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Photo - Hadush Abreha



Unity Parking showcases Ethiopia's strides towards prosperity

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Projects that have been completed and are being built in Addis Ababa connect yesterday, today and tomorrow and one of the projects where to see Ethiopia's future is Unity Parking, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said.

The Premier made the above remark while inaugurating the Unity Parking Project on Sunday.

Abiy further stated that it is able to see the picture of tomorrow's Ethiopia while completing work suitable for the next generation. The projects from Meskel Square to Entoto, from Aberhot Library

to Science Museum, from Unity Park to Friendship Park and Adwa Museum show yesterday's memory, today's observation and tomorrow's destination.

"Our projects are built to satisfy the body, mind and spirit," he noted, adding that all the work will bring the prosperity that

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Forum discusses ways to enhance scholars' role in defending Nat'l interests

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA— A number of scholars held extensive discussions on means of enhancing their role in the national efforts of upholding country's sovereignty and national interests under any circumstances.

This was noted at a one-day forum that was organized yesterday by Kotebe University of Education (KUoE) in collaboration with Addis Ababa Science and Technology University under the theme: "The Role of Scholars' In Ethiopia's Rise" aiming at initiating the scholars to put their efforts on country's development.

Speaking at the discussion forum, KUoE President Birhan Meskel Tena (PhD) said that the discussion would bring significant role in inspiring the scholars to contribute



Photo - Samuel Tesfaye

their share to country's overall development. So far, the roles of scholars have played in Ethiopia is diminutive compared with country's demand in the various aspects.

Lack of adequate discussion, existence of

suspicious aspects between scholars and government, and interference are the main serious factor which are hindering their contribution to the overall change of the country so far, he noted.

See Forum discusses ... page 3



Ethiopia, UAE enjoy robust diplomatic, economic ties: Amb. Suleiman

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Adwa Zero KM Project reaches 77 percent completion

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- Some 77 percent of the construction of the Adwa Zero KM Mega Project is completed and activities have been carried out day and night, according to the project controller, who indicated the

See Adwa Zero ... page 3

News



Prof. Stefan Dercon

High time to invest in Ethiopia : Scholar

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA—It is high time to invest in Ethiopia because of the conducive environment created in the country, so stated a scholar.

Having a stay with Context Magazine, Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies at Oxford University Prof. Stefan Dercon said that the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) concluded between the federal government and TPLF is very helpful to attract investment in the country.

He urged the international community to support the peace deal in a bid to recover the economy of the country damaged by the conflict.

The scholar also said that the country has registered remarkable economic progress in East Africa in 2018 and it became the economic center in the region. Explaining the economic progress of the country, the scholar said that the economy of the country has exceeded the economy of other African countries in four to five percent from 1998 to 2020. However, because of the occurrence of COVID-19 and Northern Ethiopian conflict the country's economic progress was made sluggish.

Trade and regional integration minister, Gebremeskel Challa on his part said at the third UK-Ethiopia Trade and Investment Forum held in London last Week that the new peace accord will open a new dawn for Ethiopians and lay a foundation for trade and investment.

Ethiopia has embarked on Home-grown Economic Reform which addresses three pillars such as macroeconomic, structural, and sectoral reforms of the economy. Stabilizing financial systems, strengthening public financial sectors, focusing on key and potential sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and mining is very important to ensure viable economic growth.

The reform will ensure productivity of small-holder farmers through providing them with modern inputs and prioritizing strong small scale manufacturing sectors such as agro-processing and leather products. Overall, the country's Home-grown Economic Reform aims at creating more jobs, ensuring inclusive growth, and reducing poverty.

"Apart from the Telecom industry, Ethiopia has opened up its financial sector to foreign investors. This move is indeed a promising one to help stockholders invest in Ethiopia," he added.

ICRC recognizes ENDF's professionalism in avoiding urban warfare

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) professionalism that is demonstrated by its shunning of urban warfare and avoiding civilian casualties and destruction of cities has got recognition from the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), a high-ranking officer said.

ICRC hosted the Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations (SWIRMO), in Bali, Indonesia, from 20 - 26 November 2022 in which Ethiopia participated.

Addressing the media yesterday, ENDF International Relations and Military Cooperation Director-General Major General Teshome Gemechu stated that the ICRC has acknowledged Ethiopian army's achievement in handling the conflict without civilian casualties and destruction of cities. The secret behind the successful operation is that ENDF is well aware of international law coupled with the government's guidance.

Mentioning his discussion with ICRC



Major General Teshome Gemechu

Vice-President Dr. Gilles Carbonnier, Maj. General Teshome indicated the committee highly commended ENDF's obedience to international law that demands risk minimization during conflict. The operation undertaken by the ENDF during the northern conflict complies with the international law of minimizing risk.

The one-week workshop has gathered senior

military officers from around 80 countries and exchange experiences and views on the application of the law of armed conflict and human rights law in operational contexts as well as the international legal framework applicable to modern military operations. Sessions discussed during SWIRMO cover topics such as warfare in urban settings, partnered military operations and command responsibility, it was learned.

Photo : Eyob Teferi

Ethiopia generates over half bln. USD from coffee export

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) -Ethiopia has earned 526 million USD from coffee export during the first four months of Ethiopian current fiscal year, according to Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority.

The Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority held consultations yesterday with coffee experts of several countries including Colombia and Spain.

During the occasion, Director General of the Authority briefed the participants about the four month performance of coffee production and marketing activities of the country.

According to him, the nation has earned 526 million USD from coffee export during the



first four months of the fiscal year.

The export performance registered during the stated period has shown an increase of 126 million USD compared to the previous fiscal year same period, he added.

Noting Ethiopia has planned to export

810,000 tons of coffee to the international market to obtain 2 billion USD during the current fiscal year, the Director General stated the performance so far registered is encouraging.

It is to be recalled that Ethiopia had obtained a record-hit 1.4 billion USD from coffee export during the previous Ethiopian fiscal year that was concluded on the 7th of July, 2022.

The nation earned 1.4 billion USD by exporting 300,000 tons of coffee to the international market.

It was indicated during the occasion that Germany is the largest buyer of Ethiopian coffee, followed by United States and Saudi Arabia.

Bunna Bank rucks up 1.19 bln. Birr profit

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA- Bunna Bank, one of the mid-sized private banks in Ethiopia, disclosed that it made a profit of 1.19 billion Birr before tax in the last financial year, further disclosed its capability to expand the customer base by 41.2 percent.

The bank presented the performance of the fiscal year to shareholders at the 13th General Meeting on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, Bunna Bank Board of Directors Chairperson Alemayehu Sewagegn said that in 2021/2022 fiscal year; the bank is able to mobilize more than 27.2 billion Birr deposits with a significant increment of 6.7 billion Birr from previous year. Of the all deposit schemes, the savings account has taken the largest share of 78.6 percent.



Meanwhile, the bank's total assets reached 34.1 billion Birr, which showed an 8.16 billion Birr growth compared to last year. Also, Bunna secured about 149.1 million USD while it has been working with ten foreign money transfer agents. The amount of loans that have dispersed to various economic sectors increased by 41.3 percent and reached 25.85 billion Birr as of June 30, 2022.

The chairperson; however, highlighted that the remittance that is coming from abroad was significantly reduced due to some internal and international factors.

About the customer base, Alemayehu indicated the total number of customers reached 572,334, which showed a 41.2 percent growth compared to the preceding year.

News

Activities underway to make fuel stations operational in conflict-affected areas

ADDIS ABABA - Petroleum and Energy Authority announced that activities which make fuel stations operational in areas affected by the conflict within a short period are underway in accordance with the peace agreement signed by the Government of Ethiopia and TPLF.

