among others, sustaining the witnessed economic growth, reduction of poverty, ensuring good governance, creating more job opportunities both by the government and the private sector, reducing inequality between citizen's income and dependency on aid also must be reduced.

He further said that, other key challenges that must be addressed are conflict that had been taking place in the northern part of Ethiopia which incurred heavy toll on the economy, the prevalence of COVID 19, global warming and climate change

that critically affect the sectors such as agriculture, health, water and transportation etc.

The rising of price on food items and the price hike of fertilizer is because of skyrocketed fuel price resulted from the war between Russia and Ukraine. Moreover, the reduction of income in urban centers affects the efforts for ensuring food security.

As to Zerihun, if the global warming continued as it is by 2021 Africa's food production will be decreased by 90 percent.

According to him, the contribution of the agricultural sector to the Gross Domestic Production though it is reduced, it is not big as such. And this indicates that the economic growth did not bring structural change. He further said that the service sector is growing rapidly and its contribution to the GDP is surpassed the manufacturing sector and this indicates that the unhealthy feature of the economy. Had the manufacturing sector's contribution to the GDP been surpassed the service sector, it would have been better because the employing capacity of the service sector is very small.

In the last budget year, Ethiopia earned 1.2 billion Dollars from agriculture. In the country, 15 million people earn its living from the coffee business. On the other hand, the Ethiopian airlines which employed 17 thousand workers earned about 4 billion Dollars by exporting its services. Hence, though the service sector garnered huge amount of hard currency as compared to the agriculture sector which comprises coffee production, it employed very few people. Therefore, to change the imbalance, more attention should be given for the agriculture and to that of the manufacturing to boost their export earnings.

As to Zerihun, currently the government debt rose to 57 percent of the nation's GDP. It borrowed money from local and foreign sources and such situation aggravates inflation which hurts the poor segment of the society. Hence, the government should reduce its dependency on money borrowing to meet its development aspiration and better to look other options.

Zerihun further said that currently, the citizens' productivity capacity is 38 percent which is below even the average of sub Saharan African Countries which is 50 percent. He also said that 90 percent of labor force employee deployed its physical capacity rather than its mental capacity. And the figure indicates that how Ethiopia lags behind other developed and developing countries and this shows that the level of using technology for performing job is insignificant. About 37 percent of children in Ethiopia are malnourished and this again directly related with the rampant poverty prevailed in the country.

Malnourishment also has impact on citizen's productive capacity; because it reduces mental and physical potential of children in their later age. According to the recent UNESCO due to malnutrition Ethiopia annually lose about 30 billion Birr which could support the GDP.

Ethiopia also currently has been price taker of the international market. When imported commodities price is soared due to the war between Russia and Ukraine it will be a victim. The inflated price of fuel and fertilizer can be mentioned the case in point. No cargo ships dare to go to the war zone. As a result, those interested cargo ships go to the war zone to transport the goods imported from Ukraine and Russia by taking the risk as the result, the freight price will be increased and the imported commodities price also soared.

As to Zerihun, currently, fuel, steel and iron and fertilizers are in short supply. As the result, the construction sector is crippled and many construction companies lay off their workers which in turn affects them and their family life.

Hence, to reverse the situation, the government should work rigorously by taking bold measures. Particularly on addressing shortage of hard currency, creating job opportunity, building resilient infrastructure, utilizing social capital, diversifying the export, exporting local products by value addition and implementing the home grown economic reform effectively.

Art & Culture

The demise of Ethiopia's musical giant

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia's fertile womb relents not from bringing forth dear sons and daughters that quench its thirst for enchanting music. The country is a mother to musicians that run the gamut from veterans to emerging ones. Artist Ali Mohammed (Ali Birra) sticks out among such society lions.

It was in May, 1948 he was born in Dire Dewa, an emblematic town of hospitality, peace and love. He consecrated two third of his ephemeral existence of 75 years to music.

Though Ali Mohammed is his family-given name but the whole Ethiopian People know him by his stage name Ali Birra.

For over half a century the king did own the music stage. The Afan Oromo word Birra is derived from the song he staged for the first time. The song's title was "Birra da bare". Circulating in the lips of fans the nickname Ali Birra got acceptance and won popularity.

