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Ethiopia pushes for food sovereignty in Africa

- Union of Comoros receives AU presidency

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- In his statement at the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) urged all AU member states to struggle for food security and peace.

While the principle of African Solutions to African Problems is widely raised in the scope of conflict, it is imperative that Africans begin to extend this principle to a wide range of peace and security issues. And, Continental food security and food sovereignty is one such issue, he said.

Africa is not only well able to feed itself, but can become a bread basket of the world. With 65% of the world's remaining uncultivated arable land in its backyards, it was learnt.

"We need to critically assess why one third

See Ethiopia pushes ... page 4



Photo: Eyob Teferi

UN's chief announces 250 mln USD fund in AU Summit

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres announced yesterday the 250 million USD, the largest-ever allocation from the organization's Central Emergency Response Fund to disfavored people across the globe, including Africa.

Addressing the 36th AU Assembly here yesterday, the secretary-general noted that around the world today, 339 million people need humanitarian aid - an increase of more than 25 percent since last year. The 250 million USD fund will support some of the most vulnerable people in some of the most forgotten crises in the world -including

See UN's chief ... page 4



Photo - Hadush Abreha

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Korea to grant 100 mln. USD to Ethiopia

- Ready to arrange Korea African summit 2024

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA—The Republic of Korean government stated that Korea is keen to provide 100 million USD to Ethiopia with a view to assisting the latter to ensure economic development.

Briefing journalists, Special Envoy to the African Union Summit and Ethiopia, Jang Sungmin said that Korea would focus on development cooperation projects assistance and would provide 500 million USD for Africa and out of this it would provide 100 million USD to Ethiopia.

The special envoy has delivered personal

See Korea to grant ... page 4



Photo - Eyob Teferi

Summit applauds Ethiopia's perseverance to succeed peace

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

ADDIS ABABA- The AUC Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat and other high-ranking dignitaries remarked in the 36th Africa Union Assembly praising the Ethiopia's peace efforts in resolving the two-year conflict in negotiation.

The 36th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union kicked off yesterday at the AU Headquarters with a theme: "Accelerating the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area

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News



Henok Seyoum

Friendliness to AU guests unlocks Ethiopia's tourism potential

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Extending a warm welcome to participants of the AU sessions and helping them to feel at home would enable to unlock Ethiopia's immense potential for tourism, a journalist closer to the issue said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Travel Journalist Henok Seyoum stated that integrated efforts of all stakeholders are crucial to portray the nation's positive image among AU guests.

Apart from forging bilateral and multilateral relations, the summit could help Ethiopia to stimulate the tourism sector, Henok, who is also the President of the Ethiopian Culture and Tourism Journalist Association (ECTJA), stated. "To this end, the hotels are expected to avail seamless services to AU guests."

"It is vital to take advantage of such high-level meetings to enhance the development of the tourism sector. In doing so, there must be a way to enable summit participants to visit the Science Museum, Friendship, Unity as well as Entoto Parks, among others."

Similarly, the media should play a due role in promoting Ethiopia's tourist attraction sites and encouraging participants of the AU sessions to visit the country.

Appreciating the efforts geared by Ethiopian Airlines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Henok called on other stakeholders to make similar engagements.

The AU sessions will not only play an essential role in building Ethiopia's positive image but also enable the country to get the right benefit from the tourism sector, he remarked.

AfCFTA pursues for Africa's customs union: Trade Commissioner

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)'s tagline is creating one African market; the first step is developing Africa's customs union with a common external tariff, AU Trade Commissioner said.

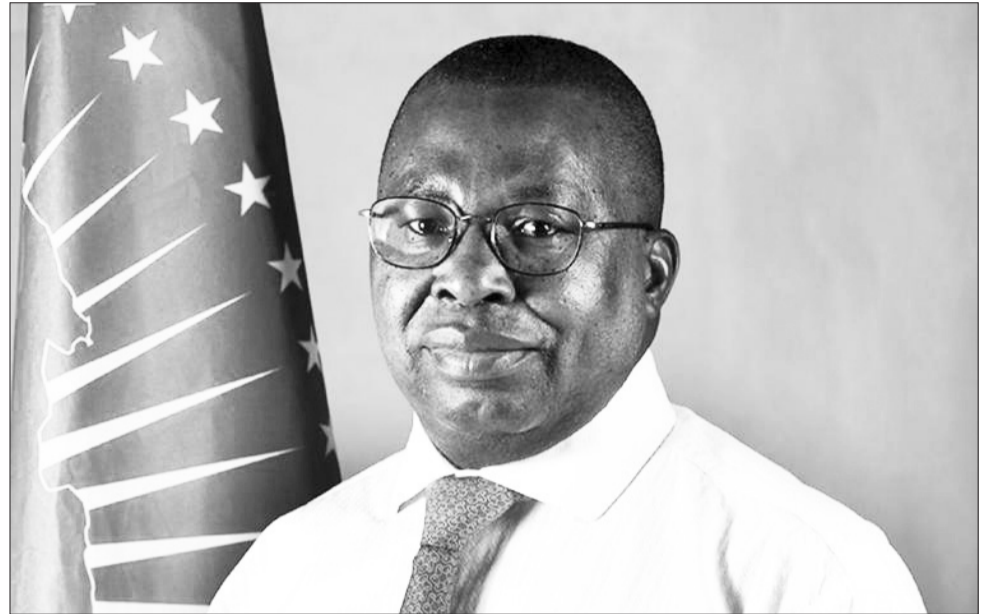
"Thus, we are working towards this direction to enable the continent to pursue free trade with third parties."

In a press briefing he gave here midweek, the AU Economic Development, Trade, Industry, and Mining Commissioner Ambassador Albert Muchanga stated Africa's enormous potential in education and training, tourism, healthcare, and transportation also make the free trade area a huge opportunity.

"The implementation of the AfCFTA should not be left to a single AU entity or member state and the participation of all concerned actors is so crucial."

"Here, the key priority is to supply the market of AfCFTA. Without production, there is no trade. We have to produce. In this respect, we are promoting the development of regional and continental value chains across Africa."

The commission published a study under the title 'Made by Africa', in close collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) to identify sectors with high potential for sustainable value chain development in Africa. The study also classified bottlenecks preventing businesses from full



Amb. Albert Muchanga

implementation.

The study included 94 regional value chains that are going to be promoted by both the African private sector and the global community.

Accordingly, the study selected four priority sectors namely: the motor vehicle industry, baby food, textile industry, and pharmaceuticals, and it is vigorously working with financial institutions to mobilize funds.

Praising Ethiopian Airline's role in connecting Africa, Muchanga emphasized the need to create connectivity among all political capitals, commercial centers, and tourism sectors at a low budget. The AfCFTA would enable Africa to build shipping lines on its capacity.

Promoting the competitiveness of African businesses is one of the key targets of the AfCFTA. Accordingly, there is a plan to introduce a 'Made in Africa Standard' that will enhance the quality of African-made products.

"A company cannot simply label 'Made in Africa' and it must meet the set standard," he said, adding that the labeling will build the buyers' confidence in the product. The labeling would also help the companies to remain competitive in the market."

Noting the 'Made in Africa Standard' is going to road out this year, the commissioner indicated the standard's vital role in increasing investment in manufacturing and agro-processing industries.

Ethiopia eyeing Asian meat market

- Secures over 59 mln USD in seven-month

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - The Livestock Development Institute said it has been working to avail quality meat and dairy products to China and other potential markets in Asia.

Institute's Socio-Economics and Value Chain Administration Research Sector Coordinator Sahel Mulu told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that consolidated efforts are underway to secure additional foreign currency by exploring the Asian meat market.

Improving meat export quality level and protecting livestock's health system as well as widening market destinations and curbing illicit trade are among the major activities carried out by the institute.

Sahel further stated that the Institute has secured 59.1 million USD from exporting 10,434 tons of meat and meat byproducts



as well as honey, wax and camel's milk in the past over seven months of the current Ethiopian fiscal year. Meat and meat byproducts take the lion's share in this year's performance in generating 57.73 million USD while goat meat has remained the most exportable item with 50.2 million USD revenue."

In terms of destinations, the coordinator highlighted that the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are the leading importers of Ethiopia's livestock, sheep, and goat meat exports. Other Gulf Arab countries

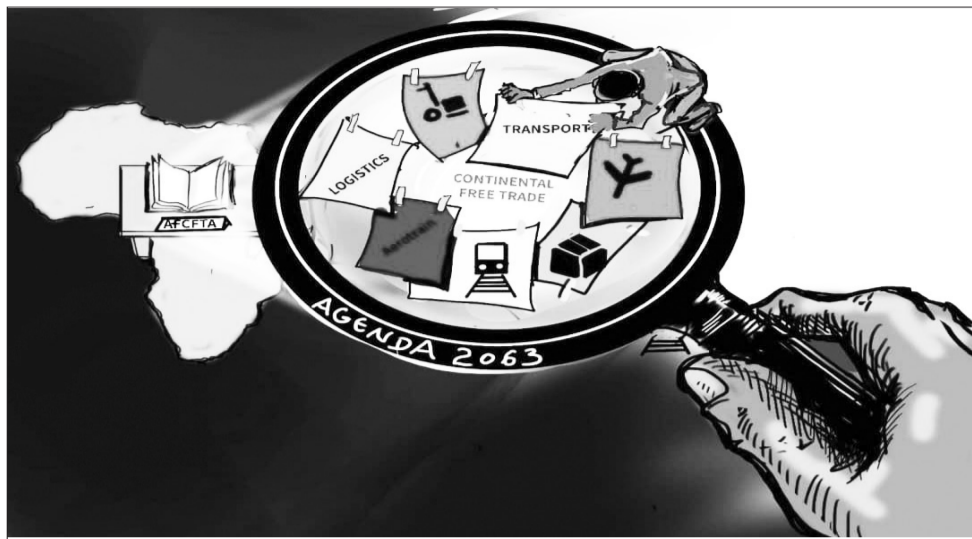
including Qatar and Bahrain as well as Far East countries like Vietnam are also other emergent destinations.

