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## Addis, Denver mull over ways to foster partnership

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA-** The long-standing partnership between Ethiopia and the U.S. will be further strengthened through fostering the sisterly relations between cities of the two countries, Addis Ababa's Mayor said.

The Mayor Adanech Abiebie made the above remark while receiving a delegation headed by Denver's Mayor Michael B.

Hancock at her office.

Noting Denver is a city where many Ethiopians live, she indicated the situation will help strengthen people-to-people interconnectedness of the two countries. The flight that plans to commence between Addis Ababa and Denver will also put the multifaceted relationship in a solid base.

Apart from its desire to strengthen the sisterhood relationship with Denver in cultural, economic and social frontiers,

the Addis Ababa City Administration is committed to explore other areas that will ensure mutual benefits.

"Addis Ababa has signed a sisterhood agreement with 27 cities around the world to strengthen ties in culture and business and we have the belief that a similar pact will be concluded with Denver's administration."

Adanech further expressed hope that the

*See Addis, Denver ... page 3*

## Ethiopia, Turkiye confer on implementation of extradition agreement

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** Justice Minister Gideon Timotewos (PhD) held talks yesterday with Turkiye's Deputy Justice Minister Yakup Mogul on the implementation of the agreement the two countries signed on May 10, 2022 on extradition of persons wanted for crimes.

A five-member delegation led by the Turkiye's Justice State Minister made a working visit to Ethiopia to discuss the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in law and justice between the two countries.

The two officials also exchanged views on joint legal cooperation in criminal matters that have been approved and implemented by the authorities of each country.

By the same token, the parties held talks on

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Elias Woldu

## Chamber strives for scaling up Diaspora's business involvement

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA-** The Ethio-America Chamber of Commerce (EACC) has pledged a conducive business climate that would allow more Diaspora-owned companies to explore potential market opportunities in homeland.

Speaking at the introductory session held here yesterday, EACC Chairman Elias Woldu noted that creating a conducive

*See Chamber strives ... page 3*

**Ethiopian Civil Service University**  
Research and Community Service Division

Sector Focused Corruption and Brokerage Surveys

Validation National Workshop

31 January – 01 February 2023

## Digital tax collection averts corruption: Study

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA-** The implementation of an online tax collection system is instrumental to contain corruption and other fraudulent practices and boost the government's revenue, research conducted in the area recommended.

Ethiopian Civil Service University (ECSU) Research and Community Service Division held an external validation workshop sector-focused corruption and brokerage survey yesterday.

*See. Digital tax.. page 3*

# News



Muse Mindaye

## Ethiopia boosts agricultural exports to neighboring countries: MoTRI

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**—Ethiopia has increased its agricultural exports to neighboring countries and is now playing crucial role in boosting regional economic integration, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) disclosed.

According to MoTRI, Ethiopia is enlarging the volume of trade exchanges more than ever with its neighbors in exporting grain, fruit and vegetables products to the neighboring countries such as Sudan, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti, and it has attached due emphasis to elevating trade relation with its neighboring.

MoTRI International and Regional Executive Director Muse Mindaye told local media that Ethiopia is doing its best to reinforce the trade relation with the neighboring nations. The trade exchange is growing more in the areas of fruit and vegetable products as well as in grain products.

Apart from cementing trade ties with neighboring nations, trade relations with Asian countries have also reached 45 percent. Now the destinations of Ethiopian crop products are Europe and African nations, he stated.

Despite the delisting of Ethiopia from African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) benefits, European countries and China have allowed its goods to enter duty free; he said adding that this is a great opportunity on which Ethiopia is right now vigorously working.

Ethiopia's trade relation with its neighbors is crucial to realize its development goal and cement association to foster regional trade integration, he stressed.

As to MoTRI, the government is highly prioritizing increased trade relations with neighboring countries with a view to further reinvigorating the longstanding people to people relationship.

“The ultimate goal of making trade relation with neighboring countries and beyond is to ensure mutual benefit and growth in this globalized sphere.”

## Health bureau warns about rising cervical cancer cases

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**- The cases of cervical cancer are on the rise apart from becoming serious medical conditions both at national and regional levels, so disclosed Oromia Health Bureau.

The Oromia Health Bureau Head Mengistu Bekele (MD) told local media yesterday that some medical researches that have been carried out in Oromia state have indicated increase in cervical cancer.

