



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXIX No 106 12 January 2023 - Tir 4, 2015

Thursday

Price Birr 10.00



Photo by Eyob teferi

China, AU celebrate new Africa CDC headquarters inauguration

BY KFLEEYESUS ABEBE

ADDIS ABABA - Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang and African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson Moussa Faki here yesterday inaugurated the first phase of the Africa CDC Headquarters.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Chinese foreign minister Qin Gang said the project demonstrates the strong bond and mutual aspiration of China and Africa.

"It stands as an irrefutable proof to the world that China always supports Africa with concrete actions and that the China-

Africa relationship is bound to have a brighter future. "

He hoped that the Africa CDC to make greater contribution to public health in Africa and the health and wellbeing of the African peoples.

See China, AU ... Page 3

Ethiopia becoming preferred investment destination in Africa

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Owing to the availability of a competitive labor force and extensive arable land as well as its geostrategic location and the execution of a viable policy framework, Ethiopia has become among the preferred investment destinations of Africa, sources closer to the issue said.

See Ethiopia ... Page 3



Govt's streamlines efforts to revamp war-ravaged health facilities

Page 3



Committee briefs premier on anti-corruption activities

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA-The National Anti-Corruption Coordinating Committee (NACC) presented yesterday the work done so far to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), the Office of the Prime Minister announced.

Presenting the activities of the committee, a member of the NACC and Justice Minister Gedion Timotheos (PhD) stated that conditions are facilitated to ensure active public participation in revealing misconduct of officials.

See Committee ... Page 3

Anti-corruption move in its historic perspectives, measures of mitigation

Page 6

Incorporating women in peace process serves nation in broader aspects

Page 10



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!



CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA

Abyssinia Group of Industries



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

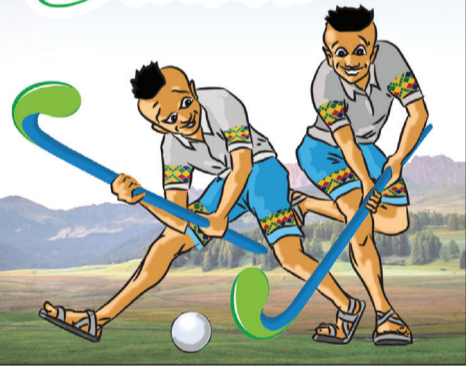
Contact & Address

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@agjethiopia.com
4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia



Merry Christmas



Packing & Moving

- Providing packing and moving
- Relocation
- Door to door delivery
- Giving import and/or export transit service,
- Material delivery from/to Addis Ababa

0911010315
0930807777

www.kulilogistic.com
melaku.bkl@gmail.com

Gurd Shola Tesfaye Worku Bldg. 1st Floor

Ethiopia, Somalia agree to enhance air connectivity

BY GEMECHU KEDIR

ADDIS ABABA—The Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority and its Somalia counterpart have expressed readiness to boost the two countries' air connectivity, tourism and trade.

Signing the bilateral agreement with Transport and Civil Aviation Authority of the Republic of Somalia in a bid to ensure 2063 agenda of Africa, Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority Director General Getachew Mengiste recently said the agreement will strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

As to him, the agreement would help boost tourism and trade as well as overcome the flight limitations in the transport sector,



and further fortify the economic ties than usual by exporting products from Ethiopia to Somalia taking the demand into account beyond the diplomatic association.

He further stated that the step would help carry out activities so as to increase the capacity of Somali's civil aviation.

Transport and Logistics Minister of Ethiopia, Dagmawit Moges on her part said that the agreement will strengthen the relationship between the two countries and increase the transport service to the fifth level for passengers and the seventh level for cargo. The agreement is the manifestation

of countries commitment to foster amicable ties, meet limited access Airline destination based on their demands of the two sisterly countries.

Somali Republic Transport and Civil Aviation Minister Ferdows Osman said that the agreement will reinforce the relationship between the two countries and allows Somalia to benefit out of Ethiopia's experience in the field of transport and aviation industry. Ferdows expressed that her country would like to take the agreement to the next phase of heighten relationship.

The bilateral agreement was signed by the civil aviation authorities of the two countries in the presence of the Minister of Transport and Logistics of Ethiopia and the Minister of transport and civil Aviation of the Republic of Somalia.



Dashen Bank introduces digital credit scheme

BY BILAL DERSO

ADDIS ABABA- Dashen Bank partnered with EagleLion System Technology to support society's old credit transactions with modern technology and the duo have come together to give birth to Ethiopia's first "Buy-Now Pay Later" scheme by the name *Dube Ale*.

Speaking at the product launching event on Tuesday, Dashen Bank CEO AsfawAlemu said that the scheme enables the society to purchase goods and services and pay later in three months, six months, or a year with or without interest.

Dube Ale (literally means there is a loan), product is also expected to boost the customer base of trading partners as it enables them to render a more affordable buy now, pay later arrangement and fuel economic activities. By the same token, the scheme enables consumers to buy products and services that would be constrained by their limited ability to pay upfront the moment they need them.

"With the deferred payment option brought about by *Dube Ale*, consumption and usage will be encouraged that in turn add a boost to merchants' turnover."

The CEO further highlighted that Dashen is a pioneer in introducing technology-backed products and services to the Ethiopian banking industry and previously introduced

a payment platform called Amole, which now is being used by millions of subscribers. The bank has also pioneered micro saving and credit products in collaboration with ethio telecom in August 2022.

EagleLion System Technology General Manager Bersufekad Getachew said on his part that anyone can download the *Dube Ale* application from Play Store or App Store and then register for the service. To start using the service, one needs to go to the nearby branch of Dashen Bank to get the spending limit and commence using the scheme.

It was stated on the occasion that those who are employed can apply for a loan by writing a letter from their office stating their job and salary, and if they are self-employed, they can go to the bank with their business license and proof of legal income.

The list of business centers that provide credit services is available on the app, and customers can purchase products and services of their choice on the app without having to carry cash based on the approved credit amount.

The loan ceiling allowed for the time being is 700,000 Birr, It was learned.

Invited dignitaries, officials of the bank, the business community, and the media attended the product unveiling program which was held at Sheraton Addis Hotel.

MoE working tirelessly on reopening schools in conflict - affected localities

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Ministry of Education (MoE) announced that it has been tirelessly working on re-establishing education and re-constructing the broken structures in the northern areas, where education has been interrupted due to war.

MoE Education Programs Core Process Executive YohannesWogaso told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the MoE has been carrying out various activities to resume education in the conflict ridden areas.

Though it is not possible to open schools at a time in the aftermath of the war, the process would heal the psychological trauma rooted in the minds of students, teachers, and the local community, he added.

According to Yohannes, MoE has been carrying out preliminary activities such as strengthen structural measures that able to re -open the schools and distributing educational materials to the schools. Based on the String Committee of the MoE, it has been also identifying the level of damage and gathering the relevant information of the negative consequences the war on academic sector.

He further stated that education will start in



Yohannes Wogaso

the near future by putting in place various infrastructure and the required resources to the areas of Tigray and Amhara, where education has not started yet. Likewise, Afar state zone 2 has reached 80 percent education coverage due to the so far taken measures.

He called up on all stakeholders to contribute their share in the effort of reconstructing education institutions as it demands huge budget and skilled human power. Besides, MoE has established four groups and they have begun their tasks in Amhara, Afar, and Tigray states aiming at encouraging reconstruction of structures there.

Moreover, MoE has been working closely with society, education experts and leaders, hold discussion with concerned bodies and the like in a bid to restart the education in the conflict affected areas very soon, Yohannes underlined.

Ethiopia chosen among five top tourist destinations in January

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - National Geography of UK has named Ethiopia among the five tourist destinations in this January 2023, so reported local media.

In its travel and adventure category of the New Year publication, well-known online platform, National Geography of UK named Northern Ethiopia's desolate Danakil Depression as the first place recommended for Tourists.

Ethiopia's desolate Danakil Depression according to National Geography UK is one of the driest, hottest and lowest places on the planet, made up of salt lakes, neon yellow acidic springs, lava lakes and an outside proportion of Africa's active volcanoes.

In its selection for the month, National Geography UK recommends Ethiopia's unique landscapes; previously mud-caked roads south to the remote Omo Valley to visit vast wetlands, home for many ethnic tribes.

The online platform has told tourists that two of Ethiopia's most important religious festivals this month are: *Ethiopian Christmas* and Epiphany (*Timket*), Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church celebration that takes place from January 19-20 each year.

National Geography UK added that feasts, street parties and processions of pilgrims together with Holy events can be witnessed in Gondar, home to a grand 17th -century palace, and spiritual Lalibela, where a dozen mediaeval churches are carved out of volcanic rock nearby.

EDS to reward Diaspora members, associations for outstanding contribution

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - Some Ethiopian Diaspora Associations and members are soon to be received the first Ethio-Diaspora award in recognition of outstanding contribution to safeguard homeland's interests, Ethiopian Diaspora Service (EDS) announced.

Over 40 Diaspora associations, which are engaging in public diplomacy, image building, and fundraising, would receive award and recognition at the near future event, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

The award ceremony event is going to be organized and facilitated by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EDS in partnership with IS Promotion and Social Events PLC.

Briefing the media on the event, EDS General Director, Muhammad Endris said that Ethiopian Diaspora associations based in 25 countries would be awarded for their contribution in defending national interest during the past two years.

Quoting the General Director, the EDS reported that the award ceremony will be held in Addis Ababa on January 26, 2023.

