



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Ethiopia, France leaders vow to boost ties

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and French President Emmanuel Macron have pledged to foster cooperation between the two countries in economic development and other spheres, the Office of the Prime Minister said.

The two leaders also exchanged views on enhancing the French private sector's investment in Ethiopia's priority sectors.

"The bilateral relations would help these countries' progress into strengthened economic outcomes. Our doors are open for other investors and French companies that

are engaged in Ethiopia," Abiy added.

At the sidelines of the leaders' meeting, Finance State Minister Eyob Tekalign (PhD) discussed with France's Director-General of the Treasury, Emmanuel Moulin about enhancing the two countries' economic

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## Experts explore mechanisms to address macroeconomic glitch

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDISABABA** - Modernizing the banking system, executing viable policies that could arrest inflation and the parallel market as well as enforcing law and order will enable Ethiopia to adjust the macroeconomic imbalance, experts in the area said.

An economist and President of the African Trade Council, Kibur Gena, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the widening gap between the exchange rates of the Ethiopian Birr and hard currencies is nurturing a complex black market. The 18

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Kibur Gena



Hailmeskel Guazu

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## Ethiopia installs cloud-enriching radars

- Building 1.2- billion-Birr meteorology institute

BY MENGESHA AMARE

**ADDIS ABABA**- Ethiopia is building modern radars capable of identifying rain-oriented clouds and gradually converting clouds into rain by enriching them, the Ethiopian Meteorology Institute stated.

The country has planned to widely employ modern technologies to enrich clouds apart

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## FAO expresses commitment to further strengthen support to Ethiopia

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Linkage among manufacturing industries boosting investment

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Overcoming the challenges of education system

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Selamawit Dawit

## 'Ethiopian Day' to be celebrated in Jamaica

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ministry of Tourism announced that Ethiopian Day will be celebrated in Jamaica to strengthen public diplomacy between the two countries.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Tourism State Minister Selamawit Dawit said that stakeholders from the two countries have been working on hosting the celebration thereby strengthening holistic cooperation between the two countries for the benefit of their respective people.

She said that Ethiopia has been undertaking various image building activities such as promoting investment opportunities, introducing country's natural assets, tangible and intangible heritages and other assets in a bid to well reveal the tourism potential of the country.

The ministry is also working in terms of sharing experiences regarding the sector and it has all the time reflected Ethiopia's intention to make optimum benefit out of the sector for example using Caribbean countries' prominent people, it was learnt.

The state Minister further said that celebrating the day in many countries of the world like Jamaica would be properly communicated about the long-standing ties between the two countries.

According to Jamaican reggae musician Jason Panton, celebrating Ethiopian Day in Jamaica would help strengthen the unity and global ties of the two countries.



## ILRI launches pro-climate Enviro-Cow project

BY TEWODROS KASSA

**ADDIS ABABA-**The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) on Tuesday launched 1.5 billion USD worth project that sought to limit methane emissions, increase livestock productivity and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Ethiopia.

Kenyan Livestock Research Institute Genetics Professor Raphael Mrode said that the project is fundamental to counter climate change through limiting the amount of methane emissions from the largest number of cows available in the country.

As to him, Ethiopia has a largest cow population followed by Tanzania where the ILRI chosen the two countries to implement this project in Africa.

Practicing a traditional method of animal

husbandry contributes to exacerbate the level of climate change through increasing methane emissions, he said.

The first phase of the project will be implemented in Addis Ababa and Oromia state and will expand to other areas of the country.

Other African countries are also expected to follow the experiences of these two countries in the future, he recommended.

On his part, Ministry of Agriculture State Minister Advisor Alemayehu Mekonen (PhD) said that the project is ideal to control climate change through reducing methane emissions.

This project also promotes Ethiopia's efforts of climate resilient green economy development, he added.

"Identifying the feeding system of the country's livestock will have significant

contributions in methane emissions reduction. Promoting and practicing modern farming system is the major priority of Enviro-Cow project", he said.

ILRI Researcher and African and Asian Dairy Genetics Gains (AADGG) National Coordinator Selam Meseret (PhD) said that the project mainly collaborates with smallholder farmers and undertake evidence based research.

Accordingly, Enviro-Cow is a research project that has been designed to develop climate mitigation strategies by examining the emissions of dairy cows in Africa and their adaptive capacity to address the impacts of climate change.

Based on the project, researchers will gather data on the methane emissions produced by approximately 700 cows from up to 80 dairy farms in Ethiopia and Tanzania in the up-coming two years.

## Cooperative symposium crucial to link rural-urban economies

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA-**The 2nd Cooperatives Exhibition, Bazaar and Symposium is a tool to share experience and knowledge among participants and create strong and efficient market linkages between rural-urban economies, an official said.

The symposium was kicked off here yesterday under theme "cooperatives are the basis for the development of the country."

Speaking at the event, Addis Ababa Cooperative Agency Director General Gizachew Ali stated that the event will be great importance to stabilize the price of commodities and greatly benefit the urban low-income community. The bazaars will also contribute to social development and job creation.

"The experiences provided by the symposium will improve our city's market system and helps to create an exchange of knowledge and experience that has contributed to job creation and ensuring food security."

Gizachew called on all stakeholders in the area to play their part in a coordinated way and to do a better job by taking the experiences and experiences from the



Photo - Hadush Abraha

symposium. "By increasing the market share of cooperatives, we are working to ensure fair trade benefits in Addis Ababa."

Cooperatives are being used as a strategy to solve unemployment and the city administration is utilizing the strategy to provide more jobs and improve the standard of living. In particular, there are many saving and credit cooperatives following this, youths, women, and government employees have been able to save and borrow to enter into various businesses and improve livelihoods.

"We will continue to work to achieve better results by strengthening our capacity to increase the market share of cooperatives

and follow legal procedures."

Federal Cooperative Commission Deputy Commissioner Abdi Mhamed emphasized the role of cooperatives in the society's livelihoods as well as in the overall economy. "We will lay the foundation for Ethiopia's prosperity in the next decade. We will build our country. We build what we desire; we want to create a better Ethiopia, by harnessing the potential of organizations with a strong public base such as cooperatives."

Organized by Addis Ababa Cooperative Agency, the 2nd Cooperatives Exhibition, Bazaar and Symposium will remain open for the next five days.

## Association promotes Ethiopia's leather products to global customers

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA-** The Ethiopian Leather Industries Association announced that it has carried out effective promotional activities to introduce the country's highland leather products in global markets and seek partnerships with international firms.

Owing to high-quality standards and durability, international buyers have shown a strong desire for Ethiopia's genuine leather products made from highland sheep, goats, cows, and camels, Association President

Solomon Getu told local media.

As Ethiopia ranks first in the number of cattle in Africa, the country has immense potential to create jobs and enhance the growth of national income through the export-oriented and technologically-capable leather industry.

Shortage of inputs, forex crunch, and other setbacks; however, impacted efforts to tap the immense potential in the leather industry. Accordingly, the involvement of all actors in the leather industry is crucial to address the problems and enhance foreign

currency earnings, Solomon recommended.

Commenting on the issue, Industry State Minister Terekegn Bululta noted the government's huge engagement to ease challenges that the leather factories have been encountering. Also, the government has facilitated finance from the World Bank to solve input-related setbacks.

By the same token, the government has made commendable jobs in offering working places to supplement the production capacity of leather industries, the state minister elaborated.

## Ethiopia installs...

from utilizing natural rainfall to grow crops, the institute's Director General Fetene Teshome told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA).

Accordingly, several modern radars are being installed in various parts of the country to single out cloud heaps that can potentially give rain and gradually convert clouds into rainfall by enriching them.

Mentioning the national need for 12 modern radars based on the study, Fetene indicated that radars are being installed in different parts of the country to exhibit meteorological predictions in the coming ten years. Also, commendable jobs have been done in consolidating meteorological predictions in agriculture, water, health, and other related sectors.

"The government is working tirelessly to increase the number of radars from one to eight within the stated period, ten years. To this end, the government signed agreements and collaborated with donor countries."

Apart from the radar in Bahir Dar, additional radars are being installed in Enewari to follow up on central Ethiopia's climatic conditions and in Alaba Kolito to observe the Southern part of the country. Also, the installment of another radar at Bako Mountain, Illu Aba Bora Zone to control atmospheric conditions in Western Ethiopia is ongoing.

"These radars would help collect information up to 250 kilometers, and they contribute a lot to the effort geared towards enriching clouds. By doing so, Ethiopia could get rain spraying relevant chemicals.