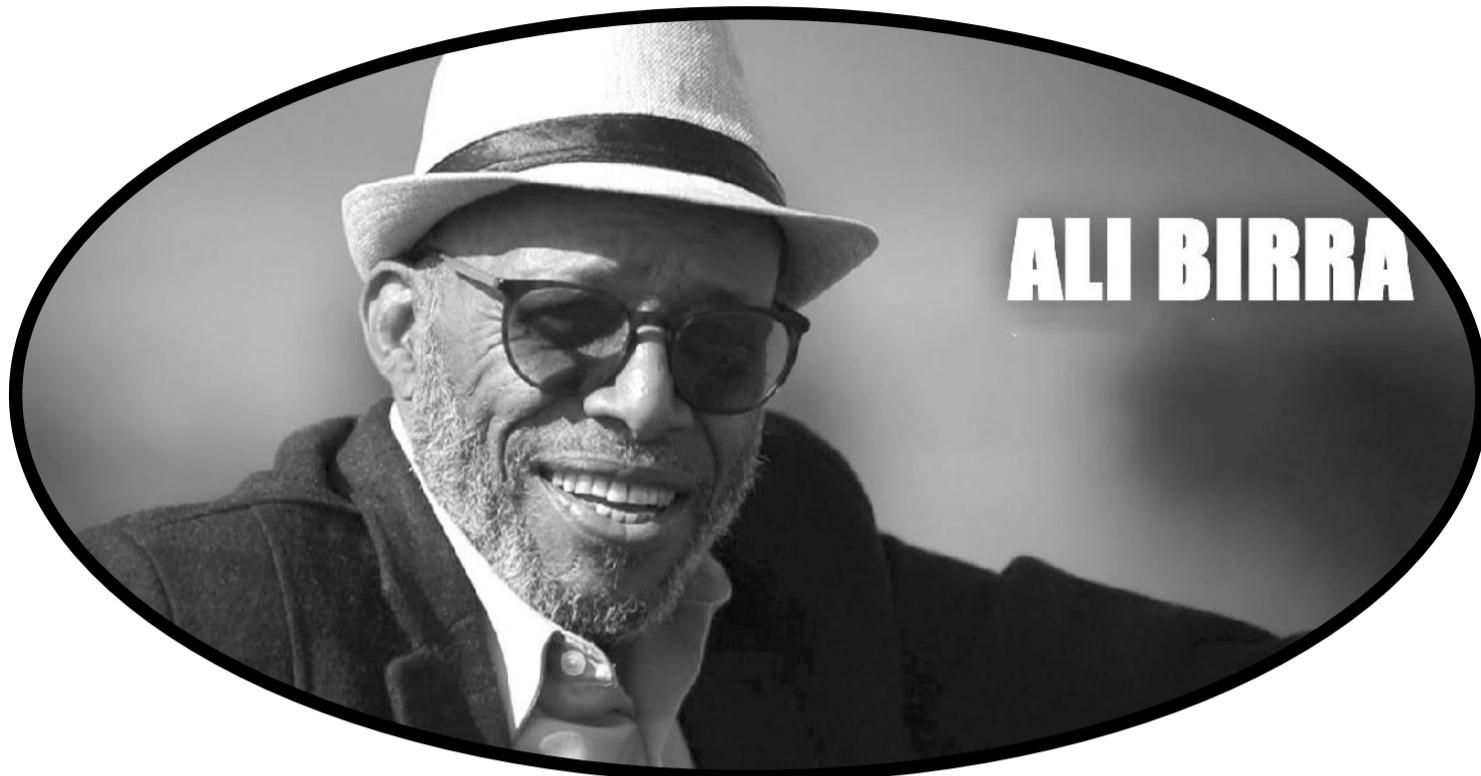
Versatile by nature, the gifted vocalist Artist Ali Bira used to write song lyrics, compose music and write melody. It suffices to have a little knowledge about music to tell Ali Birra was a talented artist. Transcending ethnic bases and language differences, Ali Birra's music has power to provoke listeners' feelings that range from elation down to contemplation.

Aside from Oromifa he has sang in seven languages: Somali, Afar, Harrar, Amharic and Arabic languages, among others. He had released 267 songs all together.

His songs will remain sources of childhood humbleness, youthfulness's hustle and bustle and old age's walking stick. Music was at his fingertips for 60 years.

He attended his elementary and secondary school education at Dire Dewa and Addis Ababa cities. Heading to America he joined Santa Monic Music College to refine and hone his skills.

Though Ali Birra is well known to music, he legally spliced in marriage with music



in 1962 joining the traditional music band known as Afran Kelo.