Pointing out the reasons behind the rising of cervical cancer cases, he stated that existence of less active prevention for such disease, lack of timely screening, diagnosis and follow-ups as well as poor awareness to this end.

According to the researches, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer that affecting women at the regional and national levels.

If cervical cancer is diagnosed early, it is



Mengistu Bekele (MD)

highly treatable and associated with long survival and good quality of life, Mengistu noted.

It was learnt that every year over 7,500 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and 5,300 pass away at the national level.

The epidemiological evidence linking that over 99 percent of the cervical cancer can be long-lasting infection with certain types

of human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV is a common virus that passed from one person to another during sexual intercourse. One of the risk factors for the virus is having more than one sexual intercourse.

Children aged between 9 and 14 are being vaccinated, but it is still under 2 million.

The Bureau is now actively engaging in awareness –raising for the diseases, conducting researches, expanding regular screening test, expanding health institutions, providing the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and expanding projects where cancer patients are treated to prevent the spread of the disease.

As to Mengistu, 408 middle and senior health professionals who are trained by Bureau are providing early cervical cancer screening test at health centers and hospitals as well as treatment for cervical cancer.

*The Ethiopian Herald* learnt that it is possible to lower the disease below 80 percent doing early screening test, vaccination and treatment.



Col. Goodman Hokwana



Col. Rufai Umar Mairiga

## Peace deal demonstrates Africans' capacity to solve own problems: Military Attachés

**ADDIS ABABA /ENA/** - The Pretoria peace agreement signed between the federal government of Ethiopia and TPLF is a sign that Africans can resolve conflicts by themselves through peaceful discussion, according to military attachés residing in Addis Ababa.

Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) International Relations and Military Cooperation Director-General, Major General Teshome Gemechu briefed military attachés of different embassies residing in Addis Ababa about the implementation and progress of the peace agreement.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, South African Defense Attaché Colonel Goodman

Hokwana emphasized the importance of implementing the agreements that were taken out of the meeting of the commanders in Nairobi.

Colonel Hokwana noted that the peace agreement marks a very important impetus to permanently cease the conflict in northern part of Ethiopia.

The stand that has been taken to put down the guns and focus on the economic development of the country is a very important step, the colonel added.

Furthermore, he underscored “I think Ethiopia became an example to say as Ethiopians we want to sit down and talk.”

And I think that should be significant and it(Ethiopia) should talk a lot to other countries that are faced with same problems.”

Nigerian Defense Attaché, Colonel Rufai Umar Mairiga said on his part that building trust and confidence between TPLF and the federal government is crucial for the steadfast implementation of the peace deal.

“This is a sign that Africans can solve their problems. If you look there are no foreign troops there, it is only the TPLF and the government and they have agreed. So it is possible through discussion.

Africans can solve their problems through discussion,” Colonel Mairiga stressed.

# News

## Community extends support for boarding school

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**BISHOFTU**— Oromia Development Association's Special Boarding School in Bishoftu has received over 550,000 Birr from the community aiming at fostering students' ability, so disclosed Branch School Director.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald* during the handing over ceremony, the School Director, Tadesse Dugassa said that the Bishoftu branch has been carrying out various activities including the necessary support of the students to meet their dreams overcoming challenges.

According to the Director, the school branch has received some 60 quintals of Teff and three oxen, which estimated to be over 550,000 Birr from the surrounding community namely East Shewa Zone of AdameTulu, Jido Kombolcha this year.

He further stated that such special boarding schools has been playing a significant role in solving students' parents economic problems as well as realizing country's ambition towards creating productive

citizens.

The school has received 365 nine and ten graders this academic year whilst some are either in Bishoftu or Adama branch have been working day in and day out to provide students with the necessary support through knowledge, material, food and the likes.

The school has been working with Oromia State Bureau, the Diaspora community, and other stakeholders to further strengthen activities benefiting students. Besides, the branch received 800 quintals last year only from various zones of the state.

Robel Asmare from Adama Special Boarding School who scored the highest grade, 652 out of 700 points in this year's matriculation in Oromia state said, "I came from Ambo, Oromia state and have been obtaining special education in Adama."

He further stated that he wants to be Software engineer after completed the study. He also noted that learning in such a good academic institution is significantly useful in accessing the education material easily and the exerting effort for furthering success.



