



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXIX No 121 29 January 2023 - Tir 21, 2015

Sunday Edition

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“Abay Dam inspirational for us to extend more support:” Diasporas

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Members of the Ethiopian Diaspora community, who paid a visit to Abay Dam recently, said the iconic project has given them a sense of belonging and

expressed commitment to maintaining the support until the completion of the project.

Speaking to local media, the Diasporas noted that the project, which is fully funded by Ethiopians who live at home and abroad, is a source of pride and expedites the nation’s

path towards prosperity. “Witnessing the construction of the mega-dam in person would not only bring an overwhelming feeling but also encourage Diaspora Ethiopians to maintain their support.”

See “Abay Dam ... page 4

Recognition vitalizes Diasporas’ contribution to home country: Awardees

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The recently-held Diasporas recognition event has a paramount significance to vitalize Ethiopians living abroad and their associations to make concerted efforts in defending the national interests of their home country, awardees said.

Speaking to local media, an awardee and a member of Defend Ethiopia-UK Zelalem Getahun stated that the award which was issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Zelalem Getahun



Kawonia Alemu

See Recognition vitalizes ... page 4

Journalist pins global actor’s role in Horn of Africa peace

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA-The involvement of global political actors in strengthening the cooperation among Horn of African Countries is of great importance in pacifying the volatile region and fostering development, a renowned journalist said.

See Journalist pins ... page 4

Ethiopia envisions private sector foremost employing industry

- To create 20 mln jobs by 2030

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

ADDIS ABABA-The Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) announced a plan to enable the private sector to become a major employing industry in Ethiopia’s vision of creating 20 million jobs by 2030.

Presenting the six-month performance report here yesterday, MoLS State

See Ethiopia envisions ... page 4



Photo - Hadash Abriha

News



Zeleke Gessesse

Association toiling to enhance members' role in nation building

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA –Addis Ababa Diaspora Association has been exerting efforts towards furthering the economic and social interest of its members in the national development drive, Zeleke Gessesse, the Association President said.

The Association is now working in partner with the Ethiopian Diaspora Service (EDS), it was learnt.

Zeleke stated that since its establishment, the Association has not been active because of the outbreak of COVID-19 and other national occurrences.

The President told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the Association has not been conducting its duties as various bottlenecks occurred in the country and worldwide. However, the Diaspora community has been playing its due part in safeguarding the nation during the crises.

The Association is now engaged in image building, diplomacy, knowledge transfer and national engagement, resource mobilization and others through an interactive platform, he added.

Furthermore, the Association is working with Diasporas found in Australia, America and in European countries. He also added that, it is vigorously working to enlarge number of members.

“The Diaspora community at large has been active in safeguarding the national interest as well as enhancing economic and social development endeavors,” he said.

The Association is expected to conduct a panel discussion along with the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission soon. He said adding that, it has also planned to have an interactive dialogue with the Ethiopian National Bank.

Authority brings back religious manuscripts home

- Plans to return 10 heritages this fiscal year

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopian Heritage Authority disclosed that it has brought back two religious manuscripts among the illegally taken out of the country over the last six months.

Ethiopian Heritage Authority Heritage Inventory and Inspection Director Tesfalem Abebaw told Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the Authority has been working on returning a total of ten heritages that were stolen and are now found in various countries.

The committee has been conducting the research to bring back the remaining heritages that were lost due to war, gifts and in other ways.

“Some 19 artifacts or heritages were returned to Ethiopia, which is a large



Tesfalem Abebaw

number according to previous years, over the last year alone. The returned heritages were manuscripts, crosses, silver-plated

trophies and others. The Authority has been conserving these returned artifacts,” he added.

Lack of interest to return heritages taken in different ways and absence of laws to protect and bring back heritages have been challenges in due course of getting artifacts back home.

In order to permanently solve the problem and return the heritages, it needs tireless diplomatic efforts in this end. He emphasized that in addition to bringing back stolen heritages the local heritage should also be properly protected and museums should be built and organized at different places.

Wide awareness creation campaign and education for Ethiopian society is highly required to pass down essence of heritages to generation, he added.

Delegation holds talks with Diaspora community: Office

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The delegation led by Addis Ababa Mayor Adanech Abiebie discussed a range of national affairs with representatives of the Ethiopian community living in South Africa, so disclosed Addis Ababa Mayor Office.

According to the Office, the delegation has taken part in “African Mayor Leadership Initiative (AMALI) City Leadership Forum” aiming at increasing the Diaspora participation in various sectors.

In an event Organized by the Ethiopian Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, the delegation discussed the current national issues and favorable conditions for the Diaspora to participate in various investment and business sectors in homeland, the Office added.

During the discussion, Adanech stated that Ethiopia has brought about economic, politics, and social improvements following the recent reform.

She further stated that the Diaspora community living in South Africa and other countries has played a crucial role in retrogressing attempts to interfere in internal affairs. Currently, Ethiopia has presented relative peace after the peace accord concluded in Pretoria.

As to the mayor, the Diaspora members from South Africa have been participating in various investment sectors using their knowledge, capital, and work experience. In addition, the mayor has promised to the Diaspora community to fulfill the necessary support they want, especially revolving around crucial issues of constructing houses, tourism, education, and industry sectors in Addis Ababa city.

By the same token, the delegation from mayors of Bahir Dar, Adama, and Dessie



cities discussed a range of issues with the Diaspora community. Therefore, the mayors called up on the Diaspora community to participate in various business and investment fields in the above stated cities.

The Diaspora community (participants) is interested in investing capital, knowledge

and experience in homeland. However, they worried about bureaucratic red tape and mal-administration, which are hindering activities. Therefore, the government should strongly continue its measures in overcoming such challenges in this regard, the Office cited.

The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency



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The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Reverencing Diasporas' effort: Key for nation building

Given Ethiopia's bountiful resources, its citizens' and its Diasporas' thirst for a rosy tomorrow and their conviction to hit the last nail on the coffin of poverty, there is no gainsaying that the thirst will be quenched by a turnaround if Ethiopians and Ethiopian origins, joining hands and hearts, beef up nation's financial and technological muscle, boost diplomatic verve as well as put a halt to undue pressures and narrow down knowledge gaps.

However fervent the government's commitment proves to be in letting the country stand on its feet and start jogging on the avenue of development, single alone, the government could not fast track its push towards affluence hacking ligatures that tied the country down to poverty and languor for long.

Therefore, Ethiopia's thrust to the aforementioned end has to be bolstered by an all-out effort. Here, it suffices to mention the significant role the diaspora played in buttressing the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) as well as slamming wrong narratives and underhand dealings.

Though Ethiopia has over 3 million Diasporas scattered across the globe mainly by push and pull factors, the country has not become beneficiary of this situation seen in light of other countries that benefited from such a scenario.

Also, the role of the diaspora in ensuring a sustainable peace and inviolable sovereignty here could hardly be denied. At this juncture it suffices to see the role the diaspora community played in foiling the disinformation and miss information campaign against Ethiopia. The campaign propped up by dishonest media outlets was about to spiral out of control. Especially during the course of the past couple of years they were voicing their complaint on the global arena so that Ethiopia withstands undue pressures from some interest groups. In so doing, they had played quite a role in maintaining the unity and ensuring the

peace of the country.

To alleviate the economic situation of their families and relatives, the Diasporas work their fingers to the bone in foreign lands. Those whom fate greeted with a sunny face come back to their motherland to outlay their money on a spectrum of investment ventures opening job opportunities for many and helping the country stride a step ahead in the path of growth. Those on the other end of the scale, from afar, extend expertise and financial support parallel to knowledge transfer.

Above all, for the all-rounded development of the country they are working on Diaspora Agency. Last year the government had dispatched a multitude of diaspora diplomats in a bid they galvanize the diaspora community towards nation's development and welfare. Yet a lot remains to be desired. Both have to tend each other. The government has to create a favorable condition for them to step up their contributions. Still the diaspora community doesn't have a clear picture of the country as there is information gap. Thus, there is a call for bridging the gap.

Taking to the higher level the new beginning of recognizing and incentivizing the support and tapping on the back the diplomatic feats of the diaspora community is a must-do task. That is why the government, this week, recognized 52 Diasporas organization for their noble contributions for various activities including public diplomacy, image building and resource mobilization among others.

The new trend universities started to click with the knowledgeable diaspora community with a wealth of experience so as to fill knowledge chasm is worthy of appreciation. This honorable task has to ripple across all universities.

To augment the diasporas' multifaceted development there is a call for working in close collaboration with them and exploiting the opportunity for nation's take off in all spheres of endeavor.

Opinion

The recognition promotes gov't, Diasporas' partnership

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The contributions of the diaspora to their origin have been increasing since the beginning of the political reforms that took place in Ethiopia in mid-2018. They support internally displaced people, the issue of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, and stand for foreign intervention, and influence.

The situations, observed in the last two years, have also changed the thinking of the Diasporas for their country. Apart from sending remittances, they have exposed the conspiracy and sabotage of internal and external actors that threaten the national interest and territorial integrity of the country. Besides, they have been partaking in the country's developmental campaigns based on their ability, capacity, educational background, and so on.

