



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXIX No 063 23 November 2022 - Hidar 14, 2015

Wednesday

Price Birr 10.00

## Ethiopia continues to attract more FDI

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDISABABA** - Withstanding the pressing domestic and international challenges, Ethiopia's auspicious economic progress has witnessed a 700-million-USD Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow in the current fiscal year, high-level government officials said.

In its endeavor to make Ethiopia attractive to FDI globally, the government has made various policy amendments and carried out activities to address the interests of multinational companies, Finance State Minister Eyob Tekalign (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA).

The state minister further highlighted that Ethiopia has secured 3.8 billion USD from FDI over the past three years amidst the northern conflict, the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic and other tenacious challenges. Those investment projects have created hundreds of thousands jobs in agriculture, construction, service, hotel and tourism, and other sectors.

The rise of FDI really depends on the



Eyob Tekalign (PhD)

measures taken by the government in its efforts to develop the entire economy of the country and ensure inclusive progress. Activities that are being done in the agriculture sector in particular are promising in bringing the desired development, he added.

"There are two types of investors: the one who sees Ethiopia's successive economic growth and its conducive investment atmosphere and potential and there are also



Fitsum Assefa (PhD)

investors that are frustrated by temporary problems. The government has been implementing different mechanisms to attract potential investors."

Sharing the above rationale, Planning and Development Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) said that Ethiopia's economy has gone through various challenges due to the conflict in the northern part of the country, drought and COVID-19 pandemic. The

See Ethiopia continues ... page 3

DERBA MIDROC CEMENT



OUR PRODUCTS

- > PPC 32.5N
- > OPC 42.5N
- > Premium OPC 52.5N
- > PPC PLUS 42.5N

We give Door To Door Service

Call Us at 8688 or

- 0111 26 26 27 0922 11 53 24/26
- 0111 26 26 28 0922 72 74 48/49
- 0111 26 26 29 0922 72 38 70
- 0111 26 26 30 0922 72 38 72

Fax: 0111 26 23 45 & 0111 26 23 18  
Ready for Tomorrow!

## Political parties call for peace deal swift implementation

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA** - Contending Political Parties urged all stakeholders to implement AU-brokered peace agreement in a timely manner.

Speaking to local media, representatives of competing political parties said that the peace agreement inked between the Ethiopian government and TPLF is helpful to solve the political problems of the country peacefully and it may pave the way in achieving successful National Dialogue in the near future.

Enat Party Public Relations Head Yayeh Asmare said that a given political problem by no means be solved using power; instead political problems deserve political solution

See Political parties ... page 3



## AEPAC to galvanize Diasporas in election 2024 prelude event

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopian-Americans voters need to take part at the annual fundraiser gala called 'A Black Tie event' that helps them to establish a cordial relationship with U.S. politicians in the prelude of the U.S. 2024 presidential election, American Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC) said.

Speaking with local media, AEPAC Executive Chairperson Mesfin Tegenu

See AEPAC ... page 3

## Hosanna aims to become preferred tourist destination

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**HOSANNA** - Hosanna City Administration disclosed a desire to capitalize on the area's diverse culture, historical and natural attractions to establish a successful tourism activity with a view to putting the city among Ethiopia's leading tourist destinations.

The City Mayor Lire Jemal told the visiting Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) reporters that a close partnership has been formed with relevant stakeholders to help Hosanna become a huge tourism destination in the coming five years. Though the area has been blessed with immense tourism potentials, citizens have not adequately benefited from the sector over the past many years due to various reasons.

According to the mayor, lack of tourism promotion scheme, inadequate infrastructure and imbalanced resource distribution are the main factors that hinder the city from exploiting the tourism potentials. To tackle the problem, the city administration is working in collaboration with various concerned bodies including Wachemo



One of the finest hotels in Hosanna

University, Fonko, Gemechu, and Meja Jura town administrations as well as the Hadiya Zonal Administration to help Hosanna to become a center of tourism.

The preservation of the tallest caves in the area, the construction of a 15-hectare Gofar Meda Entertainment Project, a 6-hectare

HodyEnfara project, which is used to mark a variety of festivals with different cultural foods are among the major activities carried out by the city administration in the tourism sector. Also, the construction of the 14.5 km road was also conducted in collaboration with city residents.

See Hosanna ... page 3

A question mark hangs over the furtherance of printing, publishing sector

Page 7

Coming out of the conflict cycle

Page 8

No excuse to sustain biting sanctions

Page 9

# News



Prof. Mesfin Araya

## ENDC, elders exchange views on Nat'l Dialogue

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) and elders held extensive discussion on ways of garnering public support for National Dialogue in a bid to bring about lasting peace in the country, so stated ENDC Commissioner.

Holding discussions with the elders recently ENDC General Commissioner Prof. Mesfin Araya said that the elders would play an irreplaceable role in strengthening the existing peace and properly assisting the ENDC.

As to Prof. Mesfin, the ENDC and elders are expected to work together to device possible solutions to the conflicts arise in some areas of the country.

He said: "As the Commission observed, the elders have been receiving great respect and privilege since ancient times, and they have made immense contribution to peace efforts in the way that respects culture, custom and fraternity among citizens."

At the event, what has been done so far and what is expected to be carried out in the future was widely discussed. Besides, the ENDC is preparing a legal framework based on the principle of inclusiveness."

Prof. Mesfin added that it is possible to discuss ways to promote national consensus, a culture of tolerance, instead of wasting time on ideas that would not help bring about lasting peace. It has also urged parties to return to national development agendas. The panelists raised the idea of what agendas were included after the proclamation was established.

"As conflict was rampant for the last two years, we have to make a big contribution to continue the general peace journey already started. The Commission is trying to fight the interference of foreign countries and get those elements in the country who do not agree with the idea reconciled," he told local media.

## Ethiopia's first speleologist optimistic for field's bloom

BY KFLEYESUS ABEBE

As a child, his parents had high hopes that Nasser Ahmed would pursue a career as a health professional, so imagine their surprise when he went on to become Ethiopia's very first speleologist.

Nasser talked to *The Ethiopian Herald* about a surprising turn of events in his life. "Since my childhood I liked to watch National Geographic TV program. When I was in sixth grade, my classmates and I went on a school visit to a nearby cave. When other students were scared, I was bold enough to go inside and saw some light at the otherside of the tunnel. After the visit, I continued to watch National Geographic and read everything related to geography. I came up with the word speleology which was even hard for me to pronounce."

Nasser knew exactly what he wanted to be, and he dedicated himself to pursuing the education he required to make the dream a reality. He studied for two years at the International Speleological Society Union and the France Speleological Society and then spent an additional year in Germany studying at the World Speleological Society. Nasser studied 321 of Oromia's natural caves and created 200 maps and plans that he has put on Google Maps. The



researcher's work has been published by the Oromia Culture and Tourism Bureau as a 346-page book titled "Caves in Oromia."

Nasser said speleological studies can support Ethiopia's growth both to identify treasure hidden inside caves, and of course caves becoming tourist destinations. "What I want to see in the future is Ethiopia

getting many speleologists like me. It is foreigners that usually study our caves. If we have our own professionals we can be benefited a great deal for many reasons. I can contribute my share to this field of study thrive in the country by teaching and offering resources. At least we must have a thousand speleologists."

## Wachemo University strives for agro processing excellence

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**HOSANNA** – Aiming to become center of excellence in agro processing in the years to come, Wachemo University is tirelessly working on improving the livelihoods of the community.

