



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXIX No 132 11 February 2023 - Yekatit 4, 2015

Saturday

Price Birr 10.00

Ethiopia, Brazil enjoy emerging partnership for social, economic dev't

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia and Brazil have been enhancing all-round cooperation and the latter is toiling to familiarize Brazilians about Ethiopia's importance to Africa and the world, so remarked Brazilian Ambassador to Ethiopia.

Ambassador Jandyr Ferreira Dos Santos, told The Ethiopian Herald that his country established diplomatic relations with Ethiopia 72 years ago and since then have enjoyed very friendly relations.

The two countries held their Second Bilateral Political Consultations on May 2021 and we expect the third meeting to take place this year, Dos Santos said.

He further noted that his compatriots mainly know Ethiopia in connection with its historical and cultural heritages as a symbol of the African struggle against colonialism, as the cradle of the human species as well

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Central bank mulls heightened forex reserves, stable market

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA- The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) disclosed that enhancing foreign currency reserves and stabilizing the market, which are significant steps in building a healthy economy, are among its priorities in the coming years.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), the NBE Deputy Governor Solomon Desta said that the bank is hugely engaged

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Harar targets 1 bln Birr from "Dine for Jugol"

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- The Harari Culture, Heritage, and Tourism Bureau (HCHTB) revealed a plan to secure one billion Birr from the "Dine for Jugol" fundraising program that aims to preserve the well-known Jugol wall.

The Bureau Head Tewelda Abdasho told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the bureau planned to collect the sum from Ethiopians living at home in the Diaspora and friends of Harar. The state plans to generate the one billion Birr from SMS and other income generating schemes.

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Brazil sees Africa, Ethiopia, as an equal partner to tackle shared challenges

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News



Society to establish modern early disaster warning system

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian Red Cross Society is working on establishing an early warning system across the country that would identify type and magnitude of disasters sending messages beforehand to people and various institutions.

The Society's Pre-disaster Response Preparedness with Innovative Approach Project Department Head Abraham Tesfaye told the Ethiopian Press Agency that the system would comprise information from the Ethiopian Metrology Institute and indigenous knowledge combined to deliver pre-disaster messages.

According to the Head, the system is going to be used as an input for decision makers depending on obtaining message from the Ethiopian metrology institute and using homegrown knowledge. So far, the society has safeguarded the community through using early warning information.

He further stated that the society is attempting to develop the system involving sectoral institutions, international data group, and the likes over the past four years aiming at providing the community with timely relevant information.

“The Society has been working in collaboration with the Ethiopian metrology institute to attain the expected outcome putting its over 20 years of experience and seasonal climate condition into effect and inject to the system,” he added.

The Head also noted that the system would play a vital role in reading influential data and sending a warning message in advance a month before, especially in relation to flood, drought, and scarcity of rainfall. Based on the messages received from the system, the Society facilitates conditions and adjusts the place for the community ahead of any disasters.

For example, the Society has carried out various activities on pre-disaster management depending on the information obtained from the system. In this regard, some 1,900 family heads in Afar State have saved life as nonfood items were provided and terracing was done.

Similarly, 1,000 households who were affected by drought in Sewina District in East Bale have obtained 6,000,000 Birr in cash for support. Besides, the Society has provided the community with water tanker, and conducted awareness creation to make them well aware of the ways to prevent themselves from disasters.

It was learnt that the Society is working to solve national problems in coordination with various international institutions operating in 72 zones and 170 districts in its own bureaux.

Eight companies to start work in Bulbula industrial park

ADDIS ABABA /ENA/- Some eight local and foreign companies with a combined capital of 1.7 billion Birr have signed agreement with Oromia Industrial Park Development Corporation (OIPDC) to invest in Bulbula Integrated Agro Industrial Park.

In addition, two other investors, who are interested to invest in the industrial park, have also signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the corporation.

The agreement signing ceremony took place on Thursday in the presence of government officials and investors in Addis Ababa.

Speaking at the occasion, Oromia Industrial Park Development Corporation CEO Senait Mabre said the government has been investing huge amount of money on infrastructure with a view to bring change in the country by involving investors in various sectors.

Accordingly, several investors are currently showing interest to engage in the industrial parks developed by the government.

According to the CEO, the regional government is being providing all the necessary supports to help the investors become successful.

The companies that have signed the agreement are expected to enter the industrial park and start operations, she added.

These companies are involved in tomato processing, avocado oil production, animal



fodder and dairy products to supply their products to domestic and foreign markets.

The companies are also believed to play significant role in terms of import substitution, particularly in food related product items and improve the nation's foreign currency earnings.

The Park, built on 271 hectares of land in Western Oromia, has been fully equipped with the necessary infrastructures and facilities to accommodate 135 investors.

The East African nation has been developing Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks (IAIP) with a view to speed up its structural transformation into an industry-led economy.

OIPDC Deputy Board Chairperson Sisay Gemechu on his part said that the main objective of the park is to add value to raw

export products and supply them to the domestic and foreign markets.

He pointed out that it will contribute to solving the widespread unemployment problem from the point of view of job opportunities, and it has also great importance in terms of encouraging the farmers.

He also stated that 6 rural transformation centers that are operated by local farmers to supply raw materials vital to the industrial park.

It is to be recalled that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has inaugurated Bulbula Integrated Agro Industrial park in 2021.

Circled by Lake Dambel, Abyata, and Lengano, it is situated near to train transport, expressway, Addis Ababa City, and Mojo Dry Port.

Action Group donates 8.2 mln USD worth medical supplies

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA- Global Ethiopian Diaspora Action Group has donated medical supplies worth of 8.2 Mln. USD to rehabilitate health centers affected by Ethiopian Northern conflict.

The action group has donated the aforementioned amount of donation in collaboration with SNS Global Pharma, Ethiopian Airlines and TBS Business Solutions to strengthen health system and healthcare delivery.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Ministry of Health (MoH) Minister LiaTadese (MD) said that the ministry would continue working in partnership to rehabilitate and strengthen the health system.

The Minister appreciated the group for its efforts from gathering support to transportation.

The Global Ethiopian Diaspora Action Group is an organization that was



established before ten year and previously it has provided medical equipment, financial and clothing support to Gondar Hospital, Bahir Dar Army Hospital and Semera Hospital.

Former Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations Ambassador TayeAtske Selassie on his part said that the donation of the action group is more than

the provision of material support and it has multi interpretation.

He said that the charity act of the group is model for other local and international humanitarian organizations.

Recognition certificate has been provided for the group because of its supports at the event.

News

Spine Surgeon offers training to Alert Hospital neurosurgeons

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA—A renowned Spine Surgeon Seid Osman (MD) has given trainings to physicians of Alert Hospital and introduced the service in Ethiopia recently, Ministry of Health (MoH) disclosed.

MoH Minister Lia Tadesse (MD) said that newly installed state-of-the-art Spine Endoscopy Equipment (ESS) would help cure patients with disc/spine issues allowing quicker recovery and better results with less recurring pain.

Lia tweeted: “Very happy to witness the training of neurosurgeons in Endoscopic Spine Surgery by Seid Osman (MD), a renowned Spine Surgeon of Ethiopian

origin from Cleveland, Ohio.”

During the training, Osman also discussed his revolutionary Osman Approach and how patients can have spine surgery and get back to their normal active lives within days with minimal discomfort and little to no downtime utilizing a minimally invasive and endoscopic ally-assisted approach.

It was also indicated that he could treat spine patients’ conditions which were never thought possible. As a global thought leader in this discipline is constantly pioneering unique techniques and ways in which to make spine patients’ lives better.

From January 28 up to 09 February 2023, he has been giving spine surgery training to the

Alert Hospital department of orthopedics completion of Endoscopy Transformational Lumber Decompression onsite Training at ALERT comprehensive specialized hospital CPD Center in collaboration with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, it was learnt.

The minister has given credit to him for his excellent and outstanding performance in consolidating Ethiopian health care system in the area of strengthen spine surgery.

So far, Seid Osman (MD), a Top Orthopedic Surgeon from Sky Spine Endoscopy Institute in Frederick, Maryland, is featured on the TOP Doctors Interviews on various media such as CNN Headline News, FOX News, Oprah Winfrey Network, CNBC and other networks.

