



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXIX No 050 8 November 2022 - Tekemt 29, 2015

Tuesday

Price Birr 10.00



Ethiopia pledges to work on creating resilient Africa

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia has reaffirmed commitment to working in solidarity with Africans for realization of resilient Africa, so said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD).

In a twitter message, Premier Abiy stated that he met with fellow leaders of African nations on the sidelines of COP27 meeting to discuss bilateral and regional issues.

“We will continue to work in solidarity to find African solutions to Africa’s problems and strive for a more resilient continent,” he

said.

It is to be recalled that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his delegation arrived in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on Sunday to attend the United Nations Conference on Climate Change.

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Gov’t, TPLF senior commanders discuss CoHA implementation

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- The federal government and TPLF’s senior commanders met yesterday in Nairobi, Kenya to deliberate on the implementation of the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) that the two parties signed under the auspices of the African Union (AU).

In a press statement issued after the deliberation, the AU noted that the meeting is consistent with Article 6 (d) of the recently signed CoHA, wherein the parties agreed to organize a meeting of senior commanders within five days. Accordingly, the signatory parties discussed and worked out detailed modalities on the implementation of CoHA including disarmament issues, taking into account the security situation on the ground.

The statement further noted that the meeting provides a roadmap for immediate

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Nation eulogizes iconic Ali Birra’s eternal contribution

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- The Ethiopian Musicians Association has praised the late Ali Birra’s colossal contribution and lifelong service in preaching unity, love, tolerance, culture and freedom in his musical works and bestowed the assets to the next generation.

Briefing journalists yesterday, Association’s President, Dawit Yifru said that artist Ali Birra is one of the monumental figures of Ethiopia’s music due to his over sixty-

year musical service in his native Affan Oromo. Celebrating the works of Ali will inspire the young generation to replicate his unmatched success.

The late artist is making a difference in the Ethiopian music industry and the quality of his works give them an eternal significance and value.

In the briefing, Government Communication Service (GCS) State Minister Kebede Desisa stated on his part that Ethiopia has

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Tibebe Belete

Expert stresses responsible journalism in implementing peace accord

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- A media forum should be established to control information related to the peace agreement signed between government and TPLF in a manner that protects Ethiopia’s honor, sovereignty and territorial integrity, a journalist said.

Association President and Ahadu Radio

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News

AU –brokered accord vividly showcases Africa’s values: Amb. Redwan

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA - The AU-brokered peace deal between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF on November 2, 2022 has clearly exhibited that the proper implementation of ‘African Solutions to African Problems, Ambassador Redwan Hussien said.

Briefing the international community in Addis Ababa about the peace deal, National Security Adviser to Prime Minister, Amb. Redwan further said the deal is the most significant aspect of the whole peace process, which is an indicator of ‘African solutions for African problems,’ principle.

African Union mediator Olusegun Obasanjo, former Nigerian president and Uhuru Kenyatta, former Kenya President have been playing decisive role in bringing

the parties together at difficult time, it was learnt.

“We are calling upon pan Africanism and respect for African values, because we are communal society. That’s how we manage conflicts and then governments are parts of the community.”

Ambassador Redwan said, “Leading the deal by African Union has proved that Africans have and adequate wisdom to deal with their problems as we are rich in both wisdom and resource, we are good at consulting one another too. So the fact that we don’t have immediate resource to utilize it doesn’t mean that we are void of ideas and wisdom. Now we have practically shown that ‘an African solution to African problems’ is being virtually functional.”



Photo: Hadush Abreha

Ethiopia’s Int’l mintex expo 2022 in full swing

- **Over 270 local, foreign companies to take part**

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Ministry of Mines disclosed that it has finalized preparations to host mining and technology international mintex expo 2022 to promote Ethiopia’s mine sector resources.

Briefing media on the expo yesterday Ethiopian Mines Minister Takele Umma said that, the purpose of hosting the mintex expo is to enable companies or capable investors to exploit country’s mine sector resources and improve sectoral production capacity via technology.

As to him, the preparations have been finalized to host the international mintex expo 2022 from November 10 to 12 2022 in Addis Ababa. Investors in the sector, companies and other stakeholders would be participants in buying and selling minerals.

Over 270 local and foreign companies confirmed to take part in the expo from November 10 to 12, 2022 in Millennium Hall in Addis Ababa. The expo would also enable companies to produce better products taking lessons from other experienced companies, he said.

The mintex expo 2022 would enable local and foreign investors or companies to exploit the country’s mine sector opportunities to invest and produce better products and create networking among companies in the sector across the globe, he added.

It would pay a way for companies to create linkage among them as well as to share experience, technology and knowledge.

According to the Minister, the government has been given special emphasis towards the mine sector to improve production and technology usage. It has been working to promote mine sector resources in the global and local arena to augment production and substitute import.

Supporting the sector via technology would facilitate efforts to modernize the sector and improve mine sector production. Takele called companies that use technologies and capital to utilize sector opportunities in the country.

He noted that Ethiopia revised mine sector policies and proclamations to ease the activities of investment.

Ethiopia hosting 8th edition of African engineering week

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – The 8th edition of African engineering week and the 6th African Engineering Conference is being hosted as of yesterday in Ethiopia under the theme: “Accelerating Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Africa Together.”

Briefing Journalists yesterday about the event Ethiopian Association of Civil Engineer (EACE) President Engineer Yonas Ayelew said that, this year’s UNESCO Africa Engineering Week (AEW) and conference hosted by the EACE in collaboration with the Federation of African Engineering Organizations (FAEO), World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) and UNESCO.

The purpose of this conference is to examine how the development of such infrastructure can be undertaken in a sustainable manner to help raise living standards, assist in the exploitation of African natural resources, improve health, industrialize, it was stated.

Speaking at the occasion FAEO Chair Eng. Martin Manuhwa said that, engineering is among the every aspect of quality of life and without engineering it is difficult to imagine development. Engineering must be supported and we aim to build quality infrastructure for Africa by Africans with the assistance of the rest of the world.

“Sustainable infrastructure means total operation of infrastructure and we need to able to build it, maintain it and to operate it and it requires skill. The African engineering week is also expected to gather engineers across the continent share experience in a way to create successful infrastructure.”

President Elect of WFEO Eng. Mustafa Shehu said that, the challenges that African engineers are facing should be the avenue through which we can bring out the challenges to move Africa forward.

The conference would create huge exposure in realizing the vision, he added.

President FAEO Eng. Carlien Bou-Chedid for her part indicated that, the federation was formed in 2012 aiming at facilitating infrastructure which is crucial for facilitating economic development and a better quality of life in the continent, she said.

“We are not going to develop without engineering and Africa needs its own indigenous engineers and aim to be the leading engineering professionals that offer sustainable development solutions for the benefit of the continent and beyond and working towards realizing it .”

The conference is being held from November 7 to 11, 2022 in Addis Ababa the capital city of Ethiopia.

News



Journalist calls on Ethiopians to continue influencing U.S. policy

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopians should continue to raise their voices and create a new paradigm as the peace is not a done deal, an American journalist said, calling the former to express concerns about the U.S. policy approach.

Speaking with international media, the writer Eugene Puryear noted that, now is the opportunity to make Ethiopia's voice heard about what the U.S. policy should be towards their nation and the Horn of Africa (HoA) at large.

