



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXIX No 098 3 January 2023 - Tahesas 25, 2015

Tuesday

Price Birr 10.00

Ethiopia to keep insisting ICHREE mandate termination

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia will not acknowledge the establishment of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts (ICHREE) and the extension of its mandate and regarded the situation as politically motivated measures, according to a senior diplomat.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ethiopia's former Permanent Representative at the UN in Geneva Zenebe Kebede (Ambassador) said that, Ethiopia has not acknowledged the establishment of ICHREE and considered the commission as a rightful entity.

Also, extending the mandate of ICHREE, which was merely established to reinvestigate what the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have found in the joint investigation, is unacceptable. "The Ethiopian government will not acknowledge the resolution that was passed with a narrow vote for the extension of the ICHREE term for one year."

Ambassador Kebede continued: "the mere
See Ethiopia to ... page 3



Photo - Tsehay Nigussie

City to renovate, open Mandela Museum to public visit

• Addis grows to tourist destination from mere transit

BY FIKADU BELAY

ADDIS ABABA - Addis Ababa Culture Arts and Tourism Bureau disclosed that, it has finalized preparations to renovate the former Fetno Derash Police Training Center to serve as Nelson Mandela Memorial Museum.

Located in Kolfe Keranyo Sub city of the metropolis, the Fetno Derash Police Training Center is a place where the South Africa liberation fighter Nelson Mandela took guerilla war in early 1960s.

The Bureau Head, Hirut Kassau (Ph.D.) told The Ethiopian Herald that, the place where Nelson Mandela was trained and lived, as well as architectural products and other equipment he used at that time are still available at the center and can serve as heritages that could attract tourists.

Hirut said the camp was established in the 1950s as a training camp for rapid police



forces. It has not been maintained ever since. Therefore it needs renovation to serve as a museum.

The Office is working with Addis Ababa University which will finalize and submit the design works in couples of weeks. The renovation works would start immediately and are expected to be finalized in a year,

the bureau head explained.

The museum is expected to signify Ethiopia's role as a symbol of African freedom, and is likely to help the efforts of the country to be among the world's top 10 tourist destinations.

Hirut added that, tourists used to stay in
See City to renovate, ... page 3

DERBA MIDROC CEMENT

OUR PRODUCTS

- > PPC 32.5N
- > OPC 42.5N
- > Premium OPC 52.5N
- > PPC PLUS 42.5N

We give Door To Door Service

Call Us at 8688 or

0111 26 26 27 0922 11 53 24/26
0111 26 26 28 0922 72 74 48/49
0111 26 26 29 0922 72 38 70
0111 26 26 30 0922 72 38 72

Fax: 0111 26 23 45 & 0111 26 23 18
Ready for Tomorrow!

AGI CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA

Abyssinia Group of Industries

Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars. Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

Contact & Address

Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25
Mob.: +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868
+251 911 45 9790
E-mail: sales@aglethiopia.com
4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

MP Maldives Promotion - SIGNAGE & PRINT

For all your signage & printing needs with well-established workshop & machineries

- CNC cutting & engraving machine
- Foam board, Aluminum panel, MDF...
- Laser cutting & engraving machine
- Mica, Leather, Fabric...
- UV flat bed for give away items
- Pen, Flash disk, Notebook...
- Digital T-shirt & Fabric printer
- High quality Digital printer
- Roll up, sticker, reflective, transparent...
- Heat press machines
- Cap, Mug, Mask, Plate

And exhibition stand & event stage construction

Fast and Quality Service

+251 911 253 076 / +251 984 872 919
maldivespromotion@gmail.com
Shola, on the Main Road to British Embassy



Photo - Tsehay Nigussie

Ethiopia, Sudan to link with rail transport

• Confer to resolve border dispute amicably

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia and Sudan have taken bold steps to enhance their infrastructure-driven connectivity and expand the link in the establishment of rail

See Ethiopia, Sudan ... page 3

New geo-politics in Horn diminishes external interference: Expert

News

Bureau foresees 2 bln Birr from religious tourists

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA-Amhara Culture and Tourism Bureau said it has planned to generate over two billion Birr for 750,000 local and international tourists that are expected to take part in the state-level celebration of Ethiopian Christmas and Epiphany.

In an interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Bureau Deputy Head Abay Mengiste stated that, preparation has been finalized to render quality services for guests that will flock to the historic towns of Lalibela and Gondar.

Noting the flow of tourists was heavily impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and the conflict in North Ethiopia, Abay indicated the plan to capitalize the festivities to revive



the sector. Accordingly, various government agencies and utility providing institutions are working in unison to provide seamless services to the guests and to make their stay safe and memorable.

Discussions were held with local youth, elderly and religious fathers for the successful conduct of festivities and professional tour operators and guides are ready to help the visitors. Training was also provided for

volunteer youth.

The Bureau Head Chalachew Dagneu on his part emphasized the integrated efforts that various stakeholders have made to warmly welcome the guests. Accordingly, the restoration of roads and water pulp which is essential during Epiphany, has been made.

As to him, ‘one household for one tourist’ platform was formed with a view to build the social bond between visitors and the local community in the religious heritages. Extensive activities have also been carried out to promote the state’s world famous tourist attraction sites including the UNESCO-inscribed Lalibela rock hewn churches.

It was learnt that over a billion Birr was secured from 328,000 tourists who visited the Gondar Castle last year.



Ministry preparing document to certify tourism, hospitality professionals

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - A document is being under preparation with a view to certify professional qualifications in the field of tourism and hospitality services, Ministry of Tourism disclosed.

The document is expected to improve the tourism and hospitality sector by producing capable professionals appropriate to the advancement of the field.

The document is being developed by Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with Ministry of Labor and Skills.

Experts drawn from tourism training institutions, professional associations and other stakeholders have been also participating in the preparation of the document.

Hotel, hospitality and catering services as well as food preparation skills, reception, housekeeping, laundry, pastry and bakery services are the major areas included in the professional qualification document.

Tour operators and tourism guide organizations have also been part of the services included in the tourism and hospitality professional qualification document.

Ethiopian resumes regular flights to Shire

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian Airlines has resumed its regular flights as of yesterday to Shire city, Tigray region.

The Airlines has restarted Shire flight yesterday that was suspended for more than two years.

The flight has been resumed as per the federal government’s promise to effectively implement the peace agreement.

The Passengers told ENA that, the resumption of Ethiopian Airlines regular flight to Shire is a demonstration to achieve peace that “we were looking for.”

The Passengers further believed the resumption of Ethiopian Airlines regular flight to Shire in addition to Mekelle, last week, would move the peace process to a new chapter.



“The flight of Ethiopian Airlines to Shire is an evidence of the commitment of the government for peace that we have been looking for,” they said.

Expressing their happiness for implementation of the peace agreement, they have requested that the current peace be sustainable as it is the foundation of all.

Ethnic Tigray metropolis vow to support peace deal

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Ethnic Tigray Addis Ababa residents discussed a range of current issues and on how to contribute to the effort geared towards realizing the Cessation of Hostility Agreement (CoHA) with the Ministry of Peace.

One of the meeting participants, Yohannes Gebru, said that peace is the fundamental issue of any activity and the government should act responsibly in a bid to push the peace deal to the end to ensure lasting peace.

Another discussion participant, Abera Niguse on his part said that, Ethiopia needs to build strong democratic institutions that actively fuel the fight against corruption, which is the major factor aggravating conflict in its history, It means that with the absences of strong democratic institutions, talking about lasting peace in Ethiopia is impossible.