The director-general further stated that Ethiopia is building a state-of-the-art meteorology institute with an outlay of 1.2 billion. The construction of the ultra-modern facility, which makes Ethiopia the third country in the world next to the U.S. and China to have it, reached 73 %.

As a manifestation of the government's strong attention to the metrology industry, some 64 and five students are attending second-degree and PhD programs respectively.

Currently, Ethiopia is collecting weather information using human labor, automatic airplanes, and radars, he remarked.

## FAO expresses commitment to further strengthen support to Ethiopia

**ADDIS ABABA (ENA)** - The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reaffirmed commitment to further strengthen its support to Ethiopia with a view to expediting the agricultural development activities in the country.

Agriculture Minister Girma Amenti yesterday held discussion with the representative of FAO to Ethiopia, Farayi Zimudzi.

During the occasion, the representative said her organization will strengthen the existing cooperation with the ministry of Agriculture to support the development of the sector in Ethiopia.

Particularly, she pointed out that FAO is committed to help Ethiopia in its effort to mitigating the challenges being encountered due to climate change in addition to its support to enhancing crop and livestock development.

Girma Amenti for his part briefed the



representative on issues that require special attention in the sector.

He has also commended FAO's continued support to the development of the sector in

Ethiopia.

The two sides have agreed to work in partnership with the utmost commitment, according to Ministry of Agriculture.

## Ethiopia, France...

cooperation and other related issues.

In the discussion, the state minister briefed French officials about Ethiopia's engagement in the construction of massive infrastructural developments that has lured the attention of many investors. Eyob also informed the latter about the ongoing rehabilitation and restoration activities that are being carried out in conflict-ridden areas.

For his part, Moulin revealed his government's firm desire to support Ethiopia's development and to encourage other developed countries to cancel the East African nation's debts.

The National Bank of Ethiopia's Governor Mamo Mehretu was also in attendance in the discussion, it was learned.

It is to be recalled that earlier as a part of

his working visit to Malta, Premier Abiy, along with his delegation, held a discussion with Maltase Prime Minister Robert Abela and other officials about ways of bolstering the two countries' cooperation in trade, investment, and political issues.

Prime Minister Abiy and his delegation returned to Addis Ababa yesterday concluding a successful European working visit.

## Experts explore...

% interest rate the commercial banks set to provide loans also hampered the entry of new businesses and the macroeconomic performance.

Likewise, the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia and its subsequent impact on the overall economy and the reduction of foreign aid and loan have also depleted the country's forex reserves and created a glitch in the macro economy.

As to Kibur, reducing the lending interest rates, putting viable policies that could be translated

into arresting inflation and increasing the sources of foreign currency earnings will significantly bridge the macroeconomic gaps.

He added: "The government should give particular attention to expanding foreign trade, maximizing productivity, and creating constructive engagement with various countries. Expanding the micro and middle enterprises and reducing unemployment are also worth considering addressing the macroeconomic glitch."

For another economist Hailmeskel Guazu, the

outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, limited productivity, political instability in parts of the country, and other political and diplomatic factors contributed to the macroeconomic gap.

A fiscal and monetary policy intervention is crucial to enhance the macroeconomic performance and widen the tax base as well as combat corruption and boost technological penetration. Improving foreign trade relations and making strong linkages with global actors as well as bringing new trade and finance

policies are also instrumental in the endeavor.

"By the same token, encouraging import substitution, channeling the remittance into banks, strengthening education policy, deploying skilled human power in the finance sector and the like would bridge the macroeconomic gap."

It is to be recalled that the newly-appointed Governor of the Ethiopian National Bank, Mamo Mihretu, recently disclosed that controlling inflation and the parallel market are among his priorities in the new capacity.

# Opinion

## Restoring peace, stability through the National Dialogue

BY GETACHEW MINAS

In 2021, the House of People's Representatives of Ethiopia adopted a law establishing a National Dialogue Commission. Regional and international diplomats expressed their pleasure for the action taken. This was an indication of the necessary measure towards resolving the political problems of the country. It would contribute towards the resolution of political conflicts in Ethiopia. Political scientists expressed their belief that a national dialogue would restore peace and stability that allow for efforts to address ethnic, tribal and religious differences and inter-communal intolerance. The national dialogue would cover and include a wide range of partners and participants in the preparation, process, and implementation. The involvement of these partners in all phases of the public dialogue contributes to success.

Experts have indicated that there are critical phases in which issues would be identified during the National Dialogue. In the preparatory phase, the "approach" adopted in the process of the Dialogue will influence its ultimate results. The circumstances under which it is conducted demands deep understanding of the political reality in which the country is engulfed. At the outset, Ethiopia has experienced one of the deadliest wars in its history. It has been conducted between the Federal Defense Forces and the TPLF Forces in the previous two years. In addition to this war, various other conflicts have occurred in different parts of the country. The economic and political impacts of the war have been deadly, being felt across the country.

Currently, creating the reign of peace in Ethiopia has become a priority agenda of the government. This is not, however, the duty of the government only. All concerned political entities and elites have to play a role in restoring peace, law and order in the country. Peace is not a one-sided affair as it involves all actors of war and peace. The law that established the National Dialogue Commission does not mandate it to stop the war. The law indicated that the Dialogue is aimed at solving the difference of opinions and disagreements among various political and opinion leaders. It also specified the involvement of segments of the Ethiopian society on the most fundamental national issues.

The Commission has no mandate to negotiate, reconcile, or set an agenda for a ceasefire among the warring parties as provided in the law and confirmed by the Head of the Commission. Conversely, studies show that in many countries comprehensive peace and ceasefire agreements have led to the initiation of national dialogues. Though the recent "humanitarian truce" declared by the warring parties is believed to lead to "permanent ceasefire," it requires a negotiated agreement to silence the guns. Experts believe that this should, however, be the first item of concern for the National Dialogue. Discussion among contending factions is a time tested mechanism that brings real and eminent peace in the country

filled with politically motivated movements. The movements are led by nationalist elites who aspire to achieve political power using ethnic and tribal susceptibility and emotional attachment.

The attitude of the national elites towards the National Dialogue process is a significant and imperative factor that will influence its ending result. Normally, there develop disagreements between the political elites on the true cause of the war in northern and other parts of Ethiopia. Experts assert that the decision to postpone the national election, scheduled for August 2020, but cancelled by the Federal government due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 was not respected by the TPLF. The Tigray regional state defied the Federal decision and conducted the election. The national election finally took place in June 2021, but some political parties boycotted it, questioned the impartiality of the election process.

The political parties "Joint Council" believed that the National Dialogue process had to be inclusive and trustworthy. It called for a temporary halt to the nomination of commissioners. Different parties have also expressed their concerns and demanded for the correction of the limitation and weaknesses. The major parties needed a common understanding of the preparatory phase of the election process. In other words, the commitment and willingness of major stakeholders had to be secured to make the election process credible. The public participation had been critical to gain legitimacy, communicate results, and "channel the expectations" of ordinary Ethiopians into the process.

A national dialogue should have mechanisms to include the broader population and enabling conditions to keep the general public informed and engaged in the dialogue in the preparatory phase. This, however, requires peace, security, law and order and provision of food, public goods and services. However, currently, over ten million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in the country. Due to the war, millions of people are in desperate need of food aid. Most of them live in famine in the northern part of the country. The blockade of essential services, electricity, and communications had worsened the challenges. Compounding the dire food situation, Ethiopia is currently experiencing drought in the eastern part of the country. Addressing these humanitarian crises before or parallel to the National Dialogue is critical.

The decisions made during the preparatory phase, including the selection of a chairperson, will affect the ultimate legitimacy of the National Dialogue in the eyes of political forces and the public. The chairperson of the National Dialogue is normally a respected personality who is known for fairness, justice and equality. His dignity, quality and professional integrity entitles him to be a chairperson. Those who made the decision to elect him to the high post of chairing the National Dialogue should be proud of their decision. The chairperson and others responsible

for the dialogue are expected to contribute to a successful National Dialogue in Ethiopia. The Commission is in a position to prioritize activities that facilitate the Dialogue, including unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to areas deprived of peace due to war. Dialogue with empty stomach is a totally anomalous.

Consultation would be continued in order to secure more genuine commitments and willingness to sincerely engage in a Dialogue that leads to peace, law and order. In this regard, the National Dialogue Commission Chairman had briefed House of People's Representatives Speaker Tadesse Chafu and Prosperity Party Office deputy Head Adem Farah as well as chief administrators of the regional states about the progress of the national dialogue process. National Dialogue Commission Chairman, Professor Mesfin Araya had presented the plan, implementation program and activities of the dialogue process as well as procedures. The Chairman had provided details about the tasks in the national dialogue process and the cooperation required from partners.

