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Daniel Menker



Abrehet Mehari



Samuel Esa

CoHA brings shift in Ethiopia's diplomacy

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian diplomats working in various missions said the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) between the government and TPLF has brought a paradigm shift in their activities, expressing commitment to garner support for the truce.

Approached by local media, they stated that the peace accord has brought a new dynamism to Ethiopia's diplomacy and

paved the way for constructive engagement with global actors.

Accordingly, Daniel Menker from Geneva stated the truce shifted Ethiopian diplomat's engagement that was tied up with defending the country and thwarting false allegations disseminated by some interest groups. "Before the peace accord, our role was mainly limited in fending off the misrepresentation of the country, and by taking advantage of the truce, we could carry out other activities."

For another diplomat from Brussels, Abrehet Mehari, the diplomats need to improve and strengthen Ethiopia's political and economic ties with global partners apart from promoting the country's objective reality. "More importantly, recruiting and engaging investors must be part of the major diplomatic activities."

Unlike the previous two years when the diplomats were more engaged in revealing Ethiopia's objective reality and defending

See CoHA brings ... page 3

CBE to provide 30 percent loan for association houses

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia has agreed with the Addis Ababa Housing Development and Management Office to provide 30 percent financial loans for the construction of 70/30 condominium associations.

The agreement was signed by CBE President Abe Sano and in the capacity of deputy mayor, Head of the Addis Ababa Housing Development and Administration Bureau (AAHDAB), Yasmin Wahbrebi.

Yasmin said on the occasion that different options are being used such as the 20/80, 10/90, and 40/60 condominium schemes which are not able to meet the housing needs of the public.

According to the bureau's call to savers who



want to organize and build a house, 4,580 of them have expressed interest in building a house organized by an association. The office organized the savers into

associations and completed the necessary land preparation. Designs have also been developed for the construction of nine- and 13-story condominiums above ground.

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ECX to supply wheat to foreign market

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) announced that it has carried out various activities to supply various agricultural commodities including wheat to the foreign market.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), ECX Corporate Communication Bureau Head Netsanet Tesfaye stated that they have waited the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration's approval to avail cereals including wheat to global market.

Efforts are also underway to trade other agricultural commodities and spices to the foreign market.

Apart from encouraging traders, the ECX has helped to enhance the product and productivity of Ethiopia's agriculture.

Mentioning a huge demand from foreign market for crops including rice and beans, which are being produced in sufficient condition in Ethiopia, Netsanet indicated consolidated efforts are underway to satisfy that demand. "A trading guide has been

prepared to introduce the commodities into the marketing system taking into account their role for foreign currency earnings and increase agricultural production and productivity."

"Special attention is being paid to wheat production," he noted, adding that the support that various organizations have extended to the program indicates its effectiveness. Accordingly, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has supported 2.5 million

See ECX to supply ... page 3

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Dr. Mekonnen Ayana

GERD symbol of regional integration: Experts

ADDIS ABABA- /ENA/ The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) should be considered as a symbol of regional economic integration in addition to its contribution to Ethiopia's socio-economic development, a water engineering scholar at the Adama Science and Technology University said.

Dr. Mekonnen Ayana stated that Ethiopians should strive to safeguard their national

See GERD ... page 3

News



Tourism sector recovering following Peace Agreement: Ministry

ADDIS ABABA /ENA/-Following the peace agreement signed between the government of Ethiopia and TPLF the tourism sector of the country is showing signs of recovery, the Ministry of Tourism said.

The conflict that took place in the northern part of the country combined with the CORONA pandemic has had a negative impact on the tourism sector.

According to the State Minister of Tourism, Selamawit Dawit, the tourism sector is one of the sectors negatively affected by the conflict in the northern part of the country.

The State Minister further said that peace is the key to the development of tourism. Hence, the peace agreement has opened a new chapter for the sector, she stated.

The peace agreement is creating conducive environment for the tourism sector, she said, noting that the sector has now been recovering.

According to her, following the agreement, the number of foreign tourists and the Ethiopian Diaspora entering the country for business and tourism is on the increase.

To lure more tourists for the upcoming Christmas and baptism holidays, promotion of tourism destinations is undertaken, she said.

Hence, the number of visitors during both festivals is expected to increase.

She also called on the Ethiopian Diaspora to play their role in promoting the current situation in Ethiopia so as to further strengthen the tourism sector.

The development works being carried out by the government, including in Addis Ababa, are mostly centered on tourism sector development and aimed at laying a foundation for the development of the tourism sector.

The government is working to improve policies and legal frameworks to make the sector a key part of the local economic strategy.

Gondar prepares to avail quality service to Epiphany visitors

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Gondar City Culture and Tourism Department announced that new tourist destinations have been prepared to extend the stay of visitors in the upcoming Timket (Epiphany) festival.

Briefing local media, City Culture and Tourism Department Bureau Head, ChalachewDagneu said that the annually marked baptism religion festival helps motivate the tourism sector and increase the tourists inflow drawn from various directions. Therefore, the Department has been undertaking various activities to ensure the increased revenue out of the baptism in the city thereby raising the city's economic development.

He further stated that over 700,000 tourists will visit Gondar city and the surrounding area this year. Their visit will play an important role in snowballing tourist flow, which had been stagnant due to COVID-19 pandemic and the northern conflict; the city is working towards increasing the number of tourist flow in and extending their stay. A decisive task force and 9 sub-committees have been set up in the city to make the plan related to baptism celebration happen in January, when the new year just sets in, 2023.



The Head also stated that the city is working hard in framing tourists visiting programs incorporating invaluable tourist attraction sites like Gorgora and Lake Tana islands, Simien Mountains National Park in a bid to extend tourists stay.

He also pointed out that the festival of

singers will be held a week before the baptism festival to promote the ancient cultural value of singers, which is the grace of the area. It is also planned to mark culture's week that helps introduce the culture, tradition, norms and trends of the society like wedding, hair styles and the likes.

Ministry says factories' chemicals threaten biodiversity

• *Guideline for conserving, developing river basins on pipeline*

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- Chemical substances that are released into water bodies and great lakes are polluting and endangering the biodiversity of the nation, according to the Ministry of Water and Energy.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Water and Energy Minister Habtamu Itefa (Ph.D., Eng.) said that chemical substances that are released into water bodies and great lakes are polluting and endangering the biodiversity of the nation, and the great lakes and rivers are polluted by the chemicals that are released from factories.

The minister further stated that the situation reaches a critical level where the biodiversity of the nation is at stake these days due to the irresponsible move of the riverside development agents.

One of the main dangers of this is water



Habtamu Itefa (Ph.D., Eng.)

hyacinth weed expansion on Lake Tana and the effect is seen on the lake for two years, the same thing is happening at Koka dam and Lake Batu this time. "The chemical that is released into the river has a huge impact on the nation's biodiversity

and institutions have to exert utmost effort to reduce such a daunting risk. Besides, everyone should be conscious of chemicals whether they are released into or are not released into the river."

To benefit urban and rural areas from drinking water, it is better to dig the deepest wells to easily get the water as river basins are not developed properly yet.

The ministry is preparing regulations regarding the conservation and development of river basins and sources of water nationwide. "With what we are left is the relevant body's approval. Until then we will do awareness creation. The places of sources of water should be given ownership maps and need to rule by the law and society should protect rivers and lakes from contamination," Habtamu remarked.

