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Ethiopia, Russia agree to expand cooperation in health sector

- *Russia to send doctors*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia and Russia agreed to replicate their longstanding relations in the health frontier, in line with this, the latter expressed readiness to send 16 medical doctors to enhance Ethiopia’s health service delivery.

Alongside with the 8th Ethiopia-Russia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) meeting held here recently, presidents of the two

countries Red Cross societies exchanged views on ways to work together to boost service delivery and enhance the capacity of professionals.

Speaking at the event held on Thursday, Ethiopian Red Cross Society President Abera Tola said that there are areas for the two societies to work together and cooperate. Strengthening the mobilization of volunteers and increasing members as well as offering capacity building programs

and other activities are mentioned by him as areas the two societies could partner.

Russian Red Cross President Pavel Savchuk (MD) outlined that the society is ready to send about 16 doctors to Ethiopia to provide medical support as part of the cooperation. The memorandum of understanding agreement that the society concluded with Ethiopia’s Ministry of Health would enable

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France returns borrowed artifacts to Ethiopia

- *Lalibela rock-hewn restoration progressing well*

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA –France returned the artifacts it borrowed from Ethiopia in the 1972, the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) announced; adding that the French-funded restoration of Lalibela Rock-hewn Churches is well progressing.

Authority Director General, Abebaw Ayalew (Assistant Prof.) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the heritages were sent to France for research purposes in the 1972 and due to the revolution in Ethiopia and other reasons, they have not returned for many years.

In connection with the 125th anniversary of diplomatic relations, Sophie Makame, the



Heritages handed over to Ethiopia

Head of Cooperation at the French Embassy in Ethiopia hand over the artifacts that were found in Melka Kuntre and Omo areas by

a French researcher to Abebaw. Noting the good cooperation Ethiopia and France have in heritage issues, the head expressed her

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AEPAC says Ethiopia meets all criteria for AGOA reinstatement

- *to evaluate 18-month performance*

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia has fulfilled all the required criteria to be reinstated in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) beneficiaries list, so disclosed American Ethiopia Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC).

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Power restores in Maychew, other cities in pipeline:

EEU

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Working for the country needs to ensure that our interests are respected locally, nationally or globally

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News

Gov't, relief agents continue aid delivery to conflict-affected area

BY TAMERU REGASA

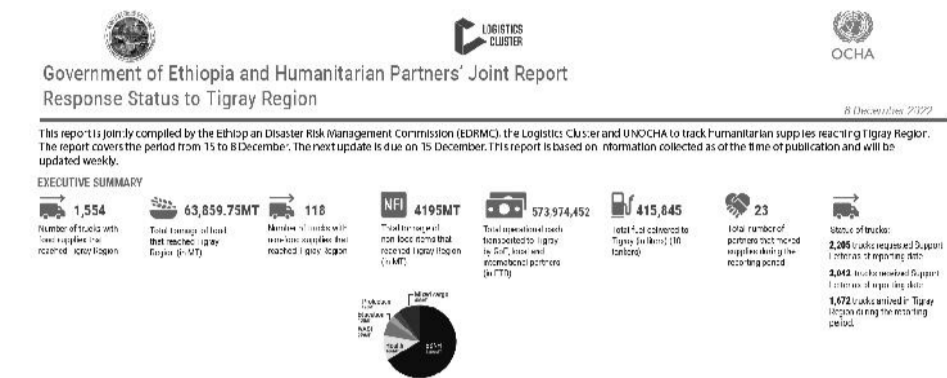
ADDIS ABABA- UN OCHA Ethiopia announced that Government of Ethiopia in collaboration with humanitarian partners has delivered 64,000 Metric Tons of relief food to Tigray state since mid-November to Dec, 08, 2022.

According to the report obtained from the office, 574 million Birr operational cash that have collected from government, local and international partners and 10 tankers of fuels have also been transported to the state.

Along with different public agents 23 partners have participated to supply the aid in the reporting period.

1,554 trucks with food supplies and 118 trucks with nonfood supplies have reached the state the report added.

The report underscored that efforts are



ongoing to reach more conflict-affected people across Northern Ethiopia.

It was learnt that government of Ethiopia has achieved the plan to deliver humanitarian supports in providing 95 % of the total demand for food in the three conflict affected states (Tigray, Amhara and Afar) in the past month.

National Disaster Risk Management Commission explaining the stand of government towards humanitarian supports it said that government is very concerned about citizens that require humanitarian aid and other services adding that it has been operating per Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) to rehabilitate and reconstruct the conflict affected areas.

Women, Youth advocacy groups push for laws to take effect

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA— Various women's right and youth advocate groups have requested pertinent government institutions to exert responsibilities and make the available legal frameworks applicable.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) in partnership with various local and international institutions held a discussion forum yesterday with youth and women advocate groups in Addis Ababa.

During the event, the groups urged Ministry of Justice to make use of the laws and regulations, which are formulated and adopted to protect the rights of women.

Apart from implementing the laws, they youth called on the Ministry to pass compatible verdicts against those who commit GBV in a manner from which others can draw important lessons.

In the same manner, the youth has also commended the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs to exert its utmost efforts to carry out activities that enhance the capacity of women, advocate women empowerment, as well as to denounce GBV in every possible way.

The youth also urged the non-governmental institutions that are mainly working on empowering women economically thereby enhancing their capacity. More importantly, they called on the media and the NGOs to become a voice for the voiceless.

Program Director in EWLA, Betelhem Degu indicated that the Association aims at gathering the youth together so that they would raise their concerns and quests to pertinent stakeholders.

Apart from facilitating a stage where youth and women right groups echo their voices, she stated that similar events were held in other states as part of 16 Days of Activism against GBV.

She called on media houses to contribute their share in advocating as well as considering the rights and moral of women in general before airing programs.

Founder and President of National Young Women Association Marta Mamuye, stressed the need to include men in the activities as well as efforts put to respect the rights of women.

She also noted that involving men in the various activities would have a paramount role in the fight against GBV.

Moreover, she highlighted that the Media should play a leading role in sensitizing the society and enabling them to have a better understanding of the challenges that women face and their consequences.

The youth reflected their ideas with regard to the major challenges that girls and women encounter due to society's wrong perception including on education and other spheres.

The advocate groups held slogan that said 'Women's right human right! 'I am with her' 'I feel your pain', 'Stop Violence Against Women (VAW)', among others.

Judiciary bodies, UNHCR deliberate on Human rights protection

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA— The joint Committee of federal judiciary bodies and Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have acknowledged steps taken by the government to protect human rights amid continued violations.

During the opening of the 75th anniversary of Human Rights Declaration, Federal High Court President and chairperson of the joint committee of federal judiciary bodies said that the government has reformed judiciary and empowered institutions in line of human rights protection.

"Violations of human rights have been seen widely in several states so far. Hence, the judiciary bodies have been engaging in protecting human rights though it needs more coordination of public-private sectors," he noted.

"We cannot say that we achieved our goals, but we are going through the path that can lead us to protect human rights. We are always convincing about human rights protection, and it is our daily task to do so. Monitoring and Evaluation are being executed to correct failures," he stated.

The Joint committee of judiciary bodies out of, namely Courts, police commissions and prison administrations and Ministry of Justice are now uniting their force to defend violations and to take violators to justice, as to him.

Deputy Regional Representative for OHCHR, Charles Kwemoi also urged all stakeholders to take ultimate responsibility of creating awareness about human rights.

"The coordination between institutions



Photo: Hadush Abreha

cannot be ignored. Government bodies [of Ethiopia] are also engaging in collaboration with international organizations. The Judiciary system has also been reformed which has considerable importance to preserve human rights," he noted.

He said: "The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission has also conducted investigations and reported several human right violations. We have acknowledged steps taken by the government including national initiatives of investigations on human rights violations."

Conveying a message via recorded video on the occasion, Ethiopian Human Rights commissioner Daniel Bekele said that the constitution and other legal frameworks of

Ethiopia have stated clearly about serious violations that have been committed. "As protecting human rights requires intensive works to be well protected, civil societies and government institutions should invest on creating awareness," he noted.

Federal Supreme Court vice President and half time Judge at UN Dispute Tribunal, Solomon Areda on his part stated that heinous human rights violations have been committed over the last few years.

"We are celebrating the 75th anniversary of UN- Human Rights Declaration this Thursday. The Cession of Hostilities Agreement [signed by the government and TPLF] brings horizons of hope to end the violation seen as yet," he remarked.

News

Photo: Gebabo Gebre



New online music streaming platform goes operational

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA— Sewasew Multimedia has launched new digital music streaming platform that can be accessed online for listeners or public throughout the country.

This new online music streaming platform is presented in CD form and podcasts that accompanied by great technology creativity and helps to develop, facilitate arts and music in general.