It is important to remember what started the conflict in the first place, it is the fear amongst the U.S. ruling elites and EU about the critical part of the world which is the Horn of Africa becoming more united, self-determined and sovereign. Because from their perspective, any key strategic region regardless of ideology, could potentially challenge the 'regional agenda' that the U.S. wants for particular reasons, the writer elaborated.

The journalist further highlighted that, some of the dominant themes including the GERD issue represent the possibility of significant and independent electrical power for not just Ethiopia but for the HoA region. "That is also green power and a lot of leverage in the context of the region, possibility for becoming more independent by powering their development."

How to address the key issues among the grass root level of Ethiopian people who want to be lifted out of poverty, want to have unity and peace in the region and some level of prosperity is important.

"There should not be back sliding. The positive elements that has been built on the HoA since 2018 is a lot there. And there are going to be a lot of attempts to disrupt that and we need to watch out aggressively and we also need to watch out for the so-called 'constructive intervention' by some elements."

By the same token, the underlying issues that caused the conflict will determine the sustainability of the peace deal.

Noting the sustainability of ethnic federalism and ethnically federal constitution will Balkanize Africa and keep the continent weak; Puryear called on the people of Africa to be united, come together and put their resources together so that the continent stands on its two feet.

"In doing so, there is national reconciliation happening in Ethiopia. Some of the momentum behind the national reconciliation policy, moving out of ethnic federalism and pursuing a more sustainable living standard are on the momentum of Ethiopia and Eritrea already. So we can be hopeful things will change."

Media gender inclusion crucial to serve women's voice

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA-The media should be a role model in gender inclusion towards serving the voice of the neglected women throughout the country, according to experts.

Recently, a workshop regarding the role of media in gender mainstreaming was held with the participation of various media professionals and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representatives.

Presenting a paper on the event, Fana Broadcasting Corporate Journalist and Female Journalists Association Member Tsega Tariku told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that, most of the country's media institutions lag behind in representing women in higher leadership and other positions.

As to her, the presence of women in the

media plays an indispensable role towards tackling the underrepresentation of women in the media.

However, it is expected more from the media sector towards creating a better environment for women to become competitive in every sector, she said.

"Currently, most of the stories presented in the media are focussed on political and business issues and gives lower coverage for gender issues. Most of the gender related stories produced by different media also focuses only the urban areas."

Therefore, the media should prioritize towards giving equal media coverage for gender issues both in rural and urban areas, she noted.

Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) Development and Program Advisor Kalewongel Minale said that, the council is undertaking various

activities to maintain a responsible society in the country.

Including women in various positions of the media is fundamental to ease women's challenges through presenting various programs, he said.

Moreover, societal change is possible while the media contributes its part in becoming a means of discussion among every segment of the society.

"We expect more from the media houses to bring a better social change and fight bad traditional habits. Thus, some media should fill the gender mainstreaming gaps and work further towards facilitating the country's socio-economic development."

Accordingly, the close collaboration between the civil society organizations and media sector is important to cultivate a successful generation that ensure gender equality.

Gov't, TPLF senior commanders...

humanitarian access and restoration of services in the Tigray State. "This builds on the establishment of a hotline by the parties within 24 hours of signing the agreement to facilitate communication between senior commanders of both sides."

The AU Commission commends the parties on these key confidence-building measures and their continued commitment to the implementation of the CoHA, as part of overall efforts to end the conflict and give peace a chance.

The expected outcomes of the meeting include modalities for silencing the guns, humanitarian access, and the restoration of services in the Tigray.

The AU Commission further expressed gratitude to the government and people of Kenya for hosting the senior commanders meeting, a demonstration of the Continent's commitment to the African Union's Agenda of Silencing the Guns in Africa. By the same token, the Commission thanked the Intergovernmental Authority on

Development (IGAD), the United Nations, the United States of America and the African Development Bank for their continued support towards the process.

It was learned that the commanders meeting is facilitated by the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa and former President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo together with AU High-level Panel Members, former President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa and Member of the AU Panel of the Wise.

Nation eulogizes...

lost a great man with strong devotion to serving the public. Ali contributed greatly in the musical industry and played with seven different languages focused on unity, love, freedom, and the likes though he is mostly known in Affan Oromo works.

Kebede further highlighted that Ali is accorded a national hero funeral in his native Dire Dawa city.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has

tweeted that the death of a veteran singer Ali Birra is "a loss for Ethiopia." "Through his songs, he promoted unity, perseverance and culture as well as becoming a role model for many. Ethiopia thanks you for everything you have done."

Somali State President, Mustafa Muhumed said "We lost a great national icon and a music genius. A portrait of the love, compassion, civility and tolerance in

Hararghe and East Ethiopia is famed for! A consummate entertainer; a voice for justice and liberation. May Allah's mercy be on you - the legend Ali Birra."

For Southwest Ethiopia Peoples State Deputy President Negash Wagesho (PhD), Ali attracted the attention of many with his songs and refreshed the mind and spirits of Ethiopians in his lifelong services. "His music has long been living in the hearts of the Ethiopian people and his admirers."

Expert stresses responsible...

and Television General Manager Tibebe Belete told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the establishment of a media forum will ensure that information is distributed in the right and professional way.

The north Ethiopia conflict has caused loss of lives and immense property damage. Also, A major economic crisis has arrived. Therefore, the media needs to be more careful than ever since the issue is for every Ethiopian, Tibebeu added.

"Even if the people make a mistake, the media should use its leading role to bring the people back to the correct position. The government and media experts should come together and discuss the implementation of the agreement in a manner that protects the country's honor, sovereignty and territorial integrity."

According to him, if information about the

peace agreement is given in a press release, all the media can't go and report it as they please thereby making any conspiracy and rumor analysis without this approach worthless. Therefore, the establishment of a media forum to control the media will enable things to be done through the system and protect the country's honor.

The media forum enables the work of controlling the media, giving suggestions and supporting them to run in an orderly manner. It is the national responsibility of every journalist to refrain from things that cause problems and lack of peace. From this point of view, the media should contribute to the sustainability of the peace agreement, the association president emphasized.

"Journalism itself is pacifist and stands for peace. Sometimes media unknowingly do unethical work. But the real job of mass

media is to promote peace. In this regard, it is important to have a media forum that allows the media to prevent conflicts from happening, and avert information from being released improperly."

Political parties and institutions try to make a name for themselves by using issues like the Northern War. Therefore, journalists should take this into consideration and work carefully.

Moreover, if all the media are organized to show Ethiopia's development journey to the international community, it will make it possible to easily expose those who challenge the country's sovereignty. As Ethiopia is the seat of the African Union, it is possible to reach the whole of Africa through media from Addis Ababa. Therefore, using this situation, it is necessary to explain and highlight the current situation of the country to global powers, Tibebeu elaborated.

Ethiopia pledges to work...

Over 110 leaders and heads of states in the world are expected to participate in COP27 taking place from Nov. 6 to 18, 2022 in Egypt's Red Sea city of Sharm el-Sheikh.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres delivered a message about the rapidly warming planet, warning: "We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator."