"The Diaspora community has played irrefutable role of public diplomacy; Diaspora associations have contributed supportive role to ensure peace and stability in the country; and a book saluting that role will be inaugurated at the award ceremony," he said.

He further stated that Diaspora community members who raised funds and technical supports over the past years have been also nominated for the award.

Memorandum of Understanding aiming at establishing an umbrella association (consortium) of Ethiopian Diaspora associations is also expected to be signed.

"We need to reinforce the capacity of the Diaspora community associations. An umbrella association that could integrate all Ethiopian associations in the world should be established so that we can influence the contemporary politics," he noted.

IS Promotion and Special Events PLC CEO, Endris Bonsuru also said that additional events that could promote the contribution of the Diaspora community will be organized.

So far, 45 Diaspora associations and Diaspora members have been nominated for the award, it was learnt.

Govt's streamlines efforts to revamp war-ravaged health facilities

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- Efforts are underway to rehabilitate health service facilities in conflict-affected areas of north Ethiopia, the Ministry of Health announced.

Speaking to local media, Health Minister Lia Tadesse (PhD) noted that hospitals and health centres are becoming fully operational in some areas. Many of the health facilities are under maintenance and will go fully functional soon.

In Alamata and shire corridors, 12 hospitals and 28 health centres 95 per cent workers back to their work and over 12 million Birr has been distributed to facilitate all activities"

Medicines worth more than Birr 19 million have been delivered from Gondar pharmaceuticals supplies service branch to Shire to be dispatched to nearby towns.

Shire pharmaceuticals supplies branch has received 29 solar refrigerators and restarted providing services like immunization.

The oxygen plant in Axum hospital has been maintained and is ready to provide service while 200 units of blood were sent from the Central blood bank to the Axum blood bank branch. Three ambulances donated by UNFPA were also given to three hospitals in the state, she said.

Vaccines valued at over 112,000 Birr and humanitarians' lifesaving materials have been provided to Mekelle through WHO and ICRC.

After the Pretoria Peace Deal the federal government has sent medical and materials supplies valued at more than 243,000 Birr to Mekelle and Shire, she said.

The federal government has also been undertaking rehabilitation and reorganizing health facilities in Amhara and Afar states that were victims of the conflict. Accordingly, 40 hospitals and 415 health centres in Amhara State and one hospital and 20 health centres in Afar State have started operation. Medical equipment totally valued at more than Birr 1.2 million have been distributed to Amhara and Afar states.

Mobile Health and Nutrition Team are providing basic health services to displaced people in 114 health centres of Amhara, Oromia, and Afar states."

Commenting to local media in connection with Invest Origins (IO) 2023 slated to be held here in Addis in January 26 and 27, an economist and Global Chairman of the U.S.-based Fairfax Fund Zemedeneh Negatu stated that the availability of an abundant and competitive labor force constitutes the major share in helping Ethiopia to become the primary investment destination in the continent. Ethiopia is endowed with a vast amount of arable land and so over the next years, there is an immense potential to satisfy not only the domestic market but also to export agricultural commodities globally.

"In the next few years, we think and believe Ethiopia has a huge potential to develop its tourism sector. The largest airline in Africa is based in Ethiopia and that by itself makes it easy not only to come to Ethiopia, but also within the country."

Sharing the above rationale, CEO-FSD Ethiopia Ermias Eshetu said 70 percent of the Ethiopian population is under the age of 30 that can be trained and invested in. There are so many things that are in play at the moment and foreign bankers are allowed to operate following the liberalization decree. "The telecom sector has also been liberalized and we are going to create new opportunities for the use of innovation."

According to Lia Tadesse (MD), Health Minister, in terms of investing in health in Ethiopia, the government is committed to reaching universal health coverage. This

Ethiopia becoming preferred...



government's investment in expanding infrastructure ensures the quality of health care. "The government builds a dedicated industrial park for pharmaceutical manufacturing and apart from its benefits for the health sector, the park also greatly contributes to the overall economy.

Lia added: "If we continue to exert more resources on the health sector, the investment also contributes to the growth of other sectors. Indeed, investing in Ethiopia is rewarding in many dimensions."

The general manager of a privately-owned Wudassie Group, Wudassie Enqubirhan who noted Ethiopia's untapped investment potentials called on investors to spend their capital on priority sectors. "Ethiopia is strategically located in the Horn of Africa and its proximity

to the Middle East and Europe, together with its easy access to the major ports of the region, enhances its international trade."

Invest Origins (IO) is an international high-end quality investment attraction annual forum created to develop landholdings primarily in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa and across the national at large. Hosted by FDRE Land Bank and Development Corporation, it aims to ensure all investments maximize socioeconomic gains and accelerate the nation's journey of building a prosperous livelihood for all Ethiopian citizens.

Ethiopia's economy has been among the fastest-growing in the world over the past 15 years and the country availed 2,074 hectares of land for investors in the bustling city of Addis Ababa it was learned.

Committee briefs...

Accordingly, a large number of suggestions related to corruption have been received from the society and starting last week, about 598 corruption-related suggestions have been collected via telephone, e-mail and other data collection means. Rigorous investigations have also been carried out in the 161 cases that were collected from various institutions.

By the same token, some 110 cases have also been transferred to further scrutiny.

Noting corruption has created a major threat to the safety and security of society, Gedion indicated the government's commitment has been high in preventing the problem from creating further damage.

"Our future investigation will be on the fertile grounds of grand corruption including service delivery, land administration, financial sector, sales and procurement processes, as well as in the justice system."

The committee has been bringing individuals suspected of involvement in corruption before a court of law while the work of holding crime participants will continue, the minister remarked.

The NACC was established by Primer Abiy to prevent corruption.

China, AU...

AUC Chairperson Moussa Faki on his part lauded China's support for the realization of the Africa CDC Headquarter describing the facility as manifestation of the growing partnership between China and the continent.

He said the center will have a paramount significance in strengthening public health services, diagnostic capabilities and reinforce readiness to mitigate major health problems in the continent.

Grabbing the opportunity, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang also outlaid the four point Chinese proposal of future China- Africa focus areas. Among the points, he emphasized the two to jointly safeguard true multilateralism and promote greater democracy in international relations.

"We should boost the representation and voice of developing countries, especially those of African countries, in the UN Security Council and other international organizations, pool greater strength for the cause of global development and security, and work together to make the global governance system more just and equitable."

The Africa CDC headquarters is located in the African Village, south of Addis Ababa.

Opinion

Unhealthy “Political Marketplace” a setback to state building

BY NAOL GIRMA

Democracy requires a balance between what is allowed and the subtle ways through which this right can be regulated for the wellbeing of the system by ensuring voters get what they have settled for. In this case, it is the balance between the freedom to organize campaign and run for office and the limits that have to be set to ensure that the few do not disproportionately influence the political space through their bank accounts.

Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed met with the central committee members of Prosperity Party few weeks ago and discussed the current issues the country has been facing. The premier said, “Tremendous reform had been introduced in our country, we made political reform, better democratic election was conducted for the first time in Ethiopian history. But it is impossible for Prosperity Party alone to solve all kinds of problem; we can solve our problem through effective discussion, negotiation and most importantly through inclusive national dialogue.”

According to the premier, the current challenge to our journey of prosperity is unhealthy political market place which strongly shaking and hindering our efforts of nation building ideas. “The existing political market place is changing its nature from time to time, it is the most complicated and endangering the journey of prosperity, and it has totally monopolized the political landscape of Ethiopia,” he added.

Dire Dawa University Researcher and Political Science and International Relations Lecturer Surafel Getahun told The Ethiopian Herald that there are actors who are highly engaged in the political market to achieve their vested interests at the expense of the country. Those actors are not happy with the peace agreement reached between the government and TPLF and have made every attempt to ruin the accord.

As to him, there exists internal and external actors who are participating in the Ethiopian political market and don’t want change in the country. Those actors were using rebel groups, extremists, and others as tools for their political market. “They use conflict as means of income whether it may be by smuggling weapons, illegal financial flows or others because if peace is ensured they will fail to achieve their ill-intended profits. Likewise, countries and international organizations are also among the main beneficiaries of the conflict.”

“I saw monetized or marketized politics as a threat to the state-led developmental order that the country has envisioned. I argued that as well as the two scenarios

he envisaged, namely economic transformation versus a relapse into poverty and chaos, there was a third which is the political marketplace.”

Many developing countries including African are serving as the center of the political marketplace by the name of neoliberalism to protect their interest. The political market has a strong invisible hand from local parties to international actors which is a kind of monetized or marketized politics that is a threat to the peace of the country, the expert elaborated.

“Those are the main problems to build strong democratic institutions. On the other hand, the political market is emanating from a patrimonial form of politics that depends on individual interests rather than common interests.”

As to Surafel, to overcome such kinds of challenges, establishing democratic institutions, building strong institutions and avoiding patrimonial form of politics are the main things that reverse processes of state-building and institutional development.

Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Bahir Dar University, Yayew Genet also said that for the past many years, the political culture of Ethiopia is quite difficult even though it has shown improvement gradually. There was pseudo-political participation of the citizens which resulted in the current crisis.

“We need to get out of the socio-centrism, group and patrimonial political system which will lead us to further crises and focus on ideas to build the nation we desire for. Some groups are using political parties as means of securing income and achieving their interest which is wrong. On the other hand, creating a strong institution is crucial,” the academician remarked.

