



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXIX No 116 24 January 2023 - Tir 16, 2015

Tuesday

Price Birr 10.00



## Ethiopia's army beacon of hope, peace : Commander-in-Chief

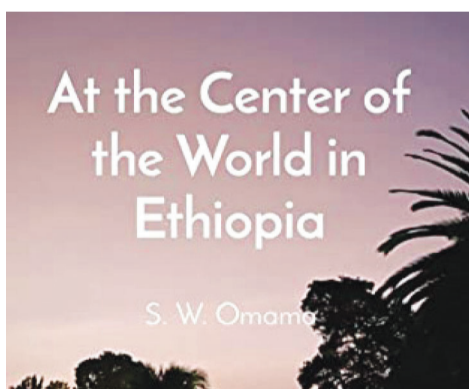
BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA-** The well-trained, ethical, and able army that will proficiently carry out missions is a hope of peace, stability, and development for the people of Ethiopia, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said.

The Premier, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF), made the above remark recently while reviewing the joint military exercise conducted by the Air Force and Mechanized Infantry at Awash Arba Combat Technical School.

For Ethiopia, to remain peaceful and realize its development goals, the commitment and strong devotion of the ENDF is highly essential, Abiy said, adding that vigorous activities have been made to enhance the capability of the ENDF, Federal Police and

*See Ethiopia's army ... page 3*



### Expert weighs in revelations on false accusation of aid blockade

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** Some quarters and aid agencies operating in conflict-ridden north Ethiopia have not fully discharged their entrusted role of serving impartially, a

*See Expert ... page 3*

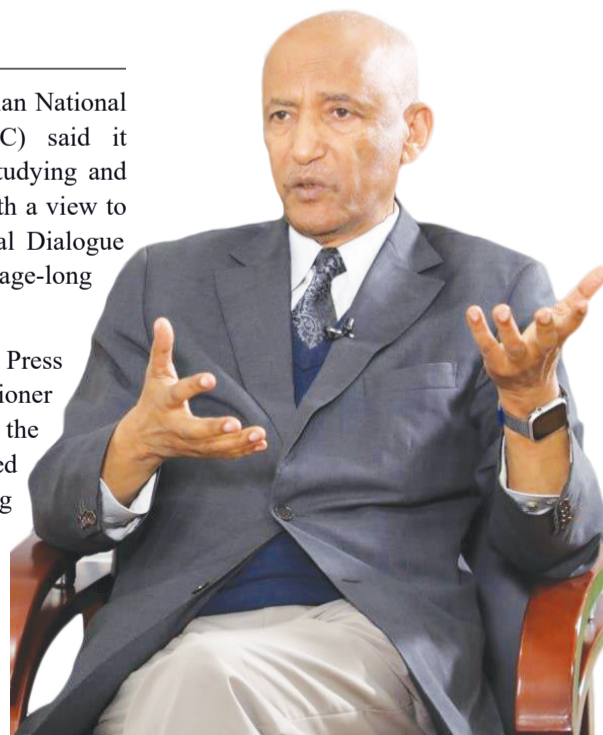
### ENDC exploring global experience for successful Nat'l Dialogue

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA –** The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) said it has been hugely engaged in studying and exploring global experience with a view to conducting successful National Dialogue that will address the country's age-long contentious problems.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) ENDC Commissioner Prof. Mesfin Araya said that the commission has been established with the objectives of facilitating consultation between the various segments of the society by identifying the root causes of the difference in fundamental national issues and identifying the topics on which the

*See ENDC exploring ... page 3*



Prof. Mesfin Araya

Photo - Ashenafi Gudetu

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### Association envisages East African hotel's common branding

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA –** Ethiopia Tourism and Hotel Market Association announced that it is working for hotels in East Africa to have the same brand in the years to come.

*See Association ... page 3*

# News

## Ethiopia wishes happy Chinese Lunar New Year

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** – Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen have wished cheerful and prosperous 2023 Lunar New Year to the people of China.

Conveying a laudatory message to China and its people, premier Abiy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) stated that, Ethiopia and China have committed to further consolidating their longstanding bilateral ties and keen to establish a strong solidarity more than ever before.

Wishing the people and government of China a happy Lunar New Year and best wishes in the Year of the Rabbit, the Premier tweeted



that Ethiopia is keen and ready to further augment Ethiopia-China ties in the years to come, as of the just-started Chinese New Year.

Deputy Prime Minister and MoFA Minister Demeke Mekonnen his part said that: “I am confident that we will beef up, the long-

standing ties between Ethiopia and China, as of the New Year sets in and the New Year symbolizes strength, tenancy and success for the two countries.”

It is to be recalled that during his stay in Ethiopia recently, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang said that, Ethiopia and China have been in a strong diplomatic ties more than half a century; these two countries have always helped each other and going forward side by side no matter how dynamic international situational changes are, serving as a paragon of solidarity and cooperation among developing countries.

Chinese people are celebrating the 2023 Lunar New Year. They assigned 12 animals for each year. Last year was the year of Tiger and 2023 is said to be year of Rabbit, in was learnt.

## University unveils *Enset* plant scrubbing, bleaching center

- Plans to conduct int’l Workshop very soon

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Arba Minch University announced that it has introduced *Enset* plant scrubbing and bleaching center using technology aiming at increasing productivity.

The University’s College of Natural Science *Enset* Project Coordinator, Lecturer and Researcher Addisu Fikadu (PhD) told The Ethiopian press Agency (EPA) that, the university has introduced the first ever modern *Enset* (False Banana) scrubbing and bleaching center to increase productivity.

According to Addisu, the university has been carrying out various activities such as conducting researches, multiplying the *Enset* plant, and distributing the special *Enset* seedling to the farming community in a bid to maximize productivity and ensure adequate benefit out of it. For example, the university has developed *Enset* technology and distributing to farmers over the past six months.

“Particularly, the *Enset* center would bring



multifaceted significance as it helps reduce product and labor wastages, avoid bacterial diseases, and increase production and productivity at large”, he added.

He further added that, the new *Enset* center, which was established in Gamo zone of Dorzie district and fully funded by UNDP and Ministry of Innovation and Technology, has been benefiting over 1,500 farmers.

Likewise, over 1,200 *Enset* farmers in Wolaita zone have been benefiting from the center established using the support secured from European Union (EU) and Christian Aid Ethiopia European Union SoSShal Ethiopia. Over 3,000 *Enset* farmers have been benefiting from the centers.

“Modernizing the *Enset* farming has manifold advantages as it would increase

food intake rate by 55 percent, reduce product wastage by 24 up to 45 percent, supply the quality product to the market, reduce foreign exchange crunch and realize the country’s ambition of ensuring food security,” he underlined.

Moreover, as the *Enset* plant is capable of resisting drought, being enriched with carbohydrate and not being easily perished, it is significantly useful in reduce food challenge and stunting problem in drought affected areas. Therefore, Arba Minch University has planned to expand the technology, multiplication of special *Enset*, distribute adequate *Enset* seedling for farmers and introduce the plant in the other parts of Ethiopia especially in north part of the country; this is one of the future crucial activities, he emphasized.

Addisu added that, the University will prepare *Enset* plant International Workshop very soon that would focus on the utilization, production and medication of *Enset* plant. The workshop will bring significant impact on a large number of stakeholders who are going to actively engage in and share technology, knowledge, experience and others relevant expertise, he elaborated.

## Dembel lake side project to see completion soon

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA**- Dembel lake side project is to be completed in five months, so disclosed Batu town administration.

The project is worth of a 100 million Birr, it was learnt.