According to Ethiopian Diaspora Agency, the Diasporas utilized modern and advanced platforms as well as Information communication technology and internet facilities to influence the foreign powers and uncover the truth regarding their country which play a critical role to achieve the work of digital diplomacy. Particularly, they have been safeguarding the national interest of the country by using social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Periscope, and Snapchat.

Because modern technologies and digital

tools have changed the character and the manner of the diplomacy arena. Furthermore, apart from their firm commitment, the Diasporas are contributing a lot to several development projects and humanitarian support to Ethiopia.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony at Meskel Square, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said "on behalf of the people and the government of Ethiopia, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all Ethiopian Diasporas residing around the world for their support whenever Ethiopia needs help."

Currently, unlike the past, the contribution of the Diasporas has transformed into multidimensional aspects. In response to the national call of the country, they have been engaged in public diplomacy, supporting resources to national projects, collecting income for Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) and donating blood. These contributions need to be prized since they show the solidarity, unity, togetherness, and oneness of the people of Ethiopia.

The government, by taking the valuable contribution of the Diasporas, has also implemented citizen-centered diplomacy to show its willingness to work together with Diasporas. Because citizens are the optimum capital and a great asset of nation's diplomatic efforts.

Cognizant of their noble contribution to the

national calls that have been made on various occasions, Ethiopia honored and awarded 52 Ethiopian Diaspora organizations this week. Ethiopian President Sahlework Zewde said that the diaspora organizations deserve recognition since they significantly contributed to the unity and sovereignty of Ethiopia in so many ways.

Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen highlighted the government realizes that an integrated engagement of the Diaspora is significant for the realization of development goals and for guarding Ethiopia's national interest in global arenas.

The Diasporas have been the voice of their home country during a testing time, and they have demonstrated overwhelming participation in curtailing the unwarranted pressures of some interest groups. The government has been working to make diaspora organizations the main development partner of Ethiopia, he said.

Indeed, the participation of the Diasporas has helped Ethiopia to overcome the pressing challenges that have been happening over the last two years. The Diasporas actively participate in public rallies, countering false propaganda, sending petition letters, and other forms of campaigns. They also engaged in exposing some English media dissemination of lies and repelling their well-funded and coordinated propaganda against Ethiopia.

Hence, this honor and award deserve for them since recognition encourages the diaspora to make concerted efforts to change the livelihoods of fellow brothers and sisters here. The award also greatly motivates Ethiopians living abroad to be actively involved in the overall development of their country of origin.

More importantly, the recognition helps to promote government and diaspora partnerships to use their wealth, experiences, and knowledge to overcome challenges as well as to exert more efforts to support development back home. Furthermore, promoting partnerships between the government and the diaspora organizations is imperative to further motivate Diasporas who have been working more than ambassadors and diplomats without requesting any penny from their country.

Recognition is imperative to working together and having a common understanding of the need of the country. Therefore, the government should facilitate enabling environment for the Diasporas while the Diasporas are expected to strengthen their contribution to the advancement of their country of origin.

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

News

JICA provides institute with varied water machines

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- As a part of the celebration of its 25th years of technical support, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided a drilling rig and other machines to the Ethiopian Water Technology Institute (EWTI).

Speaking at a handing over ceremony, Water and Energy State Minister Ambassador Asfaw Dengamo indicated that the machines would serve EWTI for water drilling and training purposes.

Emphasizing Japanese government commitment to providing Ethiopia with support and closely working with EWIT on the water sector over the past 25 years, he stated that targeting at enhancing human resource development; several trainings have been delivered to regional and federal professionals.

“JICA has offered short and long term training for 7,780 water engineers and professionals on drilling, maintenance and other programs.

The training would help EWTI in terms of technology transfer, capacity building, consultancy and drilling works.”

JICA Chief Representative Katsuki Morihara (PhD) on his part said that despite all the achievements that the Ethiopian government has made in terms of improving the access to water, there still remain some challenges.

More importantly, there is a huge demand for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of water facilities in conflict-ridden areas; he said adding that addressing these problems has remained challenging.

He said: “However, we stand ready to continue our support in every way possible. Today’s handing over is one of the examples of our willingness to support EWTI so that they can expand their capacity to meet all the challenges in the water sector.”

JICA, which is the Japanese government agency responsible for official development assistance projects and programs funded by the Japan government, has over 50 years of history of collaboration with Ethiopian

government.

Its support has covered wide range of fields including the agriculture, private sector development, water and sanitation, road infrastructure, energy and education, health, of which, the water sector has the longest history of collaboration, among all sectors.

Making its primary focus on enhancing the access to safe water by facilitating the construction of water supply facilities and human resource development, JICA has supported eight grant projects worth of 40 million USD in about 18 cities of six states targeting at benefitting about 600,000 people since 2005.

It has also been engaged and has been working with EWIT in human resource development since 1998 to enhance the capacity of water engineers and technicians in the water sector, as to him.

They have so far trained over 10,000 people from various sectors on maintenance, pipe network, drilling machine and generators as well as switching boards, he added.

“Abay Dam ...

The visitors also extended their deepest gratitude to the employees of the dam who withstand the area’s hostile climate and keep the construction 24/7.

Noting the previous conflict in north Ethiopia shifted the Diaspora’s attention towards rehabilitation and restoration of war-affected communities and infrastructure, the Diasporas expressed optimism that the peace accord will enable them to focus on the Abay Dam. “We called on fellow Ethiopians in Diaspora to be engaged in image-building activities and to come and

visit the Abay Dam and contribute share for the successful completion of the project.”

Remarking on the occasion, the Ethiopian Diaspora Service Director-General Mohammed Endris (PhD) noted that the visit let the Diaspora community get a first-hand account of the dam’s construction progress and be motivated to support the endeavor. Such visits also played a vital role in galvanizing the role and contribution of Ethiopian Diaspora organizations to finance the construction of the mega-dam.

Applauding the Diaspora’s active

engagement in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of war-impacted areas, the Director-Generals stressed the latter’s full engagement in Ethiopia’s development projects. To effective resource mobilization, the office is partnering with Ethiopian diplomatic missions across the globe.

The government understands that an integrated engagement of the Diaspora is important towards realization of development goals. Accordingly, it has been exerting maximum effort to engage the Diaspora in the development of the country.

Journalist pins ...

Approached by an international media, Contributing Editor and Host of Horn of Africa TV, Elias Amare stated that before the emergence of a reform government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) in Ethiopia, the Horn of African countries have been ravaged by vicious conflict wars.

After coming to power, the reform government has been working to strengthen integration and cooperation among the Horn countries. Notably, the Abiy administration successfully

ends hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea. “Somalia itself was also drawn into the peace agreement and cooperation and because of this, the Horn begins to breathe the hopeful air of peace.”

Elias also expressed optimism that the people-to-people interconnectedness of the Horn as well as the economic integration among countries of the region will be intensified.

Concerning the implementation of Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA), the veteran

journalist said that the continued provision of humanitarian supplies and the restoration of essential services in Tigray are the clear manifestation of the government’s adherence to the accord.

“TPLF has been slowly disarming though it is much delayed. So every concerned international agent should support the implementation of the agreement to ensure peace particularly in Ethiopia and in the region in general.”

Ethiopia envisions...

Minister Nigussu Tilahun emphasized the government’s commitment to the emergent private sector that has been playing a leading role in job creation. The ministry along with regional bureaus has been executing various measures to create 3 million jobs annually to achieve the plan to employ 20 million citizens by 2030.

“Job creation should not be left to the government and the private sector is the main actor employing the ever-increasing youth. We are tasked to create a favorable environment for the private sector to provide more jobs in the productive sectors.”

Noting 550,000 jobs were created in the current fiscal year, Nigussu stated that the performance surpassed that of the past year’s same period by 55 percent.

While agriculture takes the lion’s share in job creation in the reported period, poultry, fruits, vegetables, and crop production are the areas that the newly employed are largely engaged in. “The agriculture sector has a higher job creation rate and the agro-processing activities are suitable to absorb a large labor force.”

Accordingly, 4 agricultural colleges are formed under the leadership of the ministry in a bid to support agricultural productivity.

The state minister further highlighted that training and service delivery are the major challenges the major hindrances that the ministry has encountered in the provision of jobs. Maladministration and some foreign employment agencies’ breach of law are also major factors in preventing national efforts to create adequate jobs.

To overcome the challenges, the ministry is working on digitalizing the service delivery of foreign employment agencies. Accordingly, 300 agencies are registered to deliver the service in a biometric registration system.

For MoLS another State Minister Asegid Getachew, Oromia, Addis Ababa, and Amhara states have better results in job creation in the reported period. The remaining states have also promising performance, but there is a lot to work on.

Asegid pointed out that in the coming six months, the ministry gives due attention to creating jobs in war- ridden areas and helping the community to overcome the challenges in the partnership with relevant stakeholders.

and Ethiopian Diasporas Service will help them to take national responsibility. “This is beyond recognition. We are delighted to be one of the awardees.”

For another awardee and member of the Defend Ethiopia-UK, Kawonia Alemu, the award recognizes the small contribution Ethiopian Diasporas have made to their homeland thereby bolstering their active

involvement in national issues. “Following the attack on the Northern Command, we began defending Ethiopia from international threats and pressures.”

