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Industrial parks shore up investment flow, economy



BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia's massive engagement in the establishment and expansion of industrial parks is crucial in facilitating the entry of anchor companies and bringing economic dynamism, the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) said.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, EIC Deputy Commissioner Daniel Teresa stated that the operation of 13 industrial parks across has greatly supported flow of investment and stimulated the overall economy. "Industry parks have played an immense role in supplementing exports, creating jobs, substituting import products, and galvanizing economic growth."

Providing land, sheds and infrastructural facilities, industrial parks development is a timely answer for the demand of multinational companies that had low interest

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Economists tip advancing exports to ease debt burden

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Maximizing the export trade and increasing the product and productivity of various sectors are entitled to easing Ethiopia's debt burden and fostering economic progress, renowned economists stated.

Speaking with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) an economist Costantinos Berhetesfa (PhD) emphasized the need to boost the export market and Ethiopia's foreign currency earnings. The failure to enhance export revenue will deepen the debt burden and hamper the success of poverty eradication programs.

"The government should seize every opportunity that will build its debt repayment capacity," the expert said, adding that such capacity enables the former to reduce the subsidy of some sectors and manage public expenditure. "Substituting import while increasing exports could serve as a way to repay loans."

See Economists tip ... page 3



Awelu Abdi

State pleading more support for drought victims in Borena

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Oromia State called on community, donors and other parties to contribute to the effort exerted for expanding humanitarian assistance for the needy in drought-hit Borena Zone.

See State pleading ... page 3



Costantinos Berhetesfa



Kibur Genna

Adwa

museum set to open in October here

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Some 78.2 percent of the construction of the Adwa museum Project is completed, the Addis Ababa City Mega Projects Construction Office said, adding that the project is set to be inaugurated in October 2023.

Briefing journalists at the project site yesterday, the Office Contract Administration Director Dawit Tibebe (Eng.) stated that the construction has been executed carefully, responsibly, and without interruption.

The project, which commemorates Ethiopia's victory in the Battle of Adwa, will have a museum, art gallery, cinema, meeting halls, and bus and taxi terminals. The museum, which is the archetypical part of the project,

See Adwa museum ... page 3

News

FAO pledges to continue supporting farmers, pastoralists in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA - The Food and Agricultural Organization has pledged to continue supporting people dependent on agriculture in Ethiopia and improving their livelihood.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, FAO Country Representative Farayi Zimudzi said the organization has been working in terms of ensuring the livelihood of people who depend on agriculture and restore agriculture destruction, whether it could be drought or conflict.

According to her, the organization has been working quite a lot in the past couple of years in ensuring the livelihood of farmers or their productive capacity in agriculture.

“FAO is providing input seeds to farmers to be able to plant; fertilizer and also some drugs to animals because we recognize that farmers they do not only plant crops but also have livestock. So, to ensure that their livestock are healthy and access food, especially in drought affected areas, we have been providing quite a lot of feed as well as the necessary veterinary support that is required for animals to be healthy.”

Zimudzi further stated that the organization is also looking on what additional complementary support can be provided to ensure that bottlenecks that inevitably arise in situation such as these are addressed.

FAO is closely working with Ministry of Agriculture to find chain on specific areas of support, especially on issues around seed for the wheat program and toward what quality and affordable seed can be made available, she added.

Elaborating on the activities of FAO, the country representative said the organization's first approach is to provide immediate response, for example in drought affected parts of the country.

As there are many pastoralists, we have been providing feed to make sure that there is no total loss of animals; and providing cash to enable farmers to buy inputs and meet their needs.

The second approach, according to Zimudzi, is to take a long term point of view because drought is something that is not going to go away completely. So, we need to look at intervention such as developing farmers' ability to produce their own feed in areas where water is available, she elaborated.

Thus, issues around water management are very important; and it is a long term strategy to deal with changes in climate that are not going away unfortunately.

“It is important to respond immediately to prevent loss of livelihood, but we also need to look to take a longer view in terms of how farmers can adapt to the situation and continue to be able to be productive in spite of the challenges.”

The representatives acknowledged the strong prioritization of agriculture that Ethiopia has shown, and said “I think one of the key issues is also to facilitate learning across different countries.”

She pointed out that there are a lot of practices that Ethiopia can also share to other countries. “Equally, Ethiopia can also learn from other countries. So, one of the key things that FAO would like to do is to facilitate those learning so that in a South-South arrangement countries are learning from each other and countries are adopting good practices.”

There are a lot of opportunities to be explored in the agriculture sector, and FAO is ready to provide support not only to Ethiopia but also to other countries around Ethiopia.

MPs laud India's experience sharing outcomes

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Members of the House of People's Representatives (HPR) said the experience-sharing program they held with India's law-making body is of great significance in learning new things.

The House Plan Budget and Financial Affairs Standing Committee Chairman Desalgne Wodajo told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the purpose of the experience-sharing program is facilitating a common understanding of the two countries.

The three-day experience-sharing program was held in India by a delegation led by the Senior Leaders of the Council and Speakers of the State Council, a Representative of the HPRs.

Apart from the ruling Prosperity, MPs from contending political parties which won parliamentary seats in the 6th General Election including Ethiopian Citizens for Social Justice (EZEMA) and the National Movement of Amhara (NAMA) were also part of the program.

He further stated that Ethiopia went to India and gained significant experience due to the chance facilitated by India's Embassy to Ethiopia. India has the home of 1.4 billion people, many languages, attitudes, and the like whilst they live harmoniously. Besides, India has well experienced in democratic



structure (system) during the past many years.

“For example, India has carried out 49 democratic elections for Prime Minister and in parliament whilst amending its constitution when conceding the development of public interest. Therefore, such measures would play a crucial role in Ethiopia in terms of protecting people's interests and addressing some challenges”

Desalegn further stated that the government of India and its people have been protecting the rule of law, which is the secret of an existing stable economy and political

environment. Therefore, Ethiopia can draw important lessons from India in regards to democratic culture, cultural protection, protecting rule of law, amending constitution, and the likes, which is significantly helpful to ensure national interest and leave in a tuneful manner.

In the exchange of experience, the general operation and organization of the Indian Parliament, presentation and procedure of questions by members of parliament, parliamentary ethics, law-making and budget decision system are included, it was learned.

IGAD stresses forming system for labor, migration governance

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – IGAD member states called for well-governed system on labor and migration among members, evaluating Djibouti Declaration on Labor, Employment and Labor Migration adopted by member states in October 2021.

In her keynote speech, IGAD Health and Social Affairs Head Fathia Alwan said that IGAD is a region with relatively high number of young populations, with 62 percent aged below 25 years.

The region is characterized by high levels of poverty, unemployment and underemployment and significant volumes of irregular migrants with limited protection mechanism and struggling labor markets to absorb the large number of new entrants to the labor force, as to her.

In order to address the challenges related to labor employment and labor migration, she indicated that IGAD has spearheaded the development and adoption of, free movement of person's protocol in Khartoum Sudan in 2020 as the main policy framework.

Djibouti Declaration on labor, employment and labor migration adopted by IGAD member back in October 2021 is a key policy instrument to comprehensively address the challenges of labor, employment, and labor migration in the region, it was learnt.

Highlighting the progress made since the land mark and historic Declaration on Labor, Employment and Labour Migration, the head



said that the draft was reviewed and validated by Experts of IGAD Member States in a regional consultation workshop in June 2022, in Entebbe, Uganda.