Seconding the above statement, Kahssay Gebru; “It is the right time to identify the serious factors that have pushed Ethiopia to the vicious circle of conflicts. Besides,



proper solutions have to be devised to ensure lasting peace in the country.”

Peace State Minister, Taye Dendea on his part said that, everybody should understand that ceasing the conflict is an admirable act by itself. The peace agreement has been changing the history of Ethiopia and it is

the power to change the world perspective about Ethiopia since the country has started solving its internal problems without external interference.

Moreover, participants during the discussion promised to play their part in making the agreement effective and ensure lasting peace across the country.

News

Ethiopian, Israeli physicians share experiences in trauma, emergency care

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

ADDIS ABABA—A group of Israel medical doctors delegation led by Barak Levit (MD) has shared their knowledge and skills to their Ethiopian counterparts on trauma and emergency care.

The experience sharing was taken place from December 27- 30, 2022 in collaboration with Ethiopian Health Ministry and St. Paul Hospital Millennium Medical College.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Certified General Surgeon, Trauma Surgeon and Trauma Unit Manager Barak Levit (MD) said the purpose of this seminar is to create a partnership between Israel and Ethiopian physicians and nurses to share their professional experiences.

“The doctors are volunteers and they have chosen Ethiopia because of the very good partnership between the two nations. All of us are really impressed by what we have seen here. The doctors and nurses are well trained. The skills and the level of knowledge here is not less than any other part of the world. We also learn from each other,” he said.

Barak further mentioned that, health professionals from all parts of Addis Ababa came to participate. The seminar focused on trauma, surgery trauma, and critical care for injured patients. “Most of the sessions

are practical in relation to surgical and emergency procedures with the help of trauma simulation system.”

“The medical doctors’ team incorporates Muhammad Mansour (MD), Bella Matatov, Eldar Malka, and I. Everyone is always ready to support the nation in any means. These doctors should be praised for their courage to share their skills.”

Barak further said, “In the future, we have so many projects that we can do together including disaster management, trauma system building and constructing new trauma center here.”

By the same token, from St. Paul Millennium Medical College Rebecca Mesfin (MD) said, “The most important lesson we draw from this seminar is how to perform our jobs with alternative ways and help our patients.”

Rebeka, who is also St. Paul Hospital center for professional Development, Project and Business Development Program Officer, said that the participants and she have learnt and shared experiences with the team.

The mechanisms used by the trainers are eye-opening, she said adding: “We observe the idea in a wider perspective and learn how to counter sudden happenings. In our context, there is a shortage of facilities so that team promised to support our center in the future. They have also provided some of the equipment they brought.”

New geo-politics in Horn diminishes external interference: Expert

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA—The new geo-politics in the Horn of Africa would certainly lessen some powers’ sphere of influence in the region as it curtails third parties’ unwarranted meddling, an expert on the issue said.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Bahir Dar University Political Science and International Relations Assistant Professor Yayew Genet stated that, Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) that was signed between the government and TPLF is a game changer in the Horn of Africa’s geopolitics since it has vividly showcased the failures of some global actors that used to interfere with the domestic matters of the Horn of African countries.

The Horn of Africa is a center of geopolitics. Global powers are struggling to take control of the Red Sea and the north Ethiopia conflict favors those powers whose military comps are still operational in the region. “The war was an issue for not only Ethiopia and its neighbors, but also those global powers,”

Resolving internal problems will give time to Ethiopia and its neighbors and block the



destructive attempts of some special interest groups that want to stir regional politics for their greedy desire, Yayew added.

“During the early period of the war, some Egypt-based politicians and their allies tried to complicate the Ethio-Sudan border dispute and impacted the two countries’ diplomatic ties. Due to the CoHA, this kind of problem is unlikely to happen again.”

Apart from the apparent benefits to Ethiopia’s stability, the CoHA will also allow the Horn countries to join efforts in the fight against terrorism and other regional peace challenges, the academician emphasized.

Ethiopia to keep...

interest of the extension is to meddle in the internal affairs of Ethiopia and it was requested at a time when the joint investigation by OHCHR and EHRC was conducted.”

EHRC and OHCHR conducted a joint investigation into alleged human rights violations and abuses, violations of international humanitarian law, and refugee law committed in the context of the north Ethiopia conflict. The ICHREE was established to repeat what has already been done by the joint investigation and the commission has no legal ground to reinvestigate in Ethiopia.

It is to be recalled that, the government has established an inter-ministerial task force to investigate the alleged abuses and violations committed since the beginning of

the conflict.

As to him, the findings and witnesses of the report revealed that there is no genocide, or ethnic cleansing committed, using aid as a weapon of war and other crimes against humanity. “What we can understand from that is they simply received dictation from the opposing side and put their report as a political tool”

The objective of the joint investigation was to provide a faithful account of the human rights situation in the country and was carried out within the framework of relevant international legal norms. The investigation also included international human rights law, humanitarian law, refugee law, and criminal law, as well as Ethiopian domestic law, the Ambassador remarked.

City to renovate,...

Addis Ababa for up to 3 nights, nowadays there are occasions where they can stay up to 7 nights, and for this reason, the construction of the Unity Park, Entoto Park, Science Museum and other destinations have changed the city’s role from a tourist transit to a tourist attraction.

She said that, the new Addis Ababa tourism brand called *The Hub of Africa* and the newly introduced website are playing a significant role in promoting tourism activities in Addis Ababa.

Hirut underlined that, tourism institutions

and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are trying to work in coordination with the African Union to commemorate other influential Pan-Africanists in the past as well as the present ones.

The peace implementation concerning Ethiopia’s north is expected to increase tourists’ inflow as this peak season. A grand celebration of Ethiopian Christmas and epiphany or *Timkat* attracts many tourists from across the globe particularly to the historic cities of Gondar and Lalibela.

Ethiopia, Sudan...

transport, Ethiopia’s Ambassador to Sudan disclosed.

Ambassador Yibeltal Aemro told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that, the establishment of rail transport between Ethiopia and Sudan streamlines the two countries’ overall economic and social cooperation and galvanizes AU’s vision of regional integration. Sharing long borders and communities, rail transport is also of great importance in consolidating the two countries’ people-to-people ties.

Ethiopia’s foreign policy was designed in a way to embrace its neighbors and it is the major factor behind the country’s huge involvement in regional economic integration. While various activities have been carried out to connect the two countries in rail transport, Ethiopia aims to utilize Sudan ports for import and export.

Ethiopia considers infrastructural connectivity as a key role to boost mutual growth with neighboring countries; it has been heavily involved in the establishment

and expansion of cross-border roads, railways, communication, and electric lines among others.

Regarding the two countries’ border dispute, he indicated that a consensus was reached to resolve the issue in negotiation and a peaceful manner. Discussions have been taking place between representatives of the two countries to give the problem a lasting and amicable solution.

Ambassador Yibeltal further noted that,

Ethiopia will as always continue in its efforts to support Sudan’s peace and stability and it is in its firm interest that the sovereignty of Sudan should be respected. “We consider Sudan’s stability, peace, and prosperity as our own.”

The glitch in the age-long friendship between Ethiopia and Sudan has now improved due to joint efforts. This rapprochement enables the two countries to work among others to ensure economic integration and pacify the East African region.