“Previously, we defended the misinformation and disinformation of some interest groups at the individual level. But, we agreed to form an association and the Ethiopian Embassy in UK has taken the

initiative in the establishment.”

Defend Ethiopia has carried out media campaigns and fundraising programs to support the development back home and its members raised a significant amount of money to finance the IDPs and the Abay Dam Project. “Now, we pinned our basic concern on digital diplomacy,” Kawonia emphasized.

Defend Ethiopia-UK is a mother association with branches that are spread over 14 countries.

It is to be recalled that last Thursday, the government recognized 52 Ethiopian Diaspora associations from 25 countries that actively support their homeland in times of need.

Recognition vitalizes...

Opinion

Death of ideas in politics

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Ideas are critical catalysts for policy and institutional change. There is a clear distinction between ideas and political interests. However, both feed into each other. Ideas are important inputs for the development of political economy. Nevertheless, ideas and identity politics are important factors of the political economy which is maneuvered, contrived or devised by political entrepreneurs in the developing countries, including Ethiopia. These entrepreneurs have discovered identity narratives for manipulating politics. They work on peoples' belief about how their identity is rooted. They ensure that identity politics and narratives reinforce each other. In doing so, these entrepreneurs intensify polarization of identities that are associated with people living in the same multiethnic country such as Ethiopia. The issue of identity perpetuates where there is income inequality associated with ethnic difference. These differences may further constrain vested interests which, in turn, lead to a vicious circle of identity and inequality.

For Grossman and Helpman, "vested interests" representing elites, lobbying and rent-seeking groups and voters are the foundation of political economy. By focusing on interests, political economists have advocated for policy and institutional changes. They also indicated that the persistence of inefficient policies call for a variety of changes. In the past, lobbyists could, for example, push for tariff protection to protect local producers from external competition. Industrialists and financial interests pushed for the repeal or adoption of rules and regulations that promoted their vested interests. In Ethiopia, the emphasis on vested interests provided politicians and economists with conceptual framework for developing party programs. This approach helped them to devise policies and build institutions for their implementation before they are dead.

An almost exclusive emphasis on the primacy of "interests" is amazing. Interests are reflected in the arguments for policy and institutional changes that are made in the political marketplace. They rarely rely on appeal to economic interests of the masses of the people comprising ethnic and tribal identities. Instead, political entrepreneurs attempt to persuade the public to adopt a new policy or institution that would serve their interests only. They manipulate these groups of people as "ladders" to the political power using their periodic popular votes. These votes are stolen or hidden from public scrutiny. In Ethiopia, political parties who run for election conduct political campaigns with the hope of winning the hearts and minds of the electorate. They have no choice but trust the management of voting systems that wrongly seem illusive, deceptive and misleading. That is how the political market operates in the developing countries.

The politicians use tactics to convince voters that the world of politics has changed fast. As a result, they may

emphasize identities, values or some principles such as fairness or freedom that catch in a fishing net their supporters. This is only a camouflage or a mask to hide their false image as politicians deeply concerned for their Ethiopian electorate. In Ethiopia, politics seems to be as important as a means of survival for the "jobless" persons who failed in the economic field of production and productivity. They are forced to rely on modern political economy which is the current driver of change. Some political economists believe that it is ideas, not vested interests, which are "dangerous." Others do not go as far as that, but they merely observe that both ideas and interests may be important. But, "ideas die" in ethnic and tribal politics as observed in Ethiopia where people perish for airing their views freely during the transition period.

The role of ideas is crucial in many historical accounts of institutional and policy change. These include not only political transformation but also promotion of the Constitutional rights of the Ethiopian people. This is guaranteed with policy changes that are inconsistent with the rights of the people. However, political entrepreneurs in Ethiopia use ideas to catalyze political and policy changes in favor of their material interests. These interests emanate from hunger for political and economic advantages. They use the political channel for promoting policies and programs that put the resources of the country at their disposal. They go to the extent of collaborating with alien entrepreneurs in exploiting the resources of Ethiopia for making huge profits. As K. Marx put it, such entrepreneurs "have no country but their profits only." Political entrepreneurs exploit the national entity for profiteering.

The profiteers use impressive ideas to shape the electorate's understanding of their role in the political economy of the country. Hiding their true interest, they "cheat" the true believers using colorful campaign speeches. They engage orators that could hide the true objectives of party apparatuses with words. Using persuasive eloquence, expression and fluency some political parties in Ethiopia hunt for voters during elections. Their behavior reflects political entrepreneurship geared at altering public perceptions about their hidden objectives. Ethiopian politics is essentially an investment with which politicians derive huge profit abusing their power. They engage think-tanks and research institutes for the manipulation of ideas as driving forces in party policy and program.

There are forces that drive political outcomes, including identity and perceptions about who the people are. Ethiopians have multiple identities which revolve around ethnic, tribal and religious factors. These identities are changeable, but they can also be constructed by the deployment of ideas by political actors. Upon arrival at the political forum, the carriers and promoters of ideas are dismissed. What matters most are not ideas

but complicity and convenience of party politics to usurp ethnic or religious power? Use of "identity politics" is convenient in a backward or a developing community. It is an ideal political instrument to manufacture and disseminate messages about who is a native or an outsider. Stereotypes are disseminated about racial and religious minorities, harping on patriotism and national identity. In this situation, a political actor can make a particular "identity" more significant than others. But, ethno-religious identity is more dangerous in dismantling a society.

Political scientists and sociologists examine the construction of political identity in a variety of ways. They begin with reference to the identity of voters. Political entrepreneurs begin with the allocation of resources to buy voters for unseating the incumbent if the latter is "not" amenable to their interests. As power mongering groups, they are not interested in benefitting the poor people of Ethiopia. They are interested only in accessing power, with which they distribute a nation's resources to their close partners. They need to expand their circle of power by using identities that bind individuals to a particular party. Political entrepreneurs use some combination of narratives, symbols or medium of communication to build up their influence in the country. They borrow ideas, behavior or style that spread from person to person in a concrete means that channelizes to the political marketplace.

The political market place is where useful ideas are "buried" by political entrepreneurs. Politicians are divorced from ideas immediately after winning elections. They relinquish their responsibility for implementing party programs in favor of intrigues that help maintain power. They would like to engage in austerity measures that demand lesser resources or revenues. Resources are used for financing personal grandeur of political leaders at the expense of projects designed for poverty alleviation. In the worst case, they devote resources for the defence of the country from traditional enemies who desired to dismember Ethiopia. These enemies have their proxy and surrogates hidden in the different parts of the country. Mainly, they hibernate within the bureaucracy or state apparatus waiting for orders and instruction from alien centers to destabilize the country.

These forces come out of the political lakes in which they swim deep waiting for the right time to surface. They pray for reign of anarchy in the country. It is a welcome opportunity for them to use their hidden weapons rather than "open ideas" that may help the poor people of Ethiopia. When politicians run out of ideas, they want to resort to armed conflict. They challenge the government to fight against them. Such confrontations create political crises in which both domestic and alien powers become leading contenders. This is an unfortunate situation in a developing country like Ethiopia where poverty has reigned. In these countries, there is political weakness and economic poverty that feed

each other. Weak politicians aspire for absolute power that allows them to control a nation's resources.

The poverty of the Ethiopian people is so glaring that politicians find it hard to exploit the citizens. Such poverty arises from lack of strategy to use the rich natural resources of the country for the benefit of the people. Politicians preach for fiscal austerity and balanced-budgets that resonate with the interest of the poor people. Experts pointed out that people think of the government's finances very much as they think of their own household's finances. Since every household knows that it has to balance its income and expenditure, they presume that the government would do the same. In her public speech Angela Merkel had attacked deficit spending simply because one could not live beyond his or her means. This is the major cause of economic crises in the world. Governments have too often put their trust in experts that could not grasp the causes and effects of economic crises. This is an evidence of the historical death of ideas in politics.

An idea may affect peoples' beliefs or their preferences in the political economy of a country. It may be labeled "Policy Idea" of how a government should act. There is also "Identity Politics" which triggers political entrepreneurs to focus on searching for an identity depending on what is advantageous. Identity politics has the potential to alter the political status-quo by transforming a low-income voter's preferences. These voters, including Ethiopians, have power stored in their number. It is only their size that attracts opportunist politicians in Ethiopia. They make sure that "ideas die in politics" as the naive, susceptible, vulnerable and gullible majority votes for them. Ideas survive when these characteristics of voters change in favor of mature political stand or manifestos.

Ethiopian voters may be willing to vote for a political challenger with whom they share an identity marker such as ethnic, tribal or religious. Using these markers, the political entrepreneur drives a wedge between low-income ethnic or religious groups and the status-quo. The identity factor introduces a trade-off between wealth and personality. This idea of differentiation between people is practiced in cultures and rituals through rhetoric, slogans, speech or gestures. In Ethiopia, slogans condemning or praising people of a certain class, culture or ideology had been excessively used during the military dictatorship. But, these slogans served nothing but the ruling class to stay in power. Slogans did not help the Ethiopian society except promising affluence and opulence in the ocean of poverty. It is, therefore, advisable to avoid inachievable and empty promises to the poor Ethiopians. These promises are nothing but indicators of death of ideas in politics.