He then joined the Imperial Guard's Music Band. He stayed there for three years before he shifted to Ibex Band to stage his works at Hotel De'Afrique for eight years.

The instrumentalist Ali Birra had the knack of playing guitar, piano, oud, among other musical instruments.

He had staged his numerous musical shows on the stages of over 40 countries. He had bagged innumerable awards and won countless local and global recognition for his contribution for the development of art. The Diredeba and Jimma Universities have conferred him honorary doctorate degrees.

After a week-long attention at Adama Health Hospital he ceased to be last Sunday. At age 75.

As to his friends in the same profession, he was a kindhearted and sociable person.

Interviewees said the following. "Ali is a famous singer on whose dictionary of life pride has no place. As such he used to treat all

equally. Not just like our culture of exulting the deceased, he was a genuine person. He was a phenomenal one like a shooting star that happens in a century or two. He had the bent of encouraging fledgling and emerging singers. His dulcet voice was hard to imitate even for gifted ventriloquists. There is a need to introduce apprenticeship so that emerging singers pick skills from sought-after mentors, like Ali Birra, while the likes of him are still kicking," vocalist of Amharic Songs Gete Aneley.

"Ali is a singer that got international renown. Though death is a natural process, passing away stamping a gargantuan footprint is becoming fortunate. Keeping the ethical code the profession needs, the coming generation must bring to fruition what the artist Ali Birra began," vocalist of Oromifa songs Demere Legese.

The vocalists have wished his bereaved family members and fans comfort in their grief following the demise of the musical giant.

The famous vocalist reminisced how Ali was

on his toes to render professional support to peers and said he did give me song lyrics that are still seared in the minds of many.

The Ethiopian Musicians Association has lauded Ali Birra's huge contribution and age-old service in carrying across unity, love, tolerance, culture and freedom as well as bequeathing the assets to generations next. He has made a difference in the Ethiopian music industry. Quality lends his music an eternal touch. He played quite a role in the peace brokering effort between TPLF and the incumbent.

His strong devotion to serve the public was appreciated by Government Communication Service.

The famous music critique Seretse-fire Sibhat appreciated the all-rounded talent of Ali Birra and his personal traits.

His demise is a loss to Ethiopia, the PM tweeted.

The beloved singer was laid to rest in Dire Dewa, his home town.

Wretched lives

(continued from yesterday)

BY HENOK TIBEBU

People say that they gave him a great hope saying if he stays some extra hundreds of years with his bugs patiently, he would be awarded piles of pounds above piles of pounds. That's why he is back to drinking sipirri every day and night, so he could forget the pain when the swarm of bugs sucking his blood with their noodles.

The bugs are everywhere on his body and cloth. He is farming bugs because he has got a talent which any western company or government is willing to buy. "Don't consider that dummy as any regular dummy!" said Faplaw and finished his story adding "that dummy is a visionary dummy!" said Faplaw and they laughed.

The author was laughing silently from right where he was laying on his mattress. He said to himself "there comes your story

Danny" but suddenly Masho would burst out saying "who are you to say awful things like that about Awtaru?" usually she doesn't like Awtaru. Awtaru hates her so much. That's how they live. Now she is his lawyer all of a sudden.

"What I say about anybody else is none of your business woman. You better leave me alone!"

"What you gonna' do if I don't?"

"I will hit you where it hurts"

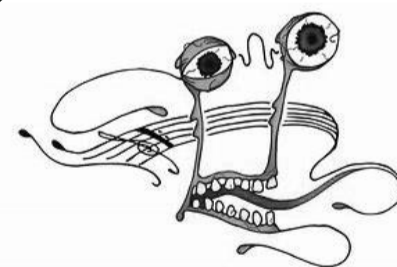
"Come on let's get it on Mr. Tough guy" she yielded with that scratched voice that the author hates. Then he would hear sound of glasses and the benches or tables breaking. He would also hear the other sipirri people saying 'stop it' let go off her and trying to keep them both away (off each other).

The author didn't get off his mattress and run to the sipirri house to be a peace maker.

He has to listen because he's an author. After everything was brought under control by their own sipirri friends begging and mediation, both faplaw and Masho stopped fighting and cursing.

Gradually, the peaceful but worthless talk resumed among the alcoholics. They started talking and laughing. Finally the author heard Masho permitting Faplaw if she can take a nap in his room. He said "here is my key" but remember don't insult my mother in your dreams because we have sprinkled a holy water in the room to keep evil spirits away, and laughed.