A report published by UN Climate Change ahead of COP27 shows that whilst countries are bending the curve of global greenhouse gas emissions downward, efforts remain insufficient to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

Opinion

Peace

is the way forward and reconciliation is the way

BY DR. SOLOMON ABEDOM

The world is praising the surprise peace deal between the Ethiopian Government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (Combatants) to halt hostilities permanently. The UN chief said, "A critical first step" towards ending the brutal two-year war after a peace deal was signed on Wednesday 2nd of November 2022 in South Africa. Yes, it is a critical first step, but not yet finalized. It needs a thorough and careful implementation and a follow-up of what is agreed on. Further, it demands building trust after such a devastating war. Everyone has to work for the desired peace to blossom in the country. Antagonistic words, music, art, literature, narratives, and so on must be controlled. Guns should be silenced so people can breathe fresh, peaceful air. Of course, everything cannot change in one night. But the commitment should be there. As the Chinese say, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." In this piece, we try to contribute to that journey by talking about reconciliation, which leads us to a sense of true peace.

What is reconciliation? According to The Britannica Dictionary, it has two definitions: "the act of causing two people or groups to become friendly again after an argument or disagreement," and "the process of finding a way to make two different ideas, facts, etc., exist or be true at the same time." These two definitions have different focuses. The former focuses on those who reconcile. It assumes a broken relationship. While the latter focuses on the differences in facts, ideas, perspectives, and views differences. It might be time to engage in the two meanings of the term reconciliation in the context of Ethiopia, even in the broader region, HoA. Both aspects of the reconciliation must happen to see true peace among the people in the region. First, we will deliberately choose a few examples of broken or problematic relationships in Ethiopia and even HoA that need our attention. We will also highlight the narratives or ideas that created a rift between the groups. We intend to bring long-lasting peace, which is why such a bold move. We only present them in the order that shows the interconnection of these problematic relationships. We mention five of them. Our motive is to build back a positive relationship via reconciliation.

The Relationship between the people in Eritrea and the people in Tigray

To be frank, it is not fair to claim that two people hate each other. TPLF and the leadership in the Eritrea conflict do not mean that the two people are also in conflict. But we do not deny that when the leadership is in conflict, the people

are somehow agitated to participate. That is human history. It is enough to look at those deadliest world war stories. But I wanted to emphasize that there should be reconciliation between these neighbors. Unless peace reigns in this part of HoA, there may not be peace throughout the region. Why is a bitter conflict between the two? Why are we not looking for the roots of such misunderstanding and conflict? What facts and narratives were held by each side that created the rift? We need to be bold enough to open old stories of wounds. These two people are closer: in language, culture, traditions, religion, etc. However, the presence of Italians and others in Eritrea for more than half a century has created some differences. The way they treat each other has been somehow a source of myths and conflicts. It might be time to set the narrative straight. We should be mature and wise by now to deal with such problematic issues of the past truthfully, gracefully, and passionately.

The Relationship between the people in Tigray and Amhara region

Again, it is wrong to assume that there is an irreconcilable conflict between these two people. They founded Ethiopia together with other people in the country. Many emperors and kings have come from these people. Anyone who cooks conflict between these should be a twisted one. We know that the manifesto of TPLF initially included hatred towards Amhara. It might be due to the power struggle they had over the centuries. Some incidents and situations foster such division and rifts. But these people have deeper connections. Their language has the same roots, geez; their religion has been deep-rooted in their culture and history over a long period. One can only be complete with the other. If you do not go to Aksum Zion and Lalibela or other places, how can you say that your faith is completed under the Orthodox Church? Why compliment each other, then? Why fight until you destroy the youth, the animals, and the plants? A healthy bridge is needed here. A healthy narrative is needed most now.

The Relationship between the people in Amhara and Oromia region

No other conflict is narrated well in Ethiopia than the conflict between the Amhara and the Oromo people in the past 50 years. Deliberately, the relationship between the two people has been hampered by conflict creators in the region. They have used the workings of the previous governments in the times of the emperors of Shewa to create resentment among the two people. "Shewa is bounded northwest by the Blue Nile River and the southwest by the Omo River; its eastern and southeastern boundaries are in the Great Rift Valley

along the Awash River." In Shewa, you get many ethnic groups, but it is more dominated by the two groups of people for many centuries. Frankly speaking, Shewa is an amalgam of these two people mainly. Shewa was the residence of regional kings from the mid-10th century to the end of the 14th century. Think about it! It was created even before many nations on the planet, including the USA. So people with a long story, why nurture a continuous conflict and a massacre in the 21st century? Why are we tempted to repeat history itself? Why not try to make better history?

The Relationship between the neighboring people from Oromia and Somali region

Most people in the borders between these two regions raise herds and move with them to places with fresh, green pastures with suitable plants for their herd. Green pasture land can be a source of conflict when drought exists. Otherwise, the land is vast and enough for everyone. It means if there is a proper way of communication, there will not be bloody conflicts between people like we saw in 2009 and 2016. That is why we see peace and stability when the right leaders are in place at the moment.

The Relationship between the Afar and Isaa tribes

This is also a long-standing myth that the two brothers' conflict for centuries. There is even a story behind it about why the conflict is created. It is also one of the reasons why recent Afar and Somali region conflicts were happening. But with wise leaders at the top, they manage to diffuse it. Imagine if you have mad ones at the top. They will boil the region with bloody conflicts.

These and many other chained conflicts between neighbors are not unique to Ethiopia. It happens all over the world. It is part of human history. It happens inside a country and even across the borders of nations. We all have heard about The Hundred Years' War (1337–1453) between England and France. It is history! They have been friends for many centuries then. Many of the conflicts in the world are resolved. New ones emerge. We should be better at handling these.

Reconciliation needs wisdom

"Reconciliation is the Greek word *katallagē*, meaning "an exchange; reconciliation, restoration to favor." Something has happened that has caused two parties to become estranged. The two might have been friends. Reconciliation is defined as the restoration of friendly relations." Restoring relationships is not an easy task. It demands wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Three provisions can help the people in the country and the region to

work on reconciliation to build a sense of sustainable peace. We mention them here briefly; deep analysis can be provided by experts and elders further.

1. The role of religion

Ethiopians, in general, the HoA people are religious. It means religion is one of the opportunities that can help bring lasting peace. The Holy Bible even talks about reconciliation between God and man since man has acted wrongly to harm the relationship. But that relationship is restored now via the sacrifices of Christ, according to the teachings of the Bible. It says enmity is destroyed. Islam is also the religion of peace. Those who are teaching and leading should capitalize on these messages.

2. The role of language

Language is a powerful communicating agency. Through it, healthy relation is created, and through it, hatred and division are sown into the minds and hearts of the people. What you sow, you reap. It is a natural phenomenon. If you sow wheat, you do not get barely. That is why they say, "ሰው የዘራውን ያንን ያጥጋደዋል!" So, what we say to each other determines the result. A responsible and careful constructive discourse is needed.

3. The role of culture

There are rich cultural conflict resolution ways in every one of these groups of people mentioned and even other groups in the region. It is sufficient to mention how the Afar elders sit together around and negotiate for hours and hours and solve the local problem they encounter repeatedly. It is a many century of wisdom. The Oromo community has it. The Amharas and the Tigrayans have it. One deep culture that is within the Tigrayan community is called *መመያየጥ* - meaning deeper conversation. They are good at it. We can use all these cultural potentials for our good.