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

Business & Economy

Making the economy more viable, stable through privatization

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

After the downfall of the Derg regime some three decades back, the previous EPRDF led government took various measures to change the economy from command to the market led one and among others introducing new laws were found helpful to attract both domestic and foreign private investments; privatizing uncompetitive public enterprises; widening the space to the private sector to play pivotal role in the economy; and providing tax holidays to investors via establishing industrial parks and others. As a result, economic progress recognized by international financial institutions has been registered.

However, in the last three years, due to the outbreak of COVID 19 and war in the northern Ethiopia, the economy has been stagnated. In addition, inflation because of both domestic and external factors; shortage of hard currency and other macro economic difficulties posed challenges. Nevertheless, the government has tried its level best to undo the problems.

Abdulmenan Mohammed (PhD) is a financial analyst based in London and he recently made an interview with local media and reflected his view on the nation's economy. As to him, to redress decade's long economic problems, liberalizing the economy is essential. The recent invitation of foreign financial institutions to operate here should be seen as positive signs. However, he said that local banks are extremely worried that foreign banks will come in mass and force them out of the market.

But, that will depend on what type of service products the foreign banks will bring to Ethiopia. If foreign banks offer the same service lines as local banks, local banks will face difficulties. The worry is also there with the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) to some degree. That is why it is observed that a lot of restrictions in the banking open-up policy document and the draft proclamation of the Banking Business.

So, the NBE is not going to just open up the sector at once rather, it will be gradual. Only certain number of foreign banks will be allowed, and there will be a limit on the number of branches they can open and how much their management can be involved. The opening will take place in controlled scenarios that will not put local banks at risk.

But, basically, local banks should not be afraid of competition. It is not realistic to think the big international banks have the appetite to come to Ethiopia as the government expects. They know that Ethiopian market is too small for big financial institutions like Barkley. Most of the banks that will come are African.

Apart from that, NBE officials said all the laws and restrictions applied to local banks will be applied to foreign banks too. This will also be highly discouraging



for the foreign banks which do not want government intervention to this extent. There are a lot of interventions apart from the 21 percent mandatory investment in government bonds.

Asked whether the merging of local banks can be taken in to account as a solution to withstand foreign banks in competition, Abdulmenan mentioned that if their services and market environment are similar, they can succeed by merging. But if a merger is forced upon the local banks by the NBE, the outcome will be bad. A merger should be based on market congruency and the full consent of the banks. The shareholders also must agree. Local banks can also consider specialization in certain business areas.

Abdulmenan further said that access to finance is a big challenge in the Ethiopian economy. This is because the economy is largely informal. Lack of access to finance cannot be fully attributed to the banks. A large number of businesses cannot access banking finance because those businesses are engaged in informal economic activities.

Of course, the central bank considered the banks' interests in this open-ended process. This is also largely because of the sector has to remain stable. If the economy is to be stable, the banking sector must remain stable. So, the NBE has to protect the banks' interests to maintain the stability of the sector. Arbitrary action by the banks can damage the country.

As to him the opening up of the financial sector should be holistic. It must be expected that more foreign investors to come to Ethiopia if it is opened up. The central bank recently established a minimum premium. Insurance companies say they are losing revenue because of stiff competition. One of the aims of competition is to expel unfit competitors.

However, the government's budget deficit is still disrupting the financial sector, and its domestic credit is very large.

The government is also forcing banks to invest around 21 percent of their loans in government bonds. During the EPRDF era, the government had an ideological reason to engage in economic activity. For example, it said 27 percent of the money from banks was invested in development projects via the Development Bank of Ethiopia. The government is doing this just because its revenue and expenditure could not match. The current government is intervening in the financial sector as well as the economy at large even though it has no ideological base.

The government never left the economy to the private sector. The former government, for example, used to force banks to invest 27 percent of their loans in treasury-bills. The current government also introduced a 20 percent mandatory investment requirement in government bonds. Banks' hard currency surrendering is currently constrained. The previous administration's 27 percent bill and overall state participation in economic activities had some ideological support. It was under the developmental state model.

As to him, in Ethiopia, most of the factors of production are under government monopoly. The big and key institutions including land, and finance are under state control. If an economy is to operate properly, the factors of production must be led by the market.

The economic reform is much talked about and significant progress is witnessed though some shortcomings are visible.

So far, many projects, like the sugar factories, could not find buyers. The government initiated some new projects, and it still has a significant hand in the economy.

Regarding the solution in mitigating shortage of residential house which hugely consumes the middle income and poor segment of the society, he said that the mortgage market in Ethiopia cannot get ground in the near future. There are many complicated problems. Those new banks

that pledged to specialize in mortgages will soon convert to commercial banking and conventional business. First of all, "mortgage" in Ethiopia is concentrated only in Addis Ababa. Most of those who can buy houses in Addis are employed professionals. But the average housing price is much higher than the average income of employed professionals in the city. It is incomparable.

So housing is unaffordable for the majority of employees. Even if it is a mortgage, they cannot afford the monthly payment. A housing unit's monthly payment can range between 40,000 and 60,000 Birr. How many Ethiopians have such disposable income that it covers all their other expenses? In addition, it needs stable employment because the mortgage is paid for up to 25 years.

The inflation spike in the country is also disturbing the market. Housing properties also have complications related to documentation problems, making it difficult to transfer title deeds. Starting a good mortgage business in Ethiopia is difficult. Several problems have to be addressed before establishing mortgage banking in Ethiopia. The reason why housing prices are highly inflated is because of the price of land is highly inflated. Basically, land cannot be sold, but it is being sold indirectly at high prices. So this is distorting everything.

As to him, Ethiopia has abundant untapped natural resources and more than 70 million young populations that can be economically active. If the emerging manufacturing industry is encouraged and continued to play pivotal role in creating job for the unemployed, the economy will be propelled to be robust.

Therefore, by mitigating the above mentioned problems, the government should widen the space to the private sector to play in the economy so that building self-sustaining economy will be realized.

Planet Earth

Providing improved fodder to achieve developmental schemes including *Yelemat Tirufat*

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Ethiopia has the largest livestock population in Africa and stands 10th in the world. The livestock sector serves as the main foundation of currency earnings and delivers important products and services. It has a huge role in the country's economy and the livelihood of many Ethiopians.

Agriculture indeed is one of the main drivers of the Ethiopian economy in which livestock is an integral part of it. Livestock production provides over 80 percent of the farmer's income and 18 percent of the overall GDP. Despite its direct income benefits, livestock provides indirect benefits namely fuel and fertilizer from animal manure and draught power for farm production.

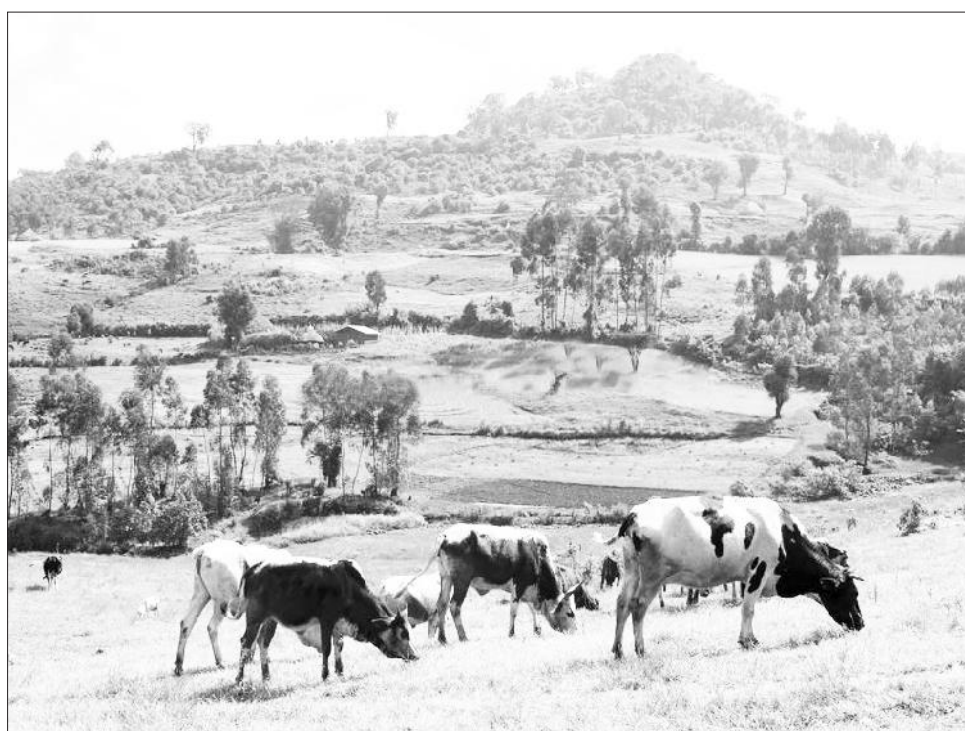
According to the 2015 Ethiopian Central Statistics Agency, the country has over 56.71 million head of cattle, 29.33 million sheep, 29.11 million goats, 7.43 million donkeys, 2.03 million horses, 0.4 million mulls, 1.16 million camels, 56.87 million poultry and 5.89 million beehives.

