



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## China's Zero-tariff to Ethiopia opens door for trade expansion

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA-** China's free-tariff treatment is expected to expand Ethiopia's trade volume, maximize profit and increase product competitiveness in the global market, an economist said.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, Haramaya University Economics Lecturer Molla Alemayehu (PhD) said that the offer of zero-tariff treatment brings various advantages to Ethiopia's economy. For companies, it minimizes cost, maximizes profit, enhances products'

competitiveness in the global market, and encourages demand for products and others.

"For Ethiopia, it increases trade volume, improves the country's foreign exchange capacity, ensures trade balance, encourages

*See China's Zero-tariff ... Page 3*

## Horticulture export hits over 413 mln USD in seven-month

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ethiopia secured 413.82 million USD from horticulture exports in the past seven months of the current budget year, the Ministry of Agriculture said, adding cut flowers remain the leading exportable item.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, the ministry's Horticulture Export Account Coordinator Mekonnen Solomon stated that the amount was collected from flowers, fruits, and vegetables exported to the global market.

While Ethiopia obtained 348.12 million USD from flower export in the reported period, fruit and vegetables generated 65.70

*See Horticulture export ... Page 3*



Photo - Eyob Teferi

## Ethiopia presents policy recommendations to AU

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ethiopia has presented policy recommendations to the African Union (AU) during the assembly's latest session, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(MoFA) disclosed.

Briefing the media here recently, Prime Minister's Foreign Policy Advisor Ambassador Taye Atske Selassie said that

*See Ethiopia presents ... Page 3*

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## AU summit success to rebuild Ethiopia's reputation: MoFA

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA** – During the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary of African Union (AU) summit, Ethiopia has registered huge diplomatic achievements and successfully built its images with member states and global allies, so remarked Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

In his biweekly press briefing, MoFA Spokesperson Meles Alem said yesterday that the summit has helped Ethiopia build its image and scale up capacity to safeguard its national interest.

During the course of the AU summit, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) discussed a range of issues with various heads of states and representatives of international

*See AU summit ... Page 3*

## Children to undergo cardiac surgery in Israel

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

**ADDIS ABABA**-Collaborated with the Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital, the Government of Israel fully sponsored nine Ethiopian children with their mothers to get cardiac surgery in Israel.

Bidding a farewell at Ethiopian Airport, Israeli Ambassador to Ethiopia Aleign Admasu said that: "We are here to bid farewell for the nine children and their mothers to get a cardiac surgery in Israel through *Save a Child's Heart* Program."

It was learnt that Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital have screened and selected those patients to get the surgery.

All the children are below the age of seven, and they are from different part of the country including Jimma, Wolkite and Addis Ababa. Every expense of the patients and their mothers will be fully covered by the Government of Israel and organizations in Israel. They will stay there for three months, said the ambassador.

Aleign indicated that Israel has trained two Ethiopian cardiac doctors and two nurses apart from planning to build a cardiac center in Ethiopia.

The ambassador recalled that another team of patients got this chance few months ago, and the program will be active in the future, too.

"Israel is always ready to support Ethiopia to be benefited by the program."

Aklile Bekele who works as a nurse at Children Cardiac Center in Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital is the trip coordinator. She got a cardiac problem when she was a six-month baby. By the help of *Save the Child's Heart* program, she got the chance to have a cardiac surgery 22 years ago. Aklile said she is happy to help these children. "My life experience has a great impact on me to be a nurse."

This time, Aklile disclosed, around 8,000 Ethiopian children are on the waiting list for urgent surgery. The situation is very tough here. Children are dying while waiting for their turn.

Accordingly, Aklile added, "Ethiopia has many professional cardiac surgeons and we have the set up. What we do not have is the consumable materials and medications. The government should give due attention to the situation."

## America Gibbi restoration U.S. diplomacy finest example: Embassy

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**- The restoration of *America Gibbi*, the ancient house that served as the residence of Fitawrari Habte Giyorgis Dinagde, an Imperial Minister of War, is the finest example of U.S. diplomacy, embassy said.

Speaking at the occasion, the U.S. Chargé d' Affaires to Ethiopia Ambassador Tracey Jacobson stated that the building was served as a private residence for the American legation. It was also home to the Apostolic Nuncio (representative of the Holy See), and currently serves as a school for the Yemeni community.

The restoration was conducted by the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa in partnership with the Yemeni community and World Monuments Fund, an international, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic architecture and cultural heritage sites around the world.

Ambassador Tracey said: "We gave them a 240,000 USD grant for the renovations and we also provided grants to Heritage watch, an organization that does historical preservation. We are very grateful to the Yemeni community. They have been using this building as a school for decades, but



they have very graciously agreed to relocate. So we could do this renovation and we are proud of our partnership with them."

She added: "And since we are not just about the past, but we are also about the future, today we will be donating to a computer lab. And that's what we are doing here today. It's a great example of cultural preservation, forward-looking cooperation and the memory of a diplomat. The building is one of the oldest heritage buildings in Addis Ababa and housed the U.S. Embassy diplomat legation in the 1930s."

Four days ago was the eighty-sixth anniversary of the Jacketed Massacre, a terrible day of horrible violence, but also a day in which some brave people stood up to help their fellow man in need. "And we

have all been inspired by the story of the American charge of death at that time. His name was Cornelius, and he saved countless lives here in American Gibbi and when we became inspired by the story and learned that this building needed repair, we decided to fund a renovation of the building."

The General Architect of the project Fikreslassie Sifer told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the restoration work took 16 months.

At the ceremony, government officials, conservation experts, Yemeni community members, public figures, and others were in attendance.

Fitawrari Habtegiorgis Dinagde built the house between 1905-1915.

## Ministry calls on financial institutions to support manufacturing industries

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ministry of Industry (MoI) called up on financial institutions to bridge the wide gap of financial glitches in the manufacturing industries to make them competent in the years to come.

Speaking at discussion forum yesterday, MoI Minister Melaku Alebel said that the manufacturing sector is playing a crucial role in transforming economic and structural changes in a given nation.

"It means that the healthy, strong, and sustainable economic result comes from encouraging the manufacturing sectors that would be improving the livelihoods of the community."

According to the Minister, Ethiopia has amended the previous policy, stretching new system, developing structure, especially implementing homegrown economic and the likes over the past years.

He further stated that the Ministry has planned to secure 5,000,000 jobs, generate 9 billion USD foreign currencies, improve the productivity level from 50 to 80 percent, and maximize the national GDP from 50 to 60 percent as of the ten years Ministry's leading plan.

The minister, therefore, said that the participation of financial sectors, especially in providing the adequate finance to the manufacturing sector would play an



indispensable role in realizing the expected goal in the stated period.

"Though the finance sector has shown increment in number, deposit, and the likes over the past four years, particularly following the reform carried out, it is not adequately supported the manufacturing industry yet," he added.

He also noted that research shows that the level of loan provision to the manufacturing sector is merely 19 percent, which is very low compared with the service sector of 32 percent.

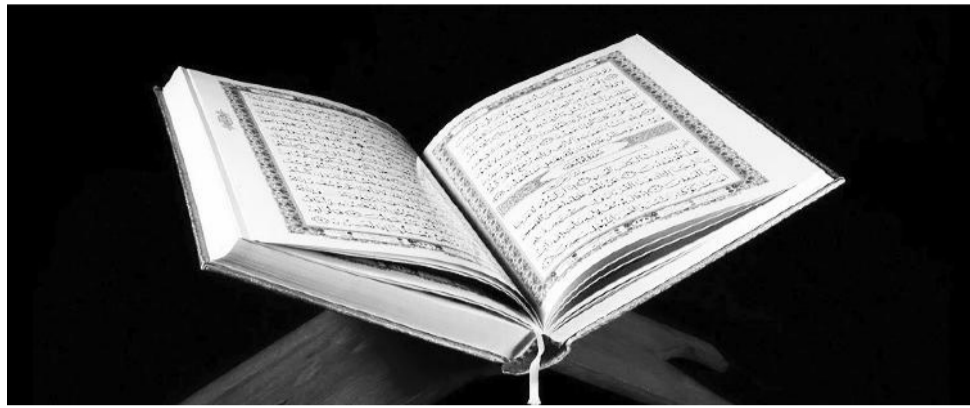
From African Import Export Bank East Africa Manager, Kudakwashe Matererke on his part said that financial institutions have multifaceted significances in developing the manufacturing and industry sectors.

He said: "This is the right time to support the manufacturing sector. The government of Ethiopia is enjoying a very strong relationship with the East Africa Bank even in the times of difficulty."