The Speaker of the House had said that stakeholders had reached a consensus that dialogue was the only way to solve the challenges facing Ethiopia, and hence had created national consensus on basic issues. He had explained that the government had given special attention to the Commission. The Speaker of the House had stated that the work of the Commission should be conducted cautiously and without external interference. The Speaker had also noted that the sovereignty of the country and the interests of the people should be protected. He had stressed that Ethiopians have to show that they can solve their challenges by themselves. The Speaker had believed that if all the stakeholders played their roles properly, the Commission would achieve the objectives set.

The Prosperity Party Office Head had stated that his party would work with the Commission on four areas of focus, namely understanding, supporting, participating, and implementing. Apart from actively participating as a stakeholder in the National Dialogue, he said that the party had ensured the creation of favorable conditions for the Dialogue to be carried out with complete neutrality. The PP Office Head had requested the Commission to uphold the balance between speed and quality, inclusiveness and participation, role of the commission and stakeholders, high efficiency and the support of local and foreign partners. He had encouraged the free participation of partners in the Dialogue.

The regional chief administrators had said on their part that Ethiopia's problems had always been solved through dialogue. Thus, supporting the National Dialogue Commission is a duty they have to respect. They had promised to work with the Commission to facilitate favorable conditions for its work in each region. They had ensured that unfavorable conditions that would deter the dialogue process would not occur. They further had assured the holding of the National Dialogue process would be in an inclusive, participatory

and transparent manner. They also had guaranteed full support to the Commission while carrying out its mandate at the scheduled time. Their timetable would reflect the plan and program of action designed by the Commission. There would be strict adherence to planned activities by the regions officials responsible for the activity.

The regional chief administrators have promised to assist the National Dialogue Commission by creating a favorable working environment to achieve its mission on schedule. Other officials will also cooperate with the Commission as they are optimistic and supportive of its duties and obligations. Ethiopians are generally optimistic and confident that a peaceful political settlement will emerge as a result of the National Dialogue. The nation's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity would not be subject to negation in the "guise" of National Dialogue. The sovereignty of Ethiopia would not be bargained to the extent of its dismemberment and dismantling under the pretext of negotiation or Dialogue. Other stakeholders are currently hoping that the Commission would achieve its goal as it enjoys high level of credibility, which is critical input to the success of the Dialogue.

Experts refer to other issues of the Dialogue that include the controversial status of the current Constitution. Similarly, the type of Federalism to adopt and implement as a credible system of governance is a critical issue to consider. Thorny issues to consider are the preference of individual rights over group or collective rights and the color of the national flag. There are other concerns related to the capital city and to the acquisition of land based on ethnic, tribal and clan identities. Historians revealed that Ethiopia consists of such identities with a proud history of continuing statehood. It owns with pride a magnificent record of anti-colonial struggle against external domination and aggression. Historians also revealed that the country is renowned for its legacy as a cradle of human civilization and the leadership of the Pan-African movement.

Experts believe that with its fascinating history, the country does not deserve to be condemned to keep on fighting a "dirty war" within itself to the point of self-destruction. Instead, it must and should afford to survive the tragic conflict and manage its massive disagreement. To that effect, the Dialogue has to address the root causes of the conflict the country has been confronted with for years to deal with its painful record in a sustainable way. Ahmed Soliman observed that "Ethiopian leaders need to find a way to accommodate competing ideological perspectives and build a vision for consensual governance, should they wish to move forward peacefully." Ethiopians genuinely trust in the National Dialogue that would lead to peace, security and economic development in the country.

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

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## Editorial

### Ethiopia revamping economic diplomacy

The recent visit by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) to three European countries: Italy, France and Malta show the ever growing and successful diplomatic activities of Ethiopia with Europe in general and the countries in particular.

During his visit to Italy Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni have signed the 'Ethiopian-Italian Cooperation Framework 2023-2025 agreement which contains a financial commitment amounting to 180 million euros. It also came at the right time that shows the collaboration of a friend in need.

The visit to the three countries in general was of much significance to the burning needs of Ethiopia in garnering the trade and investment flow of these countries. Indeed Europe as a whole is one of the largest trade and investment partners of Ethiopia. Especially the links with France and Italy accounts for a significant portion of the trade and investment ties.

Ethiopia started diplomatic relations with both France and Italy more than a century ago, and now stands as one of the strong and long standing relations between the two continents.

The investment from the two countries to Ethiopia has been of material in boosting the manufacturing sector, hotel and tourism among others. In the fields of art and culture the two sides have shared a lot of exchanges in painting, architecture, music ... etc. Now more than ever, Ethiopia also welcomes investment and tourist from these longtime friends in Europe.

For instance it is worth mentioning the long time activities of the Italian construction company, Salini in the development of mega hydroelectric project including GERD. The government of Italy

has also been strongly supporting Ethiopia's development as in the recent agreement of the commitment to provide 120 million Euros.

Ethiopia's relation with France has also lasted more than 125 years scoring an outstanding diplomatic achievement in various fields. Starting from the historical Ethio-Djibouti Railway, France has played and is playing vibrant role in the economic and social development of Ethiopia.

The formal relations between Ethiopia and Malta started in the 70s and was reinforced when Malta opened its embassy in Addis Ababa in 2021. Though relatively a recent development, the relations between the two countries is set to take momentum in various fields. The visit by PM Abiy to the country has come up with a gesture to intensify cooperation in trade investment, tourism, maritime, logistics and security.

"Our two countries have a lot to learn from one another in a multitude of areas and today's discussions have further cemented areas of cooperation for mutual benefit," the premier twitted.

Now that Ethiopia is one of the fastest developing economies in the world, it is high time that it needs to boost its trade and investment ties with countries in all corners of the world. In addition to the financial and technical cooperation to its manufacturing, agro processing and tourism industries, it also needs to shore up its potential market linkage with these countries.

Ethiopia's successful economic diplomacy also deserves due appreciation and needs to be further upheld to garner the desired outcome that leads the country towards prosperity.

## Opinion

### The need to revamp import substitution efforts

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Merkato, the largest open market in Ethiopia is embraced with countless imported goods. Consumers also buy goods spending the cost requested to pay as per their level of capacity and interest. On the contrary, the country has exported few items to the rest of the world and earns an income which is not equivalent to the price it expends to buy imported goods.

When there are too many imports coming into a country in relation to its exports—which are products shipped from that country to a foreign destination—it can distort a nation's balance of trade and devalue its currency.

The devaluation of a country's currency can have a huge impact on the everyday life of a country's citizens because the value of a currency is one of the biggest determinants of a nation's economic performance and its gross domestic product (GDP).

The importing and exporting activity of a country can influence a country's GDP, its exchange rate, and its level of inflation and interest rates. Taking this into account, the Ethiopian government has been exerting efforts to maintain the appropriate balance of imports and exports.

Ethiopia's import substitution policy is a set of measures aimed at stimulating the production and competitiveness of domestic goods to increase domestic demand and optimize the demand for imports. Applying

a range of economic measures, the country is now saving foreign currency to import goods.

Accordingly, Ethiopia is saving billions of dollars manufacturing local goods and producing services to substitute imports. Domestic products substituted import goods worth 1.1 billion USD during the first half of the 2022/2023 fiscal year. Manufacturing companies were also able to generate 194 million USD from export trade.

The report from the Manufacturing Industry Development Institute entailed that the manufacturing companies are not using close to half of their potential due to various reasons. However, works are underway to enable companies to produce a high quantity of quality products. The Institute has already made 28 studies which will help companies to invest in export and import substitution businesses.

The data of the Ministry of Industry shows that 663 manufacturing industries became operational in the first five months of the current fiscal year creating employment opportunities for 9,600 individuals.

This clearly depicts, if the country works to avoid internal and external challenges of manufactures than ever, it can attract many more manufacturers produced for export purposes and it will have the capacity to substitute half of its imports.

Even though agriculture is the backbone of the country, the country is still importing agricultural products from a range of

countries including Ukraine and Russia. For instance, it has imported cereals, mainly wheat, food items and industrial inputs worth over 200 million USD from Ukraine and about 40 million USD worth of items from Russia in the Ethiopian fiscal year 2020.

As a result, the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine — coupled with Ethiopia's own internal challenges, could put the economy under further pressure. These factors are disrupting the supply chain, causing shortage and price increase, limiting export and foreign currency, and affecting investments.

To reduce possible pressure on the economy, the incumbent government devises strategies that broadening and increasing domestic production to sustainably substitute major imports.

Applying the economic strategy over the years, the country appeared with the astonishing story that attracted the eyes of international media outlets and local citizens. The county is ready to substitute half of the imported wheat. The victory will be repeated in other sectors if the country works with local and international manufacturers alleviating all the stumbling blocks.