Recall that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed recently told members of the House of People's Representatives that the support work is being carried out under the framework "supporting affected people, rebuilding destroyed institutions, and returning the displaced to their villages."

Among the reconstruction efforts in the war-torn areas is to enable fuel stations resume services.

Petroleum and Energy Authority Director-



General, Sahrela Abdulahi told ENA that fuel stations are being repaired and resuming services in addition to ensuring the provision of fuel for humanitarian aid without disruption.

She stated that identification fuel stations

that were damaged in the war has been done.

Following this, activities have been carried out by preparing a joint plan and establishing a task force drawn from among stakeholders.

According to her, activities of providing fuel at gas stations in some favorable conditions have already started.

The supply of fuel to fuel stations located in Hara and Kobo areas has started, the director-general said, adding that activities are also underway to provide fuel at gas stations in Alamata next week.

In addition, the gas stations in Abeala and Afdera in Afar region are being repaired and would soon be operational, Sahrela stated.

Besides, the authority has completed

gathering information up to Shire city. "We have made full preparation with the relevant companies to especially identify stations working in that area, and each company has taken the responsibility for restoring those affected by the war and sending a repair team."

The necessary preparations have also been finalized to repair and put damaged gas stations up to Mekelle back into operation, the director-general disclosed.

Also, repair work of fuel tankers and depots is being done so that the areas up to Shire can fully get fuel next.

Noting that the government has been working with commitment to rehabilitate gas stations, she called on stakeholders to strengthen their support to put gas stations into operation.

Unity Parking...

Ethiopia deserves, and that it is a party that fulfills the promise of prosperity. "We must work day and night to lay the foundation of Ethiopia's prosperity, because prosperity and theft do not go together, we must be ready to resist and fight against theft."

Addis Ababa City Administration built the Unity Parking Project at a cost of more than 1.7 billion Birr and the G+4 parking lot laid on 12,000 square meters. The lot can accommodate more than 1,200 vehicles at the same time, including buses, on the first floor and four consecutive underground floors.

The car park is equipped with a car lift and the lift easily connects to the parking spaces below the ground floor. The parking lot is equipped with over 200 security cameras. Also, the parking lot is equipped with a

modern vehicle information register and provider, a modern payment system, and security systems.

The facility has more than 150 rooms specially prepared for the tourism and similar service sectors in the basement and the four floors above. It has a 105 meters long, 8 meters wide and 5 meters deep passageway for the entrance and exit of Unity Park.

The amphitheater space hosts gatherings for customers, art shows and a variety of other events. The parking building will serve as a center for the sightseeing venues of the National Palace, Science Museum, Friendship Square Phase One, Friendship Square Phase Two and other human-centered destinations from Meskel Square to Aberhot Library, it was learned.



Feleke Woldeyohannes



(Eng.) Alelegn Tenaw

Adwa Zero...

project is set to be completed within a year.

Project Control Feleke Woldeyohannes (Eng.) told local media that consolidated efforts have been carried out to complete some part of the project for this year's Adwa Victory Day, which is being celebrated on March 2, 2022.

As a memorial center For Ethiopia's victory over the invading Italian forces, the facility is equipped with an ultramodern library, museum, meeting hall, bus and taxi terminal as well as a parking lot that accommodates 1000 cars at a time. The project also includes a fountain that will serve as the instrument to reinvigorate the spirit of Pan-Africanism, Feleke elaborated.

"The Adwa Project has bridges that will connect the facility with Addis Ababa

Municipality and it is being constructed in the way to enshrine the spirit of patriotic forefathers and mothers among the current and future generations."

Alelegn Tenaw, a laborer in the project, stated that the construction has been executed carefully, responsibly and without interruption. "Even though we were not physically present in the Battle of Adwa, we have built this project in the same spirit with our forefathers and mothers and have made every effort to make the facility intergenerational.

"I am happy working here and able to put my fingerprint in this iconic project."

It was learned that the construction of the Adwa Zero KM Project consumes over 4.6 billion Birr.

Forum discusses...

He further stated that historical enemies have been striving to dismantle the nation through various mechanisms. Therefore, scholars are healers for such evil acts by conducting reasonable researches and coming up with convincing justification thereby devising possible solutions to the problems and ensuring lasting peace.

The president also called up on the scholars to contribute their full potential in nation building efforts via conducting researches, standing for common goal, prioritizing peace concerns.

Presenting a survey research entitled : "Scholars' Contribution to Ethiopia's Sovereignty" Samuel Tefera (PhD) from Addis Ababa University, said that the contribution of scholars in Ethiopian development is very little over the past many years.

Citing recent report, he said, for example, over 64 percent scholars' contribution on country's sovereignty is low, 91 percent of them have not discussed about national issue in their institutions, and 80 percent of them are not engage in thematic working

(searching resources and work collaboration with external bodies. Therefore, scholars should take serious attention towards conducting game changer researches, building nation, and the likes.

In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Press Agency about the research he presented entitled "The Contribution of Scholars' to Ethiopia's Peace and Stability" Dechasa Abebe (PhD) from Addis Ababa University said that due to the lack of scholars' contribution, Ethiopia has been facing a lot from internal and external challenges.

He said "Though the situation is difficult, scholars should take critical measures on ensuring country's national interest. Scholars need to showcase how they play an indispensable role like scholars in the developed nations do by taking practical measures."

Over 300 scholars from the various universities across Ethiopia took part in the discussion and promised to contribute their respective share to the comprehensive development of their country, it was learnt.

Ethiopia, UAE enjoy robust diplomatic, economic ties: Amb. Suleiman

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been enjoying steady and strong diplomatic and economic relations over the past five years, so said Ambassador Suleiman Dedefo.

Extra-Ordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the UAE Suleiman Dedefo told local media that though the ties between the two countries dates back to decade, both have improved uniquely their economic ties closely over the five years.

He said various agricultural products, animal and animal products like meat, Fruits and vegetables as well as oil seeds such as sesame are amongst the export items to UAE. In return, industrial products, cars, accessories, chemical and chemical

industry products are imported to Ethiopia from UAE.

Moreover, numbers of UAE investors are keen to invest and already engaged in various investment sectors where they have been contributing to the country's efforts in creating ample jobs, foreign currency generation and technology and knowledge transfer, as to the Ambassador.

Noting that there are over 250,000 Ethiopians legally residing in UAE, he highlighted that the embassies and consulates are putting efforts to create link between the people with the banks to improve investment.

Through the link created, 3,000 and over 10,000 Ethiopians from Dubai and UAE respectively are engaged in various investments in homeland , he added.

Opinion

Taking a bite out of the corruption elephant in the Ethiopian Judicial Sector

BY ALMARIAM

PART ONE

Special note: This commentary has four parts: 1) a nostalgic retrospective when the slightest use of public resources by public officials was considered a mortal sin for which swift action was taken. 2) An update on judicial reform hearing in Parliament. 3) An update on the activities of the recently established anticorruption committee. 4) An anecdotal survey of individuals from diverse professions and perspectives on how to implement anticorruption reform in the judicial sector.

Nostalgic about the good old days; Walking down memory lane... The way it was!

Corruption has been around since the dawn of civilization. Ethiopia is no exception to the rule of corruption. But there was a time in Ethiopia when the slightest use of public resources for personal convenience was treated with extreme attention and instant correction.

The copy of the memorandum [see original issue] shows how personal ethics and public integrity particularly in the Ethiopian military was upheld at the very highest standards.