Central bank ...

in the reform process and reviewing conditions that enable it to stabilize the market and ease the forex crunch.

Apart from making Ethiopia suitable for foreign investment, export promotion and import substitution as well as sending the remittance in banks constitute the lion’s share in boosting the foreign exchange reserves, he added.

“Channeling more investment into the service sector will have immense economic potential in boosting foreign currency reserves. Stimulating the conflict and COVID-19-affected activities including tourism is also worth equal consideration to augment foreign currency earnings.”

Cognizant of its role in a healthy economy, the central bank has hugely engaged in nurturing a vibrant financial sector and expanding its accessibility. Compared with the 80 percent financial sector accessibility of neighboring countries, Ethiopia’s 45 percent penetration is largely unsatisfactory.

The deputy governor further highlighted that the NBE has exerted vigorous efforts to increase the smallholder farmers’ loan and financial accessibility and partnered with relevant stakeholders to this end. The NBE has also done meticulous jobs to enhance its regulation of the performance of commercial banks in nurturing society’s saving culture.

Even at African standards, Ethiopia’s banking industry has not reached the desired level in terms of accessibility and technological penetration, and the situation needs the involvement of all actors in the area. Accordingly, equipping the banking sector with the latest technology and skilled labor force that will enhance global competitiveness is something the NBE strives for, Solomon remarked.

Center striving to reinstate leather factories

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- Leather and Leather Products Industry Research and Development Center said it has provided the necessary support for 10 manufacturing plants whose operations were affected by various reasons.

10 out of the 28 leather factories in Ethiopia are not functional whilst the rest are not producing with their capacity due to forex crunch and lack of quality hides and skins.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), the Center’s Representative Manager Mohammed Hussein, assured the support to leather factories that were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and Ethiopia’s revocation of the African Growth and

Opportunity Act (AGOA) privilege.

Noting leather products have been one of the leading sources of foreign currency to Ethiopia, Mohammed recalled that the country secured 130 million USD in the 2018/19 fiscal year from leather and leather products including shoes, bags, gloves, and the like.

“Though leather products have played a significant role in Ethiopia’s foreign currency earnings over years, the export performance is unsatisfactory and even some factories stopped operation in the last fiscal year due to various reasons. Apart from the aforesaid factors, the shortage of inputs and the unrest in parts of the country hampered the sector’s performance and limited the center’s revenue to 59 million USD over 18 months.

He further highlighted that Ethiopia’s

revocation from AGOA has caused significant harm to the leather industry as the U.S. was among the primary destinations for the former’s shoe and bag export.

Efforts are being made to support factories that have a significant role in Ethiopia’s leather exports including the Chinese Shoemaker Huajian and other firms in Kombolcha to go back to business. “Huajian used to generate a substantial amount of foreign currency for Ethiopia, and by putting the factory into operation, work is being done to enable it to move to the production of shoes for the army.”

The center has been working with relevant stakeholders including the Ministry of Industry and other government agencies to render the support needed to enable the leather factories to resume operation, Mohammed remarked.

Ethiopia, Brazil ...

as the birthplace of coffee.

He reiterated that he will continue to work to further raise Brazilians knowledge about Ethiopia’s overall significance in Africa, the world and to his country’s interest.

As a member of the BRICS, Brazil commends the efforts of the African countries, the African Union (AU) and the sub-regional organizations to address regional challenges, including maintaining peace and security, post conflict reconstruction as well as development efforts.

“We fully support the AU Agenda 2063 and Africa’s efforts towards integration through

the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area”

Brazil’s relations with Africa and Ethiopia are fully aligned to our common goal of supporting the social and economic development of the continent,” the Ambassador said.

“It is worth noting that President Lula, whose 4-year term began this year, has Africa amongst its top priorities abroad. This engagement will mark a return to the traditional Brazilian Universalist approach to foreign policy and a renewed comeback to Africa”

He further explained that as a developing country Brazil sees Africa, and obviously Ethiopia, as an equal partner with whom it can establish high-level initiatives to tackle shared challenges, through cooperation and

the exchange of views on important topics of the international agenda, such as food self-sufficiency, climate change and trade.

As the world recovers from the disruptions caused by the COVID 19 pandemic and the war in Eastern Europe, there is a good prospect for a mutually beneficial partnership that will allow the growth in bilateral trade and in investment flows from Brazil to Ethiopia.

To turn this into reality we must raise awareness of existing opportunities in both countries and implement long-term trade promotion strategies. Ethiopia’s reopening of its Embassy in Brazil would be an important step towards that objective.

Regarding the pivotal role of Ethiopian Airlines, he reiterated that The Order of Rio

Branco is one of the most important official recognitions given by the Government of Brazil to people or companies who have performed acts or services of distinguished merit and virtue. It represents Brazil’s willingness to strengthen its ties with Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Airlines flies daily to São Paulo. Ambassador Dos Santos remarked that Bole International Airport has become one of the most important hubs for Brazilian passengers traveling to Africa, the Middle East and Asia, and there is a huge potential for increase in the flow of Brazilian tourists to this country.

Brazil and Ethiopia have a very good cooperation in the health sector which mainly focused on breast cancer heart diseases and stroke, he noted.

Harar targets...

Apart from the conservation of the world-famous attraction site, the fundraising program has been designed to finance other projects in Hariri State. Accordingly, the construction of roads, sewerage, green development, and park expansion are part of Dine for Jugol.

Tewelda further stated that the committee

was established to supervise activities in the preservation and protection of the heritage in terms of infrastructure, procedures, and legal framework.

“To pass the iconic Jugol Wall for the future generation, meticulous jobs are being carried out by various stakeholders and the introduction of the fundraising program showcases the state government’s commitment in this regard.”

Noting the Dine for Jugol lasts for two more years, he indicated that as part of the fundraising program, other activities including the restoration of historical houses, fence walls, and other heritages will be carried out while preserving their original beauty.

In the last six months, every sector office in Harar has taken the initiative and covered over 6,000 square meters of land with grass

and executed rigorous measures to control illegal activities around the wall. Moreover, continuous awareness creation activities are undertaken to enhance the public’s sense of ownership of the site and commendable results were gained, the bureau head concluded.

Harar is home to ancient cultural, religious, and artistic beauty, which has made the town a major tourist destination.

Opinion



DR. MAULANA KARENGA
Guest Columnist

The sacred agency of our people: Righteous resistance, repairing and remaking the world

BY DR. MAULANA KARENGA

In this month of remembering, rising up and reflecting on our awesome making and movement through history, it is good to remind ourselves, society and the world of the sacred agency of our people. For this is central and essential to our identity, purpose and direction as persons and a people. In a word, it is key and compelling to how we understand and assert ourselves in the world. Indeed, it is we, the African people, who at the dawn of history stood up first and brought into being the ever evolving wonder of human life, the ever expanding light of human knowledge, and the ever increasing lessons of human agency in and for the world.

By sacred agency we mean here an active commitment to that ancient and ongoing African moral imperative to do and pursue good in and for the world. Moreover, to talk of our sacred agency in the world is to engage in the critical practice of *sankofa*, a self-conscious reaching back into our minds, memory and history and bringing forth the enduring insights from the oral, written and living practice texts of our honored ancestors. For they offer us a history of enduring instructions to embrace, models to emulate and mirrors by which we measure and assess ourselves in our righteous and relentless strivings and struggles to bring and sustain good in the world.

In the ancient sacred texts and teachings of the *Husia*, we are instructed and urged to bear witness to truth and set the scales of justice in their proper place, especially among the vulnerable and always do what is good. Indeed, Lady Ta Aset encourages us to do good, saying to us “just speaking good is a monument to those who do it” and that “the good we do for others, we are also doing for ourselves”. For we are building the good community and world we all want and deserve to live in and leave as a storehouse of good from which future generations can draw from and build on unendingly.