Conclusion

Peace thrives in the Horn of Africa when Eritreans and Tigrayans reconcile; Tigrayans and Amhara build trust; Amhara and Oromo community strengthen their relationship; Oromo and Somali strengthen their neighborhood; Somalia and Afar keep working on building trust, and so on. All these people and other neighbors in the region have to decide and commit to pursuing peace. Reconciliation has to be at the center. Of course, the dialog is another vehicle that will help. Ethiopia has set up a Dialog and reconciliation agency to do the job. It should broaden to neighboring countries too. Peace is the way forward!

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



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Tel. 011-126-42-22
Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

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The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Walking the talk for durable peace!

It can be confidently deduced that Ethiopians in general and ethnic Tigrayans in particular have superbly known the effect of unrest and turmoil than anyone else across the globe as they have swallowed morels of myriads of war-borne evil acts in history. The country has severely been challenged especially since the start of the war. After numerous ups and downs to conclude the war with peaceful means, both parties reached an agreement that benefits Ethiopia and its people.

Yes, the gloomy trajectory on which Ethiopia has been trekking on is closed and the atmosphere is now bedecked with fresh and healing air.

Peace is already declared in Ethiopia; all Ethiopians won the trophy and have reaped the fruits of 'African solutions to African problems' principle. As this great nation is a pioneer and an icon for the whole continent, what it has entertained in life is taken for granted and provide the rest of Africa with green light to be triumphant over all sorts of foes.

The exemplary peace deal settled between both parties is a case in point along this line. Interestingly, the way forward brings hope and optimism for the door to bring about lasting concord is open wide.

However, anti-peace elements, activists and even some in the diaspora have been trying to obstruct the peace process and they are still demanding the war to prolong. It is not surprising, of course, as the source of income for these anti-peace elements would get dried for good if peace is well ensured and prevails in Ethiopia.

Leading a better residing abroad, some diaspora members have

urged the peace-loathing factions to continue battling. They don't care about the children of the poor in the state so long as theirs are learning overseas to claim a better life. Such a self-centered and envious attitude bears no outcome as all Ethiopians across the nation started enjoying the fruits of the recent peace accord.

Undoubtedly, the anti-peace activists would like to fatter personal and/or group gain at the expense of the masses. Some have even shamelessly blocked streets in the US opposing the peace process. Frankly speaking, only devil and its accomplices could hardly recite amity songs and lucrative steps for peace. The peace agreement has made Ethiopia victorious over a range of destructive moves.

The international community has to support Ethiopia's effort geared towards meaningfully implement the peace accord and firm attempt to walk the talk. Time has come for Ethiopia; time has come For Africa. Chapter of hostility and revenge has been prettily closed though a lot remains to be done.

In sum, as walking the talk matters the most, both agreeing parties are expected to translate the elements of the peace deal into practical actions one by one. What the government of Ethiopia has been aspiring has ultimately become true and the international community should condemn acts of anti-peace elements which are trying to hold the smooth peace process back and support the apposite steps Ethiopia is taking. Our people in Tigray and Amhara, Afar and the rest of the places are tired of war. All want to fully focus on the development undertakings that have been in place over the last reform years.

Opinion

The positive economic dividend from the peace accord

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The two year war (2020-2022) in the northern part of the country has inflicted unfathomable damage on the economic social and psychological status of the country. Notwithstanding the hundreds of thousands of citizens that have perished in the war and the damage done on the infrastructure and social service delivery systems, the traumatic effects and socio-psychological damaged sustained by the citizens in the northern part of the country is indeed the worst by global standards. The World Bank and the IMF estimated that between 2020 and 2022 the war has drained an average of 1 billion USD from the coffers of the nation.

The war coincided with the proliferation of COVID-19 pandemic, recurrent drought and flooding, swarming of locust across the country as well as hyperinflation that remained at a two digit scale over two years. Besides, apart from the war in the north, sporadic conflicts followed by constant disruption of peace and security across the country affected the pace of the progress on major infrastructure projects.

Economic and diplomatic sanctions by the US and EU put unjustified pressures on Ethiopia by laying off thousands of older women and girls who were benefiting from AGOA in the industrial parks across the country and multiplied their misery and destitution while withholding of funds by EU exerted further pressure on the government

Despite all the above mentioned challenges that the country is forced to face and in spite of the agony from the loss of lives and property, in fiscal year 2014 E.C the nation has registered remarkable macroeconomic results that vividly depict better socio-economic and financial performance in the current fiscal year that has already set in.

According to the deliberations on a recent review

conducted by the National Macro Finance Committee in the last several months, in the financial sector, the financial institutions, notably banks have managed to deposit more than 1.7 trillion Birr over the year with 26.7% increase over the previous fiscal year.

The Tax and Revenue Authority planned to collect 360 billion in taxes over the year and managed to collect 336.7 billion birr with 93.5% performance for the fiscal year. This resulted from highly skilled leadership from the management team and stronger commitment displayed by tax payers of all levels across the country. Besides stronger sensitization programs and orientations provided for the tax payers through regular sensitization meetings on the media have played important role in promoting better tax payment performance.

Despite the propaganda war and campaigns by disoriented citizens abroad, the National Bank has managed to process remittances worth 5.6 billion USD which is indeed the highest ever registered amount of remittance over a period of 12 years. This clearly indicates that the participation of Ethiopians and foreigners of Ethiopian origin has increased helping the country to hold on to an unexpected economic crisis.

Moreover, the volume of foreign trade registered over the previous fiscal year has increased by one billion USD compared to the previous year. Provision of improved logistics and higher level of follow up on foreign trade transactions has contributed to the marked level of increase in foreign trade transactions.

Import substitution conducted over the recently closed fiscal year is among the highest in the recent history of the manufacturing industries in the country. This resulted from the institution of 2383 newly established manufacturing industries that joined the market.

Further import substitution can be planned for food

products like edible oil, pharmaceutical products and other products including electronics and other modern products that are demanded in international markets.

The country has a huge potential to produce enough cotton for apiary and other textile products that have been imported from abroad.

It is also interesting to note that FDI has increased to 3.31 billion USD making the country the fourth FDI destination in the country. Given the negative impacts of COVID-19, destabilization by internal war, international economic sanctions imposed on the country. The results achieved by the nation are quite remarkable.

Ethiopia is now striving to engage in self-sufficiency and export of wheat by increasing hectares of farmland through cluster farming and through introducing on farm and off farm technologies that would help to reduce post-harvest loss.

Although the country has registered better results in terms of exports, there is still more to be desired in terms of export diversification. This certainly depends upon the diversification and increased productivity in the manufacturing industries as well. The country has the potential to produce more agricultural and non-agricultural commodities. The vast agro-ecology and potentials in water resources can enable the country to produce more diversified crops meant for local consumption and export.

The Committee has recognized the galloping level of inflation that the country is currently facing. Locally inflation has reached its highest level on consumer items and more particularly on food products.

As a short run measure to economize the foreign currency earnings of the country, the National Bank of Ethiopia has banned issuance of LC for 38 non-essential import commodities.

However, Ethiopia has not remained in the bleak.

The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement recently reached in Pretoria is an important step towards the establishment of a lasting peace that is of crucial importance to accelerate the reform programs of the country.