The memorandum reproduced below is about a Lieutenant Demessie Bulto whose pay was docked for making a personal telephone call on an official line which cost 0.30 cents.

Lieutenant Demessie Bulto went on to become Maj. General Demissie Bulto, one of the greatest Ethiopian combat generals/heroes of all time.

General Demissie successfully led Ethiopian troops to victory in numerous campaigns and was admired as a brilliant tactician, consummate professional and unrepentant Ethiopia patriot.

*Memorandum #521/illegible
Ethiopian Imperial Government
Honor (Crown) Guard Command
To: Honor Guards Paymaster*

One of our members in the First Command, identification number 4707, Lieutenant Demissie Bulto, used a telephone line established for the Honor (Crown) Guards on 4/12/1952 [12/22/1959 Gregorian calendar] to make a personal call to Jimma incurring a cost of \$0.30/thirty cents. It is ordered that said amount be recovered by deducting from his November 1953[1959]monthly salary.

Haile Desta, Major

Cc: Honor Guards General Command

Today, sixty three years after that memo was written, we are talking about those in public office in Ethiopia stealing hundreds of thousands and millions of birr without even blinking an eye.

General Demissie and all the other great generals and troops of the past did not fight and die so we can live in an Ethiopia drowning in corruption and graft.

Ethiopia's generals and their troops today are not fighting and dying to see corruption choking the lives of Ethiopian citizens.

All Ethiopians must fight corruption, day and night; Rain, shine, lightening, flood, fire or earthquake.

On November 17, 2022, PM Abiy announced the establishment of a 7-person national anti-corruption committee which includes the

Attorney General and the head of the Ethiopian National Intelligence and Security Service.

This Committee has three sub-committees, composed of legal, finance and information expertise, and aims to coordinate the national anti-corruption campaign.

On December 2, 2022, the other shoe dropped.

In a press briefing, Minister of Justice, Gideon Timotewos informed the public that the recently established anti-corruption committee is using the full legal powers of the government to coordinate a broad anticorruption campaign to reverse the trend in uncontrolled corruption;

will have major focus on corruption in land distribution and acquisition, assignment of public housing and cleanup of the graft-ridden customs agency;

will give special priority to the justice and security sectors and agencies involved in land administration which are operating as organized criminal enterprises; will first focus on corruption in Addis Ababa and surrounding areas; has identified networks of corruption brokers, police, judges, prosecutors and others who benefit from illegal transactions and corrupt practices;

The committee has started arresting corruption suspects and will continue to do so with public support, participation and involvement in fingering suspects;

has identified individuals engaged in abuse of power in the security and justice sectors who have been engaged in extortion and racketeering activities by forcing individuals and businesses to make bribe payments;

has taken into custody various corruption suspects including the federal government's director of financial security, top officials in the information network agency and in the national security office;

has taken into custody prosecutors, civil servants, corrections/prison administrators, police officials and judges suspected of corruption involvement and is preparing prosecution;

is seeking injunctions against officials who did not comply with the asset disclosure law and failed to register their assets. This investigation will be widened and exemplary legal action taken including asset confiscation and imprisonment;

has received 250 public reports with evidence and tips of corruption, and organized investigative teams are sifting through evidence for prosecution; will replicate the anticorruption campaign at the region level; will announce the names of major corruption suspects in custody soon; urges greater public cooperation in reporting suspected cases of corruption.

Director General of the National Intelligence and Security Service and member of the anticorruption committee, Temesgen Tiruneh, said corruption is one of three existential national security threats:

Corruption or malpractice, in addition to being the cause for the high cost of living and unemployment in the country, has been confirmed by research that it is a third level threat to national security.

The elephant in the dining room

In part II of this commentary series, I used the idiom "the elephant in the judicial living room" to allude to the fact that the structural reforms in the judicial sector do not squarely focus on and address the core problem of corruption. Corruption mitigation and remediation is expected to be a byproduct of gradual structural reform.

To say Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is talking about the elephant in the judicial living room is an understatement. He told Parliament:

The major problem with theft (corruption) is that judges are thieves (corrupt). Reform is most needed in the court system. The courts have become a den of thieves. Today, everyone is talking about the judicial elephant in the living room. The question now is what to do about the elephant.

Metaphorically, "How do you eat an elephant that is in the dining room?" It is a truism that "corruption is a global problem."

Transparency International, the "global coalition against corruption" proclaims:

Corruption erodes trust, weakens democracy, hampers economic development and further exacerbates inequality, poverty, social division and the environmental crisis. Corruption is a hydra headed monster with chameleon manifestations.

Corruption manifests itself when public servants demand or take money (bribes) or other things of value to perform the very duties they are hired to perform.

When politicians and bureaucrats engage in fraud, abuse, misuse and waste of public resources, they engage in corruption. When those in power engage in cronyism (appointment to positions of authority without regard to merit) and nepotism (giving jobs, contracts and other opportunities to family, friends and relatives), they are also engaged in corruption.

Corruption as cancer grows in the body politic, sometimes imperceptibly, it has the ability rapidly and insidiously to infiltrate and destroy the organs of the state. Once embedded, it is very difficult to cut out. Metastasis across society is common. It prevents countries from developing and reaching their full potential, and destroys the ethical and moral foundation of a state.

Corruption is a cancer that occurs in all parts of Ethiopian society- bureaucracies, the courts, businesses, the media, academia and in civil society. Corruption touches everyone: politicians, government officials, public servants, businesspeople and members of the public.

PM Abiy recently told Parliament corruption is not just a cancer but also a self-replicating virus:

Bribe givers create bribe takers. Bribe takers in turn create a messed-up process. It is a vicious circle. We cannot escape it.

As a virus, corruption is highly adaptable to different contexts and changing circumstances. Like a virus, corruption evolves in response to changes in the laws, regulations, new practices and even technology.

Corruption happens not only in darkness and in the shadows but also on Telegram as PM Abiy publicly declared.

So, how do you deal with endemic, systemic, structural corruption? *More specifically, how do you deal with the corruption elephant in the judicial sector?*

The single most important lesson from successful anti-corruption efforts is that there are no quick fixes. There is no magic wand that can be waived at corruption and make it go away.

Many anticorruption campaigns have failed because of "over-large 'design-reality gaps'" ("mismatch between design and reality on the ground").

In other words, energetic anti-corruption campaigners have failed because they bit more than they can chew.

The late South African Bishop Desmond Tutu in a documentary organized around two profound questions ("What's wrong with the world?" and "What can we do about it?"), observed: *"There is only one way to eat an elephant: a bite at a time."*

In other words, Tutu metaphorically is saying one cannot change the world in one fell swoop but in small and decisive incremental steps. So, it must also be with corruption.

Corruption: Why have things fallen apart in the Ethiopian justice/ judicial sectors?

Having listened to PM Abiy Ahmed speak of corruption in Ethiopia, especially in the judicial sector, one has to ask, "Why have things fallen apart in the Ethiopian justice/ judicial sectors?"

The great African author Chinua Achebe in his book ("Things Fall Apart") asked why things fell apart in colonial Nigeria (writ large, I would argue in Africa).

Achebe fingered colonialism as the culprit:

The white man is very clever. He came quietly and peaceably with his religion. We were amused at his foolishness and allowed him to stay. Now he has won our brothers, and our clan can no longer act like one. He has put a knife on the things that held us together and we have fallen apart. (Italics added,)

In "Man of the People", Achebe turned his quill to African leaders in post-colonial Nigeria (Africa) to explain why things continued to fall apart after the end of colonialism.

Achebe pointed his index finger at the culture of corruption and the rise of predatory elites for things falling apart in Nigeria (Africa).