In Africa, Somalia, Somaliland and Djibouti are the main destinations of Ethiopia's Camel milk export meanwhile honey is largely being exported to Europe and Far East countries.

"Though promising results have been gained from meat and dairy exports in the current year, the performance is insignificant when compared with Ethiopia's immense potential and the desire several countries have shown for the products."

Accordingly, the institute has given due attention to improve quality level, explore new markets and customers as well as motivate farmer's market-oriented production in a bid to make Ethiopia's meat and dairy exports preferred in global customers, he remarked.

Editorial



Redoubling efforts towards translating founding-fathers' dream

Dreaming big triggers aspirants' passion to throw their full weight behind envisioned goals and set objectives. It as well allows them to muster their energy and courage towards crystalizing visions. Such a dream serves like a lodestar that guards the course of a ship.

In cognizance of this fact, in 1963, the founding countries of the organization of Africa Union (OAU) dreamed big. Locking arms, they made a point unshackling the continent from the chains of colonization and exploitation. They managed to stave off such revolting subjugation. The reason for establishment of OAU that transformed in to African Union (AU) resides in uniting Africa to render it robust.

Joining arms, most of them pledged to work for the wellbeing of their respective citizens. Regional economic integration also topped their agenda. Hitting the last nail on the coffin of poverty ensuring socioeconomic take-off was their cherished dream.

As colonizers constructed few roads simply to connect mining and plantation areas to ports so that products could easily find their way to European markets, the road infrastructure in current day Africa could not that much help to connect countries one another to attain trade and economic integration and straighten knotty issues pertaining to the movement of goods and people.

To make up for this, attempts are underway to create a communication network via road, rail, air and sea transport. Take for instance Ethiopia's push in this regard. It has ensured road transport with Kenya and North Sudan as well as rail transport with Djibouti. Apart from this, Ethiopia is connecting African countries and Africa with the rest of the world. Ethiopia as well is tapping into digital technology clicking with South Africa.

Africa, referred by colonizers the Dark Continent, is power hungry. Let alone catapult to development heights via industrialization, it is expected to illumine development backwaters in the continent. Developmental thrusts to this effect have to be encouraged. It is mind full of this fact, Ethiopia gave birth to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which is believed to play a salient role in feeding the region electricity—lifeblood of industrialization.

Africa is expected to work towards financial integration by harmonizing financial institutions at regional level and establishing regulatory policies and institutions. Economic and commercial integrations are also called for. Here it seems appropriate to mention National Bank of E's (NBE's) venture in South Sudan, Somalia and Djibouti.

Institutional integration is one area that needs attention for the sought-for continental integration. Courts and parliaments come to the front line.

Africans must come up with feasible projects that could serve a bed rock for a joint growth via coordinated researches and brainstorming.

Seen via the aforementioned light, there is a lot to be desired for Africa.

First and foremost, the region must work towards ensuring tranquility. It must silence the gun especially in corners proved strife-ridden. To alleviate resource constraint, member countries are expected to finance such and similar ventures that cross fertilize with regional integration and common growth.

Africa has to learn to stand on its own feet to cushion the negative influences of superpowers that revoltingly poke their nose for their own benefits. Especially it must be on its guard against those that keep a poker face changing their cap of a predator. Otherwise African solution to African problems cannot bear fruit.

Redoubling efforts towards translating founding-fathers' dream is obligatory.

Opinion

AU should promote traditional conflict resolution mechanisms

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Transforming Africa into a better continent is the objective of Agenda 2063. It is a continental strategic framework to deliver inclusive and sustainable development, freedom, progress, and collective prosperity with the spirit of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance.

Agenda 2063 has prioritized peace, security, and stability as major issues for ensuring social and economic development, continental and regional integration, and democratic governance which put Africa to become a dominant player in the global arena.

However, Africa has an ambitious plan for unity, development, and prosperity but, recurrent conflict and instability which occur in the continent create challenges to implementing developmental plans. In the absence of peace and stability, development, economic growth, education, and health structures break down, systems to provide infrastructure disintegrates, and legal commerce is crippled.

Hence, Agenda 2063 and the slogan of "A peaceful and secure Africa" is important to promote a dialogue-centered approach to conflict prevention and resolution as well as the establishment of a culture of peace and tolerance nurtured in Africa's children and youth through peace education.

Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen said that an AU-led mediation task that includes Ethiopia's peace process is important not only for the solidarity of African brothers and sisters but also for the development endeavor of the continent. It also ensures AU's principle of seeking African solutions to Africa's problems.

African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat explained that member states willingness to implement AU-led accords shows the manifestations of the union's problem-solving capacity. AU tirelessly works to ensure peace and stability in the continent including the recent Pretoria Peace Accord, Ethio-Sudan border issues, resolving the problem in the Democratic Congo, and so on.

The AU has made various efforts to solve member states peace and security problems through supporting domestic solutions and is moving forward, but much remains to be done, and a long way to go. Hence, the future will depend on the level of how we take constraints and prospects into account, Mahamat mentioned.

Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Ambassador Meles Alem said that the AU-led peace process has demonstrated the true meaning of the principle of African Solutions to African Problems which is exemplary for other countries to solve problems in their capacity.

Indeed, silencing the Gun is one of the flagship initiatives of Agenda 2063 which is expected from member states to ensure peace and stability in the continent. The AU also works for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts.

Despite the efforts and strategies to ensure peace and security across the continent, AU member states still face various security challenges. These security challenges won't be solved only by preparing a long-term 50-year plan. They require current, and adaptive mechanisms which reduce conflicts. Especially, implementing people-centered dialogue, gender equality, and youth empowerment plans are key to bringing the desired peace and stability.

Besides, AU and member states should focus on indigenous and traditional conflict resolution methods together with religious fathers, elders, and tribal leaders since they are important actors to develop trust, safety, and social cohesion within and between communities. They can also strengthen economic, social, and cultural development across the community.

Apart from working on the respect for rule of law, member states should facilitate inter-ethnic and inter-group interaction and dialogue to solve ethnic tensions which cause conflict everywhere in the continent.

Providing peace and related training and organizing a series of dialogues with the residents, tribal leaders, and so on make the peace and security work effective and successful. Encouraging traditional ways of conflict resolution methods and intercultural exchanges not only reduce conflictual issues but also strengthen the bondage of the people.

Instead of importing euro-centric concepts and ideas, applying indigenous thought, practices, and philosophies is imperative to respond to the peace and security problems of the people by understanding the root causes of instability.

Regardless of literacy level, socio-economic development, democratic and undemocratic nature of government, and the acquisition of natural resources, the methods of performing conflict resolution in traditional African societies are common practices at the grassroots level.

Hence, member states, policymakers, academicians, civil society organizations, youth and women, media organizations, activists, and the people should promote traditional conflict resolution methods by creating anti-war messages, facilitating positive intergroup contact, and topics for conversations. In this way, Africa can ensure the existence of peace and stability in the continent which is important for the progress and well-being of society, infrastructure development, flourishing markets, rule of law, and so on.

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



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News

Ethiopia pushes for food ...

of the hungry people in the world are in our continent.”

Ethiopia has been working diligently to enhance agricultural productivity in the past four years. It has commenced an initiative that encourages small-holder farmers to farm in clusters that enable them to benefit from irrigation and mechanization, Abiy (PhD) remarked.

“Our laser focus on wheat productivity is bearing fruit. And our ambition to begin exporting wheat this year has already materialized; a great achievement for Ethiopia and even greater achievement for our continent.

Besides, Ethiopia is also undertaking a massive campaign to encourage both large- and small-scale poultry, dairy, livestock farming, as well as urban agriculture, through a national initiative we call “*Yelemat Tirufat*” - loosely translated as ‘bounty of the basket’, he said.

In efforts to realize the vision of the AU, Ethiopia has accomplished significant victories but also faced setbacks.

“Today, each time we assert and reassert the principle of African Solutions to African Problems, we are only applying the timeless wisdom of our forefathers for the resolution of contemporary challenges.

At the heart of the principle of African Solutions to African Problems lies a belief in African solidarity, African agency and the equal dignity of all human beings.”

While speaking about Ethiopia’s experience, the premier has stated that Ethiopian is not just insisting on the principle of African solutions for the resolution of African problems; but also presents itself at the forefront in helping itself and African countries to resolve challenges.

“Our leading role in peacekeeping missions, our peacemaking efforts in Sudan, Somalia, and South Sudan, and our recent successes in resolving our own long-standing no-war no-peace relationship with Eritrea are prominent examples in this respect,” he added.

On the occasion, PM Abiy has also urged UN and AU to support the representation of Africans on the UN Security Council

with at least one permanent seat and double non-permanent seats. Moreover, Africa also needs to have proportionate representation at the G7, the G20 and similar global forums.

He, moreover, has proposed the AU and its member states to establish an African Union Continental Media House.

“Until Africa tells her own stories, her image will remain distorted - a distortion that affects not just how others view us but also how we view ourselves. We owe it to ourselves and to our children that Africa’s truths need to be told as they are, untainted with external interests and biases.”