Ethiopia is sharing commitment, encouraging economic development, and achieving economic transformation in the economy sector and realizing regional trade that is less dependent of others. Therefore, it needs financial institutions involvement to attain the expected result from the sector in near future.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Press Agency*, Addis Capital Asset Finance S.C General Manager, Mesaye Ensenie said that such type of forum would play pivotal role in closing the gap between manufacturing and the financial sectors through making strong linkage with the government.

He also stated that there is no provision of adequate financial loan to the manufacturing sector over the past many years whilst the forum would help solve the problem because it pinpoints the challenges and would indicate the possible solutions.



## Association to collect over 500,000 Qurans

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA-** Nur Quran Bank Islamic Association said that it is ready to organize the Quran collection campaign so as to collect over 500,000 Qurans within a month and two weeks period.

Nur Quran Bank Islamic Association in cooperation with Addis Ababa Islamic Affairs Supreme Council planned to collect over 500,000 Qurans during upcoming Ramadan to solve the shortage of Quran in urban and rural villages of the in places of faith across the nation.

Nur Quran Bank Islamic Association Deputy Manager, Abas Beyan said that the Quran collection campaign would be held to resolve shortage of Quran at the time Remedan fasting and to replace the damaged Quran due to natural or man-made factors.

“The Muslim faithful should not face shortage of Qur’an in the month of the Ramadan. Nur Quran bank is mainly established to solve the shortage of Quran in mosques, Harimas, Zawuyas Islamic teaching places of the nation. The association would hold Quran collection campaign by coordinating the Muslim community of Addis Ababa and neighboring

towns to distribute over 500,000 Qurans in the nation,” he said.

In his press briefing, Addis Ababa Islamic Affairs Council President, Sheikh Sultan Aman stated that the council would exert utmost effort by organizing up to the mosque level to make a successful Quran collection campaign, and it would support the program and closely monitored its effectiveness.

He said the Quran collection would be held in collaboration with Islamic council, sub-City, Woreda majlis, and mosque arrangements as they would be invited to involve directly in holding a fruitful campaign, and more than 360 Qurans are planned to be collected in Addis Ababa.

Addis Ababa Islamic Affairs Council Secretary Sheikh Hussien Beshir said, “In the upcoming Ramadan month, the demand of Quran would be highly; so I would like to urge Muslims in the city to be part of this sacred deed and exemplary for this Islamic call.”

Ustaz Yasin Nuru, on his part said that so far the association totally collected 165,237 Quran copies and distributed to Quran teaching schools, 21 great Harimas, Zawuyas, and desert and difficult areas, and it has reached out to over 70 towns and 143 rural villages.

## Ethiopia presents policy...

Ethiopia has recommended policy actions to the AU and its member states.

“Policy actions should be applied in all courses of development plans. Africa needs a paradigm shift from rhetoric to empirical measures; the Ethiopian government is also working on this notion.”

In conflict resolution, the measure taken by the Ethiopian government to end the two-year conflict has received recognition from all AU member states. Heads of AU member states have also recognized [in their speech during the AU Assembly] that it is an exemplary showcase of African solutions to African problems, Ambassador Taye added.

“Economically, no one was confident that Ethiopia was working tirelessly for economic development during that wartime. Some state leaders also informed us that they were surprised by the existing condition.”

Likewise, Africa needs homegrown development that can satisfy people’s needs. One-third of the global hungry people are in Africa. So, Ethiopia has recommended

policy actions to avoid rhetoric over this case.

Noting Ethiopia’s engagement in maximizing agricultural production, Taye emphasized the need to extend the country’s green legacy initiative.

Foreign Affairs State Minister Ambassador Misganu Arega said on the occasion that the diplomatic works made by the Ethiopian government during the past few years also received acclaim from the AU summit.

“In all courses of diplomatic works, Ethiopia is passing through and persuading pan-Africanism.”

The Ethiopian government also recommended the AU and its member states take the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement as a footstep to resolve disputes that rage in many countries of the continent. It is to be recalled that at the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) proposed AU member states struggle for food sovereignty and security by taking empirical measures.

## AU summit success to...

organizations leaders in a way to strengthen diplomatic and multilateral ties.

Accordingly, the premier has had fruitful discussions with leaders of various countries via informing and briefing Ethiopia’s current situation.

He recalled that Ethiopia has successfully hosted the 36<sup>th</sup> AU Summit and 42<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, as well as other side events in which number of heads of state and government, representatives of countries and international organizations and others participated.

The summit was also attended by UN Secretary General António Guterres, the

representatives of different countries, UAE, EU, and delegates from other countries and international and multilateral organizations across the globe.

Following the summit the economy and service sector of the country has been stimulated and the outlooks of pan-Africanism, which were started by Haileselassie, Kwame Nkrumah, Jomo Kenyatta have been reinvigorated, he said.

He recalled that the government has established a national committee to host the summit successfully and Ethiopia has been actively participated in the summit to defend and sustain its national interests.

## China’s Zero-tariff to Ethiopia...

re-investment, reduces unemployment, and others.”

However, there are challenges to adequately utilize the opportunity as there are some barriers that need to be addressed timely. Some of the challenges are the quality of products and their competitiveness in the market, knowledge, and technology transfer, trained manpower and financial supply. Getting the zero-tariff opportunity alone cannot guarantee the desired goal.

“Furthermore, other things should be considered to hunt the opportunity properly. One should know China’s market interest and demand like quality standards, items of products to export, the volume of export, knowing how to be competitive with others, and other issues. Conducting research is an addition to making it successful.”

Hence, efforts should be performed to ensure the quality of products to enable the effective utilization of China’s free tariff treatment, the academician recommended.

In a statement the Chinese Embassy sent

to *The Ethiopian Herald*, China offered zero-tariff treatment to 98 percent of the tariff line, with 8,804 items of products originating from Ethiopia as of March 1, 2023. This move is to implement the initiatives announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Opening Ceremony of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

The move will further strengthen the economic ties between Ethiopia and China bringing benefits to both countries. This time special tariff treatment is provided to several African countries. The objective is to help expand these countries’ exports to China, grow their economy, and achieve independent and sustainable development.

China will stand firmly with Ethiopia and other African countries to embody the everlasting spirit of China-Africa friendship and fully implement the trade promotion measures announced by President Xi Jinping and all the outcomes of the FOCAC conference, the statement remarked.



## Horticulture export hits over 413 mln...

million USD. Cornering the performance of exportable items, Mekonnen stated that the revenue and export volume of the flower exceeded that of the same period last year by 19.62 and 7.55 percent.

Though the promising result was gained in increasing the fruit and vegetable export revenue, the volume is not satisfactory compared with Ethiopia’s immense potential and the desire global consumers

have shown for the items.

Mentioning the improvement in the export performance of the agriculture sector in the current year, he indicated coffee, flower, and cereals played a leading role in such success.

The agriculture sector contributes over 77.12 percent of Ethiopia’s total export volume, it was learned.

# Opinion

## Global warming: Chronic challenge to Africa

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Africa is the habitat - of more than 1.2 billion people that deal their lives in mainly sedentary farming and livestock production.

It is one of the unexploited continents in the world and the growing industrial sector is in its infancy level and its contribution for global carbon emission is insignificant.

However, Africa is a major victim of global warming and climate change due to the release of emission gas to the environment from the industrial world.

Its impact obviously felt by the poor countries in which their economy derived from rain fed agriculture which is the feature of Africa.

The advanced countries developed their economy based on uneconomically exploiting of the natural resources and by utilizing carbon based energy as input for their economic growth since the advent of industrial revolution in 1850.

Their industries and machinery had relied on petroleum and petroleum products such as benzene, naphtha and coal in which their emission gas is critically pollute the environment and posed global warming.

It is undeniable fact that, industrialization which began in western Europe dramatically changed human life from the traditional to the modern one, advanced science and technology which again made human life easy and enhanced production and productivity but posing global warming is its demerit and curtailed back again the achieved progress.

As mentioned above Africa's and other developing countries economy which is derived from rain fed agriculture is highly vulnerable to extreme weather conditions.

When the sector faces shortage of rain fall, crop failure has been common as the result, poor farmers might be forced to leave their places for search of food and ultimately left to be dependent on foreign handouts to survive.

Currently 1/3 of the African population is depends on foreign aid to meet its daily bread.

Similar to the sedentary farm the live stoke sector also is affected by drought. Particularly, the pastoral community living in the low land parts which move from place to place for searching grazing land and water during the drought season, critically suffer from shortage of resources which support their animal's life.

When things go to the worst their animals meet their death in the wilderness. In Ethiopia particularly in the last two years, almost thousands of animals were lost due to drought.

Contrary to these, flood due to over rain posed by climate change destroyed agricultural lands, dams utilized for small and medium size irrigation farm, residential and left human and animals live to death located in the suburb of rivers in urban centers and dismantled electric power plants. 15 years ago, flood caused by heavy rainfall in western Hararge demolished residential houses and posed the death of human and animal life in Diredawa town which is vividly remembered.