The political marketplace is a system of governance run based on personal transactions in which political services and allegiances are exchanged for material reward and exerts pressure on individuals using their ability to mobilize votes, turn out crowds, or inflict damaging violence.

The political marketplace refers to a system of governance where monetized transactional politics have become systematic. Politics is run on the basis of personal transactions in which political loyalties and services are sold to the highest bidder in a competitive manner. Any kind of politics that involves monetary transactions has an element of a political market. In consolidated democracies and ordered authoritarian systems, the political market is subordinate to the rule of law and the rules of institutions.

The political marketplace also refers to a way of analyzing how power operates within these political systems – it can help us to understand how countries actually function and how they are likely to respond to external interventions and other political and economic changes.

According to De Waal’s argument, a country reaches a political marketplace when politicians are determined to buy loyalty or cooperation through monetized patronage. Inter-personal political bargains replace formal rules and procedures; the political elite are keen to collect rent from their counterparts in the business circle; and, domestic political entrepreneurs integrate themselves into a global patronage order.

More worrisome should be the evolution of the political space to one defined by market forces and political entrepreneurs. De Waal warns that for development to persist in such an environment: state-building becomes harder and not easier; mass killings such as in civil wars decline, but volatilities increase; international security cooperation appears to sustain, or even generate, the insecurity that justifies its continuation; and, identity markers are becoming more salient while elders, ethnic authorities and religious leaders are losing their status.

The toughest challenge for the political leaders, De Waal says, is in striking a delicate balance in the relationship between the “political budget” and the “price of loyalty.” The first is about funds available to the ruler for discretionary spending to ensure the loyalty of members of the political elite; and, the second, the prevailing market rate for ensuring the allegiance or cooperation for a period of time or a particular activity.

A political marketplace is closely related to systemic corruption, state capture by criminal cartels, kleptocratic rule, warlordism and war economies. Corruption facilitates the penetration of a political market into an institutionalized system. But a political marketplace analysis and emphasizes different features and entails different policy prescriptions. Corruption overlaps with political finance. But they are distinct phenomena. Most sources of funds for political budgets are lawful cooperation, business donations.

Most political spending is either legal expenditure or the recycling of illicit finance into patronage payoffs. Analyzing political finance illuminates the nature of corruption in a country and what may be done to engage with it. The common place definition of a kleptocratic system of governance is the rule of thieves.

The political market definition is the application of market mechanisms of

supply and demand to the functioning of organs of public authority, which enables theft. Economic criminals are driven by greed alone and use political office solely for self-enrichment.

Political entrepreneurs pursue political aims, within a system that forces them to compete in a political market, or fail. Their goal is power and their ‘profit’ is their political budget, which is mostly reinvested in their political project, especially patronage payoffs. They can also accumulate private wealth—and in some cases that may be their primary motivation for entering politics. But a political market framework allows us to understand why a politician who has an agenda of promoting the public good, or an ideological aim, or defending a community, ends up operating as a political entrepreneur nonetheless—or falling by the wayside.

The traditional definition of a war economy is a centrally-planned economy devoted to production for a war effort. In the era of ‘new wars’ it was expanded to include the conduct of hostilities in such a way as to enrich the principal belligerents, for example through collusion among the warring parties and the integration of political factions and criminal gangs. The second type of war economy is a kind of political marketplace.

But some, not all, wartime political marketplaces are war economies in the strict sense of being run for the personal enrichment of the belligerents. A mismanaged political marketplace can collapse into war that bankrupts the economy and impoverishes the belligerents.

The significance of these distinctions lies partly in the fact that technical tools to deal with corruption will not dismantle the political marketplace itself. A crackdown on corruption, illicit financial flows, gangsterism or war profiteering, using instruments such as sanctions or prosecutions, may catch criminals, but will reconfigure the market rather than transforming it. In fact, there is a danger that a selective crackdown will destabilize a political marketplace, which could lead to violence.

It is remarkably difficult to eradicate violence in a political marketplace. Peace agreements and security pacts will reconfigure violence rather than end it, turning violence against those excluded from the bargain. Political entrepreneurs will face incentives for using violence to claim a better stake.

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

Beyond partnership in health care

After two years of construction works, the building of Africa Center for Disease Control (Africa CDC) was inaugurated yesterday. The center plays a big role in facilitating the fight against the health care challenges that hampers the overall growth and development of the continent.

Africa is by now a continent of over 1 billion people that mostly lead a life baffled by poverty. Burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases is one of the challenging socio-economic problems in the continent which is tantamount to adding sore to a wound. It loses a considerable amount of its human and economic resources due to such diseases making its effort of poverty eradication an uphill battle.

Importantly, this should be tackled by all means possible to make the continent's transformation a reality. According to Africa CDC strategy document for 2022-26, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries and mental health conditions constitute a serious impediment to achieving the vision of Agenda 2063 to build an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens.

Each year, these conditions cause millions of premature deaths and disabled lives across Africa. These conditions also lead to annual economic loss of multiple billion US-Dollars. Their burden both in terms of disease morbidity/mortality and socio-economic impact is increasing, the strategy document states.

The recurrent outbreak of Ebola pandemic is also a severe threat to the continent and needs a concerted effort to address it sustainably. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative effect on the prevention and control of NCDs and injuries and on mental health demonstrating the links between these reinforcing epidemics.

In addition to low physical activities and unhealthy diet, environmental pollution, smoking, alcohol and substance use are on the rise on the continent. The continent perhaps may be unique in having a double

burden of obesity and under nutrition in a significant proportion among its citizens compared to other regions of the world.

Conflict and environmental instability add risks, especially for injuries and mental health. It is also worth mentioning that Africa is repeatedly raised as hotspot for the prevalence of major fatal diseases like malaria, TB and AIDS.

Due to its economic shortcomings as well as political, social and economic pitfalls, the continent also suffers from shortage of medical professionals as well as facilities and medical supplies. All these problems need to be addressed through continuous research and policy interventions.

For this end the launching of the Africa CDC new building is a good step forward. It is an important milestone in the ever growing China-Africa Cooperation. The health sector has been one of the major areas of cooperation between China and Africa. For instance, China has been providing rapid support to the continent during alarming disease outbreaks like Ebola in West and central Africa.

It is to be recalled that enhancing the health sector partnership is one of the 10 areas of Cooperation framed during the 6th FOCAC Summit held on December 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The cooperation has been growing steadily ever since, and the new building is also a landmark project that testifies this progress.

The progress in the health sector will have positive effect in the productivity of the continent's population which will in turn boost the investment and trade activities of both China and Africa.

Furthermore, the inauguration of the center will also demonstrate significance of Addis Ababa as a political and diplomatic capital of Africa which already host the head quarter of African Union (AU) as well as United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

Opinion

Ethiopia's unwavering commitment to relations with China

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Ethiopia, which is advancing towards prosperity, independent and being center of gravity regarding all sorts of parameters, has been grabbing world attention to date. The world is now well eyeing at Ethiopia since it has always followed color blind diplomacy, working closely with east or west blocs, so long as countries of the planet are willing to run a win-win diplomatic strategies based on mutual understanding and lively trust.

Apart from being well endowed with natural resources, hospitality, and cheap labor force as well as untapped and indescribable possessions, doors are open in Ethiopia all the time for nations to work and grow together entertaining workable diplomacy.

China has, for instance, been working to establish a firm amicable tie with Ethiopia especially since the recent reform.

Notably, it had been Ethiopia's sentry when the latter was severely challenged by UNSC following unfair intervention of some western powers. This bold move of China has been imprinted in the hearts and minds of all Ethiopians.

Not only is China in a position to force western powers reread their respective foreign policies for Africa but it has also reinvigorated constructive involvement at

the helm of Africa's development projects ranging from modern railway projects to up-to-the-minute road networks and prompt technological engagements.

Translating common aspirations into practical actions has been vividly portrayed in China as its undertakings are a living proof in the global course.

Frankly speaking, every nation in the globe does have numerous alternatives with which they would love to form alliance. Ethiopia is now getting a number of options towards meeting its recurrent economic, social, political, financial as well as development desires.

This great nation—Ethiopia—has remained the center of gravity at which world superpowers have been eyeing due to its appealing geographical location and untapped wealth and energetic population. Interestingly, as far as my understanding is concerned and I believe no one can stand against the idea that China with a neutral partner has been giving hard time to western powers and others which consider themselves as African masters and they can dictate the continent in the direction they would love to follow, to revise their foreign policies and bilateral or trilateral or even multilateral ties with the wealthy continent centering Ethiopia.

What makes China unique in the era of imposition and arrogant dictation of other counties is it has developed a mutual understanding and development-driven foreign policy, which is a potential magnet to bait African countries to have an optimal choice.

This writer would like to well appreciate and recognize China's mutual growth and development programs best suiting to African countries national interests devoid of a landlord-tenant relationship contrary to what neocolonialists would like to pursue.

Time for entertaining a patronizing role has elapsed and prettily substituted with mutual understanding coupled with win-win fashion and firm cooperation.

Having portrayed its being best ally of Ethiopia at bad times, China has now reaffirmed that it has been a good Ethiopian partner via sending its newly appointed foreign minister to commence his African visit.

I think the coming of the newly appointed Foreign Minister of China, Qin Gang, who landed in Addis Ababa as his first visit to Africa since taking office, can unequivocally regarded as a firm glue to further paste the age long relationships of the two sisterly countries. No doubt, his visit showcases the strong company of Ethiopia and China.

