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Gov't delegation to Mekelle defining moment in implementing CoHA

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA—The Federal Government delegation led by speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives Tagesse Chafo

arrived in Mekelle yesterday and the delegation arrival is said to an attestation to Cessation of Hostility Agreement (CoHA) going on the right track and progressing.

In its press statement, the Government Communication Service (GCS) stated the visit by the delegation would give a chance to oversee the implementation of core issues

See Gov't delegation ... page 3



Photo - Tsehay Nigussie

Ethiopia's diplomacy overcomes two-year pressing challenges: Demeke

• Praises diplomats' role in protecting Ethiopia's interests

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA- Withstanding the internal and external challenges that tested Ethiopia's diplomacy in the past two years,

the country has achieved significant success in the area, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched

yesterday the annual performance evaluation and planning retreat of senior officials at the African Leadership Academy in Sululta

See Ethiopia's diplomacy ... page 3

Shire residents laud gov't peace building efforts

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Residents of the Shire town of Tigray State said the federal government's efforts in ensuring peace and upholding recently-enacted Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) deserve great appreciation.

Residents who talk to the Ethiopian Press

Agency (EPA) stated that, the CoHA plays a pivotal role to normalize situations and avert signs of disorder that have created fear in them and the public at large.

Gebremedihin Gebrekirstos, a resident of Shire, said that the market has been significantly normalized due to CoHA and the accord has also made a notable

See Shire residents ... page 3



Photo - Ashenafi Gudeta

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Ethiopian Electric Utility

EEU restores power in 80 towns of conflict-affected areas

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News



Premier encourages use of local products

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- The public is expected to use local products and support the engagement in various economic sectors to substitute imported materials, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said, adding the move is instrumental to save foreign currency.

The Premier made the above remark yesterday while visiting the activities in Kombolcha Industrial Park.

Abiy noted on the occasion that, the use of local products is of great significance for Ethiopia to reduce the immense foreign

currency that it has incurred to import consumer goods. “Clothes that are exported to the U.S., UK and other global markets should also be supplied to the local market and ease the enormous amount of foreign currency the country allotted to imports.”

“We shall produce everything here and finalize and export to foreign markets rather than buying products indirectly from other countries and the culture of wearing our clothes should be encouraged across the nation.”

Mentioning Kombolcha’s blessing of various tourist attraction sites and splendid geography, the Prime Minister advised the

youth to practically prove that changing one’s livelihood is possible through work at home. The Amhara State is expected to consolidate activities that have been undertaken to make the youth work and prosper in their country.

Amhara State Chief Administrator Yikal Kefale (PhD) said for his part that, consolidated efforts have been carried out to utilize industry as the instrument in tackling problems of unemployment and reducing the high cost of living. “We warmly welcome investors that have the desire and capability to invest in the industry sector and create jobs for the youth.”

Ministry to welcome Diasporas coming home for Gena, Timket

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA— Ministry of Tourism (MoT) stated that, it has been carrying out various activities to warmly welcome a lot of Diasporas coming from various corners of the globe for *Gena*/Christmas and *Timket*/ Epiphany festivals.

MoT Marketing and Promotion State Minister Selamawit Dawit told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that, the Ministry has been undertaking various activities such as promoting the tourism destinations to revive the tourism sector and is working hard to receive the Diaspora community to celebrate the two religious festivities.

As to her, the Ministry has made a package for the Diaspora community aiming at creating conducive environment to visit the tourist destinations via various friendly –use platforms and tour packages.

“The Ministry always expects more tourist inflow during the Christmas (*Gena*) and Epiphany (*Timeket*) annual religions festivals following their winter vacation period. It means that the Christmas and epiphany (Baptism) are the golden opportunities to develop the tourism

sector, especially to back the former statuesque of the war affected areas,” she said.

She remembered that among others, the tourism sector has seriously impacted and stagnant by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the northern parts of conflict over the past two plus years. However, the Ministry has expected over 100,000 Diasporas from the various areas of the world during the religions festivals, because the Cessation of Hostility

Agreement (CoHA) signed between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF as well as the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure are the crucial measures encouraging economic significance, reducing foreign exchange crunch and encouraging social interaction.

Furthermore, the Ministry has been working closely with states’ Culture and Tourism Bureaus and other stakeholders to stimulate the tourism sector and ensure the Country’s benefit out of it, she noted.



Benelux members pledge support to economic partnership, CoHA implementation

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg have expressed the commitment and promising indication to cement economic partnership and support the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA), according to the Ethiopian Ambassador to those countries.

Speaking to local media, Ethiopia’s Ambassador to the Benelux countries and the EU institutions Hirut Zemene stated that following the peace deal; the three countries have pledged full support for the implementation as well as continued economic partnership.

Through their foreign affairs offices, the three countries had expressed their support of the peace deal signed between the Ethiopian government and TPLF.

As one of the biggest investors in the EU, Netherlands is keen to further extend investment relations with Ethiopia. Similarly, Belgium and Netherlands have shown promising signals to continue their support with regard to scholarship opportunities.

Emphasizing EU’s commitment and its allocation of 100 million Euros to address humanitarian aid, rehabilitation and democratic governance, Ambassador Hirut indicated the union push for the continuation of the momentum.

Meanwhile, she stated that Ethiopian Diasporas have shown unwavering commitment in supporting their home country in various frontier. “The participation of Ethiopian Diasporas over the past two years was remarkable and they have been highly engaged in bond purchasing, rehabilitation activities as well as backing the development back home.

The ambassador emphasized the need to put in place several activities to further strengthen the relations between Ethiopia and the three countries as well as EU institutions.

News

Japan Keen to Support National Dialogue Commission- Ambassador Ito Takako

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - The government and people of Japan would like to fully support the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission, Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia, Ito Takako said.

While signing grant assistance yesterday at the Addis Ababa University to provide buses to support the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission, Ambassador Ito Takako said the commission's serious commitment to make the national dialogue truly inclusive and efficient is really admirable.

Hence, the government of Japan would like to fully support its endeavor; she said announcing Japan's support of up to 146,304 USD, worth of two buses with over 30 seats each.

These busses are expected to be used as a means of transportation not only for the commission, but also for the participants from different regions who might have difficulties accessing the venue to attend the national dialogue, she said.

According to her, the project is funded through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project, which cultivates a direct working relationship between the



grass-roots level of society and the Japanese Embassy here in Addis Ababa.

Addis Ababa University (AAU) President, Tassew Woldehanna, on his part said the relationship between the two sisterly countries has started a long time ago.

The government of Japan has been supporting Ethiopia for a long time, he said.

There are issues beyond politicians to solve easily, in that case, the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission will play a big role, he noted.

The two buses offered to AAU will be transferred to the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission until the commission finished its mission, he said.

Shire residents...

contribution to easing the soaring inflation and scarcity of commodities. Now, most of the major problems seen in the last two years are largely solved.

The federal government has been working closely with the local community in restoring law and order in areas it has controlled in Tigray and the society is also witnessing that the government is making peace a reality. "The people demand peace in action and the CoHA brings hope to all of us in Tigray. So, the agreement should be executed until lasting peace is ensured."

Gebremedihin further highlighted that, essential services including health centers, hospitals, banks, electricity, telecom, and water supply are now largely being restored in Tigray and as a result of this; the public is siding with the peacemakers.

Another resident, Giday Mezgebe also stated that, the CoHA has lifted people from darkness to bright situations. "The two-year conflict has ceased. Fathers, mothers, and children in the region welcome the agreement and are feeling optimistic."

According to her, the federal government has improved several basic services in the Shire; mentioning the need to take place to improve the transport sector problem in the area. "Before the federal troops controlled the town, there was a gang and armed robbery."