Opinion

Labor Dispute Resolution for healthier enterprise, investment

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Workers play key role in resolving labor disputes and in fulfilling the objective of an enterprise they are engaged in. It is vital for Ethiopian enterprises to make their employees competent and proficient by providing them with opportunities that keep labor disputes at bay. Effective managers of enterprises maintain healthy environment and positive motivation for their employees. It is also important to have grievance handling procedure to resolve labor disputes. Effort has to be made in understanding the attitudes of Ethiopian employees toward management styles and dispute handling methods. It is informative to examine the impact of personality traits on resolving labor disputes within enterprises. If there is a positive correlation between management styles and labor dispute resolution, it reveals the existence of emotional stability with which new ideas and suggestions of the employees are accepted.

The impact of personality traits on labor dispute management is significant. Also, management style is determined in a positive manner by dimensions of personality such as “sociability, agreeableness, conscientiousness, openness and anxiety.” The significance of human beings as providers of competitive advantage has also become more important for management. It is for that reason that some enterprises become interested in developing their human capital. The changing market situations call for stimulating and transforming Ethiopian enterprises to meet competitive challenges. Ethiopian managers should, therefore, engage employees that play an important role in this transformation. It is through their involvement and loyalty that an enterprise can become competitive. Where market competition is tough it is useful to resolve internal labor-management disputes.

The effectiveness and efficiency of any enterprise largely depends on its policy of recruitment, development and maintenance of its human resources. Among the determinants of enterprise success are “conflict management,” leadership styles and personality traits. Individual differences in patterns of thinking, feeling, and behaving are to be expected. Effective management is mostly associated with strength of personality that “resolves” disputes among employees. It creates a new vision, increases self confidence in employees through productive coordination and communication. Effective managers are efficient in resolving labor disputes. The personality traits of managers and executives are, therefore, instrumental in resolving disputes.

These traits make managers different from other individuals in understanding the behavior of their employees. This would be helpful for the success of Ethiopian enterprise. Though time consuming, identifying the personality of “each” employee is useful for the coordination of activities. An employee may have an

exclusive pattern of thinking, feeling, and acting. Based on these personality traits of employees, excluding ethnic and tribal affiliation, an enterprise may develop dynamic structures which will react differently to changing environment. The traits reveal the fundamental characteristics of employees. This structure combines the emotions, attitudes and behaviors of employees. As mentioned earlier “sociability” of employees encompasses characteristics that include openness, affiliation, gregariousness, assertiveness, and experience. Knowing these characteristics is helpful for dispute settlement at the workplace.

Openness of employees is an element to be considered in creating peaceful cooperation. It may be related to sharing of technical and imaginative creativity with colleagues. “Openness” may be accompanied by agreeableness with optimistic outlook, which makes colleagues trustful of the workers in the enterprise. It involves attributes such as selflessness, collaboration, and affection. But, this is difficult in enterprises dominated by racial, religious, ethnic and tribal affiliations. “Conscientiousness” is a propensity to demonstrate self-regulation and perform obediently. Conscientious individuals tend to have a sense of duty and efficiency. Anxious or neurotic behavior that is reflected within enterprises is a tendency to be suspicious or reflective. Due to lack of confidence, fear and insecurity employees may have a defensive attitude toward discriminatory management.

A manager should have an interest in the “sociability, agreeableness, conscientiousness, openness and anxiety,” that are reflected by employees. He or she should set the tone of the enterprise based on the behavior and productivity of the employees. This sets the base on which efficient management of an enterprise ensures efficiency and profitability. Employees share the fruits of their productivity and efficiency in terms of wage increment and other benefits. This ensures proficiency of the “influential” management which persuades others to contribute to the objective of the enterprise. There are also different styles of management ranging from autocratic, democratic, charismatic, participative, situational and bureaucratic.

New studies suggest two categories of management styles, and these are “transactional and transformational.” According to James McGregor Burns, transformational management can be visualized when managers and workers construct each other to advanced level of ethics and motivation. Here, managers follow the relationship oriented principle than work completion. Others have classified the management skills into “idealized influence, inspirational motivation, intellectual stimulation and individualized consideration.” The managers with idealized influence will be able to achieve “faith and respect” of followers because they have clear vision and purpose. Those managers with

intellectual stimulation may motivate “innovation and creativity” in the work team.

“Inspirational motivation” includes the actions or behaviors of the managers that inspire employees to view the future positively. They communicate a vision that is realistic, manageable and attainable. The “individual consideration” is the attention given to individual differences. It contacts with all, provoking them to assume responsibility for their jobs. However, transformational managers believe in standards, capacity building and duty-based objectives. They believe in the completion of work, rewards and punishment that inspires the employees to accomplish their individual objective. Experts have classified transformational management into active and passive elements. Active management clarifies the duties and responsibilities for accomplishing duties. It provides for rewards for results. Passive management monitors the work of subordinates and makes it certain that standards are met.

Both active and passive management styles are useful instruments in labor dispute management. Dispute is a state of unsettled difference within an individual, between human beings, an individual and a group or groups. The latter is relevant to current Ethiopian group conflicts where differences are practically unsettled. Conflicts of various types may happen in all groups. While conflict is a “natural” part of the work environment, it is most important that there are individuals who understand conflicts and identify the coping mechanisms to resolve it. Conflict may occur if an individual or a group feels negatively affected by another individual or group. Conflict management refers to the mechanisms applied by both the conflicting parties to cope with it. According to management experts conflict management refers to the process of “eliminating” the negative aspects of conflict, while escalating the positive ones. Its aim is to improve labor productivity and outcomes, including effectiveness of performance in an enterprise.

Management experts suggested methods of labor dispute resolution and these are avoiding, accommodating, competing, collaborating and compromising. “Avoidance” method neglects the existence of conflicts rather than finding a solution to the problem. “Accommodating” style neglects personal concerns to persuade the concerns of the conflicting parties. It is a form of self-sacrifice for the fulfillment of the wishes of others. In a “competing” technique, people look for their own concerns at the cost of the concerns of others by applying all suitable authority to succeed. In a “collaborating” style, a solution that gratifies both parties is used to fulfill the needs of all of them. The strategy of “compromise” searches for a mutually suitable clarification that persuades both parties moderately. It takes into consideration some concerns of both parties by finding a middle ground position.

In the developing countries, some

enterprises come across ordinary troubles of human resources such as high rate of employee turnover. They also face work related pressure, frequent leaves and dissatisfaction among employees in the work environment. Dissatisfied employees shift to some other enterprises due to attractions such as better work environment, accommodating supervisor, effective conflict resolving mechanism, grievance handling procedure and compassionate management. If productive employees leave an enterprise, it will have an effect on its profitability and survival in a competitive market. However, the competition can become advantageous if the enterprise could retain employees that are loyal. The significance of these employees is that they offer the enterprise competitive advantage.

With market competition and globalization, more conflicting situations arise within the enterprise. Effective and efficient management is required for handling labor disputes. There may exist a positive and significant relationship between profitability and stability of an enterprise when the management is emotionally stable, attached, and welcomed new ideas and suggestions of employees. In Ethiopia the application of the methods of labor dispute resolution suggested earlier may not be applicable in all enterprises. The enterprises may have their collective agreements which are negotiated and agreed upon by both the management and the trade union. These agreements will help in resolving conflicts that are specific to the enterprise. They have legal binding on both labor and management.