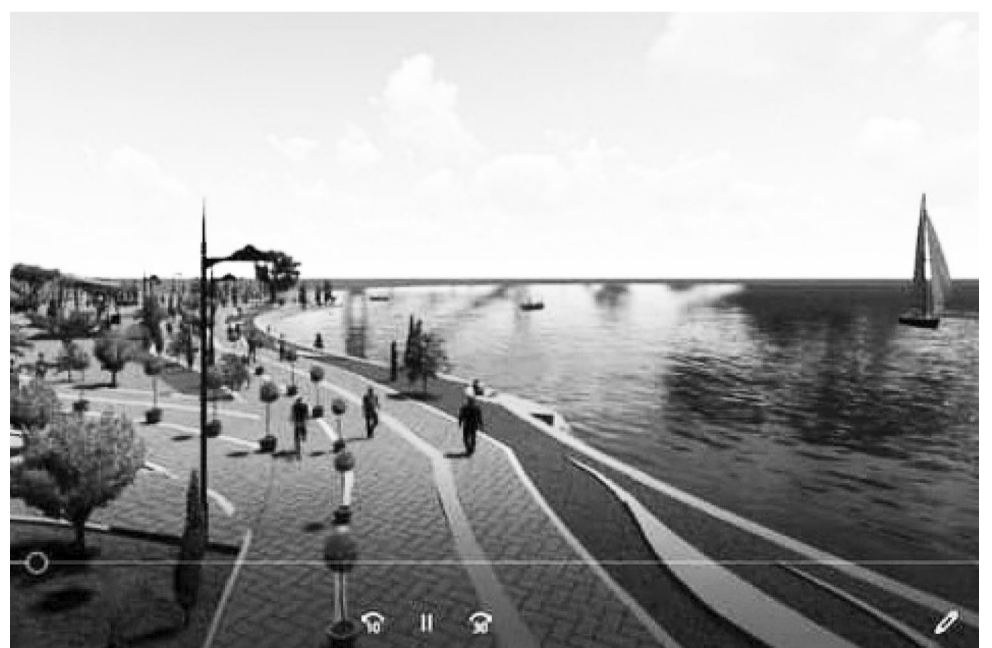
Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), the town Mayor Gezahegn Dejene said that, the project would increase the influx of tourists at Dembel lake and its surroundings upon completion.

“The project covers 1.8 km long and it has been

constructed at 30 hectares of land. It is also been constructed to host various public and religious festivals and exhibitions. Besides, it would provide the local community with cycling service,” he said.

As to the Mayor, the objectives of the project are among others to protect Dembel Lake from pollution, make the lake conducive for tourists, and create jobs for over 2,000 youths in fishery and other sectors.

He indicated that, the project will comprise football, hand ball, children’s play grounds and other different standardized recreational areas.



# News

## Ethiopia Int'l trade exhibition 2023 kicks off

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** – The 4<sup>th</sup> Ethiopia International trade exhibition was kicked off yesterday here at the Millennium hall with attendance of senior government officials and ambassadors of various countries.

The main objective of the expo is to bring together professionals in the multi-sectors to showcase their wide range of products and equipment in the Build Expo, Auto Expo, Power and Energy, Solar, Food and Kitchen, Made Expo, Light Expo and Plastics, Printing and Packaging Expo taking at the same place.

Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) State Minister Kasahun Gofe launched the exhibition.

In his opening remark, Kasahun stated that the exhibition is taking place at the historic moment immediately after the peace agreement has been signed between the government of Ethiopian and TPLF to find peaceful resolution for the conflict in the Northern parts of the country.



As peace is a fundamental requirement for doing predictable business and for achieving sustainable development in Ethiopia, all parties are urgently implementing the peace agreement within the timeline so as to achieve dependable and peaceful environment for the citizens and businesses at large.

According to the state minister, in the past decade Ethiopia has been one of the fastest growing economies in the world with diverse agro ecology and favorable climate for both agricultural and industrial production in a considerable amount to meet the national and international market requirements.

In this exhibition, a focus has been given

to bring together those companies and businesses working in the construction of decent housing and innovation in the various sectors.

Moreover, the exhibition has significance for image building by bringing business from different sectors like trade, science and technology culture and education which have come all the way with their goods and services.

Additionally, this platform provides an opportunity for an active dialogue between participants by establishing direct contacts that aimed at enhancing and boosting businesses and also strengthening regional cooperation and integration.

Kasahun thanked the international participants of this exhibition who have come from different parts of the continent to nurture opportunities and to do business with Ethiopian counterparts.

He also confirmed that MoTRI is committed to facilitate exchange of best practices and pleased to work with the organizers of the exhibition. The exhibition will remain open from 23-25 January 2023.

### ENDC exploring...

discussion will take place.

Studying the experience of others has become a common experience globally and attempts have been made to understand the reason behind the successes and failures of national dialogues that have been conducted in various countries, the commissioner added.

External interference, government interference, lack of inclusiveness and others were among the main reasons for the failures of the National Dialogue conducted in different countries. On the other hand there are also countries that have made successful deliberations citing the experience of Tunisia.

Mesfin further stated that countries including Yemen and Sudan failed to execute successful National Dialogue because of the interference of the government and external actors. Accordingly, conducting an all-inclusive dialogue that consists of the lower part of the society, religious leaders, civil society and others is crucial.

Ethiopia, the commission, has been making an extensive preparation to execute an inclusive and transparent National Dialogue complying with its mandate. Due attention has been given to keep the deliberation inclusive and participatory in preparation, process and implementation phases so as to bring about holistic peace making.

“Likewise, we have been discussed with various segments of society including political parties, civil society organizations, and other parts of the society. Understanding of historical narratives on contentious issues is among the most important elements to conduct a successful National Dialogue.”

According to the commissioner, the truce agreement reached between the government and TPLF is among the basic things to conduct activity in Tigray and discuss with the public.

### Expert weighs in revelations on false...

source closer to the issue, commending UN WFPA former Country Director's remark in this regard.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Political Science and International Relations Assistant Professor at Bahir Dar University, Yayew Genet said that the accusation of humanitarian aid blockade had been used by some international humanitarian agencies to impose their political interest.

Some aid agencies also unsubstantially accused the Ethiopian government for blocking aid even in areas that were

inaccessible due to the conflict whilst remain silent about the illegal activities of the other side of the conflict.

As the UN Charter directs all agencies should away from politics, the organization is expected supervise its entities whether they are serving all countries equally.

“Fabricated information and propaganda arranged to point the government in the wrong direction were largely misused,” the academician added.

The allegation of ‘using humanitarian aid as a weapon’ has been also disseminated by

mainstream media and these organizations. And, the allegation was not supported by reasonable arguments. They tried to dehumanize government forces and to humanize the other side.

It is to be recalled that last week, WFP former Country Director to Ethiopia Steven Were Omamo told local media that there was not good information revolving around the fact to make a definitive assessment of food insecurity in the Tigray State. “The pronouncement of ‘people dying hunger’ or ‘on the verge of death’ needs supportive information,” the academician emphasized.

### Association envisages East African...

Association President Getahun Alemu told *The Ethiopian Herald* that it has been working tirelessly for star and big hotels in East African countries to have common branding, which is significantly important to share similar hospitality for tourists.

According to the president, the branding will play a multifaceted significance because it will ease the life of tourists and make a strong linkage among the East African countries. Accordingly, Ethiopia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Kenya and Tanzania to increase market share, promotion, and the like in areas of hospitality and tourist inflow.

Getahun further stated that the tourism sector was significantly impacted in the past few years due to COVID-19 pandemic, and the conflict in north Ethiopia. However, following the peace deal, the tourist inflow is increasing from time to time.

“In 2019 (before the COVID-19 pandemic) the report showcased that Africa has received 60 million tourists across the globe whilst Ethiopia has obtained merely 822,000 tourists. The number is very small compared with the huge resources and history of the country. Therefore, Ethiopia should focus on marketing, promotion, building infrastructure, developing and protecting destinations, and implementing

technology.”

As to him, a 1.9 million domestic and 480 foreign tourists visited Lalibela Rock-Hewn Churches during this year's *Genna* (Birth of Jesus Christ) festivity.

He called on the states and other stakeholders to give serious attention to destination development as being taken by the federal government.

By the same token, Afar State Culture and Tourism Bureau announced that tourism activity which had been stagnant due to the covid-19 and conflict has revived in the last six months.

Bureau's Head Ahmed Abdulkadir told local media that due to the meticulous job the Bureau has done to revive the tourism business and encourage visitors' confidence, the state has received 82,000 domestic and 662 foreign tourists since the enactment of the peace accord. The state administration also prioritizes to attract foreign investment in the tourism sector.

Ethiopia has abundant potential for commercial and conference tourism and provides various incentives including tax holidays, access to land at competitive lease price and custom free imports of capital goods for investors in the sector.

### Ethiopia's ..

other security institutions.

Defending Ethiopia's soil from foreign aggressor remained unrelenting and meticulous military modernization will send strong message to enemy quarters to think twice before provoking Ethiopia, he said

The sufficient training the army gets and the preparations before deployment as well as its commitment and discipline have made it successful. At the same time, significant jobs have been made to equip the Ethiopian Air Force with skilled personnel and world-class armaments.

“Our mission is to carry our successful missions with minimal human and material cost through deploying advanced armaments and one of our biggest achievements is enhancing the capability of heavy armaments to repulse any aggression.”

Abiy continued: “Ethiopia has never had an Air Force that is strongly built with the current capacity of heavy weaponry and maintenance ability, and several defense forces and its military officials that are tested through battlefields. Luckily, the country has built strong capacity now which could serve as a source and power to realize its development plans.”