She left to take a nap. Faplaw and other went on drinking. They will never leave this place until they die. That's what happened to their dead friends whose lives were wrecked by sipirri. Could this country whose politics is poisoned by divisive ethnic ideologies face the same destiny (faith)?



Sick mind

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

When the mind is sick
It makes you think you're weak
Even if life is filled with joy
It makes you think something is wrong
When you can't escape your mind
You get stuck in an unhealthy life
You blame yourself for how you are
Even though it's no fault of your own.

Science & Technology

There is huge potential in Ethiopia with huge population for poultry, dairy transformation

BY HAFTU GEBREGZIABIHER

Nico Maat is from the Netherlands representing the company for dairy products processing equipment supplier Van den Heuvel Dairy & Food Equipment.

Nico Maat, who studied agriculture at a middle school, has joined the company that he now manages and owned for the past 30 years.

The Van den Heuvel Dairy & Food Equipment has specialized in the supply of production lines for the dairy and liquid food processing industry. In the Netherlands, Nico Maat has been in Addis Ababa. He had taken part at the 11th Ethio poultry expo (Ethiopex) and the 7th African livestock exhibition and congress (ALEC), last week.

The company enjoys a world-wide reputation for carrying out the most advanced international projects. "All our equipment, from single components to entire production lines, comprises of custom-made expert work and complies with the latest European directives. So I really learned a lot in the company," Maat told The Ethiopian Herald during an exclusive interview recently at an international dairy and poultry farm exhibition in Addis Ababa.

"I developed skills and the situation brought me to where we stand now. That means as a dairy equipment supplying company, we have knowledge of the market and the needs, and that's why we can transform the situation of Ethiopia to a better future," the Netherlands investor believed.

We are exporters of this equipment and we are used to supply to various African countries. So this is the reason to come also to Ethiopia for this event- recently concluded dairy and poultry farm exhibition organized by the Embassy of The Netherlands and NSV.

The initiative started through the Embassy of the Netherlands with some program and "we the investors have already contact here. For our case, we have one plant in Sululta and we want to widen our customers range in Ethiopia."

"We have been active in the business in Ethiopia for six years. We are also coming like annually to participate in trade fairs and exhibitions. The company is also planning to open office here so that we can work from our office in Ethiopia directly."

According to him, the company has come up with items to the exhibition containing mainly pasteurizing units as well as flow pasteurizing, including the additional machines for meal treatment



like separator and homogenizer. And further onwards in the lines, you have processing tanks for yogurt and drinking milk and finally you have filling machines, packaging machines to fill the product in packaging. And besides that, we have specialized also in cheese making equipment. So that is cheese fat and so on.

It is all the things someone can use in the dairy sector and all the products. I ran through the product line that you can visualize.

They're a bit mixed like pasteurizing units, meal treatment, fermenting processing this down to more processing and also additional equipment like CIP units and butter making for making butter.

The other products are for cleaning. CIP stands for cleaning in place, which means that after use of the tankers in the machine, the equipment, you have to clean it because of the proteins that will stick on the machine. And you do that with such a unit.

Asked about actual business in Ethiopian, Niko Maat stated that the business in Ethiopia has the potential to attract investors from Europe, from North America and from other parts of the advanced world

"What I see here is a huge potential in the country with a huge population. So I

think there is a lot that can be developed in the world of processing. I'm a supplier investor which is something else. However, I even believe that investors can be interested because of the huge potential of the country, the availability of land and presence of such a huge population as a market. Yes, I think so."

That is the initiative that already takes place by the presence of the embassy in the closet market, the SNV network, that will all bring the business to a higher level, I think.

In Ethiopia, poultry production is one of the major sub-sectors that play an important role in improving family nutrition, creating job opportunities, and empowering women with economic opportunities.

Chickens (Doro) are the most popular poultry species used for meat and egg production in Ethiopia. Chicken and chicken products provide a valuable source of protein and income for families. The trends in the consumption of poultry products are key indicators of opportunities for investment. The total chicken population in the country is estimated to be 59.5 million with indigenous breeds representing 90.85%, hybrid chicken 4.76%, and exotic breeds 4.39% (CSA, 2016/2017).

The predominant proportion of national poultry meat and eggs is produced using local low-production breeds. However, non-native breeds in intensive production systems contribute to an increase in the production share.