The University's Investigation and Community Based Service Vice President Tsedek Lambrie (PhD) told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the university has been conducting over 100 researches and investigations each year in a bid to solve community's challenges.

As to the Vice President, the university has conducted some 139 researches and investigations, which have taken over 15 million Birr merely solely a year before. The university including its branch of Duramie Campus has been mainly focusing on the Hadiya Kenbata and Tenbaro zones to reduce a range of community particularly agriculture related problems.

"As the area is known for its *Enset Plant* (false banana) and wheat production, the university has been conducting various researches to fight against bacteria wilt and yellow mist there. So far, the university has identified and distributed 80 different *Enset* species and some 500 coffee plants to the community that are able to resist any bacteria. In terms of wheat seeds, it has identified five special and adopted in different areas such as Kenbata Tenbaro, Guragie, Siltie, and Wolayeta zones and made wheat threshing machine ready for the community," he added.

He also noted that the university has been undertaking various activities to be a center of excellence in agro processing, tourism, energy, and the likes in the forthcoming years. The university has been working on water resource protection especially in Rift Valley lakes of Abaya Chamo in collaboration with Arba Minch, Wolaita Sodo, and Dilla Universities. It is also working with Bule Hora and Wolaita Sodo universities

in the protection and development of Lake Chew Bahir.

Furthermore, Wachemo University has documented over six various Ethiopian languages such as Hadiyesa, Awi, Tembarsea, Kenebatasa, Sidama, and Afan Oromo to develop the languages. It is working to introduce Hadiyesa language in master degree education program, the vice president said.



# News

## Ethiopia makes education accessible for refugees, asylum seekers: Service

### • Hosts over 878,000 refugees, asylum seekers

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopia has been making education accessible for over 183,000 refugee and asylum seekers residing in the country, Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) disclosed.

RRS Deputy Director-General, Mulualem Desta told *The Ethiopian Herald* that there are over 878,000 refugees and asylum seekers in the country. The country has been hosting refugees and asylum seekers from 27 countries mainly from neighboring countries like Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea.

“The government has been implementing access to education with partners. Currently, there are 54 primary schools, 85 preschool and 12 high schools for refugees and asylum seekers. Besides, it has helped refugees get technical and



vocational training in collaboration with other partners,” he said.

As to him, every year, about 1,200 to 1,500 refugee students join tertiary education or university. In addition to the government, other partners and stakeholders have been supporting the education sector in refugee camps.

He said, “Ethiopia is the third largest country in Africa hosting refugees and asylum seekers next to Uganda and

Sudan. It has been giving various human rights and other protections as part of its commitment.”

There are efforts to create access to education for those who are school aged ones. However, only 46.7 percent of them have access to education for different reasons, he opined.

“As refugee operation is not only the duty and responsibility of the government, the international community should play

their role to address access to education in refugee camps and achieve quality education there. We are pushing all partners to play their role in accessing quality education for refugees and asylum seekers in Ethiopia,” he added.

He pointed out that the country has a long history of hosting refugees, maintaining an open-door policy and providing humanitarian access and protection to them.

## AEPAC to galvanize ...

stated that the Diaspora community is expected to participate in the event that the basic activities for the 2024 election. “Those who cannot make it to the program can make their contribution through buying the available tickets for the December 10 event.”

“AEPAC and its chapter members will exert responsibilities given the activity needs lobby service,” he noted, adding that the Diasporas are expected to understand the impact of the event and be part of it in every possible way.

Within its 18 months existence, AEPAC has been working to create smooth relations and active dialogue between the U.S. administration and legislators and Ethiopia. In doing so, it has so far held talks with over 125 representatives. As part of its plan to make at least 10 percent of the U.S.

congress pro Ethiopia, the committee has endorsed about 35 nationwide candidates, of which 32 have got votes.

“We have been organizing and mobilizing Ethiopian-Americans to lobby candidates that have favorable policies towards their country of origin. One of such activities was letting voters understand the manifesto of candidates.”

Noting AEPAC’s core mission is strengthening and enhancing the Ethiopia- U.S. century-old relationship, the executive chairperson highlighted that the committee strives to build a strong national youth group that is assumed to take the leadership. “Thus, activities are underway to form a strong youth group that would make a difference in carrying out the major objectives of the AEPAC.



Yayeh Asmare



Mulualem Tegegnwork(Ph.D)

## Political parties...

particularly during the 21<sup>st</sup> modern world.

He underscored that the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) needs to work hard on making all opportunities available to settle differences on round table apart from ending hostilities and the occurrences of conflicts between different interest groups.

Sharing the idea of the above, Ethiopian Citizens for Social Justice Public Relations Head Mulualem Tegegnwork (PhD) said that the agreement manifests the significance of peaceful alternative in political discourse.

Appreciating the agreement, he said all parties should discharge their respective responsibilities to implement the agreement as per the terms stipulated for the benefit of the country and its people.

Citing the impact of the conflict, since Ethiopians who are working for the peaceful existence and survival of the nation are large in number, those who are working from dawn to dusk to dismantle the country would never succeed at all as they have shouldered a destructive mission to serve their masters’ interest.

## Ethiopia...

intensified pressure of some interest groups has also caused a shortage of forex reserves.

Mentioning the reform process as a driving force for the steady growth of investment, the minister pointed out that the government is working towards ensuring inclusive development and attracting companies with rich knowledge and technology packages.

“By the same token, following the introduction of the reform process, remarkable progress has been registered in the execution of projects thereby supplementing the overall economic progress of the country. Projects are means of executing the national development plans.”

## Hosanna aims...

“As the city is the center for Welkite, Addis Ababa, and Wolayta to Arba Minch, it would have great opportunity to become a center of tourism if it appropriately employs the condition.”

Different ethnic groups have been living harmoniously in the city, and the Yahudie annual festival, which is one of the peculiar

features of the Hadiya community, is significantly useful in promoting tolerance, compassion and forgiveness, the mayor remarked.

The 2007 census indicated that Hosanna is one of the most heavily populated cities in Ethiopia in accommodating over 425,000 residents.

# Opinion

## Qatar 2022 beyond football

BY KIRAM TADESSE

The Qataris are hosting perhaps the most controversial World Cup in the history of football. In a bid where all European countries were excluded Qatar shocked the world in December 2010 by beating the United States, Australia, Japan and South Korea in the race to host the 2022 Football World Cup. Ever since the moment former FIFA president Sepp Blatter opened the envelop announcing the choice of Qatar as a host become a heated topic of debate bringing the world's most prestigious tournament to the Middle East for the first time in history.

Right away, Qatar poured significant amount of money into the hosting process to bring the most expensive World Cup of all time. According to estimation made by the US sports finance consultancy Front Office Sports, 'the tiny Gulf state,' as described by most western media, invested a cost of 220 billion USD; while head of the Qatari organizing committee Hassan Al Thawadi said that infrastructure costs since the country was awarded the tournament exceeds 200 billion USD. The staggering nature of this cost gives sense when compared to the costs of two previous tournaments – Brazil in 2014 invested 15 billion USD while Russia in 2018 put in 11.6 billion USD. Among the costly infrastructures Qatari government has spent on include a new metro system, modern and beautiful stadiums and facilities, an international airport, new roads, around 100 new hotels and leisure amenities, such as, new beaches, theme parks, and water sports hotels including the much-anticipated Lusail Winter Wonderland, an island full of tourist attractions.