Labor dispute resolution in Ethiopia takes various forms. These may be classified as traditional and modern ones having similar objectives. The traditional dispute resolution scheme is “culture and place” specific. In traditional societies, elderly works take the responsibility for resolving conflicts at enterprise levels. They settle disputes that may lead to skirmishes and strife at higher levels if not resolved in time.

Currently, their role as peace makers within an enterprise is fully recognized by both labor and management. Similarly, modern techniques of conflict resolution are applied to settle disputes. These disputes may have political, economic and social consequences that impede development. The Ethiopian peace makers apply the globally accepted methods of conflict resolution and these are avoiding, accommodating, competing, collaborating and compromising. All of these techniques may not be applied simultaneously depending on the nature of the labor and management disputes. In Ethiopia, however, the labor law is designed with the objective of maintaining industrial peace through labor dispute resolution.

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

The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency



General Manager

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

Advertisement and Dist.
Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Editor-in-Chief: **Worku Belachew**
email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city
Woreda - 05, House No---
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: **Wakuman Kudama**
Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

Fb//Ethiopian Press Agency/

The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Diplomatic agility key to accomplish mission!

The hazy look, waving tides and trying scenarios with which Ethiopia and its children were externally roofed have excellently been converted into an appealing setup these days, thanks to a comprehensive diplomatic effort.

It is not exaggerating if one utters that the county could confidently be equated with a gold ounce repeatedly tested by fire as it has overcome a range of ups and downs and cunning conspiracies especially over the last three to four years in its history. Yes, Ethiopia has now shimmered and continues glistening in future if diplomatic efforts and other related endeavors keep at the same rate. As of today on, Ethiopia would never be held back as its citizens are diplomatically exceling and well comprehending who would come and act accordingly to fuel Ethiopia's renaissance and declare economic as well as political independence in its soil. Ethiopia is thus a living proof as it is essentially witnessing the invaluable gain of diplomacy.

Cognizant of the fact that connecting professionals with the ideal position they deserve can have a number of positive effects like fueling engagement, outrivaling performance and coming up with meaningful work for the country, Ministry of Foreign Affairs has exercised an all-rounded institutional reform. This bold move has started bearing fruits, indeed!

The country is also working hard to build diplomats' capability realizing that they are an integral part of the foreign policy formulation process.

As career diplomats have been deployed accordingly so the saying goes, 'the right person needs to be assigned at the right place,' the country has recorded remarkable achievements regarding various aspects especially since the aftermath of the recent reform. Not only

are the diplomats expected to protect the interests of their country but they are also duty bound to robust mutual interdependence of their respective host countries.

It is recurrently heralded that Ethiopia has always willing to enjoy exercising color blind diplomacy as the country does have all the time open doors to establish either bilateral or multilateral ties with countries which believe in win-win approach and mutually benefiting schemes. That is why Ethiopia has now garnering benefits out of its efforts targeting at meeting two needs—preserving national interests and keeping the balance of diplomatic interdependence.

True, Ethiopia has so far shown the world that it is capable of dealing with its own problems employing the leading principle of the continent, 'African solutions to African problems.' Hence, countries of the African continent in particular and nations in different continents in general are expected to draw important lessons from this exemplary nation. Unequivocally, diplomatic agility is instrumental in milking career diplomats' skills and expertise with a view to fostering ideal makeover.

Needless to state, career diplomats should exert utmost effort to represent the views of their government to the government of the country in which they are dispatched, and convince it to act in ways that the administration at home would prefer.

On the whole, as modern diplomacy is very different from what it was, and is still changing, and the role of diplomats is therefore subject to change from time to time, getting diplomats trained well it the call of the day. Ethiopian diplomats shall thus act keeping this universal trajectory. The country in turn has to continue providing its diplomats with excellent trainings and programs which would equip them with the skills they need to pursue a career in diplomacy.

Opinion

Diaspora should further intensify support for homeland

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Citizen diplomacy is a concept that every global citizen has the right, even the responsibility, to engage across cultures and create shared understanding through meaningful person-to-person interactions. It is recognized as a powerful force in building and sustaining a secure, economically sound, and socially interconnected world.

In my opinion, instead of assigning the representative of the country abroad, alerting citizens and facilitating conditions for them to do any sort of diplomatic work is a viable and cost effective means of diplomacy. Acting as a fence finger, the Ethiopian government and citizens residing abroad has so far been defending sovereignty and national interest of the country from modern oppressors who wish to colonize Ethiopia.

Some western countries still have the desire of twisting the hands of the governments of the third world countries including Ethiopia through creating or sponsoring chaos until they make sure that these government are falling under their knees. Once these countries give hands up for western powers, they will not have a right to think and operate as per

their wish except flowing as per the rule these powers designed for them.

Once you become "yes man" for them, you do not have the right to complain about the assignment given to you be it right or wrong. The other option you do have is leading a fragile state that substantially impairs their economic and social performance. These include weak governance, limited administrative capacity, chronic humanitarian crises, persistent social tensions and often, violence or the legacy of armed conflict and civil war. Using one of the listed means, colonizers of Africa try to make countries fragile politically, economically and socially.

In this case, citizen diplomacy is the only means to escape from the influence from any corner of the world. If you take the case of Ethiopia, the diaspora community residing in various parts of the world echoes their voices so as to defend the national interest of the country at times when the sovereignty of the country is in question. Though they have gone abroad due to inconvenient situations, forgetting all the pains, they defend the interest of the country of origin at times the latter has faced countless local and international challenges.

Here, I am not questioning the significance of assigning an ambassador representative of the country abroad as the ambassador is the ranking government representative stationed in a foreign capital or country. However, the point that I want to emphasize is that creating a coalition with the citizens residing abroad is quite imperative so as to gain the desired outcome in the shortest time possible.

The other point that should be considered here is it is good to alert the diaspora with the necessary information through creating a coalition between the two sides. Considering the outcome gained so far involving the diaspora community, the government should further upgrade and strengthen the tie between the two parties.

Without expecting something important from the government, the diaspora community should intensify the task of defending the national interest of the country apart from engaging and/ or supporting development projects that aim at building the image of the country. Even if you have different political ideologies no one of you would not collide with our oppressors who do not want to see a stable Ethiopia.

Echoing voices going out in a massive

square and /or standing at the gate of high level officials, has never helped Ethiopia to come out of poverty. Understanding this diaspora community throughout the world should further strengthen their support until Ethiopia is an economically independent country that breaks the wishful thinking and desire of its enemies.

Aside from engaging in various developmental activities, the diaspora community is expected to discharge their citizenship role of supporting development projects that are underway in the country.

Ethiopia is a country blessed with ancient historical, cultural, natural and manmade resources. However, except for some of the attractions, the world community has not understood the country's tourism potential. In this regard, Ethiopians residing throughout the world - irrespective of their ethnic, religious and sexual differences- should promote Ethiopia's potential to the rest of the world so as to create a vibrant economy.

In order to do tasks that defend the national interest of the Ethiopia, it is enough to be a citizen of Ethiopia.

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

Business & Economy

Investment inflow to Sidama invigorating nation's economy

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

Sidama National Regional State, which owns a large amount of natural resources, has many favorable conditions for the development of the investment sector. Among its natural resources, Hawassa Lake, hot springs, and landscapes that can be used for various agricultural and tourism activities are mentioned. These resources of the region are blessings that make the country proud, motivate investors to engage in investment, and create favorable conditions to answer the public's demand for development.