Ethiopia's Labor and Skill State Minister Asegid Getachew on the occasion said that Ministry of Labor and Skills, is working hand in hand with sister ministries, partners and development agencies to improve labor migration governance and protection of migrant workers.

The region and the world at large are facing socio-economic challenges. But on top of the perennial drought, our region suffers from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has not only slowed down economic growth but also widened the existing high levels of unemployment in many member states, he said adding that with the support of partners and stakeholders such as IGAD and ILO, the increasing migration flows and critical protection risks faced by our citizens in

countries of destination will be addressed.

Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan ILO Country Office Director Alexio Musind said that ILO has called for concerted efforts to move from low quality employment into decent jobs through a process of structural transformation.

That means from low to high productivity and value added. Shifting from low-productivity smallholder farming to agribusiness, or establishing industries and sectors with high-employment potential which requires policy framework, he added.

It is to be recalled that IGAD, in collaboration with the ILO, organized the first Ministerial Conference of Ministers of Labor and Employment of IGAD Member States on 21st October 2021 in Djibouti under the framework of the Free Movement of Persons and Transhumance in the IGAD Region project financed by EU Emergency Trust Fund.

News

African electronic trade group to Open East Africa HQ here

ADDIS ABABA - The African Electronic Trade Group (A-eTrade Group) is discussing with the Ethiopian government to open its East Africa Headquarters in the capital Addis Ababa, its CEO Mulalem Seyoum said.

A-eTrade Group, initiated by Africans engaged in various fields 14 years ago, is a multi-stakeholder group striving to implement e-empowerments that will enhance intra-and inter-African trade.

This institution headquartered in Kigali, Rwanda, is working to improve Africa's role in the digital economy.

It is working in collaboration with various partners to create favorable conditions to strengthen African e-commerce. African Electronic Trade Group CEO, Mulalem Seyoum told ENA that Ethiopia won a competition with 18 other countries to become the organization's East African headquarters two years ago.



Following this the institution is discussing with the Ethiopian government to open its East Africa Headquarters in Addis Ababa. The headquarters of the institution in East Africa is now Addis Ababa, which will also

create job opportunities for many citizens, he said.

More than 95 percent of all world trade is expected to be digital by 2030, the CEO said citing European estimates, and added that

Africa should prepare for that digitization.

Therefore, the institution is working in infrastructure, human resource capacity building, research, digital market and other sectors, he further added.

He, for instance, mentioned that they have implemented a continental electronic trading system called 'Sokokuu-Africa' which promotes only products made in Africa.

In connection with the provision of finance needed by small and medium businesses in Africa, however, there is a deficit of 330 billion USD, the CEO pointed out.

But he further explained that to fill this gap, the institution has established an international strategic business alliance group that can work with various institutions. Former Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn is the Patron of the African Electronic Trade Group for about a year now.

Industrial parks...

in Ethiopia's market. The participation of domestic investors in the industrial parks is also increasing from time to time.

"Industrial parks are the tools to fill the missing link in Ethiopia's investment opportunities and multinational companies' capital by cutting the tedious bureaucratic process. We are vigorously supporting the speedy operation of both domestic and foreign-owned businesses in the industry parks."

Daniel further highlighted that the various reforms set up by the commission are paying off in attracting a substantial amount of foreign investment to Ethiopia. Accordingly, the country amassed two billion USD from foreign direct investment in the first six months of the current fiscal year. The figure surpassed that of the past year same period by 23 percent.

"Owing to Ethiopia's immense potential for investment, we are expecting more. We have invested hugely in construction of industry zones to ease infrastructural and bureaucratic setbacks and issued various incentives for investors to engage in priority areas."

The establishment of industrial parks into special economic zones also brings good opportunities for investors and shores up the economic progress. We have been hugely engaged to cut short the ups and downs investors face in the operation phase and provide them export incentives, customs duty exemption, income tax holidays, and offering land and other amenities.

Attracting investors should not be left to a single government entity and the active participation of amenity providers and other relevant stakeholders is so crucial, the deputy commissioner emphasized.

State pleading more support...

Briefing Media on Sunday, Oromia State Deputy Chief Administrator Awelu Abdi said that the recurrent drought affected several people in Borena Zone of the state over the last three years.

"The State has been performing various activities in the short and long term plan to prevent the drought. Some 4.3 million people are in urgent need due to the drought occurred in the state solely this year, and the government and donors addressed 7.3 million people due to the prolonged drought

last year," he added.

Various humanitarian assistances delivered to save the lives of the people. Food and non-food items as well as water provided in drought-hit Borena Zone areas. The government devised various mechanisms and programs like Green Legacy Initiative to address the problem permanently. As a result, dried springs are recovering or being cultivated, he stated.

Furthermore, other programs like Ye Lematirufat are being designed to reduce

the consequence of malnutrition and help citizens get a balanced diet. In drought-hit areas, no human life is claimed due to drought as people there have been provided with a number of supports, he added.

He further said that the drought caused due to lack of rain over the last three years. However, human life is not yet lost as various efforts made by government, donors, community and other parties. Till now, Education and health services have not been interrupted in Borena zone, he pointed out.

Adwa museum set to...

will have several artistic illustrations representing the Victory of Adwa.

Also, the project has a parking lot that could accommodate 1,000 cars at a time.

"This mega project has been designed and constructed to immortalize Ethiopians' victory over colonialism and their unity for common goal. The patriots' commitment

and sacrifice to fend off invaders is also being preserved by this memorial."

According to him, the office has capitalized on various researchers conducted by renowned historians and consulted the latter to give the museum a true feature of Ethiopia.

"Currently, we are carrying out 11 mega

projects in the metropolis and most of them are scheduled to be inaugurated in the coming year.

Zewditu Hospital Extension Project, Traffic Management Bureau, Parking, and commercial centers are among the projects that are being constructed by the city administration, *The Ethiopian Herald* learned.

Economists tip advancing...

Costantinos further noted that due attention should be given to bolster the role and contribution of the private sector in directing its capital in poverty reduction activities. "Since the debt could not be covered with the sole support of the IMF and World Bank, it is crucial to advance the ongoing efforts to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

Apart from exerting utmost efforts in agricultural productivity, seeking a way for maximizing Ethiopia's benefits from the African Continental Free Trade Area

(AfCFTA) is something worth equal consideration.

Cognizant of the fact that the developing world debt burden remains a major challenge globally; the G-20 countries have undertaken activities to delay loan repayment.

Sharing the above rationale, another economist Kibur Genna said that stimulating the tourism sector and increasing the export volume and quality is instrumental to enhancing Ethiopia's forex reserve and helping debt repayments.

Pursuing a meticulous diplomatic approach to convince lending countries and institutions to extend the loan repayment period is also of great importance. Encouraging the Diaspora community to send hard currency through legal channels is also something expected from the government.

Besides addressing bureaucratic setbacks, the government should put in place a conducive business climate that enables more foreign firms to come and do business here, Kibur remarked.

Opinion

Inner most being moral principle should outweigh 'Demos'

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Nelson Mandela fought the apartheid system for several years. Finally in 1994, South Africa became a democratic country in which people of all races were considered equal. South Africa became a democratic country in the year. However, democracy has become the new aristocracy and oligarchy to exploit the subjects.

Most African countries have to learn indigenous democracy like the Gada system. Gada is a traditional system of governance used by the Oromo people in Ethiopia developed from knowledge gained by community experience over generations. The system regulates political, economic, social and religious activities of the community dealing with issues such as conflict resolution, reparation and protecting women's rights.