Saying the government is fulfilling its promises in the Pretoria Agreement, a team leader in Shire town 03 Kebele Merd Admasu noted that, unrestricted humanitarian supply is being transported into Tigray and reached people in need. "Market supply has also been boosted and as a result of this, the price of wheat per quintal, for example, has decreased to 3,000 Birr from 7,000 Birr."

EEU restores power in 80 towns of conflict-affected areas

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU) announced that electric power service has been restored in 80 cities that were cut off due to the damage on electric infrastructure during the recent conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia.

EEU stated that 80 cities and towns in the northern part of the country have regained

the service as part of a major effort to restore electric to the areas of Tigray, Amhara and Afar states that were cut off due to the conflict.

It is stated that, continued maintenance work is being carried out to reconnect the remaining 27 towns.

It is also stated that, EEU is making great efforts to restore the electric distribution infrastructures that were damaged during the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia and

restore the service to the areas that were cut off.

In the wake of the peace agreement, technicians have been deployed to conflict-affected areas and damaged facilities have been re-equipped with the necessary spare parts, EEU said.

Maximum efforts are also underway to enable all areas connected to Adwa substation, the Utility added.

Gov't delegation...

dealt in the peace deal as per the schedule.

It was also learnt that such visit to Mekelle is the first in its kind by the delegation drawn from senior government officials since the last two years, members of the National Dialogue Commission have also joined the

delegation, the statement said.

It is to be recalled that senior government officials have recently reviewed the progress of the implementation of the peace agreement in attendance of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

"Following Nairobi II, we met to review the progress of the Peace Agreement," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister reiterated that the Government of Ethiopia remains steadfast in its commitment to the peace process.

Ethiopia's diplomacy...

town of the Oromia State.

Addressing the session, the Deputy Premier stated that Ethiopia has attained huge diplomatic success over the past year despite the conflict in the northern part of the country and mounting pressure from some interest groups. The conflict coupled with external challenges has never pulled back Ethiopia rather makes the country register huge diplomatic achievements including the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA), peaceful negotiation, negotiations on GERD, and others

Praising the commitment and efforts made by the local community, diaspora, and ambassadors, Demeke highlighted that the diplomats did a great job in protecting Ethiopia's national interest. "They were more than effective in preserving Ethiopia's interests, living up to Ethiopians aspirations and the country's rich heritage. Despite the dynamic and unpredictable nature of global diplomacy Ethiopian diplomats exerted their utmost effort and protected the country's national interest."

He urged the diplomats to do their level best

to advance the national interest of the country by any means. Ethiopians in the Diaspora should also keep on standing by the side of the homeland and to further collaborate with the government to register better results.

Regarding the progress and implementation of the CoHA signed between the federal government and TPLF, the DPM expressed optimism for the success of the accord. The government remains steadfast in its commitment to the success of the peace process.

MoFA State Minister Ambassador Birtukan

Ayano said on her part that, the ambassadors will reflect on the challenges of 2022 and the solutions given to them, besides laying out the core issues of engagement in the upcoming year.

She also mentioned last week's visits to over 10 institutions in the country that were designed to show the fruits of the reform process and reveal what is expected from the ambassadors in augmenting the capacity of some of the institutions.

It was learned that, the main objective of the training is to evaluate past diplomatic achievement and set a plan for 2023.

Opinion

Post-war rehabilitation and profiteering

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Physical rehabilitation specialists perform a complete range of treatment until the fullest working capacity of a person is restored. The process involves mental exercises for many months or years. With respect to the treatment of war veterans, several aspects of rehabilitation exercises may have been dealt with by various concerned authorities. These authorities may include the Army at the convalescent centers and selection depots and the Ministry of Health and its rehabilitation departments at the main hospitals. Other institutions include the Ministry of Labor and its skills training centers in which pre-vocational guidance is provided. Also involved is the Pension Authority responsible for the provision of pension payments for war veterans. These veterans may comprise workers who voluntarily joined the army in keeping law and order in the war affected regions of Ethiopia.

Private Ethiopian enterprises backed by various industrial firms, are all engaged in providing goods and services to be used by war veterans. According to G. D. KERSLEY, the needs of wounded and disabled veterans are vast and varied, and include the treatment of injuries and convalescence, recuperation and restoration. This calls for advance preparation for the “prevention” of breakdown in the existing health system. Those wounded war veterans may suffer from lack of attention by close relatives who fail to visit them regularly for various reasons. Families and relatives of war veterans have given solace, comfort, consolation and relief to physically disabled Ethiopian veterans. Visit by close friends with whom to share secrets is of paramount importance for the war veterans. These friends may share ideas on matters that bother the veterans. They may, for example, discuss about a friend or a relative who has died long ago. The visiting friend may find it hard to tell sad news.

The Army official in charge of vocational guidance to the rehabilitating soldiers has to ensure correct placement of trained veterans. There are several considerations to make when placing them to “sheltered vacancies” according to physical and mental fitness and vocational qualification. As KERSLEY pointed out the co-ordination of the tasks of complete rehabilitation and job placement on a national level is very complicated. Attempt should, however, be made to develop the essential services to carry out such an intricate scheme. The sequence of the rehabilitation process may be designed and agreed upon by the concerned authorities. They may provide for an out-patient hospital for the treatment and professional advice. It may be supervised by a medical officer who had acquired some special training in rehabilitation methods and skills.

The outpatient department may be visited regularly by one or more medical consultants. Medical cases requiring specialized treatment could be sent to the

department. General Hospitals would refer cases requiring long-term treatment to rehabilitation hospitals while those patients requiring planned convalescence would be sent to a post-hospital rehabilitation centre. Each hospital of any size, however, will require its own physiotherapy specialists. These professional groups have to be coordinated to ensure that active treatment is given at the earliest possible moment. A rehabilitation officer will also be necessary to oversee and coordinate activities. This officer may be a physician or surgeon in the hospital. The rehabilitation hospital may receive patients from out-patient rehabilitation centers and general hospitals.

The hospital may consist of some departments to treat patients. It may have rheumatic and orthopedic departments that may have communal amenities. This may include a physiotherapy unit, a gymnasium, a heated indoor swimming-pool, occupational therapy workshops, an x-ray department, and laboratory. It should be situated within easy reach of towns. It has to maintain a very close link with the nearest medical teaching school and university in order to facilitate and co-ordinate teaching and research. Some of the largest hospitals could, with a little expansion, easily fulfill medical conditions for rehabilitation purposes. The departments for rheumatic treatment may act as rehabilitation centers for their localities. The assignment of senior medical or surgical doctor is a requirement in these hospitals.

Hospital centers would have to deal with women as well as men. It would take all age groups, with a program of diversion, entertainment and recreation. It gives instruction on occupational and pre-vocational choices for patients from the rehabilitation and general hospitals. It also directs work places when it was felt that a period of rest, build-up, and change in occupation would avoid a mental breakdown. An important entity would be a welfare department, which would follow up the progress of the individual in the occupational workshops. At the center many wounded war veterans might be able to continue study or training in line with their interests. They may engage in jobs or do some useful work, for which they should receive remuneration as they did in Ethiopia in the past. The center may run short courses for industrial medical officers, factory managers, and social workers.

The co-operation between each spa hospital and its neighboring university should be considered in terms of using medical facilities. It may be used for postgraduate and graduate clinical teaching. Cases may be referred to the specialized university for treatment and investigation. There may also be co-operation over special research and a closer staff liaison. The research, in addition to being linked with the university, will also be coordinated with that undertaken elsewhere, through a central body such as the Ministry of Health. The post-war rehabilitation

scheme demands strong coordination between the Ministry and the Army to provide rehabilitation services to the Ethiopian war veterans. These institutions have already undertaken the necessary measures to deliver rehabilitation services to the wounded war veterans.