The African elite that replaced the white colonial masters were merely white faces wearing black masks who enriched themselves by preying on the wretched masses. The people were forced to accept corruption as a normal part of social and political life, thereby nurturing a culture of corruption.

Achebe's character perplexed in the extreme asks:

What a fool! Whose son is he? Was he not here when the white men were eating? What did he do about it? Where was he when Chief Nanga fought and drove the white men away? Why is he envious now that the warrior is eating the

See Taking a Bite page 8

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

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The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Back up govt's efforts to ensure sustainable peace

No one can speak about the repercussions of war and conflict more than Ethiopians in Tigray State, as they have been suffering a lot from it and paying sacrifice for close to five decades. Without any doubt, they have to enjoy swallowing fruits coming out of the AU-led Pretoria Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities between the federal government and TPLF.

Listening to those who are diametrically apart from war zones and attempting to add fuel to fire has nothing to do with internal peace and tranquility in Tigray State in particular and for the entire nation in general. True, nowadays a number of promising tasks have been practically witnessed in the county following the peace accord in Pretoria, South Africa.

Humanitarian access is being well fostered using a number of trucks and even flight to Shire has been commenced. Since some 70,000 metric tons of grain delivered to Tigray region following the peace deal, five million plus people could have got access to food, and the federal government provided the needy with 13.6 metric tons of grain and nutritious food.

This is a promising step indeed. Besides, some 16 aid agencies are supporting the government's humanitarian response to Tigray. Obviously, only conflict entrepreneurs and anti-peace elements from overseas are beating war drums to reap self-happiness at the expense of the poor. If they are really thinking of fellow citizens, why they don't follow the footsteps of the diaspora who have contributed over five million USD to the effort geared towards supporting the needy in war affected areas.

Thanks to close talks and wholehearted discussions, the peace deal is bearing fruits as words and phrases incorporated in the

accord are properly translated into practical actions because of the commitment of Ethiopian government

After a range of sufferings for close to two solid years since the war broke out, the situation in Tigray state is improving as humanitarian aids are unlimitedly flowing to the state and social service providing institutions are being well restored following the deal. Even interrupted services like telecommunication, banking, electricity and others have resumed serving citizens.

Yes, over the last few weeks, there has been a blossoming of activity to advance the peace accord across the country. It helps advance humanitarian assistance to the needy, contain hostility and conflict provoking utterances and war provoking move. If truth be told, the deal has helped the country come up with concrete changes as it is a positive sign that potentially attracts serenity and optimistic gesture not only targeting at flourishing tranquility in the nation but it has also created new opportunities for the agreeing parties.

With the help of the peace deal, the two parties have developed new ways to deter aggression and promote cooperation. However, some anti-peace elements have arduously been working to get the conflict prolonged far from reality instead of supporting the promising peace deal and working for its successful implementation for the sake of innocent citizens in war affected localities.

By and large, since nurturing the peace seed would help reap yummy fruits at the end of the day, the international community is expected to back the effort of the federal government and urge those who have stood against the deal to refrain from fabricating and replicating the conflicts.

Opinion

Challenges, opportunities of making Universities autonomy

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The challenges that the universities in Ethiopia continue to face are not isolated factors detached from the socio-economic and political conditions of the country. In fact to a certain degree, the conditions of our universities reflect the general feature and profile of societies in the country.

The Ministry of Education has recently announced that the first group of universities will soon be granted or have already been granted administrative and academic autonomy that is meant to maximize their role in the development programs of the country. Although this is the first of its kind in the country, universities across the world have been practicing such autonomy for hundreds of years and the approach is not entirely new across the globe.

If handled properly, autonomous administration for Ethiopian public universities will provide them with enormous opportunities that would help them to offset many of the current problems they are facing. The author of this contribution feels that not all of our universities are able to implement autonomous academic and administrative functions as almost quarter of them are newly established.

Autonomy for public universities in this country would imply that they will engage

in self-rule on matters related to standardized academic activities with will help them to ascertain quality higher education at all levels, fields and faculties. It also should mean that universities are expected to the budget set for them each year by generating substantial level of income to partially cover their running costs and funds for research programs they conduct in all faculties and colleges under them.

Public universities and private ones included are not expected to be centers for political unrests. Their main task is academic and conducting useful and relevant research activities the outputs of which can be readily be utilized both in their own communities and at the country level. If they fall under the pawn of politician turned professors, public universities in Ethiopia can never conduct free academic activities as everything will be politicized while research and academic activities would be neglected. Academic freedom must prevail both in on campus and off campus situations.

Autonomy for public universities will create research oriented and peaceful academic atmosphere in which both students and their teachers can enjoy full academic freedom based on their own charters and constitutions. These universities are expected to provide not only academic lectures for their students but also provide consultancy services for the government and the private sector primarily focusing on policies for the implementation of tasks entrusted to various sectors in the government nomenclature.

Some public universities have far greater experience on agriculture related research programs while other are better off on community health researches and innovative technologies in the areas of computer automation and formation of quality computer programing that can be readily be used both by the public and private institutions across the country.

Autonomy for public universities will provide a better ground for academic relations and networking with foreign universities in the areas of capacity building and exchanges on research programs that are already being practiced by some of the public universities. Knowledge is universal and global and autonomy will enable the universities to have access to modern technologies and research findings conducted by universities at overseas.

Ethiopian public universities are expected to use their autonomous to create a viable physical and learning environment so that students and their teachers could interact in such a way that universities can be enjoyable centers for thrilling academic undertakings.

In Ethiopia, public universities must take the necessary persuasion not to make themselves isolated islands of knowledge. They need to extensively open up to the communities that surround them and share their well-tailored knowledge to improve the livelihood of the communities in which

they work. Some preliminary activities are already going on in some universities but they need to expand into all sectors of public and community life.

The status of autonomy will provide an ample opportunity to dig into a wide range of hoe grown indigenous knowledge that has been neglected by giving priority to imported knowledge some of which is irrelevant for this country. Indigenous knowledge can be sources for research works on traditional medicine, ancient agriculture, anatomy, astronomy, astrology, environmental conservation mechanisms. Scholars in public universities need to dig into thousands of ancient manuscripts that were prepared on hydrology, soil management, mining practices and other activities conducted and practiced by ancient Ethiopian scholars.

It must be noted that although autonomy for our public universities will provide them with ample opportunities for independence, it also bestows upon them huge responsibilities that they should discharge on their own. This is the first of its kind to be practiced in Ethiopia and all sort of mistakes could surface up but they need to be promptly ratified.

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

Business & Economy

Viability weapon to declare independence: Economic development

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Over the last four years, Ethiopia has done a lot regarding the economic sector amid a range of challenges to come up with a significant reduction in poverty and improved living standards for many Ethiopians though a long journey remains to be trekked. The country's large infrastructure investments are beginning to bear fruit and the provision of public services such as education and health has increased dramatically, too.

This writer approached Somson Denboba, who is a graduate of Economics working for a certain NGO as an expert of economic spheres, to have a piece of information about the overall economic move at national level and the way forward.

"If a country has economically well developed, it will be difficult for others to interfere, subjugate and twist its leaders' arms," Somson said.

Emphasizing that the issue of economic independence is by no means a call for a reduction of international economic relations whether in the form of trade or cooperation among nations, Solomon said Ethiopians have to work hard to bring about economic independence via working hard as the country does have everything in its reach.

Economic dependence would with no doubt leads to an inherently unstable state that could hardly voice out its freedom, right to carry out a range of development activities for the benefit of its citizens, among others. Yes, economic dependence has attracted inherent inequality (both internally and externally), which must be prettily condemned.