Apart from protecting its stability, Ethiopia is contributing its share to world peace by deploying a large number of peacekeepers with UN and AU missions.

# Opinion

## Ensuring productive national dialogue to create National Consensus

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

National Dialogue is a wonderful instrument to address the rifts created among groups and communities. According to Tegbaru Yared who is a researcher in the Horn of African Security and Analysis Program at the ISS in Addis Ababa University, to succeed the National Dialogue Commission, the government and most opposition parties in Ethiopia must reconcile their conflicting concepts of national dialogue before the process starts.

Yes, before the reformist government came to helm of the state, Ethiopians were struggling to ensure peace and democracy paying the highest price. In the past four or five years, Ethiopia has been undergoing acute political polarization and divisions driven mainly due to the predisposition of elites to resolve political disagreements through frictions rather than compromise.

Elites who are drawn from various backgrounds have exhibited no semblance of a democratic political culture all throughout. They often resort to confrontational approaches to ensure their interests, and are consumed to exploit the easiest and cheapest way of ethnic based administration.

The elites try to make causes in the name of their respective ethnic masses but in practice they too deny the rights of the people themselves again. They consider themselves the only defender and guardian of democracy and human right subverting views of other parties.

In my view, for Ethiopia this is befitting time that the nation should adopt the golden

middle rule that could accommodate all concerns for the common good.

Ethiopia has now embarked on an inclusive nationwide political dialogue with a view to resolving political differences through civil deliberations. If well managed, the process will enable actors to discuss fundamental national issues openly and ensure national consensus in the nation.

In my view, the document, in our hands, represents a summary of the hopes and aspirations of the Ethiopians, not specific ethnic groups. Everyone should take sleeves up to face the truth rather than remain in the cheap political market.

It is clear that people fought for freedom and a good life, and salvation as well to be free from any form of tyranny and injustice approaches of administrations.

It see happening these, we should strengthen our solidarity and should give good gesture of the high moral and democratic values that encompass everyone and all at equal stage,

As of my outlook, the National Dialogue of Ethiopia is a magnificent document that could help the nation to address the rifts that have been sustained to these days. We could not see the light or materialize a new reality in our lives, we Ethiopians, except if we continue to work hard to implement it and apply the insights and perceptions of both men and women with the spirit of creating a strong political and economic community that no one can separate by small differences and narrow partisanship, or due to the past and its ills. Inspired by lessons and through our struggle, we should always prepare the interests of our children and grandchildren

in a great nation that will remain under the banner of security, justice, freedom, equality and a good life.

It is clear that our people suffered from a difficult spiral of conflicts that did not end, though they did not give up and invented unique methods of struggle reflecting the essence and glorious democratic cultural depth in order to achieve the objectives which flowed from the pioneers of successive revolutions. But gallant children of Ethiopia who struggled were denied by few technocracies who consumed power and material needs rather than moral values.

The Ethiopia National Dialogue is embodied with unprecedented way between the covers of this document which carries a summary of those hopes and ambitions to ensure the transfer of Ethiopia to the prospects of modernity and spirit of the era, while our forefathers values and authentic morals without losing its soul or self, so the great peoples adopt their awakening without abandoning their mettle, character and values.

In my view, the political parties should participate in the fruition of the national dialogue. The participation and commitment by the principal political forces is essential to generating trust, particularly in societies that are deeply divided or polarized.

Aiming to connect the former to the later, the national dialogue is about discussion and acknowledging the past and framing the coming days. At the same time it is not about who is right and who is wrong it about which way is right to proceed. In this regard, the Commission had been exerting effort

to stage a number of platforms to create informed political parties and communities throughout the nation. It is a commendable effort but it should be strengthened further.

It is clear that dialogue can arise from the need to institutionalize the participation of civil society. It is important to seek mechanisms, both formal and informal, to allow participation by civil society in ways that go beyond the formal approaches.

In order to bear better fruit, the dialogue should begin from the lower strata of societies and in rural and hinterlands accommodating everyone at the same time the country's most important labor unions and some of its business organizations should come together to make the national dialogue more productive that is going to be implemented in the coming March.

According to Tegbaru Yared, the government should ensure that the process is relational, transformative and not necessarily destined to forge consensus over the 'most fundamental national issues.' Amend the National Dialogue Commission objectives, so that it is geared towards 'transforming' rather than 'resolving' differences.

Moderate its expectations and use this opportunity to deal with the past. Design a comprehensive plan to bring armed groups into the fold and create a stable environment to buttress the process.

Use the opportunity to reinvigorate democratic institutions such as the courts, media and civil society organizations. Not interfere with the commission's efforts to invite and include all stakeholders.

## Inequality crisis as world's billionaires amass more wealth

The world's richest one percent pocketed at least USD 26 trillion, 63 percent of all new wealth created globally since 2020, even as the rest of the globe grapples with inflation, worsening income inequalities in the face of a worldwide economic recession, a new report suggests.

The Survival of the Richest Report released this week by international anti-poverty charity Oxfam shows that the wealth of the richest few will continue to skyrocket at the expense of the poor if governments do not curtail them through stringent tax measures.

According to the report, billionaires from across the globe have been amassing wealth worth USD 2.7 billion daily since 2020 even as the global Covid-19 pandemic hit economies hard, pushing many into extreme poverty.

Data shows that for every dollar gained by the poorest 90 percent of the globe's population in the past two years, the wealthiest one percent earned USD 1.7 million, and out of every USD 100 of wealth created in the past two years, USD 63 went to the richest few.

### Kenya's richest individuals

In Kenya, Oxfam's data shows that 130 richest individuals have more wealth than 33 million Kenyans combined, with the richest

one percent accumulating seven times more wealth than the poorest 50 percent of the population between 2020 and 2021.

This is against the backdrop of globally soaring food and energy prices, which has been worsened by the prolonged conflict in Eastern Europe, and a projected global recession that might affect at least a third of countries, according to the International Monetary Fund.

"Whole nations are facing bankruptcy, with debt payments ballooning out of control. The poorest countries are spending four times more repaying debts – often to predatory, rich, private lenders – than on healthcare," Oxfam said in the report.

Oxfam argues that should the trend continue, many countries will implement spending cuts on pro-poor sectors like education and health, amounting to USD 7.8 trillion over the next five years.

### Daily sacrifices

Gabriela Bucher, Oxfam's executive director, said this decade could just be the best for billionaires if the trend stays, even as "ordinary people are making daily sacrifices on essentials like food."

Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Bucher said, "The tax

system has been shifting over the past 40 years, to be on the shoulders of workers and the average citizen through VAT, and wealth is not taxed in the majority of contexts."

To avert the ravages of a widening inequality gap, Oxfam is proposing wealth and income taxes of up to 60 percent on the globe's richest, while reducing the tax burden borne by the poorest through value-added and income tax.

It recommends taxes on personal income, realized and unrealized capital gains, as well as levies on property, inheritance, and wealth.

"Taxing the super-rich and corporations is the door out of the overlapping crises. It's time we demolish the convenient myth that tax cuts for the richest result in their wealth somehow 'trickling down' to everyone else," Bucher said.

### Tax super-rich

In a statement on Monday, Oxfam called for "a systemic and wide-ranging increase in taxation of the super-rich to claw back crisis gains driven by public money and profiteering."

"We need to do this for innovation; for stronger public services; for happier and healthier societies; and to tackle the climate

crisis, by investing in the solutions that counter the insane emissions of the very richest," Ms Bucher said.

Oxfam is not the first organization to raise the alarm over the growing inequality levels in the world, however. Last October, the World Bank released a study showing that it will be unlikely to end extreme poverty by 2030 in the face of growing inequality.

The bank encouraged wealth taxes (property and carbon taxes) to help governments "mobilize domestic revenues without hurting the poor," to ramp up efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.

So far, only Kenya has implemented anything close to that.

From the beginning of this year, Nairobi doubled its capital gains tax to 10 percent and the president has showed support for a wealth tax, going by his inaugural speech to parliament last year.

It appears extremely unlikely to end extreme poverty by 2030 in the face of growing inequality.

Source – The East African / Business

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



Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

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The Ethiopian Herald

# Editorial

## Backing govt's effort is timely, apt step

Following the signing of the peace accord that halted the war in Ethiopia's north, an unfortunate incident that would have not been occurred at all, the Ethiopian government has exhibited a sympathetically framed spirit. By the same token, the government is doing all what is expected of it to get things back to normalcy following the restoration of peace.