In related news, Comoros has received the presidency of AU from Senegal.

During the handing over ceremony held at the opening of the AU Assembly, Senegalese President, MackySall has congratulated the Union of Comoros President for being elected as AU president.

In his acceptance of the presidency statement, the Union of Comoros President, Azali Assoumani said that he will serve the Union with spirit of pan-Africanism.

Summit applauds ...

agreement (AfCFTA).”

In his opening remarks, the AUC Chairperson acknowledged the government, especially Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s dedication to ending conflict in North Ethiopia.

“Even though Africa has encountered multifaceted problems including unconstitutional overthrow of governments, insurgencies, terrorism and post-election violence, Ethiopia showcased our perseverance to resolve our problems.”

For his part, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez congratulated Premier Abiy for the effort and commitment he has demonstrated to bring peace to Ethiopia. “African leaders should work to ensure peace throughout the continent.”

The AU Outgoing Chairperson and Senegalese President Macy Sall said: “We should close the door for conflict and open the door for African solutions. A step taken by Ethiopia in this regard is commendable.”

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed told the gathering that Ethiopia applied the principle of African solutions to African problems. “Ethiopia’s commitment in resolving its own problems without the interference of third parties is exemplary to other countries.”

The Premier also commended the AU’s support for Ethiopia’s peace process.

The AU-brokered Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) between the government and TPLF is said to demonstrate Africa’s ability to solve internal problems and protect its interest and bring inclusive economic progress.

In addition to a high-level delegation of the AU’s 55 AU Member States, European Council President Charles Michel was in attendance at the Summit.

UN’s chief announces 250 mln ...

those at risk of famine in Africa.

Lauding the AU’s inspiring steps to realize a prosperous continent, Guterres affirmed the commitment to continue collaboration with Africa and support its development process.

“I am pleased to see the strong focus on job creation and the enormous potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). This represents a truly transformative way to job creation for Africans especially for the youth and ensuring prosperity. I applaud the exciting progress and commitment of the leadership and the UN is proud to be your partner and to work together.”

Africa needs economic action, as the continent is rich in resource potential but it is not rich in global support. “Investing in Africa requires finance and developing

countries are repeatedly left and the global financial system needs to reform.”

“African women and girls are still not receiving the support and investment they need in different segments of the society and the continent is underrepresented in global stages like in UNSC, big financial institutions. We need debt restructure and relief to vulnerable countries, including middle-income countries, I will also continue pushing G20 countries to support the global south.”

Africa also needs climate action which causes drought, famine and other related problems. Accordingly, many countries in the continent are doing their level best in avoiding problems caused by climate change, he remarked.

Africa has passed through difficulties in

defeating colonialism and lightened a good future for the coming generations and today formed its unity and allows free trade and movement, Palestine’s Economic Council Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said.

The minister appreciated AU for its support to the Palestinian struggle and for its principled stand on the Palestinian cause. He also hailed the continental body’s firm stand that the conflict between the States of Palestine and Israel need to be resolved through negotiation and in a peaceful manner.

Arab League Secretary-General Ahmad AboulGheit made a call for consolidated cooperation for the benefit of the people and economies of Africa and the Arab world. He also reiterated the league’s commitment to work closely with the AU and its member states in areas of mutual significance.

Korea to grant 100 mln....

letter and message of Republic of Korean president, Yoon Suk Yeol on Friday regarding government’s new direction towards Africa and its closest country, Ethiopia.

Jang said; “It is a good time to strengthen the two countries’ relation since Ethiopia is the prime nation to Korean government to have deepest relation in economy as well as the political arenas.”

He said Korea would hold Korea-African Summit 2024 and would like to make successful summit to develop together which has of paramount benefits for Korean and African economic cooperation.

The envoy also noted that investment, economic cooperation and development

assistance would further continue to Ethiopia since the war was over. The current Ethiopia’s peace makes the country more politically stable and economic prosperity.

Korea would also expand more cooperation in Ethiopian health and transport sector as it did in the past to make cultural exchange with Ethiopians, too.

He visited Ethiopian Korean War veterans in the capital, and said that: “I visited them because we deeply respect, value, and remember Ethiopian soldiers who sacrificed in the two Korean War for Korean freedom.”

Korea celebrates 60 years anniversary diplomatic relation with many African

countries and tries to further enhance its diplomatic relations and economic cooperation to share prosperity.

“It is good time for Korean government to expand trade and investment with Ethiopia and Korea would like to have different economic partnership with Ethiopia in the fight against climate change and poverty via supporting Ethiopia’s development efforts.”

“Korean government has four target areas to support Ethiopian government and Korea would like to double its support to Ethiopia in upcoming ten years through KOIKA.”

He called on the African younger generation to visit Korea and young Korean generation to visit Africa.



Opinion

The February 19 (Yekatit 12)

Massacre and lessons in History

BY SOLOMON DIBBA

Despite the war of aggression that Fascist Italy has conducted on Ethiopia, post war diplomatic relations between the two countries was restored through the Treaty of Addis Ababa signed between Ethiopia and Italy in 1896. The Treaty signed in 1896 abrogated the Treaty of Wutchale and reestablished peace between the two countries. The Italian claim to a protectorate over all of Ethiopia was thereafter abandoned. This Treaty was signed immediately after Italy's defeat at the Battle of Adwa only to be violated after 40 years through the colonial ambitions and war of revenge conducted on the country by Fascist Italy.

However, in the post war era and after the total defeat of Italy by the allied forces, Ethiopia and Italy again reestablished their diplomatic relations. After the Second World War, the 1947 Peace Treaty with Italy recognized the independence and sovereignty of Ethiopia. Ethiopia and Italy re-established diplomatic relations in 1951 only after lengthy negotiations. Ethiopia and the world however will never forget what Fascist Italy has done on the Ethiopian soil in the five years of its occupation in Ethiopia, notably the Massacre of February 19, 1937 in Addis Ababa.

On February 19, 1937, two years after the Italian invasion of Ethiopia, Italy conducted a massacre on innocent Ethiopians in Addis Ababa. Fascist Italy conducted a three day rampage of indiscriminate killings of 30,000 Ethiopians mostly composed of the elderly, lactating and pregnant mothers and their children.

Italy's military and political humiliation at the Battle of Adwa in 1896 by Ethiopian peasant forces was a spiritual wound in the long list of grudges that underpinned its renewed desire for revenge on the world's stage. This time, it made extensive preparations for 40 years before advancing on Ethiopia.

Ian Campbell in his book, *Addis Ababa Massacre: When Ethiopia run blood*, writes that Italy built a chemical weapons factory on 30 acres of land near Mogadishu in Somalia. The quantities of lethal gases produced at that facility were so large that no fewer than 17 warehouses had to be propped up to store them. The Italians stockpiled 35,000 gas masks for their own safety.

On the ground and strafed from the skies, Ethiopia was overwhelmed. Bruno Mussolini, son of the Duce, wrote newspaper articles about clusters of Ethiopians "bursting open like a rose" when

bombed from above. He admitted to finding this spectacle "most amusing".

Despite its savagery, Ian Campbell wrote that, Italy regarded itself as an agent of civilization in Africa. Tens of thousands of Ethiopians were exterminated, the journalist George Steer wrote bitterly, so "that civilization should prevail".

Even Pope Pius XI congratulated Italians on a "beautiful victory by a great and good people". The defeat of 1896 was avenged and Italy now had an empire.

In order to fulfill their colonial ambition, the Italians divided East Africa into 6 regions which included Italian East Africa (the other Italian colony in Africa being Italian North Africa) consisted of the old Italian possessions in the Horn of Africa, Italian Eritrea and Italian Somaliland, and the recently annexed Empire of Ethiopia. Victor Emmanuel III of Italy consequently adopted the title of "Emperor of Ethiopia", although having not been recognized by any country other than Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. The territory was divided into the six governorates of Italian East Africa: Italian Eritrea and Italian Somaliland, plus four provinces of Ethiopia (Amhara, Galla-Sidamo, Shoa, Harar) each under the authority of an Italian governor, answerable to a viceroy, who in turn represented the Emperor.

The massacre of Friday February 19, 1937 conducted two years after the Italian invasion of Ethiopia, also known as Addis Ababa Massacre among historians and the international media was a three days rampage of an indiscriminate killing of 30,000 Ethiopians mostly composed of the elderly, lactating and pregnant mothers and their children.

Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, Marchese di Neghelli, Viceroy of Italian East Africa, organized a public event at the Genete Leul Palace (now a building that housed the Institute of Ethiopian Studies at Addis Ababa University) in Addis Ababa to provide alms to the poor to celebrate the birth of the baby Prince of Naples. Crowd from all walks of life were gathered in an out of the palace with the expectation of receiving gifts without the slightest hint of what will befall them.

On the morning of Friday of February 1937 two young Ethiopians Abraha Deboch and Mogus Asgedom resolved to assassinate. Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, Marchese di Neghelli, another young person of their own age cooperated with their plot. According to the late Professor Richard Pankhurst, a taxi driver named Simeyon Adefres drove them out of the city. Pankhurst also credits him

with providing the grenades that Abraha and Mogus threw on Graziani.

In the aftermath of the assassination attempt, The Italian response was immediate. According to Mockler, "Italian carabinieri had fired into the crowds of beggars and poor assembled for the distribution of alms and it is said that the Federal Secretary, Guido Cortese, even fired his revolver into the group of Ethiopian dignitaries standing around him." Hours later, Cortese gave the fatal order which read:

"Comrades, today is the day when we should show our devotion to our Viceroy by reacting and destroying the Ethiopians for three days. For three days I give you carte blanche to destroy and kill and do what you want to the Ethiopians"

In those three days, the Italians killed Ethiopians with daggers and truncheons to the shouts of "Duce! Duce!" and "Civiltà Italiana!"

