



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Addis hotels ready to showcase Ethiopia's hospitality to AU guests

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** Addis Ababa hotels expressed readiness to provide world-class services to guests who come to the capital to participate in the forthcoming African

Union summits and make the guests' stay here memorable.

It is to be recalled that a national committee was established under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to supervise the hospitality service delivery and take care

of the placement of guests to each hotel considering quality and security.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Ethiopian Skylight Hotel Sells Manager Ayehu Gesese said the orientation they

See Addis hotels ... Page 3

## Report reveals humanitarian aid being delivered areas bordering Eritrea

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA-**The Ethiopian government and humanitarian partners' joint report revealed that financial support continues in Afar, Amhara, and Tigray states and more areas including those bordering Eritrea are becoming accessible for humanitarian operations.

The information was collected in Afar and Amhara states as of January 30, 2023, and Tigray as of January 25, 2023.

According to the report, in Amhara round 4 food assistance has nearly completed while round 5 reached 50 percent of the population as of January 30, 2023 (up from 38 percent) last week. In Afar, 77 percent of the target population was assisted with food supplies under food as of the same date (up from 62 percent last week).

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**Government of Ethiopia and Humanitarian Partners' Joint Report on Response Status to Northern Ethiopia**

This weekly report is jointly compiled by the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC), the Logistics Cluster, the Food Cluster and UNOCHA, with inputs from clusters, to track humanitarian response status in northern Ethiopia (Afar, Amhara, Tigray). This report is based on information collected as of the time of publication.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At least 3,900 trucks have delivered food and non-food supplies to Tigray Region since mid-November 2022 to address the needs of more than 5 million conflict affected people. As of 25 January, 89% of the targeted population under Round 2 food assistance (up from 83% last week) and 25% of the target under Round 3 (up from 10% last week) have received food assistance. More areas, including those bordering Eritrea are becoming accessible for humanitarian operation. Similarly, in Amhara, Round 4 food assistance has nearly completed, while Round 5 reached 50% of target as of 30 January (up from 38% last week). In Afar, 77% of the targeted population was assisted with food supplies under Round 5 as of the same date (up from 62% last week). The Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian partners continue to push through financial and operational hurdles to reach more people in need with food and non-food supplies across northern Ethiopia. In 2022, the humanitarian appeal for Ethiopia was only 48.2% funded out of the required \$3.335 billion.

**Food Response Update - Northern Ethiopia**

Afar Region (as of 30 January)					
Round	Beneficiaries targeted	Beneficiaries reached	MT required	MT dispatched	MT distributed
Round 5 (since early October 2022)	644,339	516,334 (77.7%)	9,268	9,267	7,203

Amhara Region (as of 30 January)					
Round	Beneficiaries targeted	Beneficiaries reached	MT required	MT dispatched	MT distributed
Round 4 (since early September 2022)	2.37 million	2.34 million (98.5%)	40,249	40,047	39,684
Round 5 (since 18 November 2022)	2.55 million	1.29 million (50.9%)	43,233	33,340	21,884

Tigray Region (as of 25 January)					
Round	Beneficiaries targeted	Beneficiaries reached	MT required	MT dispatched	MT distributed
Round 2 (since early October 2022)	5.43 million	4.68 million (86%)	88,897	86,752	78,505
Round 3 (since 26 November 2022)	5.39 million	535,498 (25%)	88,140	8,078	8,078

**Update on humanitarian cargo delivery per category between mid-November 2022 and 2 February 2023 (only for Tigray Region)**

- Total trucks that requested Support Letter from EDRMC: 4,127
- Total trucks with EDRMC Support Letter: 4,114
- Total # of trucks with food/non-food supplies that arrived in Tigray: 3,901
- Total liters of fuel that arrived in Tigray (L): 1.06 billion
- Total tonnage of food supplies that arrived in Tigray (MT): 142,969
- Total tonnage of non-food supplies that arrived in Tigray (MT): 16,096

**Non-food supplies delivery breakdown**

General operation: 2%  
Protection: 14%  
Education: 8.7%  
Agriculture: 24%  
Health: 24%  
Mixed cargo: 28%

Creation date: 3 February 2023 | Reviewed: EDRMC/Log Cluster/Food Cluster

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## ICHREE's mandate undermines CoHA implementation: Justice Minister

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA -** The mandate of the International Commission of Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) would downplay the full implementation of Pretoria-signed Permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA), so remarked justice minister Gedion Timotheos (PhD).

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Semaneh Tamrat

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Keeping the momentum of peace

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We have not adequately used the power, money and knowledge of the diaspora

Dr Mulugeta S Abebe

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# News

## Tourist arrivals in Afar state surge

• Over 82,000 tourists visit Afar in half-year

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA-** Over 82,000 tourists visited Afar state of Ethiopia during the past six months, Afar State Culture and Tourism Bureau announced.

The Bureau Head Ahmed Abdul Kadir told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the frequent eruption of Erta Ale volcano is the major leading factor for the flowing of mass tourists into the state.

The head further said that after the signing of Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) between federal government and TPLF especially over the past six months, there is high improvement of tourism sector in the state.

As to the head, the launching of different new procedures by the bureau and other factors, over 82,000 local tourists and 662 tourists have enabled to visit tourism destinations in the state.

Explaining the measures done by the bureau, he said that bureau has been advertising the existing and new tourism destinations in the country using various approaches.

He said that though the state has been showing improvements with regard to advertising tourism destinations found in the state, it is not good enough particularly the



newly erupted Erta Ale volcano should be properly advertised.

He stressed that the state has been constructing new road infrastructure and reconstructing roads that have been destroyed by the northern Ethiopian conflicts citing the construction of roads around Afdera and Afamba.

He also said that the construction of these roads will attract investors to invest in tourism sector in the state.

He said: "The bureau has been advertising in collaboration with Oromia State Tourism Commission and other stake holders via creating a platform called "From Addis Ababa to Dalol" and the platform has been achieving a successful achievements to advertise tourism destinations found in the two states.

Danakil Depression, Erta Ale active volcano, Yangudi Rassa National Park and others destinations are found in the state.



## Ministry commences 12 regular vaccinations in Tigray

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**—Ministry of Health (MoH) announced that 12 types of regular vaccinations are being provided for children in Tigray state.

MoH Maternal and Child Vaccination Desk Head Melkamu Ayalew told local media that MoH has been providing children with various regular vaccinations in Tigray following the peace agreement.

As to him, MoH's team of experts was sent to Tigray and has been working in cooperation with other local and international partners.

He pointed out that in order to ensure regular vaccination for children in all areas of Tigray, MoH will work with collaboration UNICEF, World Health Organization and other stakeholders.

"Preparations are being finalized to launch the nationwide campaign measles vaccination in the state. Works to fulfill resources and other inputs, in particularly resource mobilization, awareness creation, training of experts, constructing of drug storage centers, sending of refrigerators and other equipment are being completed," he said.

Melkamu also mentioned that the land transport that will be started soon will help a lot in sending and distributing various vaccines in the state.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends what is also strictly endorsed by Ethiopia that reads, "Vaccination has reduced and eliminated various childhood diseases globally, including diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, and tuberculosis."



## State expects current peace environment to boost investment

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** —Benishangul-Gumuz State said that the peace atmosphere currently blowing in the nation would help the state attract anchor investors.

Benishangul-Gumuz State Chief Administrator Ashadeli Hassen told the local media that although the state has huge untapped investment potentials ranging from agriculture to mining, it has not yet utilize its resources properly.

"Now, the state has been working on strengthening and accelerating investment activities. As it has allotted plots of land for investors, the state expects a large number of investors to join agriculture,



Ashadeli Hassen

mining, construction and other investment sectors. Besides, diversified crop types are also harvesting in the state," he said.

State Rural Land Administration and Investment Bureau Deputy Head Oumer Mahmmed on his part said that the state invited potential investors to invest four

years ago. However, peace and stability problems interrupted investment activities.

The state has wide range of natural resources which can be utilized for huge investment and other activities which in turn can support country's economy in the long run.

