



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Govt's commitment takes credit for economic progress: Officials

• Policy intervention underway to ease inflation, forex shortage

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDISABABA-** The viable policies and strategies translated into stable macro economy and successive economic growth amidst pressing domestic and global challenges is entitled for the commitment of the government, ministries of Finance and Plan and Development said.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Finance State Minister Eyob Tekalign (PhD) stated that Ethiopia's economy has been resilient despite challenges and the per capita income has reached to 1,212 USD. Ethiopia has the largest economy in East Africa and the 3rd largest in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The state minister further highlighted that the sound reason for Ethiopia's economic growth is the success in the agriculture sector, the mainstay of the country. Accordingly, a notable result has gained from Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) winter wheat farming which puts the country in the position of exporting the crop.

Sound economic policies and meticulous leadership that has

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Photo: samuel tesfaye

Fitsum Assefa (PhD)



Eyob Tekalign (PhD)

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## UNHCR aims to capitalize truce to expedite support

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## Food aid on way to Tigray via Afar's route : WFP

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA—** Over 12 aid trucks carrying humanitarian aid are heading to Tigray via Afar state, U.N. World Food Program (WFP) disclosed.

In its twitter message, the WFP noted that the humanitarian food aid is passing through Afar state route and various donors are supplying food related items to Tigray at this time without any difficulty.

Similarly, two trucks carrying fuel are heading along with food aid carrying trucks,

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## Mexico vows to support CoHA implementation

• Ethiopia, Mexico mark 73-year diplomatic ties

BY BILAL DERSO

**ADDIS ABABA-** As a peace-loving nation, Mexico has welcomed the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) that was signed between the Ethiopian government and TPLF and is ready to contribute for the implementation of the truce, the country's ambassador said.

Mexican Ambassador to Ethiopia Victor M. Trevino made the above remark on Thursday at the photo exhibition held on the premises of Dashen Bank Headquarters to depict the two countries' 73-year-old diplomatic relations.

Mexico has a firm support to the principle

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Transforming Ethiopia's Political Culture from Intransigence to

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A peace deal that fulfills long-sought public demand

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The introduction of capital markets will directly increase foreign direct investment

Abbie Cornish

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# News

## Welcoming third telecom operator ignites economic growth

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA -The permission of the third telecom operator entrance into the Ethiopian market immensely contributes to facilitate the national economic development, so said Economist Zemedeneh Nigatu.

Zemedeneh told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that allowing a third operator to join the telecom sector will make Ethiopia move forward.

As to him, the approval of a third operator to join the telecom sector and the decision to sell 40 percent of Ethio-telecom would have a positive effect and would make Ethiopia move towards sustainable economic development.

Accordingly, Ethiopia's peace would create confidence in international investors.

Moreover, the decision will make Ethio-telecom to be more competitive at the international level.

The entrance of various multinational companies to the country helps in knowledge transfer, increasing the financial sector effectiveness and the economy and introduce modern technology, he noted.

40 percent of Ethio-Telecom will be available for sale while the government holds 60 percent.

He reminded that 55% of Ethio-Telecom is owned by the government due to the decision to sell 5% to the people of Ethiopia.

The presence of three telecom companies in Ethiopia will increase the overall development of the country.

This decision is highly supported because the growth of Ethio telecom and the peace of the country are convenient for attracting more investors.

Recently, Safaricom Ethiopia has announced that it has reached one million customers. This shows that the telecom sector has the potential to boost the economy.

For a company to achieve this much success in such a short period of time shows that there is still a great potential in the sector.

Accordingly, the development of the sector will have a significant role in the banking sector, the ICT and the country's economy in general.



Photo: Eyob Teferi

## Agricultural merchandise export reaches close to 72 percent: Ministry

### • *ESA commemorates African Statistical Day*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Ministry of Planning and Development said that the 2021/22022 agricultural merchandise export from the total share is close to 72 percent.

Yesterday, African Statistical Day commemorated under the theme : “Strengthening Data Systems by Modernizing and Use of Agricultural statistics: Informing Policies with a View to Improving Resilience in Agriculture, Nutrition and Food Security in Africa.”

In her keynote speech on commemoration of the day, Planning and Development Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) said that Ethiopia’s agriculture remains the biggest share of the total merchandise export in 2021/22.

Over the years, the national GDP has continued to decline, but agriculture has still played a crucial role in Ethiopia’s economy. For instance, during the 2021/2022 fiscal year, agriculture’s share from the total

merchandise export was close to 72 percent. In terms of employment, agriculture remains the biggest source of employment in the country, she said.

Despite its significant role in country’s economy, agriculture in Ethiopia remains still under development. Without transforming the current subsistent rain fed agriculture in Ethiopia, the issue of self sufficiency and food security will remain a chronic challenge.

To address sector challenges, the availability of high quality statistics on agriculture plays an indispensable role. Producing reliable and timely data on agriculture through improved statistically sound methodologies is very important as it performs evidence based policy decisions, she added.

“A strengthened data system is not in agriculture, but also in other productive sectors such as manufacturing and mining cannot be overlooked. Without building a modern, strong, well capacitated national statistical office, capable of producing trusted

and timely data, it is impossible to keep track of progress the country is making towards achieving the sustainable goals as well as the goals that the country set in the ten year development plan.”

For countries like Ethiopia, agriculture is the main say of the economy, strengthening of the data system and statistics on agricultural production, marketing as well as establishing a strong data system across the entire agricultural value chains is crucial to ensure resilience and food security in the country.

Ethiopian Statistics Services (ESA) Director-General Beker Shale (PhD) for his said statistical service is a key tool to realize the development agenda of 2063 and other regional and global plans. The issue of human resource, structure, capacity building activities, support of government, stakeholders and data beneficiaries and partners still needs due emphasis. To strengthen the efforts of service, it needs the special effort and support of the government.

## Active women participation fosters transformation

### • *Supreme Court lauds reform-oriented change*

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA—Federal Supreme Court stated that active participation of women and being equally benefited have been clear manifestations of meaningful transformation from royal administration to the current federal administration.

Speaking at the Annual Gender Forum of Ethiopian Women Lawyer Association (EWLA), Federal Supreme Court President, Meaza Ashenafi stated that the rise of women political participation at state and federal levels, the proliferation of institutions that advocate for women's issues, women engagement in office work and get better payment, expansion of education opportunities for girls at higher education institutions, among others are the changes witnessed so far.

EWLA Executive Director Lensa Beyene on her part stated that the association is working on three programs in particular, providing free legal consulting services, educating the community and conducting researches, it is also working for the universal benefit and participation of women.

Lensa said that the current generation has to carry out many movements and observations to protect Ethiopian women. The sacrifice has



Meaza Ashenafi



Lensa Beyene

been paid and will continue to be strengthened in the future.

“Any human effort to benefit women in social, political, economic and general participation is a process, but there is no end, the result obtained now is an indication of this, indeed,” she added.

Works are being undertaken regarding women's equality and empowerment, and there are also new programs, such as the leadership training for women commenced by President Sahlework Zewde, this is an exemplary move along this line, she added.

As to Meaza, NGOs have been playing a great role in to make facilitators, advocates and watchdogs much stronger. On the part of the government, there is a need for

knowledge and skill training as this trend will help solve new problems. In this regard, firm coordination of the gender components is quite important in the academic institutions. Conveying a message at the occasion through her representative, Women and Social Affairs Minister, Ergogie Tesfaye, said that there are reforms which have centered ensuring equal opportunity in all aspects, civil unions, political parties and the society at large. Besides, these bold moves have to be promoted to help women and girls have equal enjoyment of all human rights, including free from violence, sexual and reproductive rights, access to justice, socio-economic equality as well as participation in decision-making though a long journey awaits ahead.