Speaking to the media, Music Producer, Composer and Songwriter, Kamuzu Kassa said the platform has taken three years to be completed this latest platform online music digital library.

“The company introduced platform enables arts and music of Ethiopia to be Trans boundary and globally competent keeping the standard by developing latest technological creativity.”

Moreover, it also makes the music industry modern and capable of reaching the audiences or listeners in a lucid and better way as well as opens digital payment system to simply use, Kamuzu said.

As to him, it also helps musicians sell their album and distribute everywhere without

hindering, and encourages musicians to work and firmly protects the copyright.

Speaking at the launching ceremony of the new platform yesterday, Sewasew Multimedia General Manager, Habitu Negash said the platform would allow listeners to choose any content of their preference any time, offline access and even can share favorite music in legal and simple way.

The platform makes selling music, distributing and applying new latest technology easy and makes all talent musicians alert to present the quality music to listeners at a recommended price.

The famous musicians such as Maritu Legese, Teddy Afro, Girma Tefera, Abinet Agonafir and others have signed agreement recently to work together with Sewasew Multimedia digital platform, as to him.

People who use Sewasew online digital platform will access the music and can get premium payment without advertising.

In the new Album named "Shakura," which was produced and composed by Kamuzu Kassa, ten musicians have been involved.

Habitu also called on everyone to encourage this new creativity of music industry.

Power restores in Maychew, other cities in pipeline: EEU

• To dispatch technical committee to Tigray

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA- The Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU) disclosed that electricity returned to the town of Maychew, which had been cut off from the national power grid for over a year due to conflict in the area yesterday, while other towns in Tigray will be reconnected soon.

EEU Corporate Communication Director Melaku Taye told The Ethiopian Herald that the electric infrastructure which was damaged by the conflict was successfully maintained and electricity was restored in Maychew as of yesterday December 9, 2022. By the same token, Shire town was connected on Thursday.

Commending the contribution of EEU staff who are working diligently for the resumption of electricity in conflict-impacted areas, he said the maintenance and inspection activities have been completed in different parts of Tigray. Accordingly, it is expected electricity will resume in other towns in the state in near future.

According to Melaku, an EEU technical committee which also includes a high-level leadership set to be dispatched to Tigray



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Ethiopian Electric Utility

to oversee the restoration of electricity in various towns of Tigray and conflict-affected neighboring states soon. “As electricity is the bedrock for the operation of other essential services including telecom, intent, sewerage, bank and others due emphasis has been given for the task.”

Likewise, the Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) CEO Ashebir Bulcha commended the commitment of employees that are working day and night to restore the service in Tigray and other conflict-impacted areas. “The reinstatement of electricity in Tigray is going well per the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in a clear demonstration of the government’s commitment to translate the truce into a reality.”



Ethiopia, Russia...

it to bolster the capacity of Dejach Balcha Hospital for the next twenty five years.

“We are ready to send 16 qualified doctors within two months to support and share experience to Ethiopian counterparts apart from the medical support they will give here. It is an important step for us to further the two countries already in good shape relationships in the health sector.”



Mentioning the two societies 75 years of cooperation in Balcha Hospital, Savchuk indicated the Ethio-Russia cooperation has passed the test of time and is based on mutual benefit.

It was learned that agreement was reached to hold the 9th Ethiopia-Russia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) meeting in 2024 in Russia.

France returns...

country’s desire to strengthen the tie.

The director-general further noted that the total number of artifacts recovered was 740, of which 28 were animal fossils. The artifacts are 10,000 to 2,000,000 years old. The authority has been working tirelessly to turn heritages that were sent to other countries due to research and other related purposes.

Moreover, the authority has been working closely with the French government in

maintaining heritages especially the Rock-hewn Churches of Lalibela and turning into the former status quo. In this regard, preserving the heritage site, changing the shelter and other activities have been undertaken by the authority and the French government jointly.

It was to be recalled that the governments of Ethiopia and France signed a contract worth 5,000,000 Euros to maintain the Rock-hewn Churches of Lalibela a month ago.

AEPAC says...

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, AEPAC Executive Chairperson, Mesfin Tegenu said that the country has met all the four or five criteria required to be relisted in the trade pact.

As part of the efforts in this regard, AEPAC has submitted letter to the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). Similarly, he said that they have had two congressmen who have submitted letters of support.

In his letter submitted to USTR, Donald S. Beyer Jr., he urged to consider initiating an out-of-cycle review regarding Ethiopia’s eligibility for benefits under AGOA.

He further emphasized that pushing the nation in to poverty by continuing to exclude them from AGOA could further destabilize the country and severely weaken the US-Ethiopia relationships.

Mentioning that AGOA has served in strengthening ties between the two countries, and accelerating Ethiopia’s economic growth, he also expressed his hope that the recent truce brokered by the AU which allows unhindered humanitarian supplies to Tigray, will lead to Ethiopia’s swift reinstatement in to AGOA.

Besides, two businesses in Ethiopia also submitted their letters in support of Ethiopian rejoining of AGOA.

“We believed that the only matter that was hanging was the peace situation in the

northern part of Ethiopia. Now that the problem is solved, humanitarian access and services are restored, there is no reason that hinders Ethiopia to be reinstated in to AGOA,” Mesfin underscored.

However, he expressed that the only concern is the security problem in the western part of the country as it might appear as an excuse to delay the decision. Though the beneficiaries have nothing to do with the unrest, the situation might have negative ramification, as to him. “In this regard, let me take the opportunity to urge the government to take appropriate action.”

Nonetheless, the Chairman indicated that the AEPAC started a campaign to push the White House to go over the decision.

By the same token, he stated that AEPAC will hold a black-tie fund-raising dinner the “2022 AEPAC Members Recognition and Fundraising Gala” today December 10, 2022, at 6 p.m. at the Westin Arlington Gateway found at 801 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22203. During the event, evaluation will be carried out on the 18-month performance of the association, it was learnt.

It is to be noted that Ethiopia’s suspension from AGOA besides it hinders the opportunity provided to export half of nation’s manufacturing products, it has left many rural migrant young women jobless in which they were able to acquire skills, develop confidence and earn income, to support themselves and their families.

Opinion

Reaffirming the essential message of Kwanzaa: Placing the Nguzo Saba at the center

BY DR. MAULANA KARENGA

As we move once again into the month of December and the season of celebration of the good at the year's end, Kwanzaa will again assume its rightful role as a distinct, definitive and defining African cultural presence at the table of these times. It's anchoring, orienting, and uplifting significance is affirmed through its embrace and practice by millions of African peoples throughout the world African community on every continent in the world. Thus, it is ever important to affirm and reaffirm the essential message and meaning of Kwanzaa, always placing its core values, the Nguzo Saba, the Seven Principles, at the center. Here I want to suggest a careful reading and re-reading and studying of my definitive book on Kwanzaa: *A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture*, (University of Sankore Press) and offer herein excerpts and ideas and discussion for a beautiful and deeper engagement with it.

As the creator of Kwanzaa, my essential intention was and remains to provide a foundation for a rich understanding and correct practice of Kwanzaa and at the same time, furnish a framework for its continued development in ways that maintain its integrity, enhance its beauty in concept and practice, and contribute to its expansive meaning as a living and life-affirming tradition. In such a context, we all become self-conscious keepers of the tradition and therefore share the collective work and responsibility (Ujima) for the maintenance of its authenticity and excellence, resisting violations of its integrity and spirit and building on its base in self-determining and enhancing ways.

There is no way to understand and appreciate the meaning and message of Kwanzaa without understanding and appreciating its profound and pervasive concern with values. In fact, Kwanzaa's reason for existence, its length of seven days, its core focus and its foundation are all rooted in its concern with values. Kwanzaa inherits this value concern and focus from Kawaida, the African philosophical framework in which

it was created. Kawaida philosophy is a communitarian African philosophy which is an ongoing synthesis of the best of African sensitivities, thought and practice in constant exchange with the world. Kawaida is further defined by its central focus on views and values and its commitment to an ongoing dialog with African culture which involves using it as a resource rather than a reference. That is to say, asking it questions and seeking answers from it to fundamental concerns of human life. And no questions are more central than what values should we hold concerning ourselves, others, life and the world.

It is a fundamental Kawaida contention that values are the hinge on which human possibilities turn. That is to say, as categories of commitment and priorities, values produce and sustain thought and practice which either diminish or enhance human possibilities. In other words, what you define as important and put first in your life determines your human possibilities. The choice of buying more records (or CDs) than books and dancing one's life away clearly diminishes one's human possibilities. Likewise, a people's choice to allow an oppressor to educate their children has also limited their human possibilities. And a people whose paradigms of thought and practice are borrowed from its oppressor clearly have limited human possibilities. Thus, values are essential to the quality and potential of human life.