It serves as a mechanism for enforcing moral conduct, building social cohesion, and expressing forms of community culture. Gada is organized into five classes with one of these functioning as the ruling class consisting of a chairperson, officials and an assembly. Each class progresses through a series of grades before it can function in authority with the leadership changing on a rotational basis every eight years.

Class membership is open to men, whose fathers are already members, while women are consulted for decision-making on protecting women's rights. The classes are taught by oral historians covering history, laws, rituals, time reckoning, cosmology, myths, rules of conduct, and the function of the Gada system.

Meetings and ceremonies take place under a sycamore tree (considered the Gada symbol) while major clans have established Gada centers and ceremonial spaces according to territory. Knowledge about the Gada system is transmitted to children in the home and at school.

The African Union has expressed its firm stance for undemocratic changes of governments and oath to push forward the Africa free trade deal.

Democracy is generally associated with the efforts of the ancient Greeks, whom 18th-century intellectuals considered the founders of Western civilization. These individuals attempted to leverage these early democratic experiments into a new template for post-monarchical political organization.

After consulting on a range of challenges including coups, conflict and climate change, the AU wrapped up the two day long summit passing viable decisions.

The AU said it was maintaining its suspension of four countries – Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and Sudan - which have been ruled by military leaders following coups.

The assembly reaffirmed zero tolerance against coups said the Chairman of AUC, Moussa Faki Mahamat, adding "The unconstitutional changes of governments is not acceptable and we need to find means to discourage that. So we are mindful and lay sanctions. We understand that economic sanctions affect social fiber of these countries. That is why we put targeted sanctions. Thus, the population does not suffer."

The Commission is ready to support these member states to return to constitutional order, the idea is that democracy must take root and must be promoted and protected.

"It is necessary to re-emphasize that the AU remains intolerant to any undemocratic means to political power."

Comoros President and the new chairman of AU Azali Assoumani said, "People should not be penalized twice when we put the sanctions," he said adding that AU peace and Security Council would deeply discuss on how we can prevent that."

Asked about what decision that the AU made on AfCFTA, President Azali Assoumani said the leaders had agreed to accelerate the implementation of a faltering trade deal launched in 2020.

"I shall leave no stone unturned to ensure that this becomes a reality," Assoumani underscored.

African nations currently trade only about 15 percent of their goods and services with each other. The AfCFTA aims to boost that by 60 percent by 2034 by eliminating almost all tariffs.

But implementation has fallen well short of that goal, running into hurdles including disagreements over tariff reductions and border closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

AUC Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat said the deal was strategic for the continent but warned that the infrastructure to allow for its success was still lacking, highlighting that 600 million Africans did not have access to electricity.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement will create the largest free trade area in the world, measured by the number of countries participating. The pact will connect 1.3 billion people across 55 countries with a combined GDP valued at USD 3.4 trillion.

According to Cambridge University Press, for many outsiders, the word Africa conjures up images of a continent in crisis, riddled with war and corruption, imploding from disease and starvation. Africans are regularly blamed for their plight. They are frequently viewed as being intolerant of ethnic and religious differences but accepting of corruption and dictatorship. They are often presumed to be unwilling or unable to govern themselves.

First, as colonial systems faltered,

imperial and Cold War powers vied to control the decolonization process. While imperial powers hoped to transfer the reins of government to neocolonial regimes that would continue to serve their political and economic interests, Cold War powers strove to shape a new international order that instead catered to their interests. Although independence struggles and their aftermath were dominated by local issues, Cold War intervention rendered the conflicts more lethal and the consequences longer lasting

Documents from the AU further unveil that at its 19th Ordinary Session of the policy organs of the Union that was held in Addis Ababa, in July 2012, the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI) was launched as an AU-led process for mobilizing support from within the continent for countries emerging from conflict, in line with the AU Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) adopted in 2006. A Decision - Assembly/AU/Dec.425 (XIX) - on the African Solidarity Initiative, was adopted, requesting the Commission, in close collaboration with the countries concerned and all other Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and other relevant African institutions, to roll-out a full implementation plan, and to mobilize in-kind, capacity building, as well as financial contributions, to support post-conflict reconstruction activities and efforts in the African countries concerned.

Objectives

- To deepen the essence of African solidarity and promote a paradigm shift which center-stages African mutual assistance as a key dimension for enhanced and effective development of the continent;
- To encourage, motivate and empower African countries to offer support to countries emerging from conflict and to other Member States in need as the process expands;
- To provide a unique opportunity for generating additional "out of the box" ideas for addressing PCRD challenges, by actively involving African countries, relevant organizations/institutions, parastatal, private sector, philanthropy organizations/foundations, academia, civil society, faith-based organizations, African experts and the Diaspora; To promote intra-African solutions to the complex challenges of post-conflict reconstruction and other compelling issues; and
- To contribute towards a renewed sense of urgency in consolidating peace where it has been achieved and preventing further relapse into conflict.

Appeal for Support

In view of the convening of the first African Solidarity Conference to mobilize further financial and in-kind contributions

for the beneficiary countries scheduled for **1 February 2014**, the Commission invited All African countries, the regional economic communities, the private sector and all those doing business in Africa, key African organizations/institutions, the academia, African celebrities, the African Diaspora, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations, women and youth organizations/networks, African philanthropists, experts and professional organizations, traditional partners, as well as south-south friends support this Initiative.

Ethiopia occupies strategic missions as a host of the African Union, becoming great power on the continent. Its counterpart, the European Union, sees Ethiopia as a major ally in its attempt to keep African migrants from fleeing to Europe.

Several AU executive bodies, such as Pan-African Parliament, the African Peer Review Mechanism and the New Partnership for Africa's Development secretariat, are based in South Africa; while the African Court on Human and People's Rights based in Gambia; and the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism based on Algiers, Ethiopia arguably maintain headquarter of the organization in Addis Ababa.

Apart from historical birthplace of OAU, Ethiopia also plays frontal role in military policy in the Horn of Africa and as a host to almost 850,000 refugees, mostly from South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan and Eritrea. Ethiopia is also one of the largest contributors to UN and AU peacekeeping missions around the world, notably in Abyei (bordering Sudan and South Sudan), Darfur, South Sudan and Eritrea.

Ethiopia's policies in the Horn of Africa and to the matter in Africa do not constitute the policy of the AU as well as the AU does not readily aggregate the preference of each member states. Therefore, every AU norms, institution and overlaps as consensus stated in the AU Constitution Act and its various decision and policy making, and implementation organs. As such, the AU offers for member states like Ethiopia to influence and impact on policy internally and regionally.

The special responsibility of the organization worded in FANSPS, which states that "Ethiopia all along steadfastly championed the cause of Africa and Africans dating back to a time when it stood virtually alone." Accordingly, the Ethiopian government sometimes failed to support the Union and lacks self-comprehensive policy toward the AU that clearly articulates the national and regional interests in the AU. Despite failure of these criteria, Ethiopia's commitment, overall direction and contribution have been that of continuity and consistency.

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

Editorial

opinion

Adwa: Bedrock for Pan-Africanism

The mammoth barefoot operation bedecked with untold victory, which had prevailed over colonial oppression, was inscribed in 1896, and is always remembered by African posterity. Following Adwa victory, the continent once labeled as adarkone has now been expediting what it really possesses. The continent has also reached at the age of talking about means of unity, cooperation, fraternity and integration—Pan Africanism—coming out of the narrow zone it had been made to confine as part of the venture of scrambling.