Robel Asmare

## Addis, Denver mull over ways ...

delegation's visit to Addis Ababa will allow them to learn the city's favorable conditions for business and investment and witness the public's much-cherished culture of hospitality.

Denver's Mayor Michael B. Hancock expressed his delight over visiting the capital of Africa and the motherland of all black people across the globe. "It is a big honor for me and my delegation to be here in the capital of Ethiopia, which is the oldest independent nation in Africa."

The mayor, who stated it is his second coming to Addis Ababa, pointed that the main reason for him to bring 22 different officials is to facilitate conditions to enable Ethiopian Airlines to fly to Denver. "Having capitalized on the direct flights, we aim to strengthen the partnership of the two cities in culture, tourism, and education fields, among others."

"Using Addis Ababa, which is the main gateway to Africa, we aim to scale up our social and economic relationship with the rest of Africa," he remarked.

## Digital tax collection averts...

Opening the workshop, ECSU Board Chairman Temesegen Burka (PhD) said the research's findings would serve as input for policy makers to prevent the impact of corruption in the national economy.

Apart from the teaching-learning activities, the ESCU has a noble contribution to conducting research that would greatly benefit the country to overcome such pressing challenges. "We strongly recommend the government to take the research as input to improve its policies and successfully curtail corruption. As corruption harms the overall economy and the livelihood of citizens, meaningful involvement of all relevant actors is highly desirable."

ECSU President Prof. Fikre Desalegn explained the university's partnership with pertinent stakeholders to ensure social justice and contain corruption and other forms of malpractice. "Our study identifies corruption's immense impact on Ethiopia's overall development and our

aim is to help the government's efforts by providing policy inputs."

Commenting on the issue to *The Ethiopian Herald*, ECSU Center for Ethics and Integrity Researcher Solomon Molla (PhD) stated that the introduction of a digitized revenue collection system would play a vital role in easing corruption and other related malpractices witnessed in the area. "Apart from the technological intervention, bringing to justice individuals taking in corruption is something worth equal consideration."

Noting the expansion of corruption into new areas including health and tourism, the researcher pointed out that increasing awareness of the public and making them part of the solution would bring the desired outcomes. "Putting strong legal measures on corrupt officials and other violators would also have a critical role in preventing the problem."

While 21 researchers took part in the study, they collected the data from 117 institutions, it was learned.

## Chamber strives for scaling up...

environment to scale up the involvement of the Diaspora in Ethiopia's investment opportunities is the primary goal of the chamber's 10-day mission in Addis Ababa.

The chairman further highlighted that gathering information on the short and long-term investment opportunities available within the economic development, as well as establishing a stronger network with both private and public sector stakeholders are among the chamber's objectives.

The delegation also aims to promote the success of Diaspora investors who are already investing in Ethiopia to encourage others to follow their suit and contribute to the overall economic development of the country of their origins. The chamber is expecting very successful business-to-business undertakings with local firms that will conclude with agreements and joint ventures.

"Also, we serve our members through business advocacy, marketing, credibility, research and development and offer them training and other capacity building

programs and facilitate conditions for them to access various resources including finance."

Apart from making close contacts with officials of various public and private institutions, the chamber also looks to strengthen the two country's business relationships and exchange views on critical issues including security as well as protection and promotion of trade and investment.

According to Elias, following Ethiopia's suspension from AGOA, the chamber has been vigorously engaged in various ways to restore the country's privilege including issuing letters to relevant offices, executing advocacy activities and other campaigns.

During the introductory session, the EACC signed a memorandum of understanding with Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association.

Established in 2018 Ethiopian Diaspora businesspersons, the EACC has currently more than 400 members and has played a growing role in the U.S economy.

## Ethiopia, Turkiye confer on...

capacity building and forensic investigation between the two countries. They also discussed the work that needs to be done to implement the memorandum of understanding signed in August 2022, as well as other law and justice related agendas.

It is to be recalled that Ethiopia's Justice State Minister Alemante Agidew recently discussed with Turkiye Ambassador to

Ethiopia, Yaprak Alp on ways to elevate the two countries bilateral relationship in the justice sector, *The Ethiopian Herald* learned.

Ethiopia and Turkiye has enjoyed strong ties and apart from the thriving diplomatic relations, the latter has remained the East African nation's strong trade and investment ally.