As the result of the implementation of the Agreement, Ethiopia expects to attract more FDI and also receive rescheduling of debt payments and access to relief and development aid to fast track the relief and rehabilitation program in the war ravaged northern Ethiopia.

As an important diplomatic victory for the country, the Agreement will help to restore Ethiopia's foreign relations with the western countries, international financial magnets like the IMF which lauded the peace process, the World Bank, the UN systems and other development partners with whom Ethiopia has been working have reported that they will continue to work with the Government of Ethiopia.

The restoration of peace will also help to accelerate the pace of a number of mega projects the country which face financial hurdles. Ethiopia has embarked on bumper harvest of wheat, spices, cut flowers and other agriculture commodities. The nation has started to extend power grids to share hydroelectric power to more neighboring countries besides Kenya, Djibouti and Sudan.

The historic agreement and restoration on peace in the northern part of the country will provide an excellent opportunity for the rehabilitation of infrastructure facilities and social service structures that were completely damaged during the two year war. The peace process and the resultant actions to be taken are yet to unfold and the national optimism and hope for better future is expected to touch down.

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

Business & Economy

Ukraine-Russia war put world economy under temptation

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

It has been nine months since, the war between Ukraine and Russia out broke and before the war no one predicted that the war would bring a disastrous economic impact at the global level.

Even no one knew that the two countries have the economic capacity to sustain the war. The crisis currently affects both developing and developed countries. Western European countries suffered from shortage of resources due to cut by Russia. African and Asian countries which are dependent on the Ukraine wheat and edible oil also felt the pain in a great deal.

Professor Mengistu Ketema is an Economist and Executive Manager of the Ethiopian Economic Association. As to him, no one taught that the war between the two countries brings economic repercussion on other parts of the world in such high scale. It was not understood that its pressure would be afflictive on the world trade. Their contribution to the world economy could be understood after the outbreak of the war.

Currently, economic repercussion of the war spill over to Africa. He further said that, the economic impact of the war on the developing countries is severe. The Ethiopian economy was already facing various problems before the outbreak of the war. The oil price hike witnessed in the world market attributed to the war and the economic impact can be said worse. Inflation was common even before the two countries engaged into the war and the public felt the pain.

Drought was a recurrent phenomenon in various parts of the country that brings its own consequences on the economy. But of all, the inflation witnessed on food, fuel and fertilizer has severe consequence on the ordinary citizens. In relation to fuel, the impact is not only affects Ethiopia but also other African countries. Economic activities are heavily depends on fuel and when price hike on fuel is occurred, everything is affected. To transport products from any sector fuel is essential. Transporting inputs for agricultural or industrial production without fuel is unthinkable.

In addition to these, fuel is used as an input for fertilizer production. Therefore, one can imagine the impact of fuel on the economy. In order to enhance crop productivity, fertilizer is crucial. In relation with the impact of the war between Ukraine and Russia, import commodities in the Ethiopian economy mainly wheat and edible oil are affected seriously. Previously 40 percent of Ethiopia's imports of wheat and edible oil came from the two warring countries.

The impact touches not only Ethiopia but also other countries which in turn brings additional price on commodities imported from other countries.

Fore example, Ethiopia imports fertilizer from



Morocco and when the Moroccan economy is affected by the war between the two warring countries price hike also reflected on fertilizer which Ethiopia imports.

In Africa among 25 countries almost 30 percent of their wheat imports came from the two countries.

Eritrea, for instance, imports its 100 percent wheat from the two countries. Somalia also imports 90 percent wheat from the two countries. Most African countries are heavily dependent on the two countries regarding meeting their wheat and edible oil demand. The impact not only threatens the African economy today, but also consumes its future. In Ethiopia, efforts have been exerted to enhance agricultural production and productivity but to achieve the goal the availability of fertilizer is a must. Currently, the price of fertilizer in the local market has been increasing.

As a result, farmer's utilization of fertilizer per hectare is decreased which in turn reduces production. Approximately, 20 to 21 percent of the utilization of fertilizer will be reduced.

As to professor Mengistu, countries affected by the war underway between the two countries have been taking measures to withstand the impact but time will show whether it is enough or not. Resolving the impact in short term is very hard. For example, changing trade partner spontaneously is not feasible and it takes its own time. The government is trying its level best to adjust the trade system and it has to be strengthened. To raise agricultural productivity in addition to fertilizer, other inputs are vital for example, selected seeds, various chemicals such as herb and pesticides. Some of them are produced locally. Hence, scaling up the production is essential. In addition, improving their utilization is vital. Searching options for energy resource and utilizing the resource economically helps to recover the economy. In the long term, substituting the imported fertilizer and fuel helps to save hard currency and reduce dependency on foreign products.

Efforts are also undergoing to ensure food security and the government is aggressively working in this regard.

As to professor Mengistu, finding additional market options is essential but it is not simple to change the market destiny. Rigorous diplomatic efforts should put in place and finding trade partner is crucial. In fact, Ethiopia is suspended from AGOA due to the war broke out in the northern part of the country.

"Had there been alternative mechanism, overcoming the impact would have been possible. Searching other option is always essential. Not only increasing the number of countries of our export products destiny but also increasing countries where we import fertilizer is essential and in such a way at least overcoming shortage of supply can be addressed," he added.

In addition, strengthening regional trade integration is of the utmost importance. African countries should strengthen trade relations each other.

Professor Mengistu said that Ethiopia's export commodities destined to the two countries are insignificant of which the major export item is coffee. 90 percent of Russia's import from Ethiopia is coffee.

But this does not indicate that the volume of the export of coffee is huge but out of the total export items coffee takes the lion share. Ethiopia's export to Ukraine is also the same. Ethiopian export items are not diversified and high in volume and most of them are agricultural products. Hence, if Russia or Ukraine or both do not import Ethiopian products, it does not have any significant impact on their economy, because they can obtain the products from other countries.

Professor Mengistu further elaborated that due to the price hike in the international market, Ethiopia spent huge amount of Dollars for the purchasing of fuel and fertilizer within only six months which it should spent in a year.

This means most of Ethiopia's reserved hard

currency is spent for the importation of food items, fuel and fertilizer. But the situation has to be changed. For example, substituting the imported edible oil and foods by local products has to be taken as option. Ethiopia has abundant natural resources such as vast arable land, water, and human resources. Thus, reducing importation dependency on of food items is essential via exploiting the resources. In fact for the time being substituting of fuel and fertilizer by local products might be hard but replacing chemical fertilizer by compost can be taken as a way out.

The economic impact of the war seems to be continued unless the two countries come to cessation of hostilities. Countries assumed that they would be free from the impact of COVID-19 by 2023 and imagined that they will begin to recover their economy from the severe crackdown. But because of the war broke out between Russia and Ukraine, their intention is left as day dreaming. Therefore, not only Ethiopia but also other countries are unable to return their economic performance to the level before the outbreak of COOVID 19. Therefore, economy of many countries would continue to face the crises posed by the war taking place between the two countries.

As to the Professor, currently, shortfall in supplying essential goods to markets likely continues due to the price hike of fuel in the world market. Hence, searching for other option is vital. Among the options; reducing fuel consumption is one. For instance, European Union member countries are working to reduce their fuel consumption by 15 percent. In Ethiopia too, strategy should be in place to reduce fuel consumption. Utilizing vehicles for short trip must be given up. Replacing fuel vehicles by solar and electric powered vehicles must also be taken as a way out.