According to Bahiru Zewede, The attempted murder provided the Italians with the reason to implement Mussolini's order, issued as early as 3 May 1936, to summarily execute "The Young Ethiopians", the small group of intellectuals who had received college education from American and European colleges. The same day as the assassination, a military tribunal was set up, and by nightfall 62 Ethiopians were tried and shot at the Alem Bekagn prison in Addis Ababa "The Graziani Massacre marked the almost total liquidation of the intellectual component of the Resistance," Italy's "civilizing mission" was proved false by the massacre it conducted by singling out Ethiopian intellectuals of those days. In fact, Fascist forces, in gross violation of the Geneva Convention massacred the first group of Ethiopian Red Cross volunteers which were treating the wounded patriots at the battle fronts.

In their colonial policy, the Italians particularly targeted the intellectual cream of the Ethiopian society due to their fear that they might incite rebellion in the country. In fact, some records indicated that the Italians did not allow young Ethiopians to exceed grade 4 in their education.

Despite the claim made by Italy to be a Christian country with a pope at the head, the Italians also massacred 297 monks plus 23 laymen at Debre Libanos Monastery.

In addition, Professor Richard Pankhurst notes that Thousands of Ethiopians of all classes were sent to detention camps at Danan (present Somali Ethiopia region) in the Ogaden and Nokra in the Dahlak Archipelago. Conditions at Danan were inhospitable, and Graziani had given orders

that the prisoners would receive only the bare minimum of food and water. Between ten percent and half of the prisoners died at Danan.

Apart from the Addis Ababa massacre, between 1935- 1940, the Italian government carried out war crimes in Ethiopia the most notable being the use of mustard gas and the bombing of a field hospital run by the Swedish Red Cross. However the massacre of Addis Ababa and other mass killings are to this day repudiated by the Italian government ignoring overwhelming historical evidence to the contrary. Despite the emperor's appeals, the League of Nations and in spite of numerous reports compiled then and later on, the League totally ignored such a crime.

Today, the youth in Ethiopia read from history books about the massacre of the 19th of February 1937. The tenacity and courage exhibited by the two young persons and their boundless deviance in refusing to accept colonial rule and domination leaves a historical lesson to which modern Ethiopian youth are expected to heed.

Ethiopian youth today are not expected to go to any war but they have a different war front to which they have to attend. The Ethiopian youth are expected to continue waging a protracted and relentless battle against poverty with its all forms of manifestations.

Apart from waiting only on the government to resolve their own problems, they need to take their own initiatives in promoting their wholesome development and the development of their own country. Abreha Debotch, Moges Asgedom and Semyon Adefris were ordinary citizens who refused to bend to the yokes of colonial rule and they have set a lesson of selfless patriotism from which the youth need to draw living lessons of selflessness and sacrifice.

The massacre of February 19, 1937 will always be remembered and marked by the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia. History is subject to changes, the modern Italian government is one of Ethiopia's development partners in the nations struggle to become a mid level developed country by 2025.

At this point in time when the country is undergoing a lot of political, economic, social and natural challenges, the youth in Ethiopia are expected to defend and promote the unity, territorial integrity and sustained peace for their country.

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

Business & Economy

Efforts in meeting the nation's 10 years perspective dev't plan

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Though has been serving as a back bone for the nation's economy, agriculture is characterized by vulnerability to drought, subsistence, rain fade and less utilizing of inputs. As a result, since it is a means of living for about 85 percent of the country's population and supplying products to domestic and foreign markets, it requires special, **continuous** and careful thought.

Though agriculture is a centuries' long practice in Ethiopia, still it remains subsistence and the nation has been one of the major food recipient countries in Africa. The successive governments since the time of emperor Haile Selassie I tried their level best to modernize the sector through utilizing inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides and the measures brought some progress. But due to rapid growth of the country's population, land degradation, drought and the outbreak of plant diseases, realizing attaining food security remained a challenge. However, through dedication and utilizing technologies, in recent times, things seem to be changed for better.

The reformist government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) tried its level best to improve the sector since assuming power four years ago and enhanced productivity and production and to that end, it crafted the ten years perspective development plan. This groundbreaking move can be taken as a part of achieving initial goals of Africa's Agenda 2063 and meeting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) via making the country food self sufficient.

Recently, Esayas Lemma, Crop Development Director at the Ministry of Agriculture said that the Ministry is working with pertinent stakeholders towards harnessing the country's agricultural potentials through utilizing the latest agricultural technologies.

As to him, the country, since long time ago, has been importing wheat, rice, cooking oil, and other crop products. But now efforts are undergoing to import substitution.

To boost the crop production, more than 400,000 hectares of agricultural land will be cultivated in the coming years with the participation of investors. Special support and priority will be given for irrigation development to achieve the country's aspirations to meet local demand and to supply agricultural products to the global market.

He recalled that wheat production through irrigation activities in the lowland areas has been taking shape in Afar, Somali, Oromia, and Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples' states.

More importantly, the government has a plan to replicate the best experiences and strengthen activities to boost irrigation-based lowland wheat production and productivity.

According to him, in the coming years, attention will be given to promoting local and multinational investors' participating in



Ethiopia's wheat production success manifests its potential to meet food self sufficiency

the agricultural sector in order to increasing production and productivity by providing incentive. According to the Ministry, in the past, the nation imported minimum 17 million quintals of wheat and transported from the port to various parts of the country. But it is a good news that in the last two and three years Ethiopia has been registering tremendous result in boosting wheat production.

As it is known, the agriculture sector is rain fed and subsistence and farmers survived for centuries in hand to mouth living. But recently, farmers began implementing the dry season wheat production through irrigation farming and become successful as the result is witnessing.

The government backed wheat cluster farming obtained recognition and appreciations by the international institutions and partners. Among the testifiers in the international platform, Akinwumi A. Adesina (PhD), President, African Development Bank Group is known.

"No one will see Ethiopia as wheat importer country even in this country's budget year and it is prepared to export 2.6 million metric ton wheat and feed its neighboring countries," Adesina said. He made the statement recently in the FAO meeting, in the presence of Development Ministers from Canada, France, European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States. He further said that, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) endorsed that Ethiopia will not resort to purchase wheat in this budget year.

According to the sources of African Development Bank, the bank is the major supporter of Ethiopia's endeavor to be self-sufficient in wheat production. It provided Ethiopia 61,000 metric tons of wheat seed which has the capacity to resist drought. Among the results of the wheat cluster farming, in 2018 the land coverage of wheat farming increased from 50 thousand hectares of land to 167 thousand hectares by the year 2021 and by the beginning of 2022 it rose to 650,000 hectares.

"Ethiopia in 2023 planned to export wheat to Kenya and Djibouti which is an unthinkable achievement for many showcasing that

Africa has something which enables it to be food self-sufficient" the African Development Bank President, Adesina said.

According to the United States Agriculture Office information, in Ethiopia the wheat sector registered a tremendous achievement and enhanced its outputs. Even though the country is vulnerable to drought and natural calamities, if it explores and exploits its surface and underground water, boosting the production is possible and the ongoing irrigated cluster wheat far can be taken as a showcases.

Currently, wheat demand in the world market is increasing. Taking the situation as a good opportunity, Ethiopia announced that it started exporting wheat. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed recently visited Bale areas where known by its high production of wheat and announced that Ethiopia is realizing exporting wheat.

As to Abiy, the wheat product will be the new option to garner foreign currency. "The vision that Ethiopia to give up importing wheat from abroad had not been get acceptance by many" the Prime Minister said. The society and government officials had similar attitudes in this regard and refrained to exert their effort towards achieving exporting wheat ambition. However, today it is possible to show that Ethiopia has the ability to export wheat.

Following the Prime Minister's statement, the Ministry of Agriculture announced that summer wheat production through irrigation system enables the country to achieve not only exporting wheat but also serves for ensuring food security. According to the State Minister of Agriculture, Melese Mekonnen, exporting wheat production indicates that the country is attaining self-sufficiency in wheat production and changes the nation's image which was regarded as food recipient from abroad and raises its pride.

Exporting wheat has opened a new chapter to Ethiopia. However, some complain that the government has to announce that it fulfilled the domestic demand before engaging in wheat exportation.

However, the government officials have

announced that Ethiopia began exporting wheat after it reaffirmed that surplus product which is more than the domestic demand is produced.

The State Minister Melese recently announced that in this harvesting season, it is predicted that 112 million quintals of wheat and in dry season 52 million quintals to be produced and the prediction indicated that excessive amount of wheat will be harvested. Based on the professionals' detailed study, in this Ethiopian fiscal year, the domestic demand is 97million quintals of wheat. Therefore, 67 million quintals of wheat which is produced as surplus will be exported.

According to Girma Birru, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisor and Chairperson of Board of the National Bank of Ethiopia, exporting wheat is relied on detail study of the nation's production capacity and after meeting the domestic demand.

As to him, Ethiopia produces such amount of wheat firstly to meet the local demand and next to export and repeated assessment undergone in this regard. He further said that wheat harvested in the end of last year and the wheat that has been harvested in this dry season is estimated to be more than the annual consumption of wheat at national level. Hence, the surplus product will be exported. As to Girma, countries which agreed to purchase Ethiopian wheat are identified and among others Kenya and Djibouti are the leading.