The good world we seek here is a Maatian world, i.e., one based on the Seven Cardinal Virtues of *Maat*: truth, justice, propriety, harmony, balance, reciprocity and righteous order. And to achieve it we must not only do good but also resist evil, for the struggle for good and the struggle against evil are inseparably linked. Indeed, Seba Khunanpu says, “one who reduces falsehood fosters truth and one who fosters good reduces evil”. Thus, he says, “speak truth and do justice” for “the true-balancing of the world lies in doing justice”. And this justice is not a simple procedural justice, but a real justice, a vital justice, a life-giving, life-enhancing justice for as Seba Khunanpu asserts, “Doing justice is breathing to the nose”.

It is our duty, our honored ancestors tell

It is our duty, our honored ancestors tell and teach us in the *Husia*, to engage in the constant practice of *serudj ta*, repairing, renewing and remaking the world, making it more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it

and teach us in the *Husia*, to engage in the constant practice of *serudj ta*, repairing, renewing and remaking the world, making it more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it, and leaving it as a rich legacy and reciprocal responsibility for those who inherit it and pass it on also. It is a sacred responsibility to raise up what is in ruins; to repair what is damaged; to rejoin what is separated; to replenish what is depleted; to set right what is wrong; to strengthen what is weakened; and to make flourish that which is fragile, insecure and undeveloped.

The ancient sacred text, *Odu Ifa* tells and teaches us that we should enjoy our divinely assigned mission to bring and sustain good in the world. It says, “Let’s do things with joy, for surely humans have been chosen to bring good in the world”. And thus, we say this is the fundamental meaning and mission of human life. Clearly, this involves constant struggle, this striving to do and bring good in the world and relentlessly resisting evil, injustice and oppression wherever and whenever we find it, and struggling mightily to reduce and end poverty, oppression, exploitation, degradation and general suffering of people.

And it is important to note that we are chosen not over and against anyone, but chosen with everyone to bring good in the world. Thus, all of humans are equally chosen. In fact, the word for human being is *eniyán* which literally means *chosen one*. And we are divinely chosen without distinction of nation, race, gender, special religious relationship or promise. Surely, as we note with profound appreciation, this poses an ideal which many other world religions are still striving to

establish and realize as a central moral doctrine and practice.

Furthermore, the *Odu Ifa* teaches that humans must move beyond moralities of convenience to a morality of sacrifice and struggle, i.e., self-giving in a real, meaningful and sustained way. The sacred teachings tell us that “one who makes a small sacrifice will have a small result” and that we must “be able to suffer without surrendering and persevere in what we do”. For one of the most important, even indispensable requirements to achieve a good world is “the eagerness and struggle to increase good in the world and not let any good be lost”. And in this righteous and relentless struggle for good in and for the world we must stay ever-ready and engaged, for the *Odu Ifa* says in the pursuit of good, “a constant soldier is never unready, not even once”. And this too the sacred teachings say, always let our struggle be a righteous one and let us go into battle with this commitment: “may the struggles we wage always add to our honor”.

In the midst of the *Maangamizi*, the Holocaust of enslavement, Nana Harriet Tubman tells and teaches us that the struggle for freedom is a costly practice and project and we must be willing to sacrifice when and where necessary. She says “We must go free or die and freedom is not bought with dust”. Indeed, she tells us she constantly “prayed to God to make (her) strong and able to fight. . .” and she would fight for freedom “as long as (her) strength lasts”. And Nana Frederick Douglass told and taught us that there is no substitute for righteous and transformative struggle. He reassures us that “If there is no struggle, there is no progress. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”

Reaffirming the world encompassing character and reach of our liberation struggle and its moral grounding, Nana Anna Julia Cooper taught us “We take our stand on the solidarity of humanity, the oneness of life, and the unnaturalness and injustice of all special favoritism, whether of sex, race, country, or condition.” And this stand is a commitment of struggle to eliminate the unnaturalness and injustice of the various and vicious constraints on human life and development.

Likewise, Nana Marcus Garvey reaffirmed in his teaching the vital need for constant and conscientious struggle. He assures us that “Chance has never yet satisfied the hope of a suffering people. Action, self-reliance, the vision of self and the future have been the only means by which the oppressed have seen and realized the light of their own freedom”. And he wants Africa as a continent and

world community to play a central role in the struggle to bring good in the world. A liberated and uplifted Africa, he says, will offer a new “way to life and peace, achieved not by ignoring the rights of our brother (and sister) but by giving to everyone (their) due”. Indeed, he affirms, “the hand of justice, freedom and liberty shall be extended to all humankind”.

Nana Mary Mcleod Bethune reassures and teaches us “we are custodians and heirs of a great legacy”, and this morally obligates us to take this legacy and honor it through the sacred agency of remaking the world. She says, “We must remake the world. The task is nothing less than that.” And Nana Martin Luther King Jr. also reaffirmed the sacred agency and mission of our people in the world. At the beginning of his evolving leadership in the Black Freedom Movement, he defines our people as a moral and social vanguard whose righteous and radically transformative struggle would compel historians of future generations “to pause and say, ‘there lived a great people - a Black people - who injected new meaning and dignity into the veins of civilization’. This is our challenge and our overwhelming responsibility”.

Finally, Nana Haji Malcolm tells and teaches us that we must assert ourselves in the world conscious about our place among the ranks of those who represent the rising tide of history, the oppressed of the world in radical and revolutionary “rebellion against the oppression and colonialism” and imperialism imposed by the oppressors of the world. And Nana Frantz Fanon asked and urges us in our global rebellion in the fulfillment of our sacred mission and agency of bringing good in the world to strive to “reconsider the question of humankind”, imagine a new world and dare to bring them “to triumphant birth”, inaugurating a new history and horizon of possibilities for humankind.

Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies, California State University-Long Beach; Executive Director, African American Cultural Center (Us); Creator of Kwanzaa; and author of Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture and Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis, www.AfricanAmericanCulturalCenter-LA.org; www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org.

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

Editorial

Strong alliance: key to continental dev't

Africa, a continent with a total population of just over 1.4 billion, is striving to transform itself via strengthening alliance among countries. The aspiration towards the attainment of the Pan-African Vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena and Agenda 2063 is the concrete manifestation of how the continent intends to achieve this vision within a 50 year period from 2013 to 2063.

AGENDA 2063 is Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future. It is the continent's strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance.

Agenda 2063 encapsulates not only Africa's aspirations for the Future but also identifies key Flagship Programs which can boost Africa's economic growth and development and lead to the rapid transformation of the continent.

Promising achievements with respect to the implementation of agenda 2063 have been registered so far in the political, economic and social arenas of the continent like strengthening multilateral close alliance among the countries, beefing up intra-continental trade relations, joint movements to eliminate terrorism and silencing the guns, to mention a few are the fruits reaped in its first 10 years of the plan.

The peace agreement reached in Ethiopia between the federal government and TPLF to permanent cessation of hostilities carried out under the auspices of African Union which is showing tangible progress can be cited as a living witness in this regard.

Africa is endowed with vast natural resources and large amount of population in which the young people take the largest portion. Hence, it needs to invest more on ensuring peace and stability via ceasing conflicts that emerge here and there recurrently as well as capitalizing on physical and digital infrastructures since they are the heart of development and the common thread of integration, because they support economic activity and ensures the mobility that is essential to the integration process.

Ensuring peace in all regions of the continent highly contributes to continental peace. The East Africa Standby Force (EASF), for instance, would be restructured to solidify its engagement in ensuring peace and stability in the Horn of Africa for the next ten years. This trend should be replicated in the Western, Central, Southern and Northern regions of the continent. This in turn enables it meaningfully benefit from its resources avoiding external interference that attempts to exploit the resources.

The successes Africa entertained so far can serve as a springboard to carry out a new beginning of the next ten years plan of agenda 2063. And institutionalizing the alliance is essential to smoothly carry out the remaining plans of the agenda.

Besides, consolidating ties with the rest of the world should be considered for the reason that Africa's development cannot be achieved by solitary running. Thus, strong diplomatic, economic and social relations with the West and the East in this globalized world, prioritizing economic and political independence, are timely tasks.

opinion

Diplomatic Worker's Day in Russia

BY H.E. MR. EVGENY TEREKHIN

(Ambassador of Russia)

On February 10 Russia celebrates a professional day of current and former staff of the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation – Diplomatic Worker's Day, established by a Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on October 31, 2002. It testifies to the high recognition of the profession of a diplomat by the state and the important role of the national diplomatic service.