Global warming brought multi-dimensional effect on Africa. Due to global warming water points have been dried up and underground and surface waters are dwindled. Marine life is also being threatened.

As the result, the river water flows to dams reduced so that the electric power generation capacity of dams reduced which again put countries in energy crises and put pressure on industries to produce below their average capacity. It is proved that when the agriculture sector is critically affected by extreme weather condition in Africa not only farmers and agriculture but also the whole economy will be affected.

As mentioned above, Africa has abundant natural resources but due to the absence of technology, finance and well qualified trained man power, unable to exploit it. As the result,

It became one of the pauperized continents in the world. Worse to these, the agriculture is the most fragile sector due to extreme weather conditions. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) currently Africa imports 40 percent of its food from abroad. Hence, to reverse the situation to the better, the leaders must stand together to be heard in the international plat form particularly on mitigating global warming.

Considering the alarming situation of climate change for the first time in 1972, scientists all over the world gathered in Stockholm, Sweden held talks. And before the matter put the planet endangered, countries particularly the industrialized one that are the major emitter agreed to reduce their carbon dioxide released to the atmosphere from their industries.

Later the climate change issues were floured in the United Nations plat forms and multilateral organizations which deal the matter were established. Since then using the UN plat form and other mechanisms have been introduced to facilitate climate negotiations but still global warming is alarmingly continued.

Factors which hampered countries not to reach to agreement are among others, that they are divided between developed and developing and have varied interests.

The developed countries in the last 150 years embarked on the development path by utilizing carbon based energy sources and have been releasing emission gas which has hazardous effect on the environment.

The developing countries still did not develop strong economy did not contribute for global warming which alarmingly threaten the planet but they suffer from it.

The developing countries forwarded their plea to the UN general assembly that the advanced countries to reduce the amount of their released emission to the atmosphere and to change their energy sources from carbon based and none renewable to the renewable one such as solar, wind, geothermal and others.

The advanced countries fundamentally agreed with what developing countries propose but they claim that changing the carbon based energy to none carbon needs time and closing industries which used coal may bring lying off workers which intern might pose social unrest.

In addition, the implementation of agreement reached in the UN platforms with regard to emission reduction must be endorsed by the legislatives organ of the governments in their respective countries. In fact, global warming has a global effect manifested in terms of economy, social and political and the legislatives prioritize their domestic mater and this again creates hurdle in implementing the agreement reached in the multi- lateral platforms.

The other parties of the climate negotiations such as China and India agreed that global warming is a threat to the world but claim that they are developing countries and accept that their contribution for global emission is higher or similar to the United States and Western Europe but as compared these countries, they are the most populous country in the world and their per capita emission is similar to the developing countries and request the negotiating parties to reconsider these.

The developing countries on their part claim that unlike the advanced countries, they did not pursue the development path by compromising the environment in the past nevertheless; they are the victim of climate change.

But pledged to pursue environment friendly development path by exploring and exploiting their reach renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal and to attain green growth. And to that end, they need to get technical and financial support from advanced countries. In addition, they request developed countries to provide money in the form of compensation because they have historical responsibility by aggravating global warming which intern

affects the developing countries economic growth.

But there are still factors which aggravate pollution on the part of poor countries and due to underdevelopment, in these countries, the majority of the population use bio mass energy for household purpose.

The clearance of vegetation cover and cutting plant for energy and constructing houses aggravates soil erosion and land degradation. The burning of wood and using gas for cooking poses in house pollution which brings health risks on respiration system process. According to the World Health Organization report 60 percent of child mortality in the rural part of Africa is induced by in house pollution.

Many of the developing countries including Ethiopia, to mitigate climate change and global warming embarked on the path of green growth. Afforestation program through the green legacy initiated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) can be taken as the case in point.

Tree plantation helps sequestering carbon from the environment, protecting soil erosion which poses land degradation. When agricultural land is degraded, soil fertility is reduced which again reduce crop production.

Afforestation also helps to percolate rain water to underground which intern replenish water.

When water points, ponds and lakes get sufficient water marine lives will be preserved. Rivers water volume also increased and the amount of water used for irrigation and flow to the dams increased which intern increases their power generation capacity.

The introduction of electric power based rail transport in the capital also supports the objectives of developing Climate Resilient Green Economy; reduce the importation of petroleum used for vehicle transport and save currency that would have been allocated for importation.

More or less, the Paris climate negotiation agreement which took place in 2015 by COP 26 brought some consensus among the negotiating parties and planned to attain sustainable development by 2050 by reducing emission gas to zero level. And to that end, agreed each party to do its home work in line with the agreement.

Hence African leaders must exert their effort until the voice of the continent to be heard in the international climate forum and get equal dividend from negotiation.

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

# Editorial

# opinion

## A timely economic opportunity!

China has recently announced that it will allow Ethiopia to export its produce to China free of tax. This is a commendable decision that benefits Ethiopia in maximizing its export destination, foreign currency earning and supporting the economic growth.

This opportunity should not be taken as an opportunity only to address the temporary problems like foreign currency shortage that the country faced, but also to further promote the country's export items in the markets of China and beyond.

Ethiopia has been striving to build its economy through promoting its manufacturing sector. Accordingly it has devised a policy to promote the manufacturing sector.

Ethiopia is endowed with rich potential of raw materials that can be input for various types of manufacturing industries. For decades it has been exporting it to different countries out of which it earned a minimal amount of foreign currency.

However, in order to make the best out of its resource potential it is advisable to develop the manufacturing sector which can make use of these raw materials. By doing so, the country can create jobs to its growing number of youths. Furthermore, it can get more foreign currency that can be significant input for its economic development.

The important issue that determines success of developing its manufacturing industry is to find niche market for its industrial products. Through the economic diplomacy efforts, the country has managed to export its industrial products to some countries. Yet in order to address its ever growing need for foreign currency as well as to provide jobs for its working age people it needs to expand its export potential as well as destination.

One of the ways to boost its export volume is to use the quota and tax free export opportunities provided by the developed countries. For example, it has been benefitting from the United States provided the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) for years. However, it is to be recalled that the US government decided to delist Ethiopia from among the countries that benefited from the opportunity following the conflict that broke out in northern Ethiopia about two years ago.

Ethiopia is still doing its best through diplomatic means to regain its privileges of export US market. In the meantime Ethiopia is lucky to get similar opportunity to export its produce free from tax and quota.

According to Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) Ethiopia can now export some 1600 types of its export items to China. At a time when the country is in dire need of foreign currency, the opportunity can be said a timely one. Considering the strong bilateral relations of the two countries it can be said one of the signs of growing relations in the countries.

Furthermore, Ethiopia's private sector should take the opportunity to further build up its capacity to produce and export as many products as possible. Furthermore, this opportunity should be used to promote Ethiopia's products to other countries and potential destination.

## Why does climate change bother Africa?

BY STAFF REPORTER

The climate change that is happening in the world can be a concern for Africa, more than other parts of the world. First of all, among the sub-Saharan African countries, 95 percent of the world's rain-fed agriculture is carried out. Second, agriculture's large share of GDP and employment increases vulnerability, as do other climate-sensitive activities, such as livestock and fishing, to loss and food insecurity. On the other hand, the fact that seven of the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change are African countries makes the threat even more serious.

The World Meteorological Organization, in its annual African weather report on September disclosed that an unprecedented level of drought in East Africa has worsened following a series of failed rainy seasons, leading to high levels of conflict, related population displacement and Covid-19 restrictions. High food prices are a barrier to food supply and access. Over 58 million people are severely food insecure. The situation has worsened this year - particularly in Ethiopia, Somalia and parts of Kenya. Southern Madagascar is also suffering from severe drought.

In the year From July 2011 to mid-2012, a severe drought hit the entire East African region and was said to be "the worst drought in 60 years".

The total surface area of Lake Chad, which is located near the Sahara desert, which borders Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger, decreased from 25,000 km<sup>2</sup> to 1,350 km<sup>2</sup> in the 1960s, and since then, its water content has decreased, and it is still there. Long-term declines in river flows in West Africa are due to warming, drought and increased water demand.

Glaciers in Equatorial East Africa: Mount Kenya (Kenya), Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) and the Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda) are retreating faster than the global average. The dramatic gradual loss of the glaciers on Mount Kilimanjaro is a result of climate change (IPCC, 2001). Many rivers are drying up as the glacier acts as a water tower. It is estimated that 82 percent of the snow that covered the mountain when it was first recorded in 1912 is now gone, (IPCC, 2001). The complete disappearance of the East African glaciers depends on the amount of rainfall in the East African region.