The most important thing, however, is to domestically produce the goods that it imports, not only from Russia and Ukraine, but from other countries as well. The country is purchasing a lot of goods which

it could produce domestically and export rather than importing them. In my opinion, Ethiopia can produce most of the imported items, especially agricultural and industrial inputs or outputs.

The country is trying to enhance its capacity of wheat production by engaging in dry season wheat production; and that is one of the options. Other viable options include minimizing consumption, diversifying trade with other countries, and replacing import items locally are among the listed.

Last year, I had an opportunity to visit some wheat production sites where cluster approaches are being used. Very extensive wheat production has been underway, and it is progressing in most of the regions. With no doubt, about 60 to 65 % of the wheat imports have already been substituted by domestic production. In the next few years, the country will be able to fully stop wheat imports and even be able to export some in the coming few years.

The success gained in wheat production has to be repeated in the manufacturing sector. For this to happen, the government and other stakeholders should work hand and glove to ensure the balance between import and export.

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

# Business & Economy

## Linkage among manufacturing industries boosting investment

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

Debre Birhan Regio-politan City, which has become one of the main investment destinations that have attracted the attention of investors in Ethiopia, its investment success can be a role model for other areas. The city has become the location of multiple investment institutions.

Its proximity to the city of Addis Ababa; its safe and peaceful environment; its favorable climate and its potential for the development of agriculture, industry and service sectors are among the reasons that made Debre Birhan a preferred investment destination. The city, which is preparing a structural urban plan for the next 50 years, is expected to increase its investment activities in the coming years.

The city is striving to become an investment hub by increasing its current investment capacity. In order to achieve this plan, it is carrying out activities that help to fulfill necessary inputs by realizing that helping and strengthening the investment flow that is increasing in the area; attracting more investors by promoting new investment opportunities and establishing convenient procedures; helping new entrepreneurial youths and creating links with international commercial, financial and investment institutions.

One of these resources to increase investment capacity is to increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which has been stagnant due to the covid-19 pandemic and the war in the northern part of Ethiopia, by linking local manufacturing industries with financial institutions and creating a wide range of job opportunities, which is said to be a helpful resource to revive the national economy is “Debre Birhan International Investment, Trade and Finance Expo”. The expo, which was officially opened on January 14, 2023, was lasted for 10 days. More than 250 local and international institutions participated in the expo. Discussions on investment, art exhibitions and experience exchange forums were also part of the expo.

To revitalize the stagnant and devastated economy; establishing an economic system linked to the international investment community for the North Shewa zone and neighboring areas, which are favorable for profit producers and any investment activities; creating a common communication platform for commercial, investment and financial institutions has been stated as the main reasons for organizing the expo.

In addition, the expo promotes, helps and encourages the increasing flow of investment in Debre Berhan and its surroundings at an international level; by attracting foreign direct investment in viable sectors; by creating an opportunity for youth entrepreneurs and start-ups at the national level to have connections with large companies; by strengthening the cooperation framework and linkages of international trade, investment and financial institutions; by increasing the investment destination of Debre Birhan. Since an expo focused on investment and financial institutions has never been organized before, it is believed



Debre Berhan started enjoying the blessings of Industrial Park

that it will have a great contribution in creating a platform for districts, cities and zones to promote their investment potential to investors via providing new experience in the sector.

According to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Demeke Mekonen, the expo is an important platform that will help the government’s efforts to rehabilitate the areas affected by the war.

“Ethiopia has been in various problems and is currently moving with peace as a key agenda. In addition to maintaining peace, rehabilitating and rebuilding war-affected areas, supporting and sustainably rehabilitating displaced people from various areas are the government’s main focus areas. The Deputy Prime Minister said that it is timely and appropriate to prepare such financial and investment platforms in order to move the country towards a complete and sustainable development.

He mentioned that the expo is a platform where people with knowledge, wealth, energy and wisdom can line up together, adding that it will play an important role in increasing the flow of investment and increasing the economy. He also pointed out that the expo is one of the main focus areas of the government at the moment, which is an activity that supports the rehabilitation of war-affected areas.

“The expo is a movement that will move the investment activity of Debre Berhan and the surrounding area to a new phase,” Demeke said. He added that although the works done to strengthen the expansion of investment in Debre Berhan and its surroundings are encouraging, it is necessary to work hard to achieve more. He mentioned that Debre Berhan is a city that is positively referred to at the national level for its investment convenience and attraction. He also said that for the city to be a beacon of investment as its name suggests, it needs to be preferred and competitive in terms of service delivery, good governance and other resources. In addition, he pointed out that Ethiopia is one of the preferred countries for FDI and called upon investors to actively participate in the country’s investment activities.

The Head of Government of Amhara Region,

Yilikal Kefale (PhD), on his part, said that the expo will create a good opportunity for manufacturers to promote their products to the society, to attract investors and promote investment by introducing favorable conditions.

He pointed out that the expansion of manufacturing industries in various areas of the region is encouraging, but the number of industries that are in production in terms of what is required in the region is small. “Although the expansion of industries in Amhara region is attracting investors, the number of industries engaged in production in the region is still small. If the projects planned on the lands given for investment are not completed and put into operation on time, we will not be able to solve the basic economic problems of our region and our country. Cost of living can be tackled by sustainably increasing productivity,” He emphasized.

He pointed out that productivity will increase when the productive industrial projects that have been started are completed and put into operation, calling on investors to start working as soon as possible. He also assured that the government will provide the necessary support for the investors to complete the work they have started and start production.

Yilikal (PhD) further said that efforts are being made to bring peace and speed up development by leaving the atmosphere of war.

The Minister of Industry, Melaku Alebel, explained that such business and investment situations have a great contribution in promoting the favorable investment conditions in the country. According to him, such platforms will enable local and foreign investors to discover opportunities in each area. Bonds are created between investors. One producer becomes a source of raw materials, technology, labor and markets for the other. The platforms also create marketing links between farmers who are suppliers of raw materials for industries and consumers.

Organizations participating in the expo also said that their participation helped them get to know each other and expand their market ties. Mezgebekal Ayele, a senior expert

in marketing, research and advertising at “Ambasal Business Works Private Limited Company”, said that participating in the expo will enable them to promote and sell the products and services provided by their company.

According to him, such platforms help manufacturing and supply companies to generate new customers and stimulate business. He said, “Participating in Debre Birhan Expo is useful to see the potential and the general existing situation in the area; to observe the gaps in the area and to consider the good opportunity to engage in business and investment activities in the future.” He recalled that he had participated in similar expos in the past, and said that his participation introduced him to international institutions and enabled him to expand his working relationships.

Director of Communication and Head of the Board Office of “Belayneh Kinde Group”, Setegn Engidaw, explained that when “Belayneh Kinde Group” participated in the expo; it is promoting and selling its products and services. According to him, the organization has been awarded for 10 consecutive years and has many years of experience in supplying many agricultural products including oilseeds, especially sesame and coffee to the foreign market, so participating in this forum would create a good opportunity for him to know other great institutions and use his experience to carry out effective joint work.

Mentioning that the expo was attended by foreign manufacturers and ambassadors of many countries in addition to local institutions, Setegn said that it will create an opportunity to attract foreign investors to the area.

On his part, Zelalem Liyih, a sales engineer at Wereta International Business Group Private Limited Company, said that the Debre Berhan Expo is connecting and introducing his company to international business institutions. He said that this will increase the company’s market connection. In addition to the benefits that the expo brings to the participating organizations, he said that it encourages investors to come to the city and participate in investment activities. It also allows the city to find many investment options.