The history of Russian diplomacy has deep roots and today's Foreign Ministry fully maintains continuity with its predecessors and is engaged in consistent, multi-vector and pragmatic activities. At all stages of domestic diplomatic service, the Ministry has focused on upholding Russia's foreign policy interests at the international stage and facilitating consistent domestic development of the country.

The Foreign Ministry team has always faithfully and fully done its duty to the Motherland and our people. And this time will be no different. We will continue to do everything necessary to protect our national interests and create a favourable environment for Russia's stable development and for raising the living standards of its people. The honour and dignity of our Motherland and all our citizens have never been and will never be subject to any compromise.

The tectonic shifts in global politics and the economy that have accelerated over the last months have drawn a clear dividing line between the narrow circle of unfriendly states and the rest of the world, the global majority that is seeking closer ties and mutually beneficial cooperation with Russia. We are succeeding in not only preserving but also deepening our equitable cooperation in many respects with the states of the Greater Eurasia, Africa and Latin America. Formulated by President Vladimir Putin, our foreign policy rests on the universally accepted norms of international law, primarily, the UN Charter, which state the fundamental principle of the sovereign equality of states. We advocate strengthening the democratic foundations of international relations on all global platforms.

Once again the history has demonstrated that Russia has many friends and Ethiopia, which we consider one of the key actors on the African continent, is one of them.

Relations between Russia and Ethiopia have a long history. This year we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. For many decades our

countries and peoples have been linked by strong ties of friendship. Of course, during this time they have undergone qualitative transformation, but neither a change of governments nor historical eras has interrupted the progressive development of our bilateral relations, which are invariably characterized by trust, respect and mutual assistance. It would not be an exaggeration if I say that the Russian-Ethiopian bilateral relations are developing dynamically and in a very positive way.

The friendship of our countries is based not only on strong historical and religious ties, but also on mutual understanding and sympathy between people. In this difficult period for Russia and its people, we have received an incredible amount of support and approval from ordinary Ethiopians, who often call Russia their second homeland. This is an indication of how close in spirit our peoples are.

Our country, on its side has indeed supported the people of Ethiopia in different historical periods. In the fight against the Italian invaders in the late 1890s, Russian soldiers and medics fought side by side with Ethiopian brothers. When Ethiopia became the first victim of fascist aggression in 1935, the USSR strongly condemned the move. At that time, the commander of the first Ethiopian squadron and de facto creator of the national air force was a Russian - Mikhail Babichev. Not many people in the world also know that World War II began here, in Ethiopia. This is very symbolic: Ethiopia was the first country to defeat the Nazis, while the USSR ended this struggle 10 years later.

In recent years, Ethiopia has once again come under systematic pressure from the West. In an attempt to defend its sovereignty and national interests, your country has faced unjust demands, sanctions, and an information war. During this difficult period Russia has repeatedly expressed its support to the government and people of Ethiopia, including in international forums.

As we celebrate this professional day, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my friends and colleagues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia for their unwavering support and assistance to our Embassy in achieving its goals. Ethiopian diplomacy traditionally enjoys a well-deserved reputation in the international arena. I am glad that the positions of our countries are close or coincide on almost all acute modern issues. I am sure that with our joint efforts we will achieve new successes for the good of our peoples and countries.

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



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO
Tel. 011-126-42-22
Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

Advertisement and Dist.

Department
email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew
email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city
Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama
Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:
Alem Hailu
Elizabeth Mengistu
Zekarias Woldemariam
Desta Geberehiwot
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Website: www.press.et
email: ethiopianherald@press.et
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The Ethiopian Herald

Art & Culture

What is your take of feminism in 2023? Is it still important or dragging the world behind?

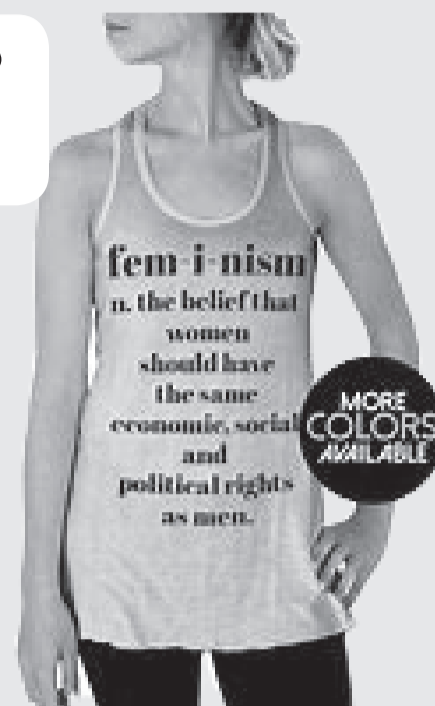
BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

It is a sign of being modern when feminism is accepted. It opens opportunities for women to involve in different roles equally as men but it can be misused. People may think that being a woman gives them rights that men do not have and men may feel discouraged by it. If the ideology is always how women are superior and better than men then it is not a good way to go. Men will

become repulsive towards it but if the ideology is that women have equal rights as men do then that is realistic. It is all a matter of logic and not about who is superior over another. Many women tend to think that feeling like they are above men is right but I do not. To tell you frankly these are the women that will face challenges in their marriage life because men will feel repulsive towards them.

I am not saying that women should

be submissive towards men but I am saying that they should have equal rights. In the house during marriage they should act as equal partners... There is no reason a man cannot cook or a woman cannot do office work. They could share responsibilities by not letting their ego get in the way. Our world is evolving into a small town and there should not be any racism or sexism because we are all human creatures looking for the best way to survive.



A person is two beings!

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Do you know a person is two people?
Incredible, how!
Follow carefully now,
From womb to success/failure in life,
Human beings have had good or bad deeds,
As they have dual personality traits,
Based on all what their deed,
In human two features are manifested,
In two cardinal facets at all, seriously note that,
A person is two people on earth,
Especially after adolescence,
After identifying what is important,
When they adapt egocentric spirit,
Yes, here are dual versions,
Follow manifestations,
If you are generous,
Willing to give others what they ask,
Being forthright and frank,
Optimistically respond to what is enquired,
All in all if you satisfy others' needs,
You are a saint, sacred creature,
At present, in the moment, even in near future,
Unique creature in the planet,
For a specific recipient, don't forget,
As well as generous, selfless, cooperative and salient,
A rosy path leading to success,
Great leader and bright light,
Unthinkable being, ideal person,
Sacred guy, blessed and omnipotent,
Take note of this opening mind wide,
Let the first one be reined,
To cite features of the second,
For comparison,
Of course with convincing reason,



If you are confident enough, hard to be twisted,
Full of self-awareness acting your own mode,
Not to harm others, but respect,
Unwilling to bribe even to bet,
Expecting nothing from others,
Developing firm stance for not to be flooded by the mass,
Listening to own heartbeat, avoiding abysmal,
Do not blow following the flock,
The colony or the herd,
You are devilish, cruel and well cursed,
From the first to the last,
Middle or average or mean,
Believe it or not a man is two men!!!
In the planet, continent, region or district,
Being these two beings,

Must go to inevitable resident,
Never filled open hole,
Equally given for everyone,
Keeping turn one by one,
Constructed in less than an hour,
A compulsory order,
A mandatory call,
To be sent to heaven or hell,
No one knows of course,
His or her address,
What is surprising is,
If human beings do have all what is sound on earth,
Even everything more than enough,
Toomany.....too.....grand,
Nothing precludes them from graveyard,
An extensive hole open wide,
And being buried or cut or thrown,

If this is so,
Why is human race acting evil?
Performing envy or following death,
Or for how long they live on earth,
This is not preaching or philosophizing,
No association with parties, entities or clubs,
Doesn't belong to religion or politics,
Neither a myth nor mere talk,
Even not a narrative or a folk,
It is human life solid fact,
Ideal reminder mind teaser,
To do good in short life, on board,
Taking middle ground,
By never dying for money, dollar or pound,
Not to be too generous, nor too mean,
Definitely know that
No one has escaped from being two persons or lives!!

