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Putin hails AU's role in multilateral cooperation, alliance

• Greets AU Summit participants

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA-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 conveyed best wishes to participants of the 36th AU Summit.

He also 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

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"It's high time to African leaders to turn to food security": Hailemariam

• African Food Prize elects Jakaya Kikwete new chairperson

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA- Ensuring Africa's food security is the business of Africans and it is not something left to others, AGRA Board Chairperson Hailemariam Desalegn said, calling for the commitment of the leadership.

Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia and the Chairperson Board Chairperson of the African Green Revolution Alliance / AGRA/ Hailemariam Desalegn stated that ensuring the food safety and security of Africans should be the main concern of African leaders.

The population of Africa is estimated to be 2.4 billion by 2025 and to meet the surging demand for food the participation of the leadership and the public in integrated agriculture is crucial.

Noting Africa has enough natural and human resources to offer a wide range of market options, the chairperson emphasized

See "It's high ... Page 3

ACBF to open liaison office in Addis

• Ethiopia to dispatch emergency team to Turkiye

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) signed an agreement yesterday that enables the latter to open a liaison office here in Addis Ababa.

The agreement was signed by Ethiopia's Foreign Affairs State Minister Ambassador Misganu Arega and ACBF's Executive Secretary Mamadou Biteye.

Speaking at the occasion, the state minister stated that ACBF's decision to open a liaison office in Addis Ababa is of great significance to build the capacity of Ethiopia's institutions.

"The foundation is known for building



Photo: Eyob Teferi

the capacity of various institutions in AU member states and its coming to Ethiopia will have a paramount importance for us.

See ACBF to ... Page 3

Path to reforming AU

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

The 36th Africa Union Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government is set to take place as of today. One among the many agenda to be tabled for the leaders' discussion is the Unions institutional reform.

The institutional reform commenced on July 2016, when heads of State and government as well as Foreign Ministers of Africa met in Kigali and deliberated on the need to conduct a study on the institutional reform of the African Union.

While the progress of the reform is being discussed today by the leaders, there are reflections whether the reform would garner the desired change or not.

Organization for Africa Union (OAU) was founded in May 1963 in Addis Ababa by 32 African states. It was in principle a political organization that also discussed matters

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News



Over 850 journalists covering AU meeting

ADDIS ABABA/ENA/ - Some 852 journalists are covering the 36th AU Summit underway here in Addis Ababa, according to the Ethiopian Media Authority.

Ethiopian Media Authority Communication Affairs Director Dessie Kefale told ENA yesterday that the number of journalists who cover the AU ministerial meetings has shown over 21.1 percent growth.

Out of the 852 journalists, 450 are foreigners who came from all corners of the world to cover the 36th AU summit.

The number of foreign journalists that came to cover last year's AU summit was 330 and this has shown over 36 percent increase, the director added.

According to him, the authority has opened temporary office at the airport to assist journalists with visa and duty free import of their professional equipment.

Ethiopian Media Authority is providing a 24-hour express service for journalists to assist them import professional equipment free of charge.

The authority is also assisting them to obtain visas.

For the efficiency of the service, the authority is working in cooperation with Ethiopian Airlines, Customs Commission, Immigration and Citizenship Service, Vital Status Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the African Union.

The authority will continue to provide services at its temporary offices at Bole Airport and the African Union as well as at the main office located behind the Exhibition Center in the Flamingo area until the end of the conference.

FAO vows to boost agricultural productivity, societal livelihood in Ethiopia

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) stated that Food and Agriculture Organization of The United Nation (FAO) has pledged to work in partnership with Ethiopia towards beefing up productivity and improving community livelihood.

Briefing journalists on community support yesterday, MoA Minister Girma Amentie (PhD) said that FAO has been supporting Ethiopia in various fields since its inception.

According to the Minister, FAO has granted close to one billion Birr for preventing desert locust through providing Ethiopia with technical, logistic, spray tool, vehicles, and the likes. Besides, it has been making technical support for protecting natural

resources and ensuring food security in Ethiopia.

He further stated that Ethiopia attempts to use its full potential to produce a surplus of wheat to ensure food security and export it in the near future.

MoA has also recently discussed a range of issues with international finance for agricultural development (IFAD) in Rome, Italy.

“As Ethiopia is the priority member of IFAD from sub-Saharan countries, it has benefited out of the fund for small and medium scale agricultural irrigation development. To develop these projects, IFAD has signed a sum total of 87 million USD agreements with MoA and the finance is referred to the Ministry of Finance for approval,” he cited.

FAO Director General, Dongyu Qu (PhD) on his part said that the organization would support Ethiopia's endeavor for realizing food self-sufficiency, green legacy initiatives, and so on.

Qu further stated that commitment of the government towards wheat productivity and export commencement is appreciable and commendable. He also promised that FAO would support Ethiopia by providing special seeds that give more yields of wheat product in the future.

He said that : “China will share its best experience to Ethiopia in terms of ecotourism, natural resource protection, irrigation promotion, and the likes to bring significant change in terms of production and improving citizens' livelihoods at a sustainable manner.”

Ethiopia displaying tourist attractions at AU headquarters

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA - Ministry of Tourism (MoT) announced that it has displayed Ethiopia's tourist destinations at the African Union (AU) headquarters for the first time in connection with the 36th AU ordinary summit.

MoT Promotion and Marketing Department State Minister Selamawit Dawit told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that as the 36th Summit of the AU provides Addis Ababa with great opportunity, preparations to introduce the Ethiopia's tourism have been finalized.

“In addition, tourist packages have been prepared to facilitate the visit of tourist destinations and a tourist smart card has been prepared for shopping. This smart card is sold in USD in the airport and through the commercial bank found in the hotels. This will have great benefits in terms of simplifying transactions and facilitating visits.”

She said that by evolving a mobile application, MoT has developed a system that allows guests to visit the areas introducing places of interest for tourism on its website.

As to her, the prepared package includes a package for two days, including a half-day package, and after the meeting, guests would visit Unity Park, National Museum, Entoto Park, centers of various traditional clothes, goods at religious museums and historical tourist destinations in Addis Ababa.

It has been agreed that service providing bodies and star hotels in Addis Ababa should provide the guests with quality and leading services with reasonable prices and full of hospitality, she noted.

“The conference will raise the profile of Ethiopia and its capital. Furthermore, those traditional evening programs will be organized to promote the country's multiculturalism and values. Such summit is instrumental in creating a great economic revival at both the country and city level.” she said.



News

“It’s high time...”

the need to create organizations that can effectively use the existing capacity and manage agriculture effectively. “Africa’s capacity to meet its own food needs in the previous approach was only 13 percent.”

He added: “If we continue in the same way, it is expected that by 2025, activities to meet Africa’s food needs will not exceed 30 percent. Therefore, it is necessary to modernize procedures and strengthen scientific methods so that the continent can meet its food needs completely on its own.”

It is predicted that there will be threats to the food supply due to the current climate change in the world. In addition, over the past years, 600 million Africans have been forced to leave their homes due to war, conflict and drought, and are vulnerable to food shortages.

Increasing the supply of food was mentioned by Hailemariam as a tool to deal with the problems caused by natural and man-made problems.

For his part, the former President of Nigeria and Chairperson of African Food Prize Emeritus Olusegun Obasanjo said that African countries are expected to carry out coordinated work, supported by research and focused on agriculture, to address food



Photo Gebabo Gebre

security problems.

“Africans must work together in the agricultural sector to produce a generation that believes it is possible to grow, change and prosper. All families in African countries should start this idea from their homes and implement it.

Meanwhile, the African Food Prize elected a new chairperson, and Obasanjo handed over his duties to Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, former president of Tanzania.

The chairperson-elect vowed to strengthen efforts to transform small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises into medium and

large-scale producers.

Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg (Ph.D.), who was awarded for her agricultural research work, Eleni Gabre-Madhin Chief Innovation Officer UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, and other personalities were in attendance at the forum.

ACBF to open...

Ethiopia wants to benefit from this organization and we have many areas to cooperate closely.”

Misganu added: “I believe executing the mandate of this agency is executing the heads of state’s decision... so, the opening of the liaison office in Ethiopia will facilitate the AU and UNECA’s programs of capacity building.”

Owing to Addis Ababa being the seat of many international organizations including the AU and UNECA, this agreement is extremely important for the foundation, ACBF’s Executive Secretary Mamadou Biteye said.

“The agreement will help us to discharge our mandate with the AU and to oversee cooperation in building institutional

capacity. It will also allow us to enhance our cooperation with the Ethiopian government in human resource capacity building.”

Mentioning the foundation’s launching of a five-year strategy on building skills and human capacity frontiers, Biteye claimed that the agreement was coming at “the critical time.”

Meanwhile, Ambassador Misganu announced Ethiopia’s readiness to send emergency aid and personnel to Turkiye. The team of emergency workers is now ready to go to Turkiye to help victims of the earthquake.

It was learned that the aid and emergency team to be transported to Turkiye using Ethiopian Airlines.

Putin hails ...

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.”

The president also greeted participants of the 36th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union and wished the AU Member States a successful deliberation.

Path to reforming...

of economic and social concerns. The OAU has a vision of bringing the African countries together and resolving the issues within the continent.

The African Union (AU) was officially launched in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, following a decision in September 1999 by its predecessor, the OAU to create a new continental organization to further bolster its work. The African Union should be an organization aimed at reinvigorating economic integration and social development, which should lead to political unity.

Despite inadequate means and a difficulty, the Africa Union has accomplished a lot regarding political peace and security as well as concerning socioeconomic fronts. Even the dramatic upheavals unfolding in many states create new uncertainties about the future of multilateral cooperation, it is clear that effectively confronting issues such as climate change, violence, polarized ideologists, pandemics, mass migration and other related hurdles requires close cooperation with one another, amalgamating efforts with a view to bringing about effective regional organization.

Roma Chilengi (PhD), Advisor to the President of Zambia, said that reforms are always needed for institutions and organizations like Africa Union which has a lot of member states and established many years ago. It is important to maintain the relevance of the original ideas and their significance in the eyes of our time.

Pointing out the remarkable success the AU has so far hit, the advisor said there are some areas where the organization has shown sluggish pace. Some of the goals that were set out are still in progress to get the desired goals of Africa Union seized. The delegates and members who are attending in the meeting are expected to discuss the matter and doing their level best taking the current scenario into consideration.

In order for the Union to be effectual, unwavering commitment and funding of the member states and governments is badly required, he said adding that most importantly they must continue sharing their views and executing activities to fuel all the relevant moves of the union.

One of the delegates who wanted to remain his name anonymous said the primary

objective of the reform is to make the organization more efficient and responsive to the Africa’s needs. This does not mean that AU is not efficient but the reform helps make more efficient and adaptable to the current development scenario, he added.

Noting that the AU has hit the target of creating politically independent continent, he argues that it could hardly do the same regarding finance. In order to create economically independent continent, African countries should look inward so as to see a lot of resources at hand and integrate with people.

“The image of our continent where we are now is far from where we were in 1963. Certain things like reform are bringing the states and governments together. But one thing that I want to insist is, let us stop looking at all the negative aspects and let’s look at many positive things that we have brought. I think we have a lot of potential to the most successful region in the world despite very many negative things still in our mother continent,” he said.

Janet Byaruhanga, Senior Program Officer,

AU-NEPAD said on her part that the AU reform has its own significance in avoiding duplication of programs and making use of the minimum resources effectively and efficiently.

“We need to rationalize how to create institutions and how they are working and the mandate of this institution so as to be effective in using the resources meaningfully by giving roles and responsibilities clarity.”

“By the time when the OAU was established, its primary concern was liberating countries from colonial masters. That goal was achieved as countries have got their political independence. Once they got the independence, countries moved to the arena of development. After you are independent what comes next is maintain the peace and security. So the institution is still very much required as it is a platform for solidarity and cooperate one another in a peaceful and prosperous continent. “We cannot obtain the AU’s visions without working in our economy,” Janet noted. And plays an important role in managing conflicts and enhancing good-neighborliness in the continent.

Opinion

Integrity to ensure free mobility among African Fraternity

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Africa is walking the talk and began to see score board and manage to navigate on the clear water amid worrisome.

Ever since its inception, the African Union (AU) which formerly called Organization of African Unity (OAU), was came from the fertile mind of Ethiopian and some other leaders' of African countries integrating Africa inviting clairvoyant leaders of the time.

As time gone by the Ethiopians scored glittering victory over the Italians at the battle of Adwa which is registered to the most precarious battle in mankind like the Dein Bein Fu.

The boom after boom venture was heard every now and then during the course of the war with the European brothers "brothers" finally they revealed to be lords of poverty.

The country had been seen as a beacon of light for Africans toiling on the sea of darkness and the symbol for the black peoples' unity.

Now Africans have realized the naked truth and form cooperative agreement to stand together against threats never to see the invention of Maxim gun again.

The advantages of integrations are numerous. Wider regional markets can open up more opportunities for African producers and consumers, beyond the sometimes small markets within their own borders.

Once Algerian President, Abdelaziz Bouteflika has pointed to two particular "virtues" of regional economic integration. It can reduce the costs of developing essential infrastructure, including transport, communications, energy, water systems and scientific and technological research, which often lie beyond the means of individual countries. At the same time, integration facilitates for large-scale investment by "reinforcing the attractiveness of our economies and reducing the risks" are essential.

The momentum for integration has come not only from the top. At many levels of society, people are actively seeking to forge more ties with each other. For some, such links already exist. For many others,

they still lie in the future.

In 2000, a network of African civil society groups organized a caravan that departed from Cape Town, South Africa, and wound its way through dozens of countries across the continent.

Its express aim was to promote African Unity "from below," according to David Gakunzi, an activist from Burundi who helped organize the caravan.

More recently, since 2 June 2021 to 2022 as part of an Africa-wide arts exhibition in Dakar, Senegal, one of the artists, Mansour Ciss, set up a foreign exchange bureau.

It traded not only actual money, such as the CFA franc and euro, but also a new "virtual currency" that he designed, the "afro." A single African currency may seem a "crazy" idea at the moment.

On more solid ground

African regional integration was a dream of many of the continent's leaders, and gave impetus to the creation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963. Over the years, many other institutions were also established in Africa's different regions. But for the most part they did little to increase trade or other interactions among African countries. Many countries continued to deal most extensively with their former colonial powers.

The record of regional integration in Africa so far has been a sobering one, and many regional groupings are marked by uncoordinated initiatives, political conflicts and low levels of intra-regional trade. Analysts point out, however, that a number of the external and domestic factors that impeded African integration in the past have improved somewhat in recent years, giving grounds for cautious optimism (see "A better environment for integration?").

Africans have also learned from the failures of past initiatives. As a result, many proponents of integration now pursue a less grandiose and more practical approach. Africa must unite not simply to enhance the continent's weight in global affairs; they say, but also to meet the very real needs of its people. "I want to see intra-African integration," says Amoako, "not because we will garner some utopian share of world commerce, but first and foremost because it will improve our lives here. It will free up the time of African business people to

do business here. It will lower costs. It will make the African consumers' plight so much more hopeful. We must build for ourselves. If we do that, others will come."

Pan Africanism and mobility of the public along the continent will no longer be tentative gesture and figment of imagination. Glorious might be to see the clock back.