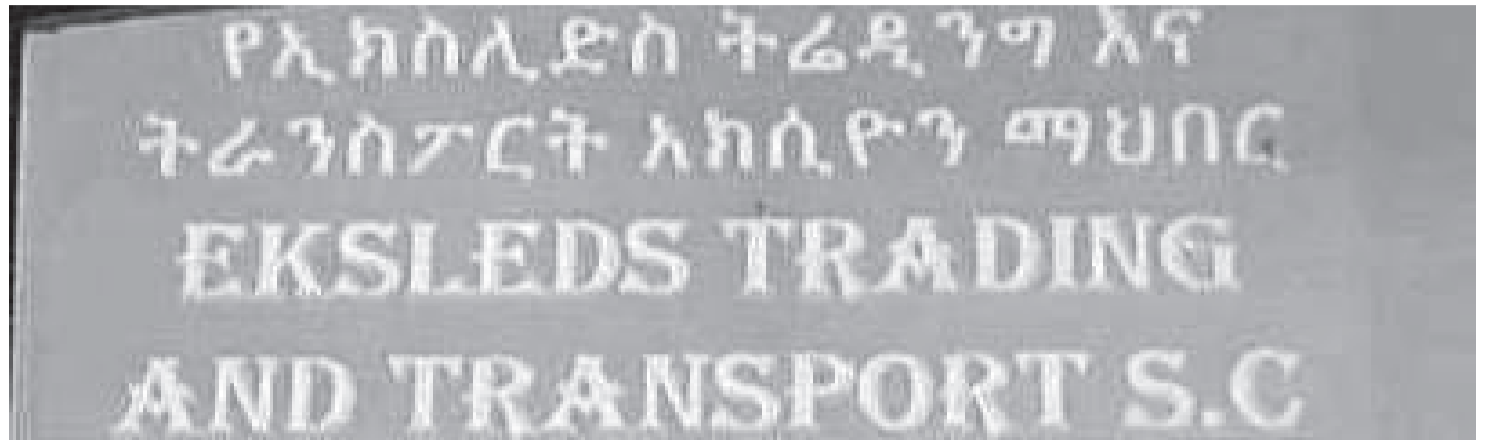
News

Company to launch cross-border services

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA- Eksleds Trading and Transport Share Company (under formation) announced that it finalized the preparation to launch cross-border solid and liquid transport service to accelerate import and export trade in East African countries.

Eksleds Board Chairman Nur Hussein Ahmed told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the company, which was established from three different entities namely Guna Trading, Wegagen, and Mairaj, has fulfilled all legal requirements to launch the transport service in Ethiopia and neighboring countries. Currently, the company has more than 450 cross-border trucks.



The chairman further stressed that they planned to import more than 50 trucks in the near future and 350 in the coming five years. To this end, the company has been working in collaboration with the Cooperative Bank of Oromia, Hibret Bank, and Bank of

Abyssinia.

Eksleds will play a great role in enhancing Ethiopia's transport and logistics capability that is aligned with the mission of the Ministry of Transport and Logistics and

creating sizable job opportunities for the unemployed. The company will also plan to invest in education, manufacturing, construction, and tourism sectors, the chairman elaborated.

GERD...

interest by conducting enhanced diplomatic work on trans-boundary Rivers, including GERD.

GERD should be considered as a symbol of regional economic integration in addition to its contribution to Ethiopia's socio-economic development, Dr. Mekonnen said, citing Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to supply electricity to the neighboring Kenya, Sudan, Djibouti and South Sudan.

He stressed the need to have strong communication and water diplomacy efforts in order to correct the wrong narration being propagated by some in the downstream countries on Abay and other trans-boundary rivers.

In this regard, much is expected from scholars and universities to work together in a coordinated manner to the realization of national goals, the scholar added.



Ambassador Ibrahim Idris

Ambassador Ibrahim Idris, Boundary and Trans-Boundary resources Affairs Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that in addition to the efforts being underway to expedite the construction of the dam, diplomatic efforts have also been exerted with a view to show that the issue of GERD is a matter of survival.

The role of scholars in terms of creating



Dr. Abreha Adugna

awareness about the reality on the ground regarding the dam is critical; he said noting that a wide range of activities are underway in this regard by engaging scholars.

State Minister of Water and Energy, Dr. Abreha Adugna said GERD is a symbol of Ethiopia's unity as it brought all Ethiopians both inside the country and abroad together.

CoHA brings...

the unwarranted pressure, the CoHA shifted activities to attract global businesses and international tourists, she added. Samuel Esa from New York emphasized the need to capitalize on the truce to interpret the Green Legacy initiative and other national projects for the benefit of the people of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.

Economic diplomacy has become a cornerstone in Ethiopia's Foreign Policy and the country's embassies and consulate generals across the developed world are working to exploit the region's enormous potential for trade and investment.

CBE to provide...

According to the agreement with the CBE to provide loan funds to cooperative house builders, 70 percent of the savings will be covered and 30 percent of the loan will be made available to them from the bank.

According to the head of the Bureau; on the other hand, for the 14th round of 20/80 and the 3rd round of 40/60 condominiums, the lucky ones who have been drawn will be given a contract to take possession of their houses.

For his part, CBE President Abie Sano stated that the bank will cover 30 percent of construction costs in the form of credit while the balance is covered by the house owners. "We have been working with the city administration in supporting the housing program for many years. So, residents who are organized in associations and want to build houses could access 30 percent credit."

So far, G+9 and G+13 building designs have been identified for the construction, it was learned.

ECX to supply ...

for the success of the research conducted by experts on different types of wheat and for various awareness programs for the farmers.

On the other hand, apart from exporting agricultural products to the foreign market, there is a need to produce domestically as well. Accordingly, a special marketing window is being prepared to enable local factories to produce pasta, macaroni and flour to domestic consumption.

ECX, which started 15 years ago by trading corn and wheat, is currently trading more than 17 agricultural products, including coffee, sesame, and other spices.



Opinion

Pastoralism: Hardships, opportunities

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Pastoralism is that part of agriculture that deals with animal livestock such as goats, sheep, chickens, and camels, etc. Not only are they great sources of meat, but they are also providers of milk, eggs, leather, and fiber too. There are several types of pastoralism, including nomadic ones whereby humans move along with their herds in search of grasslands; there are also the herders who migrate seasonally searching for pastures; they move between higher and lower pastoral lands. Pastoralists face challenges and are especially vulnerable to natural and man-made risks and disasters as in Ethiopia's eastern lands. Also overgrazing has led to pasture degradation. This risk causes a decrease in the availability of pasture lands. Other challenges may include competition for land due to expansion of sedentary agriculture and other agricultural projects. These projects include the conversion of lands to animal sanctuaries, game reserves, and wildlife parks that compete for natural resources.

The increase in the number of sedentary farming has led to overgrazing near the wild animal habitat. The farmers do not move around as the nomadic people do. Pastoral families that once survived on sheep, goats and camels have to increase flock size to raise income from the sale of animals. The farmers expanded their land creating pressure on the wild animals due to decrease in their settlement area. This caused a decrease in the number of wild animals. Also, excessive poaching of wild animals is believed to have led to a reduction in their number. In Ethiopia, wild animals are killed or poached for their skins, ivory and other parts that have values in black markets. These animals have great attractions to international tourists who pay in foreign exchange for staying in hotels to tour the wild animal parks.

Where there is excess of wild animals people may feel free to trap or hunt them. On the contrary, in areas where wild animals are few in number, the penalty and deterrence of hunting increases with confiscation of hunting equipment and vehicles. This discourages hunters and poachers from attacking wild animals in pastoralist zones. In these zones, pastoralism is a subsistence livelihood with pastoral societies grazing herbivorous livestock on poor land.

The pastoralist management system can be categorized as mobile with pastoralists migrating in an irregular manner to new pastures for grazing. It is also regular with back and forth migrations, such as semiannual vertical movements from highlands at the end of the summer to lowlands in the winter and then back. Pastoralism is agro-pastoral that involves both raising livestock and crops. There is also enclosed pastoralism.