# Opinion

## Economic growth reinforcing fast urbanization

BY STAFF REPORTER

Though Ethiopia was struggling with difficult circumstances in the last half a decade, it has recently been registering remarkable economic progress. More importantly, the IMF has lately predicted that it will experience 13.5 percent economic growth. Along this economic growth, nation's capital city Addis Ababa will indisputably continue undergoing fast urbanization. This progressive urbanization will have significant influence across the East Africa. Kampala, the Ugandan capital where I live, is naturally the city I have studied and worked on the most as an urban economist. Yet even with this background, reading Tom Goodfellow's recently published book, *Politics and the Urban Frontier: Transformation and Divergence in Late Urbanizing East Africa*, I learned astonishing new facts about Kampala.

I also learnt a great deal about the urbanization processes of two other major East African cities – Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, and Kigali, the capital of Rwanda.

Goodfellow is professor of urban studies and international development at the University of Sheffield. His research focuses on the political economy of urban development and change in Africa. He has also worked with universities across Africa.

In this review I provide a glimpse of the comparative analytical journey Goodfellow takes across these three cities. I also make the case that anyone interested in East Africa's dynamic urbanization process should have this book as a core part of their reading list.

At the start of the 2000s, Addis Ababa, Kampala and Kigali were some of the least urbanized cities in the region. And, for different reasons, they didn't command much attention from national policy makers.

Fast forward to 2023, and all three cities are undergoing an urban transformation that has

little historical precedence in terms of speed or scale. They have become, for differing reasons, central to national, regional and in some senses even global, policy making.

Based simply on this fact, the cities are unique.

The histories that shaped them include their colonial pasts, or resistance to it in the case of Ethiopia, their struggles for independence and post-independence political and economic policies.

Take the varied approaches that Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Uganda adopted to the World Bank's structural adjustment programs in the 1980s and 1990s. The Bank's misguided neoliberal approach continues to have lingering after-effects on each of them. This is particularly true when it comes to the composition of their urban economies. In particular, the increased privatization promoted by the programs led to cuts in formal employment opportunities in the public sector as well industry, pushing people into informality.

Another consequence was the sharp decline in public service provision, particularly in urban areas.

They have also been influenced by external economic forces. East Africa, as a global latecomer to the urbanization process, is urbanizing at a time when globalization has resulted in significant flows of capital. For example, East Africa as a region receives one of the largest shares of development assistance. It is also a central focus for China's Belt and Road Strategy.

As Goodfellow illustrates, these forces of globalization are continuously reshaping East Africa's cities in terms of the infrastructure investments that are currently taking place. Influence can also be seen in the new patterns of commerce, employment and entrepreneurialism within them.

Goodfellow's most formidable achievement in the book is that he has been able to draw clear comparisons between three very different cities.

At the same time he hasn't lost critical details that have shaped each one of their unique and complex systems.

To do this, he employs a comparative framework with four dimensions. They are:

- each city's urban planning vision, including major infrastructure projects, which has affected political outcomes
- changing patterns of urban property development (propertyscapes) and how these interacted with and have been shaped by the underlying institutions
- the diverse and powerful forces of the urban marketplace, generically termed "the informal sector", as centers of urban working lives and livelihoods
- the forms political mobilization has taken in each of these contexts and how these have been institutionalized and therefore generally resisted change.

Throughout Goodfellow's book he keeps drawing on the theme of infrastructure creating property value, while property, shaped by several prevailing forces, creates the demand and need for infrastructure.

For example, he illustrates how the affordable housing crisis has played out in each city. There are differences of course, which can clearly be seen in Addis Ababa's immense public condominium construction project compared to Kampala's near lack of government engagement in the housing space.

But there are also similarities. For example, across all three cities construction costs are substantial and much of the housing finance being provided is coming from the domestic and diaspora elites. This partially reflects constraints across the banking systems in the three countries.

A further similarity is the prevalence of expensive international aid worker housing resulting from substantial inflows of development assistance. This has skewed property markets in all three cities to an oversupply of high-end properties.

The extent of this is huge. For example, the average rent for someone working in the diplomatic corps or an international institution in Kigali is usually upwards of US\$4,000 a month. In contrast the annual GDP per capita of Rwanda is currently about US\$822.

Over the past years all three cities have been experimenting with new forms of urban visioning. This has shaped, and been shaped by, property, infrastructure and the underlying state-society relations in highly contested political spaces.