The African vision framed by a collective foresight of the African Union is defined by "building an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the International arena", also underpins the "free movement of persons and the African Passport" as a vehicle of transforming African Laws which are restrictive to confining borders and promoting integration of economies through free movement of persons.

The Free Movement of Persons in Africa, a flagship program of the African Union's Agenda 2063, is an aspiration for the continent or a tool for harnessing regional connectedness, integration, broader trade, labour migration or development goals, consistent with the Global Sustainable Goals of the United Nations 2030.

Regional integration can also strengthen the voices of small nations that often face disadvantages in dealing with the rest of the world because of their low bargaining power and high negotiation costs. That is why regional integration is so important for Africa's small and fragmented states.

It has also become a tool with which other development aspirations can be realized to achieve prosperity, peace and security, amongst other key indices in the Continent.

It is envisaged therefore that by 2063, Africa shall be a continent with seamless borders, and management of cross-border resources through dialogue and a continent where free movement of people, capital, goods and services will result in significant increases in trade and investments among African countries and further strengthening Africa's place in global trade.

Free Movement of Persons in Africa is deeply rooted in Aspiration of Agenda 2063 which unravels that Africa shall be an integrated continent, politically united based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance. By

2063, Africa aspires to be a United Africa, be a world class that is integrative, has the ideal infrastructure that crisscrosses the continent, and have dynamic and mutually beneficial links with its Diaspora.

As the large continent with no borders and pragmatic management of cross border resources through dialogue, a continent where the free movement of people, capital, goods, services security and others geo politics significances the Africans will be result to be on the upstairs in significant increases in trade and investments amongst fellow countries and strengthen Africa's place in global trade.

The Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the Africa Economic Community relating to mobility around the region free movement of Persons, right of residence and right to implementation Road Map will have imperative significance and dignify countries fall apart in the very lively continent.

For the AU when it enters into force, will formulate key tools that guide and follow up the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States amongst other key stakeholders in coordinating the implementation of its aspirations and over stretched plan to up line Africa on the realm of success.

Article 29 of the Free Movement Protocol, defines the role of the Commission in accordance with assessing and measuring, related to evaluating the implementation of the Protocol, coordinating assessing the state of free movement of persons in Africa, and collaborating with RECs of the blessed and rich continent to harmonize the black fraternity and mobility of the afro Asiatic, Niger Congo, Nilo Saharan and others movement policy regimes, migration and border management policies strategies, devising the way towards prosperity excavating enabling factors and procedures to ensure that Member States adopt and implement necessary legislative free movement procedures in the black soil.

Africa's integration Agenda is enshrined in the Abuja Treaty (1991), and has an overarching goal of achieving an African Economic Community at continental level, in six successive stages, which include the strengthening of sectorial cooperation and the creation of regional free trade areas.

The AU needs to accelerate...

states and in cooperation with international partners.

In Africa, terrorism can only be fought off when it is conducted by all member countries in the region and when it is conducted in an integrated and coordinated manner.

In terms of economic development, joint common border development programs, coordinated monitoring of border areas by employing modern technology, tracking

down and preventing illegal financial transfers to finance terrorism, providing trainings and income generation schemes for the youth, monitoring illegal trade in firearms and narcotics, taking educative, legal and preventive measures to curb human trafficking.

Africa needs a modern early warning system for monitoring conflicts of all kinds and more particularly clandestine terror acts perpetrated by terrorist groups.

On the other hand, the struggle against terrorism must involve CSOs, professional associations and all concerned with peace and stability in Africa.

African countries need to engage in meaningful economic integration as a tool for ascertaining cross border peace and stability. They need to devise strategies and programs that would enable them to deny financial resources for their terroristic acts.

The AU also needs to deploy all the instruments at its disposal to at least curb further expansion of terrorism in Africa. A combination of military, political and educational programs could help to weaken and ultimately decapitate the expansion of terrorism in Africa.

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

Editorial

opinion

It's time for African leaders to augment homegrown solutions

This time, when the summit of leaders of African states is underway to discuss issues of their continent, intensifying “African solutions to African problems” must have an appropriate place in their agenda. Today’s African leaders are responsible for the future of Africa, a continent in which the young people take a greater portion in number.

Their discussions and decisions, if made wisely, will pave the way for the continent to get independent in all aspects and stand on its feet to negotiate its issues defending external unjust imposition. Africa must be considered as a real friend by any foreign state including the developed ones. But, this can be real only through transforming itself focusing on homemade solutions to its problems though genuine external support is well received.

Africa has many problems that should be managed locally as per the behavior of the problems. The catchall phrase “African solutions to African problems” was coined by the eminent political economist George Ayittey in response to the behavior of the international community in the crisis in Somalia. Since then the phrase acquired a degree of autonomy.

The author advocates what he calls ownership of solutions i.e. if you formulate your own solutions to your problems, you would have every reason and incentive to see them work. External or foreign solutions were not viable in Africa since they were either “imported” or “dictated” to Africans. Therefore, Africans would not own those solutions.

“Foreign intervention isn’t necessarily bad, but we need leaders that can negotiate deals that favor Africans. We need leaders who can govern and run institutions that can benefit from the global system,” Beatrice Grace Aluoch Obado, Associate Professor of international relations and sustainable development at IE University said.

Such leaders come from the young Africans but if well educated, trained and guided by today’s leaders. It is the time for these leaders to navigate the ship in a right direction that reaches its destination of prosperity, fully-fledged freedom, sustainable peace and holding its right position on the global arena.

To this end, Africa must examine its education system and redesign in the way it produces ethical, skilled and patriotic citizens. Besides, Africa also needs to value innovations the young generation comes up with and makes them beneficial according to the problems they intended to solve.

Seeking homemade solutions for conflicts erupting here and there in Africa is also among the burning issues. In this regard, the solutions gained for the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia and the ongoing GERD issues handled by Africans are good examples. Though more dialogues have to be conducted in the future, the latter issue if comes to an end in the auspices of the African Union, it puts a cornerstone that can be cited for using natural resources for mutual benefit.

In line with this, capitalizing on intra-continental trade among African countries is a timely agenda that the leaders should take into consideration. In doing so, Africa can penetrate the global market and uplift its share. Of course, being competent in the global market needs paying attention to the quality and quantity of products it provides to the market.

Overall, every African problem should be solved by African solutions and today’s leaders are responsible for the realization of this notion.

The AU needs to accelerate the battle against terrorism

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The OAU Convention on Preventing and Combating Terrorism which was issued in July 1, 1999 defines terrorism as “Any act which is a violation of the criminal law of state party and which may endanger the life, physical integrity or freedom of, or cause serious injury or death to, any person, any member of group of persons or causes damage to public or private property, natural resources, environmental or cultural heritages ...”

Here it is very important to note that nearly half of the world’s victims of terrorism are located in Africa. In addition, according to Jihad Analytics, for instance half of the attacks claimed by ISIS since the beginning of 2020 were carried out in ten African countries including Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Mauritania and several others.

The major terrorist groups that operate in Africa include ISIS, Al-Qaida in the Islamic Magred, Al-Shabab, Boko Haram, Lord’s Resistance Army and the Ansaaru Group. There are also a number of terrorist organizations affiliated either to ISIS or Al-Qaida.

Why did Africa become a breeding ground for terrorist organizations? There are a number of reasons that could be considered. In the first place, porous and unguarded borders between African countries, particularly in East Africa have enabled these organizations either to be established or regrouped in the continent particularly in the Horn of Africa and the Magred countries. For instance, the vast border expanse between Ethiopia and Somalia and between Sudan and Ethiopia, Libya, Morocco and Mauritania has given them not only to move freely but also to establish training and recruiting centers at close proximity of the border areas.

Youth unemployment is one of the major reasons why they resort to joining the terrorist organizations lured by their false propaganda. Over the last several months back for instance, Al-Shabab lured to its rank and file in the border areas between Ethiopia and Somalia in a bid to provide employment opportunities to illegal migrants.