Pastoralist hardship is reflected as livelihood in arid and semiarid rangelands particularly in tropical or subtropical regions. Pastoralism continues to be important globally. It is estimated that about 240 million people in sub-Saharan Africa live in pastoralist societies. The

number of pastoralists is declining because of modernization in agriculture including irrigation and urbanism. According to FAO, social stigma for the pastoralist people has contributed to the decline in number. Yet, it is gradually accepted and acknowledged that pastoralism still contributes significantly and noticeably to the economies of the developing countries in Africa as reported by the AU. It has a great role in supplying large numbers of livestock to domestic and international markets and to the nutrition of people.

As mentioned earlier, pastoral societies rely on their livestock for food including meat, milk, and blood, and on leather for clothing and tents, and animal dung for fuel. However, when pastoralists are not mobile they also produce crops. Their dogs are frequently used in checking and keeping livestock. Moreover, their chickens, according to FAO, feed on insects growing in the livestock dung. Pastoralist livestock production is village based. Associated with this is the importance of property rights irrespective of whether raising crops or livestock. Pastoralism is a mode of subsistence that involves raising domestic animals in grassland environment using herd and household mobility. It is not specific to a region, but spread throughout the world.

As mentioned earlier, pastoralism is an important livelihood system practiced in most of the dry land areas of the globe. It is a source of income and way of livelihood for millions of the world population. Studies demonstrate the benefits of pastoral system, identifying its main challenges. It contributes about a third of GDP of countries and millions of people benefited from the livestock value chain.

Ethiopia has the largest livestock population in Africa comprising a fifth of the country's export. A large portion of the annual milk supply to the Ethiopian community originated directly from the pastoralists. Yet the sector has, according to Ahmed Abdulkadr, many bottlenecks and the most important one is lack of appropriate policy. This is due to the misconception that the system is economically "not feasible" and environmentally unfriendly.

Unexpected but short period of drought and weak market-chain have limited pastoralist access to market. Also, shortage of feed, equipment and information, and veterinary service are contributing factors to the low contribution of the livestock sector. Ethiopia, with its huge livestock population and the increasing demand of global meat and milk demand, should give attention towards the livestock development. This includes provision of infrastructure such as milk and milk processing industries, leather and leather processing industries with focus on diversification of economic activities in the pastoral areas.

Besides, the government of Ethiopia should give an emphasis on developing policies and strategies to increase productivity of livestock and strengthen and maintain the sector. Furthermore, the government should devise mechanisms to control the illegal inter-boarder live animal export and

to develop measurement of unaccounted and nonmarketable values of pastoralist livestock contributions.

Pastoralism to the Ethiopian pastoral community is a means of livelihood system though the government of Ethiopia defines it as part of the agricultural sector. Pastoral system is a mechanism found in rangeland areas with a relatively large size of animals characterized by the use of livestock grazing. The main aim of management of livestock in a pastoral system is to maintain, minimize risk and adapt to environments with a proper use of communal grazing area. This indicates that the system is highly integrated to increasing its livestock productivity in the shared grazing land. Also, pastoralists are responsible to maintain the ecosystem so as to get enough grasses to feed their livestock. According to UNEP, pastoralism is exercised by millions of people across the world including pastoral and agro-pastoral communities producing high quality of livestock products.

In the UNEP report, it is stated that the pastoral system has a mechanism of conserving the

Rangeland biodiversity and protecting ecosystem on more than one-fourth of the world's rangeland pastoralists occupy. This is very true of Ethiopian pastoralists as confirmed by studies. Most of the studies that have been done on pastoralism are categorized in the area of anthropology, natural science, and environments. In this regard, anthropologists took the highest credit in qualitatively identifying the social integrity of the pastoral community and their livestock. On the other hand, the issue of livestock raising and range management was the main concern of natural scientists and agronomists in their study of pastoralism.

Environmentalists are mainly involved with risky ecological conditions of the pastoralists and their emphasis is in the area of natural resources. They are also concerned with the dangers that might be involved with the mobility of pastoralists. They are also concerned with agro-pastoralism which is a transition zone between pastoral areas and agricultural areas. It is the main income generating mechanism for pastoralists that use livestock and livestock products, whereas, according to IFAD, cultivation with the small number of livestock production is the main source of income for agro-pastoralists. However, the prospects of agriculture are challenged by efficiency problems in many African and other developing countries, including Ethiopia. In these countries most of the pastoralist land is not cultivated while considerable food import is needed to supply the population.

Modern and large-scale farms are not common in pastoralist zones due to scarcity of water. A significant part of these areas in Ethiopia suffer from shortage of water. This is an important factor that limited the efficiency of farming in the area. The overall lack of arable lands and the scattered, miniature sized farms are also the limiting constraints in pastoral areas of Ethiopia. Almost all rural Ethiopian community is involved in livestock production, indicating that in one way or another all Ethiopians

depend on it. Thus, the pastoral system has more advantage than disadvantages as implied by some environmentalists. Ethiopia is one of the developing countries blessed with an immense, but untapped livestock resources scattered over diverse agro-ecologies.

Pastoralism plays a pivotal role in the national economy by providing income and food security to its community. Besides, it is the best system to use on the less productive lands. According to Mohammed Yimer, it also helps in sustaining and preserving the natural resources and the ecosystem. Pastoralism is the best way for communities living in a very harsh environment with high temperature, low amount of rainfall and water sources. It is the best alternative than agriculture in rangelands where rainfall is very limited and other sources of long-lasting water source are scarce.

The decrease in livestock population will lead pastoralists to search for other options of income generation like cutting trees to produce charcoal which will negatively impact the ecology. It is, therefore, necessary to develop the means which will enhance the livestock productivity that raises income of pastoralists that will induce them to protect the environment.

Experts have concluded that pastoral system is sustainable and this will depend on mobility, adaptation and on pastoral institutions. As livestock plays an important role in the economic development, it provides employment opportunities, income and nutritional security to people living in arid and semi-arid zones. In these areas, cattle and cattle product have significant roles to play. To these are added non-marketable livestock outputs, such as draft power and manure for fertilizing land.

Livestock also play a pivotal role for socio-cultural purposes, including social status, reputation and wealth. They also have the potential to fill productivity gaps caused by lack of access to inputs and basic services. The pastoral community in Ethiopia has been facing multiple challenges in their day to day life due to natural factors which need to be resolved through appropriate strategies. Pastoralists have long been affected by political, socio-economic and cultural marginalization, poor access to infrastructure, services and unpredictable climate changes.

The lives, choices and decisions of pastoralists are challenged by the vibrant social, economic and ecological causes. One of the key challenges the pastoralists are facing relates to the rooted misconception that pastoralism is not economically feasible and environmentally unfriendly. Though pastoralism plays a prominent role in the livelihood of inhabitants, their contribution to the economy has been ignored by policy makers who focused at modernizing them by introducing agriculture which is assumed to be the best way to ensure development and reduce poverty.

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

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Editorial

Fruits of principled diplomacy

Ethiopia has deployed its representatives across the globe. The representatives have been serving the country's interests with utmost determination. Most, if not all, properly overcome the difficult situation the country has been facing. They have not simply defended their country but they have proactively worked to neutralize potential undue pressures waged against Ethiopia.

Needless to state, the diplomatic steps on which Ethiopia was trekking during the northern war have dwarfed its overall traffic towards change and progress. However, thanks to the firm endurance the government has developed, situations have now well altered and the country is in a position to win the confidence of many chiefly that of the international community and pertinent universal bodies.

Ethiopia has so far made its stance quite clear, and the international community has started understanding its peace-loving gesture, struggle to excellently defeat its arch enemy—poverty—for good and its commitment to enjoy associating with countries and organizations which are fond of exercising principled diplomacy.