# News

## UNHCR aims to capitalize truce to expedite support

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA-** The UNHCR expressed support to the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) that was signed between the Ethiopian government and TPLF, aiming to capitalize the truce to steadfast support to people in need.

Speaking to local media, UNHCR Representative in Ethiopia Mamadou Dian Balde stated that the commission welcomes the truce and is looking for its speedy implementation for the benefit of the people. "Let's support the peace accord and we hope that the implementation of the accord would be to the benefit of our brothers and sisters here."

"We live in Ethiopia including refugees and solidarity towards the country is necessary. Ethiopia is a nation that has been hosting a large number of refugees for centuries and its role in this regard is so critical."

The UNHCR is supportive of efforts and believes the way the peace agreement



Mamadou Dian Balde

is implemented will halt the public's suffering and bring a positive impact in the livelihoods of the war-affected community.

The representative further highlighted the need to support government authorities, NGOs, and the UN as they are moving into supporting the population, civilians, refugees as well as IDPs. The support not

only meant to the needy to resume normal life without fear, but also the authorities to start reconstruction."

"There are education, health, shelter, water and sanitation needs that seek the major attention of and support from the UNHCR. We are closely working with the government and have teams in Shire, Mekelle, Gondar, Dessie and Semera who are delivering support to the people in need."

In concert with the government, the UNHCR relocated close to 3,000 refugees in Mai Tsebriand supported thousands of people who were displaced by the conflict in South and North Wollo, Gondar and also Sekota areas of the Amhara State. In Tigray, the commission has been assisting people to return to their homes and extended financial and in-kind support.

Noting UNHCR's readiness to provide more finance for the reconstruction, Balde stressed the International Community's participation to ensure the sustainability of humanitarian response.

## Gov't commitment...

been showcased by the timely completion of projects, subsidy of priority sectors and prohibition of the imports of luxury items that drain the country's forex reserves area also mentioned by Eyob.

"The government has made 500 types of agricultural inputs tax-free and worked to improve the national capacity. The government has not only increased the agriculture and service sector, but it has also tried to prevent the society from being affected by the cost of living."

On her part, Planning and Development Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) said that Ethiopia's economy has gone through various challenges due to the war in the north, drought, COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of finance due to the pressure caused by some interest groups.

The 6.4 percent growth achieved by Ethiopia, which has gone through various influences, is the result of the macroeconomic work done in agriculture, service and various sectors. Apart from agriculture, the service sector was also important for economic growth. The income earned by Ethiopian Airlines has helped the economy to be effective even in the midst of a crisis, the minister elaborated.

Despite the aforementioned achievements, Fitsum indicated soaring inflation and forex crunch have remained the major challenges of Ethiopia economy, adding economic transformation needs sufficient foreign currency reserve and measures are being taken to boost the reserve.

Eyob mentioned in this regard that the prohibition of luxury goods imports enable the country to channel the foreign currency to strategic imports. On the other hand, import substitution, improving productivity and other measures that have been carried out by the government have brought commendable results in easing inflation and boosting the forex reserves.

The noted economist expressed optimism that the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) that was signed between the Ethiopian government and TPLF would open the door for more investment and strengthen the existing ones. Also, the truce would usher in a new era of development and prosperity by ensuring lasting peace in the nation which is the basic element for the economy.

The restoration and rehabilitation process of conflict-affected areas needs multi billion dollars investment and the agreement is an opportunity for building a strong and resilient economy, he emphasized.

## Experts underline peace deal multiple advantages

• Say health institutions need rehabilitation attention

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA -** Experts stated that the peace accord signed between the federal government and TPLF has come up with multifold advantages especially for health institutions and war affected community.

Having a stay with local media, Maternal and Child Health Director with the Ministry of Health Meserert Zelalem (MD) said that the agreement would open doors to repair and restore social services as well as rehabilitate the war affected society in a sustainable manner in the nation thereby getting mothers, newborns, children benefited well.

She said: "What is expected of citizens hereafter is well capitalizing on restoring the damaged health facilities and commencing service provision to the society in various states. Government is expected to motivate the donor and government offices to participate in rebuilding of the affected sector."

As to her, without the presence of healthy society, it is hard to bring about meaningful



Meserert Zelalem (MD)

change regarding education, election and social and economic strides as no country sustains devoid of a healthy generation.

Afar State Health Bureau Head, Yasin Habib on his part stated that as the community in all states have been seriously affected by the war and violence, all citizens have to attach due emphasis to peace and tranquility as



Yasin Habib

well as health institutions to provide citizens with proper treatment.

"Because of the TPLF provoked war, our country has been given hard time especially children and women are facing difficulties. We have provided the community in affected areas with treatment equitably and fairly," he said.

## Mexico vows...

of African solutions to African problems and expressed optimism that the CoHA will bring lasting peace and stability in Ethiopia, he added.

The long-standing friendship between these two nations goes back to 1936 and Mexico strongly condemned the invasion of Ethiopia and supported its independence and status as a member of the League of Nations.

In appreciation of Mexico's support, Emperor Haile Selassie paid a state visit on 20-24 June 1954, becoming among the first African leaders to visit that country. The Emperor was warmly welcomed by the then Mexican President Adolfo Ruiz-Cortines (1952-1958). During his stay, the Emperor inaugurated Ethiopia Square in

Mexico City, received decorations from the Mexican Government, and visited Ethiopian students residing in the country.

Ambassador Trevino further expressed his country's desire to boost its relations with Ethiopia in social, economic and political spheres.

Latin America and Caribbean Countries Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bekuma Merdasa said for his part that the Ethiopia-Mexico relation is intertwined in fighting the ruthless colonialists. Indeed, Mexico was among the few world countries that openly opposed the Fascist Italy's invasion of Ethiopia.

While Ethiopia was the first African country to establish diplomatic relations

with Mexico on November 1 November 1949, it also named the square in the capital Addis Ababa after Mexico as the sign of friendship.

Ethiopia and Mexico recently signed a memorandum of understanding to steadfast cooperation in areas of mutual benefit and consensus was reached to enhance the partnership in various concerns including global peace, the director remarked.

Opening ceremony of the exhibition is attended by ambassadors, consulates and representatives of more than 100 countries as well as Dashen Bank officials. Various photographs showing the historic relations between the two countries are unveiled for visitors till December 23, 2022.

## Food aid...

WFP added.

The Afar state government and people are working cooperatively and facilitating the donor organizations' food aid items to reach Tigray.

Moreover, relief food nutrition, medical cargo followed immediately via all routes possible, the WFP stated two days ago.

WFP on Thursday also said that test flight rotated safely into Shire and more flights are planned to transport humanitarian workers critical nutrition as well as medical supplies.

It is to be recalled that on Tuesday International Committee Red Cross (ICRC) disclosed that the first convey of aid supplies arrived in Mekelle..



# Opinion

## Neither Achilles nor Hector wins by “Blood and Iron”

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

The history of Ethiopia laid its foundation on fraternity co-existence and mysterious magnetism and strong bond that mesmerized the world and the country continued to be symbol of black independence for various reasons.

The battle of Adwa is a gear shift incident for Africans who had been on the sea of darkness starting from Trans-Atlantic slave trade to colonization and neo-colonialism. Humiliating the first white defeat in the black continent for the first time, white racists began to navigate the globe sowing hatters and vengeance among fraternity to sustain indirect rule of black man ruling in black skin.

The history of Ethiopia has so far been treated as the biography of great men. Numerous articles and books have been written concerning the achievements. But one has to keep in mind that Adwa involved the effort of many an Ethiopian martyrs whose name is no longer known. Adwa and all other Ethiopian victories were won by thousands of nameless freedom fighters.