"The recent promising peace and stability across the country would boost investment activities. As a result, the state is expected to be center of investment activities if the current peace situation persists," he added.

Benishangul-Gumuz State is one of the most abundant lands in Ethiopia for various investment activities. It is mainly comfortable for commercial investment, large scale farming and others, it was learnt.

# News

## Diasporas demonstrate overwhelming support for rehabilitation endeavors

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – Understanding their role in the rehabilitation of war-ridden communities and the restoration of damaged infrastructure, Ethiopian Diasporas are desirous to exert maximum effort in supplementing the national efforts, the representatives said.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, representatives of the Ethiopia Diaspora communities in Canada and U.S. expressed commitment to contribute in the government's efforts to normalize the war-impacted areas.

Accordingly, a Representative of the Ethiopian Diaspora Community in Ottawa, Canada, Semaneh Tamrat, said that the community exerted concerted efforts on the national issues of the homeland including reversing the unwarranted interventions of some interest groups. The Diasporas have also made a notable contribution to promoting Ethiopia's objective reality among Canadian policymakers.

"Now, we are more ready than ever to support the rehabilitation of conflict-affected areas and displaced people. The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) has encouraged Ethiopian Diasporas to contribute a share to their home country's development. The good beginning needs the strengthening support for the full implementation of the accord."

As to him, now Ethiopians in the Diaspora should turn their face to invest in the conflict-impacted areas and be part of the economic



Daniel Eyasu

recovery activities. "We all should cooperate for the sustainability of the truce for the benefit of the community and support the government to resolve the conflicts in parts of the country in negotiation.

Another Diaspora from Washington, D.C., Daniel Eyasu, emphasized the far-reaching importance of the CoHA "We need the agreement and relative peace to continue effective rehabilitation of citizens and helping them to return to their normal lives. We are ready to continue our support, and the community shoulders the responsibility to support our fellow brothers and sisters."

Daniel noted, however, that rehabilitation should not immune those involved in



Photo - Eyob Teferi

Lidet Muleta

atrocious crime during wartime from being held accountable by law.

"We have finalized the preparation to engage in different development and investment activities to progress Ethiopia's economy," according to Lidet Muleta, a Washington, D.C. Diaspora Community Coordinator.

Lidet further highlighted that the community prioritizes Ethiopia and stands together to support the full implementation of the CoHA.

It is to be recalled that the government recognized 52 Ethiopian Diaspora associations from 25 countries that actively support their homeland in times of need recently.

## Addis hotels..

received from the Ministry of Tourism, indicating the availability of over 1,000 rooms for AU guests. "Our hotel is one of the largest hotels in the continent of Africa in terms of room numbers and we do not doubt our capability to provide world-class services that best fit with the needs of high-ranking AU dignitaries."

In its main site, Skylight has 1,024 rooms and 35 well-equipped apartment houses (up to three bedrooms), and 15 bars and restaurants equipped with ultramodern facilities and amenities. Besides, an In-Terminal Hotel, which is an affiliate of Skylight, located on the premise of Bole International Airport, availed 97 rooms and presidential and ambassadorial suits for participants of the AU sessions, Ayehu added.

Similarly, Assistant Director of Sells at Hilton Addis Ababa Hotel Daniel Gelaw expressed readiness to showcase their longstanding experience in the hospitality industry to the AU delegates. "Capitalized on our 53- years of experience in the hospitality industry, we are ready to serve the delegates with international standards."

Explaining the services, Daniel indicated Hilton Addis has presidential suits and other VIP rooms including natural hot water swimming pools. "Apart from the well-acclaimed hospitality services, Hilton Addis is also equipped with modern and able security apparatus that will make our guests stay comfortable."

While the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (Ministerial Session) will be held from February 15-16, the 36th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Summit (Heads of States and Government session) will take place from 18 to 19 February in Addis Ababa.

## ICHREE's mandate...

The above remark came yesterday when senior officials from Ethiopia's Ministry of Justice and Foreign Affairs met with ambassadors from European Union member states in Ethiopia to discuss ways to collaborate on issues relating to human rights protection and accountability.

According to the minister, despite Ethiopia's best efforts to ensure accountability, the EU opted to form ICHREE, which he says overstepped its mandate by participating in politically motivated activities.

He, therefore, called for the ICHREE's mandate to be terminated as it would undermine the Pretoria Peace Agreement and ongoing cooperation between the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

On the occasion Gedion also presented remarks reiterating Ethiopia's commitment to the full implementation of CoHA and subsequent agreements that hammer out details of the implementation frameworks.

In connection with that, he briefed the ambassadors on the contents of the document, "Policy Options for Transitional Justice in Ethiopia," which is prepared to address the current socio-political realities of the country based on accountability, truth seeking, redress for victims, and reconciliation and healing.

He reiterated that the document was made public in order to gather input from all stakeholders and civil society groups through public consultations and formal national policymaking processes, further inviting the EU and member states to enrich it with expert opinions.

MoFA State Minister Ambassador Mesganu Arga offered remarks in which he expressed hope that such meeting with EU ambassadors would help both sides restore and strengthen relations.

The conference ended with the ambassadors appreciating Ethiopia's openness to cooperating with the EU on accountability issues and addressing their concerns that needed further clarification.

## Report reveals...

Concerning the humanitarian cargo delivery per category between mid-November 2022 and February 2, 2023, in Tigray, out of the total 4,127 trucks which required a support letter from the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC), 4,114 secured the letter.

Moreover, in the reported period, the total number of trucks with food and non-food supplies that arrived in Tigray was 3,901, while 1.06 million liters of fuel reached the area. Also, 142, 969 and 16,096 metric tons of food and non-food supplies arrived in Tigray respectively.

The report further highlighted that it was targeted in round 5 on November 18, 2022, to reach 664,339 beneficiaries in Afar in food response and it managed to reach 516,334 (77.7 percent) as of January 30. While 9, 268 metric tons of food was required, it was able to distribute 7,203 metric tons.

Regarding Amhara, it was targeted in round 4 on September 6, 2022, to reach 2.37 million beneficiaries in the state and it was managed to reach 2.34 million (98.5 percent). While 40, 269 metric tons of

food was required, it was able to distribute 39,684 metric tons.

In round 5 on November 18, 2022, it was targeted to reach 2.55 million beneficiaries in the state in food response and was able to reach 1.29 million (50.9 percent). Whereas 43, 233 metric tons of food was required, it was able to distribute 21,884 metric tons as of 30 January.

In Tigray, in round 2 in early October 2022, it was targeted to reach 5.43 million beneficiaries and was able to reach 4.68 million (88 percent). While 88,897 metric tons of food was required, it was able to distribute 78,505 as of 25 January.

Likewise, in round 3 on December 30, 2022, it was planned to reach 5.39 million beneficiaries in the state and was able to reach 535,498 (25 percent). While 88,140 metric tons of food were required, it was able to distribute 9,079 metric tons in the aforesaid period.

It is to be recalled that over 8.36 million people have received full-fledged humanitarian support after the peace agreement signed between the government and TPLF.

# Opinion

## We must not leave anyone behind to achieve SDG

STAFF REPORTER

The world today faces a future that is in peril. Our challenges have become more complex and interconnected, as we see the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, an uneven economic recovery, a climate emergency, growing inequalities, and an increase in conflicts globally. This year also marks a grim milestone, with over 100 million people forcibly displaced.

These events accompany increasing division in the community of nations which threatens to push the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) further out of reach for the Global South.

Adding to these crises, rising food and energy prices driven by the conflict in Ukraine, could push 71 million people into poverty, according to UNDP. The Global South, typically comprised of countries in South America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania, was already grappling with economic issues now exacerbated by the triple planetary crisis.

With limited resources, high vulnerability, and low resilience, people in the Global South will bear the brunt of our inaction, on climate and elsewhere. Solely depending on external aid from the Global North or G7 countries cannot be the panacea. Here, countries of the Global South can empower themselves and combine efforts to achieve sustainable development.

In the face of global threats, international cooperation remains vital, as highlighted by the International Day for South-South Cooperation. South-South cooperation seeks to complement traditional development models by throwing light on the transformations needed to deliver on priorities, including the SDGs. It offers

possible solutions from *Global South to Global South*.