Moreover, lack of good governance and weak governability in several African countries have enabled a number of terrorist groups like Al-Shabab and Boko Haram to expand into remote areas of Nigeria and the Magreb countries.

Internal conflicts over scares resources like water and pasturelands in border areas and semi-arid ecologies in west and East as well as southern Africa had not only created a safe haven for terrorist groups but also helped them to establish themselves and organize training and propaganda work mainly based on extremist religious teachings.

Illicit cross border trade, arms trafficking and human trafficking has become a source of major income for terrorist groups particularly by Al-Shabab in the Horn of

Africa. Sea piracy on the Red Sea Coast and the ransom paid for terrorists to release commercial ships has helped a number of terrorists in west and East Africa to stash millions of dollars for purchasing arms and modern technology.

From 2005 to 2012, the Somali pirates have been paid around 360 million in ransom according to a new report “Pirate Trails” produced by World Bank. The Report shows that pirates have cost the world around USD 18 billion every year.

Instability caused by illegal change of governments by coup has helped to facilitate a breeding ground for terrorist organizations. Recurrent coup in Mali in 2012, 2020 and 2022 has destabilized the country providing an excellent condition for the expansion of terrorist groups in the country. In addition, weak governments, nationwide corruption and the inability to protect their citizens from terrorist attacks in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger further exacerbated the proliferation of terrorist organizations in these countries.

What has the AU done to fight terrorism on the African soil? The African Union established joint forces to fight terrorism, such as AMISOM/ATMIS in Somalia, the Joint Multinational Force in the Lake Chad Basin, the G5 Sahel Joint Force, the SADC mission in Mozambique (SAMIM), and bilateral initiatives in Mozambique.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 48 per cent of global deaths from terrorism. Attacks have spread beyond historical hotspots such as the Sahel and the Horn of Africa to southern Africa and coastal regions of West Africa.

This is despite the AU and its member states having adopted extensive policy frameworks on terrorism and violent extremism, such as the 1999 Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the related 2004 Protocol, and having deployed a number of counter-terrorism-related peace-support missions in various parts of the continent.

Besides, prior to AU, the former OAU had prepared some legal instruments that can be used as a tool to curb terrorism in Africa. These include, among others, OAU Convention on Mercenarism in Africa, the 1992 OAU resolution on terrorism, Protocol to Establish OAU Peace and Security Council AND African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism.

This includes the Multinational Joint Task Force, the G-5 Sahel Joint Force, Southern Africa Development Community Mission in Mozambique, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia and the Regional Cooperation Initiative against the Lord’s Resistance Army.

The struggle against terrorism must be conducted from multiple angles. AU needs to further spearhead the continental efforts to fight terrorism by taking concrete actions that are to be implemented by member

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Art & Culture

Our founding fathers were not only visionary diplomats but also intellectuals and poets

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

The briefest definition of politics might be “the art of the possible”. The founding fathers of modern African politics starting from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) were in a way engaged in the art of the impossible so to say and won the day in the face of overwhelming challenges. Why the art of the impossible? Because, it was almost unimaginable or apparently impossible for African political leaders to throw away the shackles of colonialism in 1963. That is in the pursuit to find their first continental organization.

The founding fathers tried and succeeded in doing what appeared impossible while the rest of the world was looking on from a good distance, and smiling cynically in the hope that the leaders would stumble at some point in their extraordinary drive for freedom and independence. The French say: *Rira bien qui rira le dernier*. (He, who laughs last, laughs best). The founding fathers of Africa laughed the best in 1963.

Africa has never been short of educated people who excelled in various fields of endeavors. Even during colonial rule, the sons and daughters of Africa have been pursuing their studies in Europe and America and displayed great intellectual and educational capacity by disproving the Western myth or deliberate lies that Africa and Africans were so backward that they could not develop their intellectual capacities and that only Western intellectuals could think for Africa. Africans have indeed showed the world that they are capable of achieving the highest educational levels as well as produce ideas that impressed even Western educational establishments.

The year 1963 was critical for Africa because it unleashed the long-suppressed human capacity and verve that laid dormant within the continent for hundreds years of colonial rule. The year gave tremendous momentum for the sons and daughters of Africa to achieve great deeds by coming together and overcoming the most important challenge of the time, namely the end of European colonialism on the continent. They did so without foreign assistance or with foreign ideas. They unleashed the independence decade with their own intellectual capacities and their natural talent for statecraft and statesmanship.

Many were in European colonial circles who doubted the ability of Africans to rule themselves without Western intellectual and other resources or assistance. They were wrong of course. African independence was achieved by Africans themselves as well as the subsequent construction or reconstruction of the continent on the basis of African labor, African knowledge and African spirit. Since the dawn of humanity, Africa was a land of wise people who had strong faiths in their own capacity to govern themselves the way they believed was in line of human dignity.

Africans before and after independence had

The current motto that is fast becoming a kind of slogan for modern day African diplomacy is “Addressing African problems with African solutions”. This idea is not something that has popped up in the imagination some African politicians

produced some of the amazing spiritual, religious, political and economic systems at a time when the Europeans were living in caves and were struggling with the adversities of nature with their bare hands. Africans has its traditional thinkers, wise men and women, as well as soldiers who excelled in military knowledge for self-defense as they have been fighting against invaders of all descriptions all the times. Africans had their own medicine men who cured some of the incurable diseases that Western science has not so far managed to address. They had native philosophers and educators who taught children religious and secular wisdom.

There were also African traditional writers or bards who could put their ideas in writing and expressed the deepest wisdom of their ancestors. Africans had great fighters and strategists who defeated Western armies that dared invade and occupy their territories. However Western colonialism kept our continent in complete darkness and suppressed African native knowledge and spread colonial deceptions for hundreds of years.

It is against such a vast and original historical background that emerged the African intellectual giants of the 19th and 20th centuries who led the continent to freedom and independence by combining their knowledge

of Africa they learned from their ancestors with modern education they received in Europe— the establishment of the Organization of African Unity OAU) in 1963 and the African Union (AU) in 2005. According to available information, “The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was established on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with 32 signatory governments.”

Did not come spontaneously or without preparations. These events were the results of long, fearless, dedicated and bloody struggles Africans waged against the colonialists while educated Africans used Western knowledge to lead their countrymen and women to freedom and independence.

The first generation of African leaders who fought and won the fight for the establishment of the OAU were almost all well-educated intellectuals who properly grasped the historical dimension of their struggles and their responsibilities towards the African masses who were kept in darkness, poverty, diseases and ignorance. These leaders had to liberate themselves from the scourge of ignorance before they could liberate their people. Some of the best minds of the time went to Europe or America to learn the way the white men developed their ideas in order to keep Africans in shackles. Their education was a necessary tool or a useful weapon not only to understand Africa’s enemies but also to beat them in their own political games.

The late and immortal Kwame Nkrumah was perhaps one of the best-educated leaders of the independence struggles, who not only developed the basic tenets of colonialism in his various books but also practically led his country’s struggle for independence from British colonialism. According to available information, Nkrumah was, one of the key personalities who played a critical role in the establishment of the OAU. He is also one of the architects of the idea of Pan-Africanism that has served as a guiding light for all progressive Africans until this day.

There may be some people in the West or even within the continent that Pan-Africanism is a dying ideology. That is not however true. Pan-Africanism is the ideological compass that has led Africa’s progress from slavery to independence. It is also the compass that is still leading Africa from poverty to self-sufficiency in our times. In its essence, Pan-Africanism is nothing else but the idea of addressing Africa’s problems with African solutions, an idea that is gaining increased currency in our day.