Even its diplomats have known that they do not necessarily need to follow the same approach as they previously did. This bold move in turn helps the country seize the ladder of success.

Knowing that the future will not bear yummy fruits if practices of dictating a nation are not nipped in the bud via reinvigorating pooled diplomatic scheme, Ethiopia is relentlessly working to be triumphant over poverty—the root of all extortions and avenue to be surpassed.

Yes, the whole world is now well recognizing Ethiopia's government effort to reach out to the needy with unfettered humanitarian assistance and unreserved effort for peace and tranquility. It is also focusing on citizen-centered diplomacy.

Contrary to the situation witnessed two months ago, Ethiopia's

diplomacy has now been gaining momentum as a range of successes have been recorded at national level. True, Ethiopia has started winning the confidence of prominent international development partners and donors like WB, IMF, U.S. government, among others which were about to cut their relations with the nation following the quite exacerbated condition in the northern part of the country that time. Besides, the World Bank Group and Boeing have changed their mind and understood what Ethiopia is, and expressed readiness to work together with the latter.

Thanks to the systematic and well framed diplomatic move Ethiopia has been exercising since the war broke out, roads are now well leading to Ethiopia, and both bilateral and multilateral relations are tilting down to this great nation. The country has also run all diplomatic activities in line with protecting its sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest and amicable ties with countries and organizations that prefer enjoying a righteous diplomacy to unduly interfering in Ethiopia's internal affairs and dictating it regarding what would the way forward be.

Furthermore, the country is keen to continue working towards further flourishing relationships with nations and organizations which would like to encourage it to make real difference in all aspects keeping a win-win fashion thereby boosting common good.

For instance, the recently held U.S.-Africa leaders' summit focused on reviving bilateral ties based on principles of mutual respect, shared interests and values. This is over what Ethiopia has been shooting for long. The summit is also of significantly useful in fueling collaboration and amicably running activities.

In sum, cognizant of the fact that receiving aid all the time allows nations to avoid reform, Ethiopia has become determined than ever before to see poverty off for good entertaining principled diplomacy.

Opinion

Agricultural mechanization for integrated economic development for Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Over the past couple of years, the issue of agriculture mechanization is quickly gaining currency as Ethiopia is now engaged in lowland wheat production of wheat and maize for import substitution and exports on larger quantities and with better quality. Production of wheat on large scale irrigation schemes is already presupposing the use of agricultural mechanization and modern agricultural technologies.

The history of agricultural mechanization in Ethiopia dates back to the early 1960s when the Ethiopian government attempted to introduce agricultural modernization as a tool for promoting economic development alongside the use of draught animals for farming practices during the imperial era.

Agriculture mechanization needs to be supported by agriculture research institutes and programs that among other things cater to modern agricultural mechanization. Currently the Ethiopian Institute of Agriculture Research comprises 20 research centers and sites located across various agro-ecological zones in Ethiopia the research centers have a mandate to coordinate different national commodities.

EIAR provides improved agricultural technologies and popularizes improved technologies, coordination of national agricultural researches, capacity building for farmers, agriculture agents and extension workers. Research conducted in the areas of crops, climate geospatial and bio-metrics researches, livestock researches, research on agriculture economics, pastoral and agro-pastoral support research, agriculture engineering and agro-biometrics.

The mechanization of agriculture in Ethiopia

is certainly not an independent variable as it is also closely linked to the development of agro-industry, mechanized farms market oriented commercial farms to provide raw materials for consumer industries and more importantly for import substitution on agriculture related imports. Mechanized agriculture provides an important link between industrial development and agricultural practices that provide raw materials for industries.

One of the more recent developments in Ethiopian agriculture is the establishment of cluster farms across the country which enabled farmers to use agriculture machineries on their farms both for farming, harvesting and post-harvest storage.

In the western parts of Ethiopia, farmers rent tractors at higher prices per hour because they cannot sustainably utilize draught animals or oxen due to the proliferation of animal diseases. Although they could have better yields by using tractors and improved seeds, they pay exorbitant prices for renting tractors and combine harvesters.

As part of the national program for irrigation development, the government is providing water pumps that can be managed by farm groups and individual while thousands of tractors are being distributed across surplus producing regions in the country.

Agriculture mechanization programs need to be based on the findings of the agriculture information system and e-agriculture systems in which reliable data should be gathered on weather conditions and the possible effects of climate change induced flooding and drought situations.

To date, the government is the main shareholder in investments on agriculture mechanization and these needs to be balanced with a growing level

of the participation of the private sector. The Ministry of Agriculture needs to closely work with the Ethiopian Investment Commission by providing updated information on the investment possibilities on mechanized agriculture in Ethiopia.

There are already a number of agriculture machinery assembly enterprises in Ethiopia. For instance, established as Nazareth Tractor Assembly Plant (NTAP) in 1984 for the purpose of assembling tractors used for mechanized farms. NTAP was renamed as Adama Agricultural Machinery Industry (AAMI) in 1992. It was transferred to the Ethio-engineering in 2010. AAMI is located 90 km east of Addis Ababa in the town of Adama in Oromia Regional State. AAMI is organized with four production factories located on 114,388 square meters of land, and it assembles and manufactures tractors, water pumps and various agricultural combines and products.

The products are primarily used by the government, farm unions and state-owned enterprises for agricultural purposes, water irrigation, construction, and transportation related projects. AAMI have a great role and responsibility in producing agricultural equipment's and building manufacturing facilities throughout the Country for different enterprises, that are helpful to transform traditional farming system into Modern and Industrialized Agriculture.

The establishment of such assembly lines and similar companies that are on the pipeline will provide ample opportunities for employment and capacity building schemes for training technicians on agricultural machineries and equipment. They are also cost effective in terms of producing quality agricultural machineries

that are compatible with various agro-ecological conditions in Ethiopia.

The development of agricultural mechanization should also link up with agricultural engineering research programs in the higher institutes of learning across the country. It would be useful to establish university and agricultural mechanization programs in the country so that more reliable and quality machineries with multi-purpose functions could be produced in Ethiopia both for local use and possibilities for export of agricultural machineries from Ethiopia.

As noted in the above mentioned analysis, agricultural mechanization is critical for Ethiopia as the country would still continue to generate a substantial amount of foreign exchange from the sector.

For over several decades, the agricultural sector will still remain a pace setter for Ethiopia's economic development. Swift mechanization of the sector will therefore help to energize all the other sectors involved in the overall development of the country's economic development.

It is fair enough to assume that agriculture mechanization for Ethiopia will certainly take a much longer time than usually anticipated. The transition from oxen and wooden yoke driven agriculture to ultramodern mechanized agriculture is indeed possible for Ethiopia but it will definitely be a painstaking endeavor that should be accomplished over time.

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

Business & Economy

FDI inflow to Ethiopia during the war, after the CoHA

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

As one can see it from the perspective of diversity in terms of climatology and nation settlement, Ethiopia is not a mere nation; rather it is miniature representation of the planet of the earth embroidery of nations, nationalities and composed of diverse latitude ranging from Dasha to Dalol.

However, no one can deny that the colonial period and its legacy left Ethiopia with no port for the deep rooted hatred of humiliated whites at the battle of Adwa.

Among all these worrisome and sleepless defamations and character assassinations, Ethiopia manages to wow the world in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Formulation of sound foreign policy and contextualizing to the objective reality of regional political and geospatial elements would be the pillar in shining out in a country to be influential in international sphere of diplomacy.

Attracting FDI is crucial for a country to sale itself to the world market and one of the econometrics parameter for the GDP and image building. The Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) said that the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) helps foreign investors come up with increased confidence thereby flowing to work on various sectors.