When the water levels of Africa's giant rivers decrease, the entire economy suffers. For example, Ghana is completely dependent on hydroelectric power from the Akosombo Dam on the Volta River. Mali is dependent on the Niger River for food, water and transportation. However, large areas of the river are currently facing environmental degradation due to pollution.

In Nigeria, half of the population does not have access to clean water.

Severe flooding has occurred in South Sudan, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. South Sudan Heavy rains in 2020 and 2021 marked the third consecutive year of severe flooding that has brought lakes and rivers to their highest levels.

Many parts of North Africa experienced extreme heat, particularly in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Libya. This was accompanied by wildfire. Sand and dust storms were frequent problems.

Droughts and floods are a major concern. Over the past 50 years, drought-related disasters have killed more than half a million people and caused more than \$70 billion in economic losses. During this period, more than 1,000 flood-related disasters were reported, killing more than 20,000 people. In the year it is estimated that by 2050, climate impacts could cost African countries \$50 billion a year.

In North Africa a devastating flood in northern Algeria in 2001 killed nearly 800 people and caused economic losses of around \$400 million. In Mozambique, In 2000, floods (exacerbated by two hurricanes) killed 800 people, injured nearly 2 million people, displaced 329,000 people, and destroyed a significant amount of agricultural land (AWDR, 2006).

Currently, East Africa is facing the worst food crisis of the 21st century. According to Oxfam, 12 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are at risk of malnutrition. Rainfall is below average. 2010/2011 was the driest year since 1950/1951, which is a serious problem for a continent that depends entirely on rain for its agriculture.

Global warming has contributed to a 34% decline in agricultural productivity growth in Africa since 1961, more than any other region in the world. This trend is expected to continue in the future and exacerbate vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition. A 1.5°C increase in temperature is expected to reduce maize production by 9% in West Africa and wheat production by 20% to 60% in southern and northern Africa.

Climate-related disasters continue to be the leading cause of new displacement in Africa. Chronic floods and droughts, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events affect displacement conditions across borders and international borders. In the year 2021, an estimated 14.1 million people will be displaced in sub-Saharan Africa, including 11.5 million due to conflict and violence and 2.5 million due to disasters.

Crises in rural areas often lead to displacement of rural residents to cities.

See *Why does ...* Page 6

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# Business & Economy

## African Free Trade Agreement: Pragmatic to emancipate many from poverty

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

The limited cooperation and mobility of Africans in the continent forced the region to lag behind when it is compared to the other side of the world envisaging cooperation as a pragmatic constituent to cope with the current world.

The AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area) promises broader and deeper economic integration and would attract investment, boost trade, provide better jobs, reduce poverty, and increase shared prosperity in Africa.

Time demands to be on the alert and upgrade African cooperation in various endeavors to up line the continent as one of the influential part of the world in deciding the fate of its citizen and enable leaders to play vital role in the world economic activities and international diplomatic sphere.

As one learnt from the experience of the world, countries are pursuing unity to catch up with mighty countries after clearly cognizing the success of the US and Russian federation.

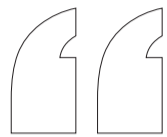
Free trade agreements don't just reduce and eliminate tariffs, they also help address behind-the-border barriers that would otherwise impede the flow of goods and services; encourage investment; and improve the rules affecting such issues as intellectual property, e-commerce and government procurement.

Africans with ample resource, latent, potential and huge human resources have been given issue conflict and aristocratic leaders assuming power for the interest of their neo-colonial lords.

Being a symbol of African independence, Ethiopia has managed and vows the world in promoting African fraternity and resurrecting Pan Africanism.

For instance, Air Transport market is believed to accelerate relation among Africans. The Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), a flagship project of the African Unions Agenda 2063 will accelerate the Africa Free Trade Area, said Adefunke Adeyemi, the African Civil Aviation Commission Secretary General.

Approached by the Ethiopian Herald, Adeyemi said the AU is specializing in the African Union so as to looking civil aviation industry across 54 countries. "We have an initiative called the single Africa market that was adopted by the



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African Head of State in 2015 building on the Yamasukuru decision in 1999 to liberalize the air transport market in Africa."

Indicating that Air transport has proven to be one of the key catalysts of development and social enablement, SAATM General Secretary said that Africa is a huge continent in terms of land mass and it is imperative to connect the continent properly for the integration in accordance with AU's vision and objectives for an integrated, prosperous and united Africa.

The General Secretary said that the implementation of the single African air transport market will enable the acceleration of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area as air transport service will facilitate trading in goods, people and services to move faster and more efficiently across the continent of Africa.

Citing that the Single Africa Air Transport Market, the Africa Continental Free Trade Area and the Free Movement Protocol of people and good look out how to connect and integrate Africa better, Adeyemi said adding that "We are fully support the theme of this AU head of state summit, accelerating the African free trade area and we believe our initiative to accelerate the single Africa air transport market can only support and accelerate this issue."

Asked about the challenge that the initiatives would face, Adeyemi said that the main

challenge is making sure to actually implement it. "So it does not require decoration but practical implementation."

The second important point is that, proper coordination of partners so as to work together, according to the general secretary.

The third point is to harmonize the approach and reduce the fragmentation as well as the tendency of protectionism a nationalistic sentiment rather than continental. It is really important for the implementation of both the single Africa trade market and the continental free trade area, she stated.

SAATM was officially launched on 28th January 2018 by Heads of African States and it is expected to bring about enhanced connectivity across the continent leading to sustainable development of the aviation and tourism industry with significant contribution to economic growth, inclusive job creation, poverty reduction, prosperity and integration across Africa.

The 12th Extraordinary summit of the African Union which was held in Niamey on the 7th of July 2019 was a momentous occasion for Africa, as it saw the successful launching of the operational phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The AfCFTA agreement was adopted and opened for signature on 21 March 2018 in Kigali and entered into force on 30 May 2019.

The launch ceremony included "a roll call of honor" during which the 27 countries that had ratified the instruments of the AfCFTA as at 7th July 2019 were announced, and the 28 countries which had signed but not yet ratified were also announced with only one member state, Eritrea, yet to sign.

A commemorative plaque was unveiled to mark the occasion and the announcement of the selection of Ghana to host the AfCFTA secretariat was also made.

According to earlier documents, the launch of the African Free Trade Agreement operational phase was characterized by the adoption of five key instruments:-

**The Rules of Origin:** A regime governing the conditions under which a product or service can be traded duty free across the region.

**The Tariff concessions:** It has been agreed that there should be 90% tariff liberalization and the deadline is 1st July 2020. Over a 10 year period with a 5 year transition, there will be an additional 7 % for "sensitive products" that must be liberalized.

**The online mechanism on monitoring**

Reporting and elimination of non-tariff barriers, NTBs: NTBs are a great hindrance to intra African trade whether physical, like poor infrastructure, or administrative like the behavior of customs officials. These are to be monitored with a view to ensuring they are eliminated.

**The Pan-African payment and settlement system**

To facilitate payments on time and in full, by ensuring that payments are made in local currency and at the end of the year there'll be net settlements in foreign exchange. With the certainty of payments, there will be confidence in the system.

**The African Trade Observatory**

It is a trade information portal to address hindrances to trade in Africa due to lack of information about opportunities, trade statistics as well as information about exporters and importers in countries. The trade observatory will have all this information and other relevant data which will be provided by AU member states

**The significance of the African Continental Free Trade Area**

The AfCFTA will be the largest free trade area since the formation of the World Trade Organization, given Africa's current population of 1.2 billion people, which is expected to grow to 2.5 billion by 2050. Some of its expected benefits include:

- ◆ Increasing trade among African countries which currently ranges between 15-18%.
- ◆ Stimulate production through the development of regional value chains, to ensure that manufacturing, agro processing and other activities across the continent are stimulated to supply the market.
- ◆ Strengthen the capacities of African companies to access and supply world markets.
- ◆ Strengthen African's economic and commercial diplomacy.

The Secretariat will facilitate the efficient conduct of business of the AfCFTA. It will develop the working program and the annual budget and implement the decisions of the Ministers and Heads of State and Government. Until the secretariat which is to be hosted in Ghana is fully operational, the AU Commission will be the interim secretariat.

## Why does climate change...

According to a 2017 report, more than half of the world's population lives in cities. The African continent is experiencing the fastest urban growth in the world. In the year 1960, only 20 percent of the population lived in cities. The current rate is more than 40 percent and by 2050 the number is estimated to be 60 percent. Climate problems

exacerbate urbanization and related crises.

While urbanization has increased prosperity in the past, in Africa, most climate-related settlements involve a shift from rural to urban poverty. Up to 70 percent of Africa's urban population lives in slums. As the living conditions in these cities are relatively

expensive, they are not commensurate with the economic level of the cities unemployment, poor service provision and occasional problems related to ethnicity or identity are a challenge.