Countries of the Global South have contributed to more than half of global economic growth in recent times. Intra-South trade is higher than ever, accounting for over a quarter of world trade. It is time to further leverage these partnerships in the development space.

We already saw this while many countries were trying to obtain COVID-19 vaccines. Citizens of low and middle-income countries faced systemic discrimination in the global COVID-19 response, leaving millions without access to vaccines, tests, and treatments. India sent over 254.4 million vaccine supplies to nations across the world, under Vaccine Maitri – a vaccine export initiative.

Likewise, China has supplied over 200 million doses of vaccines to the COVAX Facility, in addition to providing millions of dollars in medical supplies to countries in the Global South, including in Africa, throughout the pandemic.

To advance development priorities, partnerships need to be rooted in shared interests that can lead to shared gains, as seen in traditional development models and assistance from the Global North. This dynamic needs to be at the core of the China-Africa relationship as well.

China, an economic powerhouse, has the potential to advance development in the Global South, especially in Africa, by bringing its experience, expertise, and resources to bear, and its assistance must advance both its interests and those of the countries where it operates.

Investments in shared goals are reflected in efforts by China to improve public health

in Africa, including in the construction of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Ethiopia, and in clean energy, through projects such as the Kafue Lower Gorge Power Station in Zambia.

China promises to invest US\$60 billion cumulatively in Africa by 2035, directed at agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure, environmental protection, and the digital economy. This is most welcome, and those planned investments must answer the needs of the local economies and societies.

What works in one country may not work elsewhere, but true collaboration allows for learning from mistakes and sharing successes. This is where the UN's expertise can ensure cooperation is demand-driven, in line with local expectations and needs, national development priorities, and relevant international norms and standards.

Platforms like the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) can work to improve that essential partnership. This mechanism has identified shared priorities like climate change, agriculture/food systems, global health, and energy security, among others, between China and Africa.

For the first time in FOCAC's history and with support from The Rockefeller Foundation, the UN in China is engaged as a strategic partner in this bilateral mechanism between China and Africa. The UN in China is continuing similar efforts in close consultation with relevant counterparts, including the China International Development Cooperation Agency.

For The Rockefeller Foundation, it is a nod to its legacy in China dating back to 1914, rooted in redesigning medical education to improve healthcare and its current priorities to advance Global South collaboration,

especially in public health, food, and clean energy access all global public goods.

With less than eight years to achieve the SDGs, truly international cooperation is our only hope. Emerging trends in technology and innovation can get us there, along with enhanced South-South cooperation efforts. But doing so requires us to “flip the orthodoxy”, as UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed advised.

The Ebola crisis is an example of where global cooperation, including South-South cooperation, enabled Sierra Leone to defeat the disease's spread, notably through a brigade of 461 health workers sent to Sierra Leone to support their overburdened system. Later, other countries made similar efforts to support Sierra Leone and nearby countries, such as Guinea and Liberia. This example shows the potential of South-South cooperation, but also triangular cooperation and North-South partnerships. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are another mechanism for financing and capacity building.

This can be seen in Kenya, where the Government and the UN System convened an SDG Partnership Platform with companies such as Philips, Huawei, Safaricom, GSK, and Merck. The outcomes include a downward trend of maternal and child mortality in some of the country's most remote regions. Similar PPPs can hold promise in unlocking global progress on the SDGs.

Today, while we face a more volatile world, the spirit of South-South cooperation shows a core value that we need: solidarity. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, “The last two years have demonstrated a simple but brutal truth, if we leave anyone behind, we leave everyone behind.”

## How to curb effects of corruption in the fight against climate crisis

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. In the words of the UN Secretary General at COP27, “we are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator.” Cutting greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050 is crucial when it comes to meeting the 1.5 degrees Celsius target.

At the same time, if we don't effectively deal with corruption in climate action, it will severely impede our abilities to fight the climate crisis through scaled-up adaptation and mitigation efforts.

According to Transparency International, up to 35 percent of climate action funds, depending on program, have been lost to corruption in the last five years.

### Corruption and the climate crisis reinforce each other

On the one hand, corruption fuels the climate crisis by depriving countries of much-needed revenues to act on climate change and build resilience, while also significantly altering the efficient allocation and distribution of resources to achieve development objectives.

For example, according to the U4 Anti-corruption Resource Centre, the top recipients of climate finance are among the riskiest

places in the world for corruption.

On the other hand, climate impacts reinforce corruption by creating economic and social instability and inequality, fostering an environment more conducive to corruption and misuse of funds that ultimately deprives the poorest and hardest hit.

Overcoming corruption in the race against the climate crisis requires collective action and bold partnerships between government, private sector, and civil society to recognize and combat the issue through more effective management of resources and programs.

This calls for:

- Governments to step up their efforts in environmental governance,
- Businesses to strengthen business integrity,
- Media, youth, and communities to continue to advocate against corruption.

The four immediate actions that require commitment from all actors:

1. **Management of funds:** A much greater transparency and accountability is needed in the use and management of climate finance in adaptation and mitigation programs.

Access to finance is often presented as the main obstacle to achieving a just transition and transformative climate action, but that's only one side of the problem. The other side is to make sure that the much-needed resources to address climate crisis are not lost due to corruption and mismanagement.

One good example is that of the Colombian climate finance tracking system, which provides updated data on domestic, public, private, and international climate funding.

It is one of the first countries in the world to have developed a comprehensive Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework to transparently track the inflow and outflow of climate finance from public, private and international sources.

2. **Voice and Accountability:** This means leveraging the power of advocacy and accountability mechanisms, and providing civic spaces for meaningful participation of society, empowering them to hold policy makers and private sector accountable.

For example, UNDP is empowering communities in Uganda and Sri Lanka, to use digital tools to mainstream integrity and transparency in environmental resource

management. In Sri Lanka, UNDP has launched a digital platform, in collaboration with the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation and other partners, for citizens to engage and monitor illicit environmental activities. The initiative is supported through UNDP's Global Project – Anti-Corruption for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies (ACPIS) funded by the Norad Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

Meanwhile, in Uganda, UNDP and the National Forestry Authority have launched the Uganda Natural Resource Information System (NARIS), designed to monitor and mediate deforestation throughout Uganda to protect the country's forests and biodiversity.

In the climate change agenda, fighting corruption is not only about the money. It is also about building trust in institutions and restoring hope in the future. Studies show that ‘eco-anxiety’ is increasing, particularly amongst young people.

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

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# Editorial

## Building modern army: Key to sustain regional peace

As the saying goes, "If you want peace, prepare for war", Ethiopia is taking strong measures to safeguard its peace and stability as well as that of the region. It is a well-known fact that one of the means to ensure peace is to preemptively deter all possible threats to peace. Furthermore, if any attempt against peace unfolds, it is much better to nip it in the bud before it costs life and resources. This would be possible when a country builds up a modern and well trained army that can accomplish its mission without incurring too much loss of life and resources.

Accordingly, the government has taken measures that could enable the defense forces to discharge their national responsibility with such a modern approach. As a result of the strong work done in modernizing and reinforcing the army, it is possible to move a step forward from solving conflicts through military might to dealing with them through peaceful means. The endeavor made to peacefully address the conflict in northern Ethiopia is a good example. The peace and stability of the country is consequently improving afterwards and the role of the strong defense capability deserves due credit for this.

Now that it has discharged its responsibility with due diligence, it is natural to ask about the sustainability of the capability of the army both in terms of equipment, facility as well as in its orientation to realize its mission.

What makes the army reliable and capable is that it is well staffed and led by professional, time tested officers that are free from ethnic and religious inclination. Furthermore, due reform has been made to make the army, especially the leadership, to be free from affiliation to political parties and interest groups.