The government set ambitious goals to transform the current poultry system with a plan to produce surplus eggs and poultry meat for export. According to the 10-year plan, egg production will reach 5.5 billion by 2029 from the current 2.8 million. The contribution of poultry meat to the total national meat consumption is also expected to increase from 9 to 30 percent currently by 2030.

The capacity of local poultry integrators is also increasing and an increasing number of foreign companies are establishing their base in Ethiopia like that of Maat's company.

In this context, Ethiopia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ethiopia, and the African Chamber of Commerce and Industry had organized the Ethiopian Poultry and Livestock Exhibition, which was launched at the Skylight Hotel in Addis Ababa last week, in the presence of senior government officials, experts, visitors and other stakeholders.

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Society

Peace prevails!

BY TEWODROS KASSA

According to reports of different media houses, the Ethiopian Government and the TPLF have made a historic peace agreement after the African Union (AU) led Peace Talks that held for ten days in Pretoria, South Africa. The Agreement reaffirmed that Ethiopia has only one national defense force, according to the statement.

These and other cardinal principles reached in the agreement to implement include provisions on the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of the TPLF combatants.

The Government also reaffirmed commitment to immediately embarking on the reconstruction and restoration of basic services, rehabilitation of communities affected by the conflict. The Government is ready to work closely with international partners in this regard.

The Ethiopian Delegation Representative Redwan Hussein said that the agreement is an important milestone towards restoring peace in land of Ethiopia. The people of Ethiopia demands peace and development. The government reaffirmed its commitment to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia into upholding the Constitution of the country. Ethiopia has only one defense force, he noted.

Accordingly, it is time to resettle all the messes of the last two years and restore peace in Ethiopia.

Recently, the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) in collaboration with the ActionAid held a half day workshop themed “The Role of CSOs in Advancing Transitional Justice in Ethiopia.”

On the workshop, Institute of Security Studies (ISS) Senior Researcher Tadesse Simie (PhD) presented a paper on the experience of the country towards undertaking genuine reconciliation and ensuring transitional justice.

As to him, ensuring transitional justice is the fundamental means to sustain the recently signed peace agreement between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF in South Africa.

Ethiopia has lost numerous opportunities of creating conducive way for genuine cooperation and transitional justice in the past half century. In the history of the country, the 1974, 1991, 2018, and 2022 are the major transitional period that sought to create a better future and motivate different groups and ideas to come to the negotiation table.

However, the country has misused the past transitional periods and justice was almost lost due to the unwise use of the opportunities during the 1974 and 1991. Thus, the country should take lessons from the past and; properly utilize the November 02, 2022 peace agreement of South Africa to maintain lasting solutions for the country’s socio-economic trajectory.

According to the Ethiopian Government and TPLF peace agreement statement number six, the two sides have agreed to implement transitional measures that include the restoration of constitutional order in the State and a framework for the settlement of political differences and a transitional justice



policy framework to ensure accountability, truth, reconciliation, and healing.

This statement holds the significant part of the peace agreement that reaffirms the two sides unwavering commitment towards ensuring transitional justice which has been neglected during the past transitional periods in the history of the country, he underlined.

Moreover, organizing transitional justice commission, reconciliation and social cohesion mechanisms are important to facilitate the country’s journey towards ensuring sustainable peace. In this regard, CSOs are expected to actively support the transitional peace building process and educate the public to stand for peace rather than hatred and conflict, he recommended.

“CSOs should organize successive training and wide public consultation programs among different stakeholders and motivate people to stand for peace and support reconciliation. They are also responsible to promote the wide traditional Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ traditional reconciliation assets available. By doing these, the country could transit to a better future and nurture a prosperous nation that embraces better opportunities for the upcoming generations”, he added.

Ethnic divisions and mistrust, compromising traditional institutions are among the leading challenging factors in the efforts of ensuring transitional justice. On the other hand, finding a common destinations and help rebuild institutions will facilitate the country’s new endeavors of ensuring transitional justice and peace, according to him.

Accordingly, African leadership, equity and non-discrimination, national and local ownership are the core principles of transitional justice and help to ensure transitional justice. Gender and generational dimensions should also be considered to be included in the transitional justice. The National Dialogue Commission (NDC) should also be the other leading facilitator of the transitional justice and peace.