So beyond its name, the battle of Adwa signifies and dignifies Ethiopianism and African solidarity. Thanks to chronology, the coming of Abiy Ahmed at this critical epoch would be bright hope for the Horn region, Africa, and the rest marginalized nations.

In modern history and civilized culture, humanity could never be emancipated from despotism and tyranny unless men begin to understand the effort of effortlessness as a great effort.

War can be interpreted as someone's cognition; however the war in Ethiopia has a meaning beyond. First of all, conflicts raised in the north most is believed to sustain that because of the head of snake is in another north most tracing under the snow and sleepless to batter with Africa.

The implementation of the peace agreement that was signed between the government and TPLF requires the active participation of Ethiopians at home and abroad and some Ethiopian Diasporas, especially the Tigrayans should shun warmongering, a call was made.

Speaking to local media, an Ethiopian Diaspora Dagnawfire Samuel reminded those groups that have engaged in undermining the peace accord that the

two-year conflict has caused loss of lives and immense suffering of the people on both sides of the conflict. “Accordingly, the Diaspora community living in different parts of the globe should support the realization of the peace for the benefit of the people and economy of Ethiopia.”

There are still many activities remaining to implement the accord. Article six of the peace agreement stipulated the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of combatants and such kinds of activities takes time and resources and demand the participation of all actors including Diaspora Ethiopians.

The agreement is a foundation for peace and will be the basic element for future better economic, political and social trajectory of the country. However, some anti-peace elements at home and abroad have tried to ruin the peace agreement and dismantle the country and the situation demands proportional response from peace-loving Ethiopians.

Tigray Diaspora Negasi Beyene said the people of Tigray have suffered a lot due to the conflict and the peace agreement is a milestone to ensure lasting peace in the state and in the country at large. “War will not be a source of solution to problems. Due to the conflict that was erupted by the interest and pressures of both internal and external actors, the people of Tigray have been extremely ravaged.”

Commending the historic moves of the signatory parties, Negasi insisted the two sides to be committed for the implementation of the Pretoria agreement and Nairobi declaration. “The Diaspora community is also expected to give overwhelming support to the execution of the accord which is expected to be a basic millstone for ensuring peace and stability in Ethiopia.”

“In order to realize the prosperity of Ethiopia, it is necessary to establish a lasting peace.”

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (P.hD.) said that to make Ethiopia's prosperity a reality, it is necessary to establish a lasting peace.

The Prime Minister stated this when he gave an explanation and response to the questions raised by MPs regarding the opening speech of Her Excellency President Sahlework Zewde on Oct 10, 2022.

When Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

responded to a question raised by the House regarding the peace negotiations; He said that it is not always possible to live in war and to continue the prosperity of Ethiopia, it is crucial to end the war and come to peace talks.

The prime minister stated that forces that seek benefit from war do not always want peace. He explained that it is vital to work together so that the issues promised in the negotiations are implemented.

The prime minister said that the work of humanitarian assistance to the citizens of the war-affected areas, building infrastructure and repatriating the displaced from their homes to their villages is being done with great attention.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed stated that the inclusive national dialogue is a great hope to solve almost all of Ethiopia's complex challenges. He said that it is essential for the commission to work together in order to be effective in carrying out its duties and responsibilities.

Immediate assistance and rehabilitating the citizens affected by the war is the center of attention.

The Prime Minister said that his government will focus on supporting and rehabilitating citizens affected by the war.

The Prime Minister stated that the works of immediate assistance to the citizens affected by the war, including food aid, and rebuilding the damaged infrastructures are being carried out, and the resettlement of the citizens displaced due to the conflict will be carried out in the future.

As smooth diplomatic relations put the country at the advantageous position, he explained that strong diplomatic work was done on the principle that the challenges of Africans should be solved by Africans. He explained that especially in the last 3 months, good relations have been established with the neighboring countries of Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan, and the same work has been done with the US and European countries and this will continue to be strengthened.

He expressed his gratitude for the support and role of these bodies for the peace agreement signed in the country. Of course, they deserve it.

In his response and explanation regarding the negotiations between The Federal Government and TPLF militant group, he said, "Ethiopia will benefit from peace;

Peace is rewarding. He said, "The only ones who are disturbed by peace are the brokers of war."

The Prime Minister pointed out that war is not fair even if it is victorious. However, when something happens that challenges Ethiopia's existence, supremacy and unity, it is a must to fight.

War is really devastating for economy and human beings. In this regard, The Prime Minister said, "If we are going through a continuous cycle of war, we will fail as a country." He said that it is for the sake of our peace and prosperity that we make ending war our priority.

The agreement reached in Pretoria states that "we have gone one step, we have discussed, we have agreed, we have signed; the next thing we need to do is to fulfill our promise and make our peace permanent," he said. He thanked all the countries that contributed to the success of the negotiation process.

On the other hand, one of the members of the House asked, "What is the government doing to uphold the rule of law, peace and harmony?" In his response, the Prime Minister mentioned that the government has a duty to maintain peace. He said that the action against the groups operating outside the law and order will continue.

The Prime Minister mentioned that there is no freedom and honor through terror, and it is not possible to live while killing citizens and the government is always open to peace. However, he said that legal action is being taken against those who act outside the law and attack civilians and destroy public resources, and this will continue to be strengthened.

In this regard, the terrorist Shene that claims to be "standing for the benefit of the Oromo people" has shown that it is an enemy of the people by killing civilians in the Oromia region, looting their resources and destroying the institutions that serve the people. He said that talking to a terrorist force is not bad if it brings lasting peace. The philosophy of existentialism advocates that everything is part of existence, so being compassionate for the needy might be the question that matters at this concurrent.

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

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# Editorial

## Peace, prosperity: Two faces of the same coin

Amid challenges, Ethiopia's economy has registered a remarkable progress over the last Ethiopian fiscal year. The different turbulences were not able to stop the economy from progressing—it rather stood resilient.

The country's economy has grown to 126.7 billion USD. The country's per capita income has reached 1,212 USD. The agriculture sub economy alone showed significant growth. This achievement indicates that Ethiopia's economy will grow with a rate of 7.5 percent by the end of the fiscal year in effect.

Withstanding a number of sluggish challenges like the war in the country's northern part, impact of COVID-19, and the Russia-Ukraine war, unjust pressure from some western powers among others, Ethiopia's economy emerged being a hardship resilient that cannot be broken easily. It is the manifestation of determined leadership that aspire prosperity via utilizing the country's untapped resources.

Every success is related directly or indirectly with whether or not we ensure lasting peace in the country. In this regard, Ethiopia gained enough lessons from the war underway in and around Tigray for the past two years. Coupled with other challenges, the war-affected economy decelerates to 5.6 percent growth in 2021 from 6.1 percent in 2020 according to Ethiopia Economic Outlook – African Development Bank (ADB).

As the prediction of ADB, GDP growth is projected to fall to a 4.8-percent in 2022 but pickup to 5.7percent in 2023, driven by industry and by private consumption and investment.

In line with hard work among the population of the country, the aspired prosperity will be realized only with the prevalence of lasting peace. Capitalizing on the necessity of peace, When Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed responded to a question raised by the House regarding the peace negotiations; He said that it is not always possible to live in war and to continue the prosperity of Ethiopia, it is crucial to end the war and come

to peace talks.

True, attaining peace is not as simple as it might appears to be. It needs hard work and keen determination. It should originate from the bottom of the heart of all concerned bodies. Ethiopia's government in this regard has proved its commitment adhering to the principles of the agreements reached in Pretoria with TPLF. The prime minister stated that forces that seek to benefit from war do not always want peace. He explained that it is vital to work together so that the issues promised in the negotiations are implemented properly.