Hadn't it been the sacrifice Ethiopians forefathers and foremothers paid for liberty and sovereignty, it would have been quite difficult to talk about working together, continental integration, economic and political sovereignty under umbrella of such a momentous and contemporary African project. It is really time for Pan Africanism as the continent is determined enough more than ever before to be victorious over some colonial powers' interference and oppression peculiarly since the advent of the Adwa victory. Hence, thinking of Pan-Africanism without acknowledging the bounties of Adwa is reasonably impossible.

Yes, Adwa and this contemporary continental project are two sides of the same coin as thinking of the latter without the former has remained a puzzle. The basis of all the inviting paths on which Africa has now been trekking is Adwa and Adwa itself. Honestly speaking, the unthinkable was made possible then! Not only is the victory of Adwa a pride of Ethiopians and Africans but it is also of all the blacks across the globe. Since many African states were excellently inspired by the victory Ethiopians recorded at that time, they started using the tricolors reshuffling into respective positions they would love to entertain.

There is no more concrete manifestation than this one for Adwa to be regarded as an emblem of sovereignty and freedom of all African countries. Adwa had got the roots of colonial supremacy dried for good, and well exhilarated all Africans to organize themselves under the feasible continental project targeting at declaring African emancipation from colonial yoke tearing the social, economic, cultural and political traps calculatingly knotted.

Time of colonialism is excellently replaced by time of Pan-Africanism. Thanks to the pride of the black, emblem of independence and icon of liberty—Adwa—in which Ethiopians dominated those who were equipped with modern artillery on barefoot-oriented skirmish. Such a momentous step has paved a rosy avenue for all Africans to talk about the scheme/project leading them to economic, social as well as political freeing.

In general, whenever we talk about this contemporary concrete project, Pan-Africanism, a viable way towards change and self-sufficiency, the legacy Adwa victory has come at the forefront. If Adwa victory, historical as well as historic step in the history of the continent, had not been made real, almost all African countries had been forced to haul the yoke of oppression.

The inestimable legacy cascaded from Adwa victory has always been remembered in the minds of the posterity as it has provided them with unforgettable reminiscence, freedom and perseverance. All African countries are expected to move in unison to reap the fruits of Pan-Africanism sown on the fertile soil of Adwa victory. They have to have their own media to transfigure the distorted idea thrown against them, too, apart from working hand and glove to declare economic, social and political deliverance.

Streamlining diplomacy to ensure economic development

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia is working strenuously to uphold its economic growth through collaboration with friendly countries. Strengthening the economic diplomacy is helpful in boosting the country's trade links so as to enhance its import, export, investment opportunities.

As clearly observed, Ethiopia is facing the brunt of some factors that pose threat on the economic development and progress. Among such factors is the outbreak of the global pandemic, COVID 19, climate change, among others. Furthermore, the country has also faced turmoil within that was severe hunches to the remarkable economic progress that it scored.

Currently the vestiges of these impacts are showing up in the forms of inflation, price hike ...etc. Yet it has confronted all these challenges to cope with their impacts and ensure development of its economy. Without being distracted with this pressure, the country is working to boost its economic activities.

For instance maximizing its export to secure more foreign currency and sooth inflation, is underway. Furthermore, it is working relentlessly to attract more foreign direct investment that can contribute in addressing shortage of foreign currency, create jobs and raise its export capacity.

In order to make these endeavors successful, it is important to explore opportunities like export destination, knowledge and technology transfer as well as attracting investment. For this end the government is streamlining its economic diplomacy works with many countries.

In the recent past Ethiopia has started implementing a homegrown economic development program that aims to boost the rapid development of its economy there by responding to the growing needs of the population.

In order to realize this, it is a must for the government to apply development activities that make use of the local resources of the country as well as that open opportunities for its large number of working population.

Along with this it is important to work on forming important economic cooperation, market linkage activities with other countries so as to ensure reliable revenue as well as supply of knowledge as well as inputs for the industries.

For this end the government has been undertaking important economic diplomacy works so far that are bearing result. Among the recent achievement to

its economic relations with other countries is the opportunity obtained from China to export about 1600 types of products with zero tariff.

This is a good chance for the small scale enterprises or the large scale manufacturers and producers of the diverse agricultural items to benefit from Chinese rich market potential.

Furthermore the deal between Ethiopia and China has continued to further scale up the economic development activities. Accordingly Ethiopia's minister of Finance Ahmed Shide has met his Chinese counterpart Liu Kun in Beijing and discussed issues related to emulating Chinese model of development especially in terms of lifting such large number of people from the quagmire of poverty. Indeed this experience of china is worthwhile for a country like Ethiopia that has over 100 million population majority of which is still contending poverty.

Russia is also another important partner of Ethiopia economically and politically. According to Evgeny Terrekhin, Ambassador of Russia to Ethiopia, high level leaders of the two countries have continued their high level dialogues to further enhance the strong relation between the two countries that scored a century and a quarter.

In connection with the celebration of the anniversary, Ambassador Terrekhin said the two countries are boosting their collaboration in terms of industry, agriculture, and energy.

Ethiopia and Morocco have also maintained strong bilateral relations for decades. Ethiopian Ambassador to Morocco Isayas Gota told ENA that "the relationship between the two countries is shifting from political relations to economic partnership in several areas of investment and social relations"

In addition to the important import-export trade partnership between Morocco and Ethiopia, Morocco is also providing support to the South-South Partnership in many ways, he noted. Hence, building up the economic collaboration with Morocco will garner Ethiopia all rounded benefits to its rapid development through creating linkages in tourism sector, rich market destination for its export items as well as attracting investment.

Similar endeavor should be upheld with as many countries as possible to further speed up the country's investment, export activities to recover from the impacts of the challenges so far, as well as ensure sustainability of the development.



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Business & Economy

'Made in Ethiopia': Supreme avenue to radical change

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Many countries of the world have reached their destination—fully independent, self-sufficient and beyond as well as eternal sovereign—via bringing about real institutional as well as attitudinal change among fellow citizens.

China, Japan, Korea and some others can be the level where they are now by being proud of what their respective companies and industries produce and using their own products. Change and progress could never be garnered out of the blue as it highly requires determination and firm commitment to build a nation by developing sense of belongingness, nurturing a work loving spirits and buttressing the culture of using locally produced goods and services.

Yes, using what Ethiopia does have is one of the most avenues to push the country to the next level of success. As the country has commenced exporting wheat, it must also raise awareness of its citizens to widely use what is branded 'Made in Ethiopia.'

"We are visionary ones, confidently speak about what we have aspired and virtually translate the promise we made into practical actions, and this is the manifestation of being people of our words," is what Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) elucidated recently when he officially commenced wheat export at Bale Zone of Oromia State.

This initiative is going to be well expanded and practically done through an independent emblem to support others in need. This bold move would also help the country transform itself from being aid recipient to the state of wheat export. What a marvelous step it is!

The Premier once stated that not only is Ethiopia determined to stop importing wheat by declaring self-sufficiency in wheat production but it has also developed strong commitment to export the product with a view to securing great deal of foreign currency. What he pledged earlier has now been made real, and the agriculture sector has helped the nation reap remarkable achievements.

Yes, self-sufficiency is on the pipeline and the journey it has started roaming in Africa will be expanded to other continents of the planet. The initiative commenced using wheat will be triplicated to other crops of the country after quenching local consumption, of course.

Not only does wheat export beginning help Ethiopia meet food security but it is also a means to well foster trade integration of the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia has pioneered the export, and the best practices learnt from such a promising step would be lengthened to other counties of the continent in the years to come thereby pushing Africa to the level of standing on its own two feet. Thanks to the firm commitment of the incumbent, Ethiopia continues making history. The agriculture sector has started bearing scrumptious fruits. Yes, history is being made, and notable changes have been recorded in the country.