It is imperative that we ask how much mega-sport events like this actually benefit a country. Experts argue that countries hosting such expensive events gain nothing but a considerable image boost that attracts so much global attention which will eventually increase its appeal, attracting new audiences and future visitors. In record World Cup is an event which over a billion people around the World watch a hosting country live. Qatar expects more than one million tourists which it aims to 'wow them' with far more than just football. According to Professor Johan Fourie of Stellenbosch University and Associate Professor Maria Santana Gallego of Universitat de les Illes Balears, in 2011 they estimated hosting an event such as the FIFA World Cup or the Olympic Games increased tourism by about 8 %, on average. However after their latest updated analysis, these economists become even more skeptical of the large tourism effect of mega-sport events. While they still find a large and positive effect on hosting the Summer Olympic Games – a sizeable 18.2 %. They concluded that most other events reveal zero or even negative change. So, why do Qataris want to deal with this lavishness?



### But what went wrong?

Soon after being awarded to host the tournament Qatar start facing allegations of vote buying. Media reports claimed that a Qatari official paid millions of dollars in an attempt to secure the country's successful bid to host the 2022 Cup. Two FIFA executive members were suspended and an internal ethics investigation was conducted while the US agency FBI involved itself as far as by traveling to Switzerland. Although much of the build-up of the World Cup 2022 controversy focuses on human rights, from the death of migrant workers to individual rights issues that contradict with Islamic values, Qatar has some very positive aspects, such as, low criminality rates and the potential for becoming a catalyst for positive change in the Middle East.

Despite the claims centered on accusations of bribery and corruption scandals inside and around FIFA that lasted for twelve years now, however, experts close to the Swiss based World football governing body argue that FIFA sets the rule and Qatar played by it. Nothing was new. Khalas! Because many commentators argue it is long before that money becomes the language of the global football. And yet it is indisputable that Qatar could go as far as what it takes to make a World Cup hosting dream a reality.

Thus, the Qatar World Cup 2022 proved that football is beyond a tournament that dozens of teams come together in a particular nation for a tournament and go home; rather it involves a global financial power play mingled with diplomacy and international politics. The moves and tactics used in pre and post Qatar World Cup bid through various transnational multibillion dollar investment deals and bilateral trade agreements are clear depiction of how a nation becomes desperate to attain its goal. Gulf States are becoming more proactive to the global energy shift and show their rush to investments diversification. In this regard the Qataris bid of World Cup and now bidding to host Olympics is evident to the monarchy's ambition to realize sustainable

development beyond fossil fuel, and the luxury of a dynasty.

Likewise several developing countries are bidding to host the 2030 FIFA World Cup. These include Morocco, a joint bid from Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, and Paraguay, and an inter-confederation bid from Egypt, Greece, and Saudi Arabia. If economic interest is the main priorities of host countries, then one of these bids is most likely to add something of a value.

For over the last decade, since it was awarded the World Cup hosting, Qatar tried everything in its disposal to build a reliable 26-men squad that can face some of the world's greatest national teams. This includes from setting up world's finest sport academy, and attracting football talents from around the world to bringing in top veteran footballers from Europe and Latin America. Some players were offered exceptional Qatari citizenship until banned by a FIFA law.

The Ethiopian government during the most recent years alone has invested a good sum of money on public parks and museums among others, but not on a modern stadium that fits the country's football talents. Ethiopia is a country rich of football talents and sport has immense potential to change its badly tinted image before the world. One can observe this reality just by looking at how Qatar toiled for the last twelve years to find a football talent. No matter how Ethiopian officials showed their keenness to sports it is much disgraceful to watch the country's top league streaming live on Television as players struggle to recognize each other after being left caked head-to-toe in mud. The irony is that most of the Ethiopia's stadiums come with a title of "international." Let everyone come to their sense and do some serious business.

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

# The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays  
By The Ethiopian Press Agency



General Manager

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

Advertisement and Dist.  
Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew  
email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

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

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

Fb//Ethiopian Press Agency/

The Ethiopian Herald

## Editorial

### Concerted efforts to curb common enemies

Recently, the Ethiopian Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Sudan with the aim to further strengthen security cooperation; effectively combat terrorists which are the common enemies of the Horn region and avert cross border crimes to ensure lasting peace and stability within the two countries, and even beyond.

In similar manner, some months ago, Ethiopia entered into an agreement with the Government of Somalia to collaborate and work jointly in peace and security issues, fight terrorism which is spreading in East Africa; and remaining one of the major peace and security intimidations across the globe.

According to the agreement, signatory countries will work in collaboration to control and take action against any anti-peace elements that are attempting to disrupt the peace and security of the countries and destabilize the region.

Apparently, since the past two plus decades, Africa, especially the region of Eastern Africa has been facing major peace and security threats owing to the attacks of the Islamist extremist group, al-Shabab and some forces.

Mainly, the al-Shabab terrorist group, by sheltering and hatching itself some parts of the Horn countries and carrying out indiscriminate, sudden, violent attacks, has been putting the lives of innocent people at greater risk and disrupting region's peace, security and stability.

In truth, aside from Africa, al-Shabab is also a threat to international peace and security. By committing sudden, inhuman attacks against many countries, including the USA, and creating uncertainty among civilians, it has proven as it is not merely a regional threat but also a global menace.

Noticeably, the existence of terrorists does not only pose significant peace and security threats to countries of the Horn and to the region. Rather, it also constitutes huge social, economic and political burden across the globe for the reason it knows no boundaries and always carries out massive attacks.

Currently, despite regional and international efforts and the successes gained over the years, it seems that the group is attempting to resuscitate itself in order to carry out its evil attacks. This necessitates the nations to cooperate and collaborate. The recent attack the militants of the terrorist group committed in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, and claiming the lives of more civilians, military, government officials and properties is a case in point.

The saying goes "Think globally, act locally." In this regard, Ethiopia's move to work jointly and strengthen security cooperation among neighboring countries thereby to address the peace and security threats of the region is timely. The agreements, aside from ensuring peace and security of the peoples between and among countries of the Horn and the region, deepen global cooperation and concern for mutual benefit.

Most importantly, it reinforces the "African solutions to African problems," and compels African states to cooperate and discharge responsibility in ensuring lasting peace, security and stability in the region and even beyond, which in turn support to realize their development goals unflinchingly.

Thus, Ethiopia's move to cooperate and work jointly with neighboring countries so as to maintain the peace and security of the region and beyond should be supported and scaled up as it is instrumental to maintain not only regional but also global peace and stability.

## Opinion

### Climate change, impacts on women and girls

BY STAFF REPORTER

Today, we are facing some of the greatest challenges in human history. The global population is growing, industrial pollution is increasing, and natural resource degradation is accelerating. Amidst all this, climate change remains one of the greatest problems of our time. Its impacts vary among age, gender, class, income groups, generations and regions. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, people who are already most vulnerable and marginalized, often girls and women, experience the greatest impacts of climate change.

Low income communities living in rural areas and in the arid and semiarid regions primarily in developing countries, which are dry climate sub-type regions, are disproportionately affected. Consequently, they are in the greatest need of adaptation strategies when it comes to keeping the impacts of climate variability and change at bay.

The impact of climate change on gender is far from equal. Girls and women are more vulnerable than men because they represent the majority of the world's poor and are proportionally more dependent on threatened natural resources, such as water and land. On a global scale, women have less access than men to resources such as land, credit, agricultural inputs, decision-making structures, technology, training and extension services that would enhance their capacity to adapt to climate change.