# Art & Culture

## Black History Month 2023 and resistance against racial oppression

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

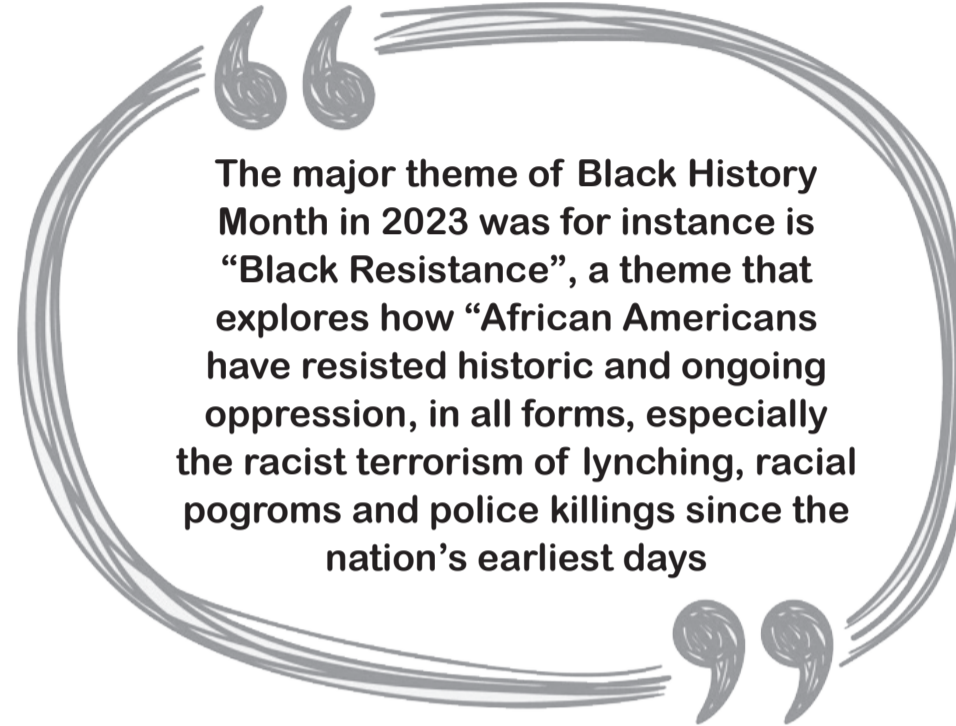
The entire experience of African Americans in the United States is a history of resistance against white racial oppression under various forms and conditions starting from the begging of slavery down to the present. The methods and manifestations of racial oppression in America might have evolved but the truth remains that black oppression has gone from bad to worse as more innocent black youths are killed in the streets and the biggest numbers of black prisoners are still languishing in American prisons under awful circumstances.

Less than a month ago, a young black man was killed as a result of violent police action in the hands of, not the usual white policemen, but under the brutal arrest and beating of black policemen who could not be suspect of nurturing anti-black racial prejudices. Yet, police violence has assumed absurd dimensions in the US so much so that black policemen are involved in it irrespective of their color or racial origin. This is a clear proof that police violence or “police terrorism” as it is increasingly known these days has increasingly become systemic, color-blind and irrational as well as inhuman.

This year’s African History Month is being observed under the theme of “Resistance” which, more than any other concept properly summarizes the existence of the black race in America and its condition. Blacks have been living for centuries in America under the condition of oppression and resistance to oppression, that has always been brutal and inhumane although some distinguished American presidents had tried to tone down the intensity of the violence and oppression under which blacks were forced to live and suffer and despite the US constitution that guarantees equal opportunities for all races.

In fact, the history of African-American struggle against slavery was a long and brutal one as depicted by numerous artistic works and books and films in particular. The resistance of Black American against American white and racist establishment is a long saga of success and failure as capture by the motion pictures. Black resistance leaders from The Black Panther party to individuals like Malcolm X and Martin Luther King have been honored, glorified turned into legends by black arts and culture. One of the works of arts is the classic movie entitled “Malcolm X” win which the legendary film actor Denzel Washington accords mythical dimension to a black leaders who is still alive in the hearts and minds of tens of millions of blacks in America.

Martin Luther King, the leader and author of peaceful black resistance against white racism is immortalized by his famous single line utterance that goes like, “I have a Dream” the same way that Malcolm X is remembered for saying that black liberation should be achieved “By any means necessary”. The dividing line between King



and Malcolm little as he was also known is huge but their goal was the same: freeing black African Americans from the shackles of centuries of overt and covert racism in America.

Luther King was less militant more religious and more peaceful while Malcolm X has gone down in history as the most militant and most courageous leader of the same resistance movement who went from denouncing his Americanness to embracing Islam. What unites both leaders was however their willingness to give their lives for the cause as both were killed by agents of the white and racist American establishment.

With these two legendary figures, the struggle of African-Americans against racism in America has assumed a new dimension and entered a more mature and more articulated phase and gave birth to the ongoing “Black Lives Matter” movement that has become a global call for racial justice in America that has yet to go a long distance in order to live up to the dreams of its leaders and the black population of America in general.

It is inconceivable that the “Black Lives Matter” movement could grow into such a powerful and uniting force without the sacrifices of past black American leaders. It all started with those black leaders who invented or initiated the modern black movement for racial justice down to the present day new generation of black people who are continuing the struggle under new conditions without forgetting that sacrifices are part and parcel of the whole business of liberating the black people of America.

Among the precursors of the movement are leaders like Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) who launched the Negro History Week back in 1926. This is “a precursor

of the Black History Month and coincided with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and that of Frederick Douglas on February 14 both of which dates Black communities had celebrated since the 19th century. “The Negro History Week has grown into a wider and more [powerful] movement in the 20th century, giving rise to the Black History Month or sometimes called the African American History Month.

According to available information, Black history Month has become, “an annual observance originating in the United States where it has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada and more recently has been observed in Ireland and the United Kingdom. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African Diasporas. It is celebrated in February in the United States and Canada.” Every year, Black History Month is celebrated or observed with specific themes that highlight the dreams and objectives, the challenges and hopes of the black people of the world who, throughout recent history, have identified the movement which is also their own.

The major theme of Black History Month in 2023 was for instance is “Black Resistance”, a theme that explores how “African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racist terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms and police killings since the nation’s earliest days.” Black History Month started in 1915, “half a century after the Thirteen Amendment abolished slavery in the United States.”

At present, Black History Month is remembered or celebrated not only in the countries cited above. After month than a century, the movement has managed to

grow and expand to include black people everywhere in the black Diasporas and naturally in Africa which is the original home to African Americans in the United States who were taken from Africa as slaves to work in the cotton plantations south of the Mississippi river. As such blacks in America have played a defining role in the making of the United States which they help build with their blood and sweat and continue to do so. Black have fought for the creation of the modern United States and have produced their share of notable black personalities who changed the face of America for good and made it a multicultural and multi-racial society as that the whole world knows it now.

Black Americans have also played a pivotal role in shaping American culture and the arts. There are many black American writers who have shaped the consciousness of the American people about race, gender and other dimensions of identity. WE can cite for instance W.E B. Dubois who was a non-fiction writer alongside Booker T. Washington who “debated how to confront racism in the United States.”

Toni Morrison is perhaps the greatest black American women writers who and the voice of African-American women who won the Nobel and Pulitzer prizes for her works that served as a vehicle for the cause of black liberation more than anybody in America. There was also James Baldwin who “though he spent most of his life abroad to escape racial prejudice in the United States, is known as the quintessential American writer, poet and essayist who “explored the unspoken intricacies of racial, sexual and class distinctions...” Ralph Ellison is also another black writer who was said to have pursued universal themes of oppression and segregation through his writings. He is best known for his classic novel “Invisible Man” that won the National Book Award in 1950.

The black experience in America has long become part and parcel of the modern history of the United States as African-Americans are credited for their achievements in various walks of life from writing fiction and non-fiction to displaying athletic prowess, painting some of the best pictures and for conducting scientific researches that have changed American society and made the US what it is now, namely the richest nation on planet earth.

There is also a growing awareness among black people in the world that the struggle of African Americans has assumed universal dimensions as growing numbers of prominent black men and women are involved in the “Black Lives Matter movement both as active supporters or sympathizers. The growing migration of Africans to the United States and other parts of the world has also contributed to this growing awareness. On the other hand African-Americans in the US are aware of the challenges Africans on the continent are facing and living through as a result of the global nature of racial, gender and class oppression these days.