Law & Politics

Shoring up diplomatic engagements

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The Ethiopian government has been taking some measures to end conflicts and restore tranquility in the country. Particularly, the Pretoria peace deal penned between the Ethiopian government and Tigray People's Liberation Front was a mammoth step in bringing the devastating conflict that paralyzed the country for two years.

The conflict in the northern part resulted in human carnage and incalculable property damages. In addition to its costs to lives and properties, the conflict somehow damaged the country's image on the global stage.

In the course of the conflict, as the discredited international media outlets were disseminating at all hours of the day and night imaginary stories that did not reflect the existing circumstances on the ground, the global community failed to understand the true picture of what was going on in the northern part of the country.

It is however true that the country was also branded a strong force against foreign intervention. The nation's diplomatic engagement with some countries was curtailed.

External pressure was high and media propaganda was intense, ultimately besmirching the good image of the country. It was also balefully painted as a country chaos due to the hoax stories of some unethical media outlets. These trends have cast a shadow on the country's socioeconomic and religious undertakings.

There have also been barrages of fake news stories and media coverage that tarnished the image of the country creating portraying the country as unstable and insecure. But, following the Pretoria peace deal and other steps, the incumbent put in place, strained diplomatic relations have eased and the country is back to normalcy.

The situation has totally seen a U-turn following the Pretoria peace pact. There have been strings of visits by foreign ministers. Recently, the foreign ministers of China, the UK, and Germany paid official visits to the country where they vowed to help the country with post-war rehabilitation efforts. Besides, there have been phone calls between leaders of the countries and other higher officials.

The country's diplomatic engagement with the international community is increasing. Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took part in international meetings including the US-Africa Summit.

Notwithstanding the fact that nobody had expected the envisioned target would be accomplished in the shortest possible time, the two parties set in motion smoothing the path of the provision of humanitarian assistance and restoration of social infrastructure that in the fullness of time metamorphosed into winning the hearts and minds of the wider international community.

In consideration of the foregoing, the global community has been speaking highly of the



federal government's efforts at the earliest possible moment.

It is widely known that in the course of the conflict that lasted for two years in the northern part of the country, Ethiopia's relations with the global community were not on good terms and missing the target. However, on the heels of the positive moves unfolding in the northern part of the country, Ethiopia's relations with other nations worldwide have embarked on making progress in the right direction.

Foreign countries are now improving their diplomatic relationship with the country with international monetary organizations allowing the provision of credit and loans to the country. Now that the country has brought the conflict to an end, it is stepping up its participation in regional matters including peace and stability.

In view of the foregoing, Ethiopia's relations with other nations worldwide have been showing improvement. And, lately, Premier Abiy visited Italy, Malta, and France where he signed various agreements as per of boosting the country's bilateral relations with countries.

Prime Minister Abiy and his ministerial delegation visited Rome; Italy. In his Twitter message, the premier appreciated Italian President Sergio Mattarella for giving warm welcome to the Ethiopian delegation.

It was learned that P.M Abiy and his delegation held a discussion with President Sergio Mattarella on continued relations between the two nations and bilateral issues. In the bilateral meeting with the Italian President, the two sides discussed continued relations between Ethiopia and Italy as well as the current global and regional issues.

In his meeting with Italian Prime minister Gioria Meloni, Prime Minister Abiy said that both discussed the multifaceted ties and cooperation between the two countries. On the occasion, Ethiopia and Italy signed

a cooperation agreement that includes 180 million Euros in grants and soft loans.

It is said to be essential to forging ahead with activities in Ethiopia's homegrown economic reform program and our ten-year perspective development plan.

Similarly, the Prime minister also paid a 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.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his counterpart Malta's Prime Minister Robert Abela held discussions on how to enhance all round cooperation between the two countries yesterday, so stated Office of the Prime Minister.

According to the report obtained from the Office, the two leaders and their delegations held consultations on bilateral relations, including enhancing cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, maritime, logistics, and security issues of the two countries.

Abiy tweeted that the two countries have a lot to learn from one another in a multitude of areas and the discussions have further cemented areas of cooperation for mutual benefit having appreciated the Prime Minister of Malta and his government for the warm welcome.

He, moreover, said that the discussion has strengthened various fields of the two countries' cooperation. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and First Lady Zinash Tayachew were welcomed in an official ceremony by Prime Minister Robert Abela, it was learnt.

It is to be recalled that Ethiopia and Malta have diplomatic relations dating back to the 1970s, although both countries established official relations when Malta opened its

Embassy in Addis Ababa in 2021.

The Premier also traveled to France where he and French President Emanuel Macron 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 (Ph.D.) discussed with France's Director-General of the Treasury, Emmanuel Moulin about enhancing the two countries' economic 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 have 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.

"Ethiopian – Italian relations spanning over many decades have been long-standing and defined by a fruitful partnership. We will continue to enhance existing relations," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) tweeted.

Brazil sees Africa, Ethiopia, as an equal partner to tackle shared challenges

Amb Jandyr Ferreira Dos Santos

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

The guest of Herald for today is Brazilian Ambassador to Ethiopia Jandyr Ferreira Dos Santos. He is also the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as well as the Non-Resident Ambassador of Brazil to Djibouti and to South Sudan.

Santos has more than two decades of experience with the Brazilian diplomatic service and has also served at the Embassies of Brazil in Maputo (Mozambique), New Delhi (India), as well as at the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations in New York (First Committee), representing Brazil in international negotiations on topics including proliferation and arms control.

The Ethiopian Herald paid a visit to the embassy and raised a range of concerns focused on the mounting bilateral relations between the two countries. Have a nice read.

As a new ambassador to Ethiopia, how did you find Ethiopia as a whole?

I arrived four months ago and I am extremely motivated to deepen my knowledge and understanding of this vibrant country. This is the second time I live and work in Africa (I was posted to Mozambique back in 2010) and I am confident to say that Ethiopia is indeed culturally and historically unique in the continent.

One of Africa's fastest-growing economies and home to diverse panoply of peoples and landscapes, this is a remarkable place and I look forward to working with Ethiopian colleagues with a view to strengthening bilateral relations with Brazil.

Here in Ethiopia, Brazil is highly remembered by many people for its marvelous history in Football. How is Ethiopia viewed in Brazil?

I believe most Brazilians see Ethiopia through historical and cultural lenses. As a country that is a symbol of the African struggle against colonialism, the cradle of the human species and the birthplace of coffee. Besides this, there is much to be done so as to increase the knowledge of Brazilians about the actual importance of Ethiopia to Africa, to the world and to our national interests. Rest assured I am working on that.

How is the current situation of the diplomatic relations between Brazil and Ethiopia? How is the activity of the Brazilian community in Ethiopia? What about Ethiopians in Brazil?

Brazil and Ethiopia established diplomatic relations 72 years ago and since then have enjoyed very friendly relations. We have been gradually deepening our ties, increasing our bilateral trade and establishing cooperation initiatives in different fields. More recently, in May 2021 Brazil and Ethiopia held their Second Bilateral Political Consultations and we expect the third meeting to take place this year.

The Brazilian community in Ethiopia is small and mostly employees of international organizations, such as the United Nations and its agencies operating here. There are a few other individuals working as humanitarian agents and as engineers in the GERD construction site.

Brazil and Ethiopia share many common objectives in a wide range of areas, especially in the multilateral arena.

As for the Ethiopian community in Brazil the situation is very similar. There isn't a history of emigration from Ethiopia to Brazil, with a few notable exceptions such as the Brazilian-born renowned musician Jorge Ben Jor, for instance, who has Ethiopian ancestry. In addition to that, Ethiopian entrepreneurs have recently shown a remarkable interest in my country and there is a growing business tourism influx. We expect it to increase as trade relations between companies from both countries develop even further.

What plan do you have in terms of bolstering the bilateral relations between Brazil and Ethiopia?

Our bilateral relations have a huge unfulfilled potential. In a wider perspective, as a developing country Brazil sees Africa, and obviously Ethiopia, as an equal partner with whom it can establish high-level initiatives to tackle shared challenges, through cooperation and the exchange of views on important topics of the international agenda, such as food self-sufficiency, climate change and trade.