In Kenya, electric powered public transport service buses and motor bicycles are already introduced and replicating their experience here is essential because it can serve as a tool for the reduction of fuel consumption.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Ethiopia's peace deal and the global reaction

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

Following the peace agreement held in Pretoria, South Africa, the Ethiopian government and the other party have agreed to realize peace and provide immediate unfettered humanitarian support to people affected by the two-year-long war.

Meanwhile, the Ethiopian government has expressed its gratitude to those who initiated the peace agreement mainly the African Union and its representatives.

In the statement issued on November 2, 2022, by the Office of the Prime Minister, PM Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) expressed his government's commitment to collaborating for the implementation of the agreement that he described as monumental in moving Ethiopia forward on the path of the reforms the incumbent embarked upon four and half years ago.

"Our commitment to peace remains steadfast" he said, expressing his gratitude to the African Union Commission and the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa His Excellency former President Olusegun Obasanjo, together with esteemed members of the high representative's team, former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Dr. Phumuzile Mlambo, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa. Abiy also thanked AUC Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat for spearheading the AU's principled position of 'African Solutions to African Problems.

Prime Minister Abiy also said in the statement that he is thankful to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa for hosting the talks to the successful conclusion. "Ethiopia is grateful to you and the sisterly nation of South Africa," he noted. In this statement, the premier mentioned that he would like to appreciate the friends of Ethiopia that have taken an active role in supporting the conclusion of the agreement. "We count on your continued support in reconstructing conflict-affected areas in the Northern part of the country and an enhanced partnership with Ethiopia in our countrywide development endeavors," he urged.

Accordingly, various international organizations and governments are appreciating the peace agreement and expressed their dedication to supporting the implementation of the peace deal. A statement issued by the UN on 2 November 2022 stated that the peace agreement signed between the federal government and the other party represents a critical step towards

ending the brutal two-year war

In the statement, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities brokered by the African Union and mediated by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, was a promising start to finally stopping the fighting which erupted in November 2020.

The Secretary-General said in the statement that all Ethiopians and the international community have to support the bold step taken by the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the TPLF combatants while signing the peace deal. The information obtained from the UN indicated that the Secretary-General pledged his support to the parties in the implementation of the agreement and urged both sides to continue with negotiations on the outstanding issues in a spirit of reconciliation in order to reach a lasting political settlement, silence the guns and put the country back on the path to peace and stability.'

He appealed to all stakeholders to seize the opportunity provided by the ceasefire, to scale up humanitarian assistance to all civilians in need, and to restore the desperately needed public services. Guterres commended the AU and its High-Level Panel for the facilitation of the peace talks and South Africa, for its key role in hosting the peace talks. The United Nations stands ready to assist the next steps of the African Union-led process and will continue to mobilize much-needed assistance to alleviate suffering in the affected areas, it was learned.

It has been reportedly said that the two-year-long war has caused a humanitarian crisis in Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions. According to WHO, there are around 5.2 million in need of humanitarian assistance in Tigray alone, including 3.8 million who need healthcare. Large numbers of displaced were arriving in, or moving towards Tigray's regional capital, with needs rising by the day.

The AU had described the agreement as a new dawn and hailed the disarmament plan which both sides have officially signed up to after weeks of extensive negotiations including the restoration of aid supplies.

For Nebil Mahdi, Ethiopian Ambassador to South Sudan the conflict has triggered the loss of lives and livelihood, and it is in the interest of the entire people of Ethiopia to leave this chapter of conflict behind them and bring peace and harmony.

Mahdi said during a press conference held at the Ethiopian Embassy in Juba that the government and the TPLF have agreed to coordinate disarmament along with restoration of law and order, and unhindered access to humanitarian supplies.

"We have also agreed on the detailed program for disarmament, demobilization, and re-integration for the TPLF combatants taking into account the security situation on the ground. The implementation of the ceasefire deal has already started," he disclosed.

Various governments are also expressing their appreciation for the peace agreement reached by the government and the other party. In a statement by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the United States of America welcomed the momentous step taken in Pretoria to advance the African Union's campaign to "silence the guns" with the signing of a cessation of hostilities between the Government of Ethiopia and the other party.

"We commend the parties for taking this initial step to agree to end the fighting and continue dialogue to resolve outstanding issues to consolidate peace and bring an end to almost two years of conflict. We welcome the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance and the protection of civilians that should result from the implementation of this agreement," Blinken said in the statement.

The United States commends AU Commission Chairman Faki for his leadership as well as the extraordinary efforts of AU High Representative Obasanjo, former South African Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka, and former Kenyan President Kenyatta, whose facilitation led to this significant step toward peace. We also commend South Africa for generously hosting the talks.

The US also expressed its commitment to partner with the AU-led process and its collaboration with the UN, IGAD, and other regional and international partners to support the implementation of the agreement. The country also pledged support for an enhanced partnership with Ethiopia to support reconstruction and development for all communities in northern Ethiopia affected by the conflict.

Meanwhile, Russia also expressed its pleasure in Ethiopia's peace talks that will help to end the conflict in the northern part of the country. In a statement released by the Russian Embassy in Ethiopia on 3

November 2022, the country welcomed the peace agreement between the Ethiopian government and other party to cease hostilities in Northern Ethiopia.

"We hope that the signed Peace Agreement will serve as a solid foundation for completing the process of national reconciliation, reconstruction of the affected regions, and securing stability for the sake of prosperity of all Ethiopian people", the statement read.

Similarly, the UK welcomed the important step towards peace taken by the Ethiopian Government and the other party in signing a cessation of hostilities on 2 November and commends their choice to end the devastating 2-year-long conflict.

The statement issued on 4 November 2022 by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) said the UK is grateful to the leadership shown in brokering this critical agreement by African Union Commission Chairperson Faki, African Union High Representative to the Horn of Africa Obasanjo, former South African Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Kenyan President Kenyatta, and the South African Government in hosting the talks.

It is now crucial that all parties in Ethiopia, with support from its friends in the international community, move to implement the agreement. Most critically, humanitarian aid must be urgently delivered to all those in conflict-affected areas.

The statement said, "The UK, as a longstanding friend and partner of Ethiopia, stands ready to work alongside the Ethiopian Government and others to support the recovery of conflict-affected areas. We look forward to seeing the benefits of peace for the people of Ethiopia."

Prior to the peace agreement, various international agencies and some governments had been pressuring the government on providing humanitarian support and access to social services to war-affected areas.

Currently, these agencies and global powers are expressing that the peace deal will help to ensure access to unimpeded humanitarian aid. The federal government and other party must cooperate as per the agreement to ensure reliable peace and accessible aid to the people. The international community also needs to lend its hands in rehabilitation efforts to realize the fruits of the agreement shortly.

Collaborative efforts for the implementation...

link between farmers, pastoralists, and consumers. It is about getting adequate nutritional food. Food self-sufficiency is directly linked to national sovereignty and dignity, and the "Yelemat Tirufat" campaign accelerates our efforts to achieve food self-sufficiency at the family and national levels, he added.

Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture Umar

Hussain said that the program will be implemented over the next four years and various results will be expected. Accordingly, the current goal is to increase animal production and productivity, ensure food security, create job opportunities, increase export and replace imported animal products with domestic ones.