Moreover, Kawaida teaches that values are also important because they are a core component of culture and interact with practice in creating and sustaining the fabric and forward or backward motion of culture. For values support or oppose various kinds of practice which, in and through the context of the cultural process, can lead to the liberation and development of a people and its culture or their enslavement and destruction. This is not to say practice itself does not shape or give rise to values, for there is a reciprocal relationship between values and practice. As Haji Sekou Toure suggests, practice shapes values. But for practice to shape values, values must exist, and this, at one level, suggests the priority of values. In other words, right value-orientation precedes and makes possible the

right kind of practice.

But again, it is important to see the reciprocal interaction of cultural values and cultural practice. For even though we start with cultivating the values for a particular desired life-affirming practice, it is in practice that their worth is affirmed or disproved. Moreover, practice rooted in positive life-affirming and life-developing values, creates a context which not only sustains positive traditional values, but also gives rise to new and even more expansive ones. Thus, practice is indispensable but values are the original point of departure which prompts and provides guidelines for practice.

At the heart of Kwanzaa and the hub and hinge on which the holiday turns, are the Nguzo Saba, The Seven Principles. These principles not only call forth a practice that aids in our preservation and constant renewal of the tradition, but also offers a value system that if embraced and lived enhances and enriches our self-understanding and self-assertion in the world. Indeed, these principles offer clear and compelling alternatives to some of the major problems of our times.

In place of hateful division and alienation, the principle of Umoja (Unity) stresses the oneness of being, the common ground of humanity and the needful togetherness of our families and people; in place of the suppression of persons and peoples and the violation of their rights to lives of dignity and decency, the principle of Kujichagulia (Self-Determination) upholds the right and responsibility of freedom and flourishing for every person and people; and in place of vulgar individualism and shameless self-promotion at the expense of others, the principle of Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility) encourages the constant search for common ground and solidarity and cooperation for common good.

In a world of unjust and unequal distribution of wealth, predatory appropriation of others' resources and unpursued possibilities of ending poverty, the principle of Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) maintains the value of shared work and shared wealth, and the inalienable rights of all to an equitable and just share of the good and goods of the world.

In a world where purposeless is pervasive and narrow concepts of interests threaten and undermine the common good, the principle of Nia (Purpose) puts forth the concepts of the collective vocation of constantly building and enhancing the good of community and the ethical self-understanding of being chosen and choosing to bring good in the world. In a world where lives and lands are destroyed regularly and persons, whole peoples, and the environment are relentlessly degraded, the principle of Kuumba (Creativity) teaches us the ethical obligation of *serudj ta* - to heal, repair and transform our community and the world, making them more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited them.

And finally, in a world and time when faith is government funded, gospels of personal prosperity have replaced the ethical emphasis on social justice, and hopelessness and cynicism abound, the principle of Imani (Faith) teaches us to believe in the Good, the right and the possible, and to join our faith with work and struggle to create the good world we all want and deserve to live in. It is this vision and these values pointing towards bringing and sustaining good in the world that has inspired and informed the creation and growth of Kwanzaa. And every idea, symbol and practice in my book, *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture*, reflects and reaffirms this central understanding of the message and meaning of Kwanzaa.

Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies, California State University-Long Beach; Executive Director, African American Cultural Center (Us); Creator of Kwanzaa; and author of Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture and Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis, www.MaulanaKarenga.org; www. African American Cultural Center-LA.org; www.Us-Organization.org.

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

Nations, Nationalities, Peoples...

Peace, the main theme of the current Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Day can only be achieved in a sustainable way when two important issues are considered. The first is that every citizen in Ethiopia must acquire a peaceful mindset and refrain from being mentally and emotionally rebellious. The second important measure to be taken is to promote peace education at all levels of the education system in the country.

Every institute of higher learning and University in the country needs to make research on peace issues and establish an early warning system that could predict the possibilities of conflicts in and around such institutes as well as on the country level.

Although they can make enormous contributions to the promotion of peace in the country, the issue of peace must not fall under the pawn and goodwill of politicians, activists and those who double up on multiplying the scale of conflicts in every corner of the country.

In countries like Ethiopia, poverty and conflicts

over scarce resources in the semi-arid and arid ecologies of the country have triggered continuous border conflicts in areas between Oromia and Ethiopia Somali regional states and between Afar and Somali nomadic populations. Moreover, conflicts between various ethnic groups and the Borena in Oromia over pastureland for animals and water sources have continued to spill over from the Kenya border to the Ethiopia border in and around Moyale.

Moreover, this year's national day is held at the threshold of the upcoming National Dialogue to be held in the country in a couple of months. This is an important occasion and nationwide forum that should never be missed to bring peace and unity on the major peace and development issues in the country. The fact that different sectors of Ethiopian society could come together to spell out the challenges and opportunities that the country can exploit to establish a common understanding of the major national issues itself could be taken as a big success that could bring a

national consensus on multiple issues of national significance.

Such public forums must not be hijacked by political groupings that try to twist the principal objectives of such events.

Ethiopia is undertaking massive economic development programs that are of crucial importance for the comprehensive economic development of the country and the people of Ethiopia are expected to uphold and protect these mega infrastructure projects and agriculture projects that are meant to recover income and generate foreign exchange earnings for the country. The current revolutions in agriculture and manufacturing industries mainly underway in the industrial parks can bring the desired results only if the people can protect them from possible intruders who do not wish to see any economic progress in the country.

In his congratulatory message to the 17th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Day posted on the Twitter account of the Office of the Prime

Minister Abiy Ahmed noted "We are building Ethiopia in two wise ways. The first is by allowing ourselves to contribute from what is at our disposal and the second is by enabling all of us to gain from it."

This implies that the people of Ethiopia need to contribute their part and also be able to enjoy the results of the development programs currently underway in the country.

Again, those who wish to spread havoc and civil war across the country are in their last ditch to take up every false issue that they think will help them to dismantle the country. Recent disturbances in schools in Addis Ababa are open conspiracies that are geared towards disrupting the daily life of citizens and the age-old unity among the residents of the city. As Prime Minister Abiy has noted in his speech at Hawassa on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the national day, those who are out to tarnish the image of this country under the guise of rights may cause havoc but will never be successful.

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Editorial

Ethio-Russia relations: Historic to serve mutual benefits

Ethiopia is undertaking peaceful and cooperative relationships almost with all countries. It created and has kept up long-standing relations with some countries of which Russia is the one. The meeting of the Ethio-Russia joint ministerial commission held for three days here in Addis recently recommended ways to cooperate in the fields of mining, energy, trade, education, health, agriculture, industry and tourism.

True, mutual benefit is a master key for sustainable relations between two countries. The Ethio-Russian relations can be taken as exemplary in this regard which needs good care to its better flourishing.

The relations sustained up to now regardless of different political tempos of different regimes of both countries in different times. However, Russia has taken several stances in favor of Ethiopia when it stood alone in the venue of the world. For instance, The Soviet Union was one of only five nations which refused to acknowledge Italy's occupation of Ethiopia earlier to World War II when Italy attempted to colonize Ethiopia.

Besides, earlier to the second invasion of Italy against Ethiopia during the battle of Adwa, Russian Red Cross Society helped Ethiopia. Documents indicate that after the main military campaign in the Italian war of 1895-96, the Russian Red Cross Society decided to send a medical mission to Ethiopia, to render medical help to the wounded.

The establishment of Dejazmach Balcha Hospital in Addis Ababa made its foundation on this historical event. As the agreement reached recently, Russia's support to the hospital will be intensified. In order to improve the service delivery of Dejazmach Balcha Hospital, preparations have been completed for 15 doctors from Russia to come to Ethiopia to provide services and share the experience of the hospital's medical staff.

On another instance, when the Somalia government launched an offensive in July 1977 with the intent of capturing Ethiopia's Ogaden region, the Soviet Union again stood beside Ethiopia via providing armaments and military advisors.

Recently, during the War in the northern part of Ethiopia, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov said the issue was an internal affair of Ethiopia and that Russia supported the Ethiopian government's efforts. The two sides also expressed the need to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the fields of education, science and technology.

This stance of Russia and some other friendly countries of Ethiopia defended the country from unnecessary sanctions it could have severely suffered from.

All these occurrences at different historical times indicate that the two countries have good relations that ought to be nurtured and further strengthened in all aspects.

By the same token, the two countries reached an agreement to augment their relations. They pointed out that this relationship is based on mutual benefit and respect.

Russian relations are not limited to Ethiopia. Rather, it has good relations with other African countries that it wants to intensify more. For a while now, competition among the world powers for influence in Africa has been seen as primarily between the United States and China. But research shows that President Vladimir Putin is intent on tilting the global balance of power in Russia's favor. To this end, Russia is working on strengthening its relations with the continent.