The region is also home to various investment destinations. They include the huge Hawassa Industrial Park and Yirgalem Agricultural Products Processing Industrial Park. There are also many industries operating in the region by government and private sector. The Hawassa textile factory, which is being expanded with 2.5 billion Birr to turn it into an industrial park, is another destination for investment in the region.

There are favorable conditions in terms of infrastructure. In addition to the Addis Ababa Hawassa Expressway, Mojo Hawassa Expressway is under construction. From the construction of this road, the construction of Mojo Zwai Road has been completed and put into operation. It also owns an airport.

Sidama region is also the location of products that strongly support the country's economy by earning high foreign exchange. The resources this region contains, that includes coffee and other resources; are serving the country beyond the region. The universal wealth and potential of the region is expected to attract the attention of investors.

Zenebe Legese, Chief Commissioner of the Regional Investment Commission had a moment with the Ethiopian Press Agency. In the interview, he discussed about the investment potential of Sidama National Regional State and the sector's activities.

As to the commissioner, Sidama region has great investment potential. The region produces agricultural products that are used as inputs for the industrial sector. Many grain crops, vegetables and fruits, coffee, milk, chicken, honey, meat and others are produced there. The region's natural resources create opportunities for investors who want to engage in industry and service sectors in addition to agriculture. In the mining sector, there are more than 17 types of minerals in the region.

Among the things that make the region preferred by investors is relatively better infrastructure provision (roads connecting kebeles and districts). It is also a safe and peaceful region. The presence of a young workforce looking for work; the fact that the road from Addis Ababa to Nairobi passes through Hawassa (capital of the region); and the fact that it has a strong monitoring and support system are among the factors that make it preferable.

To make the region benefit from the resources, many investment development



works have been carried out. By organizing four industrial cluster zones in the region, remarkable work has been done to prepare the resources of the region for investors. Efforts have been made to promote the region's investment potential and favorable conditions. It has been discovered that many investors are interested in engaging in investment activities in the region.

There are 2,301 investment projects in Sidama region. Among them, 1,867 are operational whereas 464 projects have been revoked because they did not get license. The investments that are operational have benefited more than 52 thousand people with job opportunities. In addition to the agricultural and industrial sectors, many investors are also engaged in the service sector, hotels and entertainment, technology and other sectors in the region.

The attention paid to the investment sector has achieved results. Investment capital, which was not registered for 26 years from 1994 to 2020, was registered in 2022. In 26 years, the investment capital was three point two billion Birr, and in 2022 alone, it became seven point three billion Birr.

In terms of issues that have received attention at the country level, 550 hectares of land has been prepared for investors engaged in summer wheat cultivation.

In 2022/23, it was planned to give licenses to 400 investors and it was possible to give licenses to 165 investors in the first five months. This year's performance is better compared to the same period of last year. These projects have benefited more than 16,000 citizens with job opportunities.

In the first five months of this fiscal year, it was planned to give 160 hectares of land to investors and it was possible to provide 583 hectares of land. The regional investment commission's project monitoring and support sector monitors and supports the status of investment projects. The performance of the projects and their deficiencies will be monitored. In this regard, it was planned to monitor 309 investment projects in the five months and it was possible to achieve more than planned.

One of the areas of investment that the

region has focused on is to provide value added products to the market. Sidama region is one of the regions of Ethiopia with great potential in coffee resources. There are 700 coffee industries in the region. Sidama coffee has won the Cup of Excellence for three consecutive years. From this point of view, it is a matter of marketing including the value addition that has been given attention and the direction to work on. Thus, an Italian company that provides value added coffee has started operation in Yirgalem Integrated Agro-Industrial Park.

When foreign investors participate in domestic investment activities, they are expected to bring finance and technology with them. In this regard, the region is working diligently to ensure that young people benefit from job opportunities, to use the financial and technological potential of investors, and to build the capacity of local investors and increase their participation.

Industrial parks in the region are making a big contribution to the growth of its investment. They are equipped with complete infrastructure, which makes the work of investors relatively easy and fast. The huge Hawassa Industrial Park has created great opportunities for investors engaged in the manufacturing sector. An integrated Agro-Industrial Park also helps investors in agriculture and agricultural products to tap into the potential of the region's agricultural sector. Bensa Middle Industrial Park is also a manufacturing area that can be an additional potential for investment in the region.

Participation of local investors in the region's investment sector has been improving. However, their participation in the industrial sector is still low. For example, among the manufacturers in Hawassa Industrial Park, only three are local investors. Therefore, increasing the participation of local investors requires attention, so recently, during the promotion of Yirgalem Integrated Agro-Industrial Park, 106 local investors were registered.

The commissioner further said that, incentives of the region to increase inflow of investors will be implemented according

to the provision of incentives prescribed by decree and directive. The region supports and encourages investors based on "Investment Decree 1180/2012" and other legal provisions. Preparing sites includes performance of monitoring and supporting activities offered to investors to facilitate conditions for them to get up and running quickly.

There are gaps in investment performance in Sidama region. One of them is to fence off the land that investors have taken for investment for a long time. This will cause the investors to lose the multi-faceted benefits that they and the country will get if they come to work. In response to this, in the last five months, 68 projects have been notified and put into operation. The land taken by 19 investors has been returned to the land bank.

Lack of long-term credit is another challenge in the investment sector. There are also some remote districts where there are occasional power outages. On the other hand, there are no instances where bureaucratic hassles become a hindrance to the sector. Investors who submit legitimate investment requests are processed quickly.

The main next plans of the Sidama Region Investment Commission are to strengthen the inflow of investment and give special attention to investment projects that involve technology transfer. In this way, sustainable activities are carried out that guarantee citizens to benefit from the investment sector.

Supporting local investors who can be a reliable guarantee for sustainable development and growth of the country will also be a matter of attention. Without peace, investment is unthinkable. The steps taken to establish peace have given hope to investors as well as to the entire society. From this point of view, the region's administration keeps the peace in the Sidama region and work diligently to grow the investment sector.

The Chief Commissioner assured that, the region is ready to host investors who are interested in investing in various investment sectors in the Sidama region.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Pretoria peace deal: Hallmark of Africa's potential to solve African problems

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Ethiopia was wallowing in the quagmire of two years of conflict that broke out in its northern part. However, any mediation efforts or calls for a peaceful resolution of the devastating war failed to yield a result until the African Union stepped in to broker a peace deal between the warring parties.

In the course of the conflict, the federal government insisted that any kind of peace agreement should come from the continental bloc. On different occasions, the incumbent also made clear its belief that African solutions need African problems. On November 2, the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) inked Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) in Pretoria, South Africa under the auspicious of the African Union. The peace deal incorporates agreements including the disarmament of TTPLF combatants, withdrawal of foreign forces, unimpeded humanitarian access, resumption of essential services, and implementation of transitional justice.

Prior to the Pretoria peace deal, almost all of the peace agreements held in Africa were negotiated or arbitrated by other international organizations around the world. However, the Government of Ethiopia has been in a firm position to be brokered by the African Union as the nation strongly believes that Africans have plenty of ways to resolve their own problems with indigenous mechanisms. Time has witnessed that the AU-brokered peace deal has brought tangible results and the stakeholders have taken steps that support the full implementation of the peace deal.

After the Pretoria peace accord, the Government of Ethiopia and TPLF further continued their agreement in two different rounds of meetings by sending their military officials to Nairobi, Kenya for discussing the implementation of the agreement. Those moves have shown the commitment of the federal government and TPLF regarding the implementation and practicality of the peace accord.