The agreement reached in Pretoria states that “we have gone one step, we have discussed, we have agreed, we have signed; the next thing we need to do is to fulfill our promise and make our peace permanent,” he said. He thanked all the countries that contributed to the success of the negotiation process.

As to the Premier, Ethiopia has built East Africa's giant and leading economy. According to the World Bank report, Ethiopia has the third giant economy in Sub Saharan Africa. With the realization of lasting peace in the country, the economic progress is expected to go swiftly to its destination, prosperity.

In fact, the economic progress is not challenged by external pressures alone; but as the prime minister expressed it “cancer”, fighting theft should be the primary task of the government. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed stated that in Ethiopia theft is considered as a good culture and there is a lot of embezzlement of the country and public resources. He pointed out that a committee has recently been set up to solve this problem and action will be taken to crack down on corrupt people.

Doing so along with engaging the bulk of youth human resource into job, the nation's economy will benefit every citizen of it fairly as per the contribution of every individual. Thus, we all need to work tirelessly for the lasting peace and the other side also must go accordingly to attain mutual benefit from the prosperous Ethiopia.

# Opinion

## Corruption is a menace to the statehood of the country and wellbeing of

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

A couple of days back, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has commissioned a National Anti-corruption Committee composed of seven government officials. Although their duties and responsibilities are yet to be disclosed in detail the Committee is expected to oversee the implementation of a nationwide anti-corruption measures.

Over the last three decades Ethiopia has attempted to conduct a protracted crackdown on the multi-sector corruption practices in the country by enforcing the rule of law through the courts of law. In Ethiopia, corruption has been manifested in the form of financial embezzlement, facilitation of corruptive practices by government higher officials and public servants entrusted by the government to carry out duties and responsibilities in specific professional areas.

However, in his recent response to the questions raised by the MPs, Prime Minister Abiy said “we have drawn a red line for corrupters but they turned the red line into a red carpet,” ironically suggesting that corruption has become a constant threat to the nation

Corruption in Ethiopia like elsewhere in the wider sense is also associated with favoritism, nepotism and parochialism in service delivery by government officials. Indeed, corruption proofing Ethiopia is not an easy task.

Manipulation of systems of operation including online theft and deviation from policy, strategies and guidelines opens loopholes for illegal acquisition of easy money which is in most cases difficult to account. In Ethiopia corruption is also visible in the management and operation of contracts, contracting out activities that can be handled in the capacity of institutions. This certainly demonstrates that corruption is increasing its horizon of operation.

Manipulations on private and government financial accounts are also another manifestation of corruption. One form of corruption is related to procurement, tender processing and mishandling of bid documents in total deviation from government rules and regulations.

For instance, according to a report by Global Financial Integrity, Ethiopia lost close to \$12 billion since 2000 to illicit financial outflows. This is a national disaster that needs to be addressed unless the nation risks a total financial crisis which can through time become irreversible.

The sector implications of corruption ranges from heinous crimes to attempt to manipulate policies and regulations especially when they are implemented at lower levels. For instance, the private sector engaged in education is an arena of corruption in terms of standardization of educational regulations, payment of educational fees, certification and preparation of fake educational credentials.

It is difficult to accurately estimate the financial dimensions of corruption but some reports indicate that globally about 1 trillion USD is expended in the form of bribery.

The scale of corruption in Ethiopia has continued to grow in par with the level of economic growth. Corruption in this country has already grown from few thousands of birr to millions and there is no guarantee that it could scale up to the billions unless the rule of law is proactively made to prevail.

Since 2001, the institutional arrangement on tackling corruption has been coordinated by the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission. The Commission had to tackle with a constellation of corruption activities in the country from day one of its formation. A strategy document relating to institutional integration for corruption prevention was prepared to be implemented in each

governmental institution while the Commission was entrusted with monitoring and evaluating their activities in curbing corruption in their respective institutions. Trainings were also provided on ethical leadership and corruption prevention for leaders of government institutions. The output however did not tally with the scale of the problem in the country.

Corruption is certainly preventable but the approach involves a series of integrated activities that are to be implemented in the context of the rule of law. The main point however is how to go by in accelerating the prevention process.

One of the preliminary approaches in the battle against corruption is setting up a strict financial and operational audit that is reviewed periodically. Under utilization or over utilization of financial resources allotted for government institutions opens a loophole through which blue and white collar bureaucrats can snatch public fund from state coffers.

Corruption cannot be fully eliminated through public awareness. Creating a corruption proofed society entails providing swift service to the public. People who seek service could easily be tempted to give all types of bribes to service providers who care less about national economic development but mind their own vested interests.

If not halted on time corruption can become a normal way of doing business and an accepted practice involving rent seekers, businesspersons and brokers who horde money for “hard times.”

Corruption also takes ethnic dimensions. Recent criminal reports have demonstrated that even those who are currently involved in law enforcement are involved in meddling in the political and terroristic activities in the western part of the country.

Corruption proofing Ethiopia is not a simple task. It involves taking various measures in which the

public is at the vanguard. Nothing is completely invisible from the broad masses of Ethiopia but they have still remained the victims of the whole game.

Tax evasion has become a smart area of corruption for those who try to deceive themselves and the government but somewhere on the line they will be caught only to end up in jail disrupting the family fabric in the most devastating manner.

Although too late the recent initiative taken by the Premier is a good step for takeoff. As he has noted, the support to be provided to the National Anti-corruption Committee by all stakeholders and the entire population is critical.

Ethiopia is being robbed off not only of its financial resources. A considerable number of artifacts and cultural heritages are being endangered by corruption of the highest proportions and are being transported to unknown destinations either through contraband or under the guise of official permits.

Ethiopia is being devastated severely by the silent fifth columnists of corruption. Unless strong measure is taken to check corruption, corruption will take the throne of tacit legality and the consequences are far more severe than what we imagine.

At any rate the pace of the development of this country certainly depends upon the rate with which the nation can weed out corruption to provide the necessary and deserved service for citizens. The author thinks that a huge task awaits the government and the people of Ethiopia. Accountability and the rule of law must prevail if Ethiopia is to reap the fruits of its reform programs. We are very late but better late than never.

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



# Art & Culture

## Transforming Ethiopia's Political Culture from Intransigence to Compromise

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

In game theory, zero sum game is defined as, a situation often cited in which one person's gain is equivalent to another person's loss, so the net change in wealth or benefit is zero. The concept of zero sum game which is derived from Game Theory seems to fit very well into the psychology and practice of Ethiopian politicians. Leaving aside the long political tradition of the country, we can look at the last fifty years of political developments in order to realize how the concept has been embraced and consciously or unconsciously practiced by leading politicians and intellectuals in this country.

In the 1970s and 1980s Ethiopian intellectual elites had fallen in love with Leftist ideology and more specifically with Marxist-Leninist thinking and tried to change their society with it. However, they did so without taking into consideration the historical, social, economic and political realities of Ethiopia. In the process they committed many serious mistakes happened, one of which was to spread extremist and uncompromising views in the community, leading to extreme polarization that quickly degenerated from violent dialogue into armed violence. That was a very tragic phase of modern Ethiopian politics.

What is still tragic is the fact that the Leftist extremism of those decades is still holding sway in Ethiopia's political narrative making it difficult to bridge the gap in outlooks between the various strands of the intellectual elite. To make matter worse, Leftist ideology was later on combined with nationalism leading to a new form of extremism that emphasized ethnicity over class and creating a very volatile and violent political atmosphere within which the various elite groups struggled to implement their specific agendas at the cost of national unity and cohesion.