No matter how, Russian relation with Ethiopia and the rest of Africa must serve mutual benefit and based on equal treatment avoiding master-slave relationships that are seen among some western powers.

Opinion

Nations, Nationalities, Peoples Day: An opportunity for national consensus for unity, peace

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The 17th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Day has been marked at the national level on December 8, 2022, with mammoth paraphernalia staged at Hawasa City, Sidama Regional State under the theme "Our United National Day for Lasting Peace"

This year's national day is marked under the backdrop of many challenges that the country has faced over the last two years and the final convocation and implementation of the Permanent Agreement on the cessation of Hostilities between the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the TPLF.

The country is celebrating the day under a strong commitment to the rehabilitation of war-torn regions of northern Ethiopia and supply of relief supplies to the needy population affected by the two years' war. This is another important occasion on which the entire people of Ethiopia commit themselves to unity in peace building and the development of the socio-economic development of the country.

Nations, nationalities and peoples day is not only a day on which the culture and linguistic heritages of the country are exhibited, it is a day of political demonstration of the country's commitment to balanced and equitable support for the economic development of states that comprise the federal order.

It is indeed expected to be an important occasion in which the people of Ethiopia renew their commitments to the implementation of the *Ten Years Perspective*

Plan and the completion of the nation's mega projects like GERD and other infrastructural facilities in the country.

In addition, on this quite demanding occasion won which the enemies of the federal system are laboring from dawn to dusk to destabilize the country from within and without by hatching conspiracies that on several occasions have resulted in the loss of human life and public and private properties that were amassed over several decades. Citizens in the western and southern parts of the country are still craving for peace as their God-given and constitutionally recognized human rights. Those who wish to continue commercializing the livelihood of innocent citizens by organizing hate-oriented ethnic conflicts from which they appear to benefit.

The current celebration of the national day has therefore rightly focused on the importance of ensuring lasting peace in the country as an important prerequisite for continuous nation-building and uninterrupted socio-economic development.

The people of Ethiopia certainly share a common historical heritage and unbreakable bond that hooligans and sabre rattling hoodlums and ruffians who pause as liberators should not be allowed to tamper with. Due respect and honor should be accorded to the people of Ethiopia and the senior citizens who paid every sacrifice to carry over the history and cultural heritages that were exhibited on the recent Nations, Nationalities and Peoples day. Self-styled political and cultural peddlers who are busy fishing in troubled waters must take note of the fact that Ethiopia is defined as

a mosaic of people with different cultures and traditional heritages that have lived in unison for thousands of years and do not need to be agitated on issues that fall short of their unity or jeopardize their diversity which depicts national unity and beauty of the country.

It must be noted that Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Day is an offshoot of the constitutionally established federal system in the country. Some think that the challenges that the country is facing have emanated from the federal system of government and recommend some sort of a unitary arrangement in which a centralized system of government would prevail. Nobody or a group is allowed to make an undesirable experiment on the people of Ethiopia and their statehood. The federal system will continue to prevail. It is indeed wrong to assume that the federal system which is formed on ethnic territorialism is flawless but it is very important to effectively protect and develop the system from the encroachments of corruption, extremism and disruptive actions. Genuine and useful suggestions can develop the system but social media conspiracy and unwarranted misinformation and ill-natured criticism would take us nowhere.

The writer of this brief contribution thinks that the territorial ethic-based arrangement of the federal system has failed to effectively protect the rights of minorities in each region. Apart from the general constitutional provisions that provide universal rights to the people of Ethiopia in all regions, there are no provisions constitutional provisions that accentuate the political, economic and cultural rights of minorities who reside in

different regions across the country.

Every region enacts laws and regulations that favor the majority of citizens in the region without considering the rights of minorities in each region to fully exercise their human and constitutional rights with no regulations restricting the development of their livelihood.

On the other hand, some misconceptions and vulgar understanding of the rights and obligations of citizens in each region have given rise to the proliferation of extremists hate filled armed groups that are supported and encouraged by ethnic-minded politicians who are well-versed in making pressers and tagging messages on social media.

Some people try to draw a line between civic nationalism and ethnic base democratic nationalism which acknowledges diversity in multi-national state governance. The truth is no civic nationalism can exist without acknowledging the existence of ethnically diverse societies in a single national entity of a state within a federal system. It must be clear that federalism in any country is not a panacea to every social problem. It must be viewed as a means to a democratic multi-ethnic political order that recognizes respects, cherishes, protects and upholds the multi-faceted dimensions of human rights and civil liberties.

See Nations, Nationalities... Page 4

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

Art & Culture

Language dynamism and times of change-a brief observation

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

It goes without saying that like any human invention, language is dynamic rather than static. It changes with history, human activities both in peaceful and turbulent times. The dynamic nature of language is perhaps best illustrated in the following passage. "It is true that language is dynamic. It travels from one place to the other and its changes. Different people speak different languages in different countries. However some words in every language are very similar to other words. This happens because of the dynamism of language." We should perhaps add by saying that the dynamic nature of language is more pronounced during times of upheavals than in normal times.

February 1974 was a turning point in Ethiopian history and the most famous word that emerged at that time was "revolution" that was translated in Amharic as "abyot". According to one language professor of the time "abyot" means "to say no" or "to refuse". In English the term "revolution" has two meanings. The first is political while the second is about mechanics. The first is a "forcible overthrow of a government or social order, in favor of a new system" The second meaning of the word is "an instance of revolving".

When we come to the Amharic translation, we realize that it has only one meaning and that is political. All languages are supposed to be equal in the sense that they meet the communication needs of specific peoples at specific times. Yet, we should not overlook the fact that some languages are more developed than others due to historical, economic and social circumstances. English is thus richer than say, Amharic in the sense that it is more expressive, rich in its vocabulary and complex in its syntax. Thus, "abyot" has one meaning in Amharic but "revolution" has many meanings in politics, mechanics and astronomy.

This is not however the main point of our discussion in this article. Our focus is on the fact that new words that are often coined or translated from foreign languages during historic times tend to misrepresent their true meanings or sometimes distort their essence. In our example above "revolution" in politics is about replacing one system by another but in Amharic it is narrowly translated as "the act of refusal or the act of saying no"

We can take another example of a word that has been translated from English that has lost its true contextual meaning and created so much chaos and misled politicians on the Left who had based their actions on it, resulting into confusion and wrong course of actions. The word "nation" has a different connotation in Marxist theory mainly espoused by Joseph Stalin while the same term has a different meaning when used by

nationalist intellectuals of different colors and pretensions.

The promoters of the infamous "national question" had missed something when they embraced it uncritically in the first place. This is also the reason why the concept or theory has become the single most devastating misunderstanding that has continued to upset the post-revolution political system in Ethiopia to this day. For that matter, it did not last long even in its native land Russia. Stalin's "national question" finally led to the catastrophic national disintegration.

If memory does not fail us, the biggest linguistic upheaval occurred in this country some fifty years ago when the revolution brought with it not only radical changes in land tenure but also in the vocabulary and use of the Amharic language in particular. A whole set of new words made their entry into the language for the first time. New words were invented not only to express the new realities, but also to facilitate (or often hinder) conversations among the educated elite. Old ones were given new meanings and translated words invaded the political realm to promote understanding (but often misunderstanding) among the political elites.

Even ordinary citizens were not spared from this "semantic turmoil". Words were sometimes taken out of context or given twisted meanings to express the opposite of what they really meant. There was a joke going around town at that particular time when the common folk used the new words as they fit into their mentalities and urgencies so much so that they understood the word, "socialism" as meaning the need for everyone to share whatever they may have (money or belongings) with their fellow citizens.

Guided as he was by the misguided or distorted meaning of this particular word, a man dipped his hand into the pocket of another fellow, shouting on top of his voice: "Let's share what you have in this pocket of yours because this is the time of socialism!" To this uninformed and innocent fellow, socialism meant a system whereby everyone shares what they have with everyone else. This incident was welcomed with laughter but there were many moments when misunderstood words and their distorted meanings led many people to act in ways that did not warrant the use of those same words.

Many words about socialism were so confusing and difficult to understand that the government of the time gathered together linguists from academic institutions and told them to prepare "a dictionary of progressive words" starting of course from the word "revolution" itself. This was the hottest single topic and a fiercely debated word, meaning different things to different people that later one carried many risks and led many intellectual into the

quagmire of mutual disagreement that later on deteriorated into violence with weapons of mutual exterminations during the tragic episode known as "Red Terror".