During the past few weeks, the incumbent has kept its promises to ensure unfettered humanitarian assistance which was confirmed by many officials and international organizations. Besides, the government has tried its best to restore basic services to the Tigray state. Government delegations and the African Union special envoy have also paid a visit to Mekele, Tigray regional capital demonstrating the federal government's unwavering resolve to the full effectuation of the peace deal.

Just a week before, the Federal Government delegation led by the speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives Tadesse Chafo visited Tigray in order to evaluate whether the peace accord is being implemented.

With the implementation of the peace deal going smoothly, the international community is praising the AU and Ethiopia for their



commitment and wisdom in making the deal a reality. The continental bloc is credited for its mediation role while Ethiopia received a tap in the back for its readiness and prowess to end the conflict peacefully. Ethiopia's peace deal in this regard can be taken as a benchmark to resolve other conflicts in the continent. Lately, the African Union has said that the Pretoria peace deal will set the best example for the rest of African nations.

Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security of the African Union Commission said that the peace agreement depicts the best example for the rest of African countries and members of the African Union. This particular step of resolving African problems with African solutions will be presented as the best experience at the next African Union Summit in Addis Ababa.

Conferring with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, Demeke Mekonnen, Commissioner Bankole Adeoye also appreciated the Federal Government's effort for its unwavering support for the African Union. He also praised both sides for the actions taken regarding the implementation of the peace agreement.

In their discussion, Demeke stressed that the peace deal can be considered the best proof of Africa's potential of resolving its problems. Particularly, the Pretoria peace accord is producing better results, according to local media report.

Demeke also said that conditions in the Tigray Region are getting better and better regarding the restoration of basic services and unfettered humanitarian aid. He also affirms the government's commitment to supporting the implementation of the agreement.

Kenyatta paid a visit to Mekele to attest whether the peace accord is implemented in the right way and as it is scheduled. The visitors confirmed that the federal government and TPLF have acted according to the agreement. Humanitarian assistance and the restoration of basic services are being provided to Tigray Region.

The Special Envoy Obasanjo admitted that both sides should be thanked for their commitment to implementing the peace agreement. He also mentioned that the provision of unrestricted humanitarian assistance, resumption of basic services, and establishment the lasting peace in the northern part of the country are stated in the agreement. Accordingly, both parties have shown their best effort for the implementation of the peace agreement.

Likewise, Kenya's former President Uhuru Kenyatta on his part reaffirmed that all corridors of the country are open for humanitarian supplies and basic services are resumed. Kenyatta disclosed that the implementation of the peace agreement is a testimony to the possibility of resolving African problems with African solutions. He further added, "The leaders deserve praise for this result, and we will continue to strengthen our cooperation."

In a similar vein, Justice Minister Gedion Timotheos further assured that the incumbent is implementing everything according to the promises and preconditions stated in the peace agreement. Senior TPLF leader, Getachew Reda has also shared the above-mentioned idea of the commitment of both parties in relation to bringing the peace agreement into reality.

To show further applicability of the peace deal, the Federal Government of Ethiopia and TPLF along with the African Union have established a Monitoring Verification and Compliance Mission Team under the guidance of the African Union. The team is responsible to supervise, monitor, verify, and enforce the peace agreement between the parties. The team will monitor both the civil and military agreements. It incorporates three members namely Maj.-Gen Radina Stephen from Kenya who is the head of the monitoring and verification team, Colonel Rufai Umar Mairiga from Nigeria, and Colonel Teffo Sekole from South Africa.

The peace accord and the part taken by the African Union to broker a deal shows that Africa is ready to take its own responsibility for any action in the continent without any interference from a third party. The Ethiopian government and TPLF have been resolute to metalize the landmark agreement. The actors involved in this peace deal have been extending their involvement from bringing the bodies around the table to establishing a monitoring team that assesses the process of the implementation. In this regard, Africa sends a clear message to the rest of the world that its institutions can sort things out on their own. The peace accord is a textbook example to picture that continent of Africa has the potential to solve its problems in its own ways.

“ The peace deal can be considered the best proof of Africa's potential of resolving its problems. Particularly, the Pretoria peace accord is producing better results, according to local media report”

The AU-brokered peace deal is not only valued for bringing the warring parties to the table but it is also praised for being successful in its implementation. At least that is what recent visits to Tigray testified. Be that it may, the Special Envoy of the African Union, Olusegun Obasanjo coupled with former President of Kenya, Uhuru

Law & Politics

Proven commitment to fully effectuate Pretoria peace deal

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Subsequent to the African Union (AU) brokered a deal in Pretoria between the federal government and Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF), the implementation of the peace accord has been in full swing drawing acclamation from the wider international community.

Regardless of the fact that nobody had expected the intended destination could be accomplished at the earliest possible juncture, for the most part, after the signing of the peace agreement, the whole thing is moving in the right direction on account of the firm stance of the incumbent to patch things up.

As the Federal government is committed to turning the peace accord and bringing peace and tranquility in every corner of the northern part of the country, it has been sparing no effort to put the implementation into effect. In consideration of the foregoing, the genuine gesture of the government has embarked on yielding positive results and coming to fruition in no time at all.

In the current circumstances, though some entrepreneurs of conflict disenchanted by the peace agreement have to go to great lengths to take no account of the promising moves of the federal government, they failed to achieve the desired purpose. Dejectedly, failing to learn from their past blunders, some groups have been jumping through hoops to bring discredit to the positive moves of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and restoration of social infrastructure in the Tigray State.

Turning a blind eye to the reality on the ground, they bend over backward to drag through the mud the positive developments of the government in connection with smoothing the path of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and restoration of social infrastructure.

Albeit Ethiopia's adversaries are engaged in a smear campaign against the positive achievements concerning peace implementation, everything in the Tigray State has been heading in the right direction. Similarly, even though a lot of efforts have been made numerous times by some groups to politicize the issue of humanitarian assistance, all their endeavors have been going for a burton. Notwithstanding that Ethiopia's rivals know the fact that humanitarian assistance has been entering the Tigray State unrestrictedly, they have been sparing no effort to negate this fact. As things currently stand, the global community has been speaking highly of the government for realizing the self-evident truth sprouting in the Tigray State.

In a similar vein, the incumbent has been smoothing the path of the restoration of social infrastructure and bringing back everything required for the inhabitants of the Tigray State. In consideration of the foregoing, residents of the Tigray State have set in motion breathing a sigh of relief and leading a normal life more than ever before. In the present circumstances, a considerable amount of humanitarian assistance has been



entering the Tigray State through various routes with flying colors.

Apart from that several humanitarian organizations have been accelerating the provision of medicine and medical equipment to Tigray State and other important things.

It is important to make it clear that the signing of the peace deal in black and white demonstrates the firm stance of the government to beat swords into a plowshare.

Although some entities pulled out all the stops to work in close collaboration with some actors to besmirch the ongoing reality on the ground, all their efforts metamorphosed into going for nothing. In the aftermath of the promising developments of the peace implementation, residents of the Tigray people have been reaffirming their commitment to stand by the side of the incumbent.

In the course of the war that lasted for two years in the northern part of the country, the whole thing in the Tigray State was costing an arm and a leg.

Everything was skyrocketing. However, after the signing of the agreement, the cost of living has been getting back on track in the shortest possible time.

Apart from smoothing the path of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to restoring social infrastructure, the government has kick-started making the impossible possible and the unthinkable thinkable. As things currently stand, repairing damaged infrastructure, resuming essential services, and ensuring peace and stability have been pointing in the right direction.