# Indepth

## Overcoming the challenges of education system

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

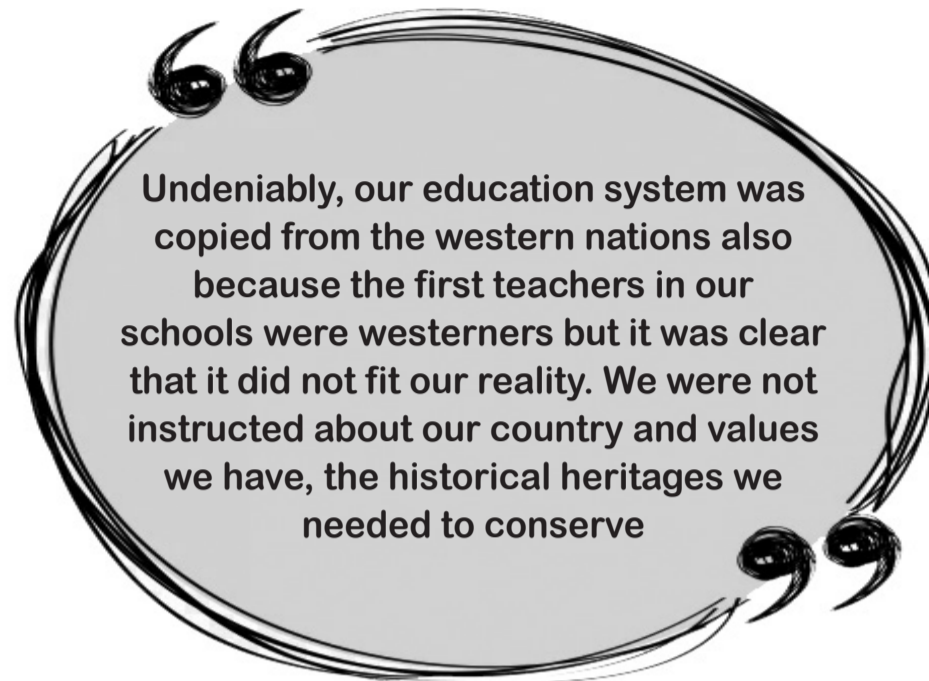
Just a few days ago I was lazily watching the evening ETV news when all of a sudden I was attracted by a piece of breaking news. The Ministry of Education had just released the numbers of the much awaited results of the Ethiopian School Leaving exams by hundreds of thousands of students and millions of their family members. In fact the results of the school leaving exams have always been something almost every citizen talked about especially those who had children in schools even at the earlier levels of grades. Sometime their children will face this exam and it is practically the gateway to their future career and life.

University education is considered as the greatest opportunity to attain a certain level of life because then employment would almost certainly be guaranteed, especially in the monarchy years and the Derg ones. Anyone who had university degree had their future career guaranteed. Hence you can figure out how crucial the results of the school leaving exams could be and how anxious parents and students could be. In the older days when there was only one national university having access to that famous institution was the dream of many that was achieved only by a few fortunate ones.

Later on when more universities were opened and more opportunities came by the doors got larger and more students began to be accepted in the various educational institutions the government prepared. Hence with this in the back ground there is always an interest in the results of these exams and even in the days the exams are given, how they are delivered and where they are carried out etc. is all a subject of interest to the population. At times we have heard controversies on the way the exams were given and there have always been speculations that the exams had leaked and so and so schools benefited from it. And hence people said the entire results must be cancelled or reviewed or another round of exams should be administered. This was even more exacerbated with the expansion of the social media.

In recent years there were issues of security in multiple areas even beyond the one that was clearly evident of the conflict in the north and thousands of students could not even go to school to finish their schooling let alone sit for such a crucial exam under the circumstances. We have heard several announcements in connection with these areas where there were active incidents of conflict and violence and others where there had been reports of security threats for the students to be able to study peacefully and be prepared for the exams. In some cases there had been given extra time for these students involved in security threats to have more time to study once the threats were avoided and things had stabilized.

This year the exams did not have any controversies and they were carried out smoothly with the invigilation of teachers selected from various parts of the country,



and unlike the other years when the exams were given in high schools, this time around they were given in universities with students having no access to any chance of discussing the exams and in certain cases being helped by certain teachers who sympathized with the students and would help them succeed in the exams. This was reportedly very wide spread and many would say the results were not totally fair because in certain areas there were clear cases of 'cheating' in the exams. The smarter students were identifiable and some of them did help the rest of the class in the answers and those who did not have such help were clearly disadvantaged. However, this time around this was completely avoided because of the arrangements in the way the students were seated to take the exams and the exams themselves were not written in a uniform manner so that copying from the one next in the seat was impossible.

Invigilators were given serious directions not to allow anyone to cheat in the exams and a sort of campaign was carried out even using the media so that students must be honest to themselves and to others not to copy from other students or their hidden notes and practically cheat. Teachers as well were ordered not to give any form of assistance to the students during the sessions. Hence the newly appointed authorities in the Ministry of Education under the minister Professor Berhanu Nega were very serious and they meant business. That was also why people were anxiously waiting for the announcements of the results. The numbers came out and we heard it all only to be stunned by what sort of results came about. Among the almost nine hundred thousand students who sat for the exam, only about thirty thousand got the passing result that is above fifty percent!

When I first heard this figure I thought that certainly that was the error of the anchor on TV or some other typographical error and I tried to listen more carefully and follow the news. Later on I when I found out it was the

right number; I just could not believe it as I heard from others like me who followed the news. Not even four per cent of the students made it to the university! That was when everyone began to wonder what sort of students we had, what sort of teachers we had and indeed what sort of educational system we went through. Everyone was curious to see what sort of reforms the new leaders at the ministry of education would carry out regarding our educational system because it had underwent severe criticism in the past given the poor standard of the graduates let alone those who actually were trying to join the universities.

It is now well known that there are scores of private universities who somehow managed to receive as many students as possible and somehow graduated them in several disciplines. However, the problem with the standard of the students was to come out when there were some problems to resolve that any graduate would but these would not. There was a survey carried out by the university about the standard of education in the country and many of the results were simply alarming according to the ministry of education that carried out the survey. There were serious problems of reading and writing at an age when everyone was supposed to know better; and there were serious flaws of languages even at higher levels of education. The ministry prepared exams for those who graduated to assess their knowledge and much of the results were disappointing. What is more, the ministry went one step further and carried out exams also to teachers. And the surprising results were that the majority of them did not make it to get the lowest passing grades. Hence the conclusion was simple.

This was a problem that was rolling across the years with generations of students not well taught because they did not even have the right teachers. Hence Professor Berhanu and company decided that there must be an overhaul of the system beginning from the earlier years of school; and there must

established serious training institutes for teachers. What was usual was that those with the poorer results were the ones that were enrolled in the teaching profession because those who had relatively better grades went on to be engaged in other more profitable careers. In other words, due to also the scarcity of teachers to cover all the classes we have in the country at large, many who would not be wanted in other professions were welcome to join the teaching profession. In many instances they had no experience of teaching nor were they given the appropriate preparation and this was another serious problem because many do not even know what sorts of responsibility teachers have with respect to the students and the entire generation. One can easily imagine how unfit these teachers could be because they felt they were not well paid and they did not opt to be teachers. But they became teachers only because circumstances obliged them to join the profession as it was considered a vacant post for any university or college graduate.

There have been carried out multiple researches on this issue and the results showed that there is need for a complete review of the curriculum of the educational system in the country and that is what Berhanu and company have been suggesting in the past few years or so. They have said the problem is deep rooted and needed to be overhauled from the very early days of school because the curriculum needed to be revised and the system of administering classes also.

Undeniably, our education system was copied from the western nations also because the first teachers in our schools were westerners but it was clear that it did not fit our reality. We were not instructed about our country and values we have, the historical heritages we needed to conserve. The curriculum did not reflect the reality in our country and hence it should have been reviewed across the years once we had our own teachers. That is what the new education authorities intend to do and the results we learned this year will be another factor that would decisively help us to move to this direction.

Those who graduate from our universities must be able to relate to the reality of our people and be able to change their lives with their new skills and knowledge. Otherwise their knowledge would only be theoretical and useless. That was also why there was this move more to natural scientific knowledge rather than to social sciences. There is no doubt that Ethiopia as a developing nation needs more engineers, doctors and agriculturalists rather than lawyers and political scientists. The formula now is seventy per cent natural science and thirty percent social science. The surprising result at the school leaving exams could serve as a blessing in disguise because everyone was shocked and this could facilitate any profound reforms the ministry would take. Parents would welcome the reforms because it decides not only the fate of their children but also of the country as well.



# Law & Politics

## Ethiopia Diasporas' unwavering stand to national causes

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Ethiopian Diasporas have been very much engaged in fending off foreign pressure in the last two years. The Diasporas residing in all parts of the world have been standing by the side of their fellow citizens during bad and good times. They have also been striving to support the country's socioeconomic development in various ways.

In actual fact, the communities have been engaged in putting the kibosh on unwarranted foreign pressure that emanates from Ethiopia's adversaries trying to meddle in the country's internal affairs. Similarly, since the start of the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), Ethiopian Diasporas have been unwaveringly contributing their share for the realization of the flagship project.

Notwithstanding the fact that several endeavors have been made by some entities under the veil of the colonial agreements on the water share, Ethiopian Diasporas have been engaged in warding off unwarranted external pressure by working in close collaboration with the federal government and other pertinent bodies. Aside from that they have been moving heaven and earth to familiarize the wider international community with the nuts and bolts of GERD, the flagship project that connects millions of Ethiopians to the power grid.

