



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Premier praises ambassadors for diligent service

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) expressed gratitude to ambassadors who have served Ethiopia in various countries and extraordinarily completed their tenure.

In his Twitter post, the Premier noted that "to serve one's nation so admirably is an honor and all ambassadors concluded their terms in the diligent representation of their

motherland and defending its interest on global stages." I would like to express my gratitude to our Ambassadors' that have completed their terms, for their unreserved representation of Ethiopia on the world stage."

One of the ambassadors, Woinshet Tadesse said during the occasion: "it is indeed a great honor and privilege to me to represent my country, Ethiopia abroad. I'm very grateful to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for this kind

recognition."

It is to be recalled that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen made a similar recognition remark for ambassadors who made successful tasks in their countries of deployment. The ambassadors are said to be more than effective in preserving Ethiopia's interests, living up to Ethiopians' aspirations and the country's rich heritage. "Despite the

See Premier praises ... page 3



## Some global MSM merchandise Ethiopia's conflict

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA** - In their coverage of Ethiopia's two-year conflict, several global Mainstream Media (MSM) have made every effort to merchandise the suffering of the people and neglected the peace process, according to a media expert.

Speaking to local media, the expert Musa Sheko said that the interest in international outlets is likely correlated with the political market created by global contemporary issues. Accordingly, the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) signed between the government and TPLF has deciphered their hidden political interest.

See Some global... page 3

## Ethiopia's five months exports hit over 1.5 bln USD

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) said the country has secured over 1.528 billion USD over the last five months of the current fiscal year exporting various commodities to the international market.

It is planned to collect 1.899 billion USD by offering various commodities to the foreign market in the fiscal year, and 1.528 billion USD have been collected, Kumneger

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Ministry Of Trade & Regional Integration

## Diverse African Peoples' Forum center for round resistance: Diaspora figure

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** - Diverse African Peoples' Forum is a center for African round resistance to defend unnecessary pressures and exploitations, the #NoMore Global Movement Co-Founder said.

The co-founder Simon Tesfamariam (MD) told local media that resistance elements including #NoMore are very important for African people to come together physically to share ideas and



resources, communicate on various issues and challenge exploitation of imperialism.

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Where does poverty emanate from?

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The Greatest Footballer of all times departs

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The incessant misinformation campaign against Ethiopia

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# News

## Committee requests return of Ethiopia to AGOA

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**—The American-Ethiopian Public Affairs Committee (AEPAC) has requested the Biden Administration to review the decision and return Ethiopia to AGOA through an out-of-cycle review.

As learnt from a statement posted on their official social media, AEPAC Chairperson, MesfinTegenu said: "It has been a solid year since Ethiopia was delisted from AGOA. We would ask President Biden to reconsider his decision and reinstate Ethiopia within the African Growth and Opportunity Act through an out-of-cycle review."

Due to the peace agreement, the unhindered humanitarian accesses have been made available and essential services are being restored, the U.S. Government has yet to change its decision, it was learnt.

"Freezing Ethiopia out of AGOA for another year is entirely counterproductive. The U.S. Government should instead be supporting the country as it strives to maintain peace, rebuild and secure its



democracy," Chairperson noted.

"We remain incredibly disappointed that President Biden and his administration are ignoring the voices of American Ethiopians, 110 million Ethiopians, American businesses, and Members of Congress," he said.

The delisting of AGOA has already cost the jobs of over 200,000 Ethiopians, with thousands more expected to lose their livelihoods as the longer-term impacts are felt.

"This sanction doesn't target individuals; it hurts large sections of Ethiopia's

population. The majority of those who have lost their employment are low-income, female workers in the textile industry. These job losses have resulted in poverty and destitution for entire families and communities," Mesfin said.

"Ethiopians have done what was asked. The government has secured an historic peace agreement which is holding strong, aid has been up scaled dramatically, essential services are being restored and the UN commission investigating human rights violations visited Addis Ababa last year," he noted.

## Medical collage embarks on nationwide cancer treatment scheme

• Reaffirms readiness to serve over 70,000 cancer patients

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA**—Over 70,000 patients will get cancer treatment when the expansion underway in Saint Paul Hospital is over, so disclosed St Paul's Millennium Medical College (SPHMMC).

During his interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Abdu Adem, Assistant Professor of Clinical Oncology at SPHMMC indicated that more than 70,000 cancer patients are currently getting medical treatment in various cancer centers.

However, he said once the expansion activity is finalized, the treatment would be provided for the patients at one center.

The center which is said to be one of a kind in the country would have five radiography tools as well as it will accommodate over 300 hospital (patient) beds. Similarly, it is also expected to hold Cyclotron machine where only few African countries possess, as to him.

Emphasizing that cancer accounts for seven percent of death rate of the national mortality rate, he underlined the coming in to force of the center will likely alleviate the aforesaid challenge.

Not only would the center bring relief to the patients as it allows them to get the necessary treatment at one center, but it would also have a paramount significance



in saving medical expenses that used to fuss abroad for the treatment, as to him.

On the one hand, the center enables professional to grasp mental satisfaction while delivering the service in a better flourished and assisted center, he added.

Though nuclear medicine service is not being provided nationally, given its holistic importance for the patients as well as the nation, there is a plan to deliver the service at the center, he stressed. Furthermore, he stated that Bone Marrow Transplant service would also be delivered.

Underlining the overall impact of the center with regard to medical tourism, he noted that the center would open door for patients to come from abroad to get service thereby allowing the nation to generate substantial

amount of foreign currency.

The ever increasing cost of construction materials coupled with failure in implementing solutions are said to be the major bottlenecks that constraint the completion of the center at the set time, he stressed.

"Unlike the outcome of overextended projects, it is important to note that every second elapsed from the set time of the construction costs us the lives of many patients", he underscored. Thus, he said that due emphasis should be given by pertinent stakeholders to complete the center shortly.

SPHMMC is constructing cancer and heart treatment center with an outlay of over 2 billion Birr through three contractors, it was learnt.



## Wegagen Bank reinstates service in Mekelle District

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Wegagen Bank has announced that 28 branches located under Mekelle District, Tigray State, have started providing services again.

The Bank's Marketing and Corporate Communication Director Afework Gebretsadik told local media that the bank has restarted its regular operation in Mekelle, which were stagnant due to the northern conflict. However, following the peace deal, the Bank has restored its operation about 28 branches in the reported area.

He further stated that 17 branches have reinstated their services in Shire district of Tigray state following the peace deal.

By the same token the commercial bank of Ethiopia (CBE), Ethio telecom, and Ethiopian airlines have announced that they have restarted their services in deferent parts of Tigray state following the Cessation of Hostility Agreement (CoHA) signed between the federal government and the TPLF leaders.

It is to be recalled that the physical infrastructure of the area were seriously affected by the northern conflict during the past over two years. However, after the signed of CoHA in Pretoria, South Africa, the Ethiopian government has been striving to restore peace and infrastructure in a bid to return of swift normalcy in the conflict-affected areas. It means that the restoration of amenities and essential services including electricity, telecom, banking and others have been at the highest level of activity in Tigray state after two-years disruption.

# News



Melaku Alebel



Nasise Chali



Zadig Abraha

## Senior gov't officials call on scholars to take lion's share in nation building

**ADDIS ABABA(ENA)** - Ethiopian senior government officials have called on the elites of the country to take a lion's share in nation building endeavors and achieving a durable peace.

The national consultative forum under the theme "Role of Scholars in Nation Building" has been underway in various universities of the country.

Dozens of papers on political, economic and security spheres have been presented and discussed at the forums, it was indicated.

In his speech delivered to Haramaya University scholars, Minister of Industry Melaku Alebel said that scholars are expected to play their leading role in order to achieve lasting peace in Ethiopia through discussion.

The minister said his government believes that scholars have a decisive role in solving the country's deep-rooted problems noting that the consultation forums will be intensified.

Since political polarization and extreme thoughts have become a pressing issue at the national level, Melaku stated that scholars are highly anticipated to figure out the problems and suggest solutions in their rigorous researches.

Accordingly, the minister pointed out a

common understanding has been reached with the scholars in order to create awareness for the citizens to be part of the solution.