Nkrumah’s vision was that Western neo-colonial ideas have proved useless in dealing with African problems and that Africans should look within themselves for effective ideas that would free them from neo-colonial oppression and exploitation. These ideas are articulated in his classic work entitled, “Neo-Colonialism, the last Stage of Imperialism” and elsewhere in his speeches and discussions. According to Wikipedia, “Kwame Nkrumah was a Ghanaian politician, political theorist and he as the first

prime minister and president of Ghana having led the Gold Coast to independence from Britain in 1957.” He was also a poet who wrote the poem “Ethiopia shall rise.”

Leopold Cedar Senghor is another champion of African independence and a great poet and intellectual. According to Wikipedia, Senghor was “a Senegalese poet, politician and cultural theorist who was the first president of Senegal. Ideologically an African socialist, he was a major theorist of Negritude.” His poem Black Woman about Africa sticks out.

The northern Africa Arab country of Algeria has produced some of the most distinguished freedom fighters in Africa who was “an anti-colonial activist and politician who governed Kenya as its prime minister from 1963 to 1964 and then as the first president from 1964 to his death in 1978.” While Jomo Kneyatta is always portrayed as a heroic freedom fighter against British colonialism what is often overlooked that he was also an intellectual who was *alma mater* at the University College London, School of Economics.

Emperor Haile Sellassie, despite his public image as a traditional feudal monarch, he was nevertheless the “father” of the immortal vision of African Unity that was intense, honest and lasting. Emperor Haile Sellassie was a sort of self-educated intellectual who read extensively and had a natural bent to understand politics not from books but intuitively, which is considered a genuine manifestation of true intelligence. That is why he is often considered sort of “greatest among equals” in the generation of post-colonial African and international politics.

Many educated Africans have also served as secretary generals of the OAU at various stages of the organization until it was transformed into the African Union. Notable among them were Ethiopian Kifle Wodajo who was OAU secretary general from 1963 to 1964, Daillo Telli from 1964 to 1972, Nzo Ekangaki from 1972 to 1974, William Eteki, Edem Kojo, Peter Onu, Ide Oumarou and others who were the intellectual elites who were educated in Europe or the united States and did the real day-to-day work of continental unity. Some of them were career diplomats or professional diplomat who served their countries with flying colors even after they left their OAU assignments.

The current motto that is fast becoming a kind of slogan for modern day African diplomacy is “Addressing African problems with African solutions”. This idea is not something that has popped up in the imagination some African politicians. It is rather a collective awareness that reflects the original spirit of the founding of the OAU which was basically a historic movement to help Africa rise from colonialism and neocolonialism through their own intellectual and spiritual resources. This call is still echoing in the conference halls of the African Union and continues to do so until it becomes a tangible reality with the economic integration and political unity of our dear and young continent.

Law & Politics

Leading by example: Ethiopia's role in Pan-Africanism

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Ethiopia has raised its hat to African nations for standing by the country's side in the course of the war that lasted for two years in the northern part of the country in fending off external foreign pressure. African nations have played a huge role in putting the kibosh on unwarranted pressure revealed under the guise of human rights violations and humanitarian assistance.

At that specific point in time a lot of efforts have been made by some entities intending to encroach on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. As several efforts have been made by some entities making use of unwarranted foreign entities, African nations in collaboration with Ethiopia have played a huge role in staving off external pressure in the spirit of Africanism.

During the conflict, discredited international media outlets played a huge role in spreading falsehood information mystifying the wider international yet, Ethiopia has left no stone unturned to defend its sovereignty from external forces that have been making use of several lame reasons.

In good truth, the role African nations played in fending off external pressure in the spirit of Pan-Africanism deserves appreciation and respect for the reason that they have stood by the side of Ethiopia by taking part in mass rallies and campaigns.

The signing of the peace accord in Pretoria under the auspicious of the African Union between the federal government and Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF) could also be taken as a symbol of reference in Pan Africanism movement.

In fact, consolidating Pan-Africanism plays a huge role in safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the continent of Africa besides promoting solidarity among all African member states.

As things stand at the moment, Africans have been sparing no effort to make a stronger Pan-Africanist vision, embolden integration, and other things of a similar kind in the continent of Africa under the leadership of the continental bloc.

It is common knowledge that since time immemorial, some entities have been going to the ends of the earth to twist Africa's arm in the form of aid, development, compensation, and other related aspects concealing the latter's adorable facial features to the world.

It is common knowledge that in the course of the war that lasted for two years in the northern part of the country, some groups had made a great effort to interfere in the external affairs of Ethiopia and encroach on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. Other than that some entities have been coming up with a broad range of approaches with the purpose of interfering in the external affairs of the continent of Africa and exerting vested interest.

African nations have been showing solidarity with Ethiopia at the time when the country faced unwarranted foreign pressure under the guise of a broad



spectrum of lame reasons.

For the sake of truth, following its growing economy and political influence, Ethiopia has played a huge role in brokering peace deals among warring parties and undertaking a role in sustaining peace and tranquility in the Horn of Africa.

From sending peacekeeping missions to arbitrating contending parties Ethiopia has played a huge role in making peace happen in various parts of the continent.

As a matter of fact, Ethiopia time and again has been playing a huge role in fending off external pressure in the continent of Africa. On the heels of its uncompromising stance of Ethiopia in putting the kibosh on external pressure, several African nations have been following suit.

In actual fact, African nations have been playing a paramount role in revitalizing Pan-Africanism and developing the continent of Africa together as a unified force in addition to attaching importance to unity, self-determination, freedom, and progress under the leadership of the continental bloc.

As Africa is inundated with an extensive range of God-given natural resources, the continent beyond a shadow of a doubt can reach where developed nations have reached in development. In good truth, there is no doubt that the notion of Pan-Africanism plays a paramount role in expediting the growth of Africa in addition to promoting the Pan-African vision in the length and breadth of the continent of Africa.

Even though Pan-Africanism is the solution in which countries can combine forces to get to the bottom of any predicaments, the desired destination has not been accomplished yet. Some groups have been behind all mysteries that have been shackling the hands and feet

of the continent of Africa at various points in time. To create encouraging prospects and overcome stockpiles of predicaments unfolding in the continent, Africans in the spirit of Africanism should see inward to see outward before the entire situation goes from the frying pan into the fire.

As nothing shall be impossible to find a solution to African problems putting the catchall phrase "African solutions to African problems" into action, Africans have been making every possible effort to make the impossible possible and the unthinkable thinkable. Apart from that it is time for the sons and daughters of Africa to take a self-examining perspective for beneficial outcomes no matter what the challenges may be.

Some entities have been making an effort not to make the continent of Africa utilize its God-given resources fairly and wisely by orchestrating quite a lot of evil deeds going behind closed curtains. Dejectedly, some entities have been sparing no effort to put their former colonial policies into effect in terms of political, cultural, and other things of a similar kind.

The first Pan-Africanism forum is slated to be held on February 19, 2023 at the premises of African Leadership Excellence Academy (AFLEX) in Suluta, so disclosed AFLEX Chief.

It was learnt that the forum would take place on the sidelines of the 36th African Union (AU) Ordinary Session.

Briefing journalists on the forum yesterday, AFLEX Chief Mehret Debebe (PhD) said that "Reinvigorating Pan-Africanism for a Changing World" is the theme of the forum and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), heads of states, policymakers, academicians, civil society organizations,

youth and women representatives would be in attendance.

Accordingly, the forum would feature paper presentations and lectures as well as panel discussions on Pan-Africanism and so forth. He said that: "As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the OAU and the 10th year of the launching of Agenda 2063, we are pleased to host this forum to celebrate Pan-Africanism while envisaging a better Pan-African future in the quest for the "Africa We Want" at a facility established to further African excellence."

The AFLEX academy is setup to become a premiere learning institution-nurturing development and growth-oriented mindsets with the capacity to meet the demands of 21st century leadership in the public, civic and private sectors with a Pan-African orientation.