Hence, the program has now been started

with milk, eggs, chicken meat, and honey, and we will expand it to other products after the evaluation of their results. This will help to increase the products that were low by using the country's vast animal and poultry resources. Besides, the program aims to increase chicken meat from 90 thousand tons to 296 thousand tons, milk production from 6.9 billion liters to 11.7 billion liters, egg production from 3.2 billion to 9.1

billion, and honey production from 147 thousand tons to 296 thousand tons.

Indeed, increasing food production will help to diversify the menus and good access to markets. It also alleviates the malnutrition problems of the country. Therefore, partners, donors, and stakeholders should affirm to make sure the realization of the national nutrition scheme "Ye Lemat Tirufat program.

Law & Politics

A peace deal that foils the intrigues of external foes

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

In the present circumstances, some foreign entities have been moving heaven and earth to foment violence in the country. For the sake of accomplishing their underlying motives, some external elements have also been exploiting internal situations to twist Ethiopia's arm working in combination with some discredited international media outlets that have been getting off the track of journalism ethics and standards and downplaying their profession.

Notwithstanding the fact that the discredited international media outlets know the inside out of Ethiopia's situation, they have been wittingly putting a considerable amount of conspiracies into effect. The propaganda has even continued to this very day even after a peace deal has been reached between the federal government and Tigray People's Liberation Front.

Dismayed by the positive developments, some foreign media outlets and Ethiopia's external elements have been making activities to disrupt the peace accord by spreading false information and leaking unverified documents.

Ethiopia has shown the world that it is capable of resolving its internal matters but sadly some foreign entities have been calling for a peaceful resolution of the matter and have embarked on sowing doubts and tried to undermine the AU-led negotiation.

In the general run of things, some dishonored media outlets have been engaged in a smear campaign against the incumbent and the positive moves unfolding throughout the country joining hands with Ethiopia's internal and external rivals.

Regardless of the fact that they have been endeavoring to dig a hole for Ethiopia aimed at removing the democratically elected government from power and moving the country into uncharted waters, they have not achieved the desired goal as a consequence of the undaunted stance of Ethiopians at home and abroad.

Albeit the disgraced international media outlets, know the fact that external foes have been working around the clock to back the country into a corner and bring about chaos and unrest on a national scale, they kept on turning a blind eye and blackening the positive image of the government. Despite the fact that bringing about the desired goal is an impossible mission by any means whatsoever, some foreign entities have continued parroting the interest of their enablers.

It is a well-known fact that apart from struggling around the clock to break the social bond of Ethiopians by sowing the seeds of hatred along religious and ethnic lines through a diverse range of cock-and-bull stories, some foreign entities have been pulling out their fingers to instigate unrest across the entire country.

In spite of the fact that the federal government has been sparing no effort to

PEACE DEAL



beat swords into plowshares, the foreign entities have been pouring cold water on the peace talks under the pretense of a vast number of cooked-up stories that do not reflect the existing situations on the ground. Though Ethiopia's opponents know the abovementioned reality on the ground like the palm of their hand, they kept on distancing themselves from the honest truth and mystifying the global community by painting a wrong picture of the situation in the country.

In actual fact, the hidden motives of some alien entities coupled with the misleading information campaign have brought about unjustified pressure against Ethiopia and strengthened their fake information campaign against the government.

Though the incumbent has been making all possible efforts to make peace happen from proclaiming a humanitarian truce to establishing a peace committee to get to the bottom of the problem in an atmosphere of calm, some foreign affiliates have been working around the clock to disrupt the peace deal by putting unwarranted pressure on Ethiopia.

Amidst misleading information, and groundless allegations Ethiopia has sent a clear message that it is able of resolving its internal matter peacefully.

Similarly, some external entities have continued playing a part in groundless accusations of the incumbent that has been defending the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the nation. Besides, they circumvent authorized sources and echo slanderous propaganda. Beating the drums of war, and disseminating bogus news stories have become the daily routine of some foreign media outlets.

Civil Service University School of Diplomacy and International Relations Head Endale Niguse told *The Ethiopian Press Agency* (EPA) that "All Africans and the international community are aware of the clear intention of the west."

As Ethiopians have consolidated unity and set minor differences aside, foreign interest groups that have ruined Yemen, Libya, and Syria will not have the leeway to utilize

internal differences to bring collateral damage, a prominent scholar said.

Speaking to local media, Kotebe Educational University President Berhanemeskel Tena (Ph.D.) stated that steps taken by the government to ensure the sovereignty of the country and maintain lasting peace since the outbreak of the northern conflict are promising.

So long as Ethiopians at home and abroad have drawn important lessons from failed states, they have been tirelessly working to foil the well-organized conspiracy of some interest groups. The legitimately elected government is duty bound to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and safeguard the wellbeing of citizens, he added.

"Since no one can come and devise solutions to Ethiopia's internal problems, transforming the country is our sole responsibility and no interference is required at all. The people of Ethiopia are now fighting a proxy war and averting propaganda campaigns that are targeting to weaken the government and dismantle the country.

Berhanemeskel further noted that as the #NoMore movement provided the nation with a sigh of relief, Ethiopians' coordinated efforts to curtail the intensified propaganda have to be stepped up with a view to curtailing western interference.

"Some Western powers consider us a jungle to root out and grow whenever the need arises. So long as we are sons and daughters of a sovereign nation and people whom others could never use as Trojan horses, their propaganda is dispersed in vain. They are also trying to dismantle Ethiopia by fueling differences in ethnicity and religion, but this doesn't work at all as we have drawn important lessons from countries which have been victims of false propaganda."

The international community and interest groups in focus have to comprehend that Ethiopians have united more than ever and can solve their problems using homegrown mechanisms. Therefore, they have to put their hands off Ethiopia and leave the country alone to manage internal problems, the academician emphasized.

Society

Restoring facilities; accessing essential services

BY STAFF REPORTER

Following the two year-long conflict in the northern part of the country, some areas have been left without electricity for over a year and plus months for the reason electric infrastructure facilities were damaged due to the war. As a result, the people were compelled to live in darkness for months.

Luckily, subsequent to the government's commitment to repair damaged power plants and infrastructure thereby accessing essential services in the northern part of the country, the restoration activities are ongoing effectively.

With the unreserved; wide-ranging efforts of employees of the Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU) to restart electricity power in those areas; currently, electric supply has been resumed in some of the towns and residents are expressing their delight.

Last Sunday, the electricity service, which had been interrupted for 15 months in Sekota Town and the surrounding areas, resumed after extensive maintenance activities were completed, ENA reported.

According to Kiros Farede, Sekota Service Center Head with the Ethiopian Electric Utility, since July 16/2013, the districts of the Wag Hemera Zone, Sekota Town, had been completely out of service for a year and a half month. However, he said that due to the intensive maintenance works carried out day and night by experts from Addis Ababa,



Photo EEU

Bahr Dar and Woldeya districts to restore the electric infrastructures, the areas have now been able to getting electricity service.

The town was able to get the service following the unrestricted three days long maintenance works of the experts on damaged infrastructure and the like repairing works on the 66 kilovolt high power transmission line from Alamata-Sekota, he added.

The recommencement of the service will

lessen the sufferings and economic burden of the community who was suffering due to the interruption of electricity service. He also urged the community to properly protect and maintain the electrical infrastructure.