However, people migrating from climate-affected rural areas are vulnerable to climate change in urban areas. Because these urban areas are prone to flooding, some areas are victims of poor land use and selection of building materials. This contributes to the

urban warming effect by trapping heat. This leads to extreme heat waves with subsequent health risks.

These are but a few of the problems that are mentioned to justify Africa's extra level of concern over the global climate change. As much as the continents worry towards the phenomenon is, the concerned continental and global authorities also need to scale up their intervention to preempt the unprecedented level of its impact.

# Art & Culture

## Africa in search of a modernizing ideology and institution building

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Africa is no doubt a mosaic of nations, ethnicities, linguistic diversity, religious or traditional values as well as transcendental or Pan-African cultural and/or ideological movements. If there is any place in the world similar to the richness of African identities, it may be the Indian subcontinent whose cultural wealth is being transformed into or manifested in its material and cultural diversity that is serving as binding characteristics that accelerate its socio-economic development.

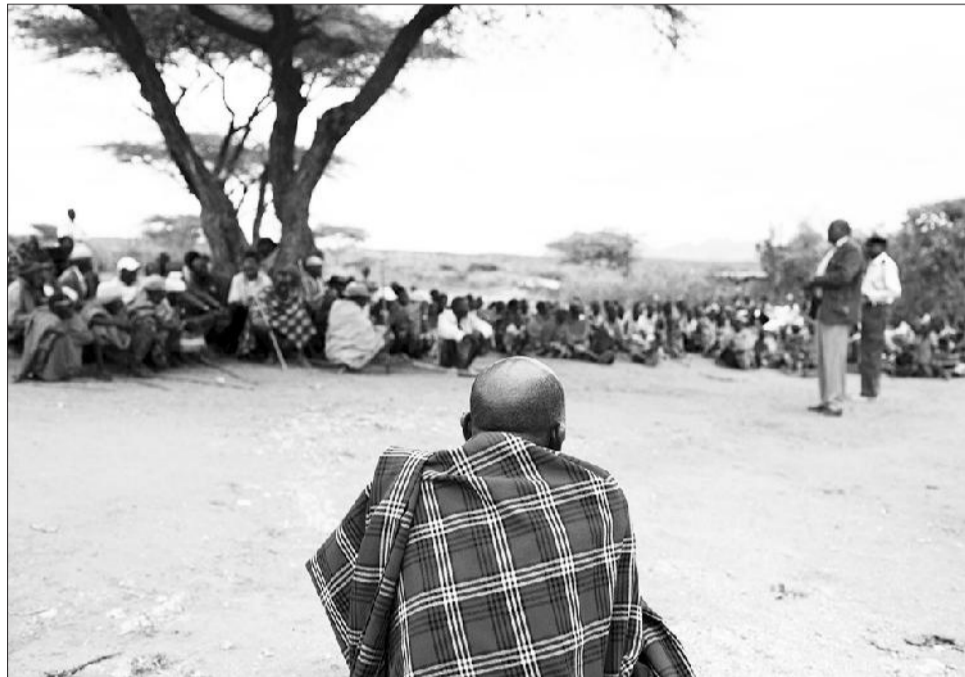
India, a huge country of more than 1.3 billion people has managed to make the critical leap from traditional communities into a modern and functioning democracy where the complex interplay of religion and traditional values are serving not as factors of conflicts but as catalysts in the emergence of modernizing, democratic and cohesive identity building.

China on the other hand can be said to be relatively luckier than India or Africa in the sense that it has always remained an almost monolithic entity with more than 90 percent of its people having a common ancestry and where colonialism was a short-lived experience that could not make a dent neither into its traditional belief systems nor into its secular identity. That may be why China could achieve socio-economic and cultural modernization in a relatively short time and with less shock and without compromising its history and national identity.

Of course, Africa is a relatively late emerging continental giant whose progress has been challenged by not one colonial power but by a host of colonial interests where European powers tried and failed to reconstruct the continent in their own images. India faced British colonialism and built a viable and almost all-inclusive democratic entity without compromising its traditional cultural and religious values. India has shown that democracy and cultural and traditional values are not antithetical but factor of cohesiveness and progress.

However the problem faced by Africa as a continent in the post-independence period and even now is that it had to fight against a host of European powers that are still fighting tooth and nail in order to preserve and recreate or perpetuate the realities and relationships that were forged during the long centuries of colonialism and the long decades of neo-colonial influence.

The problematic of modernization in Africa largely remains a challenge of integrating traditional belief systems, cultures and belief systems into its modernizing aspirations that still remain unfulfilled despite more than 60 years of independence. The African problematic of modernization is therefore more complex and more daunting than those of India and China. Africa's demographic wealth is still



to be unleashed as a dynamic force that would catalyze the continent's transition from traditionalism to vibrant, functional and democratic socio-economic realities.

The Oxford Handbook of Ideologies outlines the diversity inherent into modern African ideologies that have coexisted for many centuries but unfortunately did not yet succeed in helping the continent accelerate its socio-economic development process in a systematic and sustainable way. According to the Handbook of African Ideologies, "Key ideologies include African Abolitionism, and anti-colonialism, African socialism and Marxism, the Non-Aligned Movement, Negritude, Ujamaa, Ubuntu, African feminism, environmentalism and post-colonialism. Emerging as a response to racist Western ideologies, African responses were directed initially to Western audiences. The attempt to vindicate African humanism and human rights has evolved to the assertion of African contributions to world history and culture and to an engagement with African communities to promote post-colonial independence."

Despite the diversity of ideological currents in Africa, the continent has not so far managed to integrate them into the building of a unified, cohesive and democratic institution building that could serve the modernizing and liberation aspirations of more than one billion Africans. Leaving aside what they call Abolitionism or anti-colonialism, the other attempts at searching modernizing ideologies in Africa have more or less failed to pay dividends despite the costs and liabilities of such enterprises.

African socialism and Marxism have failed miserably in Africa while they paid huge dividends in terms of modernization both in China and India, two countries whose challenges and aspirations are somehow similar to those of Africans. As we said above, India has done its homework as far releasing its huge potentials into a dynamic modernizing movement while China has become the second biggest modern economy in the world in less than four decades. Africa is still struggling to agree

on a unifying ideology or ideologies while socialism is a sad and fading memory in countries such as Ethiopia, Tanzania, Angola or Mozambique despite the high price the people had paid in order to turn ideology into an engine of socio-economic development. Ujamaa or village socialism in Tanzania or Ubuntu in South Africa has not managed to bridge the huge social and income gaps and opportunities in the two countries.

African feminism or environmentalism as new ideological trends largely imported from the West. As such, they are not traditional ideological challenges whose solutions can be found within the continent of Africa. As indicated above challenge in Africa is of course the inability to translate existing ideological and cultural values into viable forces of socio-economic emancipation for all the people of Africa.

Foreign ideologies like Marxism have created disasters in some African countries that opted them as leverages of development by ditching their own value systems as "backward" or "anti-developmental". African intellectual elites have largely failed to explore ways and means of turning these ideologies into leverages of development while a huge country like China has managed to turn Marxism into an ideology of economic development by adapting it to its traditional, cultural and ideological realities.

The other challenge in African countries in their search for a modernizing ideology is the failure in institution building as a continent. Africa has managed to build a huge continental political and diplomatic institution like the OAU and then the AU. It is still fighting to strengthen and make it more effective in realizing the continent's developmental aspirations. Yet, Africa has not yet managed to build institutions that would accelerate the regional or continental ideological or cultural integration as precondition or basis for its socio-economic development. Pan-Africanism is still the probably the only viable ideological alternative that has

delivered its promises although it still needs constant renewal, enrichment or revision and critical assessment in its bid to live up to modern-day African challenges. As indicated above, Africa is a huge continent with vast cultural assets but it has not yet managed to build a Pan-Africa cultural institution that would not only popularize African values but also help Africans know one another better and develop a unifying world view about Africa and the world. In this sense, building an All-African cultural institution is not a luxury but a must for all those people who aspire to develop a modernizing ideology and a collective African identity. Being African is not only a physical, historical or geographic concept or attitude. It is rather a way of thinking about us as a common people and projecting ourselves into the outside world. It is about how we want the world to see us and respect us and co-opt us.

Democracy is increasingly being seen as a progressive ideology human intellectual civilization has so far produced. No doubt that Africa needs democracy as a way of governing itself. Yet, African democracy cannot be adopted as a dogmatic ideology or as a one-size-fits-all alternative for Africa. In a continent where there are dozens of traditional ideologies similar to democracy, one cannot be satisfied in adopting the Western brand without critical assimilation of what works and what does not in the process of adopting democracy to African realities.