Re-established in June 2021, the AFLEX is located on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, and the academy focuses on its core business of leadership development, policy research and leadership consultancy. The Academy is governed by an executive board and led by a Chief of Academy.

Since its establishment, it has run and managed three types of programs; leadership building programs for high level government officials and executive level, private or civic sector leaders with essential leadership skills allowing them to deliver on their role as public servants more effectively.

A leadership program designed to incubate the next generation of young leaders who are currently not yet but aspire to be in executive roles. In addition it conducts workshops, policy research, and leadership consultancy programs that will positively influence and enable decision makers in the right direction, he stated.

Nuclear energy can give Africa the power to develop without the pollution

Andrew Amadi (PhD)

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

The issue of clean, affordable and renewable energy has become a hot agenda of countries throughout the world. In the same way such state of the art kind of energy source is a timely topic for many African countries. Both Dr Andrew and Mt Tella argue that Africa should pursue nuclear energy development as a long term solution for Africa's growing demand for safe and sustainable energy.

In today's edition, The Ethiopian Herald presents guests from two African countries. Dr Andrew Amadi, Chief Executive Officer of Kenya Renewable Association and Mr Abel Didier Tella, Director General of African Power Utilities Organization.

Here is the interview with Dr Andrew Amadi, the Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Renewable Energy Association, which is an umbrella body that promotes renewable energy in Kenya, in East Africa and Africa and globally. Enjoy Reading!

How is the situation of utilization of renewable energy in your country, Kenya?

Well, when you talk about electricity in Kenya today, over 90 percent of the electricity on the grid is coming from renewable energy sources. And it has reduced slightly to about 85 percent, because the Hydros are running low on water. But as soon as we start to get power from Ethiopia, then it will go back up to over 90 percent. But after 10pm, the grid is 100 percent, from renewable energy sources, mostly from geothermal, hydro and wind.

Just as you said, Ethiopia and Kenya have agreed for electric power hydropower expert. So how do you think will this just power interconnection between countries in East Africa would contribute to the living condition and the industrial and overall development of these countries?

I think it will really help a lot to have multiple sources of power. Because these sources of power can be able to cancel out particularly the expensive sources of generation, which is that thermal power plants that use fossil fuels, especially whether it is fuel, oil, or diesel, those are the biggest costs on the grid. So if we're able to get 200 megawatts from Ethiopia, then we can shave off 200 megawatts of the peak demand. And we can rest three thermal power plants that will no longer be required. If we get another 100 megawatts from Uganda, we can do the same thing. And then we can equalize across East Africa to Rwanda is also running a lot on diesel generators, as in Tanzania. So I think the more that we have a mix, number one is that we are ensuring energy security, because if the rainfall is low in Kenya, we learned the lesson 20 years ago, when it's never rained. And that is the only year in Kenya's history that economic growth was below 0 percent in the year 2000. That was the lowest growth rate ever recorded. And we saw that you cannot depend on one source energy. So now we have multiple sources. And we also need multiple collaborations, because our demand is not that big. But when we spread it around, it can start to grow, and it can grow horizontally in each country. And then

it can grow vertically as the total demand goes up. And then as that demand goes up, for example, now we can bring 20,000 megawatts from Inga dam in the DRC. It can supply the rest of East Africa because we have established a pool that can be able to consume this energy. And then we don't need to run at all, any fossil fuel plants. And this is feasible in the next 10 to 20 years.

When we talk about efficiency, I think you and Mr. Taylor, were advocating nuclear energy, also as long as gas and hydro. So how do we explain the efficiency of nuclear and hydroelectric power, for Africa especially?

In some places, hydro power is not considered renewable, because it depends on not just the availability, but the replenishment of water in the dams. So as climate change is happening, and rainfall is erratic, we are getting less and less water. So the dams are going down, and the capacity is going down. So we can almost take them out. And when you take out your Hydros, which form like a base load, then you have a gap. You have a big gap, and you need to replace that gap quickly. So in order to be able to do so with a firm source of power, you look at what resources are available.

Nuclear has the advantage that it has no carbon emissions. Yeah, there are issues around nuclear. But in terms of an energy source, it will not. There are carbon emissions in the production of uranium in the process. But those are embedded carbon not in that direct generation of energy. And I think that is where the challenge is, if Africa starts to industrialize, if Africa starts to put steel plants and to put all of these very heavy industries, we don't have them. Maybe South Africa, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco may have that. We have to look at how much power they're consuming look at textiles in Vietnam, they need 100,000 megawatts, double the capacity of South Africa, when you reach that level of production, you will need to have a firm source of power, because you cannot be able to run it on intermittent sources. And even intermittent sources work when there is a source of power.

Photo: Gebabo Gebre



So we can be innovative with our Hydros, we can put solar to pump the water back during the day, so that we use solar during the day. And we also use solar to pump water so that we have electricity at night, then it can become a renewable cycle. But nuclear has the advantage that it has a very low operating cost. That you will buy uranium, it's sold by the ground, but you use very little uranium to produce a lot of electricity. So that will bring down the costs when you do the total life cost analysis. It might be high, but it's almost like insurance, that you will have the power when you need it. Because some of the other sources of power, like geothermal is excellent. But it's not available everywhere. It's available in Kenya, in Ethiopia, along the Great Rift Valley. But countries that don't have access to geothermal they need to get power from somewhere. And it's a question of harm reduction in the world that we are in now, if Africa develops on a carbon path; there is no hope for the planet. So nuclear can mitigate that it can give Africa the power to develop without the pollution. It has its risks, but I think the safety issues have been addressed. And it also has the component that a lot of the uranium is coming from Africa anyway. So there is also a legitimate question of why should we not use the resources that we have, we also want to develop. It is not

the ideal solution. But it is also not an ideal world. So we look at what works best.

In addition to generating power, I think as you mentioned, the distribution of power also needs efficiency. So what do you think is the challenge in distribution of power?

I think the main challenge is, specifically the public procurement systems, the public procurement systems are in modern terms, they are outdated. And they are highly inefficient, and highly ineffective. And to be honest, they are a channel for corruption. So the business model of utilities has been, you have a guaranteed source of revenue, they don't make their money by making profit, they make their money through supplying the source of revenue at a high cost. And then that increases the cost to the consumer, which the consumer has no choice, because you will find that most of the utilities are monopolies.

So I would say do what we did with telecommunications. Today, everyone in Africa has a smartphone. All of it is private sector. If you broke the private sector into transmission and distribution, in three years, they can sort out that loss. And it's very simple. The inefficiencies of the transformers are bought through public procurement.



Herald Guest



The public procurement system is rigged in favor of certain people. They buy cheap transformers, and they build it at a high cost. And this is public information; we have a cabinet minister and managing Director of the utility who are wanted in the UK in Jersey for money laundering from the sale of transformers. That is the point of loss.

Today, modern utilities do not buy transformers, they contract a company that manufactures efficient transformers, and they replace an entire network. And when they replace it with efficient transformers, the losses are reduced. When the losses are reduced, you're collecting more revenue for the same power. So before adding any new power, it's like if you have a bucket and there's a big hole, and you want a lot of water,

you don't add more water, you fix the hole first. And that will take political courage. And I think that is sometimes lacking in our system, not because people don't understand, but because the people that benefit from that system don't want to change it. So they will make all kinds of excuses around it. But for me, I look at efficiency. And at the end of it, you can't get away from it.