The army has now attained a stature that makes it an asset not only for the country but also for the entire Horn of Africa region that needs the active role of such a strong and principled pacifying force. Such thought emanates from Ethiopia's foreign policy of cooperating with friendly neighboring countries in ensuring mutual peace and development, as well as from the general principle that securing regional peace and stability is a collective responsibility that should not be left for one country in the region. This means, when Ethiopia is in trouble the neighboring countries would be on high alert in case the security problem spills over. The same would be true for its neighboring countries that are highly interconnected with it economically and socially.

This leads to the idea that the Ethiopian army is bestowed with a responsibility to shoulder the country's role of ensuring collective regional peace. To realize this with the required level of caliber, the army needs to be well equipped, trained and modernized tantamount to the needs of the region.

As it can be remembered, Ethiopian defense forces have been paying a sacrifice in ensuring peace and stability in neighboring countries under the African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) peace keeping missions in Somalia, South Sudan and the like. They are still doing similar jobs audaciously in Somali deployed under AU Mission in Somalia AMISON.

Neighboring countries as well as friendly nations should also assist and collaborate with the strong Ethiopian defense forces in its unreserved endeavor towards promoting peace through building its deterrence capability as well as through its strong discipline of committing for regional peace and stability.

## Opinion

# Converting threats into opportunities

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Professor emeritus and author, Lester Milbrath says, "We must stabilize the population. This will be possible only if all nations recognize that requires improved social and economic conditions, and the adoption of effective, voluntary family planning."

From the above relevant saying, one can easily deduce that population growth would be manageable if stringent measures are taken and everyone is in a position to manage aspects accordingly and work for improved socio-economic advancement; even it is put as compulsory parameter. The issue of family planning is also cited as a must as it is tantamount to managing world population compatible with its resources, the limited assets that could hardly suffice to quench the unlimited human demands. Basically, population growth would eventually slow down when parents decide to have fewer children. In so doing, it would be very likely possible to make earth's resources compatible with the number of its occupants.

Yes, planet earth, a sole mother of all human race, is now housing eight billion sons and daughters in its womb. Some scholars of Anthropology, economists and environmental scientists sometimes, though the majority doesn't care about, are heard of saying that wise use of

resources; promoting economic growth and nurturing environment have to be given priority to safely accommodate all people of the planet as each and every new person is a new consumer scrambling a given supply of this mommy.

It has also simultaneously accommodated a series of calculatingly or unknowingly orchestrated conflicts, chaos and turmoil in its fields among these siblings. The very point here is, the world over has expended incalculable financial matter for the purpose of threatening neighboring countries or cross boundary rivalry. Fundamentally, the expenditure pumped into purchasing artillery and highly costly weaponry could presumably suffice to feed too many people of the universe. Capitalizing on wise use of resources and reasonably spending wealth instead of making monetary buckets empty for claiming priceless human lives have to be the call of the day if creating safe world is our thematic trajectory.

If optimism prevails over pessimism, truthfulness prevails over sarcasm and even if diligence prevails over procrastination, things would easily be converted into a rewarding scenario. No matter how mystery and trying population explosion across the globe especially in developing nations would be, it is possible to have a positive repercussion out of the spur of populace. As a country could never be regarded

as home to people, the swift shooting of the latter would not be a threat, but manageable if political commitment and leadership effectiveness is recorded. This means that such a firm commitment can accelerate improved social and economic conditions, and the adoption of effective, voluntary family planning, though the last notion principally revolves around the population itself.

Yes, shortage of resources, act of producing risky wastes, and rapid prevalence of communicable and contagious diseases do have a direct bearing to overpopulation. Needless to state, human population tumor at present in the world has exacerbated all sorts of human hardship. Its seriousness and preventability should be measured at equal footing since there are many workable, lucrative and rewarding steps to make population growth challenges and opportunities balanced.

The very important thing that needs to be taken into serious account in this regard is that population attracts change as it is intertwined with development in many ways. Unequivocally, effects of population growth may vary widely depending on institutional, economic, cultural as well as demographic settings. Hence, all concerned parties in every nation have to be well aware of the merits of population increase and work in unison to convert threats into imminent

opportunities. Not only does population growth attract threats but it also helps come up with prospects to have competent and productive labor that would potentially accelerate growth, prosperity and change, but it needs systematic approach and firm commitment.

Population growth could be source of development although its rapid rate is common in most of the developing world.

All in all, the world over has to focus on providing the youth, who are plagued by unemployment, addiction nostalgia and recklessness, with job opportunities and training. True, the proportion of working-age can boost economic growth even though there are many obstacles to reaping this windfall. As high unemployment, a mismatch of jobs and skill levels, extensive government entitlements, and political instability are serious factors affecting the current generation not to contribute to the effort exerts to spur economic growth, the issue has to receive firm attention at national, regional, continental and global levels. If this is so, converting threats into opportunities will work well. Together, people can make a better world!

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

# Art & Culture

## Art enlightens, emboldens and soothes

BY KFLEYESUS ABEBE

Art refreshes, enlightens and provides different perspective to the minds of the audience. For the artist, it is a way of venting what is inside his/her mind. It could be their happiness, optimism, concern, regret or sorrow. Artistic pieces just forward reflections on life, incidents and convictions their audiences might relate to. As their works are the result of deep thinking, experiences, careful observation or experiments, they offer new science and social perspectives, motivate the discouraged, strengthen the weak and soothe the grieving.

Hollywood and the U.S music industry are proofs that art is a heavy power wielding influence on every aspect of people. It is not an exaggeration to claim there is no topic Hollywood hasn't touched. History, science, politics and other aspects of Americans and the world including new phenomenon have been explored through these art works they must have achieved a lot.

An interesting clip in American series movie called *Empire* tells the power of art in changing lives from individuals who produce art contents to art consumers. In this movie, there is a music genius known as Lucious Lyon attempting to launch a music company that aimed at helping young talents to get resource, exposure and opportunities to record their label. The fictional character recalls his life journey and career growth as follows: "It was a music that played in my mind, kept me alive when I thought I was going get shot. It was the lyrics I dreamt about. It kept me warm when I was sleeping in the street. Music saved my life." We also watch his efforts of advancing the industry and supporting emerging artists acknowledged by the then prime minister Barack Obama.

Although it is not comparable with the American entertainment industry, art has had tremendous contributions here in Ethiopia too. It has been there contributing to socioeconomic and political condition of the country. To begin with, it has changed lives of talented people. There are in fact artists who rose from street or humble family to become a super star. It is monumental runaway boy Tilahun Gessese becoming King of Ethiopian Music. Mahamud Ahmed too became King of Tizta music from a shoeshine boy. It is also a recent surprise that the humble farmer Dishtagina getting the interest of local and international audience.

As Ethiopia is embracing the digital world, young people are also getting opportunities to show their talents and change their lives. Online technologies like facebook, the YouTube and Tik Tok have supported talented people to kiss poverty goodbye. There are notable artists that became known by the help of these technologies. Not only music, film and other audio and video art contents, other art forms such as painting, sculpture, and literature have positively impacted so many lives. In addition to helping themselves, artists are



also unleashing their talents to encourage others, to inspire generations and soothe the grieving.

Some of Ethiopian artists have already done impressive jobs exploiting their gifts to motivate, inspire and comfort the melanconic. To corroborate this point I must provide some examples and I would begin by Aster Aweke's *Ayzoshe/ Be strong*. Aster brought the typical Ethiopian way of motivating the weak via music. She insists people to count their blessing and say rise up again.

Be still, Be still, Be still  
 If I get my self in trouble by accident  
 If I become thirsty of water  
 Or, my body gets weaker  
 God, my creator won't forsake me  
 Be strong Be strong (4x)  
 If job loss troubles you  
 Or sickness compels you bedridden  
 When a dark cloud envelops the day  
 You have a family to reach you  
 Be strong Be strong (4x)

Please be strong  
 Teddy Afro's *Kelal yehonal/ it will be easy* is also another encouraging song comforting to listen.

On the hills my legs don't get frail  
 It is the tip of the mountain  
 It is love, my estate  
 It will be easy  
 Make unrelenting my patience  
 When he saw the cloud  
 He thought it gets dark  
 He said, it is all over  
 If we can see the little hope hidden from sight  
 Tomorrow could be another big day  
 It will be easy  
 It will be easy

Zerubabel Molla in his song *Eskemeche/ "Until when"* also encourages people to

believe in themselves, to pursue their dreams, take action in their lives and live fulfilled life.