It is public knowledge that apart from devoting their time and money, Ethiopian Diasporas have sacrificed a lot for the successful realization of the project despite the challenges was not a walk in the park. However, in the course of time, in the aftermath of the uncompromising stance of the people of Ethiopia at home and abroad, the country metamorphosed into accomplishing victory.

In the course of the war, Ethiopian Diasporas have been playing a huge role in thwarting foreign intervention and countering misinformation campaigns. Irrespective of the fact that the challenges were not that easy, they all over the world have passed through many ups and downs in defending their country.

The Ethiopian Diaspora has made the impossible possible by working hand in glove with friends of Ethiopia.

In a relative move, in the course of the #No More Global Movement, Ethiopian Diasporas played a paramount role in averting external pressure in close collaboration with friends of Ethiopians.

In the wake of the firm stance of Ethiopian Diasporas, the #No More Global Movement turned out to be the talk of the entire world and its impact was big that it mobilized Africans. Despite the fact that Ethiopia's irreconcilable enemies have made all possible efforts to bring discredit to the positive developments unfolding in the length and breadth of the country, Ethiopian Diasporas have played a matchless role in thwarting their hidden intentions going



behind closed curtains.

Albeit Ethiopia's adversaries have been engaged in a smear campaign against the encouraging moves blossoming countrywide working in partnership with the discredited international media outlets, the communities through different means have put a damper on the coordinated campaign.

It is worth mentioning that in the face of continuous foreign intervention under the guise of fair and equitable utilization of waters, Ethiopian Diasporas made a supreme effort in halting the evil deeds of some entities attempting to twist Ethiopia's arm. At that specific juncture, the denounced international media outlets were distorting facts by getting off journalism ethics and standards. Dejectedly, as opposed to turning the tide and changing the course of events, they over and over again preoccupied with upping the ante and raising the stakes.

To everyone's dismay, by any means whatsoever, they were not in the position to stand by the truth and stand by what is right except by triggering conflict utilizing inflammatory language. No matter what they said, Ethiopian Diasporas have acquainted the international community with the self-evident truth.

As Ethiopian Diasporas know the inside out of some entities that make an effort to move the country into uncharted waters and mystify the global community, they held mass rallies in all corners of the globe. Besides, they spared no effort to make the European Union and the United States of America stop interfering in the internal affairs of the country and weaning themselves from bringing pressure to bear on the country.

After the war in northern Ethiopia ended following the Pretoria peace deal, the communities have sustained supporting noncombatants in the war-affected areas.

The communities are renewing their commitment to rebuilding their homeland. Recently, the delegation led by Addis Ababa Mayor Adanech Abiebie discussed a range of national affairs with representatives of the

Ethiopian community living in South Africa, so disclosed Addis Ababa Mayor's Office.

According to the Office, the delegation has taken part in the "African Mayor Leadership Initiative (AMALI) City Leadership Forum" aiming at increasing the Diaspora participation in various sectors.

In an event Organized by the Ethiopian Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, the delegation discussed the current national issues and favorable conditions for the Diaspora to participate in various investment and business sectors in the homeland, the Office added.

During the discussion, Adanech stated that Ethiopia has brought about economic, political, and social improvements following the recent reform.

She further stated that the Diaspora community living in South Africa and other countries has played a crucial role in retrogressing attempts to interfere in internal affairs. Currently, Ethiopia has presented relative peace after the peace accord concluded in Pretoria.

As to the mayor, the Diaspora members from South Africa have been participating in various investment sectors using their knowledge, capital, and work experience. In addition, the mayor has promised the Diaspora community to fulfill the necessary support they want, especially revolving around crucial issues of constructing houses, tourism, education, and industry sectors in Addis Ababa city.

By the same token, the delegation from mayors of Bahir Dar, Adama, and Dessie cities discussed a range of issues with the Diaspora community. Therefore, the mayors called upon the Diaspora community to participate in various business and investment fields in the above-stated cities.

The Diaspora community (participants) is interested in investing capital, knowledge, and experience in the homeland. However, they worried about bureaucratic red tape and maladministration, which are hindering

activities. Therefore, the government should strongly continue its measures in overcoming such challenges in this regard, the Office cited.

Lately, the Ethiopian embassy in Qatar has carried out tremendous activities to ensure active engagement of the Diaspora in various national issues and urged them to further strengthen it.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, Ethiopia's Ambassador to Qatar Feisel Aliyi Abraham said that engaging the Ethiopian diaspora across the world on the ongoing development efforts is one of the pillars of Ethiopia's foreign relations.

"The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is one of the flagship projects in which Ethiopians are very much engaged enthusiastically since its inception until now through buying bonds to finance it. Now the dam is nearing completion but the support both financially and in public relations of the diaspora for GERD has continued," he elaborated.

Some 52 Ethiopian Diaspora organizations drawn from 25 countries and members of the diaspora who actively participated in support of their country on various occasions were given recognition this week and visited GERD.

Ambassador Feisel stated that the visit has encouraged the diaspora to further continue their support as they were able to see the fruits and progress of the GERD, to which they have been making continuous contributions.

With regard to the role of the diaspora in peace building and reconstruction efforts as a result of the conflict in the northern part of the country, the ambassador went on as saying: "During the law enforcement operation in Ethiopia, the Ethiopians in Qatar as well as in different parts of the world were contributing and playing their role to bring back peace and stability in the northern part of Ethiopia. And they are also mobilizing resources for the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and in reconstructing health, school facilities."

Speaking of the embassy's engagement in economic diplomacy, Ambassador Feisel stated that efforts are underway to boost the trade volume, which currently is in favor of Qatar, and is soliciting the market for Ethiopian products such as spices, coffee, and livestock. And Ethiopia imports petrochemical products.

Qatar imports goods and after value-adding, it exports, he stated, and added "so in that regard we have a big potential to work with value addition."

For this to happen, the embassy is aggressively working on promoting investment and trade opportunities in Ethiopia to Qatari investors and business people, he added.

Moreover, works to familiarize and promote Ethiopia's tourism potential are also underway.

# Women in Focus

## 'Passion is the fuel behind a successful career'

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

Despite all the efforts that have been put towards closing the gender gap in the technology industry, the technology sector is still struggling when it comes to gender diversity.

A research conducted in 2020 revealed that females' enrollment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields in 15 public universities in Ethiopia was only 15 percent.

Even though it is said so, there are women who dare to join the heavily male dominated industry and take up huge technology roles that have pursued and developed their career in technology and become innovators, leaders and entrepreneurs. Amongst such young women, Eyerusalem is the one.

Eyerusalem Zewedu, unlike many women would not dare or prefer to join the field due to many factors, studied Software Engineering. For her, the technology sector is much more appealing for women as it allows them to perform their duties without being subjected to time and location.

She said the technology sector is even much better than any other fields in terms of salary since it enables them to earn attractive payment.

The wide range impact of the technology industry globally as well as nationally, brought the women a better opportunity who are highly troubled by unemployment rate mainly in the technology sector, she said. Nonetheless, women have been shying away from the sector due to several challenges.

In reality, Eyerusalem did not have a plan on joining the software engineering field herself. But, the fact that she was able to score great result, allowed her to make the choice of the fields; and she joined the field considering the present inclinations to the technology sector in the world.

"I became fond of the software engineering subject when we were being taught at the campus and understood its area and scope, then I decided to study the field."

As to her, there weren't many female students when she joined the department. Unlike the male students, the majority of the subject was new to many of the female students. Though it was difficult at first, it didn't take much before the female students to cope with the rest of the class.

Since most male students are privileged to explore more subjects, they have the opportunity to decide on the field; given their understanding of the benefits in terms of occupational and salary aspects.

Sadly, most of the male students including few teachers were against the idea of women joining the engineering sector due to the assumption that women are incompetent in the field. Apart from the support that female students gained from other genuine lecturers, they had to put extra efforts to score better results.

To the worst of the situation, the teachers used to assume that when a project is



Eyerusalem Zewedu

The gap in the gender diversity in the technology industry sector made her to be highly devoted to supporting her peers; especially female students to engage in the sector through providing training. Thus, apart from providing support to women, she developed software that is said to play a huge role in filling the communication gap between volunteers and the people who seek the charity or be part of charity works

submitted and there are male students, they treat female students as if they have no contribution to the project. With this thinking, they were forced to form a group

excluding males so that they can prove to their teachers that they can effectively do the given assignment by themselves.

No matter how lazy or negligence male

students are assigned in the group, since they were assumed incompetent for the field, their effort and contribution to the project would mostly be taken for granted.

However, Eyerusalem and other female students, beating all the challenges, and debunking the attitudes of their counterparts, who were undermining the capability of female students, graduated with good results in 2020. Even her friends, named Oromia Godana, and 'Tunga Tessema' travelled to the Netherlands and Rwanda respectively to further their education in the technology field winning scholarship opportunities.