The noteworthy export move has portrayed country's confidence to attach due emphasis



to the agriculture sector. No matter how trying circumstances have so far been, and no matter what propaganda has been wheezed against the country, Ethiopia has been trekking on the right track to declare food self-sufficiency thereby successfully defeating poverty.

Despite the misinformation and disinformation disseminated to blackmail Ethiopia's image so far, the real picture of the country has now been vividly revealed. The beginning of wheat export is a clear manifestation of its due attention to the agriculture sector and factual determination to come out of the coil of poverty its finds itself in.

The bold move Ethiopia has now employing has to be triplicated on other sectors and products too. This initiation would be of paramount importance in reinvigorating Horn trade integration, consolidating firm ties between/among neighboring countries to help assist one another, among others.

The concept of 'the greater the emphasis given to the sector the higher benefits it gives in return' into account, the government has been stimulating economic growth through applying a range of agricultural practices such as irrigation. Facilitating market access to products, potential productivity gains through increased import substitution and export promotion is also being well underway.

As learnt from Prime Minister Abiy, all efforts to tarnish Ethiopia's image have been disproved as the nation has seized unwavering avenue for growth and prosperity. As Ethiopia has always been a pioneer and east African icon for a number of issues, other countries of the continent had better follow its footstep and further solidify their relations with the former to grow together.

Needless to state, Ethiopia's wheat export entails two fundamental essences: it portrays Ethiopia's capacity to do anything it would love if synergy has been capitalized on and the country would be transformed into an affluent one from aid dependent syndrome. The world which has labeled Ethiopia as a poor nation all the time dependent on aid would absolutely change their mind and give



it the value the country deserves with all due respect.

The second cardinal strategy that has to be well hammered and intensified is utilizing the products of Ethiopia's industrial parks and other relevant local companies, industries and factories. The mien 'Made in Ethiopia' needs to be equated to what other developed countries have possessed as an emblem such as 'Made in USA,' 'Made in Japan' etc.

The Ethiopian Herald had a stay with Mohammed Sultan, a business consultant working in a private firm graduated from Civil Service University in business management. He said, "Since Ethiopia has a number of industrial parks which are producing tremendous quality items, goods as well as service keeping the required standard, we all have to use local products. Setting our blind judgment and mere assumption without practically testing things aside, citizens must closely taste the aroma of being proud of own asset and invaluable national possessions."

As to Mohammed, many countries of the world for example Denmark, Japan, USA, China and the likes have brought about change they have long aspired through using the products of their own factories, industries and manufacturing plants.

He further stated that as attitudinal change matters the most and opens all doors to come up with the transformation Ethiopia has long been dreaming, a lot has to be done in raising public awareness about the irreplaceable significance of utilizing products and services available at home.

Citizens at all walks of life have to be well

informed about using what is produced in Ethiopia. The wrongly entrenched culture almost all Ethiopians have developed, buying a highly costly goods and commodities is having quality items and entertaining foreign articles is equivalent with possessing strong, durable and quality things, has to be dramatically altered and citizens have to start utilizing locally produced goods, items, particles and even services.

He said, "Who said all imported goods and items are all the time quality ones. If we start using locally produced items, goods and services, we would incredibly shift our attitude. However, we have not had so far the culture of using local products. This fashion has to be well reformed. As to me 'Made in Ethiopia,' is really viable means to bring about real social, economic and even political transformation. Surprisingly, there are local products which are much stronger and quality than imported items."

He further said that the country has now seized the right direction, and this move needs to be well reinvigorated and practically exercised. The combination of Ethio-Aid and Made in Ethiopia utilization helps the country lay itself on an unwavering basis.

The culture of utilizing nation-born products and commenting on their level and quality, if there are flaws, has to be consolidated and well exercised at national level as this approach would unequivocally help the nation bring about real change in all aspects. Since dramatic transformation is knocking Ethiopia's door, citizens of all walks of live have to nurture it well through working hard and using locally generated products!

In the Sphere of Diplomacy



By staging successful AU summit, Ethiopia sets the tone for the continent, proves naysayers wrong

BY EYUEL KIFLU

After two years of tumultuous years accompanied by barrages of defamatory yet false information in relation to the conflict in northern part of Ethiopia, the country peacefully and successfully hosted the 36th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Heads of State and 42nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council. In sharp contradiction to the disinformation campaign that tarnished the reputation of the country, Addis Ababa staged Africa's high-profile and biggest summit with a long list of guests in attendance.

The security and safety joint task force of Ethiopia announced on its social media page that the session was completed without any security glitches. The joint task force collaborated with Ethiopian Airlines and African Union administrative leaders to keep the delegates safe, and it also worked with the Foreign Ministry of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia hosted this grand gathering successfully according warm receptions and Ethiopia's peculiar hospitality culture to the guests. At least, this was what the words participants revealed.

Above all, the country also sent a clear message to the world that it still remains Africa's undisputed and preferable political, economic and diplomatic hub and powerhouse.

The summit was attended by the AU head of member states, UN Secretary-General, different delegates from US, EU, UAE and other countries. Also in attendance were representatives from international and multilateral organizations.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, over 1000 journalists including over 300 local journalists took part in the mammoth meeting.

Strong cooperation among service providers like transportation, hotels, security and others was ascribable to the success. The summit has had far reaching impact in the country in

terms of turbocharging the economic, tourism activities of the country. The summit was in fact watershed movement for the country with the Pretoria Peace deal, green legacy initiative and other ambitions of the country reverberated in the gathering.

In a press briefing issued lately, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) disclosed that the summit was about the transition of Ethiopia from war diplomacy to peace building diplomacy. More of the last two years of diplomacy movement was about keeping the sovereignty of the country and standing for the truth. Also, in this summit, 20 heads of state, and representatives of international organizations held discussions with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on ways of cementing bilateral relations. Similarly, Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonen conferred with representatives from over 20 countries and international organizations in different areas of cooperation.

The summit was an opportunity to identify the country's current peace and development situation, the ministry noted.

Ethiopia was praised for its contribution to Africa with the Pretoria peace agreement and the country reaffirmed that the implementation of the peace deal is going smoothly in line with the Nairobi declaration.

The current country's peace situation brings different national development and improves its acceptance in the international diplomatic sphere.

Also, the Ethiopian government efforts to end the two year conflict have received recognition from the administrators of the AU and all AU member states. International organizations also pledged financial support to the country's development.

Most importantly, the country seized the summit as opportunity to push for pan Africanist agendas that were also echoed by the heads of states of African nations and UN officials. Africa's quest for a permanent seat in the United Nations and the issue of establishing continental media and compensating for climate change impacts

were among the top topics in which Ethiopia pushed for. These issues were well received by other African leaders and UN representatives.

Addressing the AU Summit lately, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said that Africa's voice on the world stage needs to be heard loud and clear. Africa must also be represented on important international bodies.

Today, more than seven decades after the creation of the United Nations, Africa remains a junior partner without meaningful input or role in the system of international governance. This is particularly true of the United Nations where Africa lacks representation on the Security Council and is underrepresented in a variety of ways.

It is the right time to reform and revitalize the United Nations system to reflect current global realities and ensure that it is a more representative and equitable body. Only fair representation and transparency in those institutions can usher in a just era of multilateralism.