And the first recommendation would be monitor measure, at the substation, measure each transformer measure from the transformer to each consumer unit, or even go a step further and measure the appliances. Because today, you can do that, when you have that kind of a system, then you're able to even deal with your intermittent supplies, you can direct your excess wind power to

water pumping, at night, you can be able to channel excess power after peak to electric vehicle charging, you can stabilize the grid by removing the fluctuations into storage. So there are very many innovations that can happen with the technology that we have today. If we're only serious about applying it now the challenge is that efficiency is not intuitive. We don't, it is not natural, especially in our culture in Africa, they don't blame us because we have abundance, and we have a lot of everything. But in places where they don't have, they have to see how to make use of that. Now we have been forced to become efficient, because we don't have resources. So when we have this huge resources that I did the calculation, the losses that the utilities making per hour is close to \$100,000 every hour round the clock

that is just generated and not sold. So that should be a big concern. That should be the number one parameter. If you were to say, whoever is in charge of utilities, losses that you have to reduce those losses, do whatever you want, but you have to bring it down. If you give that kind of an incentive, then you would see the losses coming down. But for as long as they're able to get away with it by transferring that cost to the consumer. Then that becomes the death knell and we will not develop if we continue with that approach. Luckily, our industries don't exist. So we can create them we can design them, but we have to be able to think at it. Think from an efficiency point of view.

Thank you very much

You are most welcome

We encourage Ethiopia to continue developing the green energy because that is the way to go

Abel Didier Tella

BY ZEKARAI WOLDEMARIAM

Abel Didier Tella is Director General of the Association of Power Utility of Africa was created in 1970 with its headquarter in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. Presently it has 57 member institutions in 46 countries in Africa, including Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo). The Ethiopian Herald had briefly interviewed Mr Tella on the current issues related to energy in Africa. Have a nice read!



Photo: Gebabo Gebre

Could you tell me about the situation of the utility of power, especially renewable energy in Africa?

The renewable energy promotion is on the way. We need to power and let Africa to power, because we need to give enough power to industry as we cannot continue exporting raw material without transformation. Because if we create industry that will create jobs, and we face people in Africa, our population is more than 50 percent young, you need job and we have raw material, if we add capacity building of this young people, we can create job with skilled people and the green energy, we have all in this continent. To go green energy without training, without possession of the local population, local content, then we cannot talk about renewable energy progression in Africa. We need to include people on the ground.

Currently, what are the major challenges of power, especially energy?

The major challenge is that we are lacking investment. The government cannot do all. We need private, local, national private

sector and foreign private sector. And the private sector drivers: What are they gaining? And we need good off takers; we need to focus on industry, not domestic mode. So the development of mind combined with industry will be the way to go tomorrow. If you see any country which succeeded, you may notice that those countries develop the industry and that develop the transformation industry. You have to train people and to skill them to work in that industry that you create. So if we do this, the energy will have the needed investment for its development. But in any case, the government cannot do all themselves.

Why do you think is nuclear energy necessary or preferable for Africa?

If you want to promote renewable energy, you need to have base load to secure because those are intermittence the base road, the chest in Africa that we have, we have dealt with hydropower, we have gas split in many countries and geothermal also. Those can have the chance to give at the base load when we develop intermittent. So where the intermittent available, we're saving the

environment. When you are preserving the environment you use renewable energy. And what we don't have the intermittent that you have to base what not to collapse the grid, because if we have industry connected they need power. So the combinations of those resources are the way to go. Nuclear today have not been used to be seen all day as a something military. Nuclear is civil. Civil nuclear is possible in Africa because we have today news solution with a medium sized and small size unit or can be developed in Africa easily.

Is it cost effective for African countries development and retail price?

Yes, but its cost or the price would be effective if we have a least cost planning for every country, because Africa is 55 countries, and every country has its specificity. So we cannot globalize the idea that we have, we need to go country by country when we focus on regional and looking at our focus global.

Have you observed Ethiopia's endeavor in developing renewable and clean energy, especially hydroelectric power

and sharing it with neighboring countries once you've committed?

We are based on development of power sector in Africa is power pools and the development of Ethiopia hydro power, we have the eastern Africa power pool to have a solid grid connected with Sudan and already issued when we have said Zambia, Tanzania Kenya join with Ethiopia you are connecting the southern Africa power pool with the eastern Africa, where you already connected with enough you're reaching the point where they mean the single African market would be insurance and the cheap energy from hydro which compensate the expensive energy from other sources. So we encourage Ethiopia to continue developing the green energy because that is the way to go. Not to have like other parts of Africa like Western, we have today many diesel, we need to come out of this. So developing the development of green energy in Ethiopia and the sharing within the power pool, with connecting or the country is the way to go.

Thank you!

You are welcome!

Engaging schools to ensure quality education

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Ethiopia has recently experienced massive improvement in access to education. Primary school enrolment has increased remarkably; likewise, secondary school enlistment has shown a progressive improvement. These though are extraordinary achievements in terms of increasing enrolment; ensuring education quality still remains a daunting challenge.

To undo the challenge and ensure quality education, the Ministry of Education developed a national School Improvement Program (SIP) to be implemented throughout the nation.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* Educational Program and Quality Improvement Desk Head with the Ministry, Taye Girma said that Ministry of Education has put in place General Education Quality Improvement Package (GEQIP) intending to enhance quality of education in primary and secondary schools and bringing about an impact on the quality of higher education.

To support the implementation of the program, the Ministry allocated 1.3 billion Birr that could be distributed to each primary and secondary school in line with the number of students. Moreover, eight thousand school administrators were trained in a bid to create informed and skillful leadership that strives for a productive outcome of the program. At the same time, 332 woredas are recognized under school wash programs that give them the opportunities to build and access to latrines and water lines, he

added.

SIP is one of the GEQIP packages implemented throughout all schools and each school prepares a plan by identifying its performance based on process, input and results it has registered.

According to him, the Ministry devised schools' standards and identified that only ten percent of the schools are qualified while the rest, ninety percent, fell below the standard.

Schools need independent classroom size, playing ground, library, laboratory and other facilities that meet the set standards because most schools in hinterland and urban areas are established without set standards, which makes the SIP implementation challenging.

Mentioning that fulfilling the set standard is capital intensive, and requires skilled human power, he said that the Ministry plans to create informed communities and development partners for productive achievement.

The Ministry also acknowledges that ensuring quality education and making schools qualify to the set standards takes a long way owing to



demand and supply mismatches. To end this, the Ministry, joining hands with stakeholders, is exerting effort to mobilize resources with the intention to pull schools out of the lower range of standards and enable them to proceed to the next level.

"At the end of this academic year, the Ministry hopes that 33 percent of schools will meet the set standards," he reflected.

GEQIP (SIP) Advisor with the Ministry, Abraham Asfaw for his part said that the progress in translating SIP to the ground is promising. All schools developed a SIP plan in line with their resources, performance and identified challenges.

Improvement in student learning outcomes depends on system-wide support for change

in the classroom instruction. Effective instructional practice, including strong standards based instruction, data based planning, differentiation and individualization, research based pedagogical approaches, and classroom management, must be identified and supported at the school.

In this context, the country should step up effort to make more schools to qualify for the set standards and implement SIP in hinterlands and urban areas.

Menelik II Preparatory School Teacher Development Deputy Head Yalemzewd Demelash stated that successful school improvement requires establishing a clear educational vision and a shared institutional mission. Furthermore, knowing how well the school is accomplishing that mission, identifying areas for improvement, developing plans to change educational activities and programs, and implementing those plans or new programs effectively is equally important.

As he stated, the school has developed a three years SIP plan and is striving to translate it to the ground. As per the inspection from the Ministry of Education, the school falling at level means it is below the set standards.

According to him, to make school improvement efforts a success, teachers, parents, community, business partners, administrators, and students must share leadership functions. Similarly, the principals' role must be changed from that of a top-down supervisor to a facilitator, instructional leader, coach, and strategic teacher.



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Green Legacy Program producing multifaceted benefits

BY YOHANNES DEMEKE

Ethiopia's agriculture is not immune to the effects of global climate change. It is important to develop, maintain and properly use the country's natural resources to ensure the continuity of the sector's production and productivity and to withstand the impact of global climate change.