Taking the growing population growth, increasing wealth, and urbanization into account, FAO, various studies, and research institutions have indicated that the demand for livestock products is globally anticipated to rise to 70 percent in 2050. Hence, Ethiopia is expected to boost livestock production to meet the growing demand by addressing shortage of fodders which is usually mentioned as the main constraint to improved productivity for smallholder farmers.

However, the country has abundant livestock resources, but natural grazing is the main livestock feed resource in Ethiopia. The production of improved fodders is insignificant. The feeding systems include communal or private natural grazing and browsing, cut and-carry feeding, hay, and crop residues. At present, in the country stock is fed almost entirely on natural pasture and crop residues. This would negatively impact the production of livestock products.

In reality, improved livestock feeding and fodder production practices are found in some pocket areas of the country. Nevertheless, the contribution of improved fodders to the total feed resources is still very small. According to CSA (2018), improved forage production covers only 0.32 percent of the total feed resources of livestock in rural peasant farmers of Ethiopia. The failures of green feed production in many places are due to land and water scarcity for irrigation.

Abebe Mekoya's (2008) academic work entitled "*Multipurpose fodder trees in Ethiopia: Farmers' perception, constraints to adoption and effects of long-term supplementation on sheep performance*" states that in the highlands of Ethiopia, where a mixed crop-livestock production



system exists, farmers give priority to allocating land more often to crops than forage production. There is no market-oriented livestock production in most of the mixed crop-livestock production systems. Cattle are primarily kept to supply draft power needed for crop production. Small ruminants are maintained as a means of savings and meat for household consumption. Inadequate feed supply is one of the major constraints hampering market-oriented livestock development in Ethiopia.

Indeed, when livestock is fed high-quality fodder, produced with the support of irrigation, they provide better milk and meat, benefitting the nutritional health of their keepers and consumers. Hence, it's important to invest in and expand the production and utilization of fodder across the country.

Due to the new lifestyle, the rapid growth of urbanization, increasing incomes, and population growth, the demand for animal-based products such as beef and milk are on the rise in Ethiopia. The livestock sector not only provides rural dwellers with cash

income, draft power, and transportation, but it also serves as an important source of food and nutrition for the entire country.

Studies have shown that when livestock keepers can increase milk production and provide milk for the household, the nutritional health of children below the age of five is stabilized. Moreover, improved fodder production systems can address bottlenecks in feed quantity and quality, and thereby contribute to poverty reduction.

According to the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture, improving fodder production is important to address the challenge of livestock production, for poverty reduction and sustainable development. Hence, the Ministry has provided capacity-building training whose focus is to make crop residue production effective.

The Ministry provides training based on the national fodder development strategy which was prepared last year by the Ministry. So, the training is vital since it provides conceptual and practical training to the experts to share the best experience

of using crop residues for fodder with all the farmers.

Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture Animals and Fisheries Development Sector State Minister Advisor Dr. Yohannes Girma said that Ethiopia has launched various development schemes to ensure national food security. Especially, the "*Yelemat Tirufat*" development campaign which focuses on the production of milk, eggs, chicken meat, and so on requires improved fodder.

The goals of the campaign 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. This achieving the goals supports the country in ensuring food and nutrition security, creating job opportunities, replacing imports with domestic products, and earning foreign currency.

The goals require extensive capacity-building work to strengthen the result gained last year, especially the sources of fodder, to improve the use of crop residues, which are widely available in farmers' areas.

Ministry of Agriculture Fodder Resources Development Executive Director Araya Abraham noted that the training is important to prepare and improve the production of fodder without wasting the resources available in the surrounding area. Particularly, by working properly on the crop surplus product, it is possible to easily fill the food gap in the country.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Agriculture provides all the necessary training and resources based on the national fodder development strategy to all stakeholders, experts, and model farmers to expand the practice of producing improved fodder.

Through the training that was given last year, farmers who live in some parts of the country have improved fodder production in some parts of the country. As a result, many farmers today are working on preparing various types of fodder in their backyards and fields, he added.

Indeed, Ethiopia has been implementing several developmental campaigns including "*Yelemat Tirufat*". These development campaigns need not only water, land, fertilizers, and so on but also improved fodder and management systems since agricultural activities are requires better livestock.

Hence, it is important to rigorously work on fodder improvement by considering summer irrigation developmental plans. Because encouraging results were obtained and the experience of improving and using crop residues across the country should contribute to the success of future work and fill the gaps in fodder shortage.

Art & Culture

The AU should display boldness to build the leverages for Africa we want

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Arts and culture in Africa have always been important in the long struggle of Africa to recover its lost soul from centuries of colonial rule and decades of neocolonialism that is still striving to subvert Africa's artistic and cultural legacies either as objects of commerce or as critical elements of its continued attempt to control the minds and souls of a people fighting for an equal status in the world in all walks of international life.

When the late African artistic giant Chinua Achebe portrayed the old Africa in his classic "Things Fall Apart", it was not a fun to do so. He was rather making it clear that Africa's undoing followed from the British colonial penetration of ancient ways of life and its attempts to replace it with its own culture of European cultural hegemony. The novel became a classic simply because it was a call to spiritual arms to withstand European colonialism and neocolonialism.

Since then, the struggle for Africa's cultural and artistic rebirth has been the concern of many Pan-African intellectuals who showed courage in criticizing European artistic hegemony in Africa and in calling African leaders to fight for the freedom of Africa's spirit or soul and the restoration of its cultural dignity because this struggle could not be separated from the struggle for the continent's political and economic freedom.

The establishment of the Organization of African Unity marked a historic moment in the struggle for the restoration of Africa's artistic and cultural dignity to its legitimate place and the first step in a united rejection of the continued colonial and/or neocolonial domination of the people of Africa by European cultural subversion that served as a bulwark of its continued cultural and artistic domination. The decade of the 1960s dubbed the independence decade in Africa was critical in this long journey from cultural subjugation to relative freedom. As the founding documents of the OAU testified, it was important to end Africa's cultural domination by the West in order to make its total liberation of the continent. The half a century between the establishment of the OAU and the transformation of the OAU into the African Union (AU) saw the affirmation and reaffirmation of the need for the artistic freedom of the continent of Africa an indispensable condition for its rise in the new century.

There were also many cultural events taking place in this particular period, notable among others being the launching of the first International Black Arts Festival in the Senegalese capital Dakar back in 1966. That was an event that showed the world that arts and culture are indeed powerful weapons of struggle for Africa's total liberation. The festival took place in 40 years and was set up by Senegal's first post-independence president Leopold Sedar Senghor "to celebrate the creativity of postcolonial Africa and the Dakar festival was the third of its kind. The overall aim remains the same

Ensuring the nutrition needs of the people of Africa needs investment in the agricultural sectors of member states. So does providing financial support to the development of the entertainment industries in Africa as a condition for making them independent and self-reliant and free from global artistic and cultural industries that are dominating them at present

as 40 years ago which was to allow artists of black origin to be known and appreciated in an atmosphere of tolerance, mutual esteem and intellectual fulfillment."

For Africa, arts and culture have never been about writing books, painting pictures or singing and dancing although they are always part of daily life on the continent. Neither the commercial conception of arts and cultural were palatable for African intellectuals because capitalism had already made it difficult for Africans to compete in a world dominated by Western art and culture. The alternative was therefore to bring back or restore Africa's lost soul or spirit before African artists could compete with their Western counterparts for the souls and minds of the international community.

The global market has never been and is not even now favorable to African artists and men and women of culture to make their impact felt because it has always

been controlled by powerful multinational corporations with huge global networks and investments at their disposal. Besides that Western government had always been keen to support their cultural and artistic penetration of African states in their bid to maintain their domination in the marketplace as well as in international arenas where culture and politics often mix.

The five main objectives of the African Union (AU) are promoting the unity and solidarity of African countries, defending state sovereignty, eradicating colonialism, promoting international cooperation and coordinating or harmonizing the policies of member states."

Speaking of economic integration, we can say that it can only be realized on the basis of cultural integration and the forging of a common African consciousness. The cultural integration of Africa can only be conceived as a precursor to its political and economic integration. More recently, the AU has singled out the year 2021 as "The AU year of the Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa we want." This slogan or motto once again hammered on the inseparable nature of cultural liberation or integration as part and parcel of economic and political liberation and integration. This is what is meant by "Levers for building the Africa we want".

What is the Africa that Africans want to see in 2063 as the year set to realize Africa's economic integration and transformation? It is obviously in Africa's whose culture is vibrant and producing the material and spiritual inputs that would promote the continent's total liberation via its integration. This will not be an Africa with geographic and economic fragmentation as well as artistic and cultural subordination. It will be an Africa proud of its cultural heritages and artistic achievements and competing on equal footing with Western countries in international arenas and the marketplace for material culture.

It will be an Africa with its own resources, financial and otherwise, that will allow African artists and men and women of culture to look at Africa itself to promote their achievements instead of knocking on the closed doors of European or Western publishing houses, exhibition halls, movie and music studios and distributions outlets. It will be an African where African intellectuals and artists will be beneficiaries of their works that at the same time contribute to the economic growth of their continent. It will be an Africa where the rich cultural heritages of the continent will be the source of pride for its people and the basis of its fast economic development and total liberation from the remnants of colonialism.