Minister of Tourism, Ambassador Nasise Chali said on her part intellectuals should use their knowledge and wisdom to solve the problems of the society and perform a task that will be remembered in the history of the nation.

The minister, who attended the consultation forum held at Hawassa University, said Ethiopia has been registering many achievements since it embarked on the far-reaching reform despite difficulties.

In addition to having discussion among the political leadership, it is necessary to ensure the participation of all parties for betterment of the country's future, Nasise noted.

She further urged the intellectuals of the country to exploit their knowledge and wisdom of academics in order to create a solution to the problems by awakening and changing the society.

The minister stressed that the forum being underway is vital to make use of the scholars' capacity to addressing the wide-ranging problems such as the deterioration of moral.

Zadig Abraha, Democracy Building Center Coordinator Cluster Head at the Office of the

Prime Minister, said the intellectuals of the country have to play their part for a strong nation building ambition, diplomacy and economic prosperity.

In order for the building of the nation to stand on a strong foundation, he urged scholars to continue the ongoing efforts in terms of development and diplomacy.

Speaking at the consultation forum of scholars organized by Jinka University, Zadig noted that encouraging results have been registered in the economic, social and political sectors following the reform.

Noting that Ethiopia has faced many challenges due to natural and man-made problems in the last three years, the head said especially the security problems in different parts of the country have become a pressing issue.

He particularly mentioned the unprecedented external pressures in connection with the war in the north part of Ethiopia and due to the Abay Dam being built on the Abay River.

International media warfare against Ethiopia has also been another difficulty to the country in recent days, according to Zadig.

However, the Ethiopian government and people in strong cooperation have thwarted the looming threats, he underscored.

## Some global...

The corporate media, which covered the two-year conflict as a soccer match, have shunned the positive development and normalcy following the peace accord between the government and TPLF, Musa added.

Since the Western media are in charge of protecting and promoting the geopolitical interest of hosting countries, the former is insensitive to the public suffering in the developing world. "The East Africa region is an epicenter for global trade and political contention. In an ensuing manner, Ethiopia is considered as a driving wheel so they are frequently trying to govern by their way."

The expert further highlighted that many news media institutions and influential social media actors including political activists were hijacked and recruited to advertise what the global powers preferred. "In each of their reports during the war, they were pretending to be peace seekers; though they have denied giving credit to the peace deal."

Nurturing and enhancing the public's media literacy is crucial to help the latter to differentiate facts from propaganda and understand how some media conglomerates disseminate false information, he recommended.

Though the government of Ethiopia has made repeated appeals to the Western media to report the positive developments in Tigray and other war-impacted states since the conclusion of the CoHA, the latter have rebuffed the demands, *The Ethiopian Herald* learned.

## Premier praises...

dynamic and unpredictable nature of global diplomacy, Ethiopian diplomats exerted their utmost effort in protecting their country's national interest."

Demeke continued: "Ethiopian ambassadors did great jobs in repelling the unwarranted pressure of some interest groups informing the country's objective reality."

Praising the commitment of ambassadors and diplomats, the Deputy Premier stated that the former did great deeds in protecting Ethiopia's national interest at such a trying time. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has also granted certificates of recognition to those ambassadors.

## Diverse African Peoples'...

Also, the forum enables people to work, protest and resist together as well as to bring educational events. "We have to look for more resistance elements like #NoMore to share ideas and resources, and challenge pressures. It is also a powerful dynamic for the Horn of Africa people."

He continued: "Diverse African Peoples' Forum is a center for African round resistance to defend unnecessary pressures and exploitations. Having an African People Forum with diverse representation makes us advantageous and it would enable us to stop unnecessary exploitations of African

countries."

The forum is an educational event that allows coming together for a resolution and it is the center of African people's resistance. It would foster African sovereignty, different ideas and opinions, peace, development and unity in Africa.

"Divide and conquer is the core strategy of some groups. They always cause conflicts with other clans based on religion, history, clan, tribes and others. They make the people hate each other. It is misleading and deceptive. The hyper focus on maps, borders, languages, history and others is absolutely creating large

collisions that would happen one day."

As to him, focusing on clan, religion, language or tribe is deliberately creating an enemy among people. The Horn of Africa will be able to grow as a region. As a result, the region needs peace and stability.

Simon mentioned the presence of disinformation manufacturers during north Ethiopia's conflict reporting, which is a kind of pro-war and pro-imperialism narrative (message). "White media dictates how to draw the world in favor of their interest. We were begging white media outlets to tell us the story."

## Ethiopia's five...

Ewnetu, Public Relations and Communications Executive at the Ministry, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA).

In the past five months, agricultural products accounted for 78.4 % followed by manufacturing 11.9 %, mining sector 6.3 % and other sectors 3.43 %. The decline in demand for camel trade in the international market and the inflation in the export trade of sheep and goat, which accounts 83 %

of the livestock export, have impacted the export performance negatively.

Kumneger further highlighted that major exporting companies did not deliver their products to the foreign market on time with efficient service, which caused inflation in the economy. "As a result, this year's five-month export performance showed a decrease of 90 million USD compared to last year's same period."

It was learned that the production of red bean and purple bean is being wasted in the neighboring countries due to illegal trade and smuggling while the demand for masho production in the international market has increased. Also, the expansion of the parallel market has had a significant impact on the revenue collection due to the inflation of commodity prices.

Noting the ministry supports exporters to send value-added products at the

international market price, he indicated companies who supply oil and grain have been prioritized in the support. In addition, in order to improve the declining khat trade, the product has been banned from being produced in the border area and a committee is being set up and controlled.

"The spread of illegal trade and smuggling has reached a serious stage and the ministry is working step by step in coordination with stakeholders to solve the problem."

# Opinion

## Homegrown peace wins over an unholy war in Ethiopia

### PART ONE

BY ALMARIAM

Medemer is a covenant of peace that seeks unity in our common humanity. It pursues peace by practicing the values of love, forgiveness, reconciliation, and inclusion. It takes a few to make war, but it takes a village and a nation to build peace. For me, nurturing peace is like planting and growing trees. Just like trees need water and good soil to grow, peace requires unwavering commitment, infinite patience, and goodwill to cultivate and harvest its dividends. Peace requires good faith to blossom into prosperity, security, and opportunity. PM Abiy Ahmed, Nobel Peace Prize Lecture (2019)

Author's Note:

Ethiopia emerged victorious by exchanging olive branches for guns, tanks and artillery pieces. Ethiopia won peace and her enemies were left in pieces. Ethiopia won confident in the victory of good over evil!

War, war / Rumors of war

And until that day / The African continent

Will not know peace/ We Africans will fight, we find it necessary

And we know we shall win/ As we are confident In the victory/ Of good over evil

Bob Marley, GOAT (Greatest of All Time)

Ethiopia has made African history!

Ethiopians have proven to the world, and especially to their African brothers and sisters, they can start a war, end it and make peace!

Starting wars is easy. One or a few damned fools driven by ambition and hunger for power can start a war. But any war is hard to end.

The greatest African "post-independence" tragedy has been the inability of African countries to end conflicts and wars on their own.

Western governments, their press-titute media and intelligence agents donning academic garb have fanned the flames of ethnic division and hate to keep Africans at each other's throats.

Nary a single instance in Africa's modern history when the West has not sought to create peace in Africa while fanning the flames of war.

During the Cold War, the West fought its proxy wars in Africa resulting in unspeakable death and destruction. Since the "end" of colonialism, Western military installations and bases were planted all over Africa.

Western intelligence agents have instigated military coups and arranged for regime change by systematic interference in African domestic affairs and manipulation of its civil and military institutions and leaders.

Whenever there is conflict and war, Western countries have showed up uninvited (keep showing up like a bad penny even when openly rejected) dressed as peacemakers, mediators and negotiators.

The old mold that the West can only bring peace to Africa was shattered once and for all by Ethiopia on November 2, 2022.

On that date, the Ethiopian Federal Government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) signed a permanent ceasefire agreement and made peace. Truth be told, the Ethiopians did not do it entirely by themselves. They had a little help from their African friends. It is a new day, a new dawn in Africa.