Since assuming the leadership by election, Prime Minister Abiy's administration has created space for a more inclusive political dialogue and has taken steps to bring stability to the country in particular and to the region in general. On the economic front, the new government has announced an ambitious reform program for the country aimed at opening the economy to private investment and competition to support sustainable growth and lasting peace as economically developed nations have a potential to reduce conflicts, turmoil and even sporadic societal clashes, he opined.

As to Somson, developing an open and inclusive economy needs to be well consolidated and the new legal framework for public-private partnerships as this move can play an important role in strengthening growth by promoting private sector development and the provision of public services, while reducing government costs. It also calls for privatization and removal of barriers to private investment in key sectors, which supports policy announcements by the government.

He further said that, the government also wants to develop the domestic financial system via reinvigorating homegrown economy. An important first step will be to introduce a market for government securities with market-determined interest rates. This will allow the central bank to reduce direct

How bad do you want it?

ECONOMIC
INDEPENDENCE



financing of the government and increase the effectiveness of monetary policy in maintaining low and stable inflation.

He said, "Reforms to support continued economic development have to be well consolidated. The Development Bank of Ethiopia—which has to work to garner high returns to investments in the country. A more flexible system for the exchange rate is also needed to increase foreign exchange reserves, improve external competitiveness, and increase the availability of foreign exchange. This would support the country's continued development not only the economic one, but also other decisive sectors like social and political advancements."

Poverty reduction in Ethiopia has to be capitalized on as the country is advancing towards sustainable development through import substitution and export promotion, he added.

As to Somson, sustained rapid economic growth in Ethiopia needs to be translated into strong poverty reduction in urban areas, with the poverty rate tumbling. In rural areas of Ethiopia, the reduction in poverty has been relatively slow with the poverty rate decreasing monetary dimensions of welfare such as education, health, and access to water and sanitation.

Strong poverty reduction in urban areas is tightly linked to positive labor market developments over the years, in particular increasing returns to self-employment.

Somson said, "As infrastructure bottlenecks such as water shortages and power outages, inadequate access to finance, a shortage of foreign exchange, and a shortage of raw materials have all contributed to underperformance in various sectors, they have to be well dealt with to further speed up the country's journey towards economic independence and financial freedom."

The consistently high economic growth over the last few years in particular has resulted in positive trends in poverty reduction in both urban and rural areas. However, gains are modest when compared to other countries that saw fast growth, and inequality has increased in recent years.

Furthermore, conflicts in various parts of Ethiopia risk undermining the economic and social development progress the country has achieved in recent years.

Ethiopia's challenges have made the country strong and pushed it to firmly embarked on positive economic development on a sustainable basis and accelerating poverty reduction — which both require significant progress in job creation, as well as improved governance, to ensure that growth is equitable across society.

Somson said, the country, has to consolidate urban employment levels and help the unemployed segments of the society full recover over poverty.

As food insecurity both in urban and rural areas is growing due to adverse weather events, locust invasion, conflict, and global conditions leading to high inflation of food prices, the government is left with big assignment to deal with.

Yes, he said that the Ethiopian Government has developed comprehensive agricultural and economic development plans that have contributed to the country's substantial growth in agriculture, industry and services sectors. In order to accomplish this, country's mission is to advance an environment that supports increased private sector investment and growth. It is really worth citing!

He further stated that, the Ethiopian government is committed to advance a business-friendly and enabling policy environment in order to promote increased private sector investment and growth, and expand trade opportunities. As practically witnessed, the government is working with producers, processors and suppliers to build private sector capacity and competitiveness. It has also fostered private sector development by enabling a more stable and inclusive financial system. This is achieved by promoting discussion between private and public institutions and improving business development services for small and medium enterprises.

He said, "Labor becomes more productive as the ratio of capital expenditures per worker increases. An improvement in labor

productivity increases the growth rate of the economy, indeed! The quantity and availability of natural resources affect the rate of economic growth. The discovery of more natural resources, such as oil or mineral deposits, will give a boost to the economy by increasing a country's production capacity."

According to Somson, the effectiveness of the country at utilizing and exploiting its natural resources is a function of the skills of the labor force, type of technology and the availability of capital. Since skilled and educated workers are able to use these natural resources to spur the growth of the economy, Ethiopia should firmly capitalize on it.

Improvements in technology have also high impact on economic growth. As the scientific community makes more discoveries, specialists find ways to apply these innovations as more sophisticated production techniques.

He also said that, the application of better technology means the same amount of labor will be more productive, and economic growth will advance at a lower cost.

"Rural localities and urban areas across the nation seek to strengthen their economy, create jobs for their citizens and reduce inequalities. Furthermore, attention will be paid to decent work, human rights and the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups, such as women and youth, in the local economy," Somson added.

As to Somson, it is well recognized that Ethiopia with plenty of natural resources enjoy good growth than countries with small amount of natural resources. Besides, the efficient utilization or exploitation of natural resources depends on the skills and abilities of human resource, technology used and availability of funds. A country having skilled and educated workforce with rich natural resources takes the economy on the growth path.

If economic independence is viewed as a function of the internal level of productive and technical capacity and of the degree of internal integration, the Ethiopian economy undoubtedly has become more independent especially since the recent reform, he stated.

Ethiopia is one of the largest least developed countries (LDCs) in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a population of about 115 million. The Ethiopian economy has been growing rapidly since recently and long-term plans are under way that may lift the country to a middle-income category. A major driving force behind this remarkable achievement is the reform government, which mobilized resources for investment in economic infrastructure and human capital while harnessing some of the country's natural resources, as to him.

He said, "An improvement in the transparency and efficiency of these institutions is crucial for market competitiveness and sustainable growth. The second concern, also related to private investment, is the rate of expansion of the manufacturing sector. The export of manufactured products has yet to show meaningful contributions to Ethiopia's export earnings, too."

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Pretoria peace deal in the eyes of diplomats

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The Pretoria peace deal is not only restoring hope among Ethiopians who have been the direct victim of the two-year-old war in Ethiopia, but it is also sending positive news to the Horn of African region and beyond. In fact, it is in the best interest of the Horn of African region to have a stable and unified Ethiopia since the country has been a major stabilizing force in the volatile location.

The AU-brokered peace accord is praised for being the product of African wisdom and leadership. It is perhaps, for this reason, that on the heels of the cessation of hostilities agreement various nations worldwide have been expressing their acclamation. Among the top are Horn African countries.

In an interview with The Ethiopian Herald Ambassador of Somaliland to the Federal Republic of Ethiopia Mohamed Ahmed Mohamoud (Awad) said that the cessation-of-hostilities agreement signed between the Federal government and the Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF) in Pretoria, South Africa would be beyond a shadow of a doubt be of paramount importance in ensuring peace and tranquility in every corner of the country. It is also living proof of Africa's capability to get to the bottom of African problems without third parties' involvement.

The accord is supposed to smooth the path of peace to reign not only in the country but also in the volatile Horn of Africa Region at the earliest possible.

The government of Ethiopia has made the right decision at the right time in consideration of the fact that the cessation-of-hostilities agreement helps take the country to the next level in every aspect of development and serves as the nucleus and powerhouse of peace, security, and development to the Horn of Africa.

Aside from making Africa proud the peace deal that was held in Pretoria under the auspicious of the African Union putting the catchall phrase "African solutions to African problems" in place ended up bearing fruits as swiftly as possible. It will also help the country pave the way for restoring social infrastructure that has been damaged in the course of the war.