Words could indeed kill or save, as one anonymous local wise man is often quoted as saying. When one group of radicals came up with the concept of "white terror" the other group responded in kind by describing its acts as 'red terror'. At the end of the day both sides ended up in bloodbath from which they have not healed themselves even after half a century. The saddest fact was that neither red nor white terror were Ethiopian concepts or were not coined by the people but by the so-called "well-read generation". In between innocent youngsters lost their lives while the groups were fighting for supremacy. When elephants fight, it is indeed the grass that suffers.

Socialism is not an Ethiopian idea. It was imported from abroad, mainly from Russia, by educated intellectuals who did not themselves understand what it really meant although they had the advantage of foresight because they were educated in schools and universities while the farmers were illiterate. Who misled whom may be debatable but the educated folks should be the first to communicate the real meaning of the term. Unfortunately they started to learn the ABC of socialism while the revolution was in progress. It was a kind of "learning on the job" and mistakes were inevitably made because this kind of knowledge required time, and a critical mentality to mature and yield positive results if any at all. What the so-called revolutionaries of the generation of the 1960s and 1970s were doing was to pick up their guns to punish all those who opposed their borrowed ideas even before they themselves properly assimilated the new vocabularies or concepts. And that was a national disaster of course.

In one of his classic works, French author and dramatist Moliere exposed the comic effect of language in one of his dramas where the leading character asks what "prose" means while he was speaking and writing prose all his life. "But you have been speaking prose all your life!" another character explains to the protagonist, trying to yell him why we sometimes forget or imagine something we practice as if it were out of this world or spineless fools. We sometimes speak words without really understanding whether they are in prose or verse and this is bound to lead to some comic effect Moliere exploited in his dramatic work to highlight our foolishness.

Sometimes misunderstandings are born when we, unknowingly or deliberately, distort the meanings of words in our conversations. Although words have meanings that we have conventionally agreed to understand and use in specific ways, these words tend to be used in as many ways as possible and in accordance with subjective preferences.

Dictionaries are created in order to give us a list of words and meanings that we all agree to use in useful ways so that we can understand one another and conducted oral or written conversations accordingly.

Language is nothing but a collection of words that are spoken or written in a conventional way so that they can facilitate communication. I remember having read one observation by a renowned writer who said that "Novels are dictionaries written in a disorderly manner" That is to say all books are written with words that are collected in dictionaries although they do not appear in alphabetical order. Misunderstood words are apt to create chaos and misunderstanding in daily interactions.

People had started to speak to one another even before they could write and read but the invention of the written word has added a new dimension to human relationships and led to higher level of cultural development. The invention of the written word, was in the words of Wikipedia encyclopedia a colossal development for languages although it is a relatively recent discovery. Humanity has existed for many millennia but writing is relatively recent discovery. "The earliest known writing was invented around 3400 B.C. in an area known as Sumer near the perisna Gulf. The development of the Sumerian script was influenced by local materials such as clay for tablets and reeds for styluses writing."

According to another information, "Archeological discoveries in ancient Mesopotamia (now mostly modern Iraq) show the initial power and purpose of writing, from administrative and legal functions to poetry and literature.

Almost all linguists agree that language is something dynamic that changes with time and circumstances. In times of deep social and political changes, new words and new concepts enter and join the political and social lexicon. Revolutionary changes as well as reforms bring with them changes at least in the vocabulary of a given language that are used to express the new realities. Over the last fifty or so years, Ethiopia has undergone at least two major systemic changes, namely the Revolution of 1974 and the Reform of 1918.

In the process, language absorbs those changes in word expressions to facilitate communication and understanding. The trouble comes when words are taken out of context and their meaning are embraced by some and rejected by others. This too can be resolved through discussions and it should be the duty of linguists to come forward and explain the source and real meanings of the new words to ordinary folks before damage is done to society and country because new words, unless properly understood, are most likely to give birth to new contradictions sooner or later.

Law & Politics

Giving credit where credit is due

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Soon after the signing of the landmark cessation of hostilities agreement, the flow of humanitarian aid has witnessed a dramatic shift with relief entering the Tigray State with no problems according to plan. In light of the current situation, the smooth flow of humanitarian assistance to the state has been winning the hearts and minds of the wider international community and receiving a pat on the back more than ever before.

Given the current circumstances, a diverse range of regional and global organs have been extending their positive outlook in connection with the smooth flow of humanitarian assistance and speaking highly of the federal government that has been engaged with implementing the peace agreement.

In light of the current situation, the federal government has been working in close collaboration with a wide spectrum of groups with the intention of providing humanitarian assistance to people affected both by man-made and natural catastrophes. In consideration of the foregoing, the flow of unfettered humanitarian assistance to Tigray state has already seen an upward trajectory.

On the heels of the signing of the peace accord, the flow of food deliveries to the state has been smooth drawing global positive reaction. As the continuous flow of humanitarian assistance in the northern part of the country has been achieving its objective despite some challenges on account of some entities conspiracies, the global community has been articulating admiration for the positive developments of the incumbent.

Following the firm stance of the incumbent that has been working around the clock to bring the peace implementation to fruition and hit the target at the earliest possible juncture, things are now different since they were before the tantalizing peace deal.

Immediately after the cessation of the hostilities agreement and the constructive measures surfacing in various parts of the country, quite a lot of bodies and organizations have sustained expressing their readiness to further smooth the path of humanitarian assistance in every nook and cranny of the northern Ethiopia. Aside from that some of them have been increasing the provision of humanitarian assistance to get to the bottom of the problem in the shortest possible time.

In sharp contradiction to the improving situation, some entities have been sparing no effort to drag through the mud the encouraging moves in the northern part of the country; all their nefarious deeds could not bear fruits as a consequence of the firm stance of the incumbent and the people of Ethiopia.



In light of the current situation, myriads of humanitarian agencies and organizations have been delivering food grains and material supplies despite challenges that need a quick fix. It is a widely known fact that the federal government in close collaboration with a number of humanitarian organizations has been providing the urgently needed humanitarian assistance to people affected by the war.

Irrespective of the fact that people that need the badly needed humanitarian assistance are extremely high, the smooth flow of a wide range of charitable donations to the Tigray state has been getting to the bottom of the existing problem. As the government has been working in close association with various organizations to resolve the current constraints, the anticipated goal has been accomplished.

It is important to highlight that a wide spectrum of relief agencies and humanitarian organizations has been successfully providing humanitarian assistance such as wheat flour, edible oil, beans, and other things of a similar kind to the people of Tigray and the inhabitants of the northern part of the country. As far as this, more than a few humanitarian organizations have been sending humanitarian assistance to people affected by natural and manmade calamities in addition to expediting urgently needed disaster relief.

As a matter of fact, the incumbent as things stand at present has been working hand-in-glove with various organizations in restoring social infrastructure and other essential services least to mention of the reconnection of Mekele to the national power grid.

The humanitarian access to Tigray State is showing tangible improvement following the recent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA), the United Nations (UN) Secretary General Spokesperson acknowledged.

The Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said: “Turning to Ethiopia, our humanitarian colleagues tell us they have seen some gradual but tangible improvements in access into Tigray after the conclusion of CoHA by the Ethiopian government and TPLF.”

By the same token, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) announced that it has delivered food grains and material supplies worth more than 10.5 million Birr in humanitarian assistance to Tigray. In a statement posted on its official page, the ERCS also noted that the critical humanitarian aid will be distributed to bring immediate relief to the most vulnerable people in the state.

“ERCS, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), delivered 1,500 quintals of wheat flour, 6,000 liters of edible oil, and 150 quintals of beans, which was funded in two rounds by the Danish Red Cross.”

“Now, these humanitarian supplies are being transported and expected to improve the lives of conflict affected people in Tigray,” the society said, adding that it will continue providing humanitarian assistance to communities impacted by natural and manmade disasters throughout the country.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the U N will fully support Ethiopia’s humanitarian and development activities by mobilizing the capacity of UN agencies and appealing to the international community, according to information obtained from Ethiopian News Agency.

Guterres made the remark at the joint press conference he held with African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat at the end of the 6th AU-UN annual conference in Addis Ababa recently. Responding to questions posed by journalists, the Secretary-General said the UN will support the AU-led peace agreement implementation, the

rebuilding effort, and humanitarian aid and development of the country.

“We have dramatic humanitarian needs in the areas impacted by the conflict. (So) we are up-scaling the capacity of all the UN agencies and our partners in order to be able to take advantage of the opening of roads that already exist, the access by air, and all the other aspects in order to be able to as quickly as possible provide the maximum possible support to all the populations in need.”

According to him, the UN is ready to fully support the AU and the parties in implementing the peace agreement. “Now we are in the phase of implementation and we are ready to fully support both the AU and the parties in whatever way it is necessary to make sure that the implementation is successful.” But the UN believes in African leadership to solve African problems, he underscored.