Across the African skies is written, "African

solutions to African problems." Henceforth, there shall be no issue or problem that is of Africa, created by Africans that cannot be solved by Africans, and BY AFRICANS ALONE! PERIOD!

Ethiopia's "homegrown" Odyssey to Peace and Prosperity

For the past 5 years, Ethiopia has been on a "homegrown" odyssey (journey) of self-discovery, self-reliance, self-sufficiency, self-governance, self-defense, self-assurance, self-healing, self-pride, self-knowledge, self-sufficiency and self-improvement.

Ethiopia's massive reform odyssey has been guided by the eternal principle, "Ethiopian solutions to Ethiopia's problems."

Ethiopia's odyssey of structural reform has been powered by determined efforts to create accountable public institutions, democratization of the political process, institutionalization of the rule of law, and transformation of the economy from the so-called "developmental state"-led growth to private sector-led growth.

Ethiopia's Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda is transitioning Ethiopia from an Asian Tiger wannabe to a proud, self-sufficient, self-feeding and self-reliant African lion.

The equivalent homegrown political reform agenda has produced a democratically elected government in Ethiopia certified by the African Union.

Ethiopia's homegrown foreign policy agenda has transformed regional peace in the Horn of Africa. The no peace, no war two-decade status quo between Ethiopia and Eritrea has been transformed into peace, amity and comity between the two countries.

Ethiopia has been a fulcrum and driver of peace in the Sudan as well as in South Sudan. Ethiopia has leveraged its unique role in the Horn to improve peaceful relations between Eritrea and Djibouti.

As part of a broader regional peace initiative and engagement, Ethiopia has played a key role in restoration of diplomatic relations between Somalia and Kenya.

Ethiopia's homegrown environmental and conservation agenda has resulted in a massive Green Legacy program and planting of billions of seedlings as of 2022. It has been Ethiopia's homegrown tourism and quality of life enhancement agenda has transformed Africa's diplomatic capital, Addis Ababa, to live out the true meaning of its name (Addis Ababa means New Flower).

PM Abiy Ahmed was the recipient of the American Academy of Achievement and Global Hope Coalition's "Outstanding African Leadership Award" for his Green Legacy initiative to reforest Ethiopia.

Ethiopia's odyssey over the past 5 years has been challenging, grueling and formidable. Ethiopia faced a bloody war over the past 2 years resulting in the deaths of over six hundred thousand innocent Ethiopians, displacement of millions more and suffered losses of infrastructure and private property worth in tens of billions of Birr.

The COVID 19 pandemic, coordinated Western sanctions and insidious interference in the internal affairs of Ethiopia and related economic problems manifesting themselves in inflation have made life for ordinary Ethiopians extremely difficult.

War and rumors of war denied Ethiopians peace

of mind. Structural corruption continues to be an existential threat to Ethiopia. But Ethiopia has been fighting tooth and nail against domestic insurrection and external oppression.

Ethiopia is likely to be an exporter of wheat next year. No more wheat begging to feed Ethiopians! How sweet and glorious the sound of shattering begging bowls! Millions of hectares are under development for cash crops—coffee, bananas, avocados, oranges and rice.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is rising higher and higher and its turbines are coming online one by one. Such glorious sound, the hum of spinning GERD hydro turbines!

Somebody ought to invent a dance, "The GERD Turbine Boogie."

Through war, plague, inflation, corruption and the bludgeoning of Western powers, Ethiopia's head indeed has been bloodied but remains unbowed.

Paraphrasing the words of the great Maya Angelou:

They wanted to see Ethiopia broken

Bowed head and lowered eyes

Shoulders falling down like teardrops

Weakened by her soulful cries.

Just like moons and like suns

With the certainty of tides

Just like hopes springing high

Still Ethiopia did rise.

Indeed, Ethiopia shall rise and rise and rise... for the sky is not her limit.

What a tangled web we weave when we practice to unmake peace

"O, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!"

The price of peace is forgiveness, tolerance and reconciliation. The wages of war are death and destruction.

Could it be that those who oppose the peace agreement with the TPLF do so because they want a "pound of flesh", REVENGE?

In Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice," Salerio asks Shylock why he wants a pound of Antonio's flesh that did not pay his debt on time as Shylock does not understand what it is "good for".

Shylock explains the pound of flesh he wants will 'feed' his 'revenge'. Revenge for having himself and his people sorely wronged in the past.

So, is it about revenge against the TPLF after all, and not peace? Ethiopia made peace with its neighbor Eritrea. Did Ethiopia or Eritrea lose anything by making peace? But they lost precious lives, time and resources by engaging in war and maintaining a no war, no peace situation for two decades.

But Ethiopia gains everything. Above all, the unity, safety, security of its people and its sovereignty and territorial integrity!

I wonder on what planet those who oppose the permanent ceasefire agreement spend their time when they are not hanging out in Ethiopia, Planet Earth.

Magnanimity is expected of the victor. Momentary pleasure should not leave a generational scar of humiliation and yearning for revenge.

Ethiopia on a homegrown peace odyssey

Homer wrote his epic poem the Odyssey circa 800 BCE:

Now Neptune had gone off to the Ethiopians, who are at the world's end, and lie in two halves, the one looking West and the other East. [In Neptune's absence] the other gods met in the house of Olympian Jove... who said to the other gods: "See now, how men lay blame upon us gods for what is after all nothing but their own folly..."

Ethiopia has been at war of one kind or another for at least the past one-half century. Ethiopia has been at war with its neighbors. War was thrust upon Ethiopia by Somalia and Eritrea.

Ethiopia has been wracked by internal strife and terrorism. But war was not preordained on Ethiopia or on the Horn of Africa. War in Ethiopia was the work of men, not of the gods.

The Olympian Jove was right: "See now, how men lay blame upon us gods for what is after all nothing but their own folly..."

War is the ultimate human folly. Peace is the ultimate triumph over the ultimate human folly.

In June 2018, I was overjoyed by the announcement of the Ethiopian and Eritrean Governments to fully implement the 2002 "Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission DECISION Regarding Delimitation of the Border."

That agreement ended a two-decades-long "no war-no peace" status quo between the two countries.

At the time, I reflected: The guns silenced the suffering people of Ethiopia and Eritrea may now speak, shout out, that the two countries hereafter "shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." Witnessing swords beaten into plowshares is a source of great joy for me.

There were no winners in the Ethio-Eritrean conflict or during the 20-year long stalemate. Many times over the years I pondered what could have been achieved if both countries had been able to expend their efforts waging a united war on poverty.

Today, they would be drinking from the victory cup of peace and prosperity. To the credit of both countries, they quickly began tearing down the border wall and started building bridges after their agreement.

The peace dividends from the agreement to fully implement the Commission Decision were immediate.

They agreed to have airlines services, ports to start working, open embassies, allow free travel for family reunification. When peace became a fact between Ethiopia and Eritrea, I was a witness.

No greater honor have I received in my life than joining Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and President Isaias when the border between the two countries was opened after 20 years.

Wrote Robert Burns,

The best laid schemes of mice and men

Go often awry,

And leave us nothing but grief and pain,

For promised joy."

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

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The Ethiopian Herald

# Editorial

## Ethiopia needs scholars' wisdom more than ever!

Realizing commendable significance of expertise-based solutions for the current challenging circumstances the country is struggling with, the Ethiopian government has recently initiated a national scholars consultation forum, themed "Nation-Building Process and the Role of Academics" It is believed that more than 400,000 university, college and high school instructors, teachers and researchers, scholars and civil society members are expected to participate on the forum. Interestingly, it is hoped that this national forum of academics would contribute a considerable share in supporting the national efforts towards achieving lasting peace in Ethiopia.

Indeed, the necessity of utilizing experts' ideas, thoughts and researches in all socioeconomic and political arenas should be a prerequisite concern towards building a strong nation with sound economic structure and secured political system.

The recent government's initiation to encourage experts involvement in the affairs of their nation is an inspiring step and a good indication how far it has gone to utilize their expertise for nation-building. The role of scholars in building any nation is essential. Their commitment towards building a politically stable and economically sound nation plays irreplaceable contributions.