Honestly speaking, as regional integration cannot be accomplished in the absence of peace, the positive achievements taken by the federal government deserve praise, respect, and admiration. More to the point, the peace accord demonstrates Ethiopia's firm stance and African capacity to bring about a prompt solution utilizing Africa's values and principles and AU's Transitional Justice Policy Framework.



Ambassador of Somaliland to the Federal Republic of Ethiopia Mohamed Ahmed Mohamoud (Awad)

In addition to breathing new life into the overall development activities of the country, the peace accord helps achieve lasting serenity in the Horn of Africa and beyond.

Peace in Ethiopia is crucial to move forward and realize the process of regional integration, South Sudanese Ambassador to Ethiopia James Pitia Morgan said.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, South Sudan Ambassador James Morgan noted that South Sudan is pleased to welcome the recent peace deal reached between the Government of Ethiopia and TPLF.

The ambassador noted that South Sudan expressed its concern right after the beginning of the crisis in November 2020, stressing the peace agreement has far-reaching implications beyond Ethiopia.

"We are talking about peace, this is very important for all of us. It is not only for Ethiopia, TPLF, and not for anybody else, but it is a very good thing for the nation of Ethiopia as a whole and the neighboring countries, Africa, and the international community as a whole," he said.

He explained that in all of the neighboring countries of Ethiopia and the African continent as a whole—there is nobody who was not really calling for peace because Ethiopia is a model.

"When Ethiopia is not peaceful, the entire region is affected; we don't feel comfortable about it. Ethiopia has a very bigger role to play in this region. The

role of Ethiopia in this region is more important than the internal crisis that took place over the past two years because the region could not move forward in its regional integration process which is supposed to be spearheaded by Ethiopia," he added.

The peace talk was mediated by the former president of Nigeria and that alone tells us it was an African solution to African problems, the ambassador noted.

This is what we have been saying all the time that African problems can find solutions within the context of the African, he said, lauding: "I think that is very important that the African Union is able to spearhead this peace talks and brought into conclusion."

The ambassador commended and welcomed some of Ethiopia's friends beyond Africa who helped the peace talks to bear fruit.

"We want peace in Ethiopia so that we move forward. With the issue of regional integration, the continent was also concerned with the crisis in Ethiopia because we have agenda 2063 ahead of us and this agenda cannot be achieved unless this continent itself is peaceful. That is why the African Union, the region, our region in IGAD, the continent as a whole, and the international community in general, everybody, were concerned," the ambassador pointed out.

He stressed that following this development, the ambassador expressed hope that a lot of support would come from friendly countries and the international community to support the

people and government of Ethiopia in restoring basic services to people who are affected by the conflict.

The peace agreement signed by the Ethiopian government and TPLF is as a major step towards lasting peace and stability in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, said the Japanese ambassador to Ethiopia.

Besides the Horn of African countries, other nations have lauded the peace deal and expressed hope and pledged support. Among them is Japan.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Ethiopia Takako Ito told The Ethiopian Herald that the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) signed between the federal government of Ethiopia and TPLF is highly welcomed by the Japanese government.

She said: "We welcome the initiative and highly appreciate the effort made by the parties as it is a very important initial step to have peace and stability not only in Ethiopia but also in the surrounding countries."

The bilateral relationship between Ethiopia and Japan is growing steadily and the two countries shared many things in common. Both sides have been enjoying old-aged diplomatic relations and working together in different sectors ranging from economy, social, political, and other areas of mutual concern, she added.

She further stated that the agreement is important and faithfully implemented by the concerned bodies. Likewise, Japan will continue working with Ethiopia in ensuring lasting peace and stability in the country and beyond.

"In order to reconstruct the conflict-affected part of the country, the availability of extended hand from the international community, establishment of democracy and human right is a basic foundation for the reconstruction process and future development in the country," she noted.

Meanwhile, presenting a paper on 'Japanese diplomacy in a turbulent world' by former Japanese Ambassador to the UK and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Ambassador Koji Tsuruoka on his part yesterday indicated that the two countries, Ethiopia and Japan, shared many things in commonalities.

Ethiopia is the only country in the continent that maintains its sovereignty and territorial integrity during that tough time of superpowers' colonization.

Like Ethiopia, Japan has passed through difficulties ranging from external invasion, civil war, and others which pulled back Japanese development coupled with other pressures, he stated.

Law & Politics

The media's negative attitude in the face of positive development

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

As if their past blunders are not enough, some discredited international media outlets have been weaning themselves from reporting the indisputable truth about the cessation of hostilities agreement signed between the federal government and the Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF). Irrespective of the fact that the peace implementation has been going in the right direction, some media outlets that have a poor record of credibility together with their enablers have sustained casting aside the positive moves and hushing up the truth.

Quite apart from the fact that the implementation of the peace agreement has started on the right foot and got off to a good start, the entities have continued to spew fake information in an apparent attempt to spoil the positive development in the country. Though the peace implementation has embarked on coming to fruition and yielding results, they kept on confounding the global community with hoax stories accusing the Ethiopian government.

Albeit the low-rated media organizations have enough reason to believe that the cessation of hostilities agreement has been receiving a pat from the wider international community, they failed to report the positive aspects of the ongoing implementation of the peace accord.

It is abundantly clear that on the heels of the successful completion of the peace agreement, the federal government has been engaged in translating the terms of the accord paving the way for lasting peace and security. Instead of making conversant with the self-evident truth with the international community, they set in motion fanning fake news and throwing the cold shoulder to the tangible truth.

In the present climate, failing to learn from their past mistakes they have sustained sending waves of false information while ignoring the role the peace deal plays in shushing the guns and laying the groundwork for safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia. It as well plays a huge role in the recommencement of unconstrained delivery of assistance and refurbishment of essential services.

In time gone by, some foreign entities working in close collaboration with low-rated international media outlets have made an effort to put unwarranted pressure on Ethiopia and interfere in the internal affairs of the country. During the war that lasted for two years in the northern part of the country, the media outlets have been unjustifiably parroting the groundless accusations of



some entities brushing aside the existing circumstances on the ground.

It should be borne in mind that the misinformation crusade in combination with the vested interest of some internal and external actors has left no stone unturned to put in the picture of the global community with distorted facts and fictitious stories that in the fullness of time failed to bear fruits. They have been over and over again orchestrating a considerable amount of treacheries.

In light of the current situation, apart from expediting the delivery of humanitarian assistance and restoring essential services, the federal government has been working around the clock to return the whole thing in northern part of the country to normalcy. While these positive things unfold in the country, the media outlets are turning a blind eye and zooming in on negative frames.

As opposed to reporting the truth and sparing no effort to make conversant about the existing developments on the ground with regard to the cessation of hostilities agreement, they have been distancing themselves from journalism ethics and standards and mystifying the global community with fake news.

By the same token, rubbing shoulders with Ethiopia's internal and external advertisers, the media outlets have been many a time and oft sparing no effort with the intention of throwing cold water on the peace and tranquility of the country and turning the existing positive developments unfolding in the length and breadth of the country upside down.

With the media outlets perpetuating their misinformation campaigns, some scholars are questioning the integrity and the interest that lay behind the evil deeds.

In the present conditions, quite a lot of experts, scholars, contesting political parties, Ethiopian Diasporas, commentators,

religious fathers, and other influential figures have voiced their concern with regard to the evil actions of the so-called international media outlets.

During the war times, there were articles after articles about the country in the western media in a biased way; however, the peace deal (CoHA) has not been received coverage at all, said a commentator on international affairs.

During his stay with international media, the commentator Alexander Mercouris said a number of British media were full of articles about what was going in this war all of them by the way heavily slanted. And now that there has been this peace agreement, it has been no coverage at all.