Perhaps this is most aptly illustrated by the Kigali Urban Master Plan that was developed by Singaporean firm Surbana Jurong. The plan aspires to transform Kigali into a type of Singapore of Africa – essentially proposing to replace the existing city with something entirely new.

In Addis Ababa, the vision is epitomized by a major infrastructure investment, namely the light rail train system. A Chinese company constructed the rail system at a cost of US\$475 million for 34km. This was an expensive undertaking that has reorganized the economic form of the city.

Similar spatial disruption has occurred in Kampala through the Chinese constructed expressway that connects it to the airport in Entebbe. This is now the most expensive road per kilometer in the world.

Goodfellow's book is a must-read for those who are working in policy or project development within any of these cities. It manages to show why attempting to supplant models from urban development elsewhere, including "best practices", will not work. Rather we need to understand local contexts and complex systems.

The imperative for this is clear: East Africa is one of the fastest urbanizing regions in the world, but it's still in the early phases of this process. There's a major opportunity to get the region's cities right.

## How crucial is the next decade for Carbon dioxide removal

Carbon dioxide removal, or CDR, is widely recognised as essential for attaining climate goals. CDR involves capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it for decades to millennia in land, ocean, geological formations, or manufactured products such as biochar.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in its latest report, included 541 pathways that can limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius or 2°C. Almost all of these pathways involve some degree of CDR.

Scaling of CDR, also referred to as 'negative emissions,' is an effective way to attain the temperature goals set by the Paris Agreement, said Artur Runge Metzger, former director of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action.

The University of Oxford has recently launched a significant report — *The State of Carbon Dioxide Removal*. A press release by the university called it a first-of-its-kind, independent scientific assessment tracking the development of CDR globally.

There are two ways to remove carbon dioxide: The conventional method involving land management, primarily via afforestation and reforestation and 'novel CDR methods', as the report refers to them.

Novel CDR methods involve storing captured carbon in the lithosphere, ocean, or products.

Currently, over two billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (GtCO<sub>2</sub>) per year are being removed globally, according to the report. This is less than the current annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by fossil fuel and cement sectors (36.6 GtCO<sub>2</sub>), but it may be more than many would anticipate.

The current CDR of two GtCO<sub>2</sub> per year (99.9 per cent) comes from conventional sources. And only 0.002 GtCO<sub>2</sub> (0.1 per cent) is from novel CDR methods such as bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, biochar and direct air capture with carbon capture and storage, the document stated.

Though novel methods receive more coverage, they are primarily at the pilot stages of development. The certainty about their costs, benefits, and hazards is minimal, but they can offer more durability carbon storage than trees and soils.

The next decade is crucial for novel CDR since the amount of CDR deployment required in the second half of the century will only be feasible if we see substantial new deployment in the next ten years or the CDR's formative phase.

The report traced substantial growth in CDR's innovation, research and public consciousness.

Despite scientific literature on climate change accounting for fewer than four per cent, studies on CDR are expanding exponentially at a rate of roughly 19 per cent per year (1990-2021).

Currently, annual publications double every three to four years.

Innovation in CDR is growing significantly. Governments are investing in public research and development.

Though concentrated geographically, public funding for CDR totalled around \$4.1 billion between 2010 and 2022.

Proposed direct air capture demonstration hubs in the United States account for the most traceable public funding (\$3.5 billion). Investment in new CDR capacity totalled approximately \$200 million between 2020 and 2022.

The report analysed the presence of CDR on social media platforms. Approximately 470,000 tweets in English, related to CDR, have been posted on Twitter since the platform's launch in 2006.

The number of tweets on CDR has an average growth rate of about 33 per cent every year. This is quicker than the average increase in the overall number of tweets recorded on the platform (17 per cent increase) and the growth in tweets about climate change (10,000 per day in 2021, with a 28 per cent yearly growth).

The report pointed out the gap between the CDR planned by countries and the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> removal required to fulfil the Paris temperature goal.

In 2030, global scenarios that limit warming to

2°C or lower indicate additional CDR of 0.96 (0 to 3.4) GtCO<sub>2</sub> per year, compared to 2020. In contrast, countries have pledged an additional 0.1-0.65 GtCO<sub>2</sub> by 2030 in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), a range that corresponds to unconditional and conditional NDCs. This suggests there is already an emerging CDR gap by 2030.