In this sense, as the world recovers from the disruptions caused by the pandemic crisis and the war in Eastern Europe, I personally see real prospects for a mutually beneficial partnership

that will allow for growth in bilateral trade and in investment flows from Brazilian companies into Ethiopia. To turn this into reality we must raise awareness of the existent opportunities in both countries and implement long-term trade promotion strategies. The reopening of the Embassy of Ethiopia in Brazil would be an important step towards that objective.

Would you please explain about Brazil's prestigious award of order of Rio Branco and the reason for awarding it to Ethiopian Airlines group and EAL's role in connecting Brazil with Africa?

I am glad you raised this subject because this award represents Brazil's willingness to strengthen its ties with Ethiopia. The Order of Rio Branco is one of the most important official recognitions given by the Government of Brazil to people or companies who have performed acts or services of distinguished merit and virtue.

The awarding of the Rio Branco medal to both the Ethiopian Airlines CEO and the head of office in Brazil was a token of appreciation to the company's crucial role in the challenging operation carried out by Brazil in 2020 to repatriate fellow nationals who were caught up stranded during the air traffic shutdown as

a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The logistic support provided by Ethiopian Airlines was also of paramount importance to the transportation of essential medical supplies to Brazil and other Latin-American countries.

Currently, the Ethiopian carrier is operating cargo flights and daily passenger flights to São Paulo, which is a hub connecting the whole of Latin America. As Ethiopian Airlines connections to Brazil increase so does the potential for more business, tourism and bilateral partnerships.

The two countries have similar objectives in connection to ecosystem, development goals and foreign policy. How these fertile grounds of cooperation would be strengthened especially in your tenure?

As you correctly mentioned, Brazil and Ethiopia share many common objectives in a wide range of areas, especially in the multilateral arena. I am convinced that cooperation programs and initiatives will constitute the common thread for the exchanges of Brazil with developing countries and other partners, with special attention to Africa. In this sense, I have been engaging with Ethiopian authorities to identify possible areas of partnership. In the health sector, we have a strong partnership with the Ethiopian Ministry

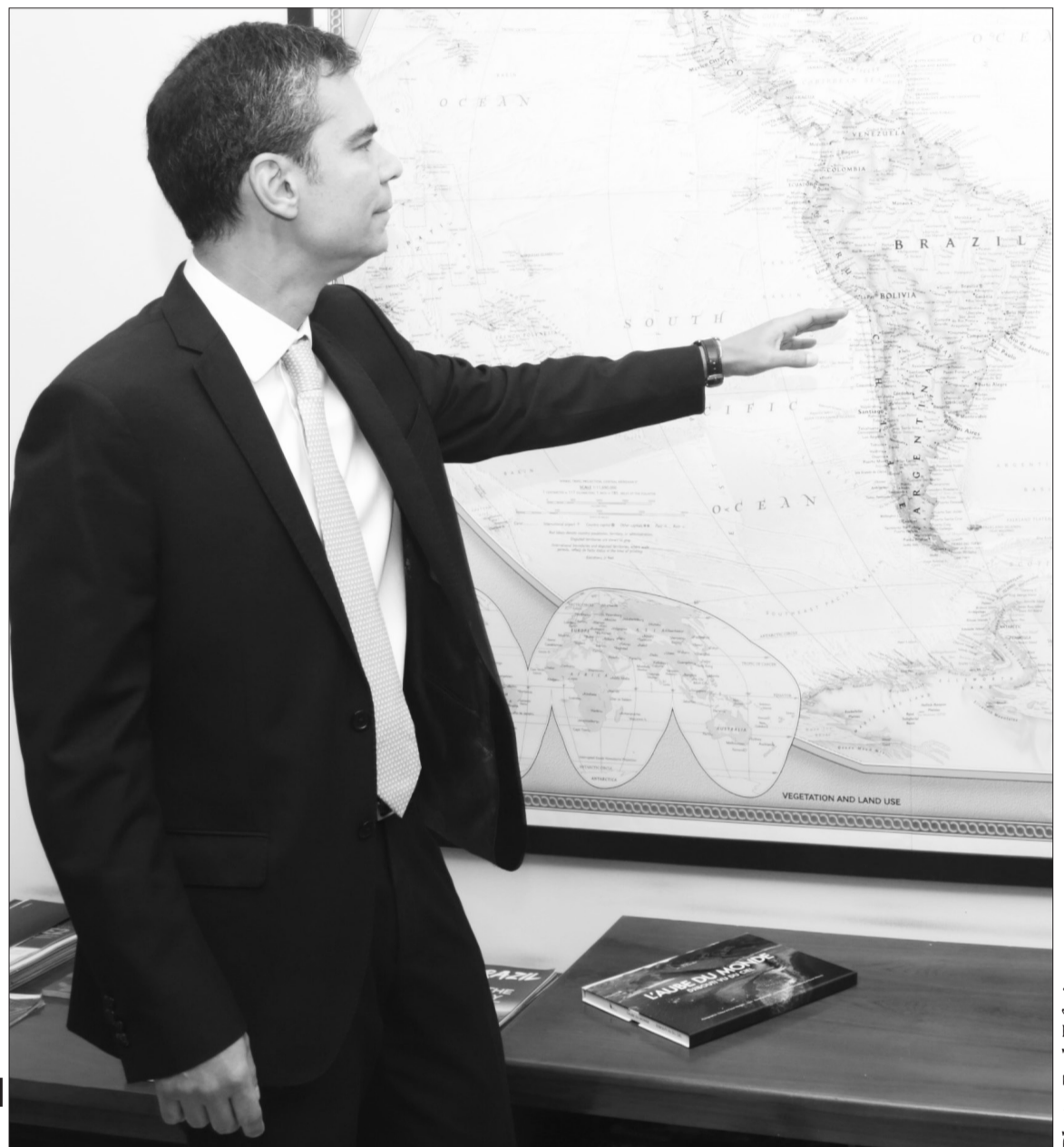


Photo: Eyob Teferi



Herald Guest



of Health on maternal and early childhood health and nutrition that are very important components of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

We will also continue working with Ethiopia and other African and Latin American countries in the United Nations to advance agendas that are important for the developing countries, such as climate change.

Brazil has all the conditions to consolidate itself as a model of energy transition and low-carbon economy. It will require its own resources and persistent implementation of financing commitments made by developed countries. And it will also require active and determined environmental and climate diplomacy from our part in order to defend our interests so that we can continue to play a role of facilitator and generator of consensus that, since the preparation of Rio-92, Brazil has been able to play. For that reason, Brazil has officially launched a bid for the northern city of Belem to host the COP-30 climate summit in 2025.

Your country has a rich experience in agricultural practices. How would the two countries enhance their cooperation in this regard so as to ensure sustainable growth? Brazilian's are actively engaged in sustainable forest and acid soil management here in Ethiopia. Would you further elaborate it?

Over the past two decades, Brazil - the fifth largest country in area and the largest in terms of arable land - has consolidated its position as a major producer of agricultural commodities and related food products as well as a supplier to international markets. We are now the largest exporter of beef (23 percent of global exports) and its second largest producer.

Since the 1960s, we have gone through an intensive process of modernization of our agricultural production that included the expansion of arable land to regions of acid soil, which demanded an effort to change the soil's PH. This is the kind of experience we have been sharing with Ethiopia.

In this country, correction of acid soils can open vast lands to modern agriculture, which is essential to increase agricultural output and guarantee food security. The same applies to forest management. Brazil is also a big producer of timber, paper and other forest products. But this was only possible due to the correct management of forests (natural or planted). If trees are being planted to create a forest for timber or paper, for example, one cannot plant them randomly, there must be proper selection of specimens that grow quicker and have a more uniform shape, larger trunks and so on. This is also the expertise we are planning to share with Ethiopia.

Technology, skills, knowledge exchange and partnership in science and technology are some of the areas the two countries are working to bolster their relations? Would you tell me the progress? Especially in coffee related technologies?

South-South cooperation is one of the central elements of Brazil's relations to developing countries in general, and Ethiopia in particular. We have practiced the concept of not simply receiving knowledge from developed countries, but also sharing our own experiences with others in effective partnerships towards development. South-South cooperation contributes to consolidating Brazil's relations with partner countries as it enhances general exchange; generates, disseminates and applies technical knowledge; builds human resource capacity;

and, mainly, strengthens institutions in all nations involved.