He said: "I haven't seen a single article in the British media that even alludes to this fairy." He, moreover, said some foreign powers are antagonistic towards Ethiopia why, because Ethiopia has a big and very long history. It was never fully occupied by the European powers. It always managed to secure its independence from the European powers.

"And also there is always obsessive geopolitical chess game these powers play; they see Africa now as another part of the world where the game is being played out principally against China, and Russia. Ethiopia potentially is a rich country before the war. It had a very high economic growth rate for example so it's potentially a rich country.

"So they wanted to keep Ethiopia either on their side or if they couldn't, they wanted to basically break it up at weakening. Therefore a major African country that was tilting towards the Eastern Eurasian blocks and well they failed," he noted.

Alexander added that Tigray agreed to a peace proposal on the 2nd of November which effectively concedes. They seem to be accepting that Federal authority to be

re-established into Tigray that the Tigray forces are to disarm.

Recently, a total of 21 members of the Ethiopian Diaspora Organization Consortium across the globe have urged some foreign parliamentarians, congressmen, media houses, individuals in think tanks, and academic institutions to restrain from spoiling peace in Ethiopia.

These anti-peace elements have been engaging in anti-peace rhetoric, making false and inflammatory comments to prolong the two-year-long suffering of the people in Ethiopia, particularly those in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray, the consortium said. In its recent press release, the consortium reaffirmed support for the peace agreement and the issues being carried out by the Ethiopian government following the agreement.

It was learnt that Defend Ethiopia Task Force (DETF) the members of the Consortium issued the statement on behalf of the organizations of Ethiopians and Ethiopians in America, Europe, and Canada, and expressed their support for the peace agreement reached between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF in South Africa and Kenya.

The consortium expressed appreciation for the AU's contribution and commitment to the implementation of the agreement promoting the principle that African problems can be solved in Africa.

The consortium encouraged the Government of Ethiopia's structures at all levels to focus on the dividends of peace, expedite efforts of rehabilitation and reconstruction, deliver on the commitment to restoring services, and coordinating with humanitarian agencies the provision of humanitarian supplies to the areas in Tigray under its control, whilst remaining vigilant, verifying the commitment of the TPLF to disarm, it was learnt from Ethiopia Defend Taskforce.

The international community, especially the United States and the European Union should support the peace process and pay attention to the long-term relationship and mutual benefit with Ethiopia.

The coalition has also requested the TPLF leaders to show their commitment to implementing the peace agreement. The Consortium in its statement recalled members of the Ethiopian Diaspora to strengthen, and engage in promoting the attainment of peace through the implementation of the peace deal. And to intensively engage in rebuilding efforts of communities and infrastructure that have been devastated by the war, as well as helping in the rehabilitation of combatants on both sides.

Taking a Bite...

rewards of his courage? If he was Chief Nanga, would he not do much worse?"

"Eating, eating and more eating!" Is that what corruption is all about? A few eat and millions starve? So, why do things fall apart in Ethiopia? It is hard to blame colonialism for corruption as Ethiopia had never been a colony?

Could corruption be something embedded in the Ethiopia political and civic culture in much the same way as Achebe's post-independence Nigeria?

More specifically, why have things fallen apart so badly that Prime Minister Abiy was compelled to name, shame and give a public dressing down to the justice/judicial sector

before Parliament?

PM Abiy said the culture of corruption in the judicial sector has become vampiric.

In much the same way as the vampires of popular folklore who take human form and survive by sucking the blood of living people at night, corrupt judges, police and prosecutors suck the blood of the people

seeking justice before the not only in the darkness of secrecy but also on Instagram social media.

The practice of corruption has spread so far and deep that self-styled cultural heroes play with the scales of justice bragging on social media about who they jailed and released based on the amount of bribes they received.

Society

We stand together until the end!

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Ethiopians are celebrating the 17th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day (NNPD) with various events. The Day will be celebrated at national level on December 8, at Hawassa City, Sidama State; warmly and colorfully.

In relation to this, states are also marking the day with various events.

As part of this, last Sunday cultural festival was held in Addis Ababa at Meskel Square under the theme "Our unity for our lasting peace".

At the festival, cultural attire, ornaments and traditional dances that represent all nations, nationalities and peoples were staged.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Speaker of the Addis Ababa City Council Faiza Mohammed said that Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day is a day that Ethiopians will continue strengthening their solidarity and togetherness through promoting Ethiopia's untapped attractions. As to her, the day has multilayered benefits to Ethiopians. It is a platform where Ethiopians from different parts of the country promote their cultural values and practices and strengthen their togetherness.

City's Land Development and Administration Bureau Head Kenea Yadeta on his part said that, NNPD has an important role in strengthening lasting peace, ensuring

common development and reinforcing solidarity among Ethiopians.

Similarly, the 17th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day was also marked at States level in Shashemene Town, Oromia State.

"When we celebrate NNPD, it should be by strengthening our national unity and laying the foundation for building a nation where its people live with respect and dignity," said Elias Umata, the Deputy Speaker of Chefe Oromia.

At a panel discussion held in relation to the day, the Deputy Speaker said that the Day should be celebrated in a manner deepening our national unity based on our diversity. The day is an opportunity that we can further strengthen our values, togetherness and solidarity. "We have to stand together and join hands to build a country where the unity and prosperity of the people is ensured," he underscored.

President of Oromia State University Dr. Geremew Huluka, who presented a discussion document under the topic of the Federalism system, also stressed the importance of strengthening unity based on diversity.

Building unity that accommodates diversity requires great political wisdom, said Southern State Council Speaker Fate Sermolo at the closing ceremony of the 17th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day at

"When we celebrate NNPD, it should be by strengthening our national unity and laying the foundation for building a nation where its people live with respect and dignity,"

Halaba Kulito Town, in the State.

The Speaker said that, at a festival held recently at Halaba Kulito Town.

As to the Speaker, the day has a meaningful role in terms of cementing people to people ties among Ethiopians.

As to her, accepting the existing reality the country is in and responding to queries that

arise from time to time in a democratic way and in a manner that supports the federal system is important. The people of Ethiopia are duty bound to defend all enemies and safeguard their peace and security.

Fate said that now, more than ever before, Ethiopia deserves sustainable peace. "Therefore, we will renew our promise to work for peace committedly and aggressively," she vowed.

Mentioning the value of the already commenced national dialogue and discussion with regard to reaching to national consensus, the Speaker urged every citizen to discharge their responsibility accordingly to bring about sustainable peace.

"We should stand hand in hand like our ancestors by respecting and accepting diversity properly. Especially, by amplifying the notion of 'us' instead of 'me', we need to strengthen solidarity. We should ensure the prosperity of our country by creating a favorable environment for peace and development and building a multi-national federal system," she said.

Taking into consideration the energy exerted; and the sacrifice it is paid, every citizen should work committedly to achieve the goal of building sustainable peace.

Speakers of Afar, Sidama and Southwest Ethiopia People's Councils who attended the program also delivered a message.



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Call to intellectuals for Ethiopia's greatness

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

In order to ensure Ethiopia's sustainable development and prosperity, strong participation and professional contribution of scholars is crucial. This was declared yesterday on the national forum of intellectuals under the theme "The roles of intellectuals for Ethiopia's greatness".

A number of university scholars and research institutes, including the Minister of Education, Prof. Birhanu Nega, participated in the discussion forum jointly organized by Kotebe University of Education and Addis Ababa Science and Technology University.

Kotebe University of Education President, Dr. Birhanemeskel Tenna said in his message that scholars have an irreplaceable role in the effort to realize Ethiopia's development and prosperity.