As indicated on the various consultation forums, political polarization and extreme thoughts have become a pressing issue at the national level. In this regard, active involvement of experts is vital in pointing out problems and forwards a solution. Indeed, the wisdom and expertise behind every Ethiopian scholar is a medicine for every faced problem. Be it economic or political challenge, knowledge based scholarly thoughts are remedies for problems the country is facing.

Needless to say, the overall economic achievements and the political stability of the country are directly or indirectly the result of scholars' active role in the nation building process. Behind every business-friendly policy, huge public investments and diplomatic achievements the nation registered, there are the invisible thoughts

of Ethiopian experts who serve their nation as a catalyst for change and a patriot. Scholars who play their role in nation building by sacrificing their interest have brought a lasting peace by avoiding bloody skirmishes through their ideas. In contrast, there were passive scholars or catalysts of conflict that had no role in the nation building process but contributed their share for war and conflict.

Obviously, for known or unknown reasons there were times where scholars' role in nation building was undermined or neglected by political leaders because of their political opinion or ideological differences. Among others, failure to appreciate ideology differences and political leaders' hostility towards scholars caused the nation to incur incalculable loss. For this reason, several experts were forced to live in exile without applying their knowledge to their nation and have ended up becoming servants to the host nation. However now, an encouraging step is being witnessed. The consultation forum which is being carried out all over the nation is an indication to that.

This is a new epoch with a new political dimension where the nation seeks active involvement of its experts with all their ideological and thought differences. As the nation strives to build democratization, ensure sustainable peace and aspire to achieve economic progress the role of experts is undisputable. Their role in overall activities of the nation and their commitment towards the already started progress is one of the manifestations of patriotism. In this regard, every expert should do his/her part to hand over a country with a broader democratic system, rich economy and convenience for its citizens.

Hence, it is obvious that education is the basis for social cohesion, harmony and stability of any country. In this respect, scholars are the ones who should play the leading role in shaping the nation-building project of the country and support government's effort in nation building. This is especially true in bringing sustainable peace, ensuring equity and speeding the economic progress of the nation to realize prosperity.

# Opinion

## Diaspora should further intensify support for homeland

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

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

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

Some western countries still have the desire of twisting the hands of the governments of the third world countries including Ethiopia through creating or sponsoring chaos until they make sure that these governments are falling under their knees. Once these countries give hands up for western powers, they will

not have a right to think and operate as per their wish except flowing as per the rule these powers designed for them.

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

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

challenges.

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

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

Without expecting something important from the government, the Diaspora community should intensify the task of defending the national interest of the country apart from engaging and /or supporting development projects that aim at building the image of the country.

Echoing voices going out in a massive square and /or standing at the gate of high level officials, has never helped

Ethiopia to come out of poverty. Understanding this, the Diaspora community throughout the world should further strengthen their support until Ethiopia is an economically independent country that breaks the wishful thinking and desire of its enemies.

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

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

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

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

# Business & Economy

## Where does poverty emanate from?

BY MENGESHA AMARE

The question from the outset would with no doubt pull a dire need for looking into ourselves or assessing our working culture or evaluating public administrations or digging out another cause to well find the root cause of poverty in Ethiopia.

It is highly regrettable for Ethiopia to be mentioned as a poor nation having all what is required to bring about real change and prosperity ranging from numerous labor forces to immense mineral resources and indescribable untapped assets.

Such a devastating scenario has to be prettily altered via hard work and proper utilization of natural resources, potential labor force, and water sources like what has been done on the Grand Abay Dam, which is a pioneer in due course of portraying virgin potential the country has possessed to successfully change itself. Besides, responsibly discharging duties and tasks in every sector would help get the root of poverty dried, but how.

Seeking a professional comment or analysis regarding the issue, this writer had a stay with Melkamu Limenih, who graduated in economics from Addis Ababa University.

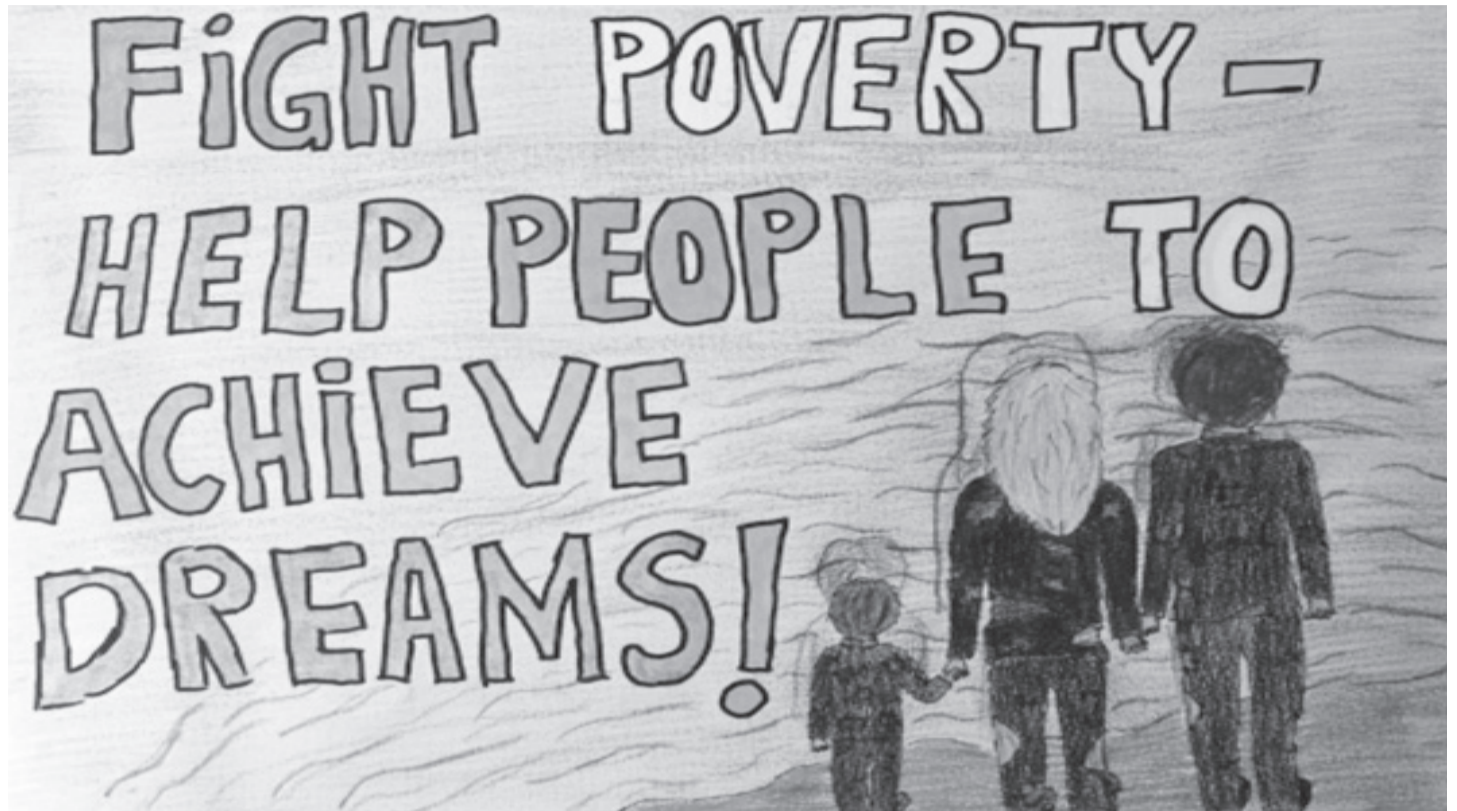
Melkamu said, "Ending poverty in all its forms far and wide in the nation has to be the national slogan as Ethiopia is highly endowed with all weapons of defeating this social menace and its accompanying elements like malpractices in serving the general public. It is also useful to evaluate the efficacy of existing poverty alleviation approaches, including community organization based micro-financing, capability and social security and good governance."

Yes, he said developing countries like Ethiopia face higher levels of poverty and destitution that have to be addressed with sturdy financial resources, through quite stronger institutional capacities and improved working culture.