I shall go to reach where my heart is  
 I shall run to that  
 To the finish line  
 Get ready  
 Rise up  
 Fight to the last bit  
 Don't ever give up  
 It is time to cherish your success  
 I shall proceed  
 I shall engage in the competitive world  
 I shall speed up seeing the award  
 Running, hurrying, hurrying  
 Until when you shy away?  
 When you have faith  
 Until when?  
 When there is God  
 Until when?  
 When you have power  
 Until when? When you have the potential  
 Until when?  
 When you have country  
 Until when?  
 When there is generation

Artists also campaign for different purposes like environment, education, socio economic development and others. They voice their concern and urge people to keep in mind the power of love, peace and togetherness. They have kept producing artistic contents with these subjects. At times they also send their blunt sociopolitical criticism. Like the music, the movie industry and other genres of art have also contributed their part. When the artists do this, it is also fair to assume government and other stakeholders recognize and support artists' efforts. Like the fictional character in *Empire* expresses the challenge of art industry in this digital age is copy right infrigenment. "The internet is destroying musicians ability to make money because our work is downloaded

for free online. So, it is now impossible for disinfranchised kids to overcome the way that I did. We are going to change all of that."

Artists in Ethiopia haven't still got deserving return. This might have been caused as Ethiopian society is still traditional and has stereotype against musicians and art in general. The other most prevalent problem artists are facing is Copyright infringement as laws are still not strong and ways of controlling copy rights have become tough due to complexities of new technologies. On top of this, Ethiopian artists have been divided and doing nothing about it upto this time. They haven't been organized and do not come up with smart ideas to control their royalties and maximize their profit. They have now seemed to have passed this time. Many artists are coming up with ways that protect their products, increase their profit and visibility. Sewasew, the latest collaboration of artists, Awtar and other digital music services are expected to secure benefits of artists. If concerned stakes also stand up together, art will sustain changing lives of performers and enlighten, embolden and comfort consumers of art products.

### What is Narcissism?

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT  
 Narcissism is the extreme need for regulating self-esteem. A narcissistic person is extremely moody and tries to avoid shame as much as possible. A narcissist has a component of superiority complex because he/she is always trying to compare his or herself to the other person as to who is better or superior. Healing narcissism is done by developing a true sense of self confidence and avoiding the need to compare oneself to others. Healing can be done by catching oneself when seeking approval or avoiding shame and being comfortable with the real self rather than the grandiose self a narcissist tries to maintain.

# Law & Politics

## Keeping the momentum of peace

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

As most situations in Tigray State have been taking a U-turn after the signing of the cessation of hostilities agreement, all and sundry should work in close collaboration to maintain peace and tranquility.

It is widely known that in the current state of affairs, the federal government has been smoothing the path of the delivery of humanities assistance, restoration of social infrastructure, and other essential services such as medicine, fuel, and other things of a similar kind in Tigray State.

Apart from that the incumbent has been fully engaged in making clean drinking water accessible to citizens displaced from their villages as a consequence of the conflict that lasted for two years other than that Ethio Telecom service has set in motion providing services in a broad spectrum of the Tigray state.

In good truth, since the signing of the peace deal, the whole thing in the northern of the country has been getting back on track. In consideration of the foregoing, inhabitants of the region have been breathing a sigh of relief and returning to normalcy.

Following the federal government's uncompromising stance to end hostilities and resolve their differences in an atmosphere of calm, the overall picture of the country has been taking a turn for the better. It is common knowledge that the cessation of a hostilities agreement has been playing a huge role in consolidating peace throughout the northern part of the country.

Apart from returning the northern part of the country to normalcy, the peace accord has been ensuring lasting peace and tranquility. It is certain that before the peace agreement, some entities did not expect Africa would solve its problems in its way effectuating the catchall phrase "African solutions to African problems".

Peace is now prevailing in the country with parties to the agreement looking determined to the full implementation. And, party members and scholars are urging the Ethiopian people to preserve the momentum and ensure lasting stability in the country.

In an interview Tigray Democratic Party (TDP) Chairperson Aregawi Berhe (PhD) gave to The Ethiopian Press Agency said on the heels of the war, Ethiopia has suffered a lot. Other than that the conflict has caused socio-economic and intellectual pressure on the people. However, after the peace agreement, each and every one has been breathing a sigh of life. Given the current circumstances, the existing situation that has been unfolding after



the signing of the peace accord is encouraging. To the best of my knowledge, notwithstanding the fact that small gaps are witnessed the good ones outweigh the existing developments on the ground. In good truth, the general public has been standing by the side of the federal government.

As war cannot bring about a lasting solution, the incumbent's endeavor to make peace happen is truly praiseworthy. The crucial thing is that when the predicament is resolved through dialogue, a long-lasting solution that is acceptable to every Tom, Dick, and Harry will be found. The repeated efforts of the government to solve the problem peacefully are commendable.

He elucidated that Ethiopian Airlines has embarked on giving services. More to the point, telecom, banks, and electricity services have been restored.

"Tigray is not the only area affected by the war. Prior to that, the people of Amhara and Afar region have been affected. Furthermore, some organizations closely associated with the war in other areas, such as Welega and Benishangul, as well as some parts of Oromia, have brought great suffering to the people," he added.

According to my way of thinking, the peace agreement assured that they cannot go on with the war. At the end of the day, when they realized the fact that Ethiopia is one and a sovereign country, and the people will cooperate and challenge them and the army will fight them wholeheartedly, they have come to peace. I do believe this approach can work on other extremists as well. Indeed, following this path is to bring them peace.

"When we look at the issue of peace from the comprehensive perspective of the people, it has far-reaching implications. All and sundry were suffering. The coming of peace is very

important for the stable life of the people on the grounds that no one benefits from war except death, disfigurement, and destruction of property. The government is determined. Political parties are also determined. We are all committed to peace," he wrapped up.

Ethiopia is moving in the right direction in terms of building peace in the country and the Horn of Africa, an award-winning journalist and fellow with the Center of Media and Peace Initiatives told Ethiopian News Agency.

The award-winning American journalist and fellow with the Center of Media and Peace Initiatives, Joseph Hammond, for his part said Ethiopia is moving in the direction of implementing the peace agreement.

The Ethiopian government has swiftly implemented the deal and also restored basic services, and the return of life to normalcy is observed in the war-torn areas, the journalist noted.

Hammond stated that the restoration of basic services like air flight is a positive sign for peace development in Ethiopia.

"I think the resumption of flights to Mekele, Tigray regional capital, is positive. You know, I think it suggests that we are moving in the right direction in terms of building peace in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa."

According to him, the resumption of flights shows that there will be a greater free movement of people within Ethiopia, which is a return to the situation before the war. So, these are very welcome developments.

He pointed out that the Horn of African nation also has reliable global friends and partners which have been yearning to see a peaceful country above all.

"I think that Ethiopia should remember that it's not alone. There are stakeholders within

the Horn of Africa and in the world that are keen to see Ethiopia strong, successful and a peaceful country above all."

For this reason, Hammond thinks that "Ethiopia should work with its partners and continue down the timetables laid out in the peace agreements."

He also hoped that Ethiopia will continue on that path to achieve lasting peace.

"I think the signs are positive as well as bold here. The government, all active stakeholders, the international community can all build towards the goal of a peaceful, stable, prosperous Ethiopia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century," Hammond noted.

He underlined that war is easy, peace is bravery. "You know, peace is very tough. But the other part of that is engaging with stakeholders to make sure it's a long term, sustainable peace the kind that we will see building a prosperous and stable Ethiopia I guess."

The award winning journalist stressed that the political peace needs to be built upon the redemption of the shared heritage between the communities in Ethiopia.

Hammond also stressed the need to engage in peace building initiatives between the different communities in Ethiopia to put this chapter behind in the rearview mirror as quickly as possible.

For the journalist, Ethiopian Airlines is one of the real pearls and gems of Ethiopia's legacy.