The ensuing conflict assumed ethnic characteristics and became not only more widespread but also more violent despite the fact that the 1918 political reforms tried to overcome the old paradigms and create a new political reality in which national unity, Ethiopia's sovereignty and dignity were considered more important than any ethnic pretensions. One of the chief characteristics of this phase was the continuation of conflicts and violence in new forms and with increased intensity, threatening the reforms that were initiated following the popular protest actions of the previous years.

Without going into the complexities of Ethiopian politics, we can safely assume that the absence of compromise, dialogue or face to face consultation, open debate has shaped not only modern politics in this country but has also shaped the attitudes of generations of intellectuals who chose to imprison themselves in a kind of mental fortress from which they traded political platitudes that led to the tragedies of the 1970s and the following decades down to these days.

As we write these lines, Ethiopian politicians, in a move that can be considered a miracle, have agreed to let the past bury its dead and



welcome a new dawn of peace, tolerance, accommodation by coming out of the mental prison "zero sum game" had confined them in the past. This process, if successful is bound to change Ethiopia's political culture from one of violent confrontations to that of peaceful compromise.

The trouble is that political culture does not change overnight or within a very short period of time. As the old culture of intransigence and violence was built over many decades if not centuries, the new culture of compromise, dialogue and unity of purpose will take many decades to take root in the minds of the political elites as well as in society and become the operational paradigms of the new political reality. Meanwhile, there will certainly be many challenges, advances and retreats in the process. The point is to be perseverant, honest and committed to changing the political culture of the country from negativism into positivism.

The recent agreement between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF can be regarded as a testing moment in order for politicians to prove their honesty to the spirit and essence of the agreement. On the part of the TPLF, a major change or overhaul of its ideology is a must. Leftist ideology now seems dead not only in Ethiopia but also in the world.

Russia, as we know it historically was the bastion of Marxist-Leninist revolution until the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Since then Russia has undergone major shifts in ideology and political strategy leading to the emergence of new national entities independent from Moscow. This has nevertheless led to new conflicts and new demands instead of creating an environment conducive to peaceful coexistence.

The old ideology is still responsible for the new conflicts. Stalin's infamous "national question" has caused many political damages and caused many unnecessary sufferings on millions of innocent people both in Europe and in Ethiopia. While it is good for nations to assume independent and peaceful existence in

accordance with the wishes of the peoples, it is however unacceptable for the new national entities to go into war with their old nemesis. The world was not prepared to deal with the post-communist world and no solutions were at hand to resolve national conflicts.

Thus the alternative was for internal and external political actors to try to deal with the changing realities by putting their national interests at the centre of the conflicts without finding common grounds. This is what is happening in Europe and in Ethiopia where external intervention has added fuel to the fire without seeking balanced, all-inclusive and pragmatic solutions to the conflicts. What NATO is doing in the context of the Russian-Ukraine conflict and what the West has been doing in the context of the Ethiopian government versus the TPLF, share more similarities than differences.

External interventions tend to aggravate the differences rather than closing the gaps. Almost all peace initiatives engineered by external actors in Africa have failed because of this. The recent peace agreement between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF was made possible simply because external actors were sidelined and Africans have assumed total control of the peace process. Anti-African forces may not be happy with this development and may even withhold some of their traditional weapons of coercion such as external aid, to coax the Africans into accepting their presence in African affairs with a view to protecting their strategic interests. The truth is however that Africans value their peace and unity more than external aid which is more a weapon of coercion than economic freedom for Africa. The South African and Nairobi peace process has proved Africans' wisdom and superior and honest bargaining dispositions.

This peace process, if ultimately successful will definitely give a huge impetus and a paradigm shift in solving African conflicts from the traditional Western modus operandi to that of African self-reliance in searching

for solution to African conflicts. The South African and Nairobi peace processes have demonstrated that Africans can mediate, talk to one another or achieve peace without outside meddling. This is in itself a radical change in conflict resolution approaches that were so far tried and largely failed because they were engineered, implemented and inspired by external forces.

Now that the ice is broken and a period of political thaw is just setting in, the political elites both from the Ethiopian government and the TPLF sides look determined to shed their old ideological skins in favor of pragmatism, realism and common interests or putting the national interest above their personal or group interests. This in itself is highly encouraging and a giant step towards an era of peace, mutual understanding and lasting peace.

As wars are first made in the hearts and minds of the political actors, it is in the minds of these same people that the roots of a new thinking should be planted. If the elite change, society will change because the root causes of the conflicts are the so-called intellectual elite and not the common people who tend to follow their leaders because they are not yet empowered enough to follow their own instincts and common sense.

Whether one likes it or not, political and business elites hold the keys to peace, dialogue and reconciliation in Africa. African political elites are still in the driving seat as far as conducting African political or diplomatic business. The moment these elites change their minds from a narrow, selfish, and violent perspective to one of broader, selfless and peaceful one, everything would fall in place and a genuine peace process can sprout on African soil. Maybe this is the first time an African problem is being dealt with by Africans themselves. This is a radical break from the past and an attitude that needs to be maintained in the future too. Why should Africans look to New York, Washington, Paris or Brussels when they have the capacity to address their problems with the immortal spirit of Africa.



# Law & Politics

## A peace deal that fulfills long-sought public demand

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

On the heels of the unflinching stance of the government to end hostilities at the earliest possible juncture in the face of recurring challenges, the wider international community has been expressing their gratitude to the Pretoria peace deal.

In fact, the Ethiopian government has been going to the ends of the earth to bury the hatchet coming up with a wide spectrum of strategies that have been substantiated by action-oriented measures including the release of prisoners and strings of humanitarian truces.

The country has been challenged at all hours of the day and night through the discredited international media outlets engaged themselves in blackening the positive moves of the government by spreading cock-and-bull stories that do not reflect the existing circumstances on the ground for the most part on the topic of the peace process.

As Ethiopia's opponents residing at home and abroad have been working in close collaboration aimed at obstructing the peace deal that ended up making all and sundry feel a sigh of relief.

To everyone's dismay, notwithstanding the fact that the federal government has been repeatedly making a supreme effort to beat swords into plowshare under the auspicious of the African Union, some entities have been deliberately taking part in dirtying the honest intension of the government.

Though the doomsayers left no stone unturned to blacken the constructive measure of the government, their evil intentions went for nothing for the reason that the peace accord has been signed in South Africa, Pretoria as per the AU-led negotiation. The peace accord in fact has demonstrated in black and white the fact that African institutions can resolve their personal issues bringing into play the catchall phrase "African solutions to African problems" despite all the difficulties.

In a similar vein, the peace deal has shown the incumbent's righteousness given that the peace accord fulfill long-term wish of the entire nation. It becomes evident that the peace accord shows the capacity of the African Union to get to the bottom of its problems utilizing its own principles.

In the aftermath of the peace accord, Ethiopia has shown the world the fact that the country has been pointing forward in the direction of the reforms and Ethiopia's firm stance to make peace happen under the stewardship of the African Union. Above and beyond, the peace accord proves in clear terms the government's unreserved stand to end hostilities and ensure peace and tranquility in every nook and cranny of the country.



As things stand at present, some foreign entities that have been dismayed by the peace accord have been sparing no effort to blacken the good moves of the country working in close collaboration with Ethiopia's internal and external adversaries. Though some entities move heaven and earth to twist Ethiopia's arm playing part in a smear campaign against the government, they failed to achieve the sought after goal on the grounds of the government's resolve.

It should be borne in mind that for the sake of patching things up, the incumbent has proclaimed a humanitarian truce in addition to establishing a peace committee. Though some entities know the reality on the ground, they have been making a supreme effort to disrupt the peace accord.

The recent peace deal reached between the Government of Ethiopia and TPLF demonstrates that Ethiopians can sit down and resolve their problems peacefully, Members of House of Peoples Representatives said.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> regular session of the House of People's Representatives (HPR) yesterday, members of the House have also expressed their appreciation to the bold step taken by the government to seek a peaceful way out of the crisis in northern Ethiopia.