Indeed, nothing is more interesting than being a choice of China among its long list of partnership opportunities. Yes, Beijing has presented itself as an equal partner in poverty alleviation, technology transfer, and economic advancement to help Africa in general and Ethiopia in particular depart from the western disparaging character.

It has also opposed west political intervention as far as the northern conflict is concerned. The longstanding bilateral ties of the two countries has further reinvigorated and well cemented especially following the coming of Abiy Ahmed to power in 2018.

All the great deed China did, and has been doing or will do has remained an amicable stalemate for Ethiopia. Since China is ready to further augment its all-rounded relations including political trust and mutually beneficial projects with this east Africa icon—Ethiopia—I am dead sure their relation would remain unbreakable.

China's eagerness to push Ethiopia to the regional and global forefronts is also a clear manifestation of former's wholehearted as well as enthusiastic gesture for the latter.

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

Business & Economy

Anti- corruption move in its historic perspectives, measures of mitigation

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

During the imperial and the Derg era, corruption was not reached to the level as witnessed today. But no one can deny that various crimes were committed in those times by the governments. Criminal acts related with corruption, robbery and abusing authority did not reach to their pick level. Institutions established in the imperial and Derg era contributed a lot to contain corruption.

The working system, legal frame works and structures played their part to mitigate corruption. The institutions created awareness that all citizens to know that they have the duty to fight corruption and to cooperate with the government to that end. After the downfall of the Derg regime the procreator established to prosecute the regime officials for their crime against humanity but did not charge them on corruption.

Starting from the Derg Chairman Mengistu Hilemariam, up to the lower ranking Derg members were not prosecuted for criminal act of corruption.

During the Derg era corruption was not manifested as an existential threat for the nation. In the recent past, a study was conducted to establish ethics and anti-corruption commission and as to the study, corruption practice was not a worrisome that time. Though the imperial and the Derg regimes were accused for violation of human right, they had not been leveled as culprit in corruption.

Yohannes Woldegebreal is a lawyer working for various firms for the last 32 years. As to him, in both two past regimes, the government property and budget were properly managed and the officials who were appointed to the post were men of ethics. The Derg did not abandon the imperial regime's institutions, administrative laws and justice system so that it could contain the possible corruption plot. The investigation commission established in the last hours of the Prime Minister Aklilu Habtewold power tenure had sufficient capacity to investigate crimes and to gather evidence but it had not prosecuted the imperial officials by corruption.

In the Derg era, there was rumor that the imperial regime officials had committed corruption crime and the Derg pledged to investigate it but instead of taking appropriate measure based on evidence, it rather committed crime against humanity.

It killed the imperial officials cold bloodedly and confiscated their properties illegally. Many shareholder companies were labeled as if they were owned by the emperor and had become nationalized. However, it was proved that the companies had been performing legally with due paying taxes. They had been audited annually with no delay and their income and expenditure had been properly announced to the pertinent government body. They also had been established legally.

Historically and culturally trading



Let's make corruption free Ethiopia

profession had been disregarded and still socially marginalized. The involvement of the emperor in shareholders' business had been a disgrace for him. Even some secretes of the emperor's share were displayed by the Derg in order to defame him. Nevertheless, no evidence was found that explained the involvement of the emperor and his officials in money embezzlement. The accusation of the emperor as if he had been linked in illegal business was baseless.

The investigation commission served for two years and exposed some criminal acts committed in the imperial era through media. It investigated high officials of the emperor. However, its ultimate findings were related with the famine which took the life of hundreds of thousands of people in Wollo province in 1973. He prosecuted them by blaming that they had been responsible for the created human disaster.

According to the then criminal law, crime committed by letting people to be starved would punish the culprit from 3 to 10 years imprisonment. The prosecution charge was sent to the special military tribunal court but the Derg illegally took the file and punished 60 imperial officials by death. Later on investigative committee had been banned by new proclamation.

As to Yohannes, in the Derg era, there were many institutions established to investigate corruption related crimes with the mandate to prosecute. The Derg special investigative team and central investigation bureau also can be mentioned here.

In 1988 it also established the workers supervision committee and these all had worked on anti- corruption struggle. The other strong institution established with full power was the special procreator office in 1996. These institutions can be said that they played their own role to raise the society awareness about the negative consequence of corruption on the nation's socio-economic growth.

As to Yohannes, following the downfall of the Derg regime, an institution was established in 1998 during the EPRDF era, by considering corruption as a threat to the norms of the society and economic

Currently, corruption in Ethiopia is not an ordinary crime; it has been a worrisome phenomenon. It has been a challenge for the nation's existence and its continuity



well-being. In addition, National Greif Hearing Committee was established. But the established anti- corruption commission did not live up to its mission and served only to advance the ruling party political interest by revenging its political rivals.

Most of the prosecuted officials were part of the Derg establishment and expelled from their office and labeled by false accusation of possessing illegal property.

At the end of 2000 special prosecutor office was established and the major task of the office was investigating corruption acts committed during the Derg era. It lasted for 15 years and was ceased to exist. Later other institution by its name "corruption investigating team" under the auspicious of the Ministry of Justice was established in 2001 and investigated the corruption committed by the former Prime Minister

Tamrat Layne now in exile in the USA.

After the split of TPLF in 2009, the Federal Ethics and Anti -Corruption Commission was established. In the very beginning that time, the society regarded the commission as political weapon to attack political opponents. The enacting of the anti-corruption law to prosecute Siye Abraha, the former official of TPLF can be mentioned as the case in point.

Latter in order to fight corruption and abuse of power for personal gains, ombudsmen was established but as many agreed, it did not bring a difference in halting corruption or protecting citizens from grievance committed by political authorities. Before the coming to power of Abiy Ahmed in 2016, the authority given to the anti-corruption commission to prosecute people suspected of corruption was revoked by the parliament and now it only engaged in inculcating citizens to be ethical and loyal to their country. The legislative took such measure by reasoning that if the commission continues with its prosecuting power it may become an authoritative entity.

There are many questions to be raised regarding the commission's carrier. Some ask what did the commission do since its establishment in 2000, did it obtain respect from the public, did the commissioners who were appointed to lead the commission become a model to the society as a hero of anti -corruption campaign, did the government become credible to the public because of the commission's activities and so on.

As to Yohannes Woldegebreal, recently, new anti-corruption task force is established at the national level which has seven members. The structure of the committee seems better because the members are from different organizations with various professional backgrounds.

The task force has members with investigating and prosecuting back ground. It comprised the Minister of National Security, Minister of Justice and high officials of the government. But the jurisdiction of the task force is not known. The structure is wonderful but whether it fulfills its mission or not, time tells.

According to him, currently, corruption in Ethiopia is not an ordinary crime; it has been a worrisome phenomenon. It has been a challenge for the nation's existence and its continuity. Particularly in the past four years, the situation has been aggravating and unless remedial action is quickly taken as a society, future of the country will be unpredictable.

Unless corruption, characterized as a cancer of the economy, is wiped-out effectively, it would have adverse impact on the economic activities of the country. Investors, local or foreign, could lose confidence on the nation's business process and may be abstained from investing in the country or pushed to cease their already operational firm. This and other spoiled effects of corruption make intensifying the struggle against corruption mandatory, it was learned.

Art & Culture

This may be an Ideal time for the Revival of Cinema and the Theatres

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

It is indeed a long time since Ethiopian theatre has been hit by an equally long period of drought although there is currently some sign that drama is not completely dead. The current staging of a new work by popular playwright Wudeneh Kifle at the Hager Fikir Theatre may be taken as a sign that theatre may be getting a new lease on life as the prolific Ethiopian script writer has proved in the past when his works were staged for many seasons and attracted massive audiences. It is not yet time to judge whether the drought period in Ethiopian dramatic works will end soon or will continue for some time until favorable conditions will be created for its revival.

For the last two and a half years, movie making and live dramatic productions or presentations have sharply declined not only here in Ethiopia but also around the world mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic that had made it difficult for people to gather at the same place to watch movies or enjoy evening at theatre houses where new dramas could be stage. The golden age of theater in Ethiopia, when dramatic productions here in Addis Ababa forced theatre houses to fill to capacity and audiences counted in their thousands judging by the long and meandering queues, seem to have gone for good.

This was evident back in the 1980s and 1990s well before movie making shifted audience attention away from the stage drama and a new industry seemed on its way to blossoming as the first Amharic-language films caught the imagination of audiences who were apparently fed up with Hollywood productions. A genuine film industry seemed to have been launched in Ethiopia judging by the enthusiasm it was welcomed and the money that was invested in the industry that had become so lucrative that it attracted actors, producers and directors from the theatres and brought them to the silver screen.

The then available trained and experienced manpower transfer from theatre houses to movie settings had led to the decline of theatre at the cost of the silver screen, an event that was mourned by some and welcomed by many. Soon however, the film industry in Ethiopia exposed its softer belly as investments first shoot up and then suddenly dried up and the number of film produced every year dropped and reached a standstill due to the unfortunate arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic that undermined the industry that was already tottering on the brink.

This did not happen only here in Ethiopia. Hollywood, Bollywood and the Chinese film industries in general saw a period of sharp decline as movies houses were closed down and ticket sales dropped from a trickle to complete drying and massive incomes from Western blockbusters stopped altogether.

But the big global film industries were strong enough to waver the dry period and survive until better times came recently while the industries in developing countries went out of business unable even to pay actors for works they had done in better times.