"Globally, the Culture and Creative Industries play a key role in contributing to GDP. In recognition of the importance of the creative industries in achieving the Agenda 2063 objectives of regional integration, inclusive and sustainable economic growth

and development."

According to available information, "Aspiration 5 of Agenda 2063 envisions an Africa with a strong cultural identity. Common heritage, shared values and ethics' This calls for an African cultural renaissance which is pre-eminent and that inculcates the spirit of Pan-Africanism, tapping Africa's rich heritage to ensure that the creative arts are major contributors to Africa's growth and transformation and restoring and preserving Africa's cultural heritage, including its heritages."

The AU arts and culture committee is promoting particular themes to celebrate African heritages every year. As we saw above, the theme selected for the year 2021 focused on using our cultural heritages to build the Africa we want. The theme for 2022 is Industrializing Africa and "Renewed commitment towards an inclusive and Sustainable Industrializing and Economic Diversification."

The theme for 2022 was selected to be nutrition. According to the official statement released on the occasion, it was stated that, "The AU theme of year for 2022 aims to maintain a strong political momentum on nutrition across the African continent. It is a unique opportunity to strengthen continental commitment to end malnutrition in all its forms and to further improve food and security through the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy for 2016-2026."

The 2022 theme faced formidable challenges in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic that made it difficult to take the necessary steps to ensure the objective of feeding Africa through concerted domestic efforts. Yet, the pandemic made it difficult to carry out this noble vision as resources were curtailed and the movement of capital and goods witnessed a sharp fall. The pandemic had also discouraged cultural cooperation within and outside Africa as the movement of people was greatly curtailed while artistic and cultural activities were undermined by the economic fallout of the pandemic.

Now that conditions seem favorable to the continuation of the works started earlier than the outbreak of the pandemic, the time seems favorable to continue building the cultural and artistic leverages that would serve as bases for building the Africa we all want. Ensuring the nutrition needs of the people of Africa needs investment in the agricultural sectors of member states. So does providing financial support to the development of the entertainment industries in Africa as a condition for making them independent and self-reliant and free from global artistic and cultural industries that are dominating them at present. We should therefore have a holistic approach to developing the cultural as well as the economic objectives to realize the objectives of the 2063 African project. Africa's coming together would be the reverse of Achebe's novel where things were falling apart.

Society

Recognizing national heroes, heroine

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Ethiopia reaches its current situation through the selfless, heroic deeds of every Ethiopian at all corners. Ethiopians are always keen to serve their country in every possible way, no matter in whatever situation they may be in.

This fact is also witnessed while the country has gone through in good and demanding moments. For instance, while it was in war and severe droughts, or seeking its children support in development activities, they always stand by its side without any hesitations.

The active participation of the Diaspora community, including backing the construction activity of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and aborting the misinformation campaign against the country can be mentioned as best showcases in this regard.

The Ethiopian government has also given recognition for those Ethiopian Diasporas and friends of Ethiopia for the role they play in each and every activities of Ethiopia, the energy they exert to advance its economic growth, defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty and maintain its citizens' peace and security.

The heroic achievement of these individuals is not limited with a specific profession, but in all areas. The country is also well known worldwide for its brave battlefield fighters who scored a Golden Victory and wrote a history of independence and sovereignty at the mountains of Adwa over the Fascist Italy. The success apart from demonstrating Ethiopians' gallantry and their love for their country at global arena, it has heralded a new dawn for Africans and black people across the world.

Similarly, the contribution Ethiopians have made in the UN Peacekeeping mission to sustain peace and security in countries where conflicts had been rampant is also the other issue that should be mentioned and appreciated. Ethiopian troops have demonstrated their unique strength and commitment on those countries they were deployed.

Likewise, the role the Ethiopian health professionals played in the fight the COVID-19 pandemic during the past three years and prevent the virus transmissions to more people and limit the number of deaths is the other success story of the country. Owing to the commitment and dedication of health professionals, Ethiopia can handle the case accordingly and Ethiopia always values and honours the contribution of its children.

It is recalled that last week, the country has given recognition to members of the Diaspora communities for their participation in country's overall activities.

In similar manner, recently, a Heroes' Memorial Monument and recreational park was inaugurated at the premises of the Armed Forces Comprehensive Specialized Hospital (*Tor Hayloch Hospital*).

The monument was constructed to



commemorate those health professionals for their significant contributions.

Inaugurating the monument, Minister of Women and Social Affairs Ergoge Tesfaye (PhD) said that the monument standing in the premises of the Hospital will commemorate the roles the health professionals played throughout the country's endeavours to ensure sustainable peace and security.

The Minister said that whenever Ethiopia's internal and external enemies plot together to attack the sovereignty of the country, Ethiopian heroes and heroine fought bravely, committedly and with perseverance. They sacrificed their lives to sustain peace and security, defend the integrity of country. Withstanding all the challenges and hardships they faced with, including hunger and thirsty, they strive to protect their people and their country from external aggressors.

Never stepping back in the face of adversaries, they fought and gave their lives to honour their country and to let their fellow people live in peace.

"Those self-sacrificing people who preserved the country with their blood and

sweat and allow us to live in peace, deserve greater respect and honour," the Minister said.

"Our forefathers deserve recognition for their gallant contributions and for the reason their firm struggle enables our motherland Ethiopia to remain free through sacrifices", she reiterated.

As to her, the present generations is also doing its level best beyond the country in various continental and global arenas in various fields.

The monument standing in the premises of *Tor Hayloch* Hospital is symbolic to represent the unforgettable contributions of the patriotic health professionals who fulfilled their roles effectively and will continue fulfilling more than ever.

Moreover, the Minister called upon every Ethiopian citizen to give due respect, recognitions, support, and care for families of the Ethiopian heroes and heroine for their fathers and mothers unparalleled contributions.

She also affirmed her Ministry's readiness to work in a sustainable manner and with high social diligence to continue the support

for the heroes.

To this effect, the Ministry is working jointly with the Ministry of Defence. In this regard, by preparing a document that sought to ensure the overall participation and benefit, preserve their social security and improve their living conditions, it has sent to the Council of ministers.

The government is also reaffirmed its unwavering stance to endorse the document and realize it.

The Minister also extended her gratitude to the National heroes and Children Amba Organization as well as other humanitarian organizations for their enthusiastic support they extend to the army, and turning the construction of the monument into a reality.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior officials from Ministry of Defence, board members of the National Heroes and Children Amba Organization, other charitable organizations, representatives, senior military officers, and health professionals, among others.

In sum, such recognitions for national heroes and heroine should be encouraged and continued in a sustainable manner.

Law & Politics



Deserved recognition!

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Since the onset of the war that lasted for two years in Northern Ethiopia, Ethiopian Diasporas residing in every corner of the world have stood by the side of the federal government in fending off unwarranted external pressure directed against the country by some entities.

As a matter of fact, there are still quite a lot of backseat drivers that would like to twist Ethiopia's arm and encroach on its sovereignty coming up with layers of conspiracies. Aside from that they have been making every possible effort to dismantle the country.

Despite the fact that a lot of efforts have been made to materialize their objectives, Ethiopian Diasporas have been a vanguard in foiling the smear intrigue.

Given the current circumstances, fifty-two Diaspora organizations received recognition for their noble contributions from President Sahlework Zewde and Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen.

It is important to highlight that over the past two years, Ethiopia has been a victim of unwarranted foreign pressure. As some entities have been working around the clock with discredited international media outlets, rights groups, paid activists, and other internal and external organs residing at home and abroad, they have gone to great lengths to move the country to uncharted water.

But understanding the moves of some entities that have been working at all hours of the day and night, Ethiopian Diasporas spared no effort to put the kibosh on external pressure by staging an extensive range of campaigns in most parts of the world that turned out to be the talk of the wider international community at the earliest possible juncture.

In the course of the campaign, various nations from different parts of the world have shown their solidarity with Ethiopian Diasporas in addition to voicing their concerns. In good truth, as one would expect on the heels of the uncompromising stance of the government and Ethiopian Diasporas, Ethiopia managed to foil a diverse range of unprovoked foreign pressure.

In actual fact, quite a lot of African nations have stood in solidarity with Ethiopians to

rebuff unwarranted pressure by joining quite a lot of international campaigns. In addition to signifying their cohesion with Ethiopia in the fight against external pressure, they have been on several occasions signifying their companionship with Ethiopians.

In clear terms, the uncompromising stance of Ethiopian Diasporas in fending off external foreign pressure in black and white demonstrates the fact that Ethiopia is an emblem of liberation. It is worth recalling that for the sake of truth, the #No More Global Movement has left its legacy on the world on the grounds that Ethiopians give a lesson to other nations worldwide on how to stave off external pressure.

At that specific point in time, Ethiopian Diasporas were able to play a huge role in thwarting external pressure by working in close association with friends of Ethiopia. In addition to this, they have partaken in several campaigns prepared to forestall external pressure and defend the country's interests.

It is sad that in the course of the war that erupted in Northern Ethiopia, the disgraced international media outlets have been fully preoccupied with slanderous attacks and negative campaigns against the federal government by deviating from journalism ethics and standards. They have been as well mystifying the whole world with imaginary stories on the grounds that their intended target is dismantling the country.