Thanks to the Pretoria and Nairobi accords, the government along with humanitarian partners has been hopping all possible steps prioritizing the most urgent needs of war affected areas. Besides, Ethiopians, peculiarly those who were under war threats, have now started to breathe a healthy air and run activities in a very stable manner sipping the peaceful atmosphere with which the northern Ethiopia is blanketed. Besides, the reconstruction, restoration and rehabilitation tasks worth multibillion Birr have been well carried out with a view to getting citizens of these areas lead a normal life.

The severity of the casualties exceeded the imagination for many and resulted in unparalleled human, material and social catastrophes. But, today millions of innocent citizens are witnessing a flickering hope for the hostilities are already ended. Furthermore, as the parties made have agreed to end hostility, women, children and the elderly who have been primarily suffering from the worst scenario and were subjected to unspeakable level of abuse and all sorts of humiliation have started breathing a sigh of relief.

The government is working hand in glove with all potential partners though not sufficient.

In due course of providing war victims with coordinated assistance, it is reported that what the government has done so far

has outweighed that of the 29 partner organizations. This is merely to well inform the international community or other concerned bodies to have the concept that the government has exerted utmost effort to contribute the lion's share of the assistance even though it is chiefly duty bound to do so.

Such an unwavering stance needs to be supported and the international community is expected to stretch helping hands to help the government attain the desired target of sustainably rehabilitate citizens and properly construct the damaged infrastructure. This move would help reach out to the unreached, indeed! Hence, supporting the effort of the government is timely and quite pivotal.

Obviously, sustainably rehabilitating fellow citizens and helping them lead a normal life should not be left solely to the government and some finger counted partners as the issue itself attracts the combined effort of all.

What matters here is the sole effort of the government will not be sufficient no matter how huge it is as one cannot clap with a single hand.

In a nutshell, as reaching out to the needy with life-saving support and galvanizing the remaining society as well as pooling support from domestic and international sources is the call of the day, it should be top on the agenda. It is also quite important to approach the international community using multilateral and bilateral engagements in a bid to hit the set target—sustainably rehabilitating citizens and helping institutions go operational for public advantage.

# Opinion

## Political negativism, activism and propaganda on Ethiopia endangers unity and democracy

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

By all standards, every citizen here and overseas has a constitutional right to enquire into the affairs of the government and receive information on every aspect of public affairs and duties and responsibilities of the government. The elected government and its officials are in contractual relations with the electorate to accomplish government duties set by law and constitutional obligations.

It is possible and necessary for citizens here and abroad to comment on the overall activities of the government and suggest corrections and possible omissions on the needs for rectification and public accountability. All this requires solid evidence and detailed information.

Political negativism is characterized by habitual skepticism and a disagreeable tendency to deny or oppose or resist suggestions or commands.

The prevalence of political negativism is not only dangerous to the ascertainment of the rights of each citizen but would only help to produce a rejectionist society that thinks that everything the government does is wrong. Political negativism has its social base on the prevalence of biases in a society about that group or ethnic population and develops into hate politics that if taken to the extreme will threaten the very survival of the Ethiopian society. This is not limited to the national level and may even transcend into the countries of the Horn of Africa.

What is the social base for political negativism? The first is ethnic based hate speech which is based on rejectionist attitude against anything that does not tally with the interest of a given ethnic entity. This petti-bourgeoisie political eclecticism was originally confined to the political elite in

each ethnic grouping. They try to make thousands of buzz words and bad mouth attacking everyone that does to share their view. Such attacks have now developed into indiscriminate killings and abductions on innocent citizens.

Power politics may be effectively be used or abused but manipulating the laws that govern economic development by ill-intentioned politicking destroys the economic bases and could even destroy the statehood of any country. Ethiopia is no exception. Political polarization is now threatening the gains that have so far attained in the reform program of the country. It is preparing a good ground for another wave of intervention into the internal affairs of the country and could even lead to a total civil war that would be irreversible.

The current ethnic based campaign on the ruling party and the government clearly shows that constructive engagement is being dwarfed by internal social media propaganda war that is intended to create emotional chaos in the country to facilitate another opportunity to make the country a breeding ground for terrorism and the worst economic downturn triggered by hyperinflation.

The leaders of this country are not only leaders but also policy makers. The public takes their speeches on the media as a national guidance and they need to take all the necessary care not to err on any national or international issues.

What is to be done then? In the first place we need to value each other and our country endowed with immense natural resources that are still untapped. We need to respect the people of Ethiopia here and there. Politics and politicians should not strive only to win for themselves but accent public

needs, interests, attitude and values.

Constructive engagement with the government and providing all the necessary support it needs is expected of the competing parties. They need to exit from press release politics and find out areas on which they could cooperate and collaborate with the government to achieve what is good for all. Unless all strive to jointly work with all the elements of the political system, ethnic politics will never solve the underlying problems of this country.

Political emotionalism will develop into irrational collective consciousness which would never tally with the reality in Ethiopia. The false quest for democracy by fanning ethnocentrism ultimately becomes anti-democratic and will destroy not only democracy itself but also good governance.

Political negativism promotes extreme political polarization and zero sum approach to local politics and discourages a win-win strategy from which all could benefit accordingly.

The negativity in politics in this country will force everyone to get into a 'choose or lose' situation that leaves no choice for alternative approaches. This tendency is harmful for everyone and no benefit can be acquired from it. Political negativism is a new sub-culture that has developed in Ethiopia over the last 50 years and has done a lot of damage on the unity and friendship among the peoples of Ethiopia.

The point is, what sort of political culture do we intend to develop and transfer it to the next generation? It political negativism is allowed to prevail; it could lead to a chaotic situation that could result in self-balkanization. Although there are also external factors, most of the political negativism that we have observed in this country

is homegrown.

Political unity is possible even under the proliferation of contradictory and opposing interests because there is always a common interest on which everyone can intersect and aspire to nurture them to fulfill a goal that would fit into everyone's interest. Remember that we are living in a big country which is leading the African continent in so many ways and that Africa waits on this country for the accomplishment and promotion of continental development challenges. We cannot afford to indulge into negative politics as it is self-destructive situation that could end up in bankruptcy somewhere on the line.

Political negativism is closely linked with nihilism and anarchism. Nihilism states that there is no foundation for any moral values or meaning in life while anarchism is a worldly political philosophy that says that there should be no authority or hierarchy within society because that is a form of dominance that is against the natural order of things. It is also linked with a political strategy of my way or the highway.

The current internal political situation therefore demands an in-depth analysis and serious thinking that is free from emotional charged utterances that are full of hatred. The opportunity that would be created by upcoming national dialogue forum must never be missed. It would create a better condition for reducing the trend in political negativism that is derailing the national reform program which would help to shape the future of this country.

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

# Business & Economy

## Driving the national economic wheel well

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Needless to state, Ethiopia needs to capitalize on promoting industries; homegrown economy and strong working culture with a view to achieving its long aspired sustainable economic development thereby defeating poverty forever. To this end, thus, well-defined strategy, systematically-organized, competitive and flexible institutions have to be set up as well as strong working culture should be instilled exercised by responsible citizenry.

Finding response to the question how can development and growth wheel be driven well, The Ethiopian Herald talked to Fikru Amentie, who is an economist and working as an economic consultant.

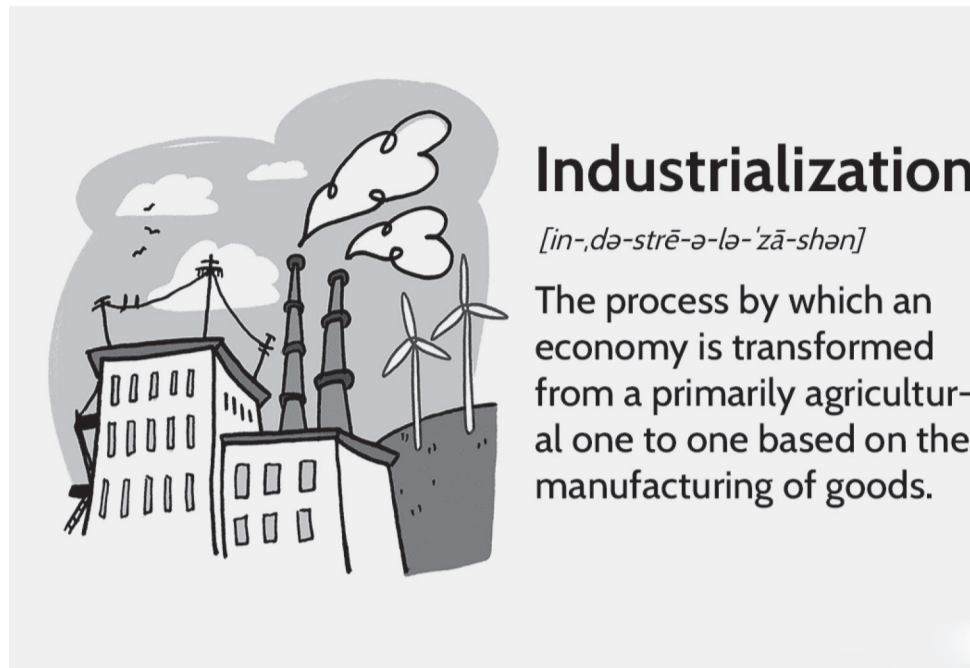
He said, “Developing countries, contrary to developed ones, have a much more important relationship between increasing domestic savings and economic growth. As to me, the means of mutually re-enforcing transformation of agriculture and industry with a view to alleviating poverty has to be practically applied and the agriculture sector needs to be made mechanized and well backed by industrialization.”