Owing to her best results, Eyerusalem was hired in the company (Vintage technologies) where she performed her internship program. Though she had to lag one semester due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, she completed her education with best results.

While she was working in Vintage technologies, she again seized another opportunity to work in JSI inc. Company with even an attractive salary.

The gap in the gender diversity in the technology industry sector made her to be highly devoted to supporting her peers; especially female students to engage in the sector through providing training. Thus, apart from providing support to women, she developed software that is said to play a huge role in filling the communication gap between volunteers and the people who seek the charity or be part of charity works.

The 'Volunteer administration database' that she developed allowed the aforesaid people to easily get the information from the database. Like many other fields, volunteerism has its own gaps when it comes to information.

There are disadvantaged people on one side while the volunteers who want to provide service on the other side but with the gap in the information, many people had to go through rough times.

Amongst the charity organization in which the technology Eyerusalem comes up with benefitted was, 'Danfe Charity Organization'. The founder and CEO of Danfe Charity Organization Enanu Hussien stressed that the technology helped their organization in various ways.

"It allowed me to address the people who I couldn't reach out if it wasn't for her technology," she underscored. The CEO further underlined the multilayered importance of engaging more women in the technology sector to the society.

The other charity organization named 'Bete Sayda' who was founded and established by Alemtshay Bekele was the organization that is using her technology.

As to the founder, women are still struggling to join the technology sector due to many factors. Despite the challenges they encounter, she stressed that joining the sector has a paramount significance as the job could be done outside of office since they have other roles such as pregnancy and taking care of children.

# Making peace accord a success

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

In most cases, political solutions to armed conflicts are professed by a plethora of local, regional and international actors. In practice, however, durable political solutions - typically symbolized through peace agreements - are scarce.

While peace agreements may be signed, political willingness, as well as the ability to implement them, is often in short supply. Hence, many peace agreements remain words on paper, rather than being actions in the field.

Though many conflict areas see peace agreements being signed, violated and forgotten, the case in Ethiopia is creating a new hope for the community and beyond because it has helped to end the conflict; and activities are implemented as per the agreement.

As part of this, off late members of the Federal Government and Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF) peace negotiation committee had conducted their first meeting at Halala Kela to evaluate and assess the implementation of the Pretoria Peace Agreement in attendance of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and other senior officials.

The Ethiopia Herald approached



academicians to comment on the engagement and efforts of the peace negotiation committee.

Journalism and Communication Lecturer at Hawassa University Belew Anley said that the exhibited effort at Halala Kela is commendable and it should be further strengthened. It must be also implemented at the grass root level to strengthen the social fabrics of the communities.

Ethiopia has seen repeated cycles of violence that ravaged the economy and the social fabrics of the society. "In my view, practical efforts should be applied to heal the trauma of the communities affected by the conflict through strengthening people to people dialogue, and building institutions that promote the spirit of togetherness and forgiveness."

To this effect, as to him, pertinent stakeholders should play a constructive role in translating the peace accord at the grassroots level and help to shape Ethiopia's political culture.

"Inclusive representation at the national level allows all groups affected by conflict to jointly determine the future of their country. As the conflict affected many people in different ways, each stakeholder has distinctive contributions gleaned from their lived experiences and identities which are important in determining how to construct and implement a successful peace process.

International communities must also invest in peace building efforts and support government's restoration activities of damaged facilities, he further remarked.

After taking part at the evaluation session of Pretoria peace accord at Halala Kela, Prosperity Party Vice President, Adam Farah said that the session was a very historic juncture and; a forum which has created more confidence and helped to step up the implementation of the agreement to a higher level.

"We discussed the work we can do together to build a fair and just Ethiopia that is suitable for all of us by putting the interest of the

people at the center and to ensuring lasting peace in the country. We have seen positive moves related to the implementation of the peace agreement and issues that need to be addressed in the future," he stated.

According to Adam, issues that need to be addressed from the government side have been identified to bring the agreement into full implementation and similar things are underway on the side of TPLF.

"The government has shown huge commitment to the implementation of the agreement so far. As a government, we have been doing what we should do in accordance with the agreement. We will continue to strengthen this."

He added that the initiation is good. "It shows how the level of trust is growing. In terms of content, an agreement is reached to quickly attain the goal of the good beginnings seen after the Pretoria Peace Agreement; and perform the delayed works."

According to the Wondimu, the main point here is the problem is our own problem (Ethiopians) and the solution should come from us [Ethiopian solutions for Ethiopian Problems]. "At the current level, we have high hope and it shows us that most of our problems are solved by ourselves."



## Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

### HU expanding integrated agricultural works to reduce unemployment

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

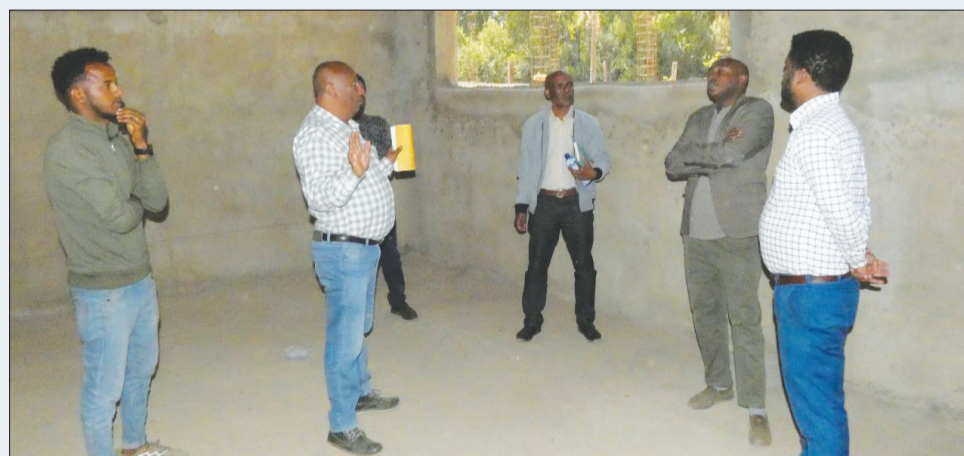
Integrated agricultural works are imperative to creating job opportunities for youths. They enhance household incomes for rural women, and youths in the countryside.

Improving access to quality agricultural inputs and services, providing business skills training, facilitating access to rural finance and appropriate market support help the youth to engage in integrated agricultural works.

Taking these facts into account, Haramaya University (HU) in collaboration with SOS Children Village Organization Harari State's Branch has designed a project which reduces unemployment through expanding integrated agriculture works that can create job opportunities for the youth.

While visiting the ongoing projects, University Community Service and Enterprise Development Vice President Dr. Isaac Yusuf said that providing community service is one of the missions of the higher institutions. Hence, the University carries out various community service activities inside and outside its campuses.

Among these works, project construction activities which support integrated



agricultural work based on green development are being carried out in Haramaya Woredas at Damotana and Bate sites as well as at Gelmeshira in Harari State.

When the construction and the digging of water wells are finalized, the project will integrate the compost fertilizers production, poultry farm, fish breeding pond, and water release from the pond.

Besides, a total of 125 unemployed youths and mothers will be beneficiaries by providing products to the market. Especially, the construction being built at the Damota site is suitable for integrated agricultural works since the inputs are easily available from the

surrounding area.

For instance, currently, one quintal of vermicomposting fertilizer is sold for up to two thousand Birr in the local market. Hence, it is possible to earn a significant amount of income by producing more quintals of compost fertilizer throughout the year. Moreover, in the remaining two sites, poultry farming will be carried out using solar-powered chick-hatching machines developed by the university's experts, he said.

The University is also in the process of purchasing a dumper truck that will be used for cleaning the city from Bate to Haramaya. This will help the youth to get local fertilizer

production inputs easily.

Harari Branch SOS Children Village Family Strengthening Program Manager Ato Mulukun Asfaw said that SOS, an international organization that has headquarters in Addis Ababa, has been implementing various projects in seven parts of the country. Particularly, the Harari branch is working on three main tasks namely alternative child care, community development, and emergency response programs.

Currently, the organization is working on three community-based projects in the Haramaya Woredas and the Harari State with the financial support of 70,000 Euros from an organization located in Germany that works to create a green agricultural business through integrated agriculture.

The projects will be put into operation very soon since the progress of integrated agricultural projects is going as planned and 90 % of the construction has been completed. The projects will contribute to reducing the number of unemployed by creating job opportunities for the youths and mothers in chicken and fish farming as well as vermicomposting fertilizer production, he stated.