Shemelis Wolde-Semayat, Woldia District Director with the Utility on his part said that the maintenance work was carried out untiringly and speedily in order to bring the local community out of the darkness. In turn, it was possible to restore the service so soon.

The valiant, devoted, hardworking

employees of the Utility, after three days of meticulous maintenance activities, they can resume electricity services in Sekota Town in a short period of time. The local residents have also expressed their happiness warmly. The utility will continue brightening up the remaining areas.

It will be remembered that Lalibela, Kobo, Alamata and surrounding districts benefited from the electricity service a few days ago due to a measure taken by electrical service experts to resume the services.

Singing the same tune, Ethio telecom is also working to repair and resume the services in war affected areas. As it has recently announced, some areas, including Alamata, Korum, Adi Arkai, Tselemt, Chiro Lena, Goby Kobo, Kobo, Robit, Zoble and Waja towns that telecom services were cut off for long, have now started get the services. Further efforts are also ongoing to repair damaged infrastructures and resume the services before long in other areas too.

It will be remembered that in earlier days due to the energy exerted by experts of the Utility in taking corrective maintenance on those conflict-ridden areas to resume the services, a few days ago towns such as Waja, Timuga, Lalibela, Korum, Kobo, Alamata and surrounding districts are connected; and localities have started benefitting from the service.



Published on every Tuesday in cooperation
with the Federal Ministry of Education

Adult education: Bridge to modern education-essential for development

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Over the weekend, the Ministry of Education and DVV International-Ethiopia have jointly facilitated the 2022 National Adult and Non-formal Education Conference and International Literacy Day which is being celebrated under the title 'Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces' in Hawassa city.

State Minister for General Education, Fanta Mandefro (PhD), noted in his opening remarks that Basic Education Program, at this gesture in time, is beyond enabling citizens to write, to read and to do the basic mathematical operations, it has become bridge to the modern education opening opportunities to many people. It has registered significant results that many have benefitted from the program passing through the processes of completing higher education to achieving the highest professorship academic levels.

"I am the living witness to this as I learnt elementary education in Basic Education Program that I completed grade six in only three years. Following that, I joined formal education to MA level at home and studied PhD in Nederland. Totally, I taught at Addis Ababa University for twenty five years till I was assigned to this position. From this, we grasp the lesson that Adults' Education opens the eyes and maps the roads of many people.



Understanding this, though a lot of activities have been done by the government and the supports from partners, there are still millions of citizens who have not got the opportunity," he justified the result with the need to focus on the program.

In the case of Ethiopia, it is not only adults, but also many children who have not seen schools at all; he said necessitating: "Therefore, Adults' Education Program needs to include both adults and children who have not joined schools at their school ages basically to motivate formal education. As well, we have to recognize learning beyond a basic citizens' right as a tool to create and develop nation.

And, it is only through education that we can make citizens effective to lead reformed life

and to dream better tomorrow in all aspects by using what they have at hand. For this reason, Adults' Education Program goal should exceed learning to write, read and use basic mathematical operations. It has to include various technical training, skills trainings and other continuous programs."

On the other hand, Adult Education Program implementation has counted ages under different titles like: Let All Learn, National Alphabet Army, Adult and Illiterates' Education, and Comprehensive Action Focused Adults' Education in Ethiopia.

But now, it is operating under the title: Adults' and Non-formal Education and Training. This indicates that all the governments of Ethiopia have understood the necessity of adult

education. "If we go back and consider, it is not only the importance of adult education in which the governments of Ethiopia excelled, but also its results were high-especially at the end of 1970s and in the beginning of 1980s that is very critical to bear in mind in the future activities of the program," he recalled it.

Currently, the Ministry has given special attention to the Adults' Education Program that it restructured it as a Directorate to be led by a Chief Executive Officer and have two desks. The major programs under the Directorate are: Adults' Basic Education, Adults' Technical Skills Training, Accelerated Education, Distance Education and Evening Education, he detailed them calling on the States: "Using this opportunity, we urge the States to create such structure and use it as soon as possible."

At last, to enhance the nation's esteemed development and avail the required quality trained human resource, it is essential to implement the programs effectively, fairly and cooperatively. And this requires the involvement of all the stakeholders. "Therefore, I call on all governments and non-governmental agencies to pay due attentions and supports to the sector," Dr. Fanta concluded thanking DVV International and others for facilitating the conference.

Planet Earth

Collaborative efforts for the implementation of “Ye Lemat Tirufat”

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Malnutrition contributes to a significant percentage of all infant and child deaths in developing countries. Hence, nutrition is important during the first 1,000 days from the start of a woman’s pregnancy to her child’s second birthday to avoid the irreversible negative impact on the child’s health, cognitive development, physical growth, and school and work performance later in life.

Food insecurity, poor maternal and child feeding practices, high incidence of infectious diseases, and limited access to quality nutrition services are among the nutrition problems that are usually observed in these countries. Besides, frequent droughts, complicating access to and consumption of nutritious foods is a major obstacle to food security across the country. Moreover, in developing countries children consume the least diverse diets. Because at the household level, food consumption baskets, in Ethiopia, are dominated by cereals and pulses, while the consumption of animal-source foods and fruits, and Vitamin A-rich vegetables are rare, especially in rural areas.

Ethiopian Former Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn noted the need for an innovative approach in order to transform the agriculture and food systems in Africa, which is identified by vulnerability to



multiple and overlapping shocks and threats. To feed its growing population, Africa spends about 45 billion USD annually on food imports and this trend means that we might reach 110 billion USD in 2025 if nothing is done, especially as we are beginning to experience strains in global supply chains, Hailemariam said.

Hence, “we must find ways to transform Africa’s food systems, which had been defined by vulnerability to multiple and overlapping shocks and threats, taking advantage of the recommendations of last year’s food system summit and assisting member states to implement the African common position on food systems. We must

tackle how to improve on food production through increased yield including through ensuring adequate access to fertilizer, seed, and other critical inputs.”

FAO Assistant Director-General Regional Representative for Africa Abebe Hailegabriel explained “Africa is moving backward in its efforts to end hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition.” Furthermore, over a billion Africans cannot afford a healthy diet.

More people slide into chronic hunger in 2020 than in the previous 5 years combined, Abebe stated, and underscored “signaling that recovery from the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 is an enormous and

ongoing challenge in Africa.” Policy actions to diversify sources of food suppliers and domestic production, improved effectiveness, and efficiencies of social protection programs are the things needed to be implemented currently, according to him.


Ethiopian Health Minister Dr. Lia Tadesse elucidated “as a nation we experience huge nutrition and food security problems, especially stunting, and the government has shown a strong commitment to ending stunting of under two years’ children in Ethiopia through the Seqota Declaration.”

Taking the multi-benefits and contribution of nutrition across the country, Ethiopia Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed launches the national nutrition scheme “Ye Lemat Tirufat.” The scheme is a national initiative intended to implement a balanced diet at a household level drawing experiences from the best practices in the Green Legacy, Wheat, and Avocado Production.

According to Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, apart from ensuring national food self-sufficiency, the program will play a vital role in implementing family nutrition by significantly improving milk, eggs, poultry, and honey production across the nation.


This development campaign focuses on nutritional opulence. The traditional food container, “Lemat,” represents a


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