Ethiopia has abundant natural resources and vast arable land but in the past, such huge resource was not properly exploited. The ten year perspective development plan emphasizes to boost agricultural production through utilizing technology, knowledge and investment.

In the earlier times, Ethiopia was a net importer of agricultural products such as wheat. Now, however, not only substituting the import, but also exporting wheat is becoming real. Such moment is a gear changer for boosting agriculture. The foreign currency earned from wheat export can be invested on agriculture and in the near future receiving food aid will be history.

Planet Earth

Genuine support is needed to modernize the agricultural practices

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Ethiopia has abundant agricultural resources namely arable land, water, human labor, and so on. Despite the various efforts that the country has made to diversify the economy, farming still remains the main source of income for many people.

Because a significant number of the people are engaged in agriculture, mainly in subsistence and rain-fed farming and livestock production. Nevertheless, frequent droughts, a growing population, a lack of training, equipment, and poor access to markets have been challenges to advancing the agriculture sector. They also affect the efforts to ensure food security and income for farmers.

Hence, it is important to apply modern agricultural practices to improve the livelihoods of the farmer and alleviate food insecurity. In fact, modern farming methods indicate a type of agricultural production that require money, skilled manpower, and a lot of farm equipment like threshers, winnowing machines, and harvesters, as well as a lot of technology like selective breeding, insecticides, chemical fertilizers, and pesticides.

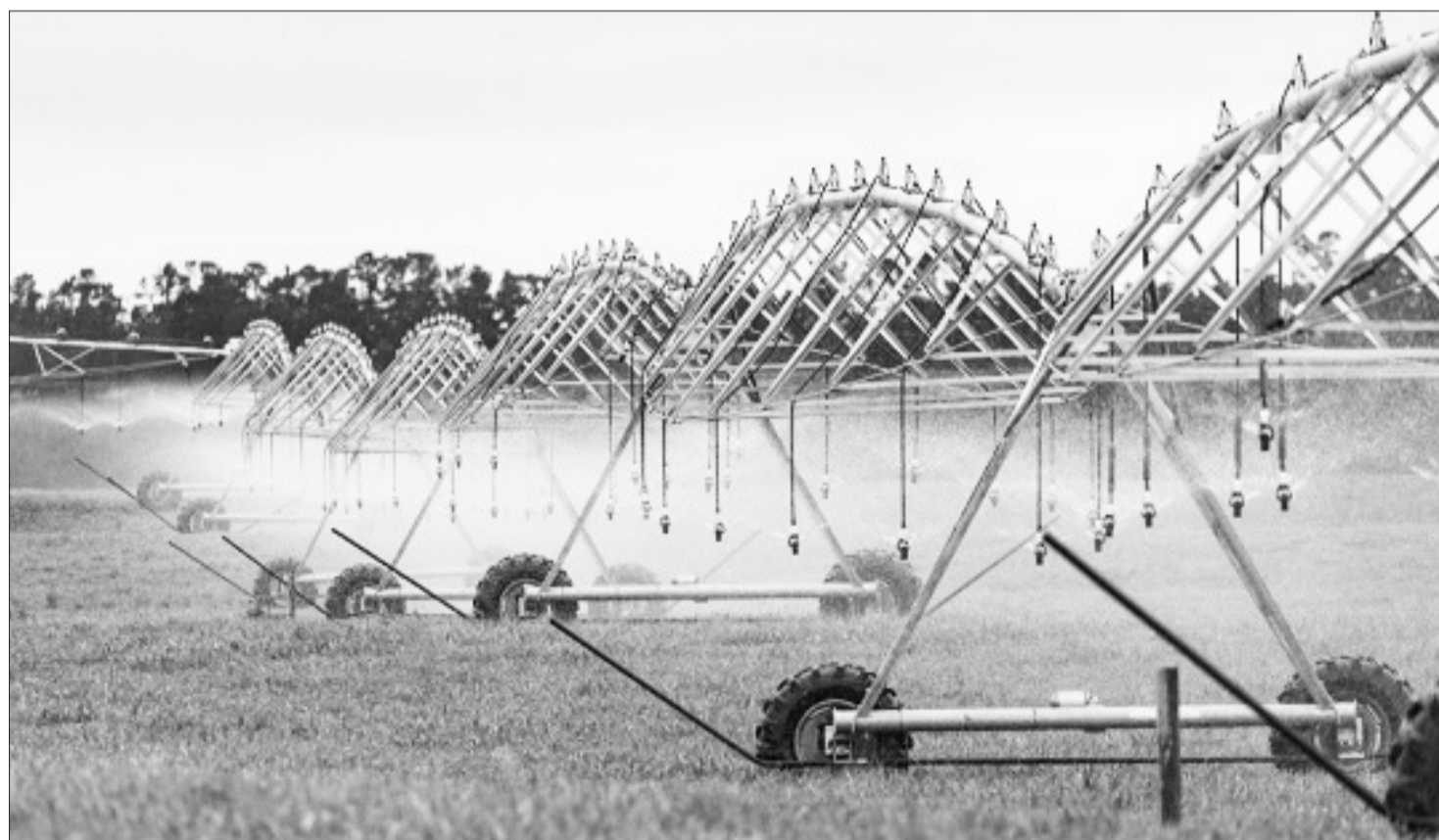
Taking these facts into account, Ethiopia has been striving not only to detach from rain-fed agricultural practices but also to modernize the agriculture sector. For instance, the green legacy initiatives bring promising results on afforestation, avocado, and banana production. Summer wheat development is also another milestone achievement that has been taken as exemplary work for other countries.

According to the Ethiopian Ministry of Plan and Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia's effort to become self-sufficient in food by modernizing the agriculture sector and practices is an example for other African countries. This was reflected at a meeting that focused on ensuring food security and self-sufficiency under the theme "Let's feed Africa" is being held in Dakar, the capital of Senegal.

Ministry of Planning and Development Minister Dr. Fitsum Assefa said that Ethiopia has brought encouraging results by applying the first national food and agriculture supply program from 2016 to 2022. The program brings experiences and lessons that support the efforts to modernize the overall agriculture practice of the country.

In addition, by taking various lessons from the program and the achievement of wheat production into account, Ethiopia, with the support of stakeholders, has prepared a second round of national food and agriculture supply program which will be implemented for five years from 2023 to 2027.

Apart from ensuring national food security,



the program plans to increase the supply of chicken meat and eggs, export production, and the production of edible oil. 2.84 billion US dollar is required to implement the program. The program will be financed from the government budget, the private sector, and development partners. Hence, the government is committed to this while the private investors and development partners are invited to do their part in the implementation of the program, she underlined. she explained.

Indeed, shortage of farmland in some parts of the country, climate change, fragmentation and degradation of farmland, unevenly distributed constructions and urbanizations, pests, lack of integration among stakeholders, political instabilities,

and so on are challenges for agricultural practices in Ethiopia.

However, Ethiopia's current fruit, vegetable, and animal production for export are very limited due to fragmented cultivation and lack of quality but providing advancing technologies will help to modernize the agriculture sector. It also helps to lift farmers out of poverty and reduce the current reliance on unsustainable farming practices.

Because Ethiopia has huge potential for the commercialization of fruit, vegetable, and ornamental plant productions. Besides, the country has also ample opportunity in the areas of animal production that ranks first in Africa in the number of livestock heads. Along with the available labor force and water resources, the country's proximity

to Middle East markets is another valuable to transport fresh products within a short period to the needed destination.

The country has also a great variety of climate and soil types that enables it to grow a diversity of horticultural crops. Therefore, modernizing the equipment and agricultural activities should be given due attention. Besides, the concerned government bodies, international organizations, and stakeholders should provide the necessary support to modernize the sector with a view to ensuring food security. Particularly, they should support Ethiopia in its effort to mitigate the challenges being encountered due to climate change in addition to its support to enhancing crop and livestock development.

Art & Culture



Naked woman, black woman

BY LEOPOLD SEDAR SENGHOR

*Clothed with your colour which is life
with your form which is beauty!*

*In your shadow I have grown up; the
gentleness of your hands was laid over
my eyes.*

*And now, high up on the sun-baked
pass, at the heart of summer, at the heart
of noon,*

*I come upon you, my Promised Land,
And your beauty strikes me to heart
like the flash of an eagle.*

Naked woman, dark woman

*Firm-fleshed ripe fruit, sombre raptures
of black wine, mouth making lyrical my
mouth*

*Savannah stretching to clear horizons,
savannah shuddering beneath the East
Wind's
eager caresses.*

*Carved tom-tom, taut tom-tom, muttering
under the Conqueror's fingers.*

*Your solemn contralto voice is the
spiritual song of the Beloved.*

Naked woman, dark woman

*Oil that no breath ruffles, calm oil on the
athlete's flanks of the Princes of Mali
Gazelle limbed in Paradise, pearls are
stars on the
night of your skin.*

*Delights of the mind, the glinting of red
gold against your watered skin.*

*Under the shadow of your hair, my care
is lightened by the neighbouring suns of
your eyes.*

*Naked woman, black woman,
I sing your beauty that passes, the form
that I fix in the Eternal,*

*Before jealous fate turn you to ashes to
feed the roots of life.*

Turning Nelson Mandela's Museum tourist magnet

BY FIKADU BELAY

Museums can promote a country's cultural history, among other things. They also help to explore and teach past historical situations.

Like other African countries, Ethiopia has been playing many roles in Pan-Africanism movement after the Victory of Adwa. It has become a symbol of freedom not only for African countries but for all black people across the world.

The Ethiopianism movement arose at a time when black people were developing a strong sense of self-worth (black consciousness) and self-reliance rooted vision, where the spirit of pan-nationalism was fostered by young people from South Africa.