"I mean, this is one of the real pearls and gems, part of Ethiopia's legacy. You know, I recall reading Nelson Mandela's memoirs about how he was struck flying on Ethiopian Airlines and seeing African pilots and African air crew on a plane and how much that symbolizes for him. So the legacy that's all important."

Ethiopia is a short flight for billions of people, Hammond noted, adding that some of the world's largest markets can be reached in a very short flight from Ethiopia.

"Not just in Africa, obviously. When we talk about the Middle East, we started talking about Southern Europe. Even into Central Asia and beyond that you already have Ethiopian Airlines flying to North America. You have them flying to Asia. So there's a lot to build on."

Ethiopian Airlines has still kept its net profit margin well despite COVID-19 pandemic and a two-year long war in northern Ethiopia.

Besides Ethiopian's role to connect every corner of the globe, the airline, given the country's mountainous terrain is going to be so important for all regions of Ethiopia going forward.

### How to curb effects...

A global study of 10,000 youths from 10 countries in 2021 found that over 50 percent of young people felt sad, anxious, angry, powerless, helpless, and guilty about climate change. But we have also seen youth, civil society and communities taking action against the environmental damage and climate change from Serbia to India.

Through UNDP's Climate promise alone, more than 110,000 people have been engaged in stakeholder consultations to revise key national climate strategies, known as nationally

determined contributions, helping to build social consensus and explicit recognition of the roles of youth and women's leadership in renewed climate pledges in 120 countries.

**3. Private sector has a key role to play:** Public capacity needs to be strengthened to implement policies to regulate private sector activities to protect the environment. At the same time, businesses should also play their part with fair, human-rights based business practices, business integrity, and environmental sustainability goals.

**4. The normative framework to protect**

**human rights:** An intensified focus on 'environmental justice' at global and national level is needed. On 28 July 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted a historic resolution that gave universal recognition to the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment (R2HE). UNDP promotes responsible business by strengthening human rights standards across 17 countries, with support from Japan.

UNDP has supported over 100 national human rights institutions to address the human rights implications of climate change

and environmental degradation. In Tanzania, UNDP has supported the 'Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance' to manage disputes related to environmental human rights violations. In Chile, UNDP has supported an ongoing process of constitutional reform which includes strong references to environmental rights.

The development community needs to ensure integrated approaches and break the siloes between the governance and environmental communities; and between public and private sectors to tackle the interlinked crises of corruption and climate change.



# We have not adequately used the power, money and knowledge of the diaspora

- Dr Mulugeta S Abebe

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

*Dr. Mulugeta Semework Abebe was born in Debre Markos town of Amhara State and grew up in various places in Ethiopia. He attended secondary school in Woliso and went to Arba Minch town to sit for the Ethiopian Secondary School Leaving Examination (ESLCE).*

*After joining Asmara University for his first degree study he unfortunately interrupted it when the war of Eritrean Liberation got so close to the city and then Eritrea became an independent country. He then completed the remaining two years of his study at Haramaya University and received his first degree. Subsequently, he studied second degree in biochemistry.*

*He then went back to Israel for master's thesis. In the meantime, he had a chance to go to America through the DV lottery but he did not want to. At last, he decided to go to America and see what happens. Even if he finished the research, he didn't attend the graduation ceremony as he already went to America.*

*After travelling to USA, he studied another Master's degree in neurobiology from Georgia State University in Atlanta and later did his PhD in neuroscience at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, New York.*

*He is currently living in New York City where he is serving as a Senior Software Engineer at DNA Nexus and research scientist at Columbia University. Currently, he is assisting companies ML/AL solutions for clinical and genetic data and studying how the brain remembers objects in our familiar environment.*

*He is also an author of two books, one written in English and the other is a poetry book in Amharic language. He plays piano at home, records it and then now professionals are actually remaking it. While he was in Addis, the Ethiopia Herald stayed for a while with him to know more about issues related to the Ethiopian Diaspora and their unreserved contribution to the national development. Have a nice read.*



## How do you observe the contribution of the Diaspora for the socioeconomic development of their country and protection of national territory?

Well, it is a very difficult question to answer. In the first place when we say Diaspora, it depends on which country you come from and the situations you are in.

So, as far as I can see, people in America, at least have the kind of flexibility in the choice to do quite a lot of things. Others who are residing in other countries are suffering or just working very hard to make ends meet.

They cannot come back to their country of origin as they do not have a visa. So it is very hard for anyone to do anything directly. On the other hand, academicians like me have the chance to travel and do different things. Though we have the options, it is sometimes very hard to come here and do anything useful as the country still needs a lot of infrastructure.

If you take my educational background for instance, I can only do very little things due to lack of technology, infrastructure and bureaucracy. If I want to conduct neuroscience research, it will take years. So it will be a waste of knowledge and time. However, the little things we can do have a greater impact.

## Do you think that the Diaspora has been discharging citizenship responsibility?

It depends on how you see it. There is a lot of division due to politics. The main problem

for most Diaspora is really not being able to come here because governments keep changing and the rules are very hard. And a lot of people complain about not being able to do anything. And the only reason why I can even do things like teaching, organizing seminars, capacity building training and I try to connect directly with people but most of them don't have that choice. Whenever they try, there is a lot of blockage from everywhere.

People reach out to universities, hospitals so as to share what they have but nobody responds to them or they will take much time to respond to. They won't come here. Most people who are living in America or Europe are a little better as the system is different and gives them more free time.

So in America, if you work for a company, depending on where you are, you may get two weeks or three weeks off the whole year. And then it takes five days to find somebody who shows you the office, or to give a seminar or you will not get enough people. So, it's very discouraging.

This is everybody's complaint, no matter what you do. So it is very hard to say the Diaspora has actually done what it should do because of many reasons. As they have been away for a long time, some Diaspora does not understand our culture, or how things work. So, they get discouraged easily.

The other thing is politics. In the previous regime, there were a lot of people who would never want to come home and do

anything important for this country. It was dangerous for them to come back here. But now things have changed quite a bit.

There was a war which disrupted a lot of things. So it's a combination of different things. But I honestly don't think the Diaspora has been used properly. We could do a lot as I said by taking lessons from Israel. We definitely have not used any of the power, the money, the knowledge that the Diaspora has. It is very sad.

As a neuroscience researcher, what is your plan to share your knowledge and experience with physicians in Ethiopia?

Okay. There are at least three or four things I am looking at. And I'm slowly starting to get the time to actually come here and do some. I've been in school for a very long time and it was hard to travel. So in neuroscience, there are not many Ethiopian neuroscientists.

One thing that I want to do is, actually, to open a lab in one of the hospitals or universities here in Ethiopia and start teaching basic neuroscience as even the medical school neuroscience curriculum is vast and very hard to grasp unless you have continuous education. So if there was a lab, college students or medical doctors can go through and just learn the basics and they can actually watch things being done. That will change a lot of things.

The other is education. I want to keep coming here and educate people. And I can see the big knowledge gap here. And they also tell me like I try to explain things in a very simple and short way. It is still very difficult as there are no teaching aids such as books and videos. So I want to make education materials and videos in Amharic and English, specifically for Ethiopia.

The other thing is to collaborate with people and hopefully open rehab centers for people with traumatic brain injury. This research I'm doing actually a lot of people

are interested in finding out how they can use it, to help people the first thing to know is always the problem. And then what you do with the problem is actually have a place.

The other thing I want to do is slowly start building up Ethiopian neuroscience and also software engineering as part of an Ethiopian endeavor to bring it up and actually can start with having big meetings in Ethiopia. I can organize African neuroscientists and slowly start attracting other countries and other projects. We did the right projects with different universities last year. We submitted a request for grant though we didn't get. We're going to resubmit the request so that research will help a lot of people to actually be involved.

And that's also the capacity building, so they can get exposed to different research. And also they can travel for research. So there are quite a lot of things I couldn't do as there is not enough time to do everything. But at least you can start somewhere and slowly build up things.