"Participatory and community-demand-driven approaches have to be well expanded so as to address the multi-dimensional nature of poverty in the country. Besides, it is quite important to identify critical factors responsible for poverty alleviation in Ethiopia via reinvigorating homegrown economy," he opined.

He further stated that the complementarity of various approaches to poverty alleviation needs to be implemented simultaneously for a comprehensive poverty alleviation drive at national level helps bear fruits. The need for applying an integrated and multi-dimensional approach incorporating elements of various schemes for eradicating poverty is the call of the day, indeed!

He said, "Frankly speaking, we Ethiopians do not know our country as foreigners know it. Look at regional states, for instance, Oromia, Amhara, Afar, Southern Nations and Nationalities and other regions, which are highly endowed with natural resources, minerals, tangible and intangible heritages, even crude oil.....so where does our poverty



*As poverty has numerous roots uprooting it requires multidimensional trajectories*

emanate from? Is it from poor working culture, lack of good governance, low level of awareness of our country, political instability for what? For how long can this rich country be labeled as a poor one? What a paradox it is!"

It is also true that though poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, its levels are often measured using economic dimensions based on income and consumption. Poverty alleviation programs all over the nation have to predominantly aim at reducing the level of scarcity and shortage through various participatory and community-demand-driven angles.

"Needless to state, economic growth is one of the principal instruments for poverty alleviation and for freeing the poor from deficiency through productive employment. Community organizations based micro-financing, capability and social security, good governance and participatory development activities are instrumental in poverty alleviation," he said.

He also said that services like skill development training, technological support, and strategies related to better education, health and sanitation, including livelihood enhancement measures need to be well consolidated than ever before since the country has now these days stepped in a very promising and lucrative boulevard.

He said improving individuals' capabilities also helps in the pooling of resources while allowing the poor to engage in activities that economically benefit them. As social inclusion of vulnerable communities through the removal of social barriers is also as significant as financial inclusion in poverty reduction strategies, social security is a set of public actions designed to reduce levels of vulnerability, risk, and deprivation. Such a bold step is an important instrument for addressing the issues of inequality and vulnerability, which add value to poverty.

It is also quite significant to focus on

promoting non-farm livelihoods, along with farm activities as they can offer pathways for economic growth and poverty alleviation in developing countries like Ethiopia, he added.

Since good governance is also relevant to poverty alleviation and paramount importance in bolstering growth and prosperity, Ethiopia has to deal with enormous challenges related to social services and security by far.

Let alone its contribution to declare independence, good governance approach towards poverty reduction has become a prerequisite for Ethiopia in order to receive financial aid from multinational donor agencies. Hence, the country has to capitalize on good governance if it likes effectively battling poverty, Melkamu opined.

As to Melkamu, from an economic perspective, the lack of social protection coverage leads to inefficient use of resources, forcing poor rural households to opt for low-risk, low-return crops, to hold liquid but less productive assets, and to withdraw children from school in response to crises. The call for strengthening a participatory, transparent, and accountable form of governance needs to be enhanced to reduce poverty and lift the country from the poverty it finds itself in.

"Regarding the innovations in ideas, it is essential to optimize the value of eradicating poverty based on the spirit of the right to development. Actually, the poverty eradication should be guided by the value of the right to development," he said.

It is also an excellently verifiable fact that no country is immune from corruption as actors operating in it have to have undertakings run following the act of doing favor in one way or another. Undoubtedly, corruption attracts poverty as the lower level of the society in a given country are over dominated by some culprits and irresponsible bodies who would like to amass undeserved profit at the expense of

fellow citizens.

Since corruption and bribery are cancerous for development and change, the government of Ethiopia has to consolidate efforts against fighting these social disorders, which undermine economic development, growth and real change. It also flourishes where the criminal justice system and governance are weak, where decision-making is unaccountable and access to decision-makers is dependent on restricted social networks, where pay is low and where management controls are weak.

According to Melkamu, the very steps the government has to take to contain poverty need to swell towards reaffirming commitment to helping all walks of life address corruption, developing and implementing rapid and sustained economic growth policies and programs, in areas such as health, education, nutrition and sanitation as well as allowing the poor to participate in and contribute to advancement, he underlined.

In sum, poverty does have numerous roots that need to get uprooted. True, encouraging sectors, investors and business community to engage in nation building schemes and homegrown economy as these are instrumental in fueling growth and prosperity as well as helping citizens promote livelihood ranging from securing daily bread.

Besides, creating and improving access to jobs and income and develop entrepreneurial talent, as well as improving all people with access to basic social services helps meaningfully reduce poverty.

To do this, it is time for removing barriers to equal access to resources and services and providing access to technology and innovation and affordable energy thereby reducing poverty in the country in general and improving the livelihoods of citizens in particular. Such a haunting move has to be expanded to all levels across the nation so that the fight against poverty could hit its intended target.

# Art & Culture

## Gofa's traditional conflict resolution mechanisms

BY MEKLIT WONDEWOSSEN

**G**ofa Zone is one of the zones in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's State boasting a broad array of ethnic groups having own peculiar features, beautiful nature and divers culture. It is composed of 7 districts and 4 urban administrations. Gofa zone stretches over an area of 4,551 square kilometers and geographically it is bordered by Dauro Zone and Konta Special District in the north, South Omo Zone and Gamo Zone in the south, Dauro Zone and Gamo Zone in the east, South Omo Zone and Basketo Special District in the west. The capital of the zone is Sawla, which is 526 km far from Addis Ababa. It is 300 km away from Hawasa, the regional capital.

Gofa in Gofa zone. It is home to Oida and many other ethnic groups. Among the main languages spoken there are found Gofya, Oida, and Amharic. Though the three are widely spoken, languages of other ethnic groups also serve as mediums of communication.

Just like the Kgofa and Oida ethnic groups, other ethnic groups in the Gofa zone are respected and allowed to live together. The Gofa and Oida ethnic groups have their own identity, language, culture, history and tradition, and hadf their own strong ethnic traditional management system before the advent of modern administrative system in the area. They are people who paid the price for national pride and sovereignty after being included in the central government after Emperor Minilk's integration campaign.

The people of Gofa zone have based their livelihood on agriculture. The total population of the Gofa zone is believed to be over 1.5 million. Out of this number, 80% eke out a living leaning on agriculture in rural areas. In an organized manner the remaining sections of the society are managed in business, small business sectors. The climate of the zone, correlated with the geographical location, is divided into three parts: plateau 20.92%, valley 31.12%, and lowland 47.98%. When we feast our eyes on the landscape, its greenery and scenery, we notice that it is blessed with all kinds of gifts nature proffers. It is very attractive for farming, investment, and tourism sub-economy and comfortable for living. The zone has an average height.

The average annual rainfall of the zone is 170.5 mm. Structurally, the Gofa zone is divided into 7 districts for the convenience of administrative operations; It is divided into 4 urban administrations and 196 rural and urban kebeles.

The total amount of land suitable for agriculture is 245,000 hectares (63.83%). Out of this cultivated land comprises 26,8935 hectares (5.91%), while grazing land 35,844 hectares (7.88%), irrigated land 1,536 hectares (3.38%), Land covered by forest comprises 104,071 hectares(22.87%),



other covered land area is 23,218.5 hectares (5.10%). The zone has favorable climate and land for investment and tourism sub-economies. Close to 6210 hectares of land in the zone is available for investment. In terms of tourist attraction, Maze National Park is a zone where there are many awe-inspiring cultural heritages, and wonderful caves, age-old religious institutions and rare wildlife.

Farming is mainly rain-fed. Small irrigation works abound. There are 36 modern irrigation systems in the zone and the area covered by small irrigation is 1,09363 hectares. This is 0.45% of the land cultivated by agriculture. Regarding the main crop products of the zone, in the lowland areas (Zala, Uba Debre Sun, Derba Gofa and Melo Koza districts), corn is produced in abundance adopting corn-cluster farming, while white teff is produced in Wainadega districts, especially in Lo Gada district, it is the place where the product that has earned the local name of "Melo teff" is produced. It is situated 1976 meters above sea level.