Speaking at the discussion forum EIC conducted recently with its developmental partners revolving around future priorities and strategic areas to attract more FDI, EIC Commissioner Lelise Nemie said that, the new FDI flow into Ethiopia has been growing following the signing of the agreement.

She said: "The Ethiopian government has planned to stimulate investment and FDI in collaboration with development partners and the Commission is supporting FDI across their business life cycle by promoting their investment and through their exploration phase."

Investment policy and strategy development, undertaking project-based studies on investment areas, promoting public-private dialogue on investment, carrying out diagnosis on the overall investment areas will be addressed within the fiscal year, according to EIC.

Besides, creating business linkages, promoting export trade, Job creation, and digitalization of the sector have also been identified as priority intervention areas of the commission, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

Briefing local media, EIC Deputy Commissioner, Daniel Teresa stated that, the interest of investing in Ethiopia is now stimulating once again after a two year long war.

Following the CoHA, several foreign investors have shown keen interest in investing in Ethiopia and the commission is running to make the business environment more workable, he noted.

The commission is always ready to serve and to support foreign and domestic investors, he added.



EIC Development Partners have also stressed that, the peace agreement between the government and TPLF has escorting role to restore investors' confidence.

European Investment Bank Head of Representation to Ethiopia and African Union, Eleni Kyrou, on her part, indicated that the investment sector should be safeguarded by and guaranteed with political stability.

Sustainable Industrial Clusters Program Head at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Anna Waldmann, on her part, commented that the peace accord grants GIZ to perform activities using its full capacity, and she cited that they have a plan for supporting the manufacturing sector and it would help them create more jobs.

Ethiopia's foreign policy has been centered on economic diplomacy, at the core of which is attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Diplomats have been tasked to promote investment opportunities, incentives, laws, rules, and regulations and recruit investors in the priority sectors identified by the Government. Therefore, as part of its annual plan, each diplomatic Mission takes the assignment of recruiting a specific number of investors, based on which the annual performance of the Mission and the individual diplomats is evaluated.

Ethiopia's remarkable economic growth has partly been attributed to the economic-centered foreign policy and diplomacy that the country has fittingly designed and aggressively implemented.

While the foreign policy has, for decades, been directed towards attracting FDI as a key priority, the coming into power of Prime Minister Abiy has enabled a new chapter where the legal and institutional framework, as well as administrative procedures pertaining to investment in general and FDI in particular, have been significantly reformed towards a more liberal, early and favorable system.

With the Government's introduction of

Ethiopia's remarkable economic growth has partly been attributed to the economic-centered foreign policy and diplomacy that the country has fittingly designed and aggressively implemented

the Home-Grown Economic Reform, the primary focus of the Foreign Policy has been promoting and implementing this program. While implementing this program requires more aggressive diplomacy, the program has eased the diplomatic work by introducing inherently attractive and liberal initiatives.

Despite the worrisome security situation, Ethiopia continues to attract sizeable FDI. This can be attributed to several factors. First astute investors understand that Ethiopia's problem is temporary. Despite the negative propaganda by some Western media and partners, many have the confidence that

Ethiopia is a dynamic country with an established state system and resilient people that cannot survive occurrences like the current conflict.

The experiences of many African and some non-African countries show that an armed conflict is not an absolute impediment to FDI. Investors always anticipate challenges and provide solutions in advance. Secondly, the Government has taken bold investment-related reforms, including the legal and institutional frameworks and administrative measures that ease doing business in Ethiopia. The reforms have caught the eyes of investors, and several foreign investors have decided to take a risk. Thirdly, we live in a multipolar world where several middle powers are making notable influence and contributions in less developed countries like Ethiopia. Multipolarism has created the advantage of widening policy options for Ethiopia as it no more relies on the will of a single partner to get what it needs to address its challenges.

However, this does not mean that Ethiopia's FDI has not decreased due to the conflict in the northern part of the country and instabilities in several parts of it. Compared to the situation that existed some four years ago, the FDI has shown a significant decline both in terms of diversity of investors and amount of investment. Furthermore, the situation has forced some established foreign investors to terminate their investment and leave Ethiopia while deterring potential foreign investors. Besides, the disturbing national security situation has been cited as a reason for some partners to exclude Ethiopia from regional and multilateral benefit such as the AGOA.

From a diplomatic point of view, a strategic partnership entails an exceptionally close relationship between countries or other entities that are vital to promoting each other's strategic interests. Strategic partnerships are mostly created with highly valued partners, which are carefully selected based on a realistic assessment of the significance of the partnership to the long-term interests of the nation

However, this does not necessarily mean that both countries should recognize each other as strategic partners. Country X may identify country Y as a strategic partner, while the latter may not identify the former as its strategic partner depending on the countries' interests. Customarily strategic partnership is reflected through regular engagements, joint ministerial commissions, and other joint institutional mechanisms. Mostly, states institutionalize strategic partnerships. Yet, there are no universally agreed or specific criteria to identify strategic partners. Even a country may not follow a uniform standard to identify and categorize its partners as strategic and non-strategic.

A(n) (ordinary) partnership is a relationship created as a part of the standard diplomatic practice based on the idea that international relation is progressive. Partners are important countries, organizations, or other entities but not valued as important as the strategic partners. This kind of partnership may not require institutionalized engagement.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit: Avenue to address shared challenges, exploit opportunities

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Notwithstanding the fact the length and breadth of Africa have been inundated with untapped natural resources, the continent has been labeled as underdeveloped and behind the times by some groups that have no inkling of the inside out of the story.

History dictates that Africa has been passing through a wide spectrum of ups and downs, twists and turns, highs and lows that emanate from some foreign entities' treacheries going behind closed curtains. Regardless of the fact that Africa has gone to the ends of the earth to stand on its feet and make ends meet in the face of continuous challenges, accomplishing the desired goal is tantamount to getting blood from a stone and wiring water from a stone.

Albeit some foreign entities know the ongoing reality on the ground like the palm of their hand, they are not in the position to lend their ears and turn the spotlight on the existing predicament dragging the continent's feet for centuries. By any means whatsoever, they are not willing to emancipate Africa from the yoke of oppression and dictations of the third party.

Sad as it may sound, brushing the unvarnished truth aside and ignoring the reality on the ground on the subject of the continent of Africa, some entities consider Africa as a perfect example of famine, drought, and conflict. This mischaracterization of the continent of Africa should be obstructed by Africans themselves before this goes any further.

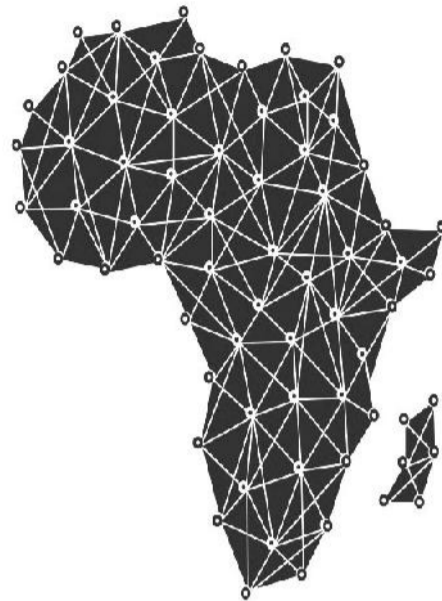
In actual fact, Africans have gone through a broad range of challenges intending to unshackle themselves from aggressors. Even after independence, African nations have gone through isolating political philosophies on account of unwarranted pressure from some entities under the guise of a number of lame reasons.

If the continent of Africa fails to join hands to move the continent of Africa to the next level of accomplishment, the situation for sure will keep on jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. But if their intended destination is moving the continent to the next chapter of success and making its future rosy, Africans sooner rather than later should separate the sheep from the goats and the wheat from the chaff.