We have been discussing with Ethiopian authorities possible partnership projects, which will be implemented in accordance with the principles of South-South cooperation: they must be demand driven, which means that the receiving country would have to request Brazil's cooperation on a specific field, such as the coffee sector you mentioned; they impose no conditionality, as we do not require the receiving countries, for instance, to buy our machinery or technology; and they do not interfere in the beneficiary country's internal affairs. The ultimate goal of technical cooperation - exchanging experiences and knowledge, materializes reciprocal solidarity among peoples and does not only benefit recipient countries, but Brazil as well.

As a developing country, Brazil has faced many of the challenges Ethiopia faces nowadays in its development process. For that reason, it is natural that we have a better understanding of your challenges and are ready to work together with you to identify better and less costly solutions. Not to mention that we are both tropical countries and so, in terms of agriculture, we have quite similar weather and soil conditions.

As a member of BRICS what role do you think is your country playing globally, specifically to Africa and Ethiopia?

As a member of the BRICS, Brazil commends the efforts of the African countries, the African Union (AU) and the sub-regional organizations to address regional challenges, including maintaining peace and security, post conflict reconstruction as well as development efforts. We fully support the AU Agenda 2063 and Africa's efforts towards integration through the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

In this context, Brazil's relations with Africa and Ethiopia are fully aligned to our common goal of supporting the social and economic development of the continent. It is worth noting that President Lula, whose 4-year term began this year, has Africa amongst its top priorities abroad. This engagement will mark a return to the traditional Brazilian Universalist approach to foreign policy and a renewed comeback to Africa.

Ethiopia is conducive for investment especially for those who aspire to invest in the manufacturing sector. Would you tell me the intention of Brazilian investors?

Brazil has a large and diversified economy as well as a massive domestic market of more than 200 million people. For that reason, Brazilian companies tend in general to favor domestic investment and domestic human and natural resources.

However, this does not mean that Brazilian companies do not look for investment opportunities abroad. Brazil's presence in Africa is visible in sectors like mining, cement, logistics, energy, food and beverage, buses and airplanes. With peace, stability and a good business environment, the interest of Brazilian companies in investing in Ethiopia will inevitably grow.

Would you tell me the contribution of the two countries in terms of reversing the climate change impact?

Brazil and Ethiopia are parties to the main multilateral agreements on climate change, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Ethiopia shares our



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concerns regarding the impact of climate change on our planet, especially in developing countries.

Brazil, who is a major player in multilateral negotiations on climate change, has recently committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 37 percent by 2025 and by 50 per cent by 2030.

Brazil also stands by its conviction that solutions to the climate global crisis demand sustainable development, aiming for carbon neutrality in the whole of the economic activities, an increase in the capacity of adaptation, as well as risk reduction and the end of unsustainable production and consumption patterns.

Additionally, as for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Brazil has called for robust financial mechanisms capable of enabling developing countries to implement the agreement at the national level, in compliance with the "principle of common but differentiated responsibilities".

How do you explain the bilateral relation of the two countries in the health sector? Would you briefly tell us about a project being developed in hospitals in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar that started with a donation of medicines from the Brazilian civil society?

Brazil and Ethiopia have a very good cooperation in the health sector. H.E. Minister [of Health] Lia Tadesse visited my country in 2019 and became acquainted to projects on maternal and early childhood health and nutrition. Upon her return, she decided to start a pilot project in Addis Ababa

focused on early childhood. More recently, we collaborated in the celebration of the Pink October campaign against breast cancer. This is one of the most common cancer types in Ethiopia and prevention and early detection are essential to increase recovery rates.

Another important cause of deaths in Ethiopia is heart diseases. In this sense, the World Stroke Organization, together with the "Rede Brasil-AVC" (Brazil Stroke Network), both organizations headed by Brazilian doctor Sheila Martins, have started a pilot project in collaboration with Ethiopian neurologist and stroke specialist Dr. Mehari Gebreyohanns to create stroke specialized units in hospitals in Bahir Dar (*Tibebe Ghion Specialized Hospital* and *Felege Hiwot Hospital*) and in Addis Ababa *Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital*. Training was also offered and medicine donated.

How do you see the collaboration of the two countries in sport and culture? Football may be one area of cooperation between the two countries. Would you tell me the plan you have in terms of replicating best practice of your country for Ethiopia?

Brazil and Ethiopia share many common values in sports and culture. It is worth remembering that the majority of Brazil's population declares itself to be of African origin. This growing movement of self-identification with Africa proves that we are proud of our mixed origins and identify many of our cultural traditions, be it in terms of religion, food, music or sports as being of African origin. In this sense, I believe there are plenty of opportunities to collaborate with Ethiopia in culture and sports.

Last year, for example, we brought to Addis Ababa Brazilian chef Dadá, from the city of Salvador in the Northeast of Brazil, for a food-week organized in collaboration with the Embassy of Portugal and SkyLight Hotel. Dadá's food has a very distinctive African flavor which was highly appreciated.

In the field of sports, unfortunately we have recently gone through a very sad moment with the loss of Pelé, the most important football player of all time. Despite the sadness that prevailed in my country I was happy to find out that Bisrate Gebriel Wendemamach Sports Association in Addis Ababa decided to honor him in a recent celebration.

Such a spontaneous initiative from the Ethiopian civil society proves that our countries have a lot of common interests and many possibilities of cooperation in the fields of culture and sports.

How is the flow of Brazilian tourists to Ethiopia?

Addis Ababa Bole International Airport has become one of the most important hubs for Brazilian passengers traveling to Africa, the Middle East and Asia, and there is a huge potential for increase in the flow of Brazilian tourists to this country.

The current frequency of Ethiopian Airlines flights to São Paulo, which now operate daily, together with recent measures by Ethiopian authorities to facilitate the issuing of tourist visas, have had a positive impact on the inflow of Brazilian tourists to this country.

I have also been in contact with Nasise Chali, Minister of Tourism, as well as with Ethiopian Airlines in order to identify and help implement measures that could further increase the flow of Brazilian tourists willing to discover the beauties of the Land of Origins.

Thank you very much

It is my pleasure

Collaboration to curb irregular migration

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

It is clear that since the last few decades, migration is emerging as one of the leading global and national policy subjects of the 21st century.

Particularly, for people of developing countries, illegal migration has continued to be one of the pressing challenges. It is common to see people of developing countries leave their home country and migrate to developed countries hugely for economic and security concerns, in search of better opportunities, employment, education, to have better living standards, fleeing conflict and violence among others. The case, as many agreed, imposes a huge socioeconomic burden on both origin and destination countries.

Obviously, the Horn of Africa region is the main places of origin, transit and destination for refugees and migrants who leave their homes for different reasons.

According to estimation from the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2021), 51 percent of the migrants move within the region followed by about 36 percent who travel to Gulf States through the Eastern Route. Others use the Southern Route heading to South Africa or the Northern Route to the Maghreb region and Europe. Often out of necessity, many of them travel irregularly, without a visa or valid papers. They often seek the support of smugglers to facilitate their journey exposing themselves to huge risk.

Their vulnerability makes them easy targets for criminal networks and human traffickers who exploit human beings for profit. Human trafficking is estimated to be a 150-billion USD industry and one of the fastest-growing transnational criminal activities of the 21st century.

When we come to Ethiopia, emigration has risen dramatically in recent years while the country is serving as a central hub for people journeying across the Horn of Africa, particularly migrants from neighboring countries, aiming to reach Europe and other northern destinations.

Reports that are coming from different ministries and international institutions also confirm that most of the emigrations are illegal and unsafe. Not only that but it also shows that the number of migrants facing life-threatening situations and death during their journeys is rising in the various routes.

For this reason, countries around the globe are engaged in framing ways to address the phenomena in a more constructive and safe way than ever before

Recently, a collaborative workshop aimed at discussing the reality on the ground regarding to illegal migration, the pull and push factors; as well as bringing academic resources related to the matter at one database and recommending ways on how to combat the challenge, was organized by Wachemo University and pertinent



stakeholders.