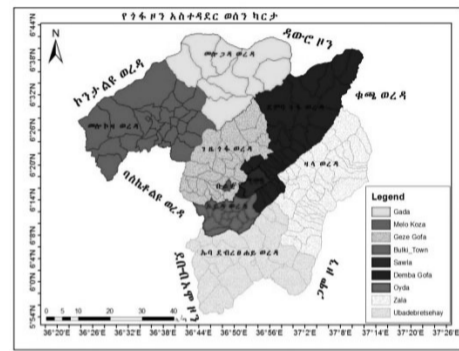
If we look at cattle breeding, it is not new to see Gofa bulls, goats, sheep and chickens in different markets of big cities of our country. Therefore, in order to ensure that Gofa can meet the needs of our domestic markets by producing profit in the types of products we mentioned above, the way that more than 30 FSR dry cargo transport trucks load the products and leave every day will be enough proof for us.

Accordingly, the government has set standards to increase the supply capacity in a modern way. Roads as well as cattle, goats and sheep centers are built. Pack animals trading centers are also built on 10,794 square meters. The centers have started providing services.

On the other hand farmers of Zanga Lo, 12 kilometers from the capital of the zone, are not only supplying the cassava product to the central market, but also exporting it to the foreign market.

Traditional ceremonies Gofa language spoken by Gofa ethnic group is used in traditional ceremonies

In Gofa culture, the word is given a great importance, so they use folkloric expressions to praise and encourage talented farmers and



Source:- Ethio-GIS

### PART ONE

weaving products of your handicraft be beautiful and attractive to you !” It is a kind of consecration wishing that the wearer will have good clothes.

9) For a person who is engaged in metal works: “Hashlyan Haara Hashlyan Haara/ In the old days, blacksmiths did not accept money from farmers for the iron they grind or mold. Therefore, during the harvest season, they payback the blacksmiths in kind from all types of grain, and the blacksmith takes gifts and sells them in the market to earn money. It means that one should work hard and benefit from your hard work.

10) To a woman who is preparing food items from a false banana:- Etmai Uto !ay Uto/

They wish the food items to be mouth watering.

It is a kind of graduation that is given by wishing for it to happen.

11) Lakwanda Samiard man said, “Ashoy Af770 is a dedication to the business so that the market will pick up the meat as soon as possible and it will be in demand.

12) To butchers who prepares parts of the meat: “Ashoy Wodo Ashoy Wolo / May the meat be blessed”

13) To the Grave Diggers -- “Duutoy MaynoI Duutoy MaynoI- Death be damned. May death is no more on our land.

14) For a married man: “Sadan Wodhal Gaaratto11-Win. Succeed in all things: Gaaratol Malts - Universal Blessings. It is a kind of graduation that is said by those who wish him to face challenge.

15) A husband to a married woman: “Gadei Doso! Geday Dogo/ - The environment is like a graduation saying that the people will accept you and you will be a beloved person.

16) To a woman who has given birth: “Habba ne kwarei shaqsl Habba newodorsy shqa / kwerei shits” is a kind of graduation that says that even all your burdens during pregnancy have been lightened.

17) Togay Pacopo / Togay Pacopo / Your honor / Your gracewill not be lost / It is like saying that it will be passed on to your descendants. This is where the man who was on the Sagar mule shows his respect and humility and gets continued blessings. This is because the man who has no respect for mankind, if he is arrogant, will be broken soon. They will be like that.

18) Sacrificing those who go to war: “Asa Wono / Ols Woha / Be the winner of the war; It is a graduation that means don't run away.

19) For the night that bought a new dress; - Age Wur / Angl Wur / As the heart that buys is a temporary treasure, so that the owner of the dress may have a long life and the dress wears out before her; Tomorrow is the graduation day which will make you buy another new one.

effective people engaged in various walks of life. In this piece, we will present some of the latest news and messages from Gofa's news as follows:-

1) At the time of our search, “Manui Shulo:- If the first farm work kicks off simultaneously when any work is started in the nation, neither a child nor an adult will pass away without graduating, and it will be a blessing to the nation (even if he is in a fight, he will not cease to be without this) because this blessing is a common value for him and the country. In addition, the person who graduates will graduate having in mind the knowledge that the graduation will happen to him as well.

2) “Woooo gadoy qakko - Woooo gadoy qakko” in Santeka Geze This event is the first round of farming after the threshing or the first round of plowing and the uprooting of the weeds so that the weeds can rot and the field turns fertile.

3) If it is found while sowing seeds, Dolog Kathay Karati Mokko - Kathay mokko / Sown

It is a blessing that is transmitted so that the seeds grow well and do not spoil.

4) Karooto Iray bulko in case of weed or Kutto -It is a wish for the health of the crop .It is one meantfor the crop to be sufficient or for bumper harvest.

5) Baratol Kathay Baraato during harvest - Abundant harvest throughout the year, It's a blessing that encapsulates the wish, “Have a blissful life life”.

7) For a person who works at home: “Mebey Kumol - Be rich with wealth.” Your house will be filled with manure .

8) To a weaver: “Zarmol Zermo, may the

## Global Affairs

# The Greatest Footballer of all times departs

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

The final act of life is always death and this has been accepted by all humans because 'man is mortal' is an undeniable truth, a fact of life. And so, anyone who may have had the greatest of lives while alive is inevitable that they too die at a certain age. The big point here is that man should do all the best throughout one's life. The question arises 'what has he or she done in life?' And we have come to see infinite times people dying even if we would have liked them to live for infinite years.

Across the years we have seen magnificent 'actors of life' in all professions die at a certain age and we have lost some at a very early age and grieved a lot thinking about what we lost. But when we see that people die after doing everything they could do in a wonderful manner, in their entire lifetime, our sorrow gets very much diluted because we rather celebrate their life going back to the wonderful memories they leave us rather than get buried in sorrow and grief. We recognize that they have given us the maximum during their lives.

When I think of the Great Pele, the King of Football, I find it less agonizing than the death of someone who could have written more wonderful chapters in his or her profession or career. The grand Pele has given us everything he could during his lifetime and he has lived as the ambassador of the beautiful game throughout his life. No football player has ever achieved what he has done and will probably be unreachable even in the times that will come. Winning three world cups for one footballer can only be a dream and winning it with exceptional performances is yet another extra achievement, and Pele has done exactly that. That is why he has deserved the appellation 'the Greatest of All Times', the 'King of Football', the 'Brazilian Legend' and many more others. During his more than two decade career Pele has graced the pitches of football with wonderful displays of exquisite football scoring unbelievable goals and he was spectacular even during his misses.

Many people say football owes Pele a lot because this sport would not have achieved the popularity it has gained had it not been for Pele's outstanding achievements, his exceptional performances from the very early days of his life. He was synonymous with football and every great player wanted to measure their feet with Pele. Every football player wanted to be called Pele

and in fact whenever we see some young talent exploding we would immediately compare him with Pele even knowing that comparing any football player with Pele would be a long shot.

Pele has done a lot to his country Brazil because football became the national sport of the country that would drive people mad. He served as the ambassador of his country more than anyone else and created the myth that football is an art in Brazil and it was not only about scoring goals or winning alone. The very presence of Pele on the pitch was a guarantee that there would be spectacle.

Long before the kinds of 'current kings' such as the Argentinians Diego Maradona and Lionel Messi emerged and filled the air with all sorts of media, Pele was the only player that could be put head and shoulders above each and every immortal of football also because he reigned for so many years and won so many trophies. He began at the tender age of 15 when many of us would be playing in our neighborhood's playgrounds among youths of our village and we would be satisfied. But Pele was already a world celebrity at that age having shined at the world stage, the maximum stage of international football, holding high up the World Cup for his country. What is more, he has scored two goals at the final with Sweden and became a legend since then. That was in 1958! We have seen footages of the 1958 world cup when the Swedes themselves were applauding him for the goals he scored or the dribbling and other gestures he carried out during the encounter. He drove Brazil crazy and millions expressed their delight and admiration for their team and particularly for their legend Pele. Since then Brazil and football became synonymous and if there are millions of people across the world who support Brazil at the world cup events it is also because the myth was planted by the great Pele.