In a similar vein, the disgraced international media outlets have been getting themselves engaged in a smear campaign against the federal government in addition to working around the clock to up the ante and dismantle the country.

They have been as well confounding the wider international community under the pretext of a humanitarian crisis, human rights violations, and more of the same. No matter how hard they attempted to pursue their intentions, all their efforts went the way of the dinosaurs as a consequence of the unwavering stance of Ethiopian Diasporas.

For the sake of truth, Ethiopian Diasporas left no stone unturned to impede the unlawful actions of some entities that have been going to great lengths to move the country into uncharted waters. In point of fact, the journey has not been easy. Though the challenges were not easy Ethiopians

Diasporas have played a paramount role in lifting the lid and bringing the wider international community into the light with the concealed and unspoken truth.

In point of fact, Ethiopian Diasporas from all walks of life have successfully staved off external pressure by holding public rallies in every corner of the world. Notwithstanding the fact that the media outlets have been determinedly confounding the global community with imaginary stories to win their hearts and minds, all their efforts went down in flames and the way of the dinosaurs.

Regardless of the fact fighting external unwarranted pressure was not as easy as taking candy from a baby, Ethiopian Diasporas have successfully fended off external pressure. It is common knowledge that Ethiopian Diasporas have held several demonstrations in various parts of the world on the subject of the #NoMore movement campaign with the purpose of denouncing H.R. 6600 draft laws.

The Government of Ethiopia recognized 52 Ethiopian diaspora associations from 25 countries that actively support their homeland in times of need.

According to President Sahlework Zewde, the recognition is for all Ethiopians in the diaspora who stood by Ethiopia and the people.

The president went on to say that the Government has established a welcoming climate for the Ethiopian diaspora to further engage with critical issues facing the country and its people, according to information obtained from MoFA.

President Sahlework Zewde also urged the Ethiopian diaspora to get involved in the peace building and restoration process.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen, on his part, stated that the work done by the Ethiopian diaspora all over the world for their homeland when Ethiopia faced hardships and obstacles will be recognized in history.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister urged the Ethiopian Diaspora to play a positive role in the country's peace building and restoration efforts.

Dr. Mohamed Idris, Director General of Ethiopian Diaspora Service, stated that the government always respects the diaspora

community's contribution to the country in many forms and confirmed that similar recognition events will be held in the future.

At the event, a book that archives list of Ethiopia's diaspora associations was officially launched.

The Diaspora community will continue contributing to the effort towards protecting the interests and sovereignty of the homeland using various mechanisms, so said a member of Ethiopian Diaspora.

Emebet Mengistie an Ethiopian origin living in the U.S. told local media that the Diaspora community has been contributing a lot to the effort exerted towards safeguarding national interest and sovereignty, particularly over the past four years.

As to her, the Diaspora community has been playing an indispensable role in supporting the country's construction process such as Abay dam and conflict affected areas, peace building, reducing foreign exchange crunch, avoiding the foreign pressures, providing different provisions to whom people in need of support, canceling the draft laws that were to impose on Ethiopia, collecting petition, and submitting the letter for the right body in a bid to ensure the national interests of the country thereby enforcing the external bodies to rethink their biased approach on Ethiopia.

"Though the members of the Diaspora community are not physically present in their country, they do not take their eyes and hearts off their country's affairs for a second," Emebet added.

She further stated that the Diaspora community will continue the support of the country through various mechanisms to realize country's glimmer of hope and ensure overall development. In this regard, the Diaspora community has formal groups which help continue intensifying the necessary support of the nation.

By the same token, the Ethiopian Diaspora Service (EDS) announced recently that among the various significances that the country gained from the Diaspora including over four billion USD as remittance. Apart from this, the Diaspora community has been playing a crucial role in transferring technology, knowledge, experience, involving in investment, and the likes.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

“Have a Nice Day”

Say it is the ‘baddest’ day of your life as just a few minutes ago you’ve learned you’ve been fired from work. Or, to use maybe a ‘politically correct’ term, you’ve been ‘downsized’ and are your way only God knows to where. If this ever more very unfair world of ours has fierce enemies at all, you’re the fiercest of them all at that time. I mean in “May God save you for that!” sort of incidents like losing your job your ‘enemies’ aren’t only you immediate bosses but the entire world. After all, there could be no curse worse than being practically chased out of the very job you thought would carry all the way to retirement age. In the older days people fought for government jobs mainly for one reason, retirement is assured! You have been embedded at the place for years and thoughts of getting the marching orders never cross your mind. After a few years in any job there seems to be this tendency of taking things for granted. We forget we’ve employers with their own needs, interests and also prejudices.

So, we don’t entertain the worry of the ax falling one day and when it does our entire world caves in. One bright morning you go to your office your face lit up like it never did and on your desk there is this very thin envelop. Aha! As they say, “those who are patient enough will one day have children from their wives;” (crude translation from the original Amharic pun,) Well, you’ve been patient for the raise to come and there it’s was on your table. Come evening and your better half would be one exhilarated lady. believe me you don’t rush to open such envelops because you KNOW what they hold! Once firmly in your seat and having called for a cup of coffee you open your envelop and pull out the piece of paper. “It is a wonder this small piece of paper is valued at seven or eight thousand birr,” the least raise you expect.

After the first tired and clichéd one-line greeting the next line begins with the word “Sorry...” Sorry! That must be the weirdest way to announce a raise! The words that follow could be equated with some warfront barrage of heavy weapons. And then the message hits you with the precision of a sniper who knows his trade. “Starting....your employment has been terminated!” that’s all there is to it. When you were employed so many forms had to be filled that they almost took an entire world; and they kick you out with a five or six sentence sorry piece of paper! Dour

The totality of the shock was so strong you leave the office without even confronting the CEO or whoever it is who runs the place. It is during this harshest of times that you run into some person you know. Seeing you in the most foul of moods he might ask you, “What’s wrong with you?” But then these days many of us wearing those dour faces few if any one asks such questions. Anyway, this guy being one amongst the few asks “You don’t look alright. Is anything wrong?” “Everything is wrong you dude!” your every cell silently screams. Of course that you’ve lost your job isn’t the first response that comes to your mind. In fact you might even hate him for asking. It is if your bosses have deliberately planted him in the streets to make life more unbearable for you.

Do you know when the second placed real story of the day comes! When the guy takes his leave; he says, “Have a nice day!” What! What did this dude just say! You’re the most dejected soul on the planet and he wishes you a nice day! This is one of those times when wishes for “a nice day” never sound as musical as the words suggest.

Say a deal for which you have worked for several months seems to be going in all the right directions and you’re in high spirits.

You tell your princess, “I think they’ll award me the contract.”

“Oh that is so wonderful darling! I knew you’d get it!” she says carpeting your face with the most passionate of kisses. You feel that you have a quarter of the world in your palm. It is not always that you get a one million birr contract! In case no one told you one million birr is still quite a lot of money! Then one late morning your cell phone rings and you answer it with all the world’s smiles lighting up your face. Then that executive secretary’s voice which has been music to you for weeks while comes; “Hello!” If your response “Hello!” doesn’t sound like the ‘Mother of all “Hellos,” then contrary to what you thought last evening is still in you veins. (Even the traditional morning shuro wot didn’t do the trick! Down with all hangovers!)

And then the ax which pops in the most unwanted of places falls; “I’m sorry to tell you this; but I have my orders to tell you that the deal has fallen through and the project is off the books.” What! What the hell; is going on. How can something for which scores of appears have been written and your signature is all over the place ‘fall through’ just like that! And also, how can she tell you such news with the calmest and most indifferent of voices!

An hour or so later you’re in this café with your third cup of coffee and a lady who more than a few time led you almost to the very doors of hell shows up. I mean you might be one sin away from “May your soul suffer for eternity without the possibility of parole!” The devil hasn’t been easy on you and more than once you almost cursed yourself for ‘rushing’ into marriage. Lucifer always winks at you; “Look what you’ve been missing!”

Anyway this lady greets you like she always did appearing she had a thousand and one smiles to spare. Hers were measured and perfectly executed greetings. Then she notes all was not well. “Is there any problem! You look so sad!” the only answer she gets is your sheepish smiles. At least you can’t deny her that. Unable to dig anything out of you she leaves you. But not before a peck on the cheek! At other times that softest of pecks would have sent the currents from head to toe. Not this time. Something was wrong with the nerve endings on your cheeks. And then the ICBM hits home; “Have a nice day!” Oh no! Not from her!

Yes it is impossible to get any more musical sounding wishes than, “Have a nice day!” And when is genuine so are your feelings.

And then there is this; a low level team decimates your favorite premier league team and you’ve taken it personally; And when you take such things personally there are two outstanding scenarios; ether you really are moving around with the most crucial screws missing form upstairs or your idea of being a fan has been hacked! Ha! Ha! I mean it, in case of being hacked the only way you want to make your comments heard is through your fists. There were times when parts of our city got in real mess when the Gunners were pummeled as it there was no goalie at their end, or when the Reds were run over so unceremoniously as if a spell has been cast on the players and ten of the elven ended up with banana legs! And some Addis youth run through the evening streets going after the fans of the other team.

The next morning, of all people a fan of the winning team says to you, “Have a nice day.” A Mike Tyson upper cut wouldn’t have hurt so much!