This movement produced a sense of solidarity that provided a basis for an African and critical spirit. Among Africans it instilled the confidence of acting independently of racist mission structures and challenging it.

When it comes to freedom fighters, besides Ethiopia, often, it is South African revolutionary Nelson Mandela who is mentioned in the first paragraphs.

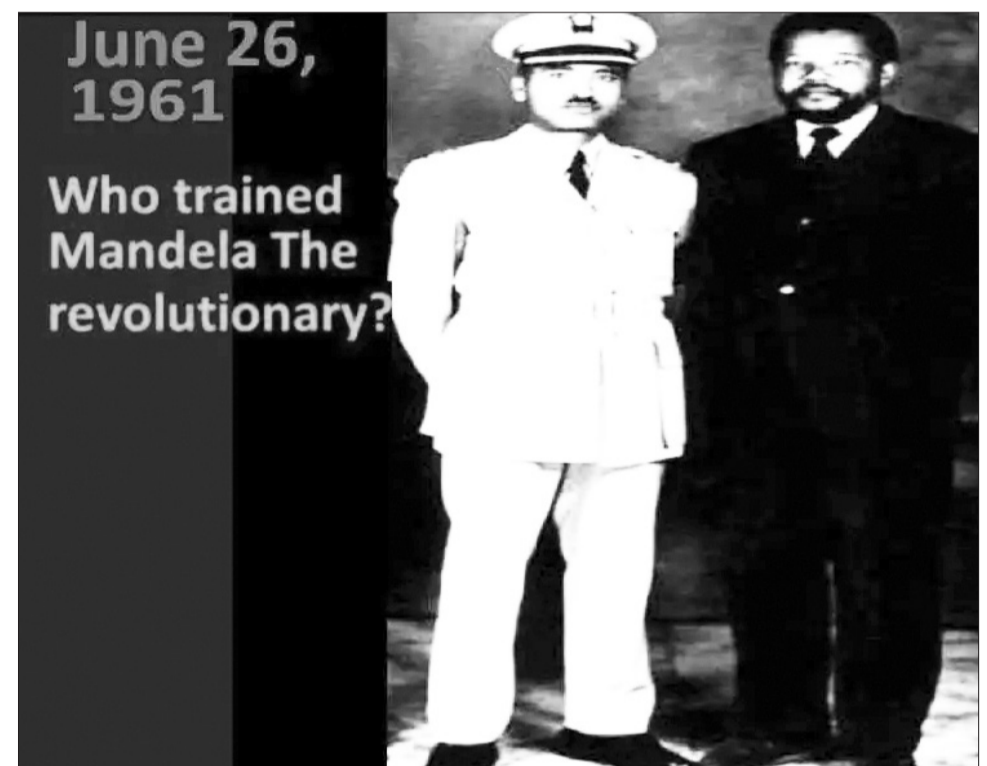
In this sense, it is Ethiopia that played a remarkable role in training Nelson Mandela to engage in a guerilla fight for the dignity and freedom of his people. Ethiopia also served as a beacon for the rest of African countries to wake up and emancipate themselves from mental slavery.

We can also mention as immortal and iconic examples like Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe the Rhodesian Fighter against Britain's colonial grip.

Addis Ababa Culture, Arts, and Tourism Bureau disclosed that it has finalized plans to renovate the former Fetno Derash Police Training Center to serve as the Nelson Mandela Memorial Museum.

Located in Kolfe Keranyo Sub City of the metropolis, the Fetno Derash Police Training Center is a place where the South African liberation fighter Nelson Mandela took training on guerilla fight in the early 1960s.

The Bureau Head, Hirut Kassaw (Ph.D.) told The Ethiopian Herald about the camp or place where Nelson Mandela was trained and lived. She as well noted architectural products and other equipment he used at that time are still available at the center, which can serve



as must-see heritage site that could attract tourists.

The camp was established in the 1950s as a training camp for rapid police forces. It has not been maintained ever since. Therefore, it needs renovation to serve as a museum. The Office is working with Addis Ababa University, which will finalize and submit the design work. The renovation work would start immediately and are expected to be finalized in a year time, the bureau head explained.

To be honest, this project will attract many tourists to the city from other countries. In this sense, the project will generate high income helpful in fighting out poverty. And it would also upscale Addis Ababa, the most important diplomatic city in the world.

Tourism will become a pillar of the development of Ethiopia through improving the protection and conservation of tourist attractions, growing the tourism infrastructure, developing a tourism marketing organization, and expanding educational and training facilities in the industry.

Turning the place to a touristic spot after Nelson Mandela will render Addis the capital of Africa. It as well will lead to more tourism, said Kalab Belachew, a Pan Africanism expert.

He said that when people from various African and other countries come to Ethiopia and visit the place where Nelson Mandela was trained and see the facilities used to such purpose, the trend will help promote the country's other cultures and heritages.

The museum is expected to signify and

foreground Ethiopia's role as a symbol of African freedom, and is likely to help the country's efforts to be among the world's top 10 tourist destinations, Hirut added.

Ethiopian government's initiatives in terms of tourism—the construction of the Unity Park, Entoto Park, Science Museum, and other destinations have changed the city's role from a tourist transit to a tourist attraction spot.

She said that, the new Addis Ababa tourism brand, called The Vibrant Hub of Africa, and the newly introduced website are playing a significant role in promoting tourism activities in Addis Ababa.

Hirut underlined that, tourism institutions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) are trying to work in coordination with the African Union to commemorate other influential Pan-Africanists of the past as well as the contemporarily ones.

Ethiopia's natural, historical, and cultural resources can help the industry grow by identifying their value based on primary research and in collaboration with the corporate sector and the global tourism industry, Hirut added.

Kalab said that museums should be regularly organized and designed to showcase different cultures and histories. We should show Ethiopia's heritage through different issues that always show the same situation in different places.

He said that this should be strengthened not only in Addis Ababa, but also in other parts of the region. For this, he said, the state of peace in the country should be maintained.

Society



Lessons from forefathers

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Friday, February 19, 1937 (Yekatit 12 E.C) is one of the darkest days in the history of Ethiopia and Ethiopians. It was the day that the most horrific attacks were carried out against thousands of innocent Ethiopians; (residents of Addis Ababa city) by the Fascist Italian forces following an attempted assassination on Marshal Rodolfo Graziani by two young men known as Abraha Deboch and Moges Asgedom.

According to historical chronicles, in a span of three days, more than 30,000 people were massacred merely in the capital Addis Ababa and ten thousands of people were arrested in mass. Children, women and elders were among the victims. The day turned the streets of Addis Ababa into a flood of blood.

Outside the capital Addis Ababa, the fascist forces massacred more than 500 monks at the Debre Libanos Monastery; a religious institution located about 105 km north of Addis Ababa.

Thus, every year, Ethiopians commemorate February 19 - The Martyrs Day to pay respect and honour the fallen citizens who were killed mercilessly by the fascists. Especially, at the capital Addis Ababa, the day is marked at the Yekatit 12 Square, Yekatit 12 Statue with various events.

In fact, Ethiopia, throughout its history, had faced many ups and downs. Owing to its internal and external enemies, the country has gone through a number of challenging times. However, thanks to its selfless children who fought without any hesitation, the country's sovereignty is respected.

The gallant patriots of the country never

compromise with the national integrity, unity, and peaceful coexistence of the country. Fighting tooth and nail with foreign resistance at the highlands and lowlands of the country, they wrote a colourful history

Today, Ethiopians are marking Yekatit 12 (Martyrs Day) which is remembered as one of the challenging incidents in the history of the country's patriotic resistance against foreign intervention.

Historical evidences clearly show that the day insisted on more Ethiopians to fight further to free their land from the fascist Italian invaders. Therefore, patriots from every corner of the country march towards countering the evil acts of Marshal Rodolfo Graziani on innocent civilian Ethiopians.

The Italian fascists' aggressions over Ethiopia were not limited with massacre of more than 30,000 Ethiopians but also looting of the country's heritages, natural and manmade resources,

And the new generation marks Yekatit 12 (Martyrs day) in the spirit of honouring, respecting and recognizing the sacrifice of the then patriots and the whole society who defended the country's sovereignty.

In today's generation the Yekatit 12 execution is commemorated well and given due attention to enable the country to become competent in the 21st century through technology, economic advancement, civilization, among others, senior patriots said.

In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald, Ancient Ethiopian Patriots' Association Member Dagnachew Temesgen said that the fascist Italians believed that controlling Ethiopia will

help them to control the whole Africa directly and indirectly. The fascist Italian invaders return to Ethiopia after 40 years of preparation. Ethiopian patriots and fighters had dismantled the Italians at the Battle of Adwa.

Thus, the Italian invaders are returned to Ethiopia both on land and sea with latest automatic armaments and chemical weapons to destroy the country and realize their ill intention of colonizing Ethiopia and Africa.

"Then, Ethiopians stood as one and fought together irrespective of religion, ethnicity, and gender differences with traditional armaments such as spear, sword, and shield. The patriots travelled thousands of kilometres on bare foot far from their vicinity and with no modern ammunitions. Women had also contributed largely in the fight for freedom of the motherland," he noted.

As to him, farmers throughout the country left their job and families for the sake of Ethiopia's freedom and to defend it from European colonization. There is no farming, business, education, among others if there is no peace.

Therefore, the current generation has to learn from the bloodshed fights of the forefathers and foremothers during those difficult times. Today's freedom and ancient own cultural manifestations are sustained with the firm commitment of every citizen. Thus, the youth should return back and assess every historical achievement of the forefathers to take the best lessons that are worthy to the current situations, he reiterated.