Only a handful of countries (53) have employed long-term mitigation strategies and a few (22) among them have CDR in their budget estimates.

For such countries, the CDR by 2050 amounts to 1.5 to 2.3 GtCO<sub>2</sub> per year. Yet, the report found a significant gap relative to the average CDR (given by IPCC) required in pathways that limit warming to 1.5C or 2C of 4.8 GtCO<sub>2</sub> per year by 2050.

Where there are examples of focused governance for carbon dioxide removal, they are mostly at the level of individual nations and the European Union. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other multilateral organisations' recommendations and initiatives are limited.

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

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# Editorial

## Promising economic growth that surpasses all forms of hurdles

The past four or more years have been the times that Ethiopia has gone through a multiple of double-edged incidents. Over those years, the country has seen a swift pace and radical reforms in its overall activities and at the same time, it has endured the most demanding times.

Including the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic, which has left many countries across the world in a constrained economic recession, drought, flood, locust invasion, internal conflict among others had put the country in more precarious situations and negatively influenced its economic development.

Especially, the two years long war that took place in the northern part of the country has challenged the nation not to step forward in accordance with its development plans and advance its economic growth.

However, subsequent to the homegrown economic reform program the government has formulated and the swift responses it has applied to tackle all the setbacks that came to happen due to the conflict and other related matters; it is possible to successfully overcome the situations; and to keep the country heading in the right direction.

The recent reports from the IMF and the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD), also confirmed this reality- as Ethiopia is on the right track to advance its development goals.

According to the reports, despite the internal and external challenges and pressures the country had confronted, the national economy is progressing well; and it is predicted to grow accordingly in the current 2022/2023 Ethiopian fiscal year.

The reason behind such economic resilience and an improved economic performance even in times of hard situations, as economists agreed, is attributed to the country's massive reform activities and; the energy exerted to build an economy that withstand national and

international challenges.

In this regard, the timely completion of major development projects, the attention given to develop and retrieve the agriculture, tourism and other sectors by the government, works done to invite local and foreign investors among others have enabled Ethiopia to resist all the challenges and witness a progressive economic growth.

For instance, according to a report by the Ministry of Planning and Development, within the last six months, the agriculture sector has registered a remarkable growth of 6.7 percent, contributing significantly to macroeconomic development by supporting the country's overall export trade.

In similar manner, in the reported period, the industry sector, which had faced severe hurdles due to internal challenges and external pressures during the last two years, registered a growth rate of 8.2 percent. The export sector also generated 1.8 billion USD in revenue in the aforementioned period, achieving 77 percent of the initial target.

Not only that, but during the first half of this fiscal year, the country can attract about 1.9 billion USD in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Obviously, the performances, aside from showing the government's commitment to get the better out of the challenges the country has been in and its ability to adapt to changes in the face of adversities, vividly demonstrates how the economic reforms that the country has built is more resilient.

No doubt, the attainments are more encouraging and most importantly forecast Ethiopia's future pace. However, to sustain the already witnessed achievements, it demands more commitment, collaboration, energy and endurance from all. Therefore, all of us should exert our utmost energy and work harder than ever before to further the flourishing economy.

# Opinion

## Pretoria peace agreement: promoting dialogue-based resolution, silencing the gun

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The outbreak of conflict is not a new phenomenon for most Africans. The occurrence of violence has been observed in many parts of the continent. These affect human, national and international peace, stability, and security. The absence of peace also hinders the desire for economic growth, development, and integration across the continent.

The African Union (AU) has designed Agenda 2063 and other strategies to ensure the prevalence of peace, security, and stability across the continent by silencing the gun by 2020. Because peace and stability are the prerequisites to bringing development and improving the livelihood of the people.

Besides, ending all wars and violent conflicts on the continent and promoting dialogue-based mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution are key to co-existence and tolerance for the people of Africa. Eliminating and preventing the causes of conflict is also necessary to reduce military resources and secure the state's monopoly on the use of force.

Devising workable tools and mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts in all areas of the continent is very essential to promoting a culture of peace and tolerance among the peoples of Africa. To support

these facts, the government of Ethiopia is working to create favorable conditions for the implementation of the Pretoria peace agreement that was signed in South Africa on Nov. 2, 2022. The peace accord is important to silencing guns and peaceful resolutions for any conflict.