Women in Kenya represent a high percentage of poor communities that are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood, particularly in rural areas where they are responsible for household water supply, food

security and energy for cooking and heating.

Women contribute up to 50% of the agricultural workforce, according to the World Bank. They are mainly responsible for the more time-consuming and labor-intensive tasks that are carried out manually or with the use of simple tools. Women are mainly engaged in subsistence farming, particularly horticulture, poultry and raising small livestock for home consumption.

Women have limited access to and control of environmental goods and services. They have negligible participation in decision-making, and are not involved in the distribution of environmental management benefits. Consequently, women are less able to confront climate change.

During extreme weather such as droughts and floods, women and girls tend to work more to secure household livelihoods. In many societies, socio-cultural norms and childcare responsibilities prevent women from migrating, seeking refuge in other places or working when a disaster hits. Daughters are also included in helping with the nurturing of their siblings more than sons. Girls and women are disproportionately tasked with traveling longer to get drinking water and wood for fuel. This will leave less time for women and girls to access training and girl's education develop skills or earn income.

Women, in many developing countries suffer gender inequalities with respect to human rights, political and economic status, education, health, land ownership, housing conditions, exposure to violence. Climate change will be an added stressor that will aggravate women and girls vulnerability.

#### Way Forward: Improving women's and girls' adaptation to climate change

Despite their vulnerability and being most affected by climate change, women and girls are active and effective agents and promoters of adaptation and mitigation.

Throughout generations, women have historically developed knowledge and skills related to water harvesting and storage, food preservation and rationing, and natural resource management. In Africa, for example, older women represent wisdom pools with their inherited knowledge and expertise related to early warnings and mitigating the impacts of disasters. This knowledge and experience when passed from one generation to another will effectively contribute to enhancing local adaptive capacity and sustaining a community's livelihood. For this to be achieved, and in order to improve the adaptive capacity of women worldwide particularly in developing countries, the following recommendations need to be considered:

- Climate adaptation initiatives should identify and address gender-specific impacts of climate change particularly in areas related to energy, water, health, agriculture, food security, and conflict and disaster management. Gender issues associated with climate change adaptation should be considered, such as resource access inequalities, including but not limited to credit, extension and training services, information and technology.
- Development planning and funding decisions need to be made with women's priorities in mind. Women should be included at the decision making tables at national and local levels regarding allocation of resources for climate change initiatives.

- Funding organizations and donors should also take into account women-specific circumstances when developing and introducing technologies related to climate change adaptation and try their best to remove the economic, social and cultural barriers that could potentially constraint women from benefiting and making use of them. Women must be included in the development of new technologies, this would ensure that they are adaptive, appropriate and sustainable. Mainstreaming gender perspective into national policies and strategies, as well as related sustainable development and climate change plans and interventions.

#### What you can do to impact climate change

While it may feel like most of us do not impact major climate decisions every day, we all play a vital role in climate advocacy. We can impact decisions by calling on our local and national governments to make climate action a priority. I urge you to hold your government representatives accountable for taking concrete climate steps that include gender provisions to combat the global climate crisis.

We can also amplify in our communities and social media the idea that girls' education is profoundly connected to our ability to address climate change - and can literally save lives. And I encourage you to learn more about the Future Rising Program that I am part of as a Future Rising Fellow.

Source: [girlsrising.org](http://girlsrising.org)

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

# Business & Economy

## Stabilizing the nation's economy through implementing viable solutions

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

The queries on economy and inflation, now a day, have drawn the attention of every nation in the world. Various unrests around the globe put millions of lives into danger and unable to survive. In many scenarios, the developed world has been struggling with energy price hick. African countries also have been going through political, economical, and social challenges which caused mainly by economic unrest.

In the Ethiopian context, it is true that the nation has been under pressure due to the war that broke out two years ago in the northern part of the country. However, with all those pressures and unfair treatments from various corners, the nation has continued to move on the right tracks of economic success.

Recently, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has reported the nation's economic achievements in the last fiscal year to the House of Peoples Representatives. He mentioned that the ongoing projects in various parts of the country will bring economic dividend to citizens. The Prime Minister also noted that the nation could coup up with the challenges pervasive in many sectors and unleashes its potential to keep up the witnessed economic progress.

The anomalies witnessed in the macro economy such as poor export performance, shortage of hard currency, unemployment and local and foreign debts remain as challenges hence, to overcome the problems short and long term plans have been implementing. Likewise, in order to get better advantages decisive actions must be taken by the government and the stakeholders. It is important to remember that both public and private sectors have equal contributions in terms bringing overall prosperity of a nation.

In this regard, the government has taken tangible and striking decisions that can accommodate the private sector to engage in various sectors. Law with regard to local and foreign investments is improved and new instruction also introduced to bring foreign financial institutions and to operate here. Every path has its own up and downs until it meets its objectives. Bringing the economy to the right direction needs tireless actions.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), State Minister of Finance, Eyob Tekalign (PhD) stated different points regarding the economic activities of the country and how the government responds to the critical issues that hurdles the progress. He disclosed that, Ethiopia has built a resilient economy which shows its capacity to overcome the problems that it



*Eyob Tekalign (PhD)*

faced. Though the challenges are rampant, the country has not stopped registering economic progress. Currently the per capita income of citizens has reached to 1,212 USD and think thank groups proved that Ethiopia has the largest economy in East Africa and the 3rd largest in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed also corroborated that according to the World Bank report, in 2014 Ethiopian fiscal year, the value of the nation economy has reached to 3.16 trillion birr which is equivalent to 126.7 billion USD. It is surprising that how hard it was for the poor agrarian country such as Ethiopia to reach even 100 billion USD in the past. The Premier said this figure could be raised and expected more if the government forces farmers to pay taxes like other African countries and it is hard to identify the transaction.

The state minister also stressed that the registered economic progress mainly attributed to the agriculture sector. The government has been implementing winter wheat farming which put the country in the list of countries that are exporting the crop.

In his report to the House of Peoples Representative, the Prime Minister said that, "Agriculture sector has registered 6.1 % growth last year. Wheat production has shown tangible progress in different parts of the country."

Other crops also contributed for the sector's growth. As to him, the rice production in Amhara Regional State should be expanded to other regions so that the nation will stop importing the product. In this Meher season, it is expected that 8 million quintals of rice will be produced nation widely. In addition, the maize production has also scored better. Not only wheat, rice and maize but fruit production has also shown promising growth. The Prime Minister also mentioned coffee production and its expected growth in the coming years.



*Fitsum Assefa (PhD)*

State Minister Eyob also noted that the government has crafted comprehensive economic policies and meticulous leadership has been in place which made various projects to be completed in their time duration. He also stated that the government has been subsidizing sectors that are given priority and decided not to allocate hard currency for the importation of luxury items because they put pressure on other sectors which are badly needed foreign currency for the importation of inputs.

"The government has made 500 types of agricultural inputs tax-free and worked to improve the sector national capacity. The government does not only support the agriculture and service sector, but it has also tried to provide basic goods to the lower segment of the society in the subsidized price." said Eyob.

The Planning and Development Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) has similar views. As to her, global and internal challenges including the war in the northern part of the country, drought, and the COVID-19 pandemic put hurdles on the economic progress. The sanction imposed by multi-national financial institutions in relation to the war also brought a negative consequence.