As the whole thing required to pave the way for Africa's growth is at the doorstep of the continent of Africa, Africans do not have to bat an eye to come up with a speedy solution to utilize their resources in an appropriate manner. As most nations worldwide know the fact that Africa would be the future of the world, they have been coming up with layers of conspiracies to throw cold water on their efforts.

It becomes apparent that in the absence of the continent of Africa, the world for sure will feel like a fish out of water, and cannot move forward in development.

Though the continent of Africa has been working in close collaboration with several



U.S.-AFRICA LEADERS SUMMIT



2022 | WASHINGTON, DC

nations worldwide, the desired goal has not been achieved yet. It is still battling with several challenges. To cut a long story short, Africa has to design its own problem-solving strategies that can get to the bottom of the existing predicaments at the earliest possible juncture just around the corner.

With many challenges, Africa was incapable of coping with the pace of other continents due to unwanted pressures that made the path hard enough in securing its benefits.

On several occasions, Africa has been involved in different summits and agreements to work with powerful nations to attract economic, social, and political advantages to its side. Other than that Africa has set short and long-term goals, like Agenda 2063, to make the continent a better place for its citizens. It is important to remember that Africa has the potential to become one of the leading continents of the world by using its own human capital and natural resources without diminishing its peaceful relations with the rest of the continents.

The most important thing to acknowledge is that it is hard for the world to abandon Africa and strive for other successes. That is the main reason why different nations have been organizing different joint meetings with African nations to foster their relations with the continent and secure their place when Africa bounces up to the next level. A simple illustration might be the summits held in Russia, China, and Turkiye in recent times.

Recently, the US- Africa Leaders' Summit was held in Washington under the notion of promoting partnership between the two parties and discussing the actions that should be taken for future cooperation. At the event, leaders from the Governments of the United States of America and Africa discussed the core agendas of expanding the already existing relations and opening up new initiatives that promote further partnership, the US government announced.

According to the United States Department of State, the key points raised at the summit were: better foster new economic engagement; reinforce the U.S.-Africa commitment to democracy and human rights; mitigate the impact of COVID-19

and future pandemics; work collaboratively to strengthen regional and global health; promote food security; advance peace and security; respond to the climate crisis, and amplify diaspora ties.

Speaking at the event, US President Joe Biden addressed, "Africa's success is the world's Success." The idea has plenty to explain. Everyone is aware of the capacity that Africa has in relation to bringing change to the world. Promoting and supporting Africa is a responsibility for the entire world as the continent plays key roles in the world's economic, social, and geopolitical activities.

In a similar vein, the government of the US has shown its readiness to work with and support the African continent on various platforms. The US government is committed itself to promoting economic engagements with African countries. It is also trying to be the best ally for Africa in the process of uplifting the continent by strengthening the ongoing bonds.

According to the White House, the Biden-Harris Administration plans to invest a minimum of 55 billion USD over the coming three years. In addition, Vice President Harris announced that their administration plans to provide over 100 million USD for YALI over the coming years. The most important issue discussed at this summit was that the US government will do everything to support the African continent to secure its place in international institutions including "supporting the African Union to join the G20 as a permanent member." The above agreements and plans are some of the many agenda raised at the summit. Such agreements imply that the US government will definitely support Africa in building better states.

Particularly in the Ethiopian context, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) has participated in the summit as Ethiopia has a century-long and deep-rooted relationship with the US government. During his stay, the Premier has met with different officials including US President Joe Biden. He also has productive discussions with US Secretary Antony Blinken, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, World Bank Group President David Malpass, and other

officials.

Be that as it may, Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson, Ambassador Meles Alem said that the US- Africa Leaders' Summit has opened doors for the Government of Ethiopia to tie up its age-long partnership with the US Government. It has also created a space to discuss possible ways to cooperate in future endeavors. The summit also helped Ethiopia to show the nation's stance on peace and the miles that the federal government has gone to secure the peace of the country.

Such meetings have tremendous benefits for the African continent and Ethiopia in particular, to have a better stance in the eyes of those world powers. Considering the agreements signed and productive discussions between the two entities, Africa will stand in a firm position to address its own advantages in the world's platforms. The United States of America knows the hidden potential that the continent of Africa is blessed with.

The Summit definitely has the capacity to improve the relationship and can be used as a springboard to further advance the partnership between the two parties. The economic, social, and political collaborations will create plenty of opportunities for citizens on both sides. The occasion shows that it is time for Africa to have an equal voice and be able to determine its fate together with the world. It also expresses that the world has become aware of Africa's capacity to pass decisions. It is high time for the world to ensure the habit of working together and involve Africa in its affairs.

As Africa needs the US, it is obvious that the US also seeks the hands of Africa. These two sides have been working together for a long time, and they are still striving to walk in the right ways for mutual benefit. If the mutual interest is real and ensured by both sides, Africa must work on making itself an equal partner rather than the one who seeks some aid. In order to change the idea to reality, African nations must work for a unified goal which is promoting the African continent to success. African leaders should squeeze their difference and work for a better future for a prosperous African continent.

Law & Politics



The Urgency of Matching Rhetoric with Actions

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

Just a few months ago, the White House was pushing for not one, but two Congressional and Senate punitive bills against the Ethiopian government. But last week, everything turned on its head. The Ethiopian Premier was among 49 African leader negotiating in Washington's corridors of power to reboot the troubled U.S.-Africa relations.

Even though the U.S.-Africa summit was long overdue, it was the sensational event of the week that captured the attention of the world's media, starting with the summit's logo, which bears the tri-colors of the Ethiopian flag, the mother flag of several other African states.

The Premier has had side audiences with influential US policy makers and global financial leaders including the President, the Secretary of State, and the president's National Security Advisor, as well as World Bank and IMF leaders. This event, the second of its kind in eight years, is seen as a harbinger of the boom in multifaceted bilateral cooperation between the US and African nations.

In his statement in Washington at the end of the three-day summit, the Premier described his stay in the US as a resounding success in restoring Ethio-American bilateral relations. "We have met and discussed with the people want to see, secured things want to get... in America, we cleared and unclogged everything," he said.

Meanwhile, here in Addis, the Deputy Premier has urged diplomats of the EU and member states, the largest trading partners of Ethiopia next to China, to help nurture the ongoing peace initiatives to build lasting peace by providing support to the implementation of the Pretoria peace agreement. "All health and school facilities are damaged by this tragic conflict.

We must therefore promptly rehabilitate public facilities and vital infrastructures

and return to normalcy for the people in the conflict-affected areas to enjoy the fruit of peace. I am confident the EU will generously give its support to the post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction, and rebuilding of the livelihoods of these communities," he said.

The Ethiopian government is exerting maximum effort to fulfill its share of the responsibility it shouldered while signing the peace agreement. The guns are silenced without any interruptions. Humanitarian operations are in full swing. Roads and air flights linking the conflict-affected areas to the rest of the country are being opened.

Electric power, telecom, and banking services have already been available in much of the war-affected areas and will soon reach the level of coverage in the pre-war time two years ago.

The return to normalcy and the peace and stability-building effort is an uphill task. It is not a task that should be shouldered only by only the government. It should be supplemented by the support of development actors both from and abroad. Thus the international community has to fully reactivate its bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation with the Ethiopian government, which has been all but frozen as an economic measure taken in protest of the northern Ethiopian war that went on for two years.

In particular, the restoration of suspended trade agreements like AGOA, which has a significant impact on socio-economic rehabilitation, has to be given due and prior attention.

The lifting of the AGOA sanction means a return of a huge chunk of unemployed and skilled labor back to the workplace. It would also be a substantial contribution to alleviating the dire shortage of hard currency revenue that would be channeled to rehabilitation efforts.