According to sources, the first play by Ethiopian author Teklehawariat Tekelmariam was entitled "Fabula: Yearewoch Commedia" (Fable: The Comedy of Animals) and staged it at the Terrace Hotel in the capital Addis Ababa in 1921. Aboneh Ashagre in a study entitled, "The Role of Women on the Ethiopian Stage" said that the play was not a good success.

A certain Jane Plastow, professor at the University of Leeds "The First African play: Fabula: Yawreoch Commedia and its Influence on the development of theatre in Ethiopia," says that Fabula is probably the first original African drama ever written and produced..."

In the 1930s and afterwards, many playwrights continued the journey to write Ethiopian stories in European form of play righting. He mentioned Yoftahe Negussie and Melaku Begossew who wrote plays in the 1930's along the same lines and were popular among students at schools in Addis Ababa where, at the end of each academic year, students staged plays whose messages focused on student life and gave lessons both to youngsters and their parents.

On the other hand, the history of the Ethiopian film industry dates back to the 1960s but its growth is in no way commensurate with its long existence. The first film was staged in Ethiopia during the reign of Emperor Menelik who was fond of introducing modern European inventions like the telephone, the first train and vehicle to his country. This happened not long after the French Lumiere Brothers invented the first motion picture in 1896. The staging of the first movie that had religious content was opposed by the clergy who regarded it as "the work of the devil". The stone house where the movie was screened was subsequently called "seitan bet" (house of the devil) and is still standing at the crossroad between Churchill Road and Piazza in Addis Ababa.

The rapport between cinema and stage drama in Ethiopia has largely been a process of mutual exclusion or inverse relationship in the sense that when dramatic works blossomed cinematic productions tended to go into temporary or chronic decline and vice versa. To begin with, the development of theatre in Ethiopia has a more than one hundred year history while the first feature film dates back to the 1960s. For many decades, theatres had dominated the cultural landscape in Ethiopian cities and towns where ambulatory drama groups were staging their dramas to rural audiences.

The Ethiopian theatres in its long existence has produced many talented actors, script writers and producers who have contributed to the unprecedented growth

of the entertainment while shaping the consciousness of the theatre audience particularly during the post-revolution period starting in the 1970s. Poet Laureate Tsegaye G/Medhin wrote and stage some of his classic theatre works such as Hahu Besidist Wer (ABC in six Months), Hahu weyim Pepu (ABC or XYZ) in that period together with a stage adaptation of Bertolt Brecht's "mother Courage" rendered in Amharic as Enat Alem Tenu.

There were also actors like Wegayehu Negatu, who could reach the apex in the development of their artistic talents by playing major roles in the classic dramas of the time and leaving unforgettable legacies of revival and maturity of Ethiopian theatre. There were also other lesser talents on their way to maturity although their profession was cut short to the post-revolution events in the country that prohibited or outlawed the staging of critical dramas. Since independent drama groups were non-existent at that time, the actors and script writers were automatically deprived of the means of earning their bread and many of them ended up in the gutter.

The post-Derg period had created enormous hope of revival for theatre in Ethiopia and there were a few attempts to revive a once vibrant profession that was a major entertainment for so many people in the capital Addis Ababa. Despite the tough times, dramatic works made their appearance over the radio and produced mainly comic dramas that caught the ears of the eager audience. This could not grow at it should due to the fact that actors in radio dramas as well as script writers were paid meagerly for their efforts and this was enough to repel many talents from radio studios. What was a promising enterprise at the beginning of the 1990s soon hit rock bottom and many professionals were sacked from their work places due to this or that political allegation.

It was around this time that the cinema was reborn in Ethiopia, or more truly in Addis Ababa, by making use of the talent, knowledge and demand for entertainment and by combining with individuals who were willing to invest in the movies. Although the Ethiopian Film Corporation (EFC) was established during the Derg era under the then Ministry of Culture, it had not done a great deal given the talent and money at its disposal. Filmmakers like Haile Germa and Solomon Bekele who later on proved their mettle by producing classic movies here in the country and abroad were at one time employees of the EFC that was liquidated when the EPRDF came to power.

From the above brief exposition, one can see that the theater and cinema in Ethiopia had an intricate and intertwined relationship and their fates were equally tangled as it was evident from their survival in the following decades. What is interesting about Ethiopian theatre is the fact that it has proved itself to be resilient despite the odds as there was always a light at the end of the tunnel. This

was partly because Ethiopian theatre has played a revolutionary role as far as society and politics were concerned.

Theatre was established by an old dignitary by the name Mekonnen Endalkachew to motivate patriots and the general public during the Italian fascist invasion and the war of 1933-36. Ethiopian theatre at that time played a highly progressive and patriotic role in agitating the public and building a strong anti-fascist sentiment during the resistance. As the author of the above-quoted study tells us, "Mekonnen Endalkachew promoted the use of music and sketch plays to attract the audience for his motivational speeches every Sunday. The plays were improvised based on the main issue every Sundays' gatherings."

Ethiopian theatre has always been speaking truth to power as it was evident during the imperial era when Tsegaye's Shakespearean works were perceived as critical remarks about the monarchy and the emperor in person. During the revolution, Tsegaye's stage production contributed to raising the consciousness of the people while sending warning signs to the military administration that was taking power at that time. In the same period there was also Abe Gubegna's provocative and critical drama called "politikana poletikegnoch" (Politics and Politicians) that was removed from the Hager Fikir Theater shortly after it was staged.

When Ethiopian theatre emerged from its turbulent period in the 1970s to 1990s, it was completely changed as far as actors, scripts and productions were concerned. The vary talent actors that animated the stage in those radical years had given way to a new generation of young actors who graduated from the Addis Ababa theater department. Although some of them had talent they lacked the experience and maturity of their predecessors.

As far as theme was concerned, Ethiopian theater had abandoned tougher issues that directly addressed the relationships between the people and the government and had sunk into themes related to romantic or tragic personal issues. The scripts were presented by relatively inexperienced writers who tried to reflect the lives of ordinary people in opposition to the heroic or tragic figures in the hands of the pioneering script writers like Tsegaye or Abe Gubegna or Tesfaye Gessesse.

Fast forward to the present, nowadays, both the movies and dram productions are on the same level of decline even though the major constraint seems to have been overcome and that audiences are now free to go to the movies or theatres. There are occasional productions in both departments that are undermined by the current economic crisis that has apparently made it difficult for people to spend money on entertainment outlets although many people continue to frequent less healthy places that can hardly be called entertaining.

Indepth

The dividends of the Pretoria peace deal

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Ethiopia over the past two years passed very difficult days in its relations with the international community particularly, with the traditional allies on which it would have counted with certainty.

The conflict in the north changed that situation and there were no more things to be taken for granted. As the conflict got even more bitter and passed through nasty exchanges of hostilities it was inevitable that tremendous losses would be recorded. Lives were lost on the battleground and infrastructure was destroyed or damaged. Indeed, many say the country may have made a huge jump into the past given the amount of time and resources it might now need to rebuild.

In the meantime there were lots of unfair and biased judgments against the Ethiopian government and people in general and the consequences were in many ways as devastating as the conflict itself was to result. Economically, the country was severely challenged even by the resources it had to commit to facing the conflict while thousands of people were literally engaged on the war front. For Ethiopia, it was a matter of sovereignty and integrity and that was what most of the international community disregarded or failed to acknowledge and may offer some understanding and sympathy. Instead, pressure was made to mount against the country and its international image was made to be tarnished by some international media outlets.

What is more, the campaign that the country had to face in the social media seemed staggering and Ethiopians from all over the world had to make their voices heard by trying to counter that destructive campaign. It was clear that most of the international media had made their choice in the equation of the conflict in the north and Ethiopia felt unfairly treated.

A lot of efforts had to be exerted to make certain points clearer than what these media were nourished from one side only and preferred to echo them continuously making a huge impact even in the relations the Ethiopian government had with the political circles of the major western countries.

Sanctions were the next move that affected deeply Ethiopians and because of that the economic situation in Ethiopia got from bad to worse and deeply affected the lives of ordinary citizens.

Indeed, Ethiopia was tested by these developments in the past two years. But at the same time, Ethiopia also had the opportunity to distinguish between those who cared little about it and those who actually went all the way with it in order to save it from drowning. Some countries were really always behind Ethiopia's predicament and strongly supported it not only in the international sphere where diplomatic battles were the order of the day but also in economic terms by showing their solidarity. In this sense, Ethiopia has strengthened its relations even more with these countries. The

premier was heard thanking these countries for supporting it in the darkest moments of the country.

However, in the end, as the saying goes every war has to end or ends with a peace negotiation and agreement because wars cannot continue indefinitely as they erode the economy of those involved and the costs become unsustainable even in human terms. After a series of uninterrupted attempts, the Pretoria Peace Deal has been reached between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF leadership. The African Union, IGAD and many other international bodies and influential statesmen contributed to the success of the protracted negotiations and in the end all the indications are that the talks have been successful. Thanks to the contribution of all those bodies mentioned above including the EU and UN etc. the peace deal was signed and the terms of the deal are being implemented even if some pessimist people say that it is easier said than actually executed.

This time around a lot of efforts are being exerted to keep the momentum of the peace deal and focus more on what it is achieving in terms of returning the lives of millions to normal, rehabilitating them and restoring certain services that were not available for two years. Both the Ethiopian government, and TPLF seem very anxious and committed to realize the terms of the peace deal with a brotherly spirit and that is what actually matters and counts because without the goodwill of the parties, the deal becomes empty paper.