## Academicians working abroad are not equally treated with citizens of the country they live in? Is that true?

Yes. There are a lot of problems and it depends on where you are. America is actually one of the best places because I do see a lot of people. And I have a lot of friends who tell me the same thing and actually feel it when you travel to Europe and other countries. Black people are treated very differently. For me personally, I have been doing things in places that I am supposed to be.

Once they found out who you are or how you do things, people around you will treat you differently. And every day you find people who look at you and ask you what you are doing there. I go through a lot of problems but being an Ethiopian is actually very different and we don't really feel it.



# Herald Guest

That is a kind of very important thing for people here to know. Most people do not realize how great we are or how great other people look at us. In fact in America you can meet people and they look at you differently. As soon as they find out you are an Ethiopian they say to everyone very different from us.

They say I know you are runners and I know you have a long history. In the end, it really depends on how you care for yourself though there are times when it is very hard. When I go to different meetings, I see people who are treating me differently until they know who I am. So you get the same kind of treatment from both kinds of people. The discrimination and everything is true but it is very different for us. I do not want to say that we are equally treated as Africans. That does not mean that we are not the same people who share the same problems. The main thing is to know who you are and help each other.

### **Do you think that there is an information gap between the Diaspora and local citizens?**

Absolutely, that is one of the problems I want to help solve. I personally know a lot of people here and we have a big network to talk to each other and we do different things. Whenever someone wants to do something, they say 'do you know someone who gives me the staff?' 'I have this material that I want to give someone and where do I send it?' That is the problem that I want to bring together in one website.

There is a big gap because sometimes there is an organization called Afri, that I am part of, and has a lot of educated people mostly focused on information, teaching and capacity building and there are so many professionals on that website and most of them do not know what they can do here. And most Ethiopians do not know about that website. The first thing to do is to go there, if you want to find someone who is a physiologist. They can just go there and do something for us.

Materials are very short here. Like reading and teaching materials. And these people can provide all of that because as I said before when I give seminars, most of what I say does not make sense for many people as they do not have the information. Having less knowledge is because they are not exposed to the information.

### **What do you suggest for Ethiopian academicians who are dreaming to migrate and work in foreign countries?**

Seeing how much they have here, how much they do not have. Most educated people are poor. Even doctors are educated enough to make a lot of money. They cannot end up looking outside and finding a way. That is very right. This is perfectly their legal right to think so and do it if they get the chance.

However, Ethiopia is changing as far as I can tell. My advice is to actually think about what they would do after they go. For us most people just leave but never come back. But there is a lot of opportunity if you come back, somebody who is less qualified than you will be a boss and it is hard.

I think that is going to change. I would say if you find an opportunity, better education and work there for as many years and come



**Ethiopia is changing as far as I can tell. My advice is to actually think about what they would do after they go. For us most people just leave but never come back. But there is a lot of opportunity if you come back, somebody who is less qualified than you will be a boss and it is hard**

back to do many things here. Most of us are thinking like that. Most people who come here go back because they go to some office to get ID and it would take forever and ask some bribe or they get abused a lot. It is very discouraging for most people. But in the end it has to happen somewhere. Going out to their education and coming back is fine. What I don't like is going there to be rich and lead a happy life. That is going to happen because the other world is changing; there is a lot of movement. Xenophobia, less opportunities and things are not always as easy. They will be rich and lead a happy life. And most of their problems were solved. That is not going to happen because the other world is also changing.

Plus, depending on how educated you are here, it might not be as competitive as you think. I would say see what you can do here before you go out. In fact the best thing to do will be, to bring us and bring everybody back here and do a lot of things.

### **What should the government do to contain brain drain?**

Allow dual citizenship which is extremely important and I have the suspicion that is the reason why the government does it. They do not do it; there may be bad people who use it for politics. Do bad things and say we are American and European? However, the majority of us who are doing a lot of tasks here are good people. That is the first thing because when you have something like that you can actually get good jobs there; if you become a citizen you also have more power. Say I want to do this so you can convince more people there. And also when you come here you can relax in Ethiopia and do a lot of things and I think that would bring a lot of Diaspora back to work here.

The other is to keep rules very strict or right all the time, not change everything all the time. Especially coming here at the airport and going to any government office. We do get a lot of treatment and people try to help but overall that has to be better because most people have choices not to come here. Most people also do not understand how important they are and how important their knowledge is to the country of origin. Some would say 'what did Ethiopia do for me? I do not care' But if you make it so easy and good, people start coming.

The other thing I mentioned is, one of the people in the Diaspora Agency is to start bringing young people and find a way to pay for their trip whenever they come in at a very good program. They would go and visit different places and get a citizenship right. That is one of the things that I learned when I was in Israel.

They will never forget that they would think about what they would do in the future and they come back after they are educated. Ethiopians are among the most educated people in the world and one of the decent human beings that everybody agrees on. You can use them. Again Politics is a different thing and does not disappoint us. It goes a long way when you do that. People want to do something and they change their mind. It is very hard to check back.

**Thank you very much.**

**It is my pleasure.**

## Preserving Jugol wall

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Harar, which is situated 500 Km far from Addis Ababa, is a town where beauty and unity are found in harmony. The walled town, Harar, had been once serving as a culture, religion, knowledge and commercial center for the eastern parts of Ethiopia for over a century and it is still serving as a commercial center for Eastern part of Ethiopia.

Harar is not only a town where tolerance, love and harmonious coexistence of several nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia manifest themselves uniquely; but it is also a town known for its uniquely designed architectural works, mosques, shrines and historical places and natural gifts, as well as its residents food and colorful traditional clothes.

For these and other reasons, the town is one of the tourist destinations where both local and international visitors love to frequent.

Historical sources indicated that the town of Harar was founded in 7th century in the time. Through time, its suitable landscape together with its economic advancement, several people started to move into Harar.

Harar, as a land of tolerance and love, has several tourist attraction places. Jugol wall is one of those places. Historical documents indicate that Jugol wall was built around 1551 century by Amir Bin



Mujahid. Starting from that time, Harar and Jugol became almost synonyms. That is why it is difficult to think about Harar without mentioning Jugol wall.

Jugol wall is not only the identity of Harar town; it is also a world heritage site registered in the UNESCO. Whoever has a chance to visit this historical place, he/she will witness that Jugol is not simply a wall made up of rocks and cement; it is also a great work that reflects the architectural

advancement of the period.

Harar city has still preserved its identity and unique heritages including the Jugol wall that reflects the historic and architectural identity. However, through time lack of proper protection, man-made and natural factors had threatened the existence of the wall. Owing to this, Harari State has been exerting effort to protect the wall from any man-made and natural danger.

As it was recently confirmed by Harari State Chief Administrator, OrdinBedri, Jugol wall is one of the historical heritages inscribed by UNESCO as world heritages, Harari Government communication affairs Office reported.

However, this heritage has faced both man-made and natural threats. According to him, as a means to avert the problem, a team was organized and special attention was given to protect the heritage. This includes taking legal actions against those people breaching the law; and beautifying its surroundings.

“The administration has already started a green development program around the wall to make Harar town suitable for its residents and tourists.” As to him, everyone should take the responsibility of preserving Jugol wall and all the heritages in the State.”

He has also called religious leaders, elders, and other stakeholders to be part of the green development and heritage preservation activities.

Speaking on his part, Harar Municipality CEO, Usmael Yusuf, said that Jugol wall is the heritage of the whole Ethiopia and preserving it from severe damage is the responsibility of every citizen. So far 6,114 square lands are covered with green plant development projects. Usmael said the green project was developed by the active participation of 16 sector offices in Harar.



Published in cooperation with  
the Ministry of Agriculture

## Outcomes of the reforms in agriculture sector

BY TEWABE CHANIE

The agriculture sector has a great share to the overall economic growth of the country. The sector has contributed incalculable benefits to make the society beneficial from the sector. However, the benefits compared to country's ample opportunities-underutilized fertile land, suitable agro-ecology, water resources and human capital, the expect outcome is not at the desired level.

As a result, the nation is still striving to ensure food security for all citizens, could not provide sufficient agro-raw material to the industries, and the export revenue gained from the agricultural sector has not reached at the expected stage.