He further stated that for many developing African countries like Ethiopia, agriculture has been the centerpiece of national effort to achieve growth, poverty reduction and food security for the estimative future. A key challenge is to make agriculture more worthwhile by raising its profitability through technological innovation and industrial transformation. Yes, he added, productivity increment in agriculture often serves as the catalyst for growth and does have strong effects on reducing poverty. Hence, adapting or developing technologies and improving agricultural markets for seed, fertilizer and agricultural outputs will help make a difference; capitalizing on industrialization needs to come to the forefront, too.

As to Fikru, Ethiopian economy is heavily dependent on agriculture and its economic growth is mostly driven by public investment in infrastructure and agricultural productivity improvement. However, the performance of the sector has not yet been satisfactory as its stagnation, lack of appropriate policies and strategies coupled with poor working culture have been rampant in the nation.

To overcome such a daunting bottleneck, he opined, adopting new technology to suit organizations, public sector offices, companies and public utilities’ ever-changing needs must be well dealt with. Tools that were designed to improve transparency, accountability and productivity across industries and enterprises and pertinent organizations have to be well focused on to boom the national economy.

According to Fikru, the agriculture sector needs to be well backed by industrialization



### Industrialization

[in-,də-strē-ə-lə-'zā-shən]

The process by which an economy is transformed from a primarily agricultural one to one based on the manufacturing of goods.

as the latter is well complementary to hit the set national target—recording meaningful economic growth to see poverty off for good.

As to Fikru, industrialization is often essential for economic growth, and for long-run poverty reduction. Undeniably, pro-poor economic and industrial policies need to focus on increasing the economic returns to the productive factors that the poor possess like raising returns to unskilled labor, whereas policies promoting higher returns to capital and land tend to increase inequality, unless they include changes in existing patterns of concentration of physical and human capital.

“Besides, the location of industrial facilities has an impact on overall poverty reduction and inequality. As enterprises are often concentrated in urban areas following ready access to skilled labor force, better infrastructure, larger markets and technological spillovers, industrialization may increase inequality between urban and rural areas. Hence, this imbalance has to be well bridged to make growth real in the nation,” he underlined.

He said, “Foreign capital cannot create permanent basis for higher standard of living in the future, and greater dependence on domestic sources facilitates a more successful implementation of any planned economic development as developing countries’ economic downturn is further aggravated by debts. Even a small change in external capital flows can cause internal economic downturn. The accumulation of domestic savings will help reduce the vulnerability arising from dependence on foreign financing and provide a sustainable long-term financing base for investments.”

According to Fikru, it is time to develop firm commitment to invest in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development to effectively address major national challenges such as unemployment, resource and energy deficiency, pollution, effectiveness of climate change through reinvigorating job creation, knowledge-

sharing, innovation and social inclusion.

As to him, as the proper association of economic growth and industrialization would definitely boost investment and promote economic growth, crafting policies that incentivize the creation of new technologies, research and innovation in Ethiopia, recognizing the importance of industrial diversification will help reduce unemployment, enable greater technological development, and increase citizens’ well-being.

He further stated that moving people out of informal subsistence farming into formal manufacturing jobs improves their productivity, makes the agriculture sector more efficient, and raises national revenues through taxation.

“Economists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century noted that a thriving industrial sector was crucial to the development of a modern economy. Apart from its direct economic impact, industrial development also presents a number of complementary social and environmental benefits,” he added.

Hence, Ethiopia should initiate strategies to promote industrial development, the accumulation of domestic savings and effective utilization of the agricultural sector with a view to accelerating sustainable economic growth across the nation since it is the most powerful instrument for reducing poverty and improving the quality of life in the nation.

Intensified industrialization, well organized knowledge sharing and strong working culture therefore advance human development, which in turn, promotes economic growth. But under different conditions, similar rates of growth can have very different effects on poverty, the employment prospects of the poor and broader indicators of human development, he added.

As to Fikru, a successful strategy of poverty reduction must have at its core measures to promote rapid and sustained economic growth and prompt industrialization. The

challenge for policy is to combine growth promoting policies with strategies that allow the poor to participate fully in the opportunities unleashed and so contribute to the intended growth.

He further elucidated that industrial development offers better prospects across both productive and service sectors. Future growth will also need to be industrially tailored and environmentally sustainable. Improved management of water and other natural resources is required, together with movement towards low carbon technologies by both developed and developing countries. With the proper industrial development, workable institutions, growth and environmental sustainability may be seen as complements, not substitutes.

Growth is ultimately about investment in capital and labor and improving the productivity of industries and factories through the processes of industrial advancement as well as innovation and technological absorption. The most pertinent question for developing states like Ethiopia is therefore, how to boost the low levels of investment and productivity growth and how to boost industrial development as it has had an important role in the economic growth and power to drive the overall progress and change wheel well.

Fikru further stated that promoting industrialization and embarking on human capital investment can undoubtedly be as important as investment in machinery and plants for accelerating growth. Investment in human capital is equally focusing on industrialization since it is appealing and directly leads to improved human development thereby helping the nation reap growth and prosperity.

True, he said, a stable macroeconomic environment is crucial to reducing the risks associated with investment as it regulates monetary policy that delivers low and stable inflation, effective management of government tax and spending to deliver public services.

Clearly, as no country has grown on a sustained basis in recent times without successfully integrating into global arena, Ethiopia has to pave ways to well integrate itself with the industrialization avenue via integrating national, continental and international markets in a bid to come up with reliable economic growth which is in turn instrumental in making poverty history. Such a bold move helps the nation foster industrialization, nurture growth, facilitate technology transfer, increase competition and the likes.

In sum, intensifying industrialization coupled with having strong working culture, exploiting homegrown economy, effectively exploiting water resources as well as consolidating saving culture is unequivocally invaluable means to make a difference in all aspects thereby well driving the economic wheel well.

# In the Sphere of Diplomacy

## The age-old bond between Ethiopia, Israel

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

In the present climate, the essence of globalization has become a tool to connect people to people and nations to nations. In this regard, the idea of living together and work in collaboration has not only become unavoidable but must. Some nations have strong bond with other countries due to various reasons. The peoples of nations might share common culture, beliefs, or perception.

In Ethiopian context, the nation has strong partnership with a number of countries around the world. Most of the country's relations with the rest of the world is positive and can be elevated even more. To this end, Ethiopia has been partnering with most powerful countries in the world, and the people and the government of Ethiopia have been working closing with their allies. The best example might be the bilateral partnership between Ethiopia and Israel.

The two history old nations have plenty to share commonly. In different sections, the two countries have been working together throughout their long-period of partnership.

Ambassador of the State of Israel to Ethiopia, Burundi, Chad, and the African Union, Aleli Admasu recently held interview the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA). The ambassador has mentioned the two nations' history long cooperation in various sections.