Chairperson of Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs Standing Committee, Dima Negewo told ENA that he thinks this internal development in Ethiopia is an important milestone.

"... Ethiopians can sit together and resolve their issues. This peace agreement has demonstrated that despite the range of difficulties, despite the wide gap between the two, Ethiopians can sit down and resolve their problems through peaceful means. I think this is a very important development

for the future of our country," he stressed.

The chairperson also noted that it is probably one of the first governments in modern Ethiopian history to have made peace, peace agreement with its opponents, especially armed opponents.

"When we look at the historical perspective, I think the current government took a very bold step. The previous governments have always pursued a military solution to political conflicts in Ethiopia."

The current government must be commended for the bold step taken to seek a peaceful way out of the crisis in northern Ethiopia, Dima added.

According to him, the peace deal opens wide opportunities for resolving the various problems in Ethiopia.

"And at the same time, it opens the country for peace, stability, and economic progress and peaceful relations with all its neighbors and in the long run, to be able to peacefully integrate the countries of the Horn of Africa," he elaborated.

The chairperson further underscored that there is nothing that Africans cannot solve amongst themselves.

This was done in Africa and by African mediators, by African elder statesmen and the principle that African problems must be resolved by Africans, Dima observed.

Despite a lot of pressures from various elements of the international community, especially the western countries, he noted that this peace agreement was made under the auspices of the African Union.

Approached by Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ethiopian Civil Service University School of Diplomacy and International Relations Head Endale Niguse said that, the

cessation of hostilities agreement between the government and TPLF would force some foreign elements to reassess their diplomatic relationship with Ethiopia.

Some forces would be enticed to review their diplomatic relations with Ethiopia as the latter has effectively repulsed all the diplomatic pressures from various directions.

CoHA has also a paramount importance in bolstering the country's diplomatic activities, he added.

As to him, the agreement plays significant roles in eliminating the possibilities of foreign elements' interferences or diplomatic pressures.

"As the conflict that gave them chances to interfere in Ethiopia's internal affairs has ended peacefully, the UN Security Council and European Union will no longer convene for irrelevant meetings on Ethiopia."

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

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

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

# The introduction of capital markets will directly increase foreign direct investment

*Abbie Cornish*

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

*Ethiopia is implementing series of reform measures to grow its economy through free market. So far the government has taken good steps forward to enhance the private sectors role in the economy. Accordingly investment in the manufacturing industry, hotel and tourism among others is progressing smoothly. Along with this efforts are underway to prop up the growth of the fledgling finance sector. In addition to bringing more local private banks in the industry the government is also ready to allow foreign banks in the country. Furthermore as the need for more fiancé is growing preparations are under way to launch capital market in the country. As capital market is a novel sector in the country, it is important to build capacity of human resource in advance. As a responsible government agency, national bank of Ethiopia (NBE) has been partnering with AAU and CISI to train experts in private banks.*

*Abbie Cornish is a chief international executive of CISI. The Ethiopia Herald had a brief stay with her to highlight on capital market and the need to build human resource ahead of launching capital market in Ethiopia. Have a nice read!*

**To start with, could you introduce us yourself first?**

My name is Abbie Cornish. I am International Executive at the CISI, which is more formally known as the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment. CISI is a not for profit organization. It was formed out of the London Stock Exchange in 1992, and has since dedicated its work to professionalism and developing the financial services sector across the globe.

So we have a very large international footprint, we don't just work in Africa, we have international offices, in the Middle East, in Spain, in India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Nairobi. There's about eight of them, we have in Ireland and China, and other international representation. So we work in a lot of different markets. The work we do is pretty much the same, but it can depend on , what stage the market is at, whether it's in the emerging stage of the developing stage, or if it is already quite developed. So we are a qualifications body, we create all of our qualifications in house designed by practitioners for practitioners ultimately.

And it's not just the capital markets sector that we serve, we also have qualifications



in wealth and investment management, risk and compliance, sort of back office, middle office, the operations side of the finance sector, financial planning, which is quite UK focused at the moment. And more recently, we've been developing our green and sustainable finance pathways as well, with the margins of 26. And, it's not the high on everyone's agenda at the moment, and the financial services industry really needs to move along with that. So we developed a new pathway to cater to the responsible investing, green washing ESG, related themes. That's the qualification side, we believe that qualifications is gaining the initial competence for somebody to do that job.

But we are also a membership body

and a professional body of choice, for the financial services sector. So, for our membership offering, we provide a whole host of resources, basically, that helps professional practitioners, continuously develop their skills, and demonstrate a dedication to professional development throughout their entire career. So, gaining the certificate is just the first step. But, you must continue, the financial services sector is always evolving, so it's keeping up to date with the latest trends and advancements, maintaining regulatory compliance, and just showing a dedication to improving your skills constantly. So CISI has a host of, over 200, professional refresher modules, short e-learning courses; we have an international webinar programs for events, I'm very happy to be working in Ethiopia.

**How long has CISI been working in Ethiopia?**

So see, I started working with the National Bank of Ethiopia in 2020. It was around the time that the proclamation was starting to be developed for the capital markets. So we sort of formed a partnership approach FSDA for funding, originally was to build capacity within the National Bank and the Capital Markets team there. And then that later developed, realizing, that we had to build capacity within the wider capital markets, ecosystem or future ecosystem. So we done a fully funded scholarship program sponsored by FSD Africa.

**What about capital markets? How do you see capital market as Ethiopia is bracing to establish capital markets? How do you see the future?**

I think it's an exciting time for the country, finally sort of opening the doors to foreign banks, and the introduction of capital markets will directly increase foreign direct investment, thus bringing, more money into the country and fast tracking its development. I think that, we're in a very early stage, still, the work that we've been doing is foundational training, and it's really building that initial capacity. My priority now is to ensure the sustainability of the work we've done so far. This has been a scholarship program, so it's been funded. Now what we really need to do is start building awareness, and sensitizing the market players. So the banks, the institutions, the organizations, that will be, they really need to get on board to push this agenda forward. And I think that and the conversations I've been having an out here is about increasing awareness, basically, what the banks' role will be in the capital market, and ensuring that they're knowledgeable about what's





# Herald Guest



to come.

***What is your plan to further engage in building human resource capacity here in Ethiopia?***

So that's yeah, the purpose of the trip really was obviously to host this award ceremony, inaugural event in Ethiopia, our first ever one CISI event, to celebrate the success, of the professionals who've gone through the certification training. But, next steps, we'll continue to work with the National Bank and capital markets implementation team to further introduce certification training in Ethiopia. And, look constantly to see how and what more we can be doing to help develop the financial services sector and the capital markets.

***What is the purpose of giving the exam on investment and securities?***

So what we've done, as sort of the primary exam is introducing Securities and Investment. So that's, the perfect starting exam for especially such a young sector, where there's no capital market, knowledge on the capital markets is very slim. So having that initial introduction exam is crucial in other markets, and for experience, and what we probably would look to replicate here, obviously, that it's down to the regulator, the CISI, just to be clear, it's not, it doesn't have any influence over the capital markets implementation team or the regulations, we listen to them what they want, what they need, and will support and help them in delivering that through our qualifications. But in other markets, what we've done in Kenya, and probably the East Eastern African countries is formulate a licensing pathway, which would be the international introduction exam, a regulatory exam. And then the final paper would be subject to the job role or job function. So if somebody's going to operate on the capital markets, they would take the level of free securities certificate exam, if people are going to then move on into sort of the investment management and more holistic side of investment where you're client facing and you're managing other people's money, you would probably look to take the international certificate in wealth and investment management, if you're going to be a compliance professional, you will take a compliance exam. So that final paper really is dependent on what your specific role will be. And that one will be, just determined by your job function ultimately.