The coming to an end of the major war between the government of Ethiopia and the TPLF heralds peace in the Northern part of the country. There are, however, skirmishes between ethnic and tribal groups in other parts of Ethiopia, with the resultant destructions of lives, properties, villages and neighborhoods. These are heavy burdens to the society and the government. There are skirmishes going on in different parts of the country. All these societal disturbances, conflicts, strife, turmoil and disorder lead to instability and lawlessness. The beneficiaries of all this chaos are the foreign superpowers whose interest is exploitation of the natural resources of the country. Most of the conductors and managers of chaos within Ethiopia are the instruments of death under the supervision of alien powers. They benefit from both war and post-war engagements. Their motive is pecuniary in its nature.

The profiteers of war continue with post-war rehabilitation schemes. They profit from importing and distributing medical facilities to be used in rehabilitation or other centers. With combined role of authority for purchase and distribution of material, they continue to amass profits. These officials fear the Ombudsman and the Auditor and, therefore, try to discredit their official reports. However, the Ethiopian government is taking serious measures to bring them before the court of justice. The profiteers take advantage of their official duty to embezzle public properties purchased with the taxpayers' money. The taxpayers are observers of public theft of money and properties by the launderers who have attachment with authorities in the government. The corrupt officials “have no country but profits through money laundering.” The question is who should protect “taxpayers” from direct and indirect theft and laundering?

Some citizens perform their obligation while others abuse their rights. This is very saddening for war veterans who lost their body parts to defend their country from its alien and historic enemies. These enemies recruited some local officials as instruments of national destruction. They had adopted a “policy of destruction” on the only independent country in Africa that refused to submit to colonial subjugation. The domestic bandas have everything to lose with the independence of Ethiopia. They lose pecuniary advantages to neocolonialists who want to dominate the country through exploitation of its natural resources. But, this is impossible for them to do in Ethiopia as they had done in their former colonies. The wounded Ethiopian war veterans have made it sufficiently clear for the neocolonialists that externally financed proxy war against their country is nothing but an aborted mission of

aggression.

Externally driven war of aggression has its evil repercussions for Ethiopia. First and foremost, it hurts those patriots who are wounded physically though not morally. Secondly, it implies incalculable amount of resources earmarked to the post-war developments. The burden of war carries the economic burden that may hamper growth and development of the country. This may lead to dependency on foreign aid that comes covered with negative repercussions. Dependency develops to make recipients permanently reliant on others to meet their physical and emotional needs. Only a small group of people achieve some level of independence.

Currently, Ethiopians are struggling to be free from schemes of donor aid shrouded with evil intents. The donors come to assist the wounded war veterans, after they have failed to benefit from war of aggression they had financed. They finance the purchase of weapons of mass destruction, including tanks, artilleries, fighter jets, and other war machines. The finance goes back to the original donor that manufactures and sells these war machineries. The end result is replacement of old weapons with the latest ones at the expense of the nation that is exterminated if the war is endless. It will have to be repaid by the country that is at war with itself, as fighters on both sides of the war front are of the same ethnic, clan or tribal groups. The leaders of these groups are fully responsible for bloodletting of people of the same country. They have committed a crime against people who thrived to fight poverty in the post-war period.

After the war is over, it is crucial to provide a means of livelihood for the Ethiopian war veterans who recovered from physical and mental disability. State and private enterprises must accept a fixed “quota” of the partially disabled persons. The concerned government agency should be responsible for the registration and placement of these disabled persons in certain occupations. It should schedule for the employment of such “handicapped persons,” in the state and private enterprises, taking lessons from the experience of the Derg regime.

A large proportion of the disabled war veterans could compete in the open market if employers are aware of the use and value of trained veterans. Employers may be given insurance if there is a financial risk for engaging these veterans with old disability or the onset of a new one. The cessation of all benefits as soon as any liability occurred due to the employment of handicapped person may militate against any voluntary solution to the problem of disability of war veterans in Ethiopia. There should not be any space in the country for profiteers on the disability of Ethiopian war veterans.

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

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Editorial

A great step to lasting peace

Ethiopia is now being perfumed with an alluring air rife in its soil following the peace chronicle engraved in Pretoria, South Africa between the federal government and TPLF. It seems unequivocally these days that lasting peace is knocking Ethiopia's door as the agreeing parties have started sealing the deal in accordance with the oath they made earlier, and swearer to translate words into practical actions.

As a result of the serenity ensured in the aftermath of peace deal for instance, House of People's Representatives Speaker along with some senior government officials leading decisive offices and basic service providing institutions yesterday arrived in Mekelle to evaluate the implementation of the peace deal and the activities being carried out along that line.

The high government delegation has also comprised officials of the national dialogue commission, which is strongly believed to framing peace related avenues and in charge of soothing the long heaped problems of Ethiopia, rivalries as well as skirmishes sporadically or concomitantly break out in it. The high delegation is the first one for traveling to Mekelle after two plus year span of conflict.

This firmly exhibits that the peace deal has started bearing fruits and being implemented as per the verses stipulated in the peace accord.

Basically, the arrival of officials has unveiled two principal aspects: lasting peace would painstakingly be walked on and humanitarian aid is flowing in full swing. As far as the latter is concerned, the Ethiopian government and humanitarian partners recently released a joint report about the unfettered humanitarian assistance. As to this report compiled by government of Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission, Logistics Cluster and

UNOCHA humanitarians' partner covering the period from 15 November to 23 December, some 2,214 trucks with food supplies and 250 trucks with non-food supplies reached conflict affected areas in North Ethiopia since mid-November.

It is also stated that, food and non-food life savings supplies as well as fuel and cash continue being transported to Tigray through corridors in Amhara and Afar states. In so doing, close to 90,000 MT of food and 8,600 non-food supplies reached Tigray between November 15 to December 23, too.

Interestingly, some 28 partners have taken part in supplying the humanitarian aid. A number of partners are working closely with the federal government with a view to scaling up the distribution of humanitarian assistance.

The international community has now scrupulously followed up the situation and has been discharging what is expected of them. The African Union (AU) has also closely evaluated what does the implementation of the peace deal look like and provides the agreeing parties with the required technical support and advice. The fruit of the peace deal would in one way or another be attributable to this body seriously advocating the 'African solutions to African problems.'

Plainly speaking, the federal government is committed than ever before to end conflict and get all causes of upheavals dried for good in the country.

By and large, as the proper implementation of the peace deal is a call for action, the government has trekked a bold step towards ensuring lasting peace. This audacious move needs continue to be well acknowledged and supported by the international community.

Opinion

Horn of Africa faces most severe drought in more than two generations, United Nations Children's Fund

BY STAFF REPORTER

The number of children suffering from dire drought conditions across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia has more than doubled in five months, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Thursday.

Around 20.2 million children are under threat of severe hunger, thirst and disease – compared to 10 million in July – as climate change, conflict, global inflation and grain shortages devastate the region.

“While collective and accelerated efforts have mitigated some of the worst impact of what had been feared, children in the Horn of Africa are still facing the most severe drought in more than two generations”, stated UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa Lieke van de Wiel.

Millions hungry

Nearly two million children across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are estimated to need urgent treatment for severe acute malnutrition, the deadliest form of hunger.

Meanwhile, water insecurity has more than doubled with close to 24 million



UN News

people now confronting dire water shortages.

At the same time, drought has internally displaced over two million people and driven approximately 2.7 million children out of school, with an additional four million others at risk of dropping out.

“Humanitarian assistance must be continued to save lives and build the resilience of the staggering number of children and families who are being pushed to the edge – dying from hunger and disease and being displaced in search of food, water and pasture for their livestock”, said Ms. van de Wiel.