To do so, we Africans need viable institutions where we can develop our brand of functional democracy instead of trying to copy paste Western models that have long proved ineffectual. In this particular area, African intellectual elites seem to prefer to adopt the shortest or least painful road of copying foreign ideologies without assessing the pros and cons of such an uncritical exercise. What Africa needs at present is initiative that inspires soul-searching and critical analyses into the very heart and soul of Africa that would rehabilitate its lost memories of past glories in a new form and content.

African intellectuals or social scientists are expected to develop their own ideological alternative and institutions instead of relying on Western models that work for the West and not for Africa. Social science is not like pure science. There is no risk in establishing scientific institutions to protect the environment or develop the economy but they cannot copy paste cultural institutions because they directly involve not nature but human beings whose lives are much more complex than environmental issues. Issues involving the long-term and fundamental issues of more than one billion people require soul-searching introspection, critical thinking and institution building as well as sustainable commitment, hard work, African responses directed not to Western but African audiences.

# Indepth

## An African media to tell African stories

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Ethiopia's contribution for the liberation of African countries is well known. The Battle of Adwa has always been mentioned in this context as a precursor to the movement of pan Africanism which was later to be a household name in Africa and among people of African descent who have been struggling to liberate themselves from the dominion of western powers mainly Europeans and Americans. For too many years Africans and people of African descent have been subjected to various forms of mistreatment and prejudice even after they have begun to stand up for their rights awakening peoples' movements. In Africa the colonial yoke has been too heavy to carry for many decades and even after the so called African liberation from the colonizers the voices of Africans have not enjoyed the kind of attention they would have deserved and were not listened to.

In many ways reports show that Africa is among the richest continents of the world with so many kinds of precious minerals found beyond fuel and natural gas and the like; and yet it is the poorest continent on earth. It is a continent with the poorest people living in it and for decades it has been mistreated by its former colonizers in many respects.

Ethiopia has been in the forefront of the battle for independence and dignity when it resisted bravely to all forms of colonization. The Battle of Adwa is only one instance of this battle that is best recognized and known but even this has not received the attention it deserves when it is marked every March 2, the day the battle took place. It was the first true and major resistance to an alien aggression and invasion by a huge European power. But there have also been many others recorded in history books when Ethiopia successfully foiled alien domination and kept its people safe from subjugation.

Today one may say that the entire continent is free from colonialism and foreign subjugation but many scholars are heard asserting that it is true only formally because Africans are still at the receiving end of mistreatment by non-Africans.

They say the international order is not very friendly to Africa because of a host of factors. Even after independence Africans have not been completely free from the dominion or influence of their former masters or even newly formed powers which practically determine their destiny. To be able to stand together and make their voices heard at the international forum the historical leaders of Africa did manage to come together and found the Organization of African Unity which later on grew to be the African Union with the aim of putting together the fifty five independent countries to one voice and exert as much influence in the world affairs as it needs.

However, sixty years into the formation of this organization it cannot be said that it has

achieved many of its purposes. Of course during these years it has successfully fought for the liberation of African countries that were not free from colonialism yet when the organization was first formed. It has been serving as voice for the weaker or smaller countries and the attempts exerted to help them come out of certain crises have been successful. It has also tried to iron out differences among various African countries that otherwise would have chosen the path of destructive conflict rather than sit down around a table and engage in peaceful talks. In this respect a number of success stories have been written and lives have been saved along with resources. The African Peace and Security Council has been active in identifying potential danger areas where risks of war might explode and prevent them or once the hostilities have erupted tried to limit the extent and period of hostilities.

Many observers say that Africa is not allowed to have the voice it deserves for a number of reasons. There are too many interest groups in the world who try and have as much influence as they can and in the process limit Africa's free growth and expansion. Many say it is not in the interest of these countries that Africa prosper and become a truly independent continent especially if they unite in the true sense of the word. Given that during colonial times Africans have been divided as Anglophones, Francophones and etc. The international languages they use differ based on who colonized them. And this has remained as one of the major obstacles for a true union among the fifty five states.

One of the bad legacies of colonization has been the efforts exerted by the foreign powers to induce Africans to hate their true identity and nature and push them to imitate their masters as much as possible. The policies were aimed to integrate these countries to the dominant culture of the colonizers and in this sense Africans were made to divide between themselves. Africans could not develop their culture and be proud of it.

In many ways Africans were made to believe that their culture was inferior to the western one and they were made to adopt it rather than proudly develop and nurture their own traditional heritage and culture.

One of the fundamental factors for this to happen is the way the western media has been prospecting African stories, African affairs and everything that has been happening in Africa. Everything that was reported about Africa was seen from the prospect of western interests and long term advantages. Africans were made to be ashamed of their cultural traits and abandon them.

The way Africans view themselves has not been positive because of the persistent derogatory words and epithets that have been used to describe them not only in the western media but also in western literature in general. Although the outright racist remarks may have been alleviated

along the years, however, there are clear remnants of such tradition that have persisted for years and it will take a lot of time before this trend is completely rid of.

Africans must stand up together and be able to change the state of affairs and the effects will be enormous. Africa will have the dignity it deserves and this will have its implications even in economic terms.

Africa could negotiate better terms even in international transactions of its precious resources because talking with one voice they have a major say and a better chance of being listened to. We have seen in the past that there have been relentless efforts to divide Africans and make them be hostile among one another. The differences in the language have been used to promote divisions and stories of conflict, divisions and differences have often been occupying the headlines of western media while if there are positive stories, little focus are accorded them. The perspective of narrating African issues are always considered from the strategic interests of the west and do not do justice to Africa. So much western media is dedicated to negative stories coming from Africa such as conflicts, wars, disagreements among neighboring nations, terrorist activities, drought and famine etc that they have ended up being the norm rather than the exception.

The image of Africa has been deliberately tarnished with only negative stories monopolizing the media. Unfortunately even Africans have begun to flow along the canals these western media have dug. If you take the example of the recent Ethiopian conflict in the north, we can understand well how far the western media can go to support or promote their interest without any regards to the true and tangible story choosing only the negative one and making of it a human rights violations by choosing the side it believes will serve their interests. We have witnessed how powerful these media have been in terms of influencing the neutral people in conflicts and eventually governments that may have had good relations with Ethiopia.

Every attempt was made by so called western conflict experts and analysts to label the government of Ethiopia as the guilty party in the conflict in the north and expose it to the sanctions of some governments and even international organizations. There are many similar biased stories produced and broadcast by western media which have hurt Africans. That is why Africa needs a strong media house of its own that can tell its own stories in its own way without relying on western correspondents who have their own agenda and promote their own interests only. At the just ended 36th AU summit Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has reiterated his suggestion that Africa needs its own media house to be able to produce and narrate its stories on its own and from its own perspective. We cannot agree more. African leaders need to take this suggestion into serious consideration.

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# Law & Politics

## Regional cooperation to curb common threats

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Since a long time ago, Ethiopia has been playing a huge role in preventing and fighting against terrorism and extremism in the Horn of Africa. As different terrorist groups have been working day and night to move the region into uncharted waters, Ethiopia has sustained playing a leading role in foiling the evil mission of the groups.

Ethiopia for long has been working with leaders of a diverse range of nations such as Kenya, Somalia, and Djibouti to combat terrorism in the Horn of Africa.

It is common knowledge that Al-Shabab and other criminal groups have been going to the ends of the earth to move the volatile region into uncharted waters working in close collaboration with their collaborators.

As nothing makes the anarchist groups happier than coordinating attacks and moving the Horn of Africa into chaos, they have continued working around the clock with several entities that do not want to see a peaceful and prosperous horn of Africa.

It is generally known that apart from claiming the lives of innocent civilians and damaging property, the terrorist squads in several instances have launched coordinated attacks in Somalia and other nations.

Even though criminal organizations have been bending over backward to cause unrest and anarchy in the horn of Africa in collision with some entities, much attention has not been paid by the wider international community to the level expected. In point of fact, until today the situation in the present circumstances has continued to be a threat and risk factor to the existence of the region.

Ethiopia has been playing apart in fighting against terrorism and foiling threats of terrorism and radicalism that persistently emanate from the terrorist groups' nefarious deeds. In actual fact, the joint efforts of leaders of the horn of Africa have been smoothing the path of fighting terrorism and strengthening their bilateral engagements.

For the sake of truth, apart from restoring peace and tranquility, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces have been playing a paramount role in defending the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the horn of Africa region from terrorist organizations. There is no denying the fact that leaders of the Horn of Africa have been working around the clock to successfully cooperate in the fight against terrorism.

Collaboration among with the leaders of the Horn of Africa and beyond is the only way out to do away with the terrorist groups in the region.