"Consistent with our Ezulwini Consensus of 2005, we should collectively insist that Africa's reasonable request for no less than two permanent seats and five non-permanent seats in the UN Security Council be adopted."

Equally important is Africa's media representation on the international stage. Africa is often portrayed in the international media negatively. The endless representation as a continent troubled by civil wars, hunger, corruption, greed, disease and poverty is demeaning and dehumanizing and likely driven by a calculated strategy and agenda.

The stereotypical and negative media representations of Africa not only misinform the rest of the world about our continent, but it also shapes the way we see ourselves as Africans.

Telling our own stories and shaping our own narratives must be our top priority. "In this regard, I would like to propose to this august body the establishment of an African Union Continental Media House."

In this summit, AU passed a strong decision

on the challenges of coups, conflict and climate change in the two-day-long summit. Speaking at the event, Moussa Faki Mahamat, AU Commission Chairperson, said that the unconstitutional change of government is not acceptable, and we need to find means to discourage that.

"So we are mindful and lay sanctions. We understand that economic sanctions affect the social cohesion of these countries. Thus, the population does not suffer, said and brief the importance of the sanction in the coup-oriented military leadership such as Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and Sudan. The commission has expressed its readiness for those countries to return to constitutionalism and democratic elections."

Moreover, International Metrology Sub continental Meeting, Africa CDC Ministerial Executive Leadership Program and other meetings were held in the country on the side-line of the AU Summit.

To make a strong decision, AU must generate its own income rather than depend on any donors. This helps implement AU's decision without any other actors interfering. To fully implement that AU sanction on the countries with coup-oriented military leadership, needed the union's commitment and financial independence, pan-Africanist Kalleab Belachew told *The Ethiopian Herald*.

Inter-country free movement is important to the continent's development, so the creation of an African Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) plays an indispensable role in the continent's development. When this agreement is fully implemented it expected the African inter-trade exchange from 15 to 60 percent in 2034. Speaking at the event, the Comoros president and AU chairperson, Azali Assoumani, the leaders had agreed to accelerate the implementation of a faltering trade deal launched in 2020.

The AfCFTA agreement is expected to create the largest free trade area in the world, measured by the number of countries participating. So, 40 countries have signed the agreement and eight have implemented it.

Law & Politics

Scaling up AU's engagement in multilateral frontiers

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The African Union has been making every possible effort to fast-track multilateral and bilateral relations with the international community in different frontiers. Aside from that the continental bloc has been striving to resolve various predicaments surfacing in Africa.

By setting various short-term and long-term goals, AU has been engaged in different activities to address challenges facing the continent particularly in terms of peace and stability.

Fast-tracking a vast number of development activities in the length and breadth of the continent of Africa demands high attention and priority from the Union too.

Africans have indeed been attaching importance to changing the bad image of the continent of Africa which is deliberately related with conflict, civil war, backwardness, poverty, corruption, greed and more of the same.

Due to colonization and other factors, Africa has been dubbed the Dark Continent which is behind the times closing their eyes to the existing circumstances on the ground.

Dejectedly, the image of Africa which is swamped with quite a lot of natural resources that can transform the entire world in the shortest possible time has been portrayed negatively in the global arena.

It is a shame that the continent which is the engine of development has continued to be described negatively on the world stage despite the continent has been showing several improvements in several world stages.

In actual fact, the people of Africa have been attaching significance to getting to the bottom of political and economic quandaries, and future opportunities of the continent of Africa putting into effect several strategies at different points in time.

Other than that the continent has been attaching importance to taking the continent's economy to the next level of accomplishment putting into effect quite a lot of effective strategies.

In good truth, for the love of creating a brighter tomorrow and overcoming stockpiles of quandaries shackling the hands and feet of the continent, Africans should see inward to see outward.

It is common knowledge that some nations' development in most parts of the world is the outcome of the rich resources of the continent of Africa. Beyond a shadow of a doubt in the absence of African resources, pursuing their objectives will be easier said than done and a wild goose chase.

As some nations know the fact that if the continent of Africa attaches value to moving the country to the next level of accomplishment by utilizing its own resources, their future will be under a big question mark, they have been directly and indirectly creating chaos. Other than that by



meddling in what does not concern them, they have been pulling out all the stops to twist Africa's arm and encroach on its sovereignty and territorial integrity over and over again.

Notwithstanding the fact that, the continent of Africa has been marred by centuries of hunger, coercion, corruption, colonialism and other related aspects, it has been in the present climate renewing its names giving the cold shoulder to false narratives and working by the sweat of its brows.

In a similar vein, whenever something in the continent of Africa happens, member states have set in motion to react without delay and get to the bottom of the predicaments almost immediately. It is public knowledge that predicaments unfolding in the length and breadth of the continent of Africa from economy to politics have been orchestrated by some nations going behind closed curtains.

Until today, the deliberate mischaracterization of the continent of Africa and besmirching of its positive images has negatively impacted Africa's development undertakings. Given the current circumstances, matters of robust collaboration among African nations in terms of ensuring peace and tranquility and other vital issues have been moving in the right direction.

The African Union (AU) has proven to be an effective mechanism of multilateral political, economic and humanitarian cooperation, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

In his message sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*, President Putin stressed that African states have always been and remain important and reliable partners for Russia.

"We are united by the aspiration to build a just multipolar world order based on genuine equality and rule of international law, free from any forms of discrimination, coercive dictatorship and sanction pressure."

Africa plays an important role in managing conflicts and enhancing good-neighborliness in the continent, he noted. It was learnt that the first-ever 2019 Russia-Africa Summit created favorable conditions for the invigoration of the two sides' traditionally friendly ties on the bilateral as well as multilateral levels.

"I am positive that the second summit to be held in such format in St. Petersburg this July will allow setting new tasks of enhanced interaction between the Russian Federation and African partners on most various tracks, including in addressing acute regional and international agenda items." Putin added: "I look forward to seeing you in St. Petersburg, hoping for further joint constructive work for the benefit of our countries and people in the interests of safe and peaceful development of the African continent."

Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Moussa Faki Mahamat stressed the need for Africa to strengthen its multilateral relationship with the international community to make the continent's voice heard by focusing on a partnership with the world in accordance with the specific needs of Africans.

During the opening ceremony of the 36th AU summit, the Chairperson of the AU Commission explained the challenges that Africa is facing including the economic crisis, citing the high inflation.

According to him, economic crises are on the rise and not enough infrastructures have been built as expected across the continent.

Political stability, state fragility, violent extremism and unconstitutional change of governments in member countries are still challenges facing the continent, he pointed out.

The AU has taken action against these unconstitutional changes of governments even though these punitive efforts have not brought the expected fruits, he said urging

the AU Security Council to do more in the fight against these continental threats.

"Despite all these challenges, thanks to the determination, unity and tireless efforts of member states, the continent has been able to overcome all these problems and register more growth." Musa said.

It takes a lot of work in the fight against terrorism since countries are fighting alone; AUC chairperson added, stressing the importance of strengthening multilateral African relationship with the international community to make the African voice heard.

He further indicated that, Africans must contribute their part in the national reconstruction of countries destroyed by wars and natural disasters.

The AU has invested its efforts fully in resolving disagreements across the continent, citing the peace agreement between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF under the auspices of the AU.

He thanked Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for his determination in concluding this historic agreement.

The chairperson reiterated that more efforts are needed to break out of the vicious circle by achieving integration among AU members in order to make the continent strong and prosperous.

"We must strengthen the implementation of the African passport, the free movement of citizens from member states to other member countries of the AU," AUC chairperson underlined.