Teetering on the edge

As increased stress is driving families to the edge, youth are facing child labour, child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

And widespread food insecurity and displacement are triggering sexual violence, exploitation, abuse, and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV).

“We need a global effort to mobilize resources urgently to reduce further devastating and irreversible damage to children in the Horn of Africa”, continued the senior UNICEF official.

On hand to lend a hand

Thanks to the generous support of donors and partners, UNICEF continues to provide life-saving services to children and families across the Horn of Africa, as it prepares for further shocks, builds resilience and strengthens key services.

This year, the UN agency and its partners reached nearly two million children and women with essential healthcare services; vaccinated against measles almost two million between the ages of six months and 15 years; and provided safe water for

drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene to over 2.7 million people.

UNICEF's 2023 emergency appeal of \$759 million to support children and their families will require timely and flexible funding, especially surrounding education, water and sanitation, and child protection – all of which were severely underfunded this year.

An additional \$690 million is required to support long-term investments for children and their families to recover and adapt to climate change.

“As governments and people across the world prepare to welcome a New Year, we urge the international community to commit to responding now for what might hit the Horn of Africa next year, and in the years to come”, Ms. van de Wiel appealed.

“We must act now to save children's lives, preserve their dignity and protect their futures”.

Source: UNNEWS

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

Business & Economy

Creating job opportunities for women

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Similar to other continents, women in Africa live under the male dominated societies in which they are marginalized from making decision that touch their day to day living. Even though most women in rural parts of Africa contribute labor which supports each family life, it is not properly recognized. Females in their school age are forced to spend their time in fetching water, collecting fire wood, supporting their mothers in household work and in farming as well instead of going to school. As a result, their future in the later age will be determined by their husbands who forcefully married them.

In the urban centers, though women get access to education and graduate by various fields of professions, their role in the socio economic life of the society is below the average.

Hence, empowering them is a key for betterment of their living and their role in the socio-economic life of the society should also be enhanced. Cognizant of this fact, the Teach African Women (TAW) none governmental organization, dedicated to empower African female entrepreneurship and build a strong female led tech start up pipe line and community in Africa with the support of the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) launched the program by preparing women entrepreneurship competition in four countries. According to TAW project manager, Mohamed Hadhri, the organization is a 5-month entrepreneurship program targeting female-led idea-stage tech startups in Ethiopia, Senegal, Tanzania and Tunisia providing solutions to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Some eight idea-stage startups from these four countries went through an intensive 3-month incubation phase since the end of September and displayed their projects during the event in order to win a prize.

The program offers teams an exclusive opportunity to transform their ideas into reality, acquire new skills which helps to build a community of empowered African entrepreneurs.

ECA recognizes the need to employ digital technologies in a holistic manner that encompasses social and economic benefits of greater equality, promoting positive outcomes.

In a bid to close gender digital divide, UNECA aspires to empower, connect, and support women to lead impactful tech startups and businesses.

As the gender gap is alarming due to lack of women's presence in the African tech entrepreneurial ecosystem from the startup playground to the investment industry to innovative corporations, this initiative is designed to advocate and promote female tech startup. The five month entrepreneurship program targeting female led idea stage tech startups in selected four African countries mentioned above. It aims providing solutions to sustainable development



Zimare Tadesse(MD)

goals. It also offers team on exclusive opportunity to transform their ideas in to a reality, acquire new skills which belong to a community of empowered African entrepreneurs.

The Ethiopian Ministry of labor and skills (MLS) which has a goal to achieve job creation recently announced that currently, in Ethiopia thousands of job opportunities are created both in regions and at federal level particularly by small and medium size enterprises and the number of women get chance of employment is growing from time to time. The job creation projects are supported both by donors of local and foreign development partners. In this regard, the Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) plays pivotal role.

The bank recently launched job creating projects with the cooperation of the National Cooperative Association and the MLS. Enterprises engaged in urban farming and cattle rearing, poultry and other could secure loan from the DBE. Such venture also is recognized by global partners.

According to Mohamed the TAW project began in August 2022. It targets on enterprises led by women in Africa. It supports women to change their entrepreneurial dream in to reality. The program is conducted 100 percent through online communication platform and offered them opportunity for incubation program.

He further said that the project invited all competing enterprises to present their job creation projects.

The competing countries were selected based on the country's market size, the competing advantage, experiences of the competing team, how they can make their enterprise successful and their impact on bringing attitudinal change in their society in self-employment venture.

Next year, the project will stretch its working areas and embrace 16 countries. It will organize programs in Eastern,



Juliana Bosasi(MD)

Northern, Western and Southern parts of African countries because it aims to bring impact in all parts of the continent and empower more youth in Africa.

On the occasion, the Tanzanian competent won the 7 thousand Dollar award and as to Mohamed, the project will continue its follow up until the winner enterprises fully engaged in market and the relationship will not be cut.

He further said that, looking the statistics, enterprises led by women in Africa are very low and it is only 16 percent. Although the potential of engaging women in entrepreneurship is very high, they are unable to do so due to lack of money. The project will give the right skills to the women so that they can win the market and will build confidence. It also creates platform for African women enterprises to connect each other and create fruitful business ecosystem at global level.

Juliana Busasi is a medical Doctor by profession and a Tanzanian enterprise leader who won the 7 thousand Dollar award. Her enterprise is engaged in an e-commerce platform for sexual reproductive health supplies where youth can purchase products and receive information without fear of judgment, stigma and discrimination.

She said that the award boosted her moral to advance her job and expand the service which she provides to the youth and will see the next step.

She also planned to encourage girls in her native country who have a dream to engage in entrepreneurship through technology based. For long, she had a vision to help her fellow youth. She further said that she will step up to qualify her product so that customers will get their deserved services.

As to Juliana, currently, her country Tanzania is led by a woman president and such situation created good opportunity for women empowerment that the country had ever experience. It is a game

changer moment in Tanzania regarding gender equality. Currently, more women in that country think that women can get power similar to men. The assumption of the highest political power in Tanzania by women takes the gender equality and women empowerment 10 steps forward. The society for long thought that women as if they are burden on it now such attitude is being changed.

Zimare Tadesse (MD) is one of the participants in the competition from Ethiopia. Her project is known as "TenaSeb" that provides service to women on gender and reproductive health. It has its own web site and uses social media as a platform to disseminate information about the project. Women who need the service can get from where ever they are with no time and space limit by downloading the application. Medical professionals who want to engage in service provision can register and fulfill the necessary criterion. But their academic credential is critically evaluated. Women who demand the service can get it based on their choice in accordance with gender, specialization of the medical profession and job experience. They can have appointment with the medical professional and get medical service with physical contact or through online.

As to Zimare, the project mainly targets the Ethiopian women residing in the Middle - East. As they work there as house maid with no time limit, they are vulnerable to various physiological harm or psychological stress. Some illegal workers also may not get access to medical services. Therefore, through online system they can get medical service. They also can pay the service fee through tele-birr.

She further said that women also can utilize the telegram platform to obtain services. Currently, her project has created job opportunity for 10 people and in the next 6 months, the project intended to increase the number of employee to 20.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Major takeaways from the US- Africa Leaders' Summit

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Recently, Washington organized the US-Africa Leaders' Summit as part of its effort to strengthen ties with African countries. The summit was concluded outlining ways to bolster existing partnerships and future undertakings. The US administration as well expressed its commitment to further deepening the cooperation with the African continent and its people.

According to the White House, to achieve the pre-determined goals, the Biden-Harris Administration plans to invest at least 55 billion USD in the coming three years. The Administration has also appointed a coordinator for a new special Presidential Representative for the US-Africa Leaders' Summit implementation. Under specific ties of the two parties, the summit has put explicit achievements and programs.