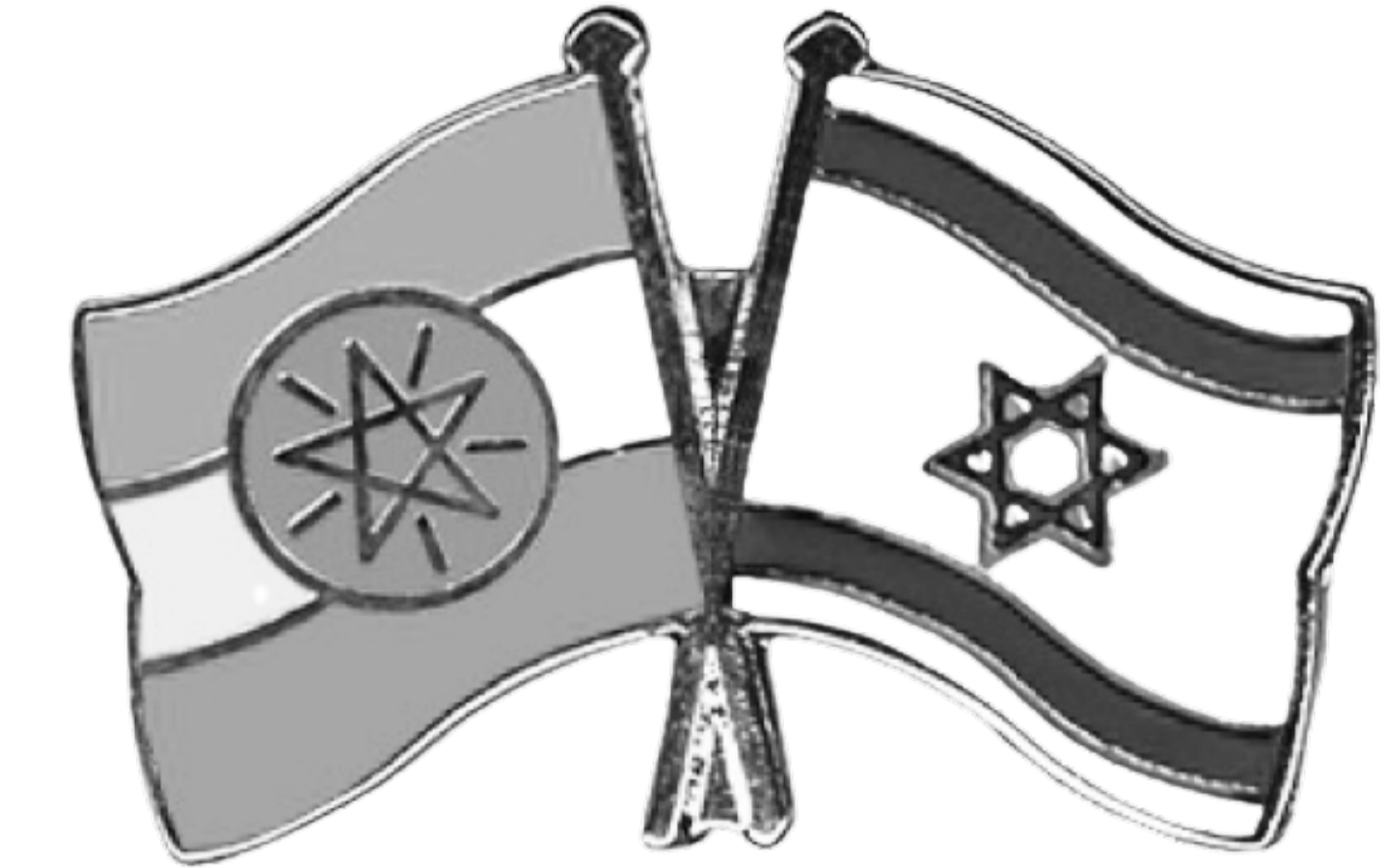
According to the Ambassador, Israel has a number of resources to share with other nations though the nation is only 75 years old. Ethiopia and Israel have been working in various sections including agriculture, health, technology and innovation coupled with many others. Accordingly, Israel is very eager to share its knowledge and skills with friendly nations.

In terms of Agriculture, as to the Ambassador, it is one of the main sectors that the two nations have been functioning. As simple example could be the achievement registered in the avocado production. Four million avocado seedlings have been distributed to Ethiopian farmers. Avocado is very important agricultural product in Europe, Asia, and even in the USA. Ethiopia is an ideal place for avocado production due to its climate and its natural resources.

The ambassador also stressed that the government of Ethiopia should give special attention to the avocado production so that it will bring more blessings to the nation including the increase in foreign currency flow. Given due attention to the avocado production, it has the ability to contribute and bring more income than coffee.

The ambassador further explained that the government of Israel has been sharing its knowledge in agriculture with Ethiopia. We have invited Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture to take part in a conference held in Israel. It is true that Israel has been doing much on summer productions. We do not wait for rain; rather we purified the Mediterranean water and use it for drinking and agriculture.

This time, Israeli companies have been working with the Ministry of Agriculture



on increasing agricultural production in Ethiopia. These Israel companies and volunteers are working mainly on avocado production and desert area development for agriculture. Accordingly, these companies and volunteers have trained more than 75 thousand Ethiopian farmers from different parts of the country.

We all know that avocado has plenty advantages. There is also a high demand in Europe and other parts of the world. At this very moment, in collaboration with the government, we are helping Ethiopian farmers to be more effective on avocado production. We are dealing with how to implement packaging and how to select the best quality products. The avocado project was financed by the US-AID and the Israelis have come up with their skills.

Ambassador Aleli also mentioned that the health sector is also one of the cooperation sections for the two countries. He further explained that Israelis are working in collaboration with Tikur Anbessa, Bahir Dar, Hawassa, Gondar, and Jigjiga hospitals. Regarding knowledge and skill sharing, Israel delegations of doctors have arrived in different occasions to work together and help their counterparts in Ethiopia and share their experiences.

A very good illustration could be the movement dubbed 'Save A child's Heart' where two of Ethiopian Doctors were trained in Israel to cure Ethiopian children with heart diseases. Besides, two more nurses were trained, too. Due to excessive expenses to get the service in Israel, we even plan to establish a center here in Ethiopia and expand our skill transformation. Not only Ethiopia, but other African countries and nations around the world come to Israel to acquire the knowledge.

It is known that Israel is very much advanced regarding technology and innovation. In this regard, the Israeli Ambassador noted that technology and innovation is one of the

sectors that the two nations are cooperating.

As to the ambassador, the two nations have had a conference with government stakeholders to discuss on promoting technology and innovation in Ethiopia. The government of Israel and the government of Ethiopia is working together to make high-tech innovations happen in Ethiopia. The two nations are working on solar energy.

Moreover, the ambassador disclosed that in terms of technology and innovation, the Ethiopian Airlines coupled with Israel Aerospace Industry have recently cooperated on changing Ethiopian passenger planes to cargo airplanes. To this regard, the two nations' companies have finished changing one passenger airplane to cargo, and it is functioning. The other is in the pipeline. In the near future, more cargos will come. It will also help the nation to freight its local products to the world easily.

In the future, the two nations plan to teach and train Ethiopian students, engineers, and technicians by opening a center in Ethiopia and give services to the rest of Africa. Talks were held with government stakeholders such as Ministry of Skill and Labor and Ministry of Innovation, the ambassador added.

In relation to military cooperation between the two nations, the ambassador said that Israel has learnt a lot from the worst war experiences. Due to this, Israel has become one of the leading countries in military technologies. Ethiopia and Israel have been jointing acting on counter terrorism. Like the people-to-people bond of the two nations, there are a lot of technology and knowledge sharing between the countries.

In addition, Aleli said that Israeli Embassy to Ethiopia is working to bring in Israeli investors to work in Ethiopia. Three months ago, the two nations had an economic conference which was the first of its kind. It was Ethio- Israel Economic Conference. In the conference, Ethiopian higher officials

including ministers, economic experts, representatives from Addis Ababa and national Chamber of Commerce have met with Israeli counterparts and manufacturing companies.

Such kind of event has the power to open more doors for both stakeholders to take their ideas and resources of investment to the table. On the event, as to Aleli, representatives of the chamber of commerce two nations' signed an agreement for working together in the future.

According to the ambassador, the government of Ethiopia and responsible stakeholders must work on the challenges faced by international investors. These organs should work together curb such problems and create a favorable environment to the ones who want to invest in the country.

Recently, the federal government and TPLF have signed a peace accord to end the two years long war. In this regard, ambassador Aleli mentioned that the government of Israel is ready to support the agreement and implementation of the peace deal as Israel is a peace-loving country.

"In Ethiopian context, the recent war in Ethiopia was a conflict between brothers. It is very sad. The peace deal is very important and a step forward for the people of Ethiopia to live together and bring back the peace. The peace accord will also pave a way for many investors to come to Ethiopia and invest. Many international companies will be settled here, too," noted the Ambassador.

The ambassador concluded that all the partnerships we have with Ethiopia is based on our long-rooted people-to-people bond. Like the Government of Israel, the Ethiopian Government should also responsible to take part to strengthen the partnership. We have continuous discussions with the Ethiopian government officials to make the partnerships even better. We have a very good connection.

# Law & Politics

## Government at the forefront of humanitarian aid provision

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Notwithstanding the fact that the federal government has been rewardingly oiling the works of the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and restoration of basic social services, some doomsayers have maliciously continued launching diatribe against the exemplary moves and positive developments blossoming in the northern part of the country.