Moreover, this generation should value

the courageous fights of ancient patriots to withstand the intervention of foreign powers in the internal affairs of the country. The country has full rights to utilize its natural resources. This generation should work hand in hand with its own knowledge and capacity to develop the country and to win poverty.

More importantly, there are also various ways that this generation could write its own history colourfully and contribute more to the betterment of the country. Improving the traditional way of the agriculture system, easing elders' life, helping each other, living peacefully and harmoniously, inventing latest technologies, among others are expected from the current generations towards building a better Ethiopia that embraces equality of its citizens. This generation has to remember the undesirable sides of war and conflict and learn from history. Peace is the only option during this era of technology.

As the capital of Africa, the country is expected to be a role model to other African brothers and sisters in every sector. In this regard, the youth should not give any room for internal conflict and attacking brothers; rather work together for a better Ethiopia that accommodates every citizen equally.

Accordingly, the Victory of Adwa and other battlefields are genuine lessons from forefathers' in nation building, fighting poverty, and repression. The construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and other mega projects witness that the new generation is doing its level best to repeat the Golden victory of the forefathers and foremothers at the battlefields Adwa and Maychew.

Law & Politics

Rallying behind a safer Africa

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Ethiopia in the Pretoria peace deal has shown in black and white the fact that Africa can get to the bottom of its predicaments putting into devoid of external intervention. It is important to note that solving African problems in its capacity plays a huge role in addressing the continent's political, economic, and social matters.

Effectuating the peace agreement signed between the federal government and Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF) has metamorphosed into becoming best example to the rest of Africa. Apart from demonstrating that African nations can get to the bottom of African quandaries in their own ways making use of their own strategies and techniques, the peace agreement gives a lesson to other nations worldwide.

As a matter of fact, in addition to breathing new life into Pan-African values and spirits as well as demonstrating Africa's capability to maintain its sovereignty, the peace agreement has been effective in its implementation which is a rare phenomenon in the continent.

In actual fact, Ethiopia's confidence in the AU-brokered peace deal has shown the capability of the continental bloc in getting to the bottom of its differences in its own ways in an atmosphere of calm devoid of the interference of any third party. In point of fact, the cessation of hostilities agreement plays a huge role in curtailing the meddling of some groups that have been working at all hours of the day and night to dismantle the country and mystifying the global community.

In good truth, the African Union (AU) has become stronger in protecting African sovereignty by giving center stage to African solutions to African predicaments.

It is important to highlight that the peace accord has been playing a part in consolidating African capacity and resolving the continent's quandaries in its own way without the interference of any third party and dictation of backseat drivers.

Notwithstanding the fact that some groups treated with contempt the role of the continental bloc brokered peace deal under the guise of several fictitious stories, the federal government jumpstarted ensuring peace and tranquility in the northern part of the country throwing cold water on the infamous mission of rumormongers.

Weaning themselves from the fact that the peace accord plays a huge role in the peace accord, some groups have continued pulling out all the stops to give a lower profile to the role of the continental bloc and dismantling the country by spewing fictitious stories.

In the face of more than a few bogus stories spread by discredited international media outlets, the incumbent has been expediting the delivery of humanitarian assistance in every corner of the northern part of the country. Given the current circumstances, in the aftermath of the firm stance of the



federal government, the wider international community has been singing the praises of the positive developments surfacing in the length and breadth of the country.

Apart from serving as a big honor for the people of Africa, the cessation of hostilities agreement serves as the uncompromising to maintain peace, security, and development.

Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen and his African counterparts coming here to the AU session affirmed their countries' commitment to the continent's economic development and to ensure its stability.

In his media briefing lately, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Ambassador Meles Alem highlighted the common position that foreign ministers of Gabon, Gambia, Malawi, Tunisia, and Libya took with Ethiopia on the importance of Africa's economic integration.

In discussions the foreign ministers held at the sidelines of the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union (AU), Demeke also exchanged views on ways to enhance Ethiopia's diplomatic ties with the respective country. He also briefed the foreign ministers about the current situation of Ethiopia, in particular the results gained after the Pretoria Peace Accord, among other issues of mutual interest.

"Demeke told his counterparts that Ethiopia prioritizes peace and ensuring law and order is beyond any agenda. Consensus was reached among the participants that this year AU's session heralds Ethiopia's transition to peace and stability after two years of unrest."

The AU-led peace process has demonstrated the true meaning of the principle of African Solutions to African Problems which is exemplary for other countries to solve problems in their capacity. Ethiopia has agreed with different African countries to strengthen economic and business partnerships besides political diplomacy, Meles added.

The rehabilitation and restoration of war-affected communities is one of the main agendas of the foreign ministers' discussions whereby the Ethiopian government informed

African partners about its commitment to normalizing situations in the area.

According to the spokesperson, Ethiopia also capitalized on the meetings to request the support of African partners for post-war rehabilitation while the latter demonstrated a keen interest in contributing share.

Apart from African countries, officials and representatives from Europe, Asia and other parts of the world were in attendance at the meetings.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia seeks African support for ongoing national peace efforts, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Demeke Mekonnen said.

Demeke made the remark in his message he delivered at the opening of the 42nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of African Union being held in Addis Ababa under the theme: Accelerating the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

"The African Commission on Human and People's Right established a unilateral enquiry commission and made this decision irrespective of the government's initiative for a joint investigation with our national institution," Demeke said, expressing Ethiopia's regret on the establishment of the enquiry commission.

The AU must not undermine the AU led peace process, the peace agreement and its implementation, the deputy prime minister underlined.

The Commission must have a principled engagement with its member states in discharging its function, he noted.

"It must stop its consideration to undertake a unilateral investigation irrespective of the ongoing national effort," Demeke said.

According to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, during the last two years Ethiopia has learned that national effort is indispensable for peace effort.

He said during the last two years, Ethiopia has faced unwarranted political pressure mentioning the establishment of the international commission of human right on Ethiopia, he said, adding this commission was established while the government was

undertaking accountability measures.

The government has accepted the recommendation made by the Joint Investigation of the Ethiopian Human Rights commission and the Office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Right, he said.

The government has also established the inter-ministerial task force to oversee the implementation of these recommendations. According to him, the government was taking various accountability measures through the task force.

However, the commission disregarded these initiatives and it produced flawed and politically motivated report, he said.

"To our regret the human right council extended the mandate of this commission for an additional period of one year despite opposition from African members of the council," he elaborated.

This commission could undermine the AU led peace process and the effort of national institutions, Demeke said.

We went ahead and conducted investigation with the UN human right, he said, adding the government has also initiated national consultation on traditional justice mechanism as per the peace agreement and the ongoing accountability measures.

According to him, this year's meeting has significance meaning for Ethiopia as we continue to make progress in implementing the peace agreement in Pretoria, South Africa.

Over the past two years we are grateful to see that our faith in the African Union has been vindicated, he said.

The AU led peace process has demonstrated the true meaning of African solutions to African problem, he said.

We are redoubling effort to ensure the full implementation of the agreement, he said, adding the implementation of the peace agreement is on course. We have continued expediting humanitarian aid to the region, he said.

"We have taken measures to restore services interrupted by the conflict," the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister said, adding we are also working with African Union commission to support the work of monitoring and verification and compliance mechanism.

"This mechanism consists of a joint committee and a team of African experts. The team is now witnessing major development in the area of disarmament, mobilization and re-integration," he elaborated.

Demeke thanked those who made effort to support Ethiopia in resolving this conflict.

The need to install pan Africanism in the younger generation is also an important lesson, he said stressing the importance of Pan Africanism to achieve continental unity which is important for the economic development of the continent.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

To Hug or Not to Hug!

You know what I think? I think we've to do something about this hugging thing. There is a lot of it. Maybe even too much of it around these days! Of course it is one of the nicer gestures one could make. But sometimes you just feel things simply go over the cliff. You're more offended than delighted at being hugged.

You know, those hugs which make you feel you're in contact with a lifeless, very dry piece of something! Especially when you come across strangers you never knew even existed and you two hug, take it from me and that's memory you wouldn't want to keep. Neither of you had done anything wrong; It's only that but hugging a complete stranger about you have no reason have any feelings for could feel like hugging some electric pole. Now could anything be more uneventful!

Even with those you know things aren't always rosy, rosy! Some have no difference with the complete strangers. Their hugs are so lifeless you know they're sort of enforced by unwritten social norms. Others hug you so tight you wonder if there was any message behind all the drama, because with many of us hugging is nothing but an unscripted part of the whole drama. Ok you hug with those you know. I mean a complete stranger you never knew even excited giving you a bear hug is too much to digest. You can't the minutest spec of honesty in such displays. Still these days hugging is so common you wonder if there was some heavenly directive making the rounds.

It's not that I've anything against hugging. How could I! Of course, it depends who's actually doing the hugging. We're on the same wave lengths about that, so I hope; at least most of us. After all in almost everything there are the exceptions to the rule!

Talking of hugging here is a nice little joke; the guy was studying management. One day he approaches a girl he doesn't know and gives her a big hug. Surprised as she was, the girl demands, "What was that all about?" The

management student smiles and says, "That was direct marketing." So the girl gives him on hell of a jaw-splitting slap. Caught off guard he shouts, "What was that about?!" And the smart girl answers, "That was customer feedback." Well hugging doesn't always pay does it? Especially, if you're a fresh management student! Unless one thinks the slap is the price to be paid.