Lots of recommendations have been pouring from in all corners of the world so that the efforts of the deal do not fade away easily. In this particular situation presenting an obstacle to the current trend of building up to the actual peace process would be condemned. We have seen that there are some forces which do not want the peace process to succeed but both the Ethiopian government and the TPLF leadership seem to disregard these extremist forces and rather cater for the needs of their people.

In the meantime, we have seen concrete steps being taken by both parties of the deal. The federal forces have been taking their positions in the regional capital Mekelle and normal relations are being restored with communications getting smoother and smoother. Families have been allowed to meet from both sides benefiting from Ethiopian Airlines flights and formal Ethiopian government delegations have been to Mekelle to meet the regional authorities and discuss some issues of interest and concern. The issue of rehabilitation and reconstruction is of course presumably at the heart of the discussions, many assume. Now that the guns have been silenced people can travel to and from Tigray and services such as banks and internet or telephone links are being restored as are electric and water services. Things seem to be moving fast so that the people get some real and tangible result from the peace deal sealed in Pretoria.

What is equally important for Ethiopia is

that its sovereignty and territorial integrity has been preserved unlike the hopes and expectations of some of its enemies who certainly are disappointed by this deal. At the same time, some of the countries that had a totally negative attitude towards Ethiopia seem to have now changed their position.

Diplomatic activities are resuming intensely and recent communications with these countries show a change in attitude towards Ethiopia. There must have been the recognition that Ethiopia's peace and stability are critical to the peace and stability of the Horn of Africa and Africa in general given the importance Ethiopia enjoys in the continent and given its history of the past. No one can deny that, Ethiopia has always been an inspiration to the freedom movements of African nations who were under colonial dominion while Ethiopia was a free and independent country. It is not pure coincidence that Ethiopia is the seat of the AU and Addis Ababa is considered as the capital of Africa.

These days, there are flurries of diplomatic activities in Ethiopia with relations with major European countries being renewed with visits of their high officials and there have been visits of the UN Secretary-General and other top diplomats to talk to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. And with the upcoming summit of African leaders here, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's image will be completely restored as it was in the pre-conflict days. Efforts are now being exerted so that foreign direct investment will be reignited to previous levels and all those who put a halt to their moves to come to Ethiopia and invest will be encouraged to do so thanks to the peace deal being implemented.

Tourists as well are beginning to flock again and what has been noted at the Christmas celebrations in Lalibella is a result of the peace restored. Hundreds of thousands of people have flocked to Lalibella to celebrate Ethiopian Christmas including tourists and Ethiopian diaspora. More is expected in the upcoming Epiphany or *Timket* celebrations particularly carried out very colorfully in Gondar. This will be another occasion for the tourist industry to re-flourish. For the past two years, all these celebrations were carried out halfheartedly because people were rather more engaged in praying for peace rather than enjoying wholeheartedly the festivities. This year this will not happen. Tour operators and hotel owners have been smiling at the prospect of having lots of clients in the coming days and weeks as the peace efforts go even deeper and deeper creating a spirit of stability and hope.

Ethiopian diplomats and mission heads have been asked to engage with the governments and peoples of the countries with whom they work so that Ethiopia is now a peaceful country and they can not only come there for tourism but also for investments. We have noted in the past few months how the Pretoria peace deal changed lots of things in Ethiopia and more will be achieved if we continue to work hard in implementing it totally and embark on the huge efforts of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

We have noted in the past few months how the Pretoria peace deal changed lots of things in Ethiopia and more will be achieved if we continue to work hard in implementing it totally and embark on the huge efforts of rehabilitation and reconstruction

Law & Politics

From vicious circle of conflict to smoothing the path of lasting peace

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The Pretoria peace pact is not only about ending the conflict but is also about ensuring permanent cessation of hostilities too. In fact, long before the signing of the deal, the federal government since the onset of the conflict has been coming up with useful approaches to get to the bottom of the problem in an atmosphere of calm.

The breach of the constitutional order and unlawful conducts are what led to the outbreak of the devastating war in the country. In this regard, the parties to the accord have agreed to restore constitutional order and ensure rule of law there by ensuring permanent cessation of hostilities. The cessation of hostilities agreement that has been signed between the federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) has been playing an extremely important role in clearing the way for peace implementation. The whole thing on the subject of peace implementation has been developing in the right direction.

One of the linchpins of the deal is restoring constitutional order in Tigray. The agreement stipulates that the Ethiopian federal government must be allowed to reestablish authority in the Tigray Region, including in the capital of Mekelle, and that "the ENDF and other relevant Federal Institutions shall have an expeditious, smooth, peaceful and coordinated entry" into the capital.

Pretoria's agreement in this regard accentuates the need to respect the demarcation of authorities and return the Tigray state to constitutional order. Translating this agreed term into action lays the ground for permanent cessation of hostilities and allows the full functioning of the country's essential institutions.

Also in the AU-brokered peace deal is the disarmament, demobilizing, and reintegration of the Tigray Defense Force. This agreement corroborates that there should not be two equal armies in one nation. This undisputedly rectifies the past mistake and addresses one of the major bones of contentions. And, the effective implementation of the term is also about maintaining peace and order.

In the present climate, the wider international community has been expressing admiration for the positive achievements surfacing in every corner of the Tigray state. In good truth, after the African Union (AU) brokered the peace deal, peace implementation has been in full operation.

"We must build a country that is suitable for the future generation by breaking the vicious cycle of conflict and war," the Ethiopian scientist Haregewein Assefa said.

She emphasizes that Ethiopians need to get out of the vicious circle of war and conflict and rebuild a country suitable for future generations.

The peace agreement reached to resolve the problem in northern Ethiopia peacefully is an important step for lasting peace, the



professor noted.

Born around Adwa of Tigray region, Professor Haregewein Assefa is a senior scientist in drug research who has filed for several patents to protect her inventions with fellow counterparts.

In an exclusive interview with *Ethiopian News Agency*, she underscored the importance of only peaceful dialogue in the country.

According to the professor, peace is the only option to bring development and progress. Therefore, everyone should give priority to peace and work since there is no substitute for peace.

She believes that, it is appropriate to teach the generation about unity rather than differences.

Hence, we Ethiopians must get out of the vicious circle of war and conflict and build a country that is suitable for future generations.

"Peace emanates from working together, unity, and love. Especially in the 21st century, fighting must be avoided. Guns do not solve problems. If we start talking about love and unity instead, we can solve every problem. If we tell our students that guns kill, that is enough as everything starts at home."

The professor noted that it is necessary to inculcate patriotism, empathy and unity and build a country suitable for all citizens.

In order to lift citizens out of poverty, ensuring development and lasting peace should be a job that cannot be left for tomorrow, she stressed.

"There is no greater legacy than peace to the coming generation. Thus it is crucial that we build peace for the next generation. Now I have added five years to my age. But, if I don't live in peace, living 10 years is meaningless. What is the legacy I am leaving to contribute to peace?"

Professor Haregewein further said "when I think about what I will leave for my children, peace takes the first place. If there is peace, we will get out of trouble. We will

Peace emanates from working together, unity, and love. Especially in the 21st century, fighting must be avoided. Guns do not solve problems. If we start talking about love and unity instead, we can solve problems. Through education, we can solve every problem. If we tell our students that guns kill, that is enough as everything starts at home

not be beggars."

For her, the peace agreement has a special meaning and all should support it.

Recall that following the Pretoria Peace Agreement, the Government of Ethiopia

has been restoring basic services, providing humanitarian aid widely and rebuilding destroyed infrastructures.

Publishing commentaries on the CoHA, Prof. Ann M. Fitz-Gerald and Hugh Segal (Ph.D.) also stated that, the beginning of this new era has to earn the ongoing support of the people, parties and international actors and be reinforced by other important reform initiatives to address clear sources of insecurity in Ethiopia.

They also said: "The settlement agreed by the parties to Ethiopia's conflict offers hope for lasting peace, but further steps are still needed to deter future violence and instability. Failing on these measures of support opens a risk that the recently brokered peace agreement will simply be an instance of kicking the can down the road."

As to the authors, the government has to now push various reforms forward in earnest to build a plural democratic governance model in Tigray so as to lead a stable foundation in place for peace to move forward and rebuild the conflict-affected areas of Tigray, Amhara and Afar.

"It is also important to well discuss the contested areas elsewhere in the country and other ill-defined or ambiguous land issues to properly run security and economic reforms. The momentum behind capital market reforms including the proposed launch of the Ethiopia stock exchange, which could accelerate economic growth and opportunities in a more publicly accountable private sector, have to be focused on," they underlined.

They also recommended that, the commitment and resources required to support the monumental reform exercise envisioned in the text of the peace agreement should not be underestimated; nor should the requirement to end a largely disinformation-based war.

"The sustained support such as robust and accountable AU monitoring and verification capability and access for independent reporting and commitment of the Ethiopian people, the political parties, Ethiopian Diaspora groups and international actors is required and priority should be given," they remarked.

Translating this agreed term of the peace deal into action lays the ground for permanent cessation of hostilities and allows the full functioning of the country's essential institutions.

On the other side, the federal government would guarantee the Tigray people be properly represented in federal government institutions in line with the constitution. Respecting this part of the deal will surely help restore full order in the country and smoothens the flourishing of the federal democratic state in the country.