After Sweden 1958 Pele had two other occasions of lifting the famous trophy in 1962 and 1970 when he was in fact a very mature and complete sportsman. He showed how complete a footballer he was by jumping high up excelling his Italian marker Facchetti who was much taller than Pele was and scoring a goal. Everyone was amazed by such an exploit. The game itself ended 4-1 for Brazil against Italy. In fact in many football images we see that famous jump and the outstanding precision of his kicks.

Pele has delighted the football fans of the world with his exceptional performances and was the most famous Brazilian ever thanks to his history of three world cups. If Pele was born in this generation it would be interesting to guess how much he would be worth when we hear young footballers with talent being worth millions of dollars. It was only at the end of his career that Pele went to the US and was called to popularize football in that country with Cosmos. It was years that famous footballers from all of the world would travel to the US not only to continue with their vocation at a slow pace but also to earn lots of dollars that they would not earn back home.

Pele did attract a lot of attention in the US and was used to publicize lots of products with lavish payments. Today, footballers are paid immense fees for their performance but also for the sponsorship they get from huge companies such as Adidas and Nike or soft drinks such as Pepsi. It was the likes of Pele who initiated this commercial exploits and further popularized football in the entire world.

There are few people who do not know the name Pele because he is beyond a sporting personality and since we were kids we identified football excellence with Pele and this is thanks to his achievements. What is exceptional also about Pele is that we never heard bad things about him such as we hear nowadays with certain football players involved in some undesirable activities. Pele hence can also be considered as a morally decent person despite the attractions he may be subjected to.

In Ethiopia Pele has always been identified with football and with Brazil and that is why millions of Ethiopians are fans of Brazil in every football world cup. True today there is the challenge of Argentina but the five time champions are always more attractive than Argentina. Maradona and Messi have narrowed the gap but by far Brazil has the upper hand when we talk of football. Even if Brazil does produce scores of excellent players every season and we can mention currently people such as Neymar Jr and Vinicius Jr. no one dares compare them with the great Pele and Brazil has yet to produce another Pele. Pele may have passed but his works are immortal and his name will always be mentioned whenever and wherever football lives. That is why FIFA the world football governing body has honored him with the Footballer of the Century in 2000.

*'The Greatest of All Times', the 'King of Football', the 'Brazilian Legend' and many more others. During his more than two decade career Pele has graced the pitches of football with wonderful displays of exquisite football scoring unbelievable goals and he was spectacular even during his misses.*



# Law & Politics

## The incessant misinformation campaign against Ethiopia

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Some international media outlets have kept spewing negative propaganda despite the successful implementation of the Pretoria peace accord reversing the two years of grime situations in the northern part of the country.

These media outlets have been consistent in their lopsided position in spite of Ethiopia's positive development.

The discredited media organizations have been making a supreme effort to drag through the mud the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed between the federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). They have continued distorting facts in midst of positive developments pointing forward in the right direction in the Tigray State.

As the federal government has been striving for turning promises into actions in accordance with the procedure laid in the agreement, the whole thing has been pointing forward in a way that can take Ethiopia to a whole other level.

Notwithstanding the fact that the delivery of humanitarian assistance and restoration of social infrastructure has been sprouting in the aforementioned state, the low-rated international media outlets have sustained getting off track by breaching journalism ethics and standards. It is abundantly clear that on the heels of the signing of the cessation of hostilities agreement, peace and tranquility have been accomplished in the northern part of the country.

Following the good gesture of the incumbent, the northern part of the county has set in motion breathing a sigh of relief. Furthermore, the positive moves taken by the federal government have been winning the hearts and minds of the global community and receiving a pat on the back.

But, in the face of the positive developments unfolding in the Tigray State, the media outlets have continued throwing a wet blanket over the positive moves of the peace implementation.

It is good to recall that since the onset of the war that broke out in the northern part of the country, the disgraced international media outlets at all hours of the day and night have played a part in spreading propaganda and misinformation aimed at accomplishing their paymasters' agenda.

Even though the last straw that broke the camel's back was the attack on the Northern Command of the National Defense, they were not in the position to acquaint the wider international community with the indisputable truth. Instead, they have been on numerous occasions playing a part in mystifying the global community with cock and bull stories and masking traitorous acts committed in the northern part of the



country.

Some entities made an all-out effort to knock off the balance of the nation and up the ante by coming up with a wide spectrum of conspiracies.

As opposed to bringing the international community into the light with the gospel truth blossoming in Northern Ethiopia, the low-rated media outlets have been sparing no effort to twist Ethiopia's arm and interfere in the internal affairs of the country.

It is important to highlight that the media outlets have bewildered the global community with fictitious stories working in tandem with Ethiopia's rivals to bring into being their concealed motives going behind the scenes.

Since the start of the war, the low-rated international media outlets have been engaged in a smear campaign against the federal government in addition to distorting facts about the ongoing reality on the ground.

Apart from doctoring facts and mystifying every Tom, Dick, and Harry all over the world with spurious stories, they have been going to the ends of the earth to place the country between the hammer and the anvil. In the general run of things, they have been coming up with quite a lot of unfounded accusations concerning the predominant developments on the ground.

It should also be borne in mind that earlier than the signing of the cessation of hostilities agreement, the media outlets have been preoccupied with a slanderous attack against the federal government refusing to acknowledge the plain truth.

As if their past mistakes are not enough, some media outlets have rather intensified spreading fake news while turning a blind eye to the positive events happening in the country.

The media organizations either omitted or wrongfully twisted the implementation

of the Pretoria peace deal. The visit of the federal government delegations to Tigray and the improving humanitarian assistance and restoration of basic services have only received little coverage.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Journalism and Communication Assistant Professor at Hawassa University Melisew Dejene (Ph.D.) stated that the corporate media's low appetite for positive outcomes of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA).

The expert further noted that some big media misinform the international community by magnifying the humanitarian crises and blaming the Ethiopian government for human rights violations without evidence. Some big media's coverage of the north Ethiopian conflict deviated from the principles of peace journalism and attested to the fact that the outlets are instruments of hidden interests.

Noting the post-conflict developments in Tigray State would have kept Ethiopia attractive to the international media, Melisew emphasized the need to exercise peace journalism to heal the wounds of both sides of the conflict. The consistent delivery of reliable and sufficient information to the corporate media is also something worth considering to ease biased reports.

Sharing the above rationale, Media and Communication Lecturer at Jimma University Getachew Tilahun (Ph.D.) for his part stated that the philosophy of Western media centers on conflict reporting. "They are providing coverage to the peace agreement though it is unsatisfactory when compared with their conflict reports. The outlets have served their interest and we could not expect anything different from them."

As to him, the political interest some Western powers pursue in the Horn of Africa is also another factor to big media focus solely on conflict reporting. The U.S.,

China, and some other global powers are struggling to take control of the Horn and the war in northern Ethiopia is no longer a domestic issue. "This competition to dominate the strategic region has impacted the way each media represents Ethiopia and I see no reason that could push them to cover the peace deal."

The expert continued: "Bad news, by its nature, is faster and mind-catching though good news may not be likewise. So, these outlets prefer bad news to positive developments."

Mentioning the value of peace is always denied during peaceful times, he recommended the media continuously remind the audience about peace. Promoting peace journalism should be a prior responsibility of the media this time.

The assessment made by The Ethiopian Herald about Western media's coverage of the north Ethiopia conflict in the year 2022 revealed that most of the reports are largely reliant on anonymous international 'experts' and 'diplomats' and false assumptions.

Accordingly, many corporate media including CNN, Washington Post, Al Jazeera, BBC, and Reuters falsely accused the Ethiopian government of "putting six million people of Tigray under genocide threat" the outlets categorically snubbed its response on the issue. Those media also misinformed the international community by accusing the Ethiopian government of targeting civilians and blaming it on human rights violations which the people of Tigray asserted all as false.

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

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

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

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

# International

## Tanzania's President Hassan lifts 6-yr ban on opposition rallies

*Her predecessor John Magafuli banned political rallies by opposition groups in the country in 2016*

Tanzania's president Samia Suluhu Hassan has lifted a ban on opposition rallies imposed in 2016 by her strongman predecessor, in an overture to political rivals seeking the restoration of democratic traditions.