So, in order to solve the aforementioned challenges, and realize the targets set to the sector, the government has been implementing agricultural reform, which derived from national reforms since the past four years.

Obviously, the agricultural sector has many-sided responsibilities; and contributes a lion's share to lead the economic growth and make it sustainable. As the backbone of the economy, the sector is expected to feed an increasing number of population, generate

foreign currency from export market, realize nation's structural transformational, ensure food security, provide raw material to industries and other sectors within the next consecutive years. What is more, it is anticipated to create job opportunity for citizens.

As to country's ten years development plan, the agriculture sector has been implementing various activities including irrigation capacity development to produce year round- without depending merely on rainy-fed agriculture-expanding mechanization service and horticulture development, improving livestock development, increasing the involvement of private investors on the sector, creating job opportunity; and strengthening sectorial capacity as well.

Likewise, agricultural development policy reform and improvement task have been carried out over the last four years. As part of this effort, sector's intellectuals and scholars have taken part in policy revision and improvement by identifying the gaps of the previous policy and offering constructive ideas which are helpful to sector's advancement.

Following the reform, a ten year plan was set; and 10 in 10 initiatives have been

implemented targeting to solve food and nutrition problems; and curb rising food prices. In this regard, increasing production and productivity of irrigated wheat has been taken as a way. As a result, the country has reached to harvest 23 million quintals of irrigated wheat in 2014. For instance, in 2011 E.C, 3,502 hectare of land was irrigated for wheat production.

However, in 2014 E.C, it has reached 450,000 hectares. In the current fiscal year (2015 E.C) irrigated wheat activities have expanded to cover 1.2 million hectares of land. From irrigated and mehere harvest, Ethiopia has intended to export wheat for other countries. Such kinds of shift show Ethiopia's commitment and elevate its dignity beyond generating hard currency.

The reform can also enable the country to benefit better from coffee production by ensuring quality and increasing export size.

In fact, following the reform, various bottlenecks have been solved that were challenging the smooth flow of coffee export. Among the measures that have been implemented to increase the revenue of coffee, improving the quality of coffee, promoting coffee producers and exporters, designing market information systems are few. As a result, in 2014 E.C,

the country can generate 1.4 billion USD from coffee export.

Equally, to modernize the agriculture sector, importations of agricultural machines free of import tax were allowed to benefit those individuals engaging in the agriculture sector. In addition to this, different Air Trackers/chemical spray planes were bought to control trans-boundary invading pests.

Not only that, during the last four years, 25 billion multi-purpose seedlings have been planted in Green Legacy Initiative- a program which was designed to increase production and productivity, increase coverage of forest; and to prevent the influence of climate change.

On the other hand 'Ylemat Tirufat' initiative has been implementing with the aim to increase the productivity of livestock and fishery sector. This initiative is now implemented in different parts of the country with great mobilization.

Side by side, internal sectorial reforms have been carried out to support the agricultural reform. In this regard, renewing the building, installing situation room, digitalization of works, rebranding ministerial logo and tagline are few among others.

# Verbatim and Caption

## Ethiopia in full gear to welcome distinguished guests

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was founded in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 1963 by 32 African countries. The OAU was renamed the African Union (AU) on May 26, 2001. Ethiopia has always remained committed to the African Union and the ideals of Pan Africanism. Besides Emperor Haile Selassie's essential contributions to the establishment of the OAU, Ethiopia persistently engaged in supporting African independence struggles and became one of the biggest troop-contributing countries to AU-led peacekeeping missions in Africa. We celebrate the 60th anniversary of the union this year, grateful and mindful of the union's successful brokerage of the Pretoria Peace Agreement between the Ethiopian Government and the TPLF. Yes, "African Solutions to African Problems" is the way to address continental issues.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia



All necessary preparations are being made to host the upcoming African Union Conference with greater success than the previous year.

Hotels, tour operators, and other tourism industry players, who are essential components to the event, should strive to make Ethiopia a top conference tourism destination by offering excellent services to AU summit participants.

In addition to being advantageous from a business standpoint, hosting the AU conference presents a chance to enhance the country's image, which necessitates the best possible planning.

The upcoming African Union Conference is where Ethiopians will show their country's potential in the field of conference tourism.



Ambassador Birtukan Ayano, State Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of the National Committee

The ministry has prepared tour programs for the AU guests who will come to Addis Ababa to take part in the conference.

The AU Ministerial sessions and the Assembly will be held from February 15-19 in Addis Ababa.

Encouraging works have been done in defending the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia during the difficult times. The responses in terms of the interests of the country based on accurate information played a significant role in enabling the country to emerge successful. Ethiopia has also played a pivotal role in making Africa proud by realizing the principle "African solutions to African problems."

Ethiopia has been expressing its position in various forums that a Red Sea Forum which does not include Ethiopia will not be effective. Currently the Ministry is working actively to strengthen the successful activities of citizen-oriented diplomacy, economic diplomacy, port use, and other diplomatic activities.

Encouraging activities have been carried out in enhancing the participation of the Ethiopia Diaspora in development endeavors,



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen

including financial, humanitarian aid, remittances, among others. Moreover, the diaspora have played a crucial role in defending the sovereignty and interests of the country as well as providing financial support for the GERD.



## Published Bimonthly in Collaboration with Ethiopian Electric Power

# EEP efforts on expanding electricity infrastructure

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

The main mission of Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) is to increase the energy supply and provide the energy required by the economy in a reliable manner. Regarding this, specifically the infrastructure, Ethiopian Press Agency(EPA) had a stay with EEP Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Engineer Asheber Balcha.

As to the CEO, constructing power generation and distribution power stations, constructing high power transmission lines with maintaining and operating them, as well as purchasing and selling bulk power are among the responsibilities of EEP. Distribution stations and transmission lines should be expanded in order for the people of Ethiopia to fully benefit from electricity. "EEP is working day in and day out to answer the energy demand of the citizens and to fully exert the significant role of the sector in the nation's economy."

One of the indications of such successes is its being able to access power from small to large industries without

interruption and increasing foreign exchange earnings by selling the excess power to neighboring countries.

He also mentioned that the current electricity infrastructure is not enough to provide power to the over 120 million people of Ethiopia, who are living in a scattered manner. "In order to change this, the institution is carrying out new infrastructure construction and expansion works," the CEO stated.

There is a question of fairness raised by the States in terms of power generation and distribution plants with distribution lines, he mentioned adding: "After consulting with the House of People's Representative, it was agreed that the projects to be built hereafter should be built in a way that ensures the fair use of all the States."

Though EEP has been able to record tangible reforms while building infrastructure to take the energy sector to a higher level, it is facing challenges that hinder its journey and hold back its progress. "The main challenges are related to compensation, theft, security problems, and lack of resources," the

CEO also noted.

As well, he explained that good relations were established with the relevant state administration and security bodies besides the awareness created to the community with the support of the Administrative Boardmembers of the institute. Interesting results have been achieved in some areas where effective works were done though the problem is still visible in some areas.

And there are still difficult conditions to continue infrastructure projects in areas with security problems to repair those that have already been built besides to begin the new ones like in West Wollega.

If these problems cannot be solved, however, the efforts started to make energy accessible to all areas of the country by expanding the development of the electricity base will be hindered.

Consistent with him, the main source of income of EEP is the sale of electricity, but recently it has been earning additional income by leasing fiber optic lines to Ethio-telecom,

Safaricom and other institutions. As the utilization of electric vehicles is becoming accustomed in the country, there is an additional opportunity for the institution to increase its income by building charging options. In this regard, activities have been started to work together with the Ministry of Transport and Logistics and the relevant stakeholders.

It is also working towards increasing its income source by increasing its export capacity. And it is currently exporting ten percent of the energy it produces to Djibouti, Sudan and Kenya, earning thirty percent of its income. The neighboring countries such as Somaliland, South Sudan and Tanzania have the same interest and some of them have made an agreement, he mentioned.

At last, Eng. Asheber called on the community, media, security forces and leadership at all levels to assist EEP make the entire population of the country eligible for electricity and to expand the infrastructure through the sale of energy.