In a press release sent to The Ethiopian Herald lately, the Germany Embassy to Ethiopia has announced that Foreign Office Director General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilization, Peace building and Humanitarian Assistance of Germany, Deike Potzel paid an official visit to Ethiopia recently.

During her visit, she vowed that the German government will continue supporting drought and war victim communities in Ethiopia, according to the press release. The Embassy has also announced that Germany has allocated 82.3 million Euros to Ethiopia in 2022; which makes it the second biggest humanitarian donor.

“Germany has provided assistance for many years. Our humanitarian assistance is based on the principle of neutrality and is purely needs-based. We are extending aid to anybody in need regardless of ethnicity or political considerations,” the Embassy stated quoting Deike Potzel.



Working for the country needs to ensure that our interests are respected locally, nationally or globally

Samuel Tefera (PhD)

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Today's Herald Guest is Samuel Tefera (PhD), lecturer at Africa and Asia Studies Department of Addis Ababa University. The Ethiopian Herald had a brief stay with Dr Samuel on his recent study paper concerning the role of Ethiopian Scholars in the development of the country, factors related to brain drain and some recent topics in the country. Have a nice read!

How do you explain the status of Ethiopian scholars in general? Are they actively participating in the creation of inclusive environment in Ethiopia?

There is no full-fledged and comprehensive study to say and tell whether Ethiopian scholars are actively participating in matters of sovereignty and other national issues. The recent small bridge survey that I have conducted shown that the participation of scholars in the national issue was not very satisfying. There are limited attempts from scholars in terms of taking part in issues of national interest. By and large, I rather say that it is not that satisfactory.

Would you please share some of the points that your survey touched up on?

In general, I have mentioned earlier, the participation of scholars looks like to be very limited. This is due to various cases. One is, shying away from speaking to authority may I say it fear of torture, blame shifting, not to mention fear of criticism of course. But it is not diminish the negative roles the media has been playing. The media platforms were reported to have been very biased, unfair where the scholars' comments are taken out of context. These are among some of the issues that restrained scholars from continuously participating in affairs of the nation.

These kind of coincidence are not actually becoming from the government side, the fear also rises due from the opposition parties and their members as well. And also academic institutions do not have any effort to fully acknowledge those who are actively participating in the national affairs. They do not have arrangements where scholars both in academia and outside to get the opportunity and platforms to deliberate on issues of national economy, sovereignty, culture, development aspirations and what have you.

As you might know academic institutions in Ethiopia even elsewhere have different roles such as conducting academic research and rendering community service, one of which is thematic research grant. The second is problem of grant. When scholars are requested to provide opinion about availability of thematic research platform, fund or opportunity for proposal that touches upon issues of national interest, the response was that there is almost no. There

is a weak funding scheme. Not enough funds are available and allocated for scholars who are interested in pursuing the research work on this issue of national interest.

Not only that there are also some concerns from scholars that the majority of the challenge facing the academic administrators or leadership could be being occupied with party activities as most of the university leaders are member of the national parliament or city council where they took a lot of time on party affiliated activities rather than giving due attention to their regular jobs. Sound leadership is needed in academic affairs, research affairs and community service. The recommendation that came out was, liberating the academic leadership from the matters of politics. So, quite a lot of issues are pending challenges with regard to scholars including getting decent pay, decent living and other facilities.

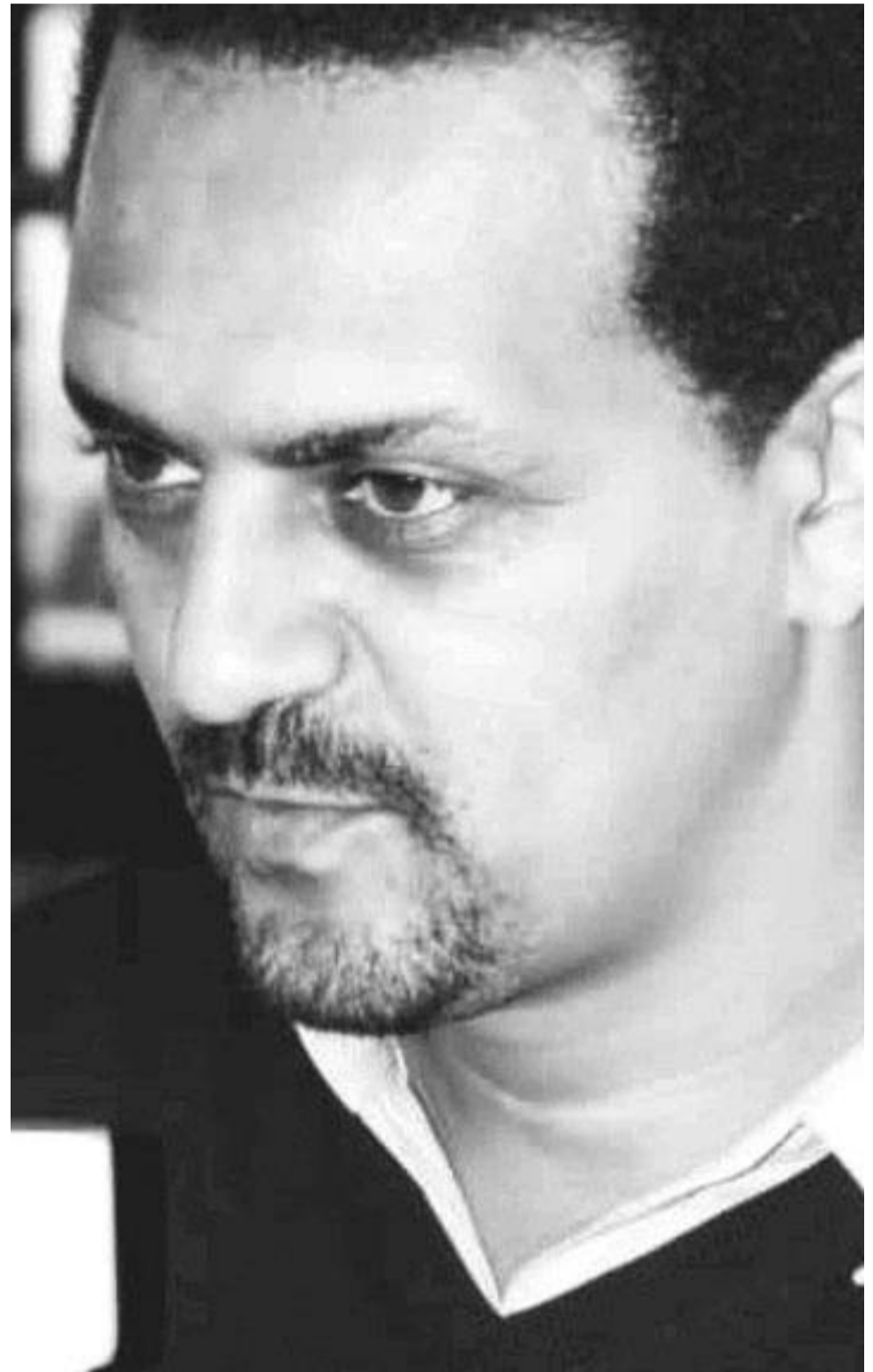
It is believed that Ethiopian scholars have a responsibility of protecting national sovereignty and ensuring lasting peace in the country? Can you elaborate on this?

Of course everybody has the responsibility of protecting the interest of the nation. As far as we live in the nation, we all have the obligation to protect the interest of the country. Scholars have a lot to do in terms of protecting the national interest especially the contribution in producing the generation of citizens who are patriotic, a generation of citizens who are responsible, a generation of citizens who care for their country and themselves to improve the future of the nation. Particularly in a country like Ethiopia, a landlocked country, where so much pressure is coming from geopolitical engagements in the region. We need scholars more than any time in our history to pursue and ensure that the interest of the country is well protected and taken care of.

What is expected from Ethiopian higher education institutions for the planned national dialogue?

Like some institutions have already been doing in collaboration with the National Dialogue Commission, such as government institutions such as the ministry of peace or any other civil society organizations have been attempting to organize such a discussion on the way forward that are related to the works of the Commission.

As far as I am concerned, those kinds of deliberations are far from being enough. We need to sort out the agenda properly and the role of higher academic institutions could be helping the public in prioritizing the agenda. Also, universities could deliberate on the objectives of the selected agenda items. We have a number of unmet issues like change in the constitution, change in the mode of governance, or are we talking about addressing political crises,



and the like.

As far as I am concerned, those points have not been set out as agendas. We heard nothing about which agendas the dialogue commission would be talking about up to now. This also means higher academic institutions must deliberate those issues through organizing workshop and conferences not only in Addis but also across the country and discuss a number of issues that touch issues that are supposed to be dealt with. If we are evaluating the academic institutions from this particular objective, much has not been done. That is also the result of the study that I have conducted. Scholars are not engaged in such deliberations but also the institution that host them have not created such platforms where by scholars protect their time, resource and expertise to deal with the importance of the national dialogue, the pros and cons of the

process we anticipate.