On his part, Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) Executive Director Henok Melese told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the council will

“CSOs have enough capacity to coordinate forums that preach peace and cultivate the culture of democratic debates among all groups. Thus, we have been urging the society to give peace a chance; and are ready to broker peace to realize the South African peace agreement”

play a significant role towards maintaining suitable peace in the country through creating successive dialogues among pertinent stakeholders.

“CSOs have enough capacity to coordinate forums that preach peace and cultivate the culture of democratic debates among all groups. Thus, we have been urging the society to give peace a chance; and are ready to broker peace to realize the South African peace agreement.”

It is impossible to ensure lasting peace without ensuring justice. All CSOs should contribute their part to ensure transitional justice and numerous tasks are left ahead to effectively mobilize the public towards peace, he noted.

Meanwhile, the Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia (IRCE) appreciated the peace deal between the Ethiopian Government and the TPLF in South Africa on the November 02, 2022. The IRCE also urged all stakeholders’ commitment towards the fulfillment of the peace agreement.

In its statement issued recently in connection with the AU-brokered peace accord, IRCE emphasized that all parties should be responsible towards the fulfillment of the agreement.

Council Secretary General Tagay Tadele said that the agreement is timely and important to all Ethiopians to reap the fruit of peace. “The agreement makes all to be a winner and the two sides should respect the agreement. After now, everyone should refrain from inciting violence among Ethiopians.”

Moreover, peace is the only solution to build a better Ethiopia that accommodates its citizens equally. All Ethiopians at home and abroad should stand together to rehabilitate the areas affected by the war and deliver enough humanitarian assistance to the public in need.

The council also expressed deep gratitude for all actors participated in the realization of the peace agreement. It is time to rebuild the damaged infrastructures together rather than pointing fingers at each other. All faithful also need to pray in their respective religions to see sustainable peace in the country.



This is Ethiopia

Discover Ethiopia

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Different local and international tourists witnessed that Ethiopia owns abundant tourist attractions. It is the origin of the human being and is home to the oldest fossil known as “Dinknesh” or Lucy, which is more than 3 million years old. The Arabica coffee variety, the world’s longest river Abay, Erta Ale, a continuously active basaltic shield volcano and Dallol Depression, the world’s lowest point are some among the others that manifest country’s rich tourism attractions.

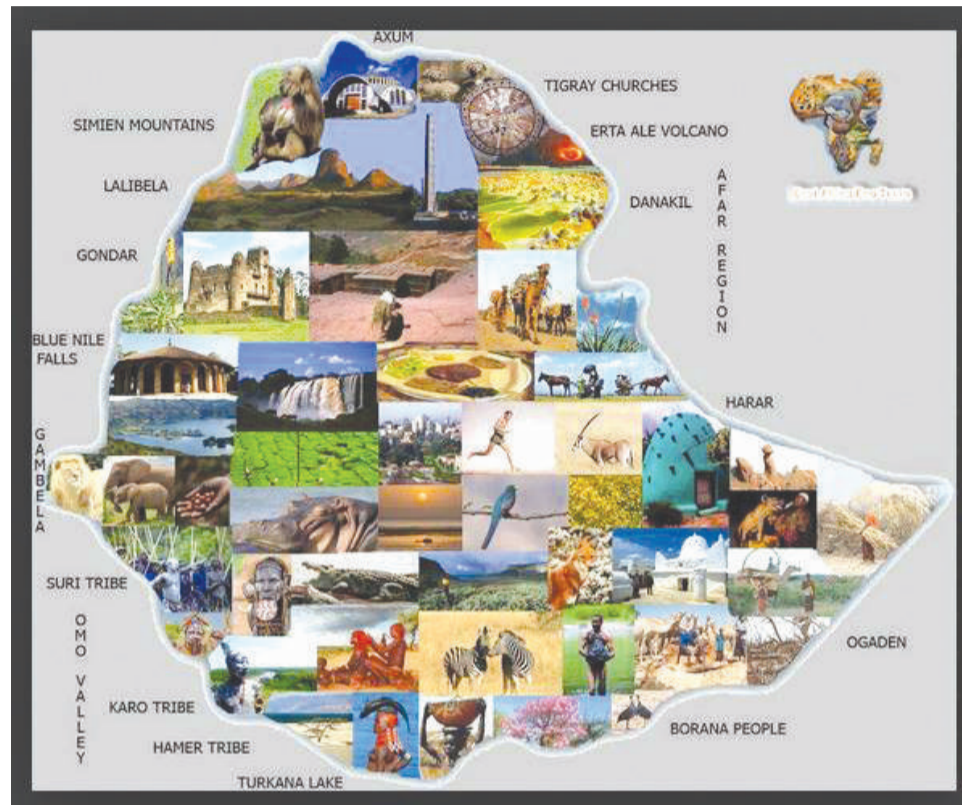
Not only that, but Ethiopia is also home to several Rift Valley lakes and hot springs, including the vast wildlife parks and reserves that are only found in Ethiopia. It also embraces diversified cultures, languages and different beliefs. It has become the leading African country to register numerous natural, religious and man-made as well as cultural heritages in UNESCO.