Albeit the anarchist groups have been endeavoring to knock off the balance of the horn of Africa by carrying out coordinated attacks, Ethiopia has been hindering the nefarious deeds of the terrorist groups' conspiracies by coming up with several effective strategies. In the face of repeated attempts by terrorist groups, Ethiopia's efforts have been playing a mammoth role in preventing and combating terrorism in the horn of Africa.



*Al-Shabab fighters*

Given the current circumstances, leaders of Africa have been working in close collaboration to fight Al-Shabab group that has been making every possible effort to move the horn of Africa to anarchy.

It is a well-known fact that terrorist groups have been working around the clock with their partners in crime to back the Horn of Africa into a corner and turn it into chaos. More often than not leaders of Africa have been enunciating their readiness to consolidate their readiness in destroying the terrorist groups.

Notwithstanding the fact that the groups have been working many a time and oft to pull to pieces the horn of Africa, leaders of the horn have been attaching importance to collaboratively defending the wicked deeds and ensuring sustainable peace. In actual fact, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces have been repeatedly annihilating the terrorist groups that have been sparing no effort to materialize their dreams coming up with a plethora of conspiracies.

It is true that synchronized operations that have been taken by the federal government have set in motion bearing fruits and returning the region to normalcy. Regardless of the fact that a lot of efforts have been made by some groups to throw cold water on the positive developments unfolding in the horn of Africa, all their efforts failed to bear fruits.

It is common knowledge that though several attempts have been made by radical groups to dismantle the horn of Africa, Ethiopia has ended up throwing cold water on its efforts. There is no doubt that quite a lot of times the Ethiopians National Defense Forces have foiled the evil mission of the terrorist groups working around the clock to dismantle the horn of Africa.

Member countries of the East African Standby Force (EASF) have been urged to further enhance contributions in terms of financial, logistics, human capital and time thereby successfully realizing its mission,

stated Field Marshal.

Speaking at an EASF's member states' General Chiefs and policy makers meeting organized to discuss a range of East African issues in Addis Ababa lately, Chief of the General Staff of the Ethiopian National Army, Field Marshal Birhanu Jula said: "As terrorism, unconstitutional government changes, cross-border crimes and others have been occurring now and then in our continent, we are expected to build our capacity well.

He said: "The meeting would help conceptualize research-based and policy reforms in enhancing and improving the capacity and capabilities of the institution." As to the field Marshal, the meeting is also aiming at delivering messages on EASF's action-based proposal, budget and other significant documents.

EASF Director Brigadier General Getachew Shiferaw elucidated that during the meeting, various important documents of the organization's overall structure and operational strategies have been dealt with.

Meeting guest of honor, Speaker of the House of Federation Agegnehu Teshager said that: "Since there are lots of problems stirring in our continent, we have to work cooperatively to eliminate the all-rounded problems across the continent." The meeting would enable countries well hit EASF's mission, the Ministry of Defense disclosed.

The fight against terrorism is one of the common objectives of Ethiopia and Somalia, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia, Abshir Omar said.

Somalia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Abshir Omar, who is in Addis Ababa for the 36th African Union Summit, told ENA that Ethiopia and Somalia have common objective in the fight against terrorists.

"Effective fighting with terrorists is a common objection for Ethiopia and Somalia. We are both on the same line and of that front and that is a common enemy

for our both countries, both for the people in Ethiopia and Somalia."

He recalled the two heads of states have met in Mogadishu recently, together with the other front line states to discuss on ways to work together in fighting terrorism which is a threat to all of the neighboring countries as the terrorists are not confined to only Somalia because they have the ability to cross national borders.

In that regard, the leaders from the front line states, namely Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, have to agree on a common front to defeat that enemy, the minister added.

Noting the relation between Ethiopia and Somalia is solid he said, "I can describe the relations that exist between Ethiopia and Somalia is the best relation that the governments, of the two countries can have now. It is in best stage and level ever before."

"We have quite a number of common factors that are keeping us together. We all have and working together to achieve those mutual factors which are beneficial to our people," Omar explained.

The minister said Ethiopia and Somalia have been working in partnership in multifaceted areas noting that the two countries also share various historical and cultural values.

The countries are working with commitment to further intensify the existing political, economic and social cooperation, he added.

He also mentioned the efforts being exerted by the government of Ethiopia to help Somalia in the fight against terrorism and bring peace in the country.

Moreover, the minister stressed the need to further strengthen integration between the two countries, which is vital for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Recall the leaders of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia met in the Somali capital to discuss on the ongoing fight against al-Shabab militants earlier this month.

# Women in Focus

## When talent creates its own opportunities

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

Genet Kebede is the CEO and Creative Director of Paradise Fashion. Established in 1992, Paradise Fashion is a well-known fashion brand in Ethiopia. Though there are many stories to it, she founded her company after studying fashion design and garment construction in Italy and Argentina.

Genet was born and raised in Addis Ababa. She completed her education in Nazareth School where she gained the opportunity to grasp adequate knowledge in Art, sketching, ethics, language as well as fashion design. She has received a certificate in fashion design, pattern making, cutting and stretching from Flego Italian University.

The exposure did not only unlock her deep desire for the fashion design, but it paved the way to where she is now. However, it was due to her wedding traditional dress that was made by one of the best known designers in the town 'Emama Tsige' that she fell in love with the designing sector.

"The extra care and everything that the designer took with each line still amazes me. It is depicted in my mind till now. The dress has special place in my life and it is the main reason why I engaged in the fashion design as well," she underscored.

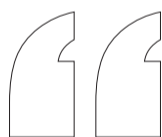
Her designs merge traditional Ethiopian with modern techniques and trends. Inspired by her beloved Ethiopian "Hager Lebse (traditional Ethiopian cloth)" and the wonderful textiles of Ethiopia, Genet is making contemporary Ethiopian fashion and bridal wear for Ethiopian women and the rest of the world using traditional hand woven Ethiopian fabrics.

Many have stated that she is known for impacting the way the West sees contemporary fashion in Ethiopia. Through her company, she is noted to have shown Ethiopia and the rest of the world the heights that the country can achieve with its fashion and unique textiles.

After she got married, she had to leave the country but she took the opportunity to learn fashion design in Italy and Argentina. She was very enthusiastic to see her talent and education turned in to fruition. Thus, she decided to make her own graduation dress. She made a traditional dress that took the attention of those around her.

Genet could not just live with the admiration she got by the dress she made. Therefore, she decided to return to homeland and join the designing sector abruptly. Soon after she started her business, she got the opportunity to showcase her products to foreigners through the exhibition her company participated in.

Ever since they started exhibiting their



**The extra care and everything that the designer took with each line still amazes me. It is depicted in my mind till now. The dress has special place in my life and it is the main reason why I engaged in the fashion design as well**

works, their products become more welcomed and admired by customer. The increasing customer's demand coupled with the inconvenience of her house which has served them as a working area, made her decided to move out to a better place that can assist both as working and showcasing area.

"When I joined the fashion industry 29 years ago, there were plenty of

promoted, it could have created ample job opportunities. More importantly, it could have generated substantial amount of foreign currency."

For about four years, Genet was able to make dresses for Ethiopian Airlines Women Employees. However, she said lack of thread, be it in amount and quality is affecting the business.

Besides the fact that raw materials are very expensive, the entry of Chinese clothes/fabrics in the market highly influenced the market which in turn pressure the Ethiopian traditional clothes harshly.

The government has been giving little attention to the fashion industry. It should exert more efforts to modernize weaving. One sided effort could not bring the desired result. Hence, the government needs to promote the sector as well as addressing the challenges that draw the sector back from becoming competitive in the global market, she stressed.

Currently, she get her inputs from women weavers that are organized by the government around Gulele area and made the products as per to their customer's desire. Owing to the long market chain that woven fabrics require, Genet had 20 employees however, due to the less demand and effect of the Coronavirus pandemic, she has 13 permanent employees.

Explaining the reason for the high price of traditional attires, she said that absence of inputs takes the lion's share.

"If we are able to support the sector with new technologies, not only will it secure job for more citizens; but it will also allow the country to benefit from it. Government officials need to play their role in this regard," she said.

Besides wearing the traditional clothes in high level meetings or occasions, given its multilayered benefits, it is essential that higher officials support and promote the sector, she added. Genet also noted that the company aspires to come up with new designs that would make the country outshine in the fashion industry.

There is nothing that is not produced in Paradise. Its product lines include ladies wear that embraces caftans and tops, hand woven scarves and shawls, as well as the Paradise Home line that includes pillow cases, decorative throws, wall hangings and table sets.

They also offer custom designs, going the extra mile to design to meet customers' specific needs and requests. Genet is currently providing her products to the Ethiopian market and Paris through her ladies wear line. The products are crafted from hand woven fabrics. Genet's vision is to take her brand global, launch an e-commerce site and bring new techniques to their weavers.

opportunities and it was easy to promote the country through our traditional attires. Nonetheless, the fashion industry is still in an infant stage."