What is the role of scholars in terms of assisting the overall reform in the country?

Post 2018, a number of reform activities have come to the forefront. One can mention the reforms in sectors such as economic, industrial, agricultural by large invested a lot of time, energy and resources to address challenges in those agriculture sector. We acknowledge the achievements made so far. And what remains is institutionalizing those activities and also taking spaces of institutions filled with the appropriate individuals who have the merits, capacity and ability to address the challenges and can contribute a lot in terms of bringing the right leadership in those institutions to take the activities to further impart national development agendas and processes.



Herald Guest



How can scholars contribute towards addressing local, national and regional problems? Do you believe that scholars are discharging national responsibilities expected from them?

They have the capacities. Of course with all the challenges, they will invest in the country. We have capable scholars or researchers, implementers, decision makers. If you have any doubt on the capacity of scholars to take up on that particular challenge, the challenge that remains still is scholars need to be encouraged to lead a decent life; material and financial demands need to be fulfilled. And also higher academic institutions and scholars need to aptly follow development issues of the country and contribute their to augment the efforts of increasing the national GDP's, to bring human development and also to create institutions that not only favored over the demand of present citizens but also those that meet the needs and aspiration of the future generation. In that regard, I don't see huge capacity deficit. And we need to update ourselves with new developments in technology so that our work improves, knowledge deepens, and our contributions become meaningful to societal transformation.

In your presentation; you said; scholars should not be biased by gossip and magnify problems as a mountain which is difficult to climb as well as observe things recklessly while national sovereignty of the country is compromised . Could you elaborate on that?

People definitely have different interests.

They may have chances to work with the ruling government or opposition parties. On the other hand they may not have such chances. However, working for the country needs to ensure that our interests are well taken care of both locally, nationally or in the region or global arena. It does not require one to be supportive to a certain logic and political discourse as far as we are living here. Working for the country is something we don't compromise. So, we all need to stand together to make the present better and the future more attractive to the youth as they are the majority of the population. We need to be working on projects and programmes that target tapping the potential of that particular population to the betterment of the country.

You also said that scholars have not trusted the media as a whole. How do you think could this bottleneck be solved?

That is an accusation that I also share the most. The media especially the social media are not regulated. When I am saying this, I am not referring all the media in the country. The broadcast and the print media outlets and their social media outlets are better regulated. However, there is mistrust on the part of social media by scholars in terms of telling the truth. The Medias are not found to be neutral as they are supporting certain agenda. They have their own editorial agendas on which they make scholar's points adhere to the view points of the editorial interests. So, the media need to have a platform everybody can express their view and opinions and they should take care of those perspectives without siding the

implementers, decision makers. If you have any doubt on the capacity of scholars to take up on that particular challenge, the challenge that remains still is scholars need to be encouraged to lead a decent life; material and financial demands need to be fulfilled.



scholars opinions towards the government or any other interested stakeholder in that particular problem. So, the majority of scholars who have participated in the survey suggested that this kinds of tasks of the media towards a certain stated position, it could be government or an opposition party's position, the government, higher education institutions, the media authorities, the media themselves need to work to create media platform where all viewpoint can be considered reasonably and fairly. . We need to work for the creation of these platforms. The contribution and influence of the media in the affairs of a certain country political, economic, societal, regional affairs is very significant. As far as we are making those media free and fair and accessible to everybody, it entertains every opinion. It could not be receiving viewpoints that are not pertinent to the development of our country. It could be issues pertaining to international politics in which Ethiopia is affected the most.

Why do you think are scholars exposed to brain drain? What are the triggering factors that force them to leave their country?

A search for seeking better living conditions, a search for better future for their children and for themselves as well. That is something unavoidable. It is part of migration concept and I am not always against it because having someone outside of Ethiopia, scholars at higher level for example. Scholars occupied certain higher position elsewhere and their contribution will not be limited where they are. They can contribute across the continent in many ways. Their scholarship benefits the country and the youth. Those opportunities created particularly in terms of designing sponsored research in collaboration with their institution outside on issue at home in terms of bringing foreign direct investment, new development , state of the art of technology, advancement of knowledge and impacts in the area they are working with. At certain level, we need to retain how much of the scholars in private and public is very important in terms of providing corporate service to our citizens.

On the other hand, having those kinds of scholars' mobility' is very imperative for experience, knowledge, and resource sharing. So, I am not totally against it. To some extent we need to have this kind of academic mobility.

If you have any message to deliver to our readers, please take the chance!

I think we all have our own personal challenges when it comes to standing united for national causes that keep our country stable and prosperous. There should not be anything left. As we all know, there are some challenges, there was some dissatisfaction from the academic community which forced some to voice their frustrations in different ways. The government needs to sit down, and take time to look at the challenge that most scholars in Ethiopia are facing now. We need to try to appropriately address in a very civilized and peaceful means.

We all need to sit together, look the context we are in as we were not in a comfortable situation and there were problems locally pertaining to internal politics. There are also good signs this prevails come in while at the same time problem resume here and there in the country and the only thing require is a dialogue and civilized discussion amount all stakeholders in which the role of scholars are very imperative

On the other hand, we have also seen recently that the government is working towards fighting corruption. Public officials, like the grand ones, particularly those who hold higher offices in the state this kind of crimes in one or another way, would affect the lives of all citizens including scholars. Dialogue platforms would help to create bridge among the scholars and the government officials or decision makers. It in turn boosts the scholars' contributions to their country.

Thank you for your time.

It is my pleasure.

Beauty in diversity

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Yesterday, Ethiopians celebrated the 17th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' day under the theme 'Our united national unity for lasting peace.'

The day was marked warmly and colorfully at Hawassa Town, Sidama State in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, federal and states' high-level government officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, Speaker of the House of peoples' Representatives Tagesse Chafo, invited guests and residents of the State and the surrounding areas.

In relation to the Day, Prime Minister Abiy extended his best wishes to all Ethiopians.

As to him, the festival of nationalities is the celebration of Ethiopianism. Ethiopianism is a manifestation of the common and unity of the nationalities [in the country]. Ethiopianism is a common identity where the values, cultures, histories, heritages, languages and arts of the nationalities are manifested together. "If we want Ethiopia and Ethiopianism to emerge victorious on the world stage, we must create a way for all of us to be victorious. The question is how we can create it," he questioned.

"We can all be winners when we can build an Ethiopia that belongs to all of us. We can do things that we say were not done in the past in the Ethiopia, we are building tomorrow.



We will be able to correct the flaws that we say should not have been done in the past in the Ethiopia that will be built tomorrow. We can build the Ethiopia that will be for all of us if we all focus on tomorrow," he underscored.

As to him, it is possible to build Ethiopia in two wise ways. The first is by allowing ourselves to contribute from what we have, and the second by allowing all of us to gain. For the sake of survival, peace, honor and justice for our fellow Ethiopians, we must be willing to sacrifice some things from ourselves, he underscored.

"In no way we can we live, grow and win without each other. All peoples in Ethiopia

are our people. All languages are our languages. All cultures are our cultures. All holidays are our holidays. All beliefs are our beliefs. All heritages are our heritage. All areas are areas of all of us. All natural resources are the resources of all of us. That is why our security forces are shedding their blood and breaking their bones in any part of the country", the Premier accentuated.

Underscoring that Ethiopia's time of light and glory has come, Prime Minister Abiy said that "stopping short of our goal is a huge loss. So, let's pick up our pace and keep moving. An unfinished journey is labor in vain, and our energy will be exhausted before it is time to eat the fruits of our labor."

Finally, the Premier called upon all Ethiopians to be united and work together.

On his part, Sidama State Chief Administrator Desta Ledamo said that every Ethiopian should be responsible to protect the motherland, fight poverty and strive to ensure the country's sustainable development.

While talking what makes this year's NNP day special, Desta said: "Marking the 17th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day after the peace agreement was signed between the federal government and TPLF to resolve the two years long conflict through dialogue makes the day special." Federalism is a preferred government system for countries with multi-cultural, ethnic and religious diversity like Ethiopia," he said.

Accordingly, while marking NNPD it is also time to build a stronger Ethiopia through strengthening mutual cooperation and genuine unity.

Underscoring that all identities can be respected and protected if and only if there is a country and people, he said that Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities and Peoples knowing the system that we have already built to let us live together in peace and with a sense of togetherness, let's defend and prosper Ethiopia together," he said.

He also called upon all Ethiopians to work together to make poverty history and defend the country's peace and stability.



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Lemat tirufat program

BY SHEMSUDIN YUSUF

Ethiopia has the largest livestock inventories in Africa and favorable climatic conditions. However it is not benefited as it should have.