Moreover, as clearly indicated in the peace accord, the election held in Tigray is void and null. This vividly demonstrates that the implementation of the constitution should be equally applicable to all and all the time.

Women in Focus

Incorporating women in peace process serves nation in broader aspects

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

It is evident that women and children have been known to be harshly affected during armed conflicts. More often than not, they are highly vulnerable to killings, sexual violence which often leads to sexually transmitted disease as well as unwanted pregnancies, as well as exposed to stigma, among others.

Leaving aside the double duties and responsibilities they take on in conflict situations to protect and support their families, women and children also suffer the greatest even after the conflict ends as they are more likely to be left widowed and orphaned.

In an interview with Gender Governance Kenya, Veteran Editor at the African Woman and Child Feature Service, Jane Godia, said: "while women remain a minority of combatants and perpetrators of war, they increasingly suffer the greatest harm."

Bearing in mind the significant role that women could play in curbing the effects of conflicts, not only for themselves, but their families and communities at large, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) organized national women peace conference movement in Adama recently.

Curbing the vulnerability of women to



conflict related challenges as well as enhancing their role in peace building process in the country was said to be the major aim of the movement.

In her key note speech, Alemitu Umut, State Minister of Women and Children Affairs within MoWSA stressed that realizing development is unthinkable unless peace is ensured. Thus, she said everyone must

condemn any act that hinders peace process especially women need to take the leading role in ensuring peace.

Underlining the deep impact of instability on various sectors, as well as considering the fact that women, children, elderly as well as Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) negatively affected, she stated that, women need to strengthen their effort with regard to

maintaining peace.

Apart from discharging responsibility in their household, women need to engage in promoting and applying the long standing conflict resolution values of the nation. Hence, she emphasized her Office's readiness to work in tandem with those who strive to ensure peace in the country.

During the discussion, papers that focused on capitalizing peace building process were presented. At the event, a discussion was also held regarding the need to actively incorporate women on peace building efforts, conflict resolution as well as acknowledge their efforts.

Following the national peace conference, a plan is set to mobilize and organize similar events at federal and various levels. Moreover, an environment where it allows women to further plan and implement peace process activities would be created, it was learned.

It is essential that women begin to play a significant role in curbing the effects of violence, To a great extent, they need to be actively included and involved in the formal aspects of the peace process so that they can stand up for their rights and advocate for peace at a national level, as depicted on Peace Insight. The inter-linkages between women's development, peace, security and human rights cannot be denied, it said.

Safe motherhood matters most

BY ELIZABETH MENGISTU

Every year, the month January is marked as "Safe Motherhood Month" to raise the concern of global community regarding the importance of healthy pregnancy and motherhood, advocate and mobilize resources for increasing access to quality maternal health services; increase awareness on preventable maternal and infant mortality and ensure that all women receive the care they need to be safe and healthy throughout the times of their pregnancy and childbirth.

This year's "Safe Motherhood Month" is being marked across the globe under the theme "Let us together prevent maternal deaths caused by preventable causes."

In relation to the Month, last Monday, the Ministry of Health gave a briefing to the media.

Speaking on the occasion, Health Minister Dr. Lia Tadesse said that, in the coordinated efforts exerted to reduce maternal mortality, encouraging successes have been registered. In this regard, in 1990, in every hundred thousand live births, the mortality rate for mothers was 1250. However, following the coordinated efforts, the rate has seen a 68 percent reduction in 2017 and only 401 deaths occurred per 100,000 live births. The success was the outcome of the coordinated works done focusing on the accessibility



and equity of health services.

Citing a report issued by the United Nations in 2017, Dr. Lia said that every year, 295,000 mothers die across the globe due to reasons related to pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum, of which 94 percent of maternal deaths occur in developing countries. Similarly, in Ethiopia about 14,000 mothers annually and 38 daily die due to pregnancy related health complications.

Ethiopia, though registered remarkable achievements in reducing the rate of maternal mortality; further strengthening stakeholders' coordination should be strengthened to secure the lives of mothers from preventable causes, she added.

According to the Maternal Death Survey and Response report, the reasons for

mothers' death such as postpartum hemorrhage; hypertension associated with pregnancy, infection, obstructed labor and anemia are preventable causes. Thus, preventing maternal deaths that happen from preventable causes is the responsibility of everyone; and works carried out in partnership with stakeholders should be further strengthened.

In the past few years, in various parts of the country where man-made and natural problems have occurred, mothers and children have been among the most vulnerable sections of the society. Mainly, for the reason healthcare services were not accessible in those areas and limitations to provide services in an organized manner, the scope of mothers' and children's vulnerability due to the case was high.

"Therefore, when we mark this year's "Safe Motherhood Month" we will think of mothers who were in warzones, and in other conflict ridden areas and focus on resuming the services of health institutions that have been out of service for long and further strengthening the coordination of all stakeholders," Dr. Lia stressed.

Maternal and Child Health Directorate Director with the Ministry Dr. Meseret Zelalem on her part said the "Safe Motherhood Month" is marked for the 36th time globally and for the 17th

time in Ethiopia with the theme "Let us together prevent maternal deaths caused by preventable causes."

"When we mark the month, in addition to the work carried out by the government in coordination with its partners, the month will be celebrated with a number of programs by creating a community movement, involving stakeholders and decision-makers at all levels in maternal health, as well as undertaking various awareness raising activities," Dr. Meseret remarked.

"Safe Motherhood" means maternal services provided to women during antenatal, delivery and postpartum periods. The four pillars that are considered Safe Motherhood are Family Planning, antenatal care, essential obstetrics care and clean/safe delivery, according to documents.

Safe Motherhood for all women is enshrined as a basic human right by the United Nations to provide the necessary resources and adequate reproductive health, maternity and newborn care or to enact and enforce laws to support equality for women in all aspects of their life, which includes abolition of child marriage and other harmful traditional practices. It also means ensuring all women receive the care they need to be safe and healthy throughout pregnancy and childbirth as well as ensuring the safety of the mother and child.

International News

Uganda declares end of Ebola disease outbreak

Uganda today declared the end of the Ebola disease outbreak caused by Sudan Ebola virus, less than four months after the first case was confirmed in the country's central Mubende district on 20 September 2022.

"Uganda put a swift end to the Ebola outbreak by ramping up key control measures such as surveillance, contact tracing and infection, prevention and control. While we expanded our efforts to put a strong response in place across the nine affected districts, the magic bullet has been our communities who understood the importance of doing what was needed to end the outbreak, and took action," said Dr Jane Ruth Aceng Ocero, Uganda's Minister of Health.

It was the country's first Sudan Ebola virus outbreak in a decade and its fifth overall for this kind of Ebola. In total there were 164 cases (142 confirmed and 22 probable), 55 confirmed deaths and 87 recovered patients. More than 4,000 people who came in contact with confirmed cases were followed up and their health monitored for 21 days. Overall, the case-fatality ratio was 47%. The last patient was released from care on 30 November when the 42-day countdown to the end of the outbreak began.

Health authorities showed strong political commitment and implemented accelerated public health actions. People in the hot-spot communities of Mubende and Kasanda experienced restricted movements.

"I congratulate Uganda for its robust and comprehensive response which has resulted in today's victory over Ebola," said Dr



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General. "Uganda has shown that Ebola can be defeated when the whole system works together, from having an alert system in place, to finding and caring for people affected and their contacts, to gaining the full participation of affected communities in the response. Lessons learned and the systems put in place for this outbreak will protect Ugandans and others in the years ahead."

This Ebola outbreak was caused by the Sudan Ebola virus, one of six species of the Ebola virus against which no therapeutics and vaccines have been approved yet. However, Uganda's long experience in responding to epidemics allowed the country to rapidly strengthen critical areas of the response and overcome the lack of these key tools.

"With no vaccines and therapeutics, this was one of the most challenging Ebola outbreaks

in the past five years, but Uganda stayed the course and continuously fine-tuned its response. Two months ago, it looked as if Ebola would cast a dark shadow over the country well into 2023, as the outbreak reached major cities such as Kampala and Jinja, but this win starts off the year on a note of great hope for Africa," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

Soon after Uganda declared the Sudan Ebola virus outbreak, WHO worked with a large range of partners, including vaccines developers, researchers, donors and the Ugandan health authorities to identify candidate therapeutics and vaccines for inclusion in trials. Three candidate vaccines were identified and over 5,000 doses of these arrived in the country with the first batch on 8 December and the last two on 17 December. The speed of this collaboration marks a milestone in the global capacity to respond to rapidly evolving outbreaks and prevent them from becoming larger.

"While these candidate vaccines were not used during this outbreak, they remain the contribution of Uganda and partners to the fight against Ebola. The next time the Sudan Ebola virus strikes we can reignite the robust cooperation between developers, donors and health authorities and dispatch the candidate vaccines," said Dr Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam, WHO Representative in Uganda.

WHO and partners supported Ugandan health authorities from the outset of the outbreak, deploying experts, providing training in contact tracing, testing and patient care, as well as building isolation and treatment centers and providing laboratory testing kits. Due to the joint efforts, the processing time for Ebola samples dropped from a few days to six hours. WHO helped to protect frontline health workers by organizing a steady supply of personal protective equipment? The Organization provided nearly US \$ 6.5 million to Uganda's response and an additional US \$ 3 million to support readiness in six neighboring countries.

Although the outbreak in Uganda has been declared over, health authorities are maintaining surveillance and are ready to respond quickly to any flare-ups. A follow-up program has been put in place to support survivors. Neighboring countries remain on alert and are encouraged to continue strengthening their capacities to detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.