Although it owns all these tourist attractions, it is rarely visited by domestic tourists except for foreign tourists. The culture of visiting tourist destinations among local people has not developed at the desired level.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) Ministry of Tourism State Minister Selamawit Dawit said that the Ministry has launched the campaign towards stimulating the country’s tourism potential through mobilizing domestic tourism so as to generate tangible income from the sector. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of international tourists visiting tourist destinations becomes limited and different countries have taken new measures to recover the sector.

Thus, it is time to utilize the domestic tourism and facilitate the tourism sector’s untapped potentials towards numerous job creations.

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), domestic tourism comprises the activities of a resident visitor within the country of reference, either as part of a domestic tourism trip or part of an outbound tourism trip. During post- COVID-19 pandemic period, UNWTO expects domestic tourism to return faster and stronger than international travel. Given the size of domestic tourism, this will help many destinations recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic, while at the same time safeguarding jobs, protecting livelihoods and allowing economic and social benefits tourism offers to also return.



Different researches also indicated that in most destinations, domestic tourism generates higher revenues than international tourism. Therefore, mobilizing domestic tourism is expected to substitute the revenue generated from international tourists.

Ethiopia is a very big country with abundant historical, cultural and religious heritages as well as natural resources. Tourism has recently been included among the five pillar economic sectors and considered as a key to lead the country’s journey towards sustainable economic development. According to the 10-year economic development plan, agriculture, manufacturing industries, mining, tourism, urban development, innovation and technology are the key development sectors endorsed by the Ethiopian Government.

“Currently, efforts are being made to make the society more curious about the country by making tourism destinations more interesting. The role of domestic tourism is significant in strengthening mutual cultural knowledge and national unity,” she said.

As to her, the campaign is mainly implemented through school-based tourism clubs and different public and private institutions. It creates an opportunity for the new generation in particular to visit and learn about the existing and new tourist destinations.

In addition, the campaign is launched to make a significant contribution in revitalizing the hotel and tourism economy. Domestic tourism hugely contributes to open better market opportunities to tourist service providers operating throughout the

country.

Being the home to the second African largest population, Ethiopia seeks to generate more from domestic tourism and benefit from the resources. The availability of numerous tourist attractions to visit is also the other potential to excel in the sector and contribute a lot to the country’s socio-economic development.

“The country’s tourism sector has been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the security problem in the northern part of the country that last for two years. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a serious crisis on a global level. We are undertaking various measures towards utilizing domestic tourism as a starting point to revive it. In this regard, we put an implementation strategy towards achieving our target.”

The other strategy being undertaken towards promoting the country’s tourism is reinforcing the relationship with neighboring countries and the international tourism; as well as pushing up the digital promotion.

If we know our society very well and discover every corner of the country, we will be able to understand others’ cultures, languages and the like manifestations easily. In the long run, strengthening domestic tourism will help promoting internal unity and socio-cultural cohesions among Ethiopians.

Therefore, apart from the economic benefits, domestic tourism will bring significant contributions towards mutual support, political, and social cooperation among nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia. Our history also shows us how our forefathers coexisted peacefully with a sense of solidarity, mutual respect and understanding irrespective of religious, cultural, ethnic or any other backgrounds.

When a community from one area visits another part of the country, it gets the opportunity to see how similar the cultures and lifestyles are. It can be well understood how many Ethiopian people have the same cultural background from one end to the other end. Thus, the campaign will also remind to facilitate ways of uniting and binding Ethiopians together. It allows us to give our own; and respect, accept and exchange the culture, identity and way of life of others.

Accordingly, the active participation of pertinent stakeholders from the Ministry, states, city administrations as well as individuals is fundamental to realize the ultimate purpose of the campaign.