Even though the nation has been under numerous pressures, it was possible to register a 6.4 % economic growth. The agriculture and service sectors along with other sectors have been contributing their share for the growth, the minister disclosed.

Particularly, the huge amount of hard currency garnered by the Ethiopian Airlines in the last budget year has helped the nation to recover from economic shekel posed by the pandemic and war.

However, Fitsum did not deny that, the major challenges the nation faced. She said that the country is still preoccupied in responding the queries of inflation and foreign currency crunch. Those challenges put pressures on the nation's economy.

Every economic measure should be responsive to the aforementioned challenges so that reviving the ill economy is possible.

In order to boost foreign currency reserves and to ease inflation, the incumbent has taken various measures and among others, substituting imported products by local manufacturing, increasing productivity, creating job opportunities to the unemployed, boosting export, encouraging Ethiopian diaspora to send remittance money in the formal banking channel and to open bank account to deposit foreign currency and other actions. It is visible that the measures have brought positive results.

Eyob further added that the recently agreement of Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) that was signed between the Government and TPLF in South Africa, Pretoria is believed to open more doors for several investment opportunities coupled with strengthen the existed ones. Also, the truce would usher new era of development and prosperity by ensuring lasting peace in the nation which is the core element for stimulating the economy.

As it is known, the northern part of the country has affected by the war there fore it needs budget to rebuild rehabilitate the affected areas. As to Eyob, the restoration and rehabilitation process of conflict-affected areas needs multi billion dollars investment and the agreement is an opportunity for realizing socio economic stability.

To sum up, everything that has been discussed above indicate that, the prospect of the nation economic growth and it is true that even under pressure, the government and the people of Ethiopia have done everything to exist as a nation and meet the expected goals. Those pressures could not stop the nation finding a way to go forth. Decisions made by the government have produced noticeable results. In this progress, nation's macro economy has played a remarkable part.

# Art & Culture

## A question mark hangs over the furtherance of printing, publishing sector

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

The Ethiopian Printers and Publishers Association recently became vocal that authorship is languishing under ever-increasing paper price hike and multiple taxations. It made a call to the government to take measures to thwart the stranglehold strangulating the sector.

Addressing the general Assembly of the Association, the coordinator of the Association Zenebe Deneke said due to the aforementioned problems a question mark hangs over the sector. The fact that the relatively low tax levied on books imported from abroad has compounded the problem true to the saying an insult to injury. Not only the tax on papers but also on publication materials is posing hurdles on the sector.

Enumerating the formidable barriers bogging down sector's performance Deneke mentioned absence of discussion with printers and publishers as stakeholders during the preparation of books, dearth of inputs for printing work, shortage of skilled human resource and nonexistence of a thorough research that helps ascertain the capacity of publishers and printers participating in bids.

The major segment of the benefit that could accrue to printers and publishers here resides in the printing of exercise books of students. During the past years the sector had not benefited much from such a venture.



There is a need to facilitate things so that printers and publishers actively participate in the preparation of exercise books.

After noting the association is not strengthened to the required level, if it is made robust and the sector basks under the due support it is possible to absorb many job seekers and generate much income tax. As such, all stakeholders ought to actively participate in breathing life into the sector.

Former president of the Ethiopian Writers' Association Getachew Belete noted dearth of dollar for paper and necessary print

inputs is felt reflected in the sector, for the importation of such items is screeching to a halt.

Currently Ethiopian exercise books are being published after curriculums are revised. Sadly however, dollar aids and loans are flowing back as books are being published abroad under the claim of improving things. The problem begs for rectification as it exacerbates the depletion of dollar reserve and discourages the sector here, he noted.

Shaping generation does not solely rests on technological outcomes but also on books.

Unless the problem is addressed in time, he expressed his fear that this generation and those in the pipeline will go astray swept by technological gadgets/unfolding to suffer identity crisis.

According due attention to the sector that needs a reform and improving heavy taxes levied on print inputs help troubleshoot the challenge. The government has to uplift the mood of printers and publishers that are plunged into depression.

Some believe the task of recycling paper here to meet local demands must draw the attention of investors as it amounts to killing two birds with a stone. Hence such investment must be allowed a tax holiday as they could fill a great chasm. This trend could help to cut down the exorbitant prices of books scaring away readers and wielding influence on publishers to fight shy.

Creative researches on publication materials such as inks for color printing were mentioned a decade and half back by Science and Technology commission. We want to hear further research out comes and their applicability to troubleshoot the challenge.

The introduction of Print on Demand (PoD) books here in Ethiopia begs for investors that taw the ice. This fad, which is long overdue here, has become common elsewhere including Africa. The publication of E-books must also be encouraged too. Otherwise authorship could make a nose dive.



### Shall I be a chameleon?

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

In a way that  
Makes observers sick,  
Shall I uncannily  
Side the slick?  
Shall I optimize my chance  
Echoing both  
The good or wrong stance  
Of who by unfair means  
Seized the rein of power  
And hence benefits  
Will not be loath  
On me to shower?  
A chameleon,  
Reflecting my surrounding  
Shall I be  
Self-serving  
As it has become  
Nowadays a common thing?

Shall I be an ermine?  
Keeping my professional  
And self-integrity  
And cleanliness  
True to my conscious  
To the extent of  
Facing an unfolding adverse  
Shall I distance  
Myself  
From being  
A false witness  
On my colleagues  
And neighbors?

**waiting** for the ripe moment to meet their end there are people who don't bat an eye to stab you in the back even if you did them good.

An ermine falls a prey for the sake of its cleanliness, while a chameleon changes its color according to its surrounding. Read about ermine.

### Unhappy

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

Stuck in the pit of misery  
There's no one to save me  
Things look full but are empty  
For me that is reality  
I tell others to be grateful  
While i am not hopeful  
This feeling has persisted  
Since the day i was depressed  
Nothing is wrong but everything is  
There is the abstract i live with  
Life's beauty is from deep inside  
But mine is on the surface  
Underneath is full of scars  
I can't be happy in my life  
Nor will i ever strife.



# Global Affairs

## Coming out of the conflict cycle

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Ethiopians cannot say they have been fortunate during the past several decades because the country was subjected to various forms of conflicts and wars that have claimed thousands of lives along the years. Even if many say that wars are part of human history and wherever there are humans there are wars and Ethiopian history has been characterized by various forms of conflicts, it should be time now to come out of such cycles of violence.

During the military dictatorship there were various forms of conflicts domestically that is amongst us because there were various conflicting ideologies and political parties or factions that had declared war against each other and the military government's stance was categorical and it believed in force. It demanded submission to its ideology and policies and any one which opposed the stance of the military was doomed and some sort of war was declared against those. But there were also alarming episodes of violence against organized political parties which had declared war against the military government. Hence there were what were called liberation forces that presented a huge challenge to the military establishment and Ethiopians had to be part of this sad development.

In the mid seventies there was the war waged by Somalia against Ethiopia and that was a critical moment in our history because the danger was grave as the military might of Somalia seemed very considerable as they were also preparing for this event their whole life where as Ethiopians were at loggerheads amongst themselves and had committed most of the armed forces to fight the rebellion in the north and other parts of the country. There were also various kinds of insurgencies even in other parts of the country opposing the military government. Hence there was an atmosphere of constant mobilization for war and Ethiopians were once again called in defense of their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Wars have always been a part of countries' history and we can hardly find a country that has not been involved in some kind of war for years. Europe has been at war for years especially during the two world wars and the losses have been staggering but now having learnt from those lessons they have no more appetite for outright wars even if their troops may be seen in some military operations in support of this country or that one or typically against international terrorism.