***The government is also bracing to allow foreign banks in Ethiopia. So do you think that will play a good role?***

Yeah. Because the foreign banks, will come and the local banks here need to ensure that they have the capacity and the competency internally. So I think it's a vital importance that they start sponsoring staff to go through this certification training in advance of the launch of the capital market. Now, I think the time really is now to start thinking about their overall strategy for when and how to market



launches, the investment divisions within the banks if they're going to be developed and start building capacity within their teams internally.

***Okay, what about the performance of the trainees?***

So, it was excellent, actually, for the primary exam, the International introduction, we had, overall pass rate of around 70% which, if I'm sure exceeded the CISIs general sort of global pass rate which is excellent. I'm better than what people do generally across the globe. I think the introduction to higher level exam the level of free securities, the pass rate was not as was not as successful. And that's not to say, not today is not a bit. It's a new concept that we're introducing here. So, the practitioners don't have workplace experience, they haven't done this in their day to day jobs. It's an entirely new, and this was a huge

step up. So that's why CISI aims when we work with regulators for experience, we'd like to introduce licensing exams or certifications in a sustainable way to the market, not slowly, but because this one requires a lot more conceptual analysis, you really have to understand the concepts and then apply that to the question that you're being asked. And I think that's where a lot of people may have tripped out. But that's the importance of having training partners. So CISI exams, you could do them via self-study, you don't have to go through an accredited training provider like we know we provide workbook, we provide revision, express that can online portal study support, and access to student membership for one year. And that's a free. So going back to what I said about CISI being a membership body, when somebody sits for their first exam, we give them student membership. I mean, they can utilize all of the resources that we have available to members for free for one year. And it's an introduction to, a life of professionalism ultimately. The hope would be that, once they finish their professional qualifications, they would then come on board and join us as a member. And I'd be really pleased to start growing a local community here in Ethiopia, with members.

***Could you tell me about your overall evaluation of the process and outcome of the training here?***

It was a complete honor to be part of this program and this project, it's such an incredible time, and seeing, being a part of the development of something so crucial as the establishment of a capital market. It's historic, and I feel very pleased that I've been able to work with a Sephora and the National Bank and various other stakeholders and things to help push the agenda forward and build capacity, knowledge really is a key part. So, and CISIs first time ever any VIPs and I'm really happy that it was me that got to thank you.

***You are welcome, and I would like to say thank you for your time!***

***In other markets, what we've done in Kenya, and probably the East Eastern African countries is formulate a licensing pathway, which would be the international introduction exam, a regulatory exam. And then the final paper would be subject to the job role or job function. So if somebody's going to operate on the capital markets, they would take the level of free securities certificate exam***



# High time to address humanitarian need in Tigray

BY TEWODROS KASSA

The Ethiopian government has been taking various measures to deliver unfettered humanitarian supports to the Tigray people during the war time. The recent peace agreement made between the government and the Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF) has enhanced the humanitarian support flow to the Tigray state.

Recently, the government announced that emergency food assistance is under distribution in conflict-affected woreda of Raya Bala and others. The communities of Raya Bala Woreda are one of the conflict-affected areas in northern Ethiopia, have been receiving food supplies as part of the humanitarian assistance being delivered to the areas.

Accordingly, over 5,000 victims in Raya Bala Woreda have received humanitarian assistance, according to local media report, following the humanitarian aid distribution; the communities have expressed their happiness for being beneficiaries of the first Ethiopian government aid delivery.

Raya Bala Woreda Agricultural Bureau Head, Tekla Tebeje said that about 6,800 quintals have reached the warehouse and were being distributed to displaced persons in the Woreda. However, he stated the place was one of the major areas of the conflict which resulted in tremendous human sufferings, damage to properties, and infrastructural destruction.

Among the recipients of the assistance, Lemlem Equarkiros, said: "I was displaced and stayed at the Jara Refugee Camp for about a year. You will be surprised to learn that we lost everything. We were beaten and compelled to leave our home on foot. We had no food or drink here. Thanks God; we have now returned to our hometown,"

Now, good things are happening, she stated, adding that her parents and family are receiving relief aid.

The 50-year old recipient, Hafete Wasihun who returned from Jara Refugee Camp also thanked the government for its efforts to assist the vulnerable population, following the two year-long war in the area.

"We have returned to our township in peace and are getting humanitarian supplies. Currently, things are getting back to normalcy and our freedom is respected. We thank the government for this because."

Moreover, it was indicated that so many trucks loaded with humanitarian aid are heading to areas affected by the war.

Wubishet Demise, the truck driver who transported the relief aid to the Woreda on his part said that there is an enabling environment to deliver humanitarian assistance effectively and on time.

"I came from Adama Town. I drove for



*A convoy of trucks from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) deliver lifesaving medical supplies (Reuters)*

two days to reach to the destination. I have brought 400 quintals of aid items. I have observed that there is now an enabling environment to transport humanitarian aid for the needy."

Following the signing of the peace agreement between the Ethiopian Government and TPLF, the government has opened both air and road transport to supply aid to Tigray, Amhara, and Afar states that have been affected by the war.

More importantly, the Government of Ethiopia is working committedly to expedite the delivery of humanitarian aid to conflict affected areas in the northern part of the country.

Government Communication Service State Minister, Selamawit Kassa told journalists that after the peace agreement between the government and TPLF, over 43,200 quintals of aid items have been distributed to people in Raya Bala, Alamata, and Korem.

"More than 43,200 quintals of wheat and over 7,300 quintals of nutritious food were distributed to people in the stated areas. Some 287,000 people have benefitted from this distribution of the relief items. The work of delivering humanitarian services to those most urgently needy people will be strengthened in coordination with non-governmental organizations and partners," she added.

Concurrent to the food and non-food items, the supply of basic medicines and essential drugs is given due priority by the government. The Ministry of Health announced that efforts to deliver medical supplies in Tigray State have been strengthened in partnership with

international organizations. Providing essential medical drugs is fundamental to lessen the health challenges of the society in the war-affected areas.

Accordingly, in the first round, the Ministry together with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission has delivered more than 6 million Birr worth life-saving drugs and medical supplies to Shire Branch discharging from the warehouses of the Ethiopian Pharmaceuticals Supply Service Agency.

In the second round, more than 1 million Birr worth medicines and medical inputs were sent to Shire Hospital and other nine health centres in the area with an intention to solve the community demand.

In addition, it was pointed out that the Ministry of Health together with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission is transporting medical drugs and supplies that worth more than 1.7 million Birr for the third time.

Not only that, but at the beginning of this week, two heavy vehicles loaded with 33.9 metric tons of basic medical supplies, emergency medicine and surgical instruments arrived in Mekele through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Information from the Ministry of Health indicated that other international organizations and the

Ethiopian Pharmaceuticals Supply Service Agency is also ready to send more assistance to the State. It has been pointed out health professionals and employees drawn from various departments have gone to the place to reorganize health

facilities and let them recommence health care services.

Meanwhile, youths from the Harari State expressed their willingness to provide the required support in the efforts exerted to rehabilitate and reconstruct areas affected by the war.

Recently, a youth consultation forum was held in Harar City with the theme "Active participation of youth for building national peace."

The participants of the forum told local media that they are ready to support the efforts to rebuild war-affected areas in the northern part of the country with their knowledge, energy and money.

The youth vowed to play their part to make the peace agreement signed between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF successful. A resident of Chelenko Town in East Hararge Zone, youth Netsanet Dejenu said that the peace agreement reached between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF shows the commitment of Ethiopians to peace.