Similarly, grants and loan programs that may have been suspended or delayed due

to the conflict should be lifted, to create an enabling atmosphere and provide adequate resources for the federal government in its endeavor to smoothly execute its responsibility of leading the nation out of the socio-economic crisis, which is what naturally follows a devastating conflict like the one happened in north Ethiopia.

It is hoped that the series of sideline discussions the Ethiopian delegation held with various political leaders and financial executives in the US would impart a huge impetus in catalyzing the slow process of the reactivation of the above-mentioned international economic agreements.

The pledges and promises made in gathering held in Washington and Addis Ababa by authorities of the US, EU, and its member states have given us a strong cause for optimism. A recent report by the African Intelligence says "It was only in November that the Ethiopian government and Tigrayan rebels reached a fragile ceasefire agreement ending two years of civil war, but donor countries are already preparing to finance the country's reconstruction."

So the hope is Western block and the multinational financial agencies under its spells like World Bank and IMF, would soon fully normalize their relation with Ethiopia soon, without ifs and buts. That is a wise decision they need to take if they are really committed to contributing to the full realization of the created opportunity for lasting peace in Ethiopia.

Reflecting on the need for the Western nations, especially the US to practically commit themselves to peace and development in Africa, an American political scholar Lina Benabdalla, says: "It would be interesting to see what the US can put on the table in terms of a concrete aspect of the relationship [US-Africa]. This has been the issue of the US in its foreign policy towards Africa. There has been a lot of rhetoric so far. The rhetoric of partnership, of taking Africa seriously, and of shared goals. But we need to see

more than just rhetorics. There needs to be concrete projects and initiatives put on the table so that this relationship can move forward."

The scholar may be right or maybe not. Of course, the promise made in the first US - Africa summit held in 2014 under the leadership of the former democrat US president, Barack Obama, did not bring a leap forward in US -Africa relations as expected.

However, this time the incumbent US administration could have made a serious change of heart in its resolve to deliver its promises. The US Department of State announced that Biden has already appointed a Special Representative that will follow up and facilitate the implementation of the agreements and initiatives unveiled at the US- Africa Summit, among other things.

Time and again western government officials, as well as their media outlets, had been telling us they are deeply concerned over the absence of peace in Ethiopia. Some even dared to say that peace in Ethiopia is part of their national security agenda. Luckily, for now, the war has stopped, and a fragile peace holds way in the war affected northern region of the country. But it needs to be strengthened, to ensure that things would not slide back to the past situation

Now is the time to translate pledges in to action to make the peace process successful and utilize the opportunity for lasting peace before it is too late or slips away.

The American economist Lawrence Freeman, who is renowned for his independent analysis of African politics and economy, recently remarked: "The western countries, mainly the U.S., should end all sanctions immediately. They should restore the status of Ethiopia to the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)," he said, adding that, support from global partners should help Ethiopia to accelerate its rehabilitation endeavors in the war-affected areas.

Society

Scaling up emergency care through fulfilling medical facilities

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems are reported to be effective public health intervention to reduce mortality related to injuries and acute medical illnesses.

As a research article conducted conjointly by many researchers and published under the title; “Trends and barriers of emergency medical service use in Addis Ababa; Ethiopia” state citing the World Health Organization, Ethiopia has amongst the highest road fatality rates in Africa with 68 fatalities per 10,000 vehicles per year. Furthermore, 28 percent of emergency room visits in Ethiopia are related to trauma, which predominantly affects younger and economically productive socio demographic group.

In addition, non-communicable diseases are increasing; cardiovascular disease accounts for 24 percent of adult deaths. The high burden of trauma and acute illnesses, coupled with the increasing elderly population in Addis Ababa, therefore, demands improved access to an EMS system, the study stated.

In fact, over the past decade, in-hospital and pre-hospital emergency care have experienced dramatic development in Addis Ababa. Emergency rooms are being staffed by emergency specialist doctors and nurses. Advanced trauma care providers and specialty centers, including cardiac and trauma care, are increasing in number. But, it is reported that emergency patients are arriving to the treatment centers too late; after the golden hour



Panoramic view of the 10 high spec ambulances and medical supplies

has already passed or having already developed complications.

Especially, when we go to rural parts of the country, the scope of the challenge is immense. Considering the fact on the ground, the Ministry of Health and its partners are toiling to address facility challenges for providing better emergency services to the people in need.

Recently, the United Nations Population Fund, the UN's Sexual and Reproductive Health Agency, donated ten high-spec ambulances worth approximately 24.5 million Birr to the Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz and Tigray states purchased with the funding of the governments of Canada, Ireland and Japan as part of their support to UNFPA Ethiopia's humanitarian response.

The ambulances are said deployed to strengthen the referral linkage for emergency obstetric,

new-born care and other critical services at hospitals in the four regions whose health system have been devastated by the recent conflicts.

“We know that more sexual violence survivors than counted are waiting at the other end of the trips these ambulances are about to take said Mr. Stéphane Jobin, Ambassador of Canada in Ethiopia, during the hand-over ceremony held at the premises of UNECA. Access for the survivors to services and access for the ambulances within their regions go hand in hand. Access is absolutely critical, he added.

For her part Nicola Brennan, Ambassador of Ireland in Ethiopia said: “the provision of ambulances is a continuation of Ireland's longstanding support to the health sector in partnership with the government, UN agencies and Civil Society. Currently, Ireland

is supporting the continuity of life-saving health services, including maternal health and support for victims and survivors of sexual and gender based violence in Afar, Amhara, Somali and Tigray states, with grants of 10.6 Million Euro for a joint UNICEF-UNFPA program. “We sincerely hope the ambulances offered to regions will greatly contribute to improving access to health services, including for the victims and survivors of sexual and gender based violence. We warmly welcome the recent permanent Cessation of Hostilities agreement, including the commitment to the restoration of all basic services.”

“I sincerely hope that the new ambulances will strengthen the health referral system in the regions to reach out to all those women and girls in need, and also serve as a symbol of the enhanced friendly relationship between the people of Japan and the people of Ethiopia,” said Ito Takako, Ambassador of Japan in Ethiopia.

The health system and services in the conflict affected areas of the Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz and Tigray states have been seriously compromised by the situation impacting access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. “The ambulances that will strengthen the referral linkage in addressing obstetric complications and other critical cases thereby enhancing the efforts at promoting safe delivery and ending preventable maternal deaths,” said Ms. Suzanne Mandong, UNFPA Representative.



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Over 26 mln students, 700K teachers at work in general education

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Specialized study at an advanced level is only part of what gives the undergraduate university degree or diploma its special status. For centuries, the hallmark of a university education has also been the nurturing of every student's capacity to develop, assess and communicate their understanding of the world in which they live. In most modern universities, arts and science electives are offered in an attempt to achieve these goals.

However, General Education is a more consciously structured pursuit of the aims of what has traditionally been known as ‘liberal education.’ It ensures students achieve both breadth and depth in the skills and justifications of knowledge that are more relevant to the world in which they will live for many scholars.

And General Education Program is set up on the understanding that students will live and work in a changing, often unpredictable world. Given the variability of careers and employment, together with the various unexpected directions that personal development may take, General Education is dedicated to students' need for both the necessary capacities for life-long learning and a knowledge base that is transferable across academic disciplines and vocational



Dr. Fanta Mandefro speaking on the workshop

contexts.

Thus, general education provides students with the opportunity to enhance their ability to think critically, develop their communication and mathematical skills, stimulate their capacities for creative, innovative thinking, and enrich their knowledge of the wider social, cultural, and natural worlds in which they will have to live and work, as directly stated by Mount Royal University.