At the summit, it was announced that the US and African nations also remain committed to tighten the already existed partnerships coupled with creating more rooms for new ties. In People-to-People ties, they plan to establish a New Diaspora Council that works on African Diaspora engagement in the US and expand Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) providing over 100 million USD.

With regard to global governance and diplomatic engagement, the two parties agreed on supporting Africa to realize its long-awaited opportunities to secure G20 membership and seats in the United Nations Security Council. Further, higher officials of the US including President Biden plan to travel to Africa in 2023 with the objective of squeezing the diplomatic partnership.

In the area of trade, investment, and inclusive economic growth, the US intends to support Africa in resilience and recovery by lending 21 million USD through IMF. It also inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) secretariat creating continent-wide market worth 3.4 trillion USD. The first regional Multi-sectorial Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compacts 504 million USD fund to support regional economic integration, trade and cross-broader collaboration.

The US administration has also announced its plans to work closely on technology and innovation vis-à-vis digital transformation of the continent. In addition, Washington aims to invest on building more resilient health system in Africa and strengthening global health security so as to support the health sector of African nations. The US also shows its eagerness to work on food security through fostering food security partnerships and responding to the need for emergency food security assistance.

Regarding climate change, the US plans to fund over 150 million USD to address climate adaption in Africa. The White House also mentioned that the US is committed to work on African Democratic and Political Transitions (ADAPT) and



21st century partnership for African security under peace and security.

The US Department of State has also released a special digital press briefing on the US- African Leaders' Summit outcomes presented by US Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment, Jose Fernandez. The secretary provided his responses regarding questions raised from journalists. During his conversation, he said the summit was productive for both sides and had productive decisions on how the US and African nations can work together to tackle global challenges that affect all of us.

“Partnership is foundation of President Biden’s strategy for Africa because we know that we cannot address the challenges of our time without bringing everyone to the table. That means government at every level, institutions, the private sector, and the African diaspora,” the secretary added.

The secretary explained that the summit focused on major priorities of the two parties including conservation, climate change, clean energy transition, supply chain, investment, entrepreneurship, and innovation. In this regard, every party is responsible to take its part in order to tackle those challenges.

Jose Fernandez noted, “... New investment and policy initiatives at the summit included the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. and the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat in order to promote equitable, sustainable, and inclusive trade – trade that will be continent-wide and the trade that will open up a \$3.4 trillion market of 1.3 billion people. That is a large market – it’s a huge market – and that’s what we intend to work on with this memorandum

of understanding.”

The secretary also mentioned that the US government facilitates ecologically sound trade and investment between the two continents with advanced diplomacy and for creating growth, opportunity, and employment.

“We are not going to be able to move forward on them without the support of the African nations, without cooperating with the African nations. And I think during the summit, we delivered on that goal and we will continue working hard to make it a reality going forward,” Jose stressed.

The secretary also reaffirmed that the US Government plans to commit a minimum of 55 billion USD for Africa over the next three years to tackle the major challenges of the time. “They involve a wide range of sectors that reflect our shared interest and renewed partnerships – sectors such as food security, health, climate, trade and investment, economic growth, and also education, peace and security, and democracy,” elaborated the secretary.

Besides, Jose disclosed, “The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was of great interest to our African colleagues, and we spent a fair amount of time discussing it. As of today, we have 36 Sub-Saharan African countries that are eligible for the African Growth and Opportunity Act. AGOA is legislation passed by Congress in the year 2000, so 22 years ago, that offers almost 6,500 – 6,500 products duty-free access to U.S. markets. A lot of these are small and medium enterprises, enterprises that can grow by leveraging AGOA to their benefit.”

Taking part in the summit, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) met with US secretary of State Antony John Blinken

and discussed on the bilateral issues.

Abiy tweeted on his social media account, “I held a candid and productive meeting with @SecBlinken. I expressed my appreciation to the U.S. for their contribution in our efforts to achieve peace. For decades, Ethiopia has been a key ally of U.S. in Africa and we discussed ways of strengthening our partnership.”

Blinken, on his part, appreciates the effort exerted by the Ethiopian Government to improve humanitarian access and restorations of essential services in waraffected areas, and added, “The United States remains committed to support the African Union-led peace process, including the AU monitoring and verification mechanism.”

The US and the African leaders, agreed on securing interests and working for mutual benefits. Still, the summit is one of the many witnesses to uncover the reality that Africa has plenty to offer to the world, and even powerhouses of the world can make impacts without Africa’s involvement. The modern day seeks the involvement of every part of the whole, and it demands the right way to bring all stakeholders to the table and everybody plays its own part. That is what has been seen in the US-Africa summit where both parties reaffirm their readiness for mutual responsibility and benefits.

Likewise, Ethiopia has cemented the already existing partnership with the US and showed its commitment to work with international organizations. Particularly, following the peace accord signed between the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) in Pretoria, South Africa, the US along with international organizations have shown their readiness to boost their relations with Ethiopia.

Law & Politics

A promising millstone towards the full implementation of Pretoria peace deal

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

In light of the current situation, peace is prevailing in the northern part of the country after two years of devastating war particularly after the signing of the Pretoria peace deal. On the basis thereof, all and sundry have been breathing a sigh of relief and turning their focus on rebuilding the country. Notwithstanding the fact that tremendous efforts have been made to fan chaos and stoke violence in the country by some scaremongers and wet blankets, all their efforts went down in flames and the way of the dinosaurs on the grounds that the federal government and Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) ended up burying the hatchet under the auspicious of the African Union.

If truth be told, after the signing of the peace accord that won the hearts and minds of all peace lovers worldwide, some entities disappointed by the outcome ended up bringing into disrepute the positive developments of the county coming up with multifarious treacheries. Distancing themselves from the fact that the cessation of hostilities agreement plays a paramount role in rehabilitating people affected by the destructive war, some entities have sustained sparing no effort to reignite conflict by spewing falsehood information.

No matter what the worryguts say on the subject of the peace accord, the federal government has continued assisting the progress of the deliveries of humanitarian assistance and restoring social infrastructure in all quarters of the northern part of the country. In consideration of the foregoing, in several instances, the wider international community has been speaking highly of the incumbent.

In the current circumstances, the federal government has been reconnecting people in the Tigray state to the power supply system in the battle-damaged areas.

As things stand at present, in defiance of quite a lot of fictitious stories, the government has continued accelerating the delivery of humanitarian assistance in every nook and cranny of the northern part of the country. In the aftermath of the government's uncompromising stance, the global community has continued expressing admiration for the government.

In the present climate, the population as a whole has been standing by the side of the government to successfully effectuate the cessation of the hostilities agreement. Nobody denies the fact that bringing about the socioeconomic well-being of the nation in the absence of peace is an impossible mission.

Albeit some internal and external actors of Ethiopia gave a lower profile to the role of the African Union with intent, the federal government metamorphosed into signing successfully the cessation of hostilities agreement in the shortest possible time. In addition to serving as a big honor for the continent of Africa, the peace accord has demonstrated the fact that Africa can



resolve its problems in its own way.

In point of fact, as some entities are dreaming of backing the country into a corner and moving the country into uncharted waters, they have been orchestrating a considerable amount of conspiracies under the veil of spurious reasons that do not mirror the existing circumstances and situations on the ground. But no matter how far they travel, they cannot make their dreams become a reality. It cannot happen anytime.

Most people have been enunciating their confidence that the cessation of hostilities agreement signed between the federal government and TPLF would help the country attach significance to a diverse range of development activities throughout the national territory. In the same way, the peace deal plays a very significant role in improving Ethiopia's diplomatic relationship with quite a lot of nations worldwide and bringing an end to unwarranted foreign pressure on Ethiopia.