In this regard, the Federal Police of Ethiopia, which is authorized to protect institutions of the federal government, stated that it reentered Mekelle, the capital of Tigray State for protection purposes.

In a statement issued, the Ethiopian Federal Police Commission announced that it started working to protect federal institutions. On the heels of the peace agreement reached by the government and the TPLF in Pretoria, South Africa, the Ethiopian Federal Police will carry out the protection of airports, electricity, telecom services, banks, and other federal institutions that provide services to the public in Tigray.

It is known that the Federal Police has been doing security and safety enforcement work by entering the areas of Tigray and supporting the public to return to their

villages.

The Special Envoy of the African Union, Olusegun Obasanjo, confirmed last that emergency humanitarian assistance is being provided in Tigray region and basic services have started, according to information obtained from Ethiopian News Agency.

The Special Envoy of the African Union, Olusegun Obasanjo, and former President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, visited Mekelle to observe the implementation of the peace agreement reached between the federal government and the TPLF.

According to the special envoy, the visit of a delegation of senior government officials led by House Speaker Tagesse Chafo to Mekelle has confirmed the commitment of the government.

The special envoy explained that following the peace agreement emergency humanitarian aid is being widely provided in Tigray region and basic services have started. He appreciated the government's commitment to resume basic services in Tigray and make humanitarian aid accessible; and thanked the leaders of both sides for the good work they did for the peace agreement.

Obasanjo also reminded that the provision of unfettered humanitarian aid, resumption of basic services, and establishment of lasting peace in northern Ethiopia are part of the peace agreement, and thanked the government for implementing everything as per the agreement.

The special envoy stated that it is commendable that electricity, banking, telecommunication, and other basic services have started within a short period of time. He further said the African Union, the people of Ethiopia, and the civil and military leaders of the two sides have played a significant role in bringing about this result.

Former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said on his part "we have confirmed that all transport corridors are open for emergency humanitarian aid and basic services have started. He also stated that it is commendable that air transport, roads, banks, electricity, and other services, including humanitarian aid, have resumed operations in the region."

"The leaders deserve praise for this result, and we will continue to strengthen our cooperation," Kenyatta said, adding that the implementation of the peace agreement is a clear demonstration that it is possible to provide an African solution for Africa's

problems.

Justice Minister Gideon Timotheos said the government is implementing everything as per the promises made following the peace agreement. He further confirmed that the government will work with determination in all fields. The senior leadership of the TPLF, Getachew Reda confirmed that the agreement is being implemented by both parties.

With regard to humanitarian assistance, Ethiopia has been hell-bent to reach the war-affected communities and allow unrestricted access to donors.

The Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) said it has delivered humanitarian aid to people affected by the past unrest in Amhara and Afar states.

The commission also dispatched some 169,000 metric tons (MT) of food items to the war-impacted Amhara, Afar, and Tigray states since the enactment of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA).

Following the CoHA, the government and partners have delivered 141, 671 metric tons of food in the first- round of operation (45 days) and covered the entire 8.3 million people in need in the three states, Commissioner Shiferaw Teklemariam (Ph.D.) told journalists. In the second round of operation, the commission also delivered 28,000 metric tons of food supplies and covered 20 percent of the needy.

The first and second operation covers all Tigray zones, three zones of Amhara as well as three zones of Afar State. Some 3872 metric tons of nutrition food is also being transported, in the aforesaid states, he added.

Some 22 flights transported over 959 million Birr in cash via Mekelle and Shire airports. Some 879,980 liters of fuel were also transported to Tigray including allowing companies to transport fuel directly from Djibouti to Mekelle.

According to the commissioner, in the reported period, the WFP, the federal government, and the Integration of Donors took a lion's share in supplying humanitarian assistance. The government has delivered over 15, 000 metric tons of food out of the 169,000, and the remaining is covered by donors.

Also, 22 flights transported cash and 3,117 trucks were deployed to transport humanitarian supplies. Regarding international cooperation in humanitarian response, some 119 aid agencies partners have participated in the endeavor utilizing the four land corridors namely Afar-Abala, Gondar-Humera-Shire, Kombolcha-Kobo, Gondar-Debank-Mai Tsebri as well the air transport.

Shiferaw pointed out that various institutions have been widely engaged in the rehabilitation and restoration of essential services in the conflict-affected areas and the commitment of donors to work in cooperation with the government is encouraging. The National Rehabilitation Commission was established to facilitate the rehabilitation process, it was learned.

Society

Celebrating *Ghena* at Lalibela, city of Rock hewn Churches

BY SEMIRA BERHE

When people get tired and want to refresh their mind they prefer to have a wonderful time with their families or alone in remote areas, historic places, monasteries or any other places where their soul can be refreshed with the new experience at a new place. In this regard, for most travels or tourists, Ethiopia is their preference. Indeed, Ethiopia is a history lover's paradise of classic history and religious travels, tribes and cultures and geographical wonder.

The Rock-hewn churches of Lalibela are among the most magnificent tourist attraction sites in Ethiopia. The city got the name Lalibela after the King Lalibela of the Zagwe Dynasty, who reigned in the 12th century. Historical sources indicated that the king wanted to build these rock-hewn churches after he was inspired by the churches he saw in the Holy City- Jerusalem-where he stayed for 13 years. He then decided to build these churches as representation of the Holy city in Africa.

The churches that are carved out from one rock into 11 medieval monolithic churches until today are a place of pilgrimage and devotion among followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. In addition to orthodox Christians, many Ethiopians and foreigners visit this area. UNESCO registered this historical place in 1978 as a world heritage site, along with the other heritage sites in Ethiopia.

Among the 11 Churches of labella "Biete Giorgis" is the most known church among visitors. One of the unique qualities of this church is that it is found a little isolated from



the others and shown at the highest place in a cross shape.

Historical sources indicated that it takes 12 years to finish building the entire church, and unlike every other building in the world, its structure starts from the ground up, but Saint Lalibela did it from the top down.

The 11 rock hewn churches of Lalibela are categorized into two main groups based on their relative location to the nearby river. The Churches that lie to the north of the river are Biete Medhanalem (House of Holy Savior), the largest of all, Biete Mariam (House of Mary), Biete Denagele (House of Virgins), Biete Gologotha Mikael (House of Gologotha Michael). To the south of the river, Biete

Amanuel (House of Emmanuel), Biete Qeddus Mercoreus (House of St. Mercoreos), Biete Abba Libanos (House of Abba Libanos), Biete Gabriel Raphael (House of Gabriel Raphael), House of Libanos (House of Libanos). The eleventh church, Biete Ghiorgis (House of St. George), is isolated from the others but connected by system trenches until now. All the rock-hewn churches are still preserved in their natural setting.

It has many historical places that inspire visitors to visit and be present at the special Christmas day in the church at Lalibela. At the religious celebration "Beza Kullu," the priests announce that the Holy Savior (one of the name variants of Jesus Christ) was born in the morning and that same day was the

birthday of King Lalibela.

As indicated by Lalibela town Deputy Mayor, Deacon Addise Demisse, for this Christmas celebration more than 1.8 million guests are expected to attend the special program that will be held at Lalibela.