He underlined the need to give utmost priority to strengthen trade protection with a view to strengthening the ongoing efforts to realizing economic integration the continent. The Chairperson has also called on member states to exert efforts to expedite the development activities in the areas of infrastructure, energy and digitalization as they are prerequisites to realizing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Society

Ethiopia, Argentina, fraternal countries with common goal

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

The 42nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (Ministerial Session) and the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union which was carried out from February 15-19, 2023 concluded successfully.

Beside African leaders, representatives of other countries also took part at the Summit. Amb. Guillermo Carmona, Argentina's Secretary for Malvinas, Antarctica and South Atlantic, was among the participants; and he had a short stay with *The Ethiopian Herald*.

Amb. Carmona stated that the relations of Argentina with Ethiopia and other African countries remain strong, as demonstrated in various ways. One of the areas of strong cooperation between Ethiopia and Argentina is agriculture. Argentina, which is renowned as one of the top world producers of soya and other cereals, is keen to share its experience and best agricultural practices with Ethiopia and other African countries.

Sovereignty is the core value of Ethiopia. Ethiopians, at different times and situations, fought heroically and sacrifice their blood and priceless life including in times of the Battle of Adwa, as well as on several other occasions when Ethiopian sovereignty was threatened.

In this regard, Argentina shares Ethiopia's



Amb. Guillermo Carmona

commitment for sovereignty. As a country once subject to colonization, Argentina knows the value of independence and the sacrifice paid for the sake of freedom and sovereignty," he noted.

In this sense, Ethiopia is a model country of independence for African countries and the rest of the world. It is unique country and will always be remembered in the history of humankind for its successful rejection of colonialism in all its forms. The strong Ethiopian sentiment to preserve its sovereignty was manifested in various ways; and continues to inspire the whole world.

As explained by Ambassador Guillermo,

the strong historical relationship between Africa and Latin America is also reflected by the Pan-Africanism and Pan-Americanism movements. "I believe that the integration of African countries is a model for other regions. This is especially true for Latin American countries. The strong ties between Africa and Latin America are evident in many aspects."

Asked about his expectations from the 36th African Union Summit, Ambassador Carmona noted that, besides focusing on African issues, the Summit also plays a very important role for other countries. In this regard, the Summit was a good opportunity for Argentina to discuss important issues with African brothers.

Regarding Ethiopia's current economic progress and political transition, Amb. Carmona praised the effort of the Ethiopian Government to avoid conflict and bring sustainable peace as a living example of a nation that has promised itself to avoid all forms of conflict and work for the good of its citizens. In this regard, Argentina appreciates all the efforts made by the Ethiopian Government to bring a lasting peace.

Seconding this view, Argentine Amb. to Ethiopia Gustavo Teodoro Grippo said that, the existing economic transformation of the nation is worth appreciating. Despite all the challenges Ethiopia has been through, there was no time the country failed to advance forward. All the political and economic

reforms it made have enabled the country to make visible economic and political changes.

As Ambassador of Argentina to Ethiopia for the last ten years, Grippo has witnessed the economic and political progress of the country, which is the result of both the commitment of the country's leadership and public mobilization to make Ethiopia great. This is an incredible change. In this regard, Argentina has a keen interest in supporting Ethiopia's effort towards economic progress.

Ambassador Grippo also noted that, the commercial relationship between the two countries remains strong. For instance, as a land where one of the best coffees is produced, Ethiopia exports coffee and gold to Argentina which, in turn, Argentina exports maize, rice and pharmaceutical inputs to Ethiopia. As part of the South-South Cooperation initiative, Argentina supports the Ethiopian agricultural sector in various ways.

The Argentina Ambassador highlighted that since Ethiopian Airlines launched its flights to Argentina in 2018, the commercial relationship of the two countries was given a new boost. Ethiopian Airlines—pride of Africa—is promoting Ethiopia all over the world, placing itself as a model for other countries. In this regard, Ambassador Grippo praised the good management of the airline, which is deserving of the highest respect.



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Ministry's commitment in ending gender base violence

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Gender based violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) in and around schools, referred to as school related gender-based violence (SRGBV), adversely affects girls' and boys' enrolment, attendance, retention, and their learning outcomes. National and local educational policies promote girls and other at-risk group's safe access to educational opportunities. This allows pregnant girls to continue their education until they get their babies. Those who birth their babies during exams, have the right to take the exam at their home. But there are different reasons such as early marriage, poverty, lack of social support, socio-economic inequality and child labor which are the main cultural and social constraints that girls face and might limit their education attainment.

The overall Growth Enrollment Ratio (GER) in Refugee primary education is 69.6 percent. Nevertheless, the regional variation in GER is large: while Assosa and Jigjiga camps have the highest GER reported above hundreds of 131.5 percent and 106.0 percent respectively, Samara is very much left behind with a GER of 13.5 percent.

Camps like Gambella, Shire and Dollo Ado enroll a large share of their school-age population, more than 50 percent (Refugee Gross Enrollment Ratio in Primary school).

Girls in particular are vulnerable to sexual harassment, rape, physical abuse due to

discrimination, child marriage, and exploitation from teachers, staff, peers, and out of school community on their way to and from school. Code of Conduct (CoC) that stipulate the expected behavior and explicitly state to take measure on individual and groups the accountability of to prevent any violation related gender based at a national phenomenon in Ethiopia. Early marriage, internal conflicts, distance to schools, work burden on girls and limited facilities that female students experience may increase their vulnerability to violence.

The Ministry of Education liaises with other school-based compliant investigation, decision recommendation (committees, gender, clubs, departments, units etc) and none school-based sectors (health, justice, social protection, etc) to prevent and create referral pathways on GBV/SEA against girls and boys including child marriage very serious concerns in the schools and around the schools.

Therefore, MoE has accomplished different activities such as conducted Training of trainers (TOT) on gender mainstreaming, School Related Gender -Based Violence (SRGBV), Gender Responsive pedagogy, gender stereotype, sexual harassment for gender club coordinators, school principals, gender experts, teacher association representatives and students representatives including respecting the existing CoC regulation for zero tolerance to GBV/SEA by mobilizing stakeholders, development partners, local NGOs and local community to overcome the

problems.

Ministry of Education with the support of UNICEF has developed a draft GBV directive that includes CoC in 2014 to address SRGBV in primary and secondary schools. The directive will be finalized and rolled out across all schools in Ethiopia.

Schools have been reporting and addressing forms of violence experienced by students in schools and sometimes, outside school, such as sexual or extreme physical violence at home or in the community.

A GBV CoC is under preparation that will be signed by all teachers and other project staffs including the construction workers prior to commencement of their jobs. The code of conduct will be rolled out to all project targeted schools before the implementation of the project activities.

According to WB SEA/SH Good Practice Note, GBV is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed gender differences. GBV includes acts that inflict physical, mental, sexual harm or suffering; threats of such acts; and coercion and other deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. GBV disproportionately affects women and girls across their lifespan and takes many forms, including sexual, physical and psychological abuse. It occurs at home, on the streets, in schools, workplaces, farm fields, and refugee camps,

during times of peace as well as in conflicts and crises.

The term GBV stems from the 1993 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, which defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women." Discrimination on the basis of sex or gender identity is not only a cause of many forms of GBV, but also contributes to the widespread acceptance and invisibility of such violence—so that perpetrators are not held accountable, and survivors are discouraged from speaking out and accessing support.