Ethiopia lived in various kinds of wars along the years and we do not remember total peace for decades. Somehow we have the mobilization of the military in specific missions and the government continues to build up a modern and well equipped and trained military to foil any potential threat that may come from both internal forces possibly supported or encouraged by foreign elements or foreign forces who have geopolitical interests around the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia's position in the Horn of

Africa and the birth place of the Nile River makes it a significant country that needs to be always ready to defend itself, and building a modern army discourage others from attempting to invade it or somehow get involved in insurgencies that are still threats for the security of the country.

Now that there has been fixed an agreement between the TPLF and the Ethiopian Federal government we might feel some relief that the guns are silenced and peace can be a true reality. But many experts do not believe that it is not so easy to completely rule out a possible reigniting of violence as there are several forces who oppose the Pretoria peace deal claiming that they were not represented and hence would continue to oppose the deal. These forces are war traders as the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has called them. They have vested interests in the continuation of hostilities among the TPLF and the federal government because they have economic interests. Either because they are involved in some sort of arms deals or productions of the same or because they raise funds here and there and take advantage of the hostilities talking about the casualties or those that could result as wounded. They could also be agents of alien forces that continue to sustain them financially and the end of the war could be a failure to their profession or ambitions of getting rich soon.

Ethiopians must now realize that they should not be victims of alien conspiracies and destroy their livelihoods not only of today's but also the future lives of their children and grandchildren. Ethiopia is a poor country that is struggling to attain some growth and be able to do away with foreign aid, foreign grants and concessions because such needs have implications on its sovereignty and independence. Countries do not give aid without somehow intervening in the internal affairs of the country and this goes against the psyche and history of the country. We have heard many times that the west's assistance to Ethiopia has always had strings attached to it. Their policy is we will give you assistance but you must do this or that and in some way they impose on us their values and philosophies which at times do not go with our customs and mores. For instance the way they understand human rights is quite inconceivable for our values and it is hard for any Ethiopian to abide by certain rules of theirs. Our freedom is often compromised by such assistance because they also want us to align with them on certain international issues. This means that Ethiopia cannot be expected to have its own international policies and this is hardly acceptable.

The Pretoria peace deal has silenced the guns in the north of the country and even if there are certain details to be fixed and implemented they may need some patience and time, we must also be careful from letting those who oppose the deal from taking the upper hand and bring us back to zero. The chief broker of this peace deal former Nigerian President Olesegun Obasanjo has expressed his worries stating

*The Pretoria peace deal has silenced the guns in the north of the country and even if there are certain details to be fixed and implemented they may need some patience and time*

that the implementation must be carried out with patience, dexterity and honesty because we must be cautious not to ruin everything because of a simple nuance. There must always be flexibility in any peace deal without being stubborn and totally rigid. The big picture must be seen always and the benefits definitely always outweigh the potential losses. Ethiopians are tired of conflicts and combats. Above all they cannot afford to continue to kill each other indefinitely and whatever the costs they must stop wars and decide to live in peace. Millions have already been disastrously affected by the two year long war in the north. The cost of the war has yet to be reckoned but one can imagine that it is enormous, way above what a country like Ethiopia can afford. No one of the two warring parties would benefit with continued violence. Hence the peace deal is definitely a huge success but it needs to come down to earth and facilitate reconstruction and rehabilitation of the displaced in earnest and without any distraction.

If Ethiopians unite and stand together for hard work, there are hopes that the reconstruction and rehabilitation could be realized in a relatively shorter period than many feared would take. But it should be done in total unity without any faction or force opposing or obstructing it. It is a massive operation and needs a sort of Marshal Plan that reconstructed a destroyed Europe after the Second World War.

Insurgents not only in Tigray but also other parts of the country must stop from distracting the federal government from doing its job of mobilizing resources and staff to launch reconstruction of what was destroyed during the two year war. Forces such as Shene should also stop the violence and join the peace accord and let their people breath an atmosphere of peace rather than engaging in continuous attacks on innocent civilians and destruction of infrastructure. They should learn from the TPLF and sit down for serious peace talks because the Ethiopian government has repeatedly said that it is willing to negotiate based on the laws of the country. The only thing that is not negotiable is the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and the constitutional order. That was how the agreement was reached with TPLF. A complete demobilization and disarming of the insurgents is also another condition for any peace agreement because this is part of the sovereignty of the country.

Ethiopians deserve peace after so many years of some sort of violence and hostilities that has always become a huge obstacle in its trajectory of development and growth. Ethiopians want to have a country that can exploit all its potential and be a developed country soon and not be at the receiving end of foreign aid or grants. That is why the recent deal must be applied and other peace deals must continue so that guns are silenced in every part of the country and citizens have total relief from threats of attacks and violence.



# Law & Politics

## No excuse to sustain biting sanctions

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

For almost two years now, special interest groups and their enablers have been unleashing unjust pressure on Ethiopia in connection with the war in the northern part of the country mostly on the pretext of a number of lame reasons.

The unwarranted pressure has been driven by baseless accusations and a tsunami of misinformation that takes no notice of the circumstances on the ground and pays no attention to the unvarnished truth. To sugarcoat their politically-motivated intervention some foreign entities in fact used the issue of humanitarian assistance and human rights as a fig leaf.

Albeit Ethiopia had tried many a time and oft to end hostilities with strings of positive gestures utilizing a wide spectrum of effective approaches, attaining the desired goal was not an easy ride and failed to pay off in the earliest time possible.

Regardless of the fact that Ethiopia has been going to the ends of the earth to make conversant some entities with the self-evident and unvarnished truth on the subject of the constructive steps surfacing across the country, the latter have been time after time turning a blind eye and making an effort to twist Ethiopia's arm under the guise of a considerable amount of cooked up stories.

It is important to highlight that in the wake of the massive intrigues and disinformation campaigns of some entities, Ethiopia has passed through many ups and downs resulting in significant economic and political repercussions that affect the lives of ordinary Ethiopians. Even worse, in spite of the fact that they know its consequences more than anything under the sun, Washington ended up suspending Ethiopia from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) that have helped create millions of job opportunities for low-income communities mainly women residing in various parts of the country.

As a matter of fact, in the aftermath of the prompt measures taken on Ethiopia, quite a lot of women have lost their jobs at the earliest possible juncture. There are no two ways about it removing Ethiopia from AGOA did not help find a solution to the crisis throwing a monkey wrench in the existing situation and making the sparks fly.

It should be remembered that on the basis of the measure taken by Washington, Ethiopians at home and abroad have taken to the streets to express objection to the country's removal from AGOA and highlight the fact that the measure would have contributed nothing but put a rift on the long-standing relations of the two nations. Above and beyond, they have denounced the measure and appealed to the US to take its potential ramifications into account as soon as practicable.

In fact, in addition to posing a challenge to the socio-economic welfare, removing Ethiopia from AGOA may have thrown a wet blanket over the long-established two countries.

Most people agree that eliminating Ethiopia from AGOA is an ill-advised measure that would tarnish the American economic



interests in the Horn of Africa. Had not been for the efforts of Ethiopians and some even-minded US senators and congress members, the US could have imposed unjustified bills.

Now that the Ethiopian government and Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) signed a landmark peace deal under the auspicious of the African Union, some are urging the US to reverse its decision and allow Ethiopia back to AGOA.