She went on saying: "Cultural/Traditional attires could have been the first thing that promotes the country among all sectors. If there is one thing that the country failed to do so is not modernizing and promoting weaving properly. Had weaving been

# International News

## US first lady Jill Biden arrives in Namibia on Africa tour

US first lady Jill Biden has arrived in Namibia on the first stop on a five-day Africa tour, part of a push by the United States to strengthen its ties on the continent.

She landed at the airport in Namibia's capital Windhoek on Wednesday afternoon before heading to Heroes' Acre, a war memorial, together with the first lady of Namibia.

Her trip will focus on education, health and empowering youth and women, she said in a statement on social media.

After Namibia she will go to Kenya where she will hear from those affected by drought and food insecurity, she said.

The Biden administration is planning a slew of high-level visits to Africa this year in an effort to counter the influence of China and Russia on the continent.

South Africa is currently hosting a joint



naval exercise with Russia and China, a move the country says is routine but which

has alarmed the United States and other Western partners.

It is Jill Biden's first trip to Africa as first lady.

Source: *The EastAfrican*



## Thousands flee to Ethiopia amid Somaliland violence

The UN says tens of thousands of civilians have fled the self-declared republic of Somaliland and crossed the border into neighbouring Ethiopia following fighting between regional government forces and local militias.

The number of people who have left Somaliland's Las Anod district and arrived in Ethiopia's Doole area in the past month could be as high as 80,000, the UN's refugee agency, the UNHRC, has said.

Most of those arriving are women, pregnant and lactating mothers as well as children - including some who are separated from their families - according to the agency.

Last week the UN said that an average of 1,000 people were crossing into Ethiopia each day fleeing the violence.

This has increased humanitarian needs in

the hosting areas which themselves are among the worst hit by a severe drought affecting East Africa following five consecutive failed rainy seasons.

Additionally, more than 180,000 people are believed to have been internally displaced and settled in 66 camps within Somaliland.

Somaliland declared its independence from Somalia in the early 1990s but has not been internationally recognized.

It had been a relatively stable region in the volatile Horn of Africa.

Tensions have however been fermenting in recent months after elections were delayed. Scores were killed earlier this month when fighting broke out in Las Anod.

Source: *BBC*

## Tanzania Approves \$3.5 Billion Pipeline Project

Tanzania's government gave its approval on Tuesday for the construction of a \$3.5 billion crude oil pipeline, part of a controversial mega-project that has raised concerns over human rights and the environment.

The 1,443-kilometre (900-mile) pipeline will transport crude from vast oilfields being developed in Lake Albert in northwestern Uganda to a Tanzanian port on the Indian Ocean.

The pipeline required approval from both countries, and last month Uganda issued a licence to the project operator, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).

"This construction approval marks another step forward to EACOP as it allows commencement of the main construction activities in Tanzania, upon completion of the ongoing land access process," EACOP Tanzania general manager Wendy Brown said at a function to receive the approval certificate.



The \$10 billion oilfields and pipeline project has run into strong opposition from rights campaigners and environmental groups that say it threatens the region's fragile ecosystem and the livelihoods of tens of thousands of people.

It is being jointly developed by the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) and France's Total Energies, along with the state-owned Uganda National Oil Company

Source: *Africanews*

## CPD: To ensuring comprehensive professional development

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Every year, Ethiopia spends significant amount of USD for medical tourism and an additional hundreds of millions to import medicines and medical equipment from abroad. To undo the challenges, the Ministry of Health is working round the clock through constructing tertiary healthcare facilities at public and private wings, building the capacity of health practitioners to meet medical service demand and promote medical tourism.

According to various reports, the Ministry is working to fill the skill gaps of health professionals through putting well-organized Continuous Professional Development (CPD) approach targeting to ensure comprehensive professional development, improve the quality of health service delivery and advance the country's health system.

Capable health workforce is essential to continually improve the quality of health service delivery and advance the sector. In this regard, the Ministry is working determinedly to upgrade the capacity of health professionals, deliver safe and effective healthcare services, address country's health challenge thereby deal with the problems of patients travelling to other countries in need of standard healthcare

services, said Assegid Samuel, Human Resource Development CEO in the Ministry of Health.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Assegid said: "The Ministry is striving to avail the services to patients, especially for those suffering from various severe ailments and seeking treatments such as kidney dialysis and transplant and heart problems", he reiterated.

The Ministry has staged platforms for professionals to exchange experiences from international partners, and renowned medical specialists in rare disciplines like pediatric cardiology, congenital heart disease and cancer among others.

It is clear that health professionals must maintain, update and enhance their knowledge, skills, and attitude to adequately deliver quality healthcare services through Continuous Professional Development (CPD).

"Having lived experience and deeper insight is vital in imparting best experiences and dealing with various diseases." He underlined.

Above all, the approach is important due to a changing disease pattern in which ailments that had been once eradicated, are now reemerging, and for the reason of an increase in non-communicable diseases. Moreover, there is a need for CPD to maintain

professional competence in an environment of numerous challenges, rapid organizational changes, information technology, increasing public expectations and demand for quality and greater accountability.

"The Ministry is struggling to ensure each health professional passes through CPD because the competency of health professionals has to be continually developed through effective, standardized in-service training."

As to him, the Ministry is working along with regional health bureaus, professional associations and development partners in the health sector to upgrade the skills of health professionals.

Mentioning that renewing licenses based on years of service was compulsory for health professionals, he said but nowadays CPD becomes a prerequisite to qualify. The primary goal of the CPD program is ensuring quality health service, making health professionals competent and to link the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) with license renewal requirements.

According to him, a national CPD committee composed of professionals and associations, commissioned to support the effort was established.

"The number of Ethiopian patients traveling overseas seeking advanced treatment is

increasing from time to time. To address the challenges and close the skills gaps, we are endeavoring to develop the human capital through imparting skills of health professionals from the multispecialty hospitals, hospitals that offer a wide range of medical services," He further noted that the Ministry of Health (MoH) is committed to ensure the quality and standards of health services in the country. As part of its goal, therefore, Human Resource Development (HRD) receives special focus and is taken as one of the five strategic areas by the Ministry.

The Ministry will keep on initiating and strengthening continuing education including in-service training because it is an essential element to translate the objective of the HRD component.

Asked about the challenges, Assegid said that limited understanding of institutions on CPD accreditors and course providers, inadequate capacity mainly from the sides of health professionals and associations in crafting courses as well as limited experience of sharing on CPD among health professionals are few.

"Accessing health professionals with well-developed CPD materials to the hinterlands is getting critical", he added.



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### HU coming up with customer service standards

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Haramaya University (HU) is working to set out customer service standards and benchmark to provide quality services to students, officials, employees, and customers.

As a center of excellence, HU is given a mission to produce competent graduates in diverse fields of study, undertake knowledge-generating, involve in problem-solving studies and cutting-edge research, and provide demand-driven and transformative community engagement that will contribute to local, national, regional, and global sustainable development.

HU is also committed to promote the values of excellence, innovation, social responsibility, integrity, diversity and inclusiveness, democratic culture, good governance, teamwork and collaboration, lifelong learning, and respect for nature and the environment.

In order to achieve its mission and targets, the University has provided various services for users. Among others, Information Communication Technology



(ICT), Library and Information, Legal and consultation, transportation, community, and others are the services that the University provides to the respective customers. Thus, these and other services require quality, standard, efficiency, and effective systems and manpower.

HU Institutional Quality Assurance Directorate Director Muslima Aliyi said that the University, by setting quality standards, is working to ensure efficient and effective, quality teaching, research, and community

service continuously.

Besides setting quality standards, implementation guidelines will be devised for various departments and will be implemented to provide services at the same level of quality, she added.

Indeed, quality is significant for service provision to higher education institutions for several reasons: competitive advantages, satisfying government requirements and meeting public expectations. It helps in satisfying the demands of the customers,

students, academic staff, and other employees.

In most cases, the quality elements in higher education are organized into the following subcategories: concrete elements, qualification, attitude, content, presentation, and reliability. Hence, striving to provide quality services to its students would help to develop and maintain its reputation.

Haramaya University Academics and Administrative Quality Coordinator Yeshitla Yilma on his part noted that however, the university is working on it but, everyone doesn't have the same understanding regarding the quality of work across the campus. Hence, a platform has been set for the officials and employees at all levels to make them understand the idea of quality work clearly.

The University is also planning to enter a new quality management system. Hence, the employees of the directorate have been trained in International Organization for Standard (ISO) 9001/2015 and made experience sharing sessions in collecting and organizing information. Moreover, preparations are being made to implement ISO/9001 in the University, he explained.