Therefore, he asked scholars to focus on common values for the development and progress of the country. "The strong participation and professional contribution of scholars is crucial in the effort to ensure Ethiopia's prosperity. In addition to teaching, higher education institutions should solve local, national and regional problems through their research work."



Prof. Berhanu Nega participating on intellectuals forum

He said it should be guaranteed that the research activities of scholars take into consideration the national interest of the country.

Similarly, Addis Ababa University African and Asian Research Center colleague Dr. Samuel Tefera presented an article that satirized the problems in the participation of scholars. "Scholars pointed out in a survey that one of the problems is the lack of trust in the media to give opinions on national issues. It should be the primary

responsibility of scholars to put the country first and fulfill the expected part for it."

It is true, education is fundamental to development and growth as the human mind makes possible all development achievements, from health advances and agricultural innovations to efficient public administration and private sector growth. "For countries to reap these benefits fully, they need to unleash the potential of the human mind. And there is no better tool for doing so than education," Elizabeth

King said once in her Key Note Speech on Education World.

Twenty years ago, government officials and development partners met to affirm the importance of education in development—on economic development and broadly on improving people's lives—and together declared Education for All as a goal. While enrolments have risen in promising fashion around the world, learning levels have remained disappointingly and many remain left behind.

"Because growth, development, and poverty reduction depend on the knowledge and skills that people acquire, not the number of years that they sit in a classroom, we must transform our call to action from Education for All to Learning for All," she noted it ahead of the World Bank's Education Strategy that emphasized on several core ideas: invest early, invest smartly and invest in learning for all.

Consequently, Ethiopian intellectuals across the nation and abroad, need to prioritize the need of the nation beyond their individual self-interests. As Dr. Berhanemeskel said, intellectuals are required to strongly commit themselves to enhance the development and prosperity of the nation through exerting the professional responsibilities.

Planet Earth

Yelemat Tirufat ensures food self-sufficiency and dignity

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Every leader or state would like to lead a dignified country and strive towards making it possible. Nonetheless, this can become a reality only when all the people in a country understand the value of self-sufficiency and attain it. With self-sufficiency, they can attain dignity and completeness.

Literally, self-sufficiency would mean earning enough to provide for the family's necessities and comforts. But the fact is that self-sufficiency is much more than this. One becomes truly self-sufficient when they are self-sufficient in their relationship and when their happiness is not dependent on the external world.

At the country level, self-sufficiency is a situation in which a country's domestic production of goods, such as food, equals its domestic effective demand. The proportion of domestic effective demand for goods that is met by domestic production is commonly referred to as the "self-sufficiency ratio."

This definition of self-sufficiency includes the relationship between self-sufficiency and nutritional need, and the period of coverage. Despite economic and agricultural policies, countries throughout the world continue to push for self-sufficiency in key goods, particularly agricultural commodities.

The book written by John M. Staatz (1991) entitled "*Conceptual Issues in Analyzing the Economics of Agricultural and Food Self-Sufficiency*" stated that self-sufficiency is producing enough food domestically to assure that the entire population has an adequate diet.

Jean Pierre Enriquez (2020) academic work entitled "*Food Self-Sufficiency: Opportunities and Challenges for the Current Food System*" indicated that Seventy-seven percent of the countries worldwide are not self-sufficient in terms of domestic calorie production.

The countries with high food self-sufficiency have large areas for agriculture, productive agriculture, and low-density rural populations, which produce food surpluses. On the other hand, there are small and highly urbanized countries, being extremely vulnerable to sociopolitical turmoil as well as the environmental catastrophe resulting from limiting arable land and net food deficits, Enriquez explained.

Taking the value of self-sufficiency for personal and national dignity, Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has launched the "*Yelemat Tirufat*" development campaign, which focuses on nutritional opulence. The program has been started with the production of milk, eggs, chicken meat, and honey, and will be expanded to other products after the evaluation of their results.

According to Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture Umar Hussain, the main



objectives of the program are increasing chicken meat from 90 thousand tons to 296 thousand tons, milk production from 6.9 billion liters to 11.7 billion liters, egg production from 3.2 billion to 9.1 billion, and honey production from 147 thousand tons to 296 thousand tons.

To implement the program, lessons and best practices have been taken from the Green Legacy Initiative and avocado development across the country. Applying for the program ensures national food self-sufficiency which plays a vital role in addressing nutrition needs by significantly improving milk, eggs, poultry, and honey production across the nation, the Premier explained.

The "*Yelemat Tirufat*" development program accelerates efforts to achieve food self-sufficiency at the family and national levels. It is not only about getting adequate nutritional food but also food self-sufficiency which is directly linked to national sovereignty and dignity, according to the Premier.

As stated by Minister Umar, the *Yelemat Tirufat* program will be implemented in the coming four years and high-yield outcomes will be expected. It has a goal of increasing dairy production, ensuring food security, creating job opportunities, increasing export, and replacing imported animal products with domestic ones.

Achieving this program indirectly benefits us to ensure independence and dignity. Hence, to achieve the program, the ministry of agriculture by collaborating with partners and stakeholders will provide improved species. The ministry will also introduce modern crops, livestock, and fisheries production styles that change backward farming systems.

Addis Ababa City Administration Mayor Adanech Abebe said "Our forefathers handed over to us a sovereign and dignified country by scarifying their precious life. To preserve and protect its sovereignty, the current generation should build a strong

Self-sufficiency helps to avoid any influence that comes via foreign aid and donation and promotes national development and cooperation. Because the honor of the country could be achieved not by begging but through cooperation and hard work too



economy that quickly eradicates poverty. Because the country will not be honored or changed by begging. Therefore, it is key to strive to attain self-sufficiency through the *Yelemat Tirufat* program"

Addis Ababa City Administration Prosperity Party Head of the Office Mr. Melese Alemu noted that the *Yelemat Tirufat* has been given special attention since it has a strong connection with our freedom and sovereignty. Currently, Ethiopia is asserting its economic independence through its dedicated leaders and people. The biggest demonstration of this is the country's readiness to export wheat.

"The country that we preserve through

blood, will also sustain via development by our sweat. The honor of our country can only be sustained through work and effort. Therefore, every citizen should work on the *Yelemat Tirufat* to fulfill our food self-sufficiency at the family and national levels. Ethiopia will prosper with the efforts of its strong children," Mayor Adanech stated.

Self-sufficiency in food at the family level is a basis for our efforts to be food self-sufficient at the national level. "I visited with an elderly woman producing outputs related to the *Yelemat Tirufat* including poultry, livestock, honey, and backyard farming in her own small space, who is not only fulfilling household consumption needs but also availing surplus to the community." Accordingly, the promotion and implementation of the program must be strengthened across the country, the Premier noted.

Minister of Planning and Development Dr. Fitsum Assefa said that in the last two years, the government has prepared Ethiopia's Food System Transformation Roadmap under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Health. Accordingly, the green legacy initiative, summer wheat production, and the *Yelemat Tirufat* programs are leading to this success.

Indeed, ensuring food security and self-sufficiency have a direct link with the sovereignty and dignity of a certain country. Especially, the *Yelemat Tirufat* which was announced recently under the leadership of Prime Minister, Dr. Abiy Ahmed is a demonstration to ensure food security, and realize a balanced nutrition system and dignity.

Because self-sufficiency brings completeness by avoiding inequality among states. This in turn makes interstate relations healthy. Besides, self-sufficiency helps to avoid any influence that comes via foreign aid and donation and promotes national development and cooperation. Because the honor of the country could be achieved not by begging but through cooperation and hard work too.