In the present climate, following the successful journey of the government on the subject of the peace deal, a wide spectrum of bodies has been urging Washington to reinstate Ethiopia's AGOA benefits.

Representative Don Beyer has urged United States Trade Representative (USTR) to consider initiating an out-of-cycle review regarding Ethiopia's eligibility for benefits under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Rep. Don Beyer wrote a letter to United States Trade Representative (USTR).

As to him, renewed access to AGOA benefits would help Ethiopia's economy, exporters, and workers.

Rep. Don highlighted hopes that the recent truce brokered by the African Union, which allows unhindered humanitarian supplies to Tigray, will lead to Ethiopia's swift reentry into AGOA.

"We appreciate the work USTR has already done to ensure that the Ethiopian Government is aware of what it must do to meet the AGOA eligibility criteria."

He urged USTR to maintain an open dialogue with counterparts in Ethiopia on the benchmarks that must be met for Ethiopia to come back into compliance, and that these do not deviate from AGOA's eligibility requirements."

For the last two decades, AGOA has served as one the most important tools in strengthening U.S. – Ethiopian ties. It has also accelerated Ethiopia's economic growth and improved living standards.

"Ethiopia's inclusion in AGOA helped foster the growth of a burgeoning manufacturing

industry, which provided stable employment for tens of thousands of Ethiopian workers. Its membership in AGOA also dramatically expanded Ethiopia's importance as a U.S. trading partner, with imports from Ethiopia to the U.S. growing 406.5 % between 2009 and 2019," he added.

After losing its AGOA benefits, Ethiopia has seen firms scale back expansion plans, close factories, and begin laying off thousands of workers.

Pushing the nation deeper into poverty by continuing to exclude them from AGOA could further destabilize the country and severely weaken the U.S. – Ethiopia relationship, he added.

Meanwhile, the 2022 election was a turning point for the Ethiopian Diaspora: 32 of the 35 candidates won their races. "We now have friends of Ethiopia in legislative offices across the US," said American-Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee.

Following the peace agreement, Ethiopian-Americans are intensifying efforts to reinstate Ethiopia in AGOA, said American-Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC).

AEPAC's Chairperson Mesfin Tegenu has written a letter to United States Trade Representative (USTR) to re-energize the conversation.

"Reinstating Ethiopia within AGOA is a symbolic demonstration of the U.S. Government's support for the agreement and Ethiopia as an ally," he said.

According to AEPAC, the decision to delist Ethiopia from AGOA continues to damage Ethiopia's economy. With another major apparel business exiting hundreds more people mostly women lose their jobs. Now peace has been secured, the U.S. must reinstate Ethiopia to AGOA.

Dr. Eyob Tekalign, State Minister of Finance, and Ambassador Dr. Seleshi Bekele held discussions with about 50 investors, manufacturers, and exporting companies in the apparel and footwear sectors at a workshop organized by the Embassy of Ethiopia.

The main focus of the workshop was to review the impacts of the termination of Ethiopia's AGOA benefits on Ethio-American business and economic relations.

Dr. Eyob and Ambassador Seleshi briefed the participants on the various concrete measures the Ethiopian Government has undertaken regarding all of the concerns expressed by the U.S. Government when it announced the termination of AGOA.

The participants highlighted that the decision made to suspend Ethiopia's AGOA benefits is counterproductive and it disproportionately affects thousands of poor employees as well as the manufacturers and investors in the sector who relied on the AGOA program when they developed their businesses in Ethiopia.

Since the U.S. Government terminated Ethiopia's AGOA eligibility in January 2022, thousands of workers in the textile and footwear sectors have lost their jobs and livelihoods (mostly young women who support children and elderly parents). The participants have expressed their concern that thousands of additional jobs will be lost if the AGOA benefits are not restored.

With regard to the conflict in the northern part of the country, the participants appreciated the measures undertaken by the Ethiopian Government and the significant progress made in allowing unfettered access to the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people in Tigray and other conflict-affected regions, and the various investigations it has conducted into alleged human rights violations. They also expressed their support for the Government's commitment to the AU-led peace process towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

In this spirit, the participants expressed their appeal to the U.S. Government to reconsider its decision and reinstate Ethiopia's AGOA benefits without further delay with the aim of fostering the long-standing relations between Ethiopia and the United States.

In the recent past, Leiden University Politics and Governance Professor Jan Abbink stated that the delisting of Ethiopia from The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) would undermine human rights on the grounds that thousands would lose jobs and many Ethiopians would be exposed to poverty.

"AGOA exclusion would immediately hurt 200,000 Ethiopian laborers in the textile and apparel sectors which 80 % of them are women. Similarly, it is hurting 800,000 Ethiopians engaged in transport, catering, and distribution. Reasoning from this fact, Ethiopia might be seeking a new market to survive and deprive the American market," he added.

On the heels of the Pretoria peace deal, some countries have been expressing their praise despite the continued propaganda of agents of conflict. Regional and continental and international blocs have already hailed the peace accord as a breakthrough while reaffirming their commitment to helping implement the deal. Yet, removing sanctions and providing finance should be on their cards to help the country back to normalcy and restore conflict-ridden communities.

# Planet Earth

## Why are African countries affected by electric power shortages and frequent interruptions, while having huge renewable energy potential?

BY WONDIMU TEKLE SIGO (PhD, Eng.)

### PART II

Therefore, to develop the continent huge renewable energy potential the outstanding challenges in the electric sectors should need urgent action to achieve and realize the African vision for sustainable economic growth and development. Hence, the ineffective and inefficient electric institution setup is an important reason for the need to implementation of the sector reform as follows:

#### A) Unbundling of the vertically integrated electric power utilities

The African countries should have to focus on further unbundling the vertically integrated power generation, transmission, and distribution sectors. In addition to that policy and regulatory reforms that enable better demand and efficiency management, smart grids, on-grid, and off-grid distributed generation investment, and transport electrification may be considered. Other actions such as human capital have to be thoroughly developed through gaining in-depth knowledge; it has to be helped with modern technology thereby substituting old infrastructure and must emphasize upgrading the distribution network to reduce huge power transmission loss due to distance factors. Therefore, to develop the continent's huge renewable potential the improvement of the unbundling of the vertically integrated electric power utility becomes a critical path.

#### B) Make the price of electricity the right

Because of the future effects of the electric power supply on economic growth and to realize Africa's Agenda 2063, significant investment has necessary but the low price level has declined the utilities' ability to finance the electric infrastructures to come across the growing demands of electricity. Hence, the fundamental measure is to make the price of electricity right. The right price can motivate the market to invest in the electricity supply. If the electricity price is regulated to a very low level, no private investors would invest in the industry and the utilities also have limited incentives to improve the service. Many governments explain the most important objective of this protection of tariff adjustment is to guarantee a dependable supply of electric power at reasonable prices, mainly to help the nation's industrial development as well as the low-income people; but in a real sense it won't help.

Hence, the government's concern is not convincing because with the low electric tariff they are the rich people that are consuming more electricity than the low-income people and it is the industries

that are affected due to shortage and interruption of electric power. In other words, in Africa, it is the utilities that are subsidizing the rich people for their electric consumption. Therefore, each government should give full sovereignty to the utilities and distinguish social or political issues with the utility service. That means the utilities should have the autonomy to set the right price or tariffs as per their delivery; otherwise, they couldn't discharge their duty and be accountable for their weak performance.