In the same way, the cessation of hostilities agreement would for sure pour cold water on the efforts of Ethiopia's adversaries working around the clock to move the country into uncharted waters and up the ante in the northern part of the country. As they hate to see nonviolent Ethiopia, they have sustained working in close collaboration with some alien entities residing at home and abroad to knock off the balance of the country.

As things stand at present quite a lot of bodies have been working in tandem with several bodies aimed at smoothing the path of effectuating the peace deal agreement and ensuring lasting solutions in all quarters of the country.

Given that peace is the foundation stone for the whole thing under the sun concerned bodies should stand by the side of the government in the implementation of the peace agreement. As a matter of fact, in the aftermath of its positive moves and firm stance, the incumbent has been receiving a pat on the back from the wider international community, various relief agencies, and humanitarian operators.

As things stand at present, apart from giving the go-ahead and thumbs up to the free flow of humanitarian aid, the government

has sustained accelerating the restoration of wrecked social infrastructural facilities encompassing power and telecom services.

It is important to highlight that Ethiopia has passed through several peaks and troughs, to reach where it is in the present day. The journey was not as easy as taking candy from a baby and as easy as shelling peas.

Dissatisfied with the productive peace accord that has been pointing forward; some entities have been pulling out all the stops to up the ante working in tandem with Ethiopia's arch-foes. No matter how hard they tried, all their efforts went for nothing as a consequence of the firm stance of the incumbent and the people of Ethiopia.

A delegation of Officials of the Federal Government led by Speaker of the House of Representatives Tagesse Chafo has headed to Mekele, according to Government Communication Service.

A delegation of officials of the Federal Government of Ethiopia led by Honorable Tagesse Chafo touch down in Mekele yesterday to oversee the implementation of major issues in the peace agreement as per the set plan.

The delegation is the first of its stature as a high-level Federal Government body heading to Mekele in two years. It is believed that this gesture is an attestation to the peace agreement getting on the right track and progressing. The members of the National Dialogue Commission have also headed to Mekele as part of the delegation.

The African Union Commission (AUC) commends the federal government and TPLF for the positive confidence-building measures they have taken since the signing of the COHA and encourages them to continue with their efforts to restore peace, security, and stability in Ethiopia.

The AUC convened the 2nd Senior Commanders Meeting between the government and TPLF on the Implementation of the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) in Kenya's capital Nairobi.

Speaking on the occasion, a member of the AU High-Level Panel and former President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta lauded the two parties' commitment which enables the AUC to make tremendous progress

towards a series of actions and activities to bring back the state of normalcy to Ethiopia.

"We agreed that the true statement that they need to make will be the statement they make when we are in Mekelle in the next few days observing and verifying the actions beyond documents. We are in the right direction." Kenyatta further highlighted that before the end of December, the AU team will head to Mekelle to verify the COHA implementation process.

The meeting, which discussed the implementation of the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) process, also finalized the Term of Reference (ToR) of the Joint Monitoring, Verification, and Compliance Mechanism (JMVCN).

It was learned that the Senior Commanders meeting was facilitated by the AU's 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 Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa and Member of the AU Panel of the Wise.

The Commission further expressed appreciation to the Governments of the USA, Norway, UN, IGAD, the African Development Bank, and ICRC for their continued support for the AU-led process, and to the Government and People of Kenya for hosting the Senior Commanders' meeting, calling it as "a demonstration of African solidarity."

The establishment of the AU monitoring and verification Team would definitely put the peace accord into action from now on, so said an expert.

Iona University Lecturer in New York, Derese Getachew (Ph.D) told local media that the team is so helpful to verify and monitor the full implementation of CoHA and to close loopholes for not upholding the deal.

He, moreover, said that the team of African experts would be an invaluable entity as it would closely follow up the practical actions of the signatories as per the CoHA.

He said: "The team will make sure that the invalidity of some excuses for not implementing the CoHA. As this team can easily closely follow up on the situation, it can be said that the CoHA is now being translated into practical actions."

It is also cited that, the African Union Monitoring Team is going to arrive at Mekelle soon. The recent Nairobi talk needs to be well-judged and the peace deal has got a supervisory body to be translated into actions. The team of African experts would be accountable to the high panel led by Obasanjo and the joint committee.

It is also stated that the two agreeing bodies discussed the gaps on which they have not yet agreed upon so far.

Society

Combating human trafficking

BY STAFF REPORTER

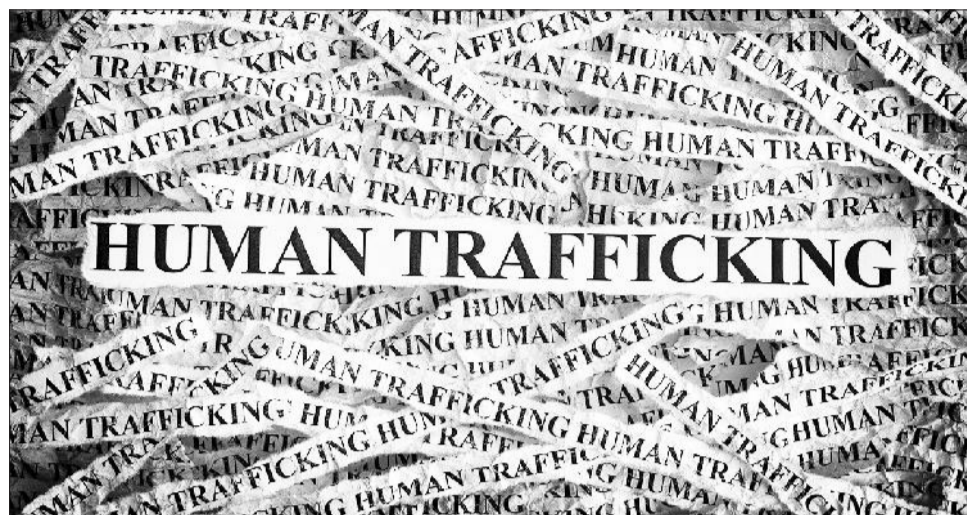
Over the past three or four decades, human trafficking remains a serious challenge for both countries of origin and destinations. The number of people crossing borders illegally has seen a steady rise.

According to the World Migration Report, every year, millions of people across the world illegally move from their homes to other countries seeking better economic opportunities. Most of them were forced to leave their homes by political turmoil, war, poverty among others and some leave their countries becoming victims of human traffickers.

Putting their lives on the verge of perils, many people, especially the young ones cross the border allured by the success stories of a few individuals.

The case is not different in Ethiopia. Many Ethiopian young people, with a larger share of females, have been putting themselves in more precarious situations misinformed by human traffickers and tempted by the pressure of their peers. As a result, several citizens were compelled to work under harsh conditions, including being overworked, abused and underpaid. Thousands of people have also lost their lives for various reasons.

Taking the seriousness of the matter into consideration, the government has been taking various measures to curtail human trafficking. Ranging from creating



awareness among the community regarding the undesirable consequences of illegal migration, and the ill intention of traffickers as well as making them accountable, various actions have been taken. Not only those, but efforts have also been exerted to rehabilitate the repatriates to enable them work and prosper at home though the outcomes are not at the desired level.

Despite the efforts, even today many are migrating illegally to overseas risking their lives.

Recently, the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs joining hands with various national and international organizations organized a community mobilization forum against human trafficking in Hossana Town under the theme "Let's prevent human trafficking with active community participation."

Speaking on the occasion Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonen said that though human trafficking is a worldwide problem, Ethiopia has been suffering more from this illegal activity. Citing the number of repatriates, Demeke said that in just one year, more than 100,000 illegal migrants were repatriated. On the other way, more than 5,000 prisoners still remain in Tanzania.