But the truth is that the incumbent has continued in the current circumstances accelerating the delivery of humanitarian assistance by working in partnership with other humanitarian organizations.

To the surprise of everyone, as a time the flow of aid is increasing significantly, some entities have been leaving no stone unturned to smudge the image of the country as if the delivery of humanitarian assistance has been slow.

In spite of the fact that the delivery of humanitarian assistance and restoration of social infrastructures has sustained making progress in the right direction, Ethiopia's opponents have been moving heaven and earth to bring discredit to the federal government. It is worth mentioning that since the start of the conflict in Northern Ethiopia, the incumbent has spared no efforts to resolve the problem through round table discussion.

No matter how hard Ethiopia's arch foes tried to drag through the mud the positive moves under the veil of several flimsy reasons, all their endeavors failed to bear fruits.

As emergency assistance has been entering into Tigray State via all available corridors in Northern Ethiopia, the people of Tigray have been many a time and oft receiving urgently needed aid more than ever before. Other than that the incumbent has been fast-tracking the reinstatement of devastated social infrastructural amenities incorporating power and telecom services.

In addition to that, as the federal government has been engaged in rehabilitating the internally displaced people in war-affected areas, their lives are getting better. It is common knowledge that in the present circumstances quite a lot of bodies have been working in close cooperation with the federal government to expedite the provision of humanitarian assistance in every corner of the Tigray State.

Subsequent to the signing of the cessation of hostilities agreement, inhabitants of the Tigray State have been speaking highly of the federal government for smoothing the path of the deliveries of humanitarian assistance and restoring social infrastructure. To everyone's dismay, dissatisfied with the fruitful peace accord that has been heading in the right direction, some special group interests have been making an all-out effort to escalate tension and are preoccupied with a smear campaign.

No matter how hard they attempted all their endeavors have gone for a burton in the wake of the unwavering stance of the incumbent. It



is important to note that in addition to turning over a new leaf in creating togetherness among the various Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples of Ethiopia, the Pretoria peace deal has been winning the hearts and minds of the global community.

Taking the present situation, the people of Tigray have been articulating joy and commending the move being taken by the federal government for ending the conflict. The positive achievements being taken by the federal government have been magnificently forestalling the conflict that lasted for two years in Northern Ethiopia.

In the same manner, inhabitants of Tigray have been standing by the side of the federal government in realizing a wide range of services such as health facilities, telecom, bank, transport, and other things of a similar kind.

Even though the peace accord has been playing a huge role in assisting the progress of the delivery of humanitarian assistance, some groups that hate to see a peaceful Ethiopia has kick-started spreading fictitious stories intending to mystify the wider international community with fake news stories.

Giving the cold shoulder to the bull and cock stories, the federal government has continued expediting the progress of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and restoring social infrastructure in all quarters of the Tigray state.

As the incumbent has been bringing the peace implementation into being, the whole lot in Northern Ethiopia has embarked on showing and producing results, and thus humanitarian operators, various relief agencies, and the wider international community speaking highly of the government.

Dejectedly, some entities disappointed by the promising moves have been sparing no efforts to throw cold water on the efforts of the government and bewildering the wider international community by distorting facts.

In the course of the war that lasted for two years in Northern Ethiopia, the country's adversaries made a supreme effort to move the country into uncharted waters and place between the hammer and the anvil. However, in the fullness of time, the whole thing ended up bearing fruits through the concerted efforts of all Ethiopians at home and abroad.

There is no denying the fact that since the onset of the peace implementation, the people of Tigray have been working with the federal government and its partners. As things stand at present, though the circumstances in Tigray have been changing positively, some entities have continued blackening their positive images.

The government and humanitarian partners have continued to mobilize resources to scale up the humanitarian response in northern Ethiopia and war-affected areas, prioritizing the most urgent needs, the UN OCHA Ethiopia said.

According to the report issued jointly by the Ethiopian government and humanitarian partners, between 9 and 15 January, over 353,000 people in Tigray assisted with food, about 195,000 people in Amhara, and over 138,000 people in Afar.

Convoys of humanitarian supplies and staff continue to regularly arrive in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray state through all corridors, including by air. At least 2.5 million people have so far received food assistance in Amhara under round 3 allocation; over 936,000 people received food support in Afar under round 3 as well, which is 100 % of the target; while over 3.4 million people received food support in Tigray under rounds 2 and 3 allocations following the peace deal between Ethiopian government and TPLF in November.

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Risk Management (NDRMC) Public Relations Head Debebe Zewde told the *Ethiopian Press Agency* (EPA) that in the period up to January 16, 29 foreign partner organizations and the government provided 149, 496.33 metric tons of food and non-food aid materials, 1,562.76 metric tons of medicines, and 4,154.94 metric tons of nutrients were sent to the northern part of the country.

The director further stated that the items sent to the area were food, nutritious food, medicine, and educational and agricultural materials. Fuel and cash are also being sent by the government.

Noting the government is providing support in areas where the partners cannot cover it, Debebe indicated out of the total amount of aid being provided to war-affected communities, the government has a share of over 15,000 metric tons of food and non-food related materials and 1,113,953 liters of fuel.

“The government has also sent 1.3 billion Birr in cash to Shire and Mekelle to be used for operations in the Tigray State. The funds are distributed from the cities to the local areas and used for services and operations.”

The humanitarian aid was transported by land and plane and while 3,745 vehicles were used to transport the aid by land, a total of 38 flights were made to transport medicine and cash. The humanitarian aid is being transported in four corridors namely, Semera-Abala, Kombolcha- Alamata, and Gondar- Humera- Shire as well as Gondar-Addi Arkay- Mai Tsebri and Dima, he remarked.

Meanwhile, about 90 health facilities, including the hospitals in Shiraro, Shire, Axum, and Adwa, have started operations, following the peace agreement.

Following the agreement reached between the federal government and TPLF, service providers and other institutions in Tigray state were able to return to work quickly. The federal government has been fulfilling its promises by restoring basic services, including banks, telecom, health facilities, and air transport service.

Residents of the city of Shire who spoke to ENA expressed their happiness with the speedy and efficient service of basic services. Residents of Shire have expressed their appreciation for the commendable act the government has taken in providing efficient and effective services.

Patients at Schul Hospital in Shire told ENA that they are benefiting from peace more than anyone else. They stated that children to adults are getting treatment at the hospital due to the availability of better medical services and medicines in hospitals and health institutions.

They recalled that inhabitants, especially children, women, and elders, were the most affected during the conflict. “We are happy to have peace now.” They further stressed that the peace agreement has given great relief to the people of Tigray who were facing many problems.

Schul Hospital Manager Gebrehiwot Legesse (MD) said the hospital has given great relief to more than one million people living in the area. Even if there are many people seeking treatment, the hospital is doing its best to serve all by working with the limited workforce it has got, he added.

Gebrehiwot pointed out that the current problem will be eased when other health facilities in the area become fully functional. Shiraro, Shire, Axum, and Adwa Area Health Sector Coordinator under the Ministry of Health, Samuel Dinkineh said a total of 88 health facilities have been put into operation since November 1, 2022.

The coordinator added that the communities are getting efficient medical services as the supply of medicine is being made accessible and health professionals are returning to work. According to him, activities have been intensified to provide full service at health centers and hospitals in every district.



# Society

## Religious leaders' role in national dialogue

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Over the last few years, Ethiopia has experienced political and ethnic divisions; driven mainly due to the predisposition of elites to resolve political disagreements through frictions rather than compromise.

To arrest such unviable practices in nation's politics culture and ensure lasting peace, the country has now established a National Dialogue Commission and is undertaking various activities to hold an inclusive nationwide political dialogue with a view to resolving political differences in a more civilized manner through dialogue.

The dialogue is believed to be a platform that will enable actors to discuss fundamental national issues openly and ensure national consensus across the nation.

Since the National Dialogue Commission has become operational, it has been performing activities that lay the foundation to hold an effective national dialogue.

Commission Chairman, Professor Mesfin Araya affirmed that the historic national dialogue will begin by the coming March 2023. In this regard, the role religious leaders and institutions can play in ensuring productive national dialogue is immense.

Focusing on this matter, *The Ethiopia Herald* had approached Assistant Professor Adem Kamil, Private Researcher on people



*Prof. Adem Kamil*

to people relations.

As to him, the old practices [political and ethnic divisions] did not yield any good for Ethiopia rather than leading the nation to instability. The conflicts have consumed the most productive part of the society; the youth.