In addition to growing revenue of the utilities at reasonable prices, the mobilization of large sums of finance from both public and private sources should be well-thought-out to harness the continent's huge renewable potential.

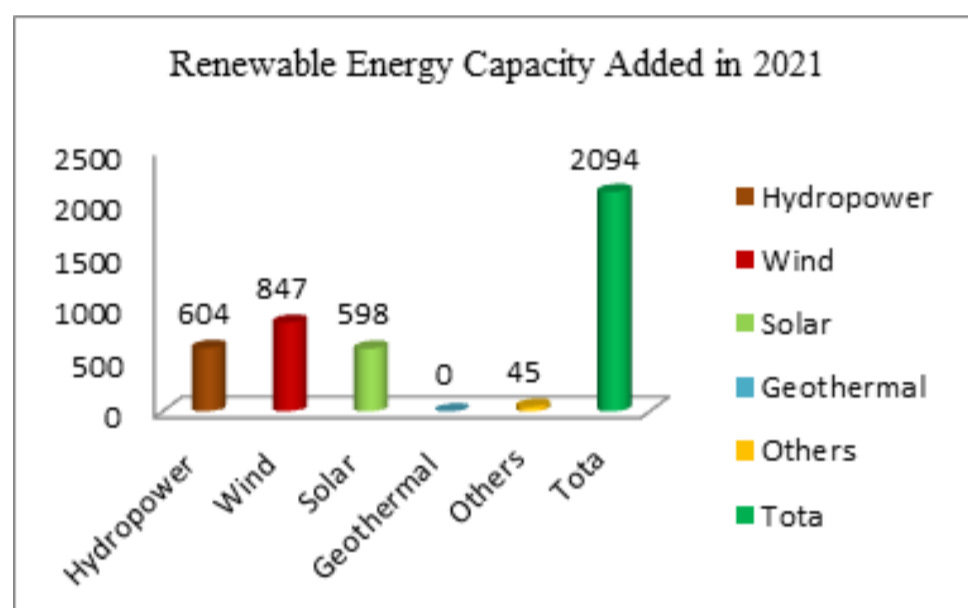
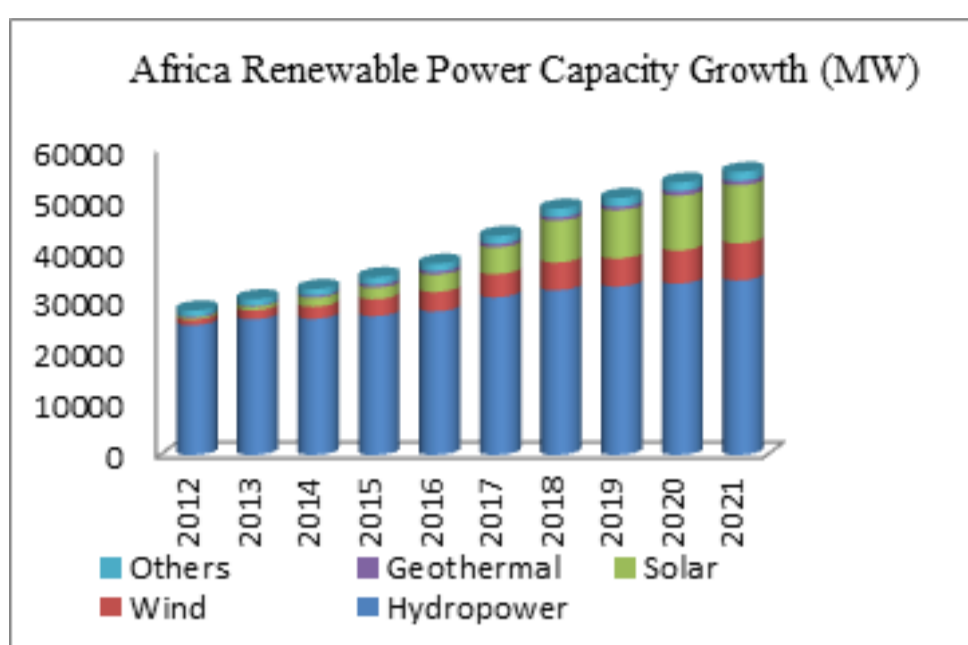
#### C) Increase the renewable energy mix

The entire installed renewables and fossil fuels generation capacity in Africa as of 2021 was 232 GW. Since the current installed generation capacity mostly depends on fossil fuels it should need to increase renewable energies. Because Africa's renewable energy resources are diverse and enormous in quantity, which indicates almost unlimited solar potential (10 TW), abundant hydro (350 GW), wind (110 GW), and geothermal energy sources (15 GW). Of course, there is a growth in renewable power capacity. For example, Africa's total renewable generation capacity increased from 28.45 GW in 2012 to 55.71 GW in 2021, which means the total renewable energy capacity increased by 27.26 GW (+49%). In 2021 the total renewable generation capacity increased by 2.1 GW (+4%) from 2020. Wind energy led to capacity expansion, with an increase of 0.85 GW (+13%), followed by solar with 0.6 GW (+6%), hydropower capacity increased by 0.61 GW (+2%), other renewables energy increased by 0.05 GW (+3%). Moreover, the renewable energy mix with different sources should be governed to tackle unforeseen problems such as climate change.

#### D) Open for private sector participation

In general, most African governments have supported much of the finance for large-scale energy projects, raising resources from taxes and other public sources. The trend of state-led helping electric infrastructure development is expected to continue. As previously stated in most African countries the electric utility systems are vertically integrated, i.e. state-owned utilities provide electricity distribution, transmission, and generation.

To unlock various problems private sector participation is become a serious path for energy development and utilization. Especially, participation in the private



sector could bring finance and utilize the expertise of international energy developers and investors. Therefore, it is very necessary to transform the public or state-owned monopoly utilities to a vertical and horizontal unbundling of generation, transmission, and distribution, which is dominated by private sector participation. This will help to organize the competition in an independently regulated environment.

#### Policy recommendation

Therefore, to achieve Africa's Agenda 2063 goal in the electric power sector, there should be strategic management, finance, and investment as well as smart energy, transmission, and distribution to improve the outstanding issues including:

First, African countries should have to emphasize unbundling of the vertically integrated power generation, transmission, and distribution sectors. Second, the price of electricity should be determined as per the market value, which means the utilities should have the autonomy to set up the electricity tariffs as per the market and their delivery. Third, make sure the power supply is a precondition for any country's industrial development through clean energy, and each country must increase the

power supply facilities with different renewable energy mixes such as solar, hydropower, wind, and geothermal energy. Finally, to unlock various problems private sector participation is a critical path in energy development and utilization, because the participation of the private sector can bring finance and utilize the expertise of international energy developers and investors.

*The author of this article is Dr. Eng. Wondimu Tekle Sigo.*

*Due to his contribution to the Power, Energy, and Water sectors recognition received the 2019 African Power, Energy, & Water Industry Lifetime Achievement Award in Cape Town, South Africa. He also serves two times on the advisory board of Enlit Africa.*

*Wondimu Tekle Sigo is a dedicated civil servant with strong engineering, economics, projects, and programs management background. He has many years of extensive direct hands-on experience in development projects/program management. These include, but are not limited to planning, implementation, supervision, and monitoring/evaluation of infrastructures in the area of renewable energy, water supply, sanitation, irrigation, and drainage as well as airport facilities.*