Taking the discussion into account, *The Ethiopia Herald* reached out Wachemo University Research and Community Services Vice president Tsedeke Lambure (PhD) to have his view on this same issue.

As to him, the workshop was the first of its kind to discuss national migration realities that target to build a migration resource center at a single database system for policy makers and decision makers.

According to him, three international organizations named the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and three Ministries: Justice, Education, Labor and Skills and nine higher education institutions, were among the participant.

Higher learning institutions have been producing a number of research outputs regarding immigrants seeing the problem from various perspectives though it is hard to access them. Thus, the workshop tries to devise ways how researchers could put together the documents in a single database.

Putting the documents at a single resource center could increase accessibility for academics, decision makers as well as for international and local institutions to learn more about the intensity of migration in Ethiopia and beyond, he added.

This, in turn, is believed to effectively address and reduce trafficking in human beings as well as smuggling of migrants from various parts of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa region by applying a human rights-based approach.

“The collaboration work is worthy to curb migration; and the effort to address through research is productive because it helps to develop national and regional Better Migration Management (BMM) that can fit with place of origin, transit and destination for immigrants,” he underlined.

According to him, the Ministry of Education is in charge of collecting the acknowledged research papers and publishing research journals and distributing them to the concerned bodies.

Wachemo University Research and Development Directorate Director and Development Economics Researcher Abebe Markos (PhD) for his part said

that migration is becoming a horrible phenomenon that should be addressed and managed accordingly.

The illegal migrants always decide to travel to destinations attracted by a few fellow individuals’ success, rather than giving due attention to the ordeals, killings, and tortures that many youths face on their routes by human traffickers. In reality, the journey always puts undocumented travellers at serious risks.

According to him, Ethiopia is the country where a significant number of labor migrants travel to the Middle East countries through both regular and irregular channels, risking their life.

Mentioning that a number of push and pull factors are at interplaying, he said that at the workshop the issue of unemployment coupled with poverty, family and peer pressure, and low public awareness on the positive and negative aspects of migration have been acknowledged.

“In my view the findings of the research papers could serve as a guiding tool to develop intervention mechanisms and to address the dire problem. Education as well Labor and Skills Ministries and other stakeholders could use it as a resource center to develop strategies.”

Moreover, the workshop has identified the major pulling factors like advancement of information and communication technology, social networks, better living standards and demand for labor in major destination countries.

Wachemo University, along with pertinent stakeholders, will keep on serving the community. It will also extend the needed support in the effort exerted in formulating well established national migrant friendly policy; works to create an informed community, and make societies to be actively engaged in resolving the issues caused by irregular migration, he concluded.

Verbatim and Caption

Forum discusses challenges and opportunities in attracting FDI

This week, The Institute of Foreign Affairs and Wollo University co-organized a policy consultation forum that aimed to encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and address investors' concerns.

All levels of government in the country should give attention to the concerns of foreign investors and all Ethiopian missions abroad must engage in intensive promotional activities to attract FDI and that a particular plan is prepared to accomplish this.

Now that Ethiopia is getting behind its national and international challenges it has encountered, all stakeholders have to use this opportunity to promote the country's investment.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Demeke Mekonnen



Ambassador Hirut Zemene Confers with EU Special Representative for Human Rights



H.E. Hirut Zemene, Ethiopia's ambassador to the Benelux countries and EU institutions, met with Mr. Eamon Gilmore, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights, at his office on February 7, 2023.

The Ambassador briefed the EUSR on progress made on various fronts in the wake of the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) between the Ethiopian Government and the TPLF in November 2022.

They have also discussed at length the issue of addressing Human Rights violations and ensuring accountability through a Transitional Justice Mechanism.

The two sides agreed to continue working together on the matter.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia



Published every Saturday in Cooperation with Armauer Hansen Research Institute

Disposing waste in modern way

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Making green scenery and eco-friendly atmosphere in health institutions can be regarded as a prerequisite to have a well-established medical facility. This move promotes public health by continuously reducing its environmental impact and ultimately eliminating societal burden coming out of disorders caused by haphazardly disposed medical waste.

Cognizant of this fact, Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI) has taken steps towards promoting environmental safety thereby ensuring the practice of primary prevention through exerting efforts over the past two years. This would also help foster community health and environmental safety.

The Institute recently launched an environmentally friendly biomedical waste incinerator within its research campus. For a comprehensive understanding of the project from "Conception to Installation," the Public Relations (PR) division of the institute stayed with Seid Mustefa, AHRI's Environmental Health Researcher. The Ethiopian Herald has also been provided with the interview regarding the issues.

How would you best describe the working mechanism of the biomedical waste incinerator?

Seid Mustefa: The biomedical waste incinerator is designed to discard and burn medical wastes sorting them out in batches. It is structured in such a way to achieve smokeless, odorless and complete combustion through primary and

secondary ignition chambers. Furthermore, it is equipped with a nozzle, which is specially designed to generate partial dry distillation of gas which in turn maximizes combustion efficiency.

Would you please cite the rationale behind initiating the project?

Seid Mustefa: It is well known that inappropriate and spontaneous handling of infectious medical waste directly endangers human health and the environment. Infectious waste must be properly disposed of in practice.

Before this project, the only method of final waste disposal available at AHRI was burning it at open field and most recently in the Alert Hospital's own brick incinerator. Thus there was always a potential harmful substances release to the environment as a result of this inadequate and poor incineration.

Based on the environmental impact assessment proposal conducted previously (two years ago) in AHRI's compound, the environmental unit under the safety case team of the Laboratory Management Division(LMD) suggested and requested for a biomedical waste incinerator. The Institute embarked on purchasing process of a modern biomedical waste incinerator upon their request and conformation from the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's environmental protection regulation as well as the environmental impact assessment was secured and research was done around research institute's environs.

How was this particular incinerator selected?

Seid Mustefa: We considered key points for selecting the intended biomedical waste

incinerator. First, determining our institution system for BMW (biomedical waste) treatment and disposal solution was taken into account. This incorporates the existing BMW-management infrastructure, Characterizing wastes, Quantity of wastes.

Second, the infrastructure in our institution (power source, land, roads availability) is revised and well observed to determine the availability of resources in the institution (engineers for installation, management and maintenance). It has also assessed the national environmental policy (whether the Incinerator met the required standards, aligned with national guidelines) and evaluates the environmental impact assessment conducted by the institution.

It has also explored the existing medical waste incinerators in similar Institutions/facilities (more than 5-areas/health facilities/institution) in Addis Ababa to draw important lessons.

Third, developing cost estimation is another point. Identifying BMW incinerator design and determining purchase order. Besides, the open tender process was carried out by the purchasing departments. After that the LMD went on carrying out the necessary technical valuation, with the winner of the bid for concluding a contract.

How did AHRI install the biomedical waste incinerator? Was there any special training for staff members involved?

Seid Mustefa: The overall installation was accomplished incorporating site preparation, incinerator installation, service and operating instructions provision by the manufacturer and

manufacturer's agent support, metal works (fuel tank, filter and supply lines, electrical power supply etc.), and civil works (foundations, and water supply lines).

After passing the necessary installation steps, the Institute has ultimately had the latest Korean biomedical waste incinerator.

Company/agents have provided operators and engineers with relevant training with a view to fostering their day to day operations as well as making them capable of maintaining the incinerator in the future. Three-engineers, three-maintenance personnel, and one-environmental health professional received the training.

It is also worth mentioning that AHRI's engineers and electricians have played a vital role in installing activities under minimal instruction and supervision of the Korean Company.

What is the waste reduction system like with this particular incinerator?

Seid Mustefa: The construction of the superstructure of the incinerator house along with the temporary waste-storage is under bidding although its foundation and the floor of the incinerator house where the incinerator is installed have already been completed. The incinerator will be fully functional upon completion of the house. When the incinerator is fully operational, it will thus considerably decrease the amount of waste burned by reducing 100 kg of solid waste to 3-5 kg of ash which in turn significantly improves the impact of environmental pollution. Since the waste is incinerated at higher temperatures of up to 1200°C, pollution is zero to the environment.