Considering this, Ethiopia's Ministry of Education at this point in time has paid due attention to the program. And Addis Ababa University is conducting a workshop on changes in the Ethiopian Education System in the years 2017 to 2022 in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Studies and the Cambridge University of England. On this forum, the results of the study on the education system and the changes that have been made were presented.

On the forum, the Ministry announced that the number of students in Ethiopia has reached more than 26 million from preschool to 12th grade. State Minister for General Education, Dr. Fanta Mandefro explained that changes are being made to enhance education quality in the education system of the nation.

On the word of the State Minister, the total number of students at school from pre-primary to 12th grade has reached more than 26.5 million as a result of the work done on access to education.

He also pointed out that the number of teachers has increased to over seven hundred and more than 43 thousand schools are providing education services. “It will take a lot of work to bring the quality of education that goes with the number of students, teachers and schools; He called on all concerned parties to do their part.”

At last, Addis Ababa University President, Professor Tasewu Woldehana, on his part, reaffirmed that his university will play its role in the efforts of the nation is doing to assure quality of education through improving the sector's system. “Addis Ababa University continues to strengthen its cooperation is with domestic and foreign research institutions to enhance education quality.”

Planet Earth

Green Legacy: African initiative that filled the continent with success stories

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Ethiopia, with the coming of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed into power, has given due concern for afforestation. The country has also prepared the Green Legacy initiative program to plant tree seedlings which is key to combatting the effects of climate change and promoting the reduction of greenhouse gasses.

The Initiatives implemented not only in Ethiopia but it is also expanded into neighboring countries namely Eritrea, Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, and Sudan. South Sudan Ambassador to Ethiopia Ambassador James Pitia Morgan told local media that Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative undoubtedly benefits the region and the entire continent. Hence, the world especially, the eastern Africa region must take up Ethiopia's commendable initiative of planting trees.

Along with neighboring countries, the diplomatic communities that reside in Ethiopia have endorsed the green legacy initiative program and have planted tree seedlings. The ambassadors also expressed their keenness to support the initiative.

Among others, Israeli Ambassador to Ethiopia Aleign Admasu, Czech ambassador to Ethiopia Pavel Mikeš, Norway's Norwegian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Merete Lundemo, the Russian ambassador to Ethiopia Evgeny Terekhin, Former Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, Tan Jian are among others who have participated in the plantation program.

According to Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Ambassador Meles Alem, Ethiopia's green legacy initiative has an enormous advantage for national, regional, and international adaptation and mitigation of the harmful effects of on climate change.

The Intergovernmental Authority On Development (IGAD) Executive Secretary Spokesperson Nuur Mohamud Sheekh stated that the Green Legacy Initiative that Ethiopia is undertaking significantly improves the resilience capacity of the drought-prone Eastern Africa region.

Ethiopia's Green Legacy undoubtedly benefits the entire world's environmental protection. The rate at which deforestation is taking place in some IGAD member states is alarming and millions of people are facing serious food insecurity. Therefore, Ethiopia has a lot of green legacy experience to share about dealing with drought and conservation of the environment, he explained.

Taking the value of the Green Legacy Initiative into account, local, regional and international actors are not only appreciated but also want urged to share the achievement of the initiative with other countries. For

instance, The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) was the first UN organ that announced the plan to share the experiences of Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative with about 10 other African countries and make the Initiative Pan-African.

Alhaji Fall, speaking on behalf of Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), described the Green Legacy initiative as a stepping stone to a better future for Ethiopia.

Announcing UNDP's plan to share Ethiopia's experiences with about 10 other countries and make the Green Legacy Initiative Pan-African, he praised Ethiopia for setting the pace in combating climate change and for fostering community resilience.

In fact, the green legacy initiative has several impacts not only on environmental protection but also on researchers, activists, and organizations that wish to work on environmental issues. Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute Plantation and Agroforestry Director and Senior Expert Dr. Abayneh Derero told the Ethiopian Herald that the Green Legacy initiative has serious engagement which has significant meaning for those who are working and caring for the environment.

It is also educational which teaches not only the Ethiopian population but also others who wish to learn the overall value of planting tree seedlings. The efforts of the initiative have local, regional and global impacts. It brings massive environmental impact in fighting deforestation, recovering degraded land, and so on, according to Dr. Abayneh.,

Furthermore, the problem of climate change is a common issue and it needs a common solution. Hence, the green legacy initiative is an African initiative that significantly provides a major platform to mitigate the negative impact of climate change. For this, the American Academy of Achievement and the Global Hope Coalition in Washington DC awarded Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in recognition of the Green Legacy Initiative.

This award shows that the progress of the green legacy initiative, the achievement of the framers, the survival of tree seedlings, the socio-economic benefits, the conservation value of nature, and the local, regional, and global impacts of the initiatives have been taken byare winning the acceptance of the international communities.

Because the green legacy task has a positive impact and alters the environment we live in by moderating the climate and improving air quality, it's also a huge benefit for our health as well. It is also significant in preventing flooding, ensuring food security, and avoiding environment-related conflicts and other adverse.

Ethiopia's Green Legacy undoubtedly benefits the entire world's environmental protection. The rate at which deforestation is taking place in some IGAD member states is alarming and millions of people are facing serious food insecurity. Therefore, Ethiopia has a lot of green legacy experience to share about dealing with drought and conservation of the environment

Restoring the country's green cover, eliminating erosion and pollution, reducing conflicts arising due to environmental degradation and reduction of natural resources, and measures to support the agricultural sector and economy.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed expressed that the award is extending a hand of friendship to the African continent and for recognizing Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative as an African success story.

"Indeed, the continent is filled with many success stories not only in the past, but present, and future. The perspective that African countries are net producers of problems that always require external assistance is an outdated one. Hence, it is a great appreciation to the coordinators for lighting a torch on the continent's net production of solutions" he stated.

Four years into the implementation of the Initiative, the county has mobilized 25 million Ethiopians across the nation to plant 25 billion tree seedlings which are equivalent to 250 seedlings per citizen. Therefore, the impact of the initiative could be equated to removing 64 million gasoline-powered cars from the roads for a whole year, Prime Minister noted.

Nowadays, the Initiative is the most extensive afforestation and reforestation program next to the Amazon. Furthermore, with the efforts of afforestation and reforestation campaigns, Ethiopia has put over 700,000 hectares of existing biodiversity and carbon-rich natural forests under a sustainable participatory forest management scheme, Abiy indicated.

By 2022, the initiative has fostered a flourishing national green culture, tripling

the number of seedling nurseries to more than 121,000; creating more than 750,000 jobs mostly for women and youth; and generating 1.3 billion Ethiopian Birr in income. Ethiopia also accorded seedlings to neighboring countries to bolster regional cooperation for transboundary ecosystem management.

In fact, the Initiative contributes towards removing the equivalent of hundreds of millions of tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and reduces deforestation. "This implies Ethiopia's significant contribution to the global climate change mitigation efforts," he added.

Ethiopia's tangible contribution to the overall global afforestation and reforestation pledge is impressive by any standard, but even more so when it has been financed primarily by domestic resources and efforts. Building on this success, Ethiopia plans to restore an additional 22 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 he said, adding "we are also developing a green fund and will pursue carbon trading schemes to help raise additional financing."

"We aspire to reverse deforestation and build a green society in Ethiopia and Africa. We have no doubt that our Green Legacy story will motivate a global mobilization toward reconciling our modern civilization with our planet and ecosystems," he underscored.

It is well accredited that Ethiopia has planned to combat climate change, putting a vision for greenery, and motivating the entire population to plant tree seedlings. This has brought not only local and regional recognition but also international award as an African success story which avoids the negatively portrayal of the African Image. More importantly, the initiative is a great appreciation for lighting a torch on the continent's net production of solutions for a global problem.