Tuning a civil approach is important to the land. In this regard, religious leaders and institutions can play a productive role in taming the community at large; and the new blood with high moral values and integrity; and instilling what sovereignty and safeguarding human rights mean.

"In my view, religious leaders should take the lion's share in facilitating local dialogue initiatives and involving in wider mediation and peace building efforts."

It is high time for religious leaders and institutions to discuss more on unity, peace and development than ever with the



*Dr. Thomas Melese*

community at the grassroots level.

"I believe that they have a great capacity to ensure productive national dialogue. In my opinion, all segments of the society should contribute to the success of the dialogue in every possible way. This includes religious leaders and institutions."

ISA60 International Ministry Ethiopia Director Dr. Thomas Melese for his part said that, historical analysis demonstrates that procedural fairness and inclusivity are key features of national dialogues that lead toward lasting and sustainable peace. Above all, ensuring the participation of civic societies and religious leaders is also crucial.

"Religious institutions and leaders have to open doors for the fruition of the commitments. Conflicts are parts of human life and history, the very important point is the way we try to deal with; and manage them."

The establishment of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission is a great opportunity to ensure national consensus through discussions and dialogue, he added.

As to him, the major problem in Ethiopia is that dialogues and discussions are not practiced among the community; and high level officials; rather tend to pass directions in a rush mentality to the lower ladder, which brings back many confrontations.

"I think the national dialogue is a promising platform to address the differences for the common good of all; and enable to add values in shaping the political power transfer and how we should deal with our national affairs."

The institutions and leaders should be active participants in the process to translate the national dialogue goals in a more independent fashion.

He further noted that, everyone has responsibility and should add value to make the national dialogue productive. The large-scale dialogue and reconciliation efforts to address the country's deep-rooted societal and political divisions are timely.

"We are witnessing that the vicious circles of political and economic turmoil improvised the nation in the face of the world. Religious leaders and institutions should teach communities about forgiveness and conciliation to heal the land and build national consensus."



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

## Expectation on new education, training policy draft

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

The Ministry of Education started consultation forum with academics on the draft of the new education and training policy yesterday. On the forum, the Ministry announced that the new education and training policy includes issues that can bring fundamental changes in the education sector.

The Minister of Education, Professor Birhanu Nega, stated that the draft policy has been consulted on at various times and that it includes issues that are expected to bring fundamental changes in the education sector in his opening remarks of the forum. "Formulating a policy to treat the fracture in the education system alone will not make a difference but we are also expected to work together to overcome all the existing failures."

It has also been stated that the policy has been prepared in a way that can solve the challenges in the education sector and adheres to the international standards by considering the recommendations presented in the education and training roadmap. In the future, the policy implementation strategies,



*Professor Birhanu Nega making opening remark*

legal frameworks and programs will be prepared as disclosed on the discussion.

It was also raised in the forum that implementing the policy requires the participation of all the academics, teachers, students, student parents besides the development partners but not only the



*Participants of the consultation*

government. The main issues of the draft policy were presented by Dr. Tewodros Shewareget, the Executive Director of Curriculum Development at the Ministry of Education and discussed on.

Participants of the consultation were members from the House of Representatives,

the Ministry of Labor and Skills, other ministries' representatives, regional education bureaus, higher education institutions leaders, teachers' unions, education advisory councils, various professional associations and other partner institutions.

# Planet Earth

## Leaving a climate resilient world for the next generation

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Solid political will and leadership provided by successive Ethiopian leaders laid the foundation for the importance of mitigating climate change across the country. As the leader, all governments, regardless of their political ideologies and orientations, have sufficient experience with the negative impacts of climate change. Both the past and present leaders of the country put combating climate change as a national main agenda. Hence, the country is known and awarded internationally as an advocate of environmental issues and for creating favorable conditions for these planets.

Climate change has assumed tremendous significance in Ethiopia's governmental structure. Protecting and coordinating environmental issues, forestry and climate change has been the concern of the county. The leaders have prepared coordinated and implemented green strategies across the country to mitigate climate change effects.

Though, Ethiopia has made several efforts to combat climate change, the country is still vulnerable to the negative effect of climate change and the unpredictability of climate variability. Combating climate change is not an issue of a single country. It requires collaboration and cooperation among nations since the developing country has been constrained by limited livelihood options for the majority of the population and inadequate ability to resist and absorb disasters. Besides, climate change causes recurrent droughts and frequent floods that affect the food security, livelihood status and human capital of the community. People suffer droughts and increased water scarcity.

In order to reduce the impact of climate change, Ethiopia launched Green Legacy Initiative in 2019. The Initiative is imperative to mitigate climate change by planting 20 billion tree seedlings across the nation by 2022. However, the initiative planned to plant 20 billion tree seedlings from 2019 to 2022, but the country exceeded the plan by planting 25 billion tree seedlings which enhance the forest coverage of the country. The initiative is also imperative to withstand the negative impact of climate change and environmental degradation that contributed to drought, flooding, soil erosion, deforestation and biodiversity loss.

Ethiopia, by taking the need for collaborative efforts to mitigate climate change into account, has been expanding the initiative and sharing tree seedlings with neighboring countries namely Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Sudan.

During Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week Summit held in Abu Dhabi recently, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed reiterated that the government of Ethiopia is committed to leaving a sustainable and climate-resilient Ethiopia for the new generation.

"We are also witnessing related increases in emissions of climate-changing greenhouse



gases. The wellbeing of our and that of future generations requires us to unite and generate innovative responses to the impacts of climate change," PM Abiy pointed out.

Ethiopia is one of many developing nations that are vulnerable to the effect of climate change. "Considering this vulnerability, we are cognizant of the pressing need for climate change adaptation across all sectors in Ethiopia. Although we are at the mercy of high emitters we are nevertheless committed to doing our part," the premier said.

In this regard, Ethiopia has developed its long-term net zero and climate resilient 2050 strategy which will enhance the ability to plan for the de-carbonization of the economy. The strategy outlines ambitious scenarios in priority sectors which will contribute to making the country's economy more innovative and sustainable.

This development pathway, for example, includes an energy transition towards low carbon and resilience, transport sector de-carbonization and modernizing the agriculture sector through climate resilient and low carbon practices, Abiy elaborated.

Indeed, Ethiopia has the potential to mitigate climate change effects by using renewable resources. If these resources could be utilized appropriately, not only Ethiopia but also neighboring countries can benefit. So far, Djibouti and Sudan have benefited from the hydroelectric power generation of Ethiopia while Kenya has started electric lines and power stations test.

According to PM Abiy, Ethiopia has

abundant renewable energy resources and entirely generates electricity from hydroelectric, wind, solar and geothermal sources. While we have been making progress in effectively tapping into this energy potential, we still have more room and opportunities for growth.

In 2019, Ethiopia launched a practical action through the Green Legacy Initiative that within four years mobilized 25 million Ethiopians across the nation to plant 25 billion seedlings. This is equivalent to 250 seedlings per Ethiopian and the impact could be equated to removing 64 million gasoline-powered cars from the roads for a whole year.

"We are committed to leaving a sustainable and climate-resilient Ethiopia for the new generation. Doing so entails, taking bold actions now and instilling a green culture as we go along." The Green Legacy Initiative, therefore, is "our bold action which has created national awareness on climate change; enabled the creation of green jobs and is making a positive impact on our surrounding environment," the premier underscored.

Abiy noted that, a sustainable future is predicated on the commitment of a nation to collectively and inclusively realize such a future. Today, Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative is the most extensive afforestation and reforestation program next to the Amazon. He said "our initiative will certainly contribute towards removing the equivalent of hundreds of millions of tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and

reduce deforestation. This implies Ethiopia's significant contribution to the global climate change mitigation efforts."

Partnerships are of course crucial in sustaining these wins, as are they in manifesting the full potential of our climate resilient strategy. He noted "my government has recently launched a new Ten-Year Development Plan. This plan aims to sustain economic growth while facilitating the shift towards a more private-sector driven, competitive, resource efficient and climate resilient industrial economy."

The home-grown economic reform program, which prioritizes agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism, and ICT as key pillars of economic progression, is underpinned by principles of sustainable growth, he added. Ethiopia's inclusive prosperity agenda is anchored on enabling decent livelihoods, building resilience, and setting a green foundation for generations to come.

The devotion of Ethiopia has shown that the country has committed leaders who have been playing a leading role in climate change mitigation by integrating the issue of climate change into their development agenda, and plan. Despite its least developed country status, the country set national targets and successfully coordinated climate action across the country. These briefing experiences should be promoted to draw lessons for other nations to leave a sustainable and climate-resilient world for the coming generation.