Furthermore, he stated that the forum is being held in Hosanna because, according to studies, it is one of the areas where human trafficking is high.

Mentioning that the government has created a lot of conducive environments to send its citizens abroad for jobs to reduce illegal human trafficking, Demeke said that efforts are underway to control illegal human

trafficking through giving especial emphasis to the matter. However, he added, it could not achieve the required outcomes because of different hindering factors.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke also urged Ethiopians to cooperate in tackling the challenges of human trafficking by addressing its root causes.

Women and Social Affairs Minister Ergoge Tesfaye (PhD) on her part said that the government has been working to tackle human trafficking through allotting huge amounts of budget and creating different legal frameworks and structures.

As to her, strengthening legal overseas facilitation for job creation is crucial to tackle this illegal act. To this effect, the country has signed Memorandum of Understanding with different countries to send professional and nonprofessional workers abroad in a legal way.

Birhanu Abera, representative of the Ministry of Labor and Skills, said that the government has been operating taking the issue of job creation as a national agenda to create ample jobs for citizens in and abroad. At this Ethiopian fiscal year, the Ministry has set a plan to create jobs for 3.7 millions of people annually.

Awareness campaigns will be further strengthened in the northeastern parts of the country, where the problem is also intensified, he added.



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Need of multilingual curriculum

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Most of the curriculum scholars agree that Multilingualism Curriculum seeks to realize an inclusive approach to language education. Its aim is to help students navigate their way through a world of linguistic diversity, to enable them to become autonomous and goal-focused learners who can acquire new language qualifications and develop the skills necessary to cope with multilingual situations and settings, as directly stated in Multilingualism Curriculum: Perceiving and Managing Linguistic Diversity in Education.

The curriculum also supports the development of individual language profiles by encouraging learners to draw on existing linguistic resources, to identify links and connections between their various languages and embed this knowledge into more general linguistic insights, as stated straight in the above mention book which was developed by the scholars in cooperation with the Austrian Centre for Language Competence.

Consequently, it looks beyond the traditional duality of 'mother tongue' and 'foreign language' and seeks to include the multilingual reality which is characteristic of many schools and many societies throughout the world. "This ensures that even those languages that are not normally taught in Austrian schools yet have a crucial place in students' biographies are seen as important resources for personality development and content acquisition," it



Dr. Birhanemeskel Tanna



Dr. Samuel Kifle

included.

Language learning processes are regarded as individual paths to multilingualism which can provide a bridge between formal and informal learning as well as adult learning. By promoting interaction and exchange as well as analyses and comparisons the Curriculum helps to identify the commonalities between different languages and language learning processes and accentuate differences. The cross-linguistic character of aims and content creates common points of reference and so facilitates cooperation across disciplines and subjects.

Language competence is a key to personal development and livelihood success. It is needed in all educational activities to guarantee that students can take advantage of arising opportunities and achieve success. With demands on the educational system increasing, it is becoming all the more

apparent that all teaching, be it in languages, art, social education or science, both relies on and can enhance students' language skills and competences. Educational policy therefore must ensure that language is given a central place and treated as a vital resource. Language within an educational context does of course not imply homogeneity; national communities have never been homogenous and are certainly not homogenous today.

Understanding this, the Addis Ababa City Administration has recently conducted a forum of scholars to gather input from the results of a survey conducted to implement a multilingual curriculum. The survey has been conducted since July by Kotebe University of Education.

The University's President Dr. Birhanemeskel Tanna said that the study was done to include one local and one foreign language in the

curriculum. "It has included the ideas of various sections of the society as inputs and is being discussed to gather ideas from scholars. As language is important not only for social but also for economy, the languages included in the curriculum should be well thought out and implemented."

Similarly, Addis Ababa City Administration Education Bureau Head, Dr. Zelema Mulatu, mentioned that Kotebe University of Education has been conducting research on multilingual curriculum in a participatory manner.

Likewise, State Minister for Higher Education, Dr. Samuel Kifle, said that the resources obtained at Kotebe University of Education will be model for other areas adding: "The policy is to educate children in their mother tongue. But the implementation needs discussion."

The information obtained from the City Administration Mayor Office indicates that the academics have been urged to fulfill their responsibilities for the resource gathering through providing opinions based on knowledge or reason but not on emotion.

In general, all suggested in common that the Multilingualism Curriculum brings together in a single document the various learning and teaching goals that have been formulated for plurilingual and multilingual language education. These should be presented in a systematic order and complemented to encompass the results of the survey.

International News

Somali forces seize Runirgoud town from Al-Shabaab militants

The EastAfrican: Somalia's onslaught on militant group Al-Shabaab gained new ground after forces seized Runirgoud town, the last bastion of the extremists in Middle Shabelle, about 240 kilometers north east of the capital Mogadishu.

According to Gen Abdullahi Ali Anod, the spokesman of Somalia's Ministry of Defence, a contingent of the Somali National Army supported by local vigilantes captured Runirgoud from Al-Shabaab on Friday.

Addressing the media, Gen Anod said that the pro-government forces first infiltrated into villages next to Runirgoud town and engaged Al-Shabaab militants in fierce fighting on Thursday.

"Finally, the SNA troops, together with local pro-government militia, seized the town in the early hours of Friday," Anod said.

A fortnight ago, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud assured that the operations to liberate Middle Shabelle, one of the two regions that formed Hirshabelle State in Central Somalia, was about to be completed.

"Only Runirgoud is remaining to be liberated in Middle Shabelle (region)," said President Mohamud.

Local militias that are part of the ongoing efforts to liberate territories controlled by Al-Shabaab are often referred as Mo'awisley and belong to largely pastoralist communities, often producing fierce fighters that easily push the jihadists from positions.

Small areas of Hiran, the second region of Hirshabelle State, remain under the control of the Al-Qaeda-linked group while Somali government forces and local vigilantes seem determined to liberate the territories.



Rainforest-rich nations ensure COP15 pact on nature sticks

The East African: A United Nations summit approved on Monday a landmark global deal to protect nature and direct billions of dollars toward conservation but objections from key African nations, home to large tracts of tropical rainforest, held up its final passage.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, reflecting the joint leadership of China and Canada, is culmination of four years of work toward creating an agreement to guide global conservation efforts through 2030.

Countries at the UN-backed COP15 biodiversity conference had been negotiating a text proposed Sunday and talks addressing the finer points of the deal dragged on until Monday morning.

Delegates were able to build consensus around the deal's most ambitious target of protecting 30 percent of the world's land and seas by the decade's end, a goal known as 30-by-30.

"We have huge achievements in this text now. It was huge effort to find the landing zone and get everyone on board," EU Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevicius told reporters after the deal passed.

Another negotiator said he thought it was a balanced agreement but that "a good deal always leaves everyone somewhat unhappy."

Canada Environment and Climate Change Minister Steven Guilbeault called the agreement "a major win for our planet and for all of humanity, charting a new course away from the relentless destruction of habitats and species."

The deal also directs countries to allocate \$200 billion per year for biodiversity initiatives from both public and private sectors.

Developed countries will provide \$25 billion in annual funding starting in 2025 and \$30 billion per year by 2030.

The agreement, which contains 23 targets in total, replaces the 2010 Aichi Biodiversity



Targets intended to guide conservation through 2020. None of those goals were achieved, and no single country met all 20 of the Aichi targets.

"Governments have chosen the right side of history in Montreal," said World Wildlife Fund International Director General Marco Lambertini.

Unlike Aichi, this deal contains more quantifiable targets — such as reducing harmful subsidies given to industry by at least \$500 billion per year — that should make it easier to track and report progress.