The United Nations defines "sexual exploitation" as any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. Sexual abuse on the other hand is "the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions." SEA is therefore a form of gender-based violence and generally refers to acts perpetrated against beneficiaries of a project by staff, contractors, consultants, workers and partners. SEA occurs against a beneficiary or member of the community. Sexual harassment occurs between personnel/staff and involves any unwelcome sexual advance or unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Planet Earth

Green Legacy Initiative: key to meeting int'l commitments, Agenda 2063

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Ethiopia is vulnerable to climate change. Hence, the successive government of the country has been implementing several initiatives to fight the negative impact of climate change. Among others, the Green Legacy Initiative, by far the most significant and timely initiative, has been worth mentioning.

The Green Legacy Initiative, taking the goal of building a green and climate-resilient Ethiopia into account, was launched in 2019. The Initiative supports the country's efforts to reduce its vulnerability. It has been implemented with the aim of improving forest conservation, reforestation, and restoration of degraded land and soil as well as the promotion of sustainable management of forests.

The initiative, which has been implemented from 2019 to 2022, has a target of planting 20 billion tree seedlings. However, in 2022, Ethiopia has accomplished planting 25 billion seedlings by mobilizing more than 20 million citizens throughout the country. The country has also prepared over 120,000 nurseries for the green legacy initiative across the country that enables the creation of above 767,000 jobs, mostly for women and youth.

Consequently, the Initiative clearly indicates Ethiopia's long-term commitment to giving critical responses to the negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation such as agroforestry, forest sector development,

greening and renewal of urban areas, and integrated water and soil resources management.

Hence, the Initiative is an important move to achieve national, regional, continental, and global environmental goals and agendas. More specifically, the initiative could contribute to the food security of the country. In 2022 alone, over 500 million tree seedlings such as avocados, mangoes, apples, papayas, and so on tree seedlings were planted. These seedlings are important since they have premium local and international market values. Apart from becoming food self-sufficient, the initiative, in this case, would help to promote sustainable agriculture as envisaged in the Sustainable Development Goal of the UN.

According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development, Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative is directly linked to Goal 13 of the SDGs. This initiative shows Ethiopia's efforts to reduce its vulnerability. Additionally, it supports the efforts of forest conservation, reforestation, and restoration of degraded land and soil as well as the promotion of sustainable management of forests. Ethiopia's forest coverage has been declining for decades at an alarming rate. Between 2000 to 2013, the net loss of forest cover was 72,000 hectares a year which is equivalent to 100,840 football fields. The initiative intends to reverse this as this is unsustainable in a country where 85 percent of the population depends on rain-fed agriculture.

The enormity of the interlinkages will

significantly contribute to Ethiopia's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and agenda 2063. Cognizant of these facts, the green legacy initiative and other environmental activities of Ethiopia have been appreciated by African Union (AU).

African Union Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment Commission Commissioner Ambassador Josefa Leonel Sacko said that Ethiopia is doing well in environmental protection and minimizing desertification through its Green Legacy initiative by planting billions of tree seedlings across the country.

"I commend the government of Ethiopia that is doing so well in planting trees because it is very important. By planting trees, we can minimize the desertification and we can also stimulate the rain and mitigate the effect of climate change and drought on the continent," she applauded.

Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority Multilateral Environmental Agreements Director Mensur Dessie stated that despite its insignificant contribution to global warming, Ethiopia is strongly affected by the consequences of climate change that affect its environment, agriculture, water, food, and energy production.

Hence, the government is keen to work with partners and all stakeholders interested in cooperating with Ethiopia's green legacy initiative. Currently, Ethiopia is accorded tree seedlings for neighboring countries to fight the impact of climate change through cooperation.

Thus, this cooperation will continue, he added.

Ethiopian Forest Development Director Bitew Shewabaw noted that Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative is exemplary for other African countries and become a foundation for development.

Ethiopia has planted about 25 billion seedlings with the participation of 20 million citizens during the past four years. The green legacy initiative works of the past four years have been successful and are changing the image of Ethiopia for good. It has been also playing a huge role in preventing climate change and creating job opportunities, he explained.

The director recalled that Ethiopia has in the past years given seedlings to neighboring countries with mutual development thinking. This has its own contribution to regional cooperation, development, growing together, and creating a common platform.

In general, the green legacy initiative is very significant for Ethiopia's efforts to achieve its international commitments such as the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. The initiative was also taken by African Union (AU) as a good move to reduce the negative impact of climate change and environmental protection and conservation. Therefore, the Commissioner urged African countries to follow Ethiopia's green Legacy initiative is key to bringing the intended results regarding climate change and its impacts.



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Bole Lemi Industrial Park: Center for job opportunity, excellence

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

As magnets of investment and the nation's source of foreign currency and income, Bole Lemi Industrial Park is one of the 13 industrial parks developed by the government. In our previous publication, we presented the park's contribution to the nation's economic and social development. It was also discussed the part played by the park in attracting foreign direct investment to boost foreign currency income.

In this edition, we are going to present our discussion with the Park's Manager Tinsae Yimam about the park's involvement in relation to job creation, import substitution, and technology transformation activities.

Tinsae stated, "Unemployment is the core problem of the nation." One of the many reasons for establishing industrial parks is to create jobs for citizens. Even before finishing the construction of those parks, thousands of citizens have participated in the construction and got benefited and acquired experiences. Accordingly, at this time, the park has created 23,414 jobs for citizens. Of which,

18,300 of the employees are women. In this regard, the park saved women from unwanted economic dependence and other pressures.

In addition, the park has been playing an important role regarding technology transformation. When skill transformation is concerned, 20,600 workers of the park are involved in sewing jobs. Those workers have been sewing for three months. After the training, they started producing quality textile products. If the necessary materials are fulfilled and employees want to start their own business in sewing, they can live their dreams because they have obtained the necessary skill. Regarding sewing, we have created the technology transformation.

Likewise, one of the criteria of technology transformation is transforming workers to managerial positions. In this regard, 8 Ethiopians are currently working in factories as manager and deputy managers. It is the fact that the park's human resource and finance departments are modern and have international standards. There are also workers in production manager and in the above stated positions. In the park, almost all

of the supervisors are Ethiopians. Creating the experience of managing effectively and skillfully, we have achieved the skill transformation.

In technology transformation, sewage treatment technology was first introduced after the establishment of industrial parks. The park has given six-month training on sewage treatment technology for youths who started working. Accordingly, those youths have received the treatment machine and started handling it. Ethiopians are in charge when the machine needs any repair and other related things. This is an example of technology transformation.

Further, in collaboration with one of the factories in the park; work is in progress to change production shades to ground plus one building without changing the original design. The materials are input for the nation. We can produce those materials locally and use them as input for other construction sectors. This implies that the technology brings numerous advantages to the society so that the government bodies should act to expand the experience.

Especially in the past three years, the park has been striving to substitute imported items with local products. To this end, the park saved over 88.3 million USD in these three years. In the current fiscal year, the park has substituted imported items worth 32 million USD or 1.67 billion Birr with local products. To achieve this, Suflet Malt Factory took the lion share. The factory has substituted the imported malt products with local ones. Therefore, around 54 thousand small scale farmers have sold their malt harvests to the factory and become beneficiaries. In addition, BGI (BGI Health Ethiopia PLC), a Chinese company produced COVID-19 test kits to respond to the pandemic. The two aforementioned companies have played a great role in import substitution and made the nation save its foreign currency expenses.

Creating a market connection between investors who are developing the park and local service providers and producers, 951.8 million Birr worth of market linkage has been created, Tinsae disclosed.

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