After the reform, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has been implementing the ten different programs to transform the agriculture sector into high level. Hence, the Lemat Tirufat Program that was launched recently by the government is one of these programs.

Due to the low milk product and productivity, there is high gap of milk between demand and supply. Out of the total 15 million milk cows in the country, above ninety percent are local breed types which are poor genetic potential for milk production.

Accordingly, there is an average of 1.5 liters milk yield per cow per day from a local cow and its milking period is 210 days only. From the 7.1 billion liters annual milk production, the annual per person consumption is about 66 (CSA, 2021). This is very low according to the world standard of 200 liters for a person annually. So, to meet this standard, we have to double the milk production.

Although Ethiopia has large number of hens, their production is low due to the fact that above seventy five percent of



Premier launching the National Lemat Tirufat Program

the hens is local breed and hens annual average productivity is 40 eggs. Even though the selected breed's annual average productivity is 270 based on modern poultry development, which is not enough when it is compared with the large number of hens in the country (MoA, 2014 EC). The annual egg production is 3.2 billion eggs and the annual per person consumption is 30 eggs (MoA, 2014 EC).

There are 7 million bee herds in Ethiopia. However, it is not beneficiary from it as it should be due to the fact that about 96 percent of honey development is based on cultural bee house. Consequently, comparing the bee herds of the country with honey production potential, the current annual honey production is very low.

In the four past years, Ministry of Agriculture has been working hard to increase livestock production and productivity based on the nation's ten-years strategic plan. One



of the different agricultural programs is Lemat Tirufat Program. This indicates the attention given to livestock sector. National Lemat Tirufat Program was announced by FDRE Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) on 03/11/2022 at Arba-Minch Town and all regions promised to implement it properly.

Lemat Tirufat is a national nutrition scheme program that aimed at improving milk, poultry and honey production. It is a national initiative intended to realize a balanced diet at a household level. Its main goals are to contribute its role for the food and nutrition security assurance, job creation opportunity, export income and substituting the import production through increasing the production of milk, poultry and honey in the coming four fiscal years (2015 to 2018 EC)..

The specific objectives of Lemat Tirufat are to increase milk production from 5.8 to 10.3 billion liters, Egg production from 3.2 to

9.1 billion eggs and honey production from 147,000 to 296,000 tons in the coming four years.

Lemat Tirufat has its own performance modes. Creating the coordination structure, extending the technical and follow up support, increasing the participation of private sector, improving the supply of production input and technology, production marketing and value adding with extending the system of finance need and supply are the main modes of its performance.

To implement the program responsibly and accountably, coordination structure is established at federal level. Steering committee and technical teams in which higher political leaders participate are organized from federal up to local districts.

Therefore, all stakeholders must implement the program properly in order to achieve its goals.

Verbatim and Caption

Ethiopia celebrates 17th Nations, Nationalities, Peoples Day in Hawassa



Ethiopia is a museum of over 80 ethnic groups and it is a home to all of us. If we fail to create an inclusive Ethiopia for the common development, prosperity and to live peacefully together, it -becomes impossible for every citizen to live and prosper unilaterally. If we want to solve our individual problems, Ethiopia's problems must be solved first. To troubleshoot these problems, our unity and firmness in action is much needed.

Today is a special Ethiopian day. On this day, all of our histories, heritages and values shine and become symbols of Ethiopian unity. The synergy of these cultures, histories and heritages of every nation, nationality and people make Ethiopia proud and rich in social resources. It is a day that all learn how all of us are vital for the greatness of Ethiopia and under the umbrella of Ethiopia how our beauty becomes more colorful. Hence, this day is a special one for all Ethiopians and I want to congratulate all citizens.

"Today is the day when we extend our hands for our unity and shared interest, rising above our self-interest. Today is the day we celebrate life in diversity.

A country is like a house. As the pillar, the wall and the roof makes a house, the synergy of all nations, citizens, cultures and histories build great, wonderful and beautiful Ethiopia. We have to work hard so as to shine together instead of struggling to stand separately. We have to stand together in a bid and our unity will build a strong, prosperous and developed Ethiopia.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), speaking at the 17th NNP Day in Hawassa



In 2006, the House of Federation (HoF) had decided to celebrate Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day on December 08 annually, a day the current Ethiopian Constitution was ratified, with the goal of strengthening unity among Ethiopian nations, nationalities and peoples. In addition, it aims at sharing of experiences and cultures among Ethiopians to strengthen democracy, sustainable peace and development.

During the past 16 years HoF celebrates the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples day by rotating the hosting chance across all regional states. We are celebrating the 17th day here in Hawassa. The day contributes its own share for Ethiopians to know each-other and to strengthen peace. The event has crucial role in promoting co-existence, solidarity and brotherhood among nations and nationalities.

The celebration of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day plays an important role in further strengthening unity and brotherhood among nations and nationalities in the country. The day is very important to create common understanding among nations and nationalities as well as to promote their cultures, traditions and values. Our unity in diversity is a blessing for our country's development and prosperity and we all have to promote this beautiful and colorful gift of our country.

Agegnehu Teshager, Speaker of House of Federation



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AHRI's clinical laboratory practices training

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Good Clinical Laboratory Practice (GCLP) Guidelines describe the application of those Good Laboratory Practice Principles that are relevant to the analyses of samples from clinical trials while ensuring the purpose and objectives of the Good Clinical Practice Principles are maintained. In so doing, the reliability, quality, consistency and integrity of data generated by clinical trial laboratories can be assured which is crucial to the outcome of any clinical trial.

As training is a critical component of any integrated biological safety program providing training is intended to provide the understanding, technical knowledge, and tools that the trainee can use to improve his or her daily laboratory safety practices.

For instance, safety is imperative when working with potentially harmful materials and other hazards in the laboratory. To make sure safety of all in the value chain and beneficiaries and professionals providing up-to-date training is a viable solution. It could assist clinical and public health laboratory professionals with applying risk management strategies to

identify hazards, assess risks, and select appropriate personal protective equipment options.

The Ethiopian Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (EFELTP) is a two-year, in-service training program in applied epidemiology and public health laboratory practice overseen by the Human Health Development Directorate of the Federal Ministry of Health. EFELTP operates as a collaborative effort among eight universities (Addis Ababa University, Saint Paulos Millennium Medical College, Gondar University, Bahir Dar University, Mekele University, Hawassa University, Haramaya University, and Jimma University), regional health bureaus, and other stakeholders.

Since EFELTP's inception in 2009, the detection of public health events in Ethiopia has increased more than 95 percent, and timeliness and completeness of outbreak detection has gone over 85 percent. EFELTP residents and graduates been involved in detecting and responding to emerging and reemerging diseases including dengue fever, chikungunya, malaria, cholera, anthrax, and rabies, as well as vaccine-preventable diseases including measles and polio and non-communicable diseases including

hypertension and cardiovascular diseases. EFELTP residents conducted surveillance for Ebola from 2014-2016, were involved in national nutritional surveillance from 2015-2016, and conducted surveillance among internally displaced persons in the southern part of Ethiopia in 2019. During the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 140 residents and graduates have been involved in contact tracing, screening for COVID-19 at points of entry, laboratory testing, active case search, data management, and risk communication.

Overall, as of February 2021, EFELTP residents have conducted 767 outbreak investigations and performed more than 1,050 surveillance activities. They have delivered 79 presentations at scientific conferences and published 25 papers in peer-reviewed journals. Six EFELTP graduates have become the heads of public health emergency management within the regional health bureaus.

To translate the aspired goal and achieve high skilled professionals Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI) is providing in the frame work of the NIIDS project (One Health) a laboratory training for project laboratory staff from Asayta Hospital, Afar Region on the 1st and 2nd of December

2022.

The "Novel integrated infectious diseases diagnosis and surveillance system" or short NIIDS is a project run under the One Health Unit at AHRI in collaboration with Swiss TPH, the Ethiopian Refugee and Returnee Services (RRS) and our local partner the Asayta Hospital.

The project aims at collate evidence on NCDs, mental and reproductive health and nutrition deficiencies and identify the most clinically relevant infectious diseases among Eritrean refugees and host community of Asayta. These data serve as a basis upon novel diagnostic platforms will be assessed and validated, covering molecular diagnostics, and serology.

At the same time it could help to enhancing laboratory scientists' ability to identify how personal protective equipment (PPE) can help reduce the risk of exposure to hazardous materials, prevent transmission of infectious agents, and demonstrate how to don and doff PPE in the correct order to minimize contamination and potential exposures. It is believed the training course could empowers learners to apply knowledge and practice selecting the appropriate PPE and properly donning and doffing it in a virtual museum. It concludes with a final exam in a virtual laboratory.