Source: World Health Organization, Uganda

Kenya and Tanzania resolve 23 trade barriers after Samia visit

Tanzanian President, Samia Suluhu Hassan with her Kenyan counterpart William Ruto in Dar es Salaam when Dr. Ruto visited the country following his presidential election victory.

Kenya and Tanzania resolved 23 restrictive regulations that had impeded trade between the two countries, following President Samia Suluhu Hassan's Nairobi visit in May 2021, a government paper shows.

A new government paper shows that Kenya had initially targeted to resolve about seven non-tariff barriers (NTBs) — restrictive regulations which licenses, quotas, embargoes, foreign exchange restrictions, and import deposits — in the financial year 2021/22 but this jumped to 31, reflecting a warm relationship between the two countries.

The drop in the number of these trade barriers, which pushed the cumulative NTBs resolved and eliminated to 256 by end of June last year, came moments after the visit to Kenya by President Suluhu who had just replaced the late John Pombe Magufuli. Dr Magufuli's protectionist policies had occasionally flared up in a diplomatic spat between Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

"The over achievement was as a result of collaborations between Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania to resolve NTBs to create market access," reads part of the Report for General Economic and Commercial Affairs Sector, a sector working

group for the budget preparation, which also includes the Treasury.

About 13 of these NTBs were resolved at East African Community's Regional Monitoring Committee meetings, helping push Kenya's export into the region in the financial year 2021/22 to Sh192.4 billion in the review period.

A year after the visit by Ms. Suluhu, trade between Kenya and Tanzania crossed the Sh100 billion marks for the first time, signaling improved ties between the two states.

The thawing of trade ties between the two countries following the death of Magufuli also saw Tanzania's exports to Kenya race past imports for the first time in the six months to June 2021.

In the third quarter of 2022, the value of imports to Tanzania declined slightly to Sh16.6 billion compared to Sh19.1 billion in the period between July and September 2021, but it is a significant jump from Sh8.8 billion in the same period in 2020.

The value of goods ordered from Tanzania — including cereals, wood, and edible vegetables — hit a high of Sh18.29 billion in the review period, according to the Kenya Revenue Authority data published by the CBK. The 70.06 percent surge in goods bought from Tanzania outpaced that of exports, which grew at a five-year high, resulting in a rare trade deficit of Sh1.02



billion.

Kenya's trade spat with Tanzania reached a crescendo in November 2017 when Dar es Salaam burnt 6,400 live chicks from Kenya on grounds that they were smuggled into the country.

Later, Kenya would also ban maize imported from Uganda and Tanzania, arguing that the imported crop had been infected with cancer-causing aflatoxin. Lately, as Kenya ran short of maize, a staple food crop, and retail prices of maize flour soared, the country turned to Tanzania to plug the deficit.

However, Kenyan grain traders seeking to import maize from Tanzania were required to register their firms in Dar es Salaam as the country imposed stricter rules to protect its

commodities and jobs from shifting abroad.

In June 2021, a month after the State visit by Suluhu to Kenya, the Joint Trade Committee, a bilateral organ comprising officials from the two countries created to resolve issues affecting areas of cooperation, identified 60 tariff and non-tariff barriers between the two countries.

Among the NTBs that were to be resolved included customs clearance of soft drinks made in their territories, removal of inspection fees on processed products with a standardization mark including wheat flour, and elimination of roaming calling fees following Tanzania's entry into the Common Network Area.

Source: Business Daily

Wollo: Land of love and tolerance

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Wollo, located in the northern part of Ethiopia, is a place where people with diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds live in harmony.

As indicated by some sources, the religious demography of Wollo together with the art of tolerance among the society makes it one of the peaceful areas in Ethiopia where religious harmony is practiced at full scale. Several social interactions that exist among the Wollo people truly reflect an age-old culture of love and tolerance of the community.

The people of Wollo have something in common - a unique history of tolerance, love, peaceful coexistence and a strong sense of togetherness. They also know the art of living in harmony with others. No matter what religion an individual may practice or what his/her ethnic background is, the people have a unique way of living in tolerance by respecting the identity of others. This age old culture of tolerance and love is still fresh and a matter that can be taken as a model for other areas or countries.

Lately, a festival, aimed at promoting the cultural and religious values of the people of Wollo and inculcating the wisdoms within the new generation, was organized at Ethio-Cuba Friendship Monument. In an exclusive

Source: Wollo Education, Science and Culture Festival social media page



interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Dr. Mohamad Sani, an Epidemiologist at the University of London; and also coordinator of the event said that the culture of tolerance and love has a special place among the people of Wollo; and it is at the heart of every community.

“Irrespective of religious differences or other grounds, the people have special value regarding to respecting and loving others. This culture is still intact. Despite some challenges, the culture to live in harmony with others is still strong among the community.” Dr. Mohamad added.

According to him, the festival that was held in Addis Ababa under the theme of “Journey to Wollo” truly displayed this truth. At the festival, several research papers were presented; traditional music that reflects the culture and identity of the Wollo people was staged and various cultural events that

represent the society were displayed.

Following the conflict in the Northern part of the country, there was some kind of infrastructure destruction in the area. This, in turn, has caused material and psychological crisis in the place. In this regard, the festival also targeted to urge volunteer Ethiopians and Ethiopia’s lovers to stretch their hands and contribute their share in every possible way; be it in the form of providing healthcare facilities or any other activities that could restore the lost institutions or boost the morale of the community.

The program was also organized targeting promoting the science, culture and untapped assets of the Wollo community. Historical documents are full of facts that Wollo is one of the areas in Ethiopia where several scholars have come into existence and contributed their share for their country.

Dr. Mohammad also said that, besides its various historical places and tourist attraction sites, Wollo is also known for various indigenous knowledge and traditional education centers where numerous scholars pursued their education and contributed their part to their country.

Besides its identity to live in harmony and love, Wollo is also known for its tourist attraction sites. The Rock-Hewn churches of Lalibela are good examples of this. The beautiful landscape in Lalibela and the experiences of walking in the mountains around offers fantastic scenery to visitors.

“The hospitable culture of the people in and around Lalibela has a mesmerizing effect to anyone who happens there accidentally,” he added. According to him, the various monasteries that are found in Wollo are places where a number of medieval Muslim and Christian scholars were learnt. For instance, Haik Estifanos Monastery is considered as the first University in Ethiopia. It was a center of traditional learning in the 13th century. This University had been serving as a center of learning for students that came from different parts of the country. Most of the graduates of this University are known for founding several monasteries in different parts of the country.



Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

HU's unreserved commitment to enhance food security

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Haramaya University (HU) has been transferring various improved technologies to benefit the communities and change their livelihoods by increasing their income.

Haramaya University Research and Extension and Publication Director Dr. Chanyalew Seyoum said that HU has been developing and transferring several technologies that enhance the production and productivity of the farmers by using its own scholars and expertise.

It also provides capacity-building training to agricultural experts that are working in surrounding areas, zone, Woredas and so on. The university is also sharing the technologies which are developed by the university scholars to farmers’ unions, and NGOs aiming to change the communities’ lives.

In addition to the provision of technologies, the university has been providing improved animals, crops, vegetables, and fruit seeds and provides to the farmers by multiplying in the main campus, sub-research stations, and farmers’ demonstration centers, he elaborated.



Dr. Chanyalew Seyoum

Along with the academic and technology transfer tasks, HU is doing an effective job by delivering the results of problem-solving researches to the farmers especially, in applying and distributing improved wheat for summer production, onions, potato, sweet potato, maize, and so on that are disease-resistant and higher-yield productive.

Taking its previous experiences and government summer wheat development direction into account, currently, the university has been researching over 25 wheat varieties, since the production of

wheat for food and the best seed is a very different business. The production of wheat for seed requires in-depth knowledge and high monitoring to produce a high-quality product.

Furthermore, HU is closely monitoring and supporting the farmers by organizing them, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills, and acquiring the agricultural technology to produce the best seeds of their own standards, he added.

To withstand the rising cost of fertilizers globally, the university is preparing environmentally friendly organic fertilizers in coordination with the concerned bodies. In the process of preparing organic fertilizers, the University also creates various platforms for stakeholders who have knowledge and skills. This in turn increases the production and productivity of the agricultural sector.

By taking the demand of society and its nutritional value into consideration, the university has improved, multiplied, and distributed sweet potatoes. Especially, the provision of orange-flesh sweet potato has created favorable conditions for the creation of job opportunities for youth. The youth were given training that enable them to create jobs by preparing orange-flesh sweet

potato not only to be boiled and eaten but also to be served in bread, juice, cookies, enjera, and so on forms.

Along with the government efforts to return internally displaced people who were displaced from their homes due to the conflict in the border areas of Oromia and Somalia States, the university provides support for the returned people to start agricultural work. It also offers training on how to produce, store and supply improved seeds to the market, as well as the use of new agricultural technology on a large scale, he elucidated.

For this farming season, HU has distributed improved, disease-resistant, and higher-yield productive potatoes, Onion, Maize, Bean, wheat, Sorghum, and so on for the farmers.

At last, according to Dr. Chanyalew, to harmonize the current population growth and the demand for food, it is imperative to distribute improved seeds and technologies quickly, widely, and in large quantities. Hence, he urges Universities, Agriculture Offices, the private sector, NGOs, and so on to work together in the multiplication and distribution of improved seeds.