"According to our laws, it is the right of political parties to hold their public meetings... my presence today in front of you is to give permission... that the announcement to prevent public meetings is now lifted," local news outlet ITV, reported Hassan as saying on Tuesday.

The ban was proscribed by former President John Magafuli in 2016 during his first term. Initially meant to apply to all political parties, critics said it targeted only the opposition.

In 2018, the Magafuli-led government passed a law forcing bloggers, social media influencers and online platforms to apply for a license and pay a one-time fee of \$930 to keep their sites up.

Three years on, Hassan took office



President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania speaks during the UN Climate Change Conference

after the death of Magafuli who was nicknamed "The Bulldozer" by many who said he curbed free speech and

targeted dissidents.

The incumbent president is constitutionally serving the remainder of

Magafuli's second five-year term, which ends in 2025.

She has also been accused of carrying on with Magafuli's authoritarian tendencies.

Despite seeking to make conciliatory moves to the opposition since taking office, critics have branded Hassan a "dictator" and fears remain about the state of political and media freedoms.

In 2021, a newspaper owned by the ruling party was suspended for publishing a story saying Hassan would not run for office in 2025.

Moreover, the seven-month detention of opposition leader Freeman Mbowe, who was arrested in July 2021 over alleged "terrorism financing" charges, dealt a huge blow to Hassan's democratic credentials. Mbowe was released last March after a court order.

Source: Al Jazeera

## Malawi keeps schools shut as cholera deaths surge

*Cholera is an annual problem during Malawi's rainy months from November to March, but the current outbreak is expected to be the worst yet.*

Malawi has delayed the opening of public schools in its two major cities of Blantyre and Lilongwe, the health minister said on Monday, to try to slow down a surge in cholera deaths.

The total number of cases has surged to 17,824 and the number of deaths to 595 since cases were first reported in March, with the mortality rate increasing to 3.34 percent, according to the Ministry of Health.

Cholera is an annual problem during Malawi's rainy months from November to March, when the number of deaths is around 100 a year. But the current outbreak is expected to be the worst yet.

"Due to the continuing increase of cholera cases and deaths in the cities of Blantyre and Lilongwe, primary and secondary schools in the two cities will not start on 3rd January as earlier advised," Health Minister Khumbize Chiponda said in a statement.

A new reopening date will be announced later, she said.

The United Nations health agency says fatality rates are rising in about 30 countries around the world that reported cholera outbreaks in 2022, about a third higher than in a typical year.



Pilirani Wanja, a clinician at Ndirande Health Centre, demonstrates to clients how to take the cholera vaccine in response to the latest cholera outbreak in Blantyre, Malawi on November 16, 2022

Source: Al Jazeera

# Planet Earth



## Preparing natural fertilizers to increase agricultural productivity

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The disparity between population growth and agricultural production output has been a national challenge in Ethiopia. Hence, to meet the food requirements of the growing population, agricultural production and productivity have to be increased.

The best way to increase agricultural production could be to enhance productivity by utilizing modern agricultural technologies. Besides, applying natural or artificial fertilizers that contain chemical elements is imperative to improve the growth and production of crops, vegetables, fruits, and so on. It is believed that fertilizers increase the soil's natural fertility or replace chemical elements which are taken from the soil by the previous crops.

These days, due to soil depletion, plants would be difficult to grow without fertilizers. Water and seeds alone are not enough for the survival of plants. Hence, fertilizer is imperative input to rise production and healthy growth of crops by supplying the right balance of nutrients to the soil.

Ethiopia imports fertilizers, especially soil fertilizers that provide compounds in adequate amounts and proper balance to promote the growth of plants when other factors such as light, moisture, temperature, and soil structure are favorable.

Besides, where the fertility of the soil is not in a good condition, farmers use natural or manufactured fertilizers to supply the required plant nutrients. Soil fertilizer has also taken one of the most significant factors in gaining better yields in the nation's agricultural sector. Nevertheless, the rising prices of fertilizer in the world market were a worrisome issue for farmers in some parts

of the country last year.

According to Ethiopian Shipping and Logistic Service Enterprises, apart from the increasing prices of fertilizer in the world market, traveling fertilizers from the port of Djibouti to its destinations, the supply chain of fertilizer, security issues in some parts of the country, absence of timely distribution, inconsistency of supply, and so on were challenges last year.

Despite these challenges, Ethiopia overcame the shortage of soil and chemical fertilizers by devising different mechanisms. Taking lessons and experiences from last year, Ethiopia has made prior preparation to import and distribute fertilizers for this farming season. As a result, over 57 thousand 295 metric tons of N.P.S soil fertilizers have arrived at the port of Djibouti last week.

The huge ship called Great Comfort (MV GREAT COMFORT) delivered the imported soil fertilizer. When the soil fertilizer that hailed from Morocco reached the port of Djibouti, Ethiopian Shipping and Logistic Service Enterprises started shipping operations and transporting the fertilizers immediately into the country.

Ethiopia's adequate preparation to transport the fertilizer has enabled it to quickly carry out shipping operations within hours when the ship entered the port of Djibouti. In addition, in the next 15 days, two huge ships that carry over 60,000 metric tons of soil fertilizer are expected to arrive in Djibouti, Ethiopian Shipping and Logistic Service Enterprises stated.

It will be remembered that the Ethiopian Shipping and Logistic Service Enterprises has successfully transported a large amount of soil fertilizer on time for the past three consecutive years, and this is the fourth time.

Indeed, last year, the government and the concerned body took various measures to overcome the shortage of imported fertilizers and to control those who illegally increase the price. Nevertheless, among others, the efforts that have been made to replace imported fertilizer with homemade ones are more important than any other effort.

The country has prepared and utilized natural/organic fertilizers that can be easily and quickly prepared by farmers. Ethiopia has abundant resources for natural fertilizer preparation that substitute the imported once. Preparing natural fertilizer will also help to save the foreign currency of the country.

Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture indicated that the country has been preparing natural fertilizers that can fill up to 20% of the country's fertilizer deficit. Especially, to fill the gaps in imported soil fertilizers, the Ministry in collaboration with stakeholders and the concerned bodies has been working on various types of natural fertilizers that can be easily and quickly prepared by farmers.

Because implementing alternative mechanisms to replace imported fertilizer is essential to the country since the price has increased in the global market. Moreover, regional states started preparing natural fertilizers last year to solve the shortage of soil and chemical fertilizers. Additionally, replacing imported fertilizer with natural fertilizer is a good initiative not only for the farmers but also for the youth. Because letting youths prepare and distribute natural fertilizers will help the creation of job opportunities for them.

Girma Chala and Gebreyes Gurmu (2017) academic article entitled "Effect of Organic and Inorganic Fertilizers on Growth and Yield of Tef (*Eragrostis tef*) in the Central Highlands of Ethiopia" stated that

natural fertilizers enhance yields of crops considerably over inorganic fertilizers. Because these materials decompose and release nutrients gradually over the crop growth period and they also build up organic carbon content essential for maintaining soil structure and the water-holding capacity of the soil.

Natural fertilizers could be prepared from different matters such as animal manure, human waste, food wastes, backyard wastes, sewage sludge, and composts which have long been recognized in agriculture as a beneficial source of plant nutrients and thereby improving the yield of crops. Apart from reducing cost, the preparation of natural fertilizers is an environmentally sound process for the treatment of many organic wastes, they indicated.

Ethiopian Shipping and Logistic Service Enterprises Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Roba Megersa elucidated that Ethiopia spends about half a billion US dollar every year to import fertilizer from abroad. Taking this fact into account, it is the right time to substitute imported fertilizer with local manufacturing fertilizer including preparing natural fertilizers. Preparing and substituting imported fertilizers will simplify the dissemination of fertilizers.

Preparing natural/organic fertilizers will indeed have multidimensional benefits such as saving foreign currency, easy travel of the fertilizers, creating job opportunities for the youth, and an environmentally sound process for the treatment of many organic wastes. Hence, the government, regional states, and the concerned bodies should continue with their focus on preparing natural fertilizers during this farming season which started last year. Since the farmers can easily prepare the organic/natural fertilizer, it reduces price while it increases the quality and quantity of production.