In the past years, through cultivating watershed development works with community participation, encouraging results have been recorded in reducing soil erosion, rehabilitating degraded lands, and putting the clock back to reforestation.

By continuing the Green Legacy Program, maintaining the results recorded by planting forest, herbs, wild fruits, edible trees, modernizing land management, improving soil fertility, expanding small-scale irrigation, improving the effectiveness of food security operations, and enhancing job creation are the works

that have been given due attention. In the recent years, the world particularly, most powerful countries have been concerned about global warming. This has been causing huge social and economic crisis. According to research data, the origin of the crisis is due to the high emission of polluting gas and other related man-made problems.

Countries that have experienced the crisis, especially developing countries, have been left in poverty. Droughts, unexpected floods, and related natural disasters are manifestations of the problem. It is a fact that everyone understands that green development is the main solution to this problem.

Green Legacy is not building the country's image only, but also creating a unity of attitude and action among the people. Not only the planting of seedlings but also the continuous care and growth of the seedlings have been possible to achieve high results in the success rate of seedlings.

The Green Legacy Program has been

running since 2011 E.C. The program is to plant 20 billion seedlings in various ecological zones in four years, which is considered as a unique solution to meet the environmental-socio-economic challenges faced by the depletion of vegetation cover and land degradation.

Beneficiary farmers in the Amhara region say that the green legacy program is bringing great economic benefits. In the Amhara region, the success rate of seedlings in green legacy development was 72 percent in 2011 E.C, 78 percent in 2012 E.C, 79 percent in 2013 E.C, and 83 percent in 2014 E.C. According to the information obtained from the region, in four years, 569 thousand 645 hectares of land in 158 districts were covered with forests. From 2011 E.C to 2014 E.C, 800 hectares of land were covered with various seedlings in the Machakel Woreda of the East Gojam zone.

In general, the four-year afforestation performance is 81 percent, and the data from the district agriculture office indicate that soil erosion has been reduced and the

fertility of the soil is improving.

Many farmers who are engaged in green legacy program in Machakel district also said that they have benefited from the job opportunities by collecting seeds, planting seedlings and being engaged in various activities.

In general, from 2011 E.C to 2014 E.C, there have been many good experiences of the Green Legacy Program. It has created a wide range of employment opportunities by growing seedlings and selling them. Also, the role of our country in the implementation of the strategic plan of the food system is high because edible trees are also planted.

As this is a result of the national change, the experience should be strengthened for sustainable development and it is a good deed supported by the society and the rest of the world.

Our message is that the role of experts and stakeholders in the sector is remarkable in developing our natural resources by continuing the work that has been started.

International



Experts urge African leaders to take strong climate change action

As African leaders gather next week for the African Union summit under the theme ‘Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation’, experts are urging that climate change and the energy crisis to be placed at the center of the free trade talks.

They argue that AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area) presents an opportunity for Africa to be a dynamic force in the global arena and investing in renewable energy sources can provide access to affordable energy while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) reports that energy poverty levels in Africa are at an alarming rate, with over 70 percent of the population living without access to electricity.

IEA also notes that energy poverty is particularly high in rural areas, where only 20 percent of the population has access to electricity. This lack of access to electricity has a direct impact on poverty levels as families are unable to generate income or engage in small-scale businesses that require power.

Market for other countries

Without energy, the experts say, Africa will not industrialize but will continue trading and being a market for “other” countries’ manufactured goods.

Pan Africa senior advocacy advisor at Christian Aid Joab Okanda says that despite the challenges, Africa is faced with immense opportunities to get out of the shackles of fossil fuels.

“Africa must take advantage of rising demand for environment-friendly energy sources driven by demand to reduce carbon emissions amidst falling cost of renewable energy. It is time the continent put all hands on deck to be influential in climate negotiations by demonstrating to the world that a clean, inclusive and sustainable development pathway powered by renewable energy is possible,” he says.

Renewable energy

To achieve this, Mohamed Adow, a climate justice advocate and director of energy and climate think-tank Power Shift Africa says that adaptation and renewable energy investment by African leaders are crucial.

“Wind and solar will be the bedrock

for African energy so the first step is to change our mindsets from competitors to collaborative neighbors and recognize the power of a pan-African movement,” he says.

According to the World Bank’s 2021 report, Africa accounts for less than one percent of global installed wind capacity.

Wind power

Africa Director for the Global Wind Energy Council Wangari Muchiri notes that wind power is often overlooked yet it has great complementarity with solar and hydropower technologies which can create significant renewable energy for countries and enable them to transition to the net-zero scenarios.

“Wind power is a key solution in Africa and there are sufficient resources to power the continent for decades. African governments can, therefore, identify areas of great wind potential within their countries and begin to collect data on these sites to reduce the lead time that it will take to develop projects by private sector investors,” says Ms Muchiri.

She adds that one of the key barriers to the development of power in Africa is financing

for early-stage projects.

“Governments and African leaders can create grants that encourage the development of wind farms by local players in the industry,” she says.

COP27

According to the experts, COP27 showed the power and influence that African countries can bring when they work together on the global stage.

“After decades of discussion around a loss and damage fund without success, it was this African COP which got it done and that was despite many rich countries trying to not even include it on the meeting’s agenda. Africa has a powerful moral voice when it comes to climate change, and we need to use it to get more finance and technology transfer from rich countries to help our energy transition,” says Mr Adow.

The experts further explain that because Africa is the most impacted by climate change and the least responsible but also the least informed, the African leaders should prioritize the much-needed discussion on renewable energy and climate education.

Africa getting little of \$382bn renewable energy projects cash

Renewable energy projects attracted investments worth \$382 billion globally in 2021, according to the International Energy Agency, but only \$13 billion, or three percent of that, funded projects in Africa, highlighting a major funding gap foiling green transition and energy access on the continent.

With only 48 percent of African population having access to electricity, experts say investment in the continent’s renewable energy sector could both leapfrog the green transition efforts and connect more people to the grid.

Despite this, it has been established that investors with the capacity to invest in this sector shy away from the African market, a problem which brought together several stakeholders in the energy sector in Nairobi this week, attempting to change the narrative.

At a forum convened by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation, participants drawn from the private sector, government, civil society organizations from Kenya and beyond deliberated on how investors can be mobilized to support Africa’s green transition through investments.

Reluctant to invest

Rebekah Shirley, WRI’s deputy regional director told the forum that private sector players are reluctant to invest in this sector, creating a funding gap of billions of dollars every year, despite the wide access gap.

“Even in other regions of the world where energy access is still a challenge like the Southeast Asia, we don’t see funding gaps of this magnitude, why Africa?” she posed.

Alex Wachira, principal secretary for the state

department of energy, said that there is a list of challenges contributing to the energy gap, even in Kenya, which slow down economic growth in the country.

“We (the Ministry of Energy) are aware of the many challenges attributed to this, including limited incentives to attract private sector investors,” he said in a speech read by a representative.

Lack of political will

Another challenge identified is the lack of political will for appropriate legislation and implementation of policies to incentivise private sector investment in renewable energy projects, especially in rural areas.

For instance, only two of Kenya’s 47 counties have drafted energy plans that would give way to appropriate energy policies, deprioritising renewable energy projects at the local

governments.

This, according to Eva Sawe – a senior programmes officer at the Council of Governors, is because lawmakers have not been sensitised on why renewable energy projects should be a priority.

But even with the right policies and incentives to support private sector investment in renewable energy on the continent, investors said there is a still a shortage of talent in Africa limiting the production capacity of companies investing in the sector.

“If an investor is coming into the country to do any renewable energy project, the first hurdle they will face is the lack of skilled people,” said Andrew Amadi, the chief executive of Kenya Renewable Energy Association.

Source: The East African