I think maybe we should go back to that simple everyday headshake for greetings. Of course, there too could be some discomfort. You know nature or real physical work has made the palms of some people really wide and thick and that is not always good to third parties. The palms of the guys like me are completely lost in the grips of the fleshy wide palms that you might need the help of technology.

By the way speaking of technology some of us are somewhat befuddled about these strange flying objects spotted in over the North American skies. Of course after the balloon standoff which went on for days they seem to be taking no chances this time around and the missiles are busy shooting them down. It must be real serious when they tell you no one really knows the origins of these objects, at least not yet, though the usual war of words between the bigger powers continue. The flying objects coming after the balloon story which remained 'breaking news' for days on many Western channels they surely must have given the Hollywood guys some clue or two for a future blockbusters. You can't help asking what really is going on over there! Some top officials haven't completely ruled out the possibility of alien intervention though they stayed clear off using so many words. For a long time these stories of aliens which possess technology being somewhere out there having been making the rounds we could be pardoned for suspecting maybe in these so called end times they might have come to settle some unsettled issues.

Anyways coming back to issues closer to

home, in this part of the world greetings especially in places farther than cities carry that human element and when people greet others they really meant it. That's the kind of society we really crave for in these times of selfishness and greed.

In the countryside it has always been the case for people to greet complete strangers they come across the road by bowing or tipping their hands and gestures like that. They are not obliged to say anything because the person is a complete stranger and there are no strings attached! But then the social norms are so much so that the urge to wish their fellow human being all the nicer things in life makes them take it as their duty to greet others whoever they might be.

You must have heard stories that in the old days in the countryside you might have lost your way or evening may have suddenly fallen on you in places you have never been to and where you have no one to throw you any life jacket. You'd be left in the darkness and who knows what would happen? But then all you have to do was knock on some door and tell the owners of the house that you were travelling to some place but evening caught up with you and you have no place to spend the night at. Well, believe it or not you're treated not even like a common drifter but like a VIP guest where your dusty feet are washed, you are served the best meal the hosts could offer and they even leave their warm bed for you and sleep in the floor. Now wouldn't anyone want to see more of such humane acts! By the way such stories are real stuff of ages torn out of a would-be novel which was never completed.

Of course in these days when Lucifer and co. are all over the place and it's hard to tell who is who and you can't just open your doors for everyone who knocks and offer them the best treatment you can offer. Not plausible at all! The sad fact a lot of things we can and can't control chipping away at our sense of humanity.

And it's amidst all this the hug seems to have replaced all other forms of greetings. I mean look at it like this; a stranger is a stranger is a stranger! So I think the handshake should replace the hug that has become too theatrical where most of the time you achieve nothing other than crumbling the front of your well-pressed shirt. And you've spent three quarters of an hour last night making it look smart! Indeed nothing could be more frustrating than dressing a perfectly ironed shirt only to see it spoiled by an uncalled for hug to straighten out every fold.

And this thumbs-up gesture used as some sort of greeting. Yes thumbs-up has its own uses; but as for me greetings shouldn't be a part of them. Thumbs up is most of the time a replacement for OK, minus all the passion of the verbal equivalent. Say your poor writer is making his way in one part of the world and this fellow he knows shows him the thumbs-up from across the road. What the hell is he trying to tell me! The conventional wisdom would have been a simple wave on the hand where the simplest form of greeting is relayed and maybe to add color to it all, the "Call me!" gesture.

Of course, all handshakes aren't born equal; I can tell you the handshake they call "dead fish handshake," which is the worst of them all. I mean the person might be offering his hand but isn't actually making his tigers do what they should have done. They are as straight and pointed as a row of some sticks. How the hell can you shake anyone with all the five fingers in 1800 straight line!

Then there is the bone-crusher handshake. It feels as if the other person was trying to extract water or some other form of liquid from them. A thousand times offensive and, of course, painful! You want to smile during handshake not whimper! In fact all greetings hugs, handshakes or otherwise should be all about smiles! To hug or not to hug, the choice is on home turf.

I rest my case.

'Judgment Day' – Unofficial Biographers!

In this WWE game where you watch all the choreographed spectacle of the muscle-bound lot beating the hell out of each other there is this group of three guys and a lady who call themselves Judgment Day. I've to confess that I kind of like the lady they call 'The Baddest Woman on The planet!' She makes everything appear so real! After all you know these wrestling shows for the most part are scripted with everything on paper. Yes injuries occur. But then, most of the time the injuries occur when wrestlers go off script.

Anyway, talking of 'judgment day' it is always like that for many of us these days. There are many who think that they can continuously judge everything and everyone and are answerable to no one. Whatever you do, whatever you say, however nice and humanely you act you never are out of the woods when it comes to the 'judgment day' crowd. They would be right on your heels. Because the name of their game is always dishonoring, discrediting, character assassinating and dehumanizing others. You can set aside the bigger issues and even in our day to day life you see a lot of such 'judgment day' behavior where everyone except themselves is target practice material. It's funny we are in age where others claim to now more than you about yourself and the real stuff you're made

of! You're not supposed to tell your own story because they tell it on for you as they have a completely different version.

It's indeed astounding to say the least. If you mix with people and are seen around town often you're target for the rumor mill. "I'm sure the guy is involved in some crime or else he wouldn't have had so much money to drink week after week!"

"But I have heard he is paid an insanely big salary. He even lives in a twenty-thousand a month house."

"I told you he's up to something. Are you telling me I'm lying?"

"No; but from what I know about the guy he is a very gifted..."

"That's enough; I told you he's involved into something and that's it." You can call that the 'judgment day's' final ruling!

If you decide, "I've had enough of this world, and I don't want to mix with anyone;" and you try to live what you can call as semi-solitary life, you're target for the rumor mill. "He must be doing something bad behind closed doors. I suspect him of spying..." OMG! The easiest thing to do for the 'judgment day' is come up with the 'perfect evidence' to have their story believed. And then if you try to

play the balancing act like mixing with others for a while and then leading a quieter life for some stretch with limited social contact I can tell you you're toast of the rumor mill. Though you haven't packed up and jumped the fence to either side for good you're target to all.

You are judged by the way you dress. I mean there might be nothing wrong or offensive to others in your dressing style. Say there is this young girl who some days goes about life with jeans t-shirts and such attire. She might look a hell lot younger than she actually is and there is no riddle behind that except that she's in more youthful clothes. The way you dress really does some wonders to your image. Now it is nice to say "Oh you look nice today. You should be wearing more of these lighter clothes;" I mean even though one doesn't really mean it there is no harm in such saying nice words. But few do so. In fact the story would be different.

"Did you see how she is dressed today?"

"No, what's she dressed in?"

"Jeans and a t-shirt so flimsy you could count every pore on her skin beneath it."

"Doesn't anyone tell her she is too old to wear such clothes?"

"I told you that woman is one big fake! In fact

I've heard at night she..."

"I have heard that too. She wears the jeans during the daytime to fool people."

Then on other days the same woman is dressed in some conservative dress giving her the look of that no-nonsense person.

"Did you see how she is dressed to day?"

"No I didn't. In what is she dressed?"

"She is dressed in those clothes that make her look she is a CEO of some billion birr enterprise."

"What's wrong with that woman? Doesn't anyone tell her she can't fool us! Even jeans and t-shirts are more than enough for her."

Now the 'comments' are made by the same two people. In whatever way she is dressed there would be the 'comments.' And the comments are never, "Today she indeed is smartly dressed. She should do more of that. I tell you that woman is real smart choosing her clothes. She knows what to wear and when." No, never are such comments heard.

Look we can talk about the 'judgment day' mentality the entire month and we wouldn't have even started! They write us unofficial memoirs and biographies for each one of us, and to be fair enough one can't help admiring their creative genes!

In Pictures



Ethiopia officially launched a national wheat export program to its neighbors

This week, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed visited Bale Zone in the Oromia region to preside over the national wheat export launch program.

It is known that Ethiopia has been

planning to halt import of wheat and begin to export its own wheat produce.

“We have fulfilled what we promised to our people and we have made Ethiopia’s

wheat-export dream a reality. It is testimony that we dream big; say what we dream; do what we say, working day and night, and show what we have done after completion.”

On the launching of wheat export, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D) expressed his government’s achievement in fulfilling promises of wheat production and export.

President Sahle-Work Zewde addressed AU’s EWA high level breakfast meeting

At the 6th Empowering Women in Agriculture (EWA) high level breakfast meeting on the margin of the 36th summit of the African Union, President Sahle-Work Zewde stated that “agricultural productivity is crucial for economic growth, poverty reduction and food security for any country in Africa.

“We have to focus on the action and allow women to have access to land and finance. African women are major actors in this area. We have to make sure that the entire supply chain in agriculture is pro women.”



Mayor Adanech Abebie laid the foundation stone for the Kebena Riverside Development Project

The city administration is carrying out many works to make Addis Ababa like its name Addis and Ababa. One of them is the riverside beautification project.

Mayor Adanech who attended the project launch program said that we will continue our work of beautifying Addis Ababa and building a city that is comfortable for its residents.

This project, which will be built with five million euros (280 million birr) from the Italian government, will be completed in 23 months and will be open to the public.



Ethiopia Shall Rise

BY KWAME NKRUMAH

*Ethiopia, Africa’s bright gem
Set high among the verdant hills
That gave birth to the unfailing
Waters of the Nile
Ethiopia shall rise
Ethiopia, land of the wise;
Ethiopia, bold cradle of Africa’s
ancient rule
And fertile school
Of our African culture;
Ethiopia, the wise
Shall rise
And remould with us the full figure
Of Africa’s hopes
And destiny.*