Anyway “Have a nice day!”

People are watching!

“It is a pleasure to have you for this interview.”

“The pleasure is mine.” (No, I don’t agree. The pleasure of my guest is not in having me as his interviewer. It is rather because finally he’s going to be on TV! Aha! His status in the village is bound to go through the roofs. Next morning his ‘interview’ is village’s breaking news!)

“Did you see the man that was interviewed on TV last night?”

“Yes I did. What about him?”

“He’s a member of our Iddir!”

“You don’t say!”

See! I told you he would be an overnight superstar. A few if any would give focus on the content of what he said. The fact that he has been seen on TV makes him an overnight celebrity.

Years back there was this press statement at quite a big organization. The person who was delivering the statement was only a few months into his job and the event came as something of a milestone for him. He couldn’t hide his excitement. The story is

that once the usual things were over and the TV crews were packing up he phones his parents who lived hundreds of kilometers away in the countryside. While everyone in the large room listened to him he practically shouts, “Emama; I will be seen on TV tonight. Tell all our relatives to watch!” The correspondents and the TV crews, so this writer was told, had a hard tie stifling their laughter. Well, let’s be nice and there is not much bad over there. But if someone holding such a high office is so excited to be on TV imagine what the rank and file and officials in no better condition than the rank and file would feel!

Anyway I’m ordered to interview him and not to judge him so I continue with my job. Rules written or else are rules! So, though I’ve already introduced his name and why he was there in the first place he has to say it himself. Sorry, that is the written but ‘widely respected’ rule!

“Would you please tell our audience your name and what you do?”

A smart interviewee, one we have yet to see, should have out me in my right place with, “Didn’t you just tell them! How did

they place you anywhere near to a mike anyway?” But as I was trying to say we have yet to see one from that breed and have to settle for the status quo for now.

“My name is....” I have been given only forty minutes and the guy takes eight and half minutes introducing himself! The rods he chooses are so ‘unique’ in his own that he leaves the audience and me confused” Why, talks like he was some kind of angle dispatched to save the world hiding his wings beneath his jacket. I can tell you that one reason I hate (No reason being be any more diplomatic than that!) is that most interviewees sooner or later put on crowns which are too big for their heads. I know it sooner or later he is going to get on my nerves with his arrogant posturing. Maybe my boss ordered me to interview him for some reason of his own and that made the guy like he just discovered America! What do you mean it’s already discovered! Come on, with the ‘classified documents’ politics raging someone should rediscover it!

The guest clams he started thinking of becoming some businessman right from his childhood days. Nice; very nicely said with the flashes emanating from Armani

suit on the screen filling your entire living room. In the first place his wasn’t much of a childhood to talk about as he was one of those called ‘little brutes,’ who never listen to what they’re told. His family has been practically alienated from the society because of his ‘in-the-hood’ antics. Since the time he learned to walk upright he picked up fights with almost everyone he came across. Many of the kids in the village including the saintly ones ended up with black eyes and bloody noses because of him. He wasn’t also much of a student as he always finished in the bottom half of his classes.

His parents leading very humble lives have no way of thinking about business. I mean the opportunities weren’t there for such grand schemes as they led a hand to mouth existence. There was no room for extra thoughts except that of the next meal. When this interviewee claims he was interested in becoming a businessman right from his childhood days there would be scores of people recoiling on their sofas.

A word of caution to interviewees who try to rewrite their past on camera, people are watching! We have shockingly too many of such interviewees these days!

International News

AfDB and partners mobilize 30 bln. USD for African farmers

The Dakar 2 Feed Africa Summit ended on Friday with a \$30 billion pledge by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and development partners to finance food and agribusiness on the continent in the next five years. Of the amount announced at the summit held in the Senegalese capital, the AfDB pledged to mobilise \$10 billion.

Leaders who attended the event called on the African Union Commission and the AfDB to help mobilise more funding to top up the amount announced and report on the overall investment at the February African Union Summit.

Some 34 African heads of state and government, and leaders of international and bilateral development organisations, and the private sector attended the in a Summit, whose theme was “Feed Africa: Food Sovereignty and Resilience”.

Concerned that rising food prices and disruption in global food supply due to Covid-19, climate change and the war in Ukraine will worsen food insecurity in Africa, and noting that the continent has 65 percent of the world’s remaining uncultivated arable land — with the potential to produce enough to feed its people and the rest of the world — the leaders mooted national food and agriculture delivery compacts to embed food targets in their development agenda.

Among the resolutions was the establishment



of Presidential Delivery Councils to oversee the implementation of the country-specific compacts and promote accountability.

AfDB President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina said that Africa’s agriculture sector will depend on strong political will and commitment of governments, development partners, and the private sector and the scaling up of highly impactful continental programmes such as the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation.

He emphasised the place of infrastructure in transforming rural areas into agricultural production and processing zones.

“Infrastructure is very important and Africa has a deficit of \$68 billion to \$108 billion

per year. The African Development Bank has in the past six years invested \$44 billion on infrastructure: from power, to roads, to water, to sanitation, to digital infrastructure, to transport corridors to one-stop border posts. But a lot of infrastructure in Africa concentrates in urban areas, because the economic viability of infrastructure is low in the rural areas, because a source of livelihood — agriculture — is not viable. But we have special agro-industrial processing zones. These are going to change the density of infrastructure in rural areas around agriculture, power water, roads, irrigation storage and logistics.

“It will make agricultural processing and value addition profitable, close to where the food is produced. So, you don’t need to move raw

materials; you will move finished agricultural products.”

He said the bank has in the past two years invested \$1 billion on 23 projects on special agro-industrial processing zones in 11 countries.

Participants sought support for agriculture-based small and medium enterprises (SMEs), burdened with an unmet financing need of about \$100 billion annually.

The AfDB and the government of Canada announced the Agri-SME Catalytic Financing Mechanism, a blended finance facility that is expected to de-risk investment into small and medium agri-businesses and strengthen food systems across the continent.

With an initial contribution of \$85 million from the Canadian government, the Mechanism will provide concessional finance and technical assistance to financial intermediaries, including agribusinesses, commercial banks, micro-finance institutions and impact funds.

The summit also saw the launch of the Mission 1 for 200, a joint programme of the AfDB and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to help 40 million African farmers to produce 100 million tonnes of food for 200 million people. Mission 1 for 200 is meant to build resilience by helping farmers adapt to climate change and reduce agriculture’s environmental impact and emissions.

Source- The East African

ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE

“Autism Care Program” has applied to the FDRE Authority for Civil Society Organization to register as a Local organization. Any individual or organization opposing the name is here by requested to report to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Authority for Civil Society Organization, United Insurance Building, 4th floor office no. 407, until February 9, 2023 at 9:00A.M.

AUTHORITY FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

NOTICE

“Ethiopian Youth Education and Morale Volunteers Association (EYWMVA)” has applied to the FDRE Authority for Civil Society Organization to register as an Association. Any individual or organization opposing the name is hereby requested to report to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Authority for Civil Society Organization, United Insurance Building, and 4th floor office no. 407, until February 8, 2023 at 9:00A.M.

AUTHORITY FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Notice for Renewal of Registration of a Trademark

1. Trademark Owner's Name: **RAMADA INTERNATIONAL INC.**
Address: **22 Sylvan Way, Parsippany, New jersey 07054, United States of America**

2. Application Number: **FTM/0756/2013**

3. Trademark: **RAMADA**

4. The trademark is used in connection with goods specified in the Cautionary Notice published on 27/10/2013 Ethiopian Herald under Vol. LXX No.041-

5. Renewed from: **07/08/2020 to 07/08/2027G.C.**

Accordingly, any person using this trademark without the permission of the owner shall be prosecuted in accordance with the laws of Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority
The Ethiopian Herald Vol LXXIX No 121-29/1/2023



AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID

This advertisement is to notify an amendment of the Notice of Invitation for Bids for the following Road Construction Projects advertised in the previous issues of the Ethiopian Herald Newspaper:

I. No	Project Name	Pack- age No.	Date of Advertisement on the Previous Issues of the Ethiopian Herald Newspaper
1	Construction of Remaining Works of Gimba-Tenta -Tenta Junction Road Project	III (3)	December 01& 02,2022
2	Construction of Remaining Works of Chida- Sodo Road Upgrading Project; Lot III: Tercha - Chida Including Spurs at Tercha and Chida		
3	Construction of Remaining Works of Robe -Gassera- Ginnir Road Project, Contract II: Km 60+000 - Km 120+870.41 (Ginnir)		
4	Construction Works of Mota- Mekan-lyesus -Gassay Road Project Section 1: Construction of Remaining Works of Mota - Jara Gedo and Section 2: Construction Works of Jara Gedo- Zagora- Jibasra Mariam Debre Tabor Asphalt Concrete Overlay Road Projects		

The Amendments are the following:

1. Delete the provision indicated under item No. 13 of the Notice of Invitation posted on December 01 & 02, 2022 in its entirety and replace with the following provision.

"Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **February 21, 2023 at 2:30 P.M"**

2. Whereas, the remaining provisions/ information of the previously issued published Notice of Invitation shall remain unchanged.

ETHIOPIAN ROADS ADMINISTRATION