Tourism is one of the basic means of generating a town's income. In this regard, the church is one of the major sources of income from tourism and plays a big role in the development of the city. He said, before the outbreak of Corona pandemic and the conflict over 39 thousand tourists visited the Rock-Hewn Church and was able to generate 260 million Birr income.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Deputy Mayor and head of town's tourism office Deacon Addise Demisse, said currently, several committees are formed to facilitate the peaceful celebration of Christmas in Lalibela. He said the committees are ready to receive their guests and prepared different services for the comfort of tourists. What is more, qualified tour guides are prepared for foreign tourists who are expected the celebration. Besides, over 45 hotels have been ready to provide accommodation for the tourists; organized work forces that are in charge of controlling illegal merchants, who may try to reap unfair profit from tourists are also organized. Besides its religious and societal value, the celebration had a huge contribution to the city's economy as well as stimulating tourism. According to him, it is expected to generate 141 million birr from this year's celebration.



Published on every Tuesday in cooperation
with the Federal Ministry of Education

Semera, Jinka Universities' forums messages on 'Roles of Scholars in Nation Building'

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Scholars in universities throughout Ethiopia are discussing their roles in the current needs of the state building to enhance stability and peace. This article focuses on the forums being held at Semera and Jinka Universities since yesterday under the theme: 'Roles of Scholars in Nation Building.'

The State Minister of Tourism and the Chairman of the Administrative Board of Semera University Seleshi Girma presented highlights of the forum noting: "Many successes have been recorded after the reform in the country. And scholars should play a leading role in generating important ideas in the state building."

He mentioned the promising national developments and related issues recorded following the broadening of the political space and indigenous economic reforms.

The lack of the culture of solving political problems in a civilized manner, including economic and other challenges related to the current national and international conditions, are the problems that have challenged the country; he reasoned adding: "All patriotic citizens are required to actively

participate in order to overcome national and international challenges to develop the democratic system and to get out of poverty in an accelerated manner."

In particular, he emphasized that the higher education community and the scholars should play their irreplaceable roles by generating useful ideas and technologies for the construction of the nation's government, using their knowledge and skills as well as their ability to understand global situations.

"In addition to producing a patriotic generation, academics should generate important researches and recommendations that will help in the process of nation building and enhancing democratic system," he added.

Likewise, Semera University President, Dr. Mohammad Usman, for his part, underscored that scholars should use their knowledge and skills for the common development of the country and the enhancement of the democratic system by acting in a manner that takes into account the actual situation of the broader world.

By the same token, the Minister of Culture and Sports and Chairman of the

"All patriotic citizens are required to actively participate in order to overcome national and international challenges to develop the democratic system and to get out of poverty in an accelerated manner."

Administrative Board of Jinka University, Kejela Merdasa, has urged scholars to put their historical mark in order to take the ongoing reform that has been started in the country to the brink.

"Every citizen should do his part to hand

over a country with a broader democratic system, rich economy and convenient for its citizens. A strong government will not be built by interfering with each other and by compromising each other," the minister noted.

Especially, scholars need to emphasize on creating important ideas in the state formation and put their historical marks to bring the country's transformation to existence besides creating a knowledge-driven generation.

Equally, Jinka University President, Dr. Kuse Gudshe, on his part, pointed out that the role of academics in nation building is high and stressed that scholars should work hard for its implementation. "In particular, they should play their part by generating and presenting ideas based on concrete evidence that will assist to create a strong consensus so that the national consultation forum can achieve national consensus and lasting peace."

The top leaders and teachers of the universities are participating in the discussion forums which will last four days from yesterday.

Planet Earth

Efforts to register megalithic stele of Gedeo in UNESCO list

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Ethiopia is a country blessed with historical, cultural, natural, and manmade resources. However, many of the resources have not been cultivated in a way to get economic advantage from them.

Hundreds of megalithic stele sites have been reported from the north, central and southern parts of Ethiopia. Despite this, limited scientific research has been conducted at stele sites in Ethiopia, specifically in the southern part of the country.

Of the tangible heritages, Megalith stele is listed as one of the attractions that have been used to construct a prehistoric structure or monument, either alone or together with other stones.

The major megalithic sites of Ethiopia are found in Gedeo Zone, Gurage Zone and Sidama Zone. So far, Tiya was the lonely attraction sites registered under UNESCO heritage list. Stele, tumuli and dolmens are the common megalithic monuments found in Ethiopia. However, except Tiya, the remaining sites were not developed so as to be tourist attraction that can generate foreign currency.

Emphasis was given to the megalithic stelae of south Ethiopia, especially the Gedeo zone, for the region contains the largest number and highest concentration of megalithic carved stele known throughout Africa. Southern Ethiopia is also one of the few places in the world where people still practice stelae construction or actively engage with the constructed stele landscape.

Archaeological survey and test excavation was conducted in one of the ancient megalithic stele sites in south Ethiopia, Sakaro Sodo. The Sakaro Sodo stele site is situated in Gedeo zone, which is known to have the largest number and highest concentration of megalithic stele monuments in Africa, with an estimate of more than 10,000 stelae in sixty or more sites.

At present various tasks are now underway to get more than 6,000 Megalithic Stelae registered as World Heritage Sites, according to Authority for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage.

The report indicated that there are more than 6,000 Megalithic stelae in Gedeo landscape in Southern part of Ethiopia. These stelae are the oldest in East Africa. Accordingly, efforts are well underway to get the more than 6,000 Megalithic Stelae registered as World Heritage Site by the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Following the visit to Gedeo natural and cultural heritages, Deputy Director General at the Authority for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage Hiwot Hailu said our forefathers have kept the Gedeo cultural landscape heritage using indigenous knowledge for the posterity to learn from it.

Citing that the Gedeo Landscape heritage is



one of the showcases of Ethiopia's ancient civilizations, she said the heritage is being used as a great input for researchers. The protected forest in the Gedeo landscape is an exemplary for green legacy programs. Recall that the Gedeo experience provides a unique opportunity for the understanding of human environment relationship that is maintained through indigenous institutions, values and practices.

While many of the monoliths have fallen and/or are undecorated, a few have intricately wrought faces and other anthropomorphic designs carved into the stone that can be seen today.

Existing archaeological, ethnographic, and living megalithic stele traditions in the region suggest that the oldest stele sites were likely created for two purposes: to commemorate the transfer of power from one generation to the next or to record and commemorate group achievement.

Prior to the current work, only one absolute date was available (850 years ago) from a stele site in the Gedeo zone, suggesting the monuments began to be constructed in the region approximately a millennium ago.

"This is one of the most understudied archaeological sites in the world, and we wanted to change that," explained Dr. Ashenafi Zena, a researcher with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and Hawassa University.

Dr. Zena and colleagues used advanced radiocarbon dating to determine the megalithic stelae at the Sakaro Sodo site were likely created sometime during the first century CE.

They also found that, obsidian artifacts from the site originated some 300 km (186 miles) away in northern Kenya, illustrating that the people at Sakaro Sodo obtained most of their obsidian raw materials through some form of exchange or trade.

While little is known about the pastoral and/or agricultural people who populated the Sakaro Sodo region at the turn of the first millennium, the new construction dates of



the stele monuments appear to coincide with the arrival of domesticated animals in the region and the beginnings of more complex social and economic systems.

"One of the reasons why this research is important is because it has the potential to shed new light on what the earliest people in this area were doing for a living as well as what their cultural and social

practices were," said Professor Andrew Duff, an anthropologist at Washington State University.

The activity of the authority would further be supported until the heritage site registered in UNESCO's heritage list. The area where the heritages are found should also be developed in line with the registration process so as to get benefit out of it.