"The agreement will create favourable environment to ensure sustainable peace and development, so we are ready to support the endeavours in every possible ways with our knowledge, money and energy. I am very happy with the peace agreement reached between the government and the TPLF," she said.

On his part, Haramaya Town resident youth Dawit Shewangzaw said that he is happy with the success of the peace agreement and he is ready to support the reconstruction work undertaken the war-affected areas.



# Verbatim and Caption



## “Yelemat Tirufat” campaign to accelerate Ethiopia’s food self-sufficiency

• Regional states launching Yelemat Tirufat

Ethiopia is fighting to achieve prosperity. Amid internal and external challenges Ethiopian economy is growing. Ethiopian economy has become East African top economy. It takes third place in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the concluded budget year, Ethiopia’s economy grew at 6.4 percent and it is projected to grow at 7.5 percent this budget year.

Ethiopia is on the right track to start export of wheat. It is working to fulfill its rice demand from local production. As Ethiopia’s goal is complete prosperity, its economic development aims at benefiting all citizens. To benefit every household from the economic growth, Ethiopia has launched ‘Yelemat Tirufat’ campaign so as to accelerate the efforts of achieving food self-sufficiency and nutrition at the family and national levels. ‘Yelemat Tirufat’ is a development campaign focusing on nutritional opulence and if citizens deploy an all-out effort for the achievement of this four year program, food security will never become an agenda in Ethiopia.

Yelemat Tirufat was launched with research and detailed plan to maximize the income of every household by giving due attention to poultry, honey, dairy, fishery, fruit and vegetable farming. This would help our people to maximize their income and to fulfill their own food security.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) at the parliament

The Government of Ethiopia launched Yelemat Tirufat to accelerate the efforts of Ethiopia in fulfilling food self-sufficiency at national and household levels. This campaign will help citizens to properly exploit the resources they have to improve the income and livelihoods of citizens.

Sidama Regional State is rich in natural resources and also suitable for honey production, poultry farming, dairy farming, avocado and coffee production. Investing on these sectors and supporting every household to maximize their gain from these sectors is Yelemat Tirufat campaign’s goal. The Regional administration is working to achieve comprehensive family prosperity and committed for the successfulness of Yelemat Tirufat program. We have to work jointly for the achievement of the initiative that would help our people to fulfill their food security.



Desta Ledamo- President of Sidama Regional State

Afar is rich in natural resources. By exploiting the resource we have, it is critical to fulfill our food security at every household and ‘Yelemat Tirufat’ campaign will help us to properly exploit our resources we have for the need of our people. The region has a huge potential in dairy farming, poultry farming, wheat production and fishery. Yelemat Tirufat’s target is investing in these sectors to help households to fulfill their food self-sufficiency.

By properly developing the poultry and fishery farming, there is a huge potential to produce beyond food security. There is untapped potential to produce for export purpose and the target of Yelemat Tirufat is to accelerate the efforts of food self-sufficiency at household and national level so as to achieve the country’s prosperity. We all should work hand-in-hand to realize the goal by facilitating the started development programs so as to help our people to increase their income.

Awel Arba- President of Afar Regional State



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## AHRI publishes TB treatment improvement

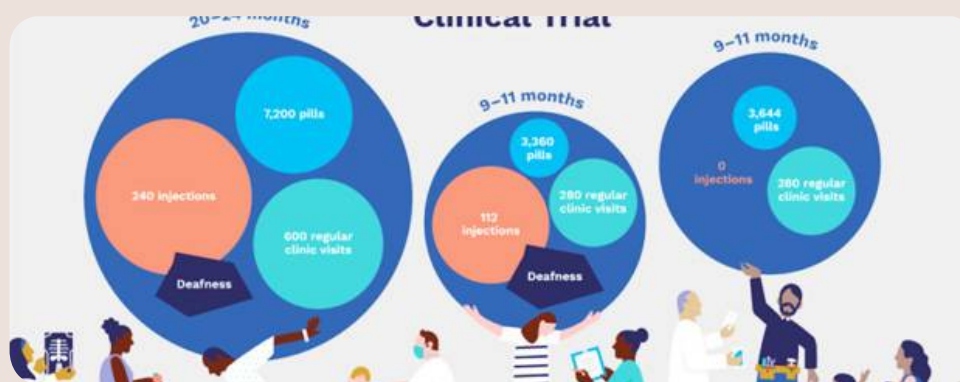
BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Multidrug-resistant (MDR) or rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis is challenging to treat and, historically, outcomes have been poor. Until the past few years, very little evidence from randomized controlled trials was available to guide management. Globally, only one in three people who developed MDR or rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis in 2020 were started on treatment.

Considering this, the Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI), founded in 1970 through the initiative of the Norwegian and Swedish Save the Children organizations seconded by the Ministry of Health of Ethiopia, decided to carry on a study in 2018.

AHRI’s clinical trial researchers, who are part of the wider STREAM Trial – a multi-country clinical trial that seeks to examine shortened regimens for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), successfully published the STREAM Stage 2 Trial findings on THE LANCET.

Over the years, significant strides have been made in the MDR-TB treatment landscape. In early 2012, when the STREAM trial began, the standard of care for MDR-TB lasted up to 24 months, and included



an injectable agent which had an average success rate of just over 50%.

Initially, Stage 1 aimed to generate evidence to support the use of an effective new regimen that would significantly reduce treatment time for MDR-TB. When bedaquiline received US FDA approval in December 2012, it also offered a possible alternative to regimens containing injectable agents, which were associated with significant side effects, including hearing loss and renal impairment. Thus, Stage 2 of the trial was initiated to generate evidence regarding the efficacy of shorter, bedaquiline-containing regimens.

The STREAM Stage 2 Trial which began in 2016, with thirteen trial sites in Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Moldova, Mongolia, South Africa, and Uganda; sought to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and cost of a 9-month all-

oral, bedaquiline-containing regimen vs. the 9-month injectable-containing regimen evaluated in Stage 1.

The STREAM Stage 2 Trial findings have now shown that both bedaquiline-containing regimens, a 9-month oral regimen and a 6-month regimen with 8 weeks of second-line injectable, had superior efficacy compared with a 9-month injectable-containing regimen, with fewer cases of hearing loss.

More in detail, between March 28, 2016, and Jan 28, 2020, 1436 participants were screened and 588 were randomly assigned. Of 517 participants in the MITT population, 133 or 71 percent of 187 on the control regimen and 162 or 83 percent of 196 on the oral regimen had a favorable outcome. A difference of 11 percent adjusted for HIV status and randomization protocol ( $p < 0.0001$

for non-inferiority).

By 76 weeks, 108 or 53 percent of 202 participants on the control regimen and 106 or 50 percent of 211 allocated to the oral regimen had an adverse event of grade 3 or 4; five or 2 percent participants on the control regimen and seven or 3 percent on the oral regimen had died.

Hearing loss (Brock grade 3 or 4) was more frequent in participants on the control regimen than in those on the oral regimen. Of 134 participants in the MITT population who were allocated to the 6-month regimen, 122 or 91 percent had a favorable outcome compared with 87 or 69 percent of 127 participants randomly assigned concurrently to the control regimen and six or 4 percent of 143 participants on the 6-month regimen had grade 3 or 4 hearing loss.

Therefore, the interpretation indicates that both bedaquiline-containing regimens, a 9-month oral regimen and a 6-month regimen with 8 weeks of second-line injectable, had superior efficacy compared with a 9-month injectable-containing regimen, with fewer cases of hearing loss. Although outcomes are improving, only 59 percent of those starting treatment in 2018 completed it successfully. Effective, short, and well tolerated regimens that are easy to administer are urgently needed.