But the agreement "can be undermined by slow implementation and failure to mobilise the promised resources," said Lambertini.

"It also lacks a mandatory ratcheting mechanism that will hold governments accountable to increase action if targets are not met."

More than one million species could vanish by century's end, from plants to insects, in what scientists have called a sixth mass-extinction event. As much as 40 percent of the world's land has been degraded, and wildlife population

sizes have shrunk dramatically since 1970.

Investment firms focused on a target in the deal recommending that companies analyse and report how their operations affect and are affected by biodiversity issues.

The parties agreed to large companies and financial institutions being subject to requirements to make disclosures regarding their operations, supply chains and portfolios — but the word "mandatory" was dropped from previous drafts.

"This is something that is going to push the financial sector to step up," said Ingrid Kukuljan, head of impact and sustainable investing at fund manager Federated Hermes.

"This time around we actually need implementation we are facing an unprecedented rate of decline," she said.

Division over how to fund conservation efforts in developing countries led to fiery negotiations at the end.

With China holding the COP15 presidency, Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu appeared to disregard objections from the delegation of the Democratic Republic of

Congo on Monday, declaring the deal passed minutes after they said they were not able to support it.

A DRC representative argued that developed nations should create a separate fund to help support conservation efforts in developing countries.

DRC is the second-largest tropical forested country in the world and home to the greatest extent of African tropical rainforest, giving it a crucial role in the future of the planet's biodiversity.

Huang declared that the deal was agreed, drawing outrage from other African delegates.

A representative from Cameroon said the agreement was passed by force of hand. Another from Uganda invoked a "coup d'etat".

However, at a second meeting Monday evening, the DRC appeared to walk back its outright objection, downgrading them to "reservations" on financing and resource mobilisation.

"We'd like to have this clearly placed on record," said DRC Environment Minister Eve Bazaiba. "I would like to reiterate our readiness to participate in any process of negotiations until COP16. We do hope our voice will be heard".

The DRC statement followed a 30-minute huddle of roughly a dozen members of delegations from Brazil, Indonesia and the DRC — the world's three most rainforest-rich nations.

Brazil ultimately helped to broker a solution, with the support of Indonesia, "whereby no questions would be left regarding the legality of the approval of the (deal)," a negotiator said. "There are no longer grounds to question the legality and legitimacy of the agreement."

Huang highlighted DRC's important influence in global biodiversity governance and thanked the country for its support.

Planet Earth

University working with farmers to solve improved seeds shortage

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Countries have been striving to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that is also known as the Global Goals, which were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure food security by 2030. SDG also calls for zero hunger, poverty eradication, and adaptation to climate change.

To achieve zero hunger, eradicate poverty, and mitigate and adapt to climate change, it is common knowledge that seed is the main input for increasing crop, fruit, and vegetable production, productivity, and development. Because improving the quality of seeds can improve the yield potential of the country which is imperative to economic growth and agricultural development.

Currently, researching and transferring improved seeds and technologies become a serious requirement for agricultural development, particularly for an agrarian-based economy like Ethiopia. Despite the release of several improved seeds, especially improved crops, animals, fruits, and vegetable varieties, there has been limited use of improved seeds by the majority of farmers.

Among others, the unavailability of improved and quality seeds at the right place and time coupled with a poor promotion system has been the crucial factors accounting for the limited use of improved seeds which further contributes to low agricultural productivity. Poor availability and promotion of improved seeds are due to the inefficiency of the seed systems of the country.

Taking these facts into account, the government of Ethiopia has given due attention to crop, fruit, and vegetable production and development. This as a result increases the need for improved seeds across the country. Besides, researching, developing, and supplying good quality seeds of improved varieties among smallholder farmers aiming at agricultural production and productivity increase, nutritional enhancement, drought resilience, and improving income generation.

Hence, to promote export and ensure food security in Ethiopia, the government with the concerned stakeholders has prepared policies and programs that include the 10 years' national development plan. Although the policies and interventions increase productivity among smallholder farmers, the link between Universities-farmers is the most important strategy for promoting and providing improved seeds to the users.

Because the dissemination of improved seeds passes through complex organizational, institutional, and individual processes since it requires the development, multiplication, processing, storage, distribution, and marketing of seeds in the country. Hence, the involvement and efforts of higher institutions in developing and multiplying



improved seeds could be a guarantee to obtaining the quantity and quality of seeds that the users needed.

Haramaya University School of Natural Resources Management and Environmental Sciences head Mr. Arebo Feyissa said that a new paradigm is needed to transform the agriculture sector and ensure food security which safeguards access to nutritious food at all times.

The agriculture sector needs a new way of thinking that will make possible what has not been possible until today. In this case, promoting and disseminating improved seeds are imperative to the sustainable development of food systems, ensuring regenerative use of natural resources, enhancing ecosystem services, and addressing the need for more socially equitable decision-making by combining traditional and scientific knowledge, he explained.

Asosa Agricultural Research Center Director General Tesfaw Melkamu noted that, the center has been introducing improved varieties to the farmers to improve productivity. However, much remains to be done; the center has been carrying out training and technology transfer activities for farmers which improve their productivity.

The director explained that, the center is working to get better results by adapting the best varieties of sorghum, corn, and soybeans to the farmers that are suitable for the local climate and produce better yields.

Haramaya University Research and Extension and Publication Director Dr.

Chanyalew Seyoum said that University has been working to solve the shortage of improved seeds that the farmers face currently. The University, in its main campus, sub-researches centers, and farmers' demonstration centers, have been supporting the framers by providing improved seeds either by selling at a lower cost or for free.

In addition to research, learning, and teaching activities, the University has been providing community services and technical and advisory support to the farmers from land preparation to market linkage. Accordingly, for the 2021/2022 farming seasons, the University has distributed improved, disease-resistant, and higher-yield productive seeds to the communities namely Gudane Potato over 1400, Melkass two Maize 170 quintals, Muyira one Sorghum 180 quintals, Common Bean includes Ayenew 43 quintals, Tinike 38 quintals, Awash 41 quintals, as well as wheat 180 quintals.

It also works in dairy farming, selling heifers-calf at reasonable prices, pottery farms, and so on. Despite its land limitation problem, the university plans to increase the provision of improved seeds for the 2022/23 farming season. Hence, Potato from 1400 to 3000 quintals, Maize to 150 quintals, Sorghum from 180 to 200 quintals, Bean to 50 quintals, and wheat 80 quintals, he added.

The university has also provided different types of improved seeds to the communities free of charge. Among others, 700 quintals of potatoes to 5,000 households, 3,000 quintals of wheat to 21 woredas for drought-

affected areas in Eastern Hararge, and more than 4,000 quintals of corn and teff have been distributed to the farmers which cost over 24 million birr.

The improved seeds are good at adapting to the local climate, have better yields, and disease resistance while being a model farmer, living in the surrounding area, and being trusted and selected by the concerned parties, as well as women and elderly people are criteria to get improved seeds for free. He stated that the university also provides improved seeds for those with land for urban agriculture.

Demand and supply mismatch, sustaining the technology, focusing on campaign tasks, and preserving the improved seed for the next farming season are challenges observed every year. Hence, he urges the private sector and investors to increase their participation in the multiplication and distribution of improved seeds. This significantly supports the university to concentrate on research and promotion tasks.

Indeed, disseminating improved seeds is important to the enhancement of crops and animal production and productivity as well as fruit and vegetable development. Improved seeds are necessary sources to increase export, create jobs, and ensure food security. Therefore, the Universities with the concerned stakeholders who have knowledge and skills should work to enhance the knowledge of improved seeds including multiplying seeds, improving agricultural technology, identifying which area can be cultivated, and so on. Higher institutions should also provide support and monitor the cultivation of improved seeds.