The peace deal that was signed between the government of Ethiopia and Tigrayan rebels end the two years of conflict in the northern part of the country. The agreement helps the country to avoid hostility, and end the fighting formally, and permanently which is a major step toward silencing guns across the continent. It is also a major achievement for the motto of African problems for African solutions.

Because the Pretoria peace agreement, an AU-led peace process, is facilitated by the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, former Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta, former South Africa Deputy President Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and the regional organization IGAD.

Hosting and facilitating the peace deal has been held with the spirit of Pan-African solidarity to find African solutions to African problems. The AU has been encouraging the parties to seek a lasting political solution to the conflict in the supreme interest of Ethiopia.

The Chairperson of the African Union

Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat said that the commitment to peace by both Parties and the AU-led process to silence the guns is imperative for a united, stable, peaceful, and resilient Ethiopia.

The AU special broker Olusegun Obasanjo on his part noted that the peace deal is a significant agreement to "permanently silence the guns." Because the parties agreed to "systematic, orderly, smooth and coordinated disarmament."

Taking the peace deal to a higher level should be the new beginning which all Africans should support and recognize it. Because the Pretoria peace agreement is a sign that Africans can resolve conflicts by themselves through peaceful discussion.

According to foreign military attachés residing in Addis Ababa, implementing the peace deal without any preconditions is key for Ethiopia to bring the desired peace and stability across the country. Other countries should also learn from Ethiopia's peace deal implementation to ensure peace and stability as well as develop and promote dialogue-based mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution in the continent.

South African Defense Attaché Colonel Goodman Hokwana noted that the peace agreement marks a very important impetus to permanently cease the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia. Putting down the guns and focusing on the economic

development of the country is a very important step.

Ethiopia became an example to promote dialogue-based mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution in the continent. Hence, a lesson of sitting down and talking for negation should be taken by other countries that are faced with the same problems as Ethiopia, he added.

Nigerian Defense Attaché Colonel Rufai Umar Mairiga explained that the peace deal is a sign that Africans can solve their problems through negotiations and dialogue. "If you look there are no foreign troops there, it is only the TPLF and the government and they have agreed. So it is possible through discussion. Hence, Africans can solve their problems through discussion."

Indeed, "Silencing the Guns" is a slogan that promotes silencing all illegal weapons in Africa. Hence, the Pretoria peace agreement has achieved peace for Ethiopia while promoting the motto of "Silencing the Guns" which is important for the peaceful resolution and management of conflicts in Africa. Ending conflict is key to showing Africans can resolve conflicts by themselves through peaceful discussion.

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

# Business & Economy

## MoLS: living up its purpose

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

According to Ethiopia's ten-year development plan, the idea of creating job opportunities is one of the many objectives. The governments of Ethiopia and regional states have been working in unison together with responsible stakeholders to achieve their goals. To this end, the federal government has formed a ministry dedicated to achieve its goals regarding job creation and related issues.

Ministry of Labor and Skills was established following the national reform, the Ministry oversees national job creation, skills development, and labor concerns. The Ministry is working closely with federal TVET institutes, entrepreneurship development institute, federal agricultural TVET colleges, tourism institute, and Kaliti transport management and traffic safety training institute.

Last week, the Ministry has organized an event at the Africa Leadership Excellence Academy located in Sululta. The event was focused on presenting and evaluating the six-month performance reports of federal and regional labor and skills bureaus to assess the overall progress of the Ministry and regional bureaus for better tomorrow.

On the event, State Minister of Labor and Skills, Nigussu Tilahun said that up to 2025, the Ministry plans to create around 14 million jobs so that there are three more years ahead to score the targeted figure. In general, the nation plans to create around 20 million new jobs for citizens by 2030.

In the past six months, as to the State Minister, they planned to create around 1.8 million jobs to citizens. According to the data, they have created 1.4 million jobs, which attained 81 percent of the plan. From the figure achieved, 70 percent of the jobs are created by opening enterprises, and the remaining 30 percent are from employment.

Nigussu further mentioned that comparing this year's performance of job creation with last year, this year has created 550 thousand more jobs than the previous year. This figure also shows a 55 percent increase from last fiscal year.

To achieve such figure, as to Nigussu, they have been working on creating 3 million jobs every year. This year's plan is a little higher which is 3.7 million jobs. It is because in the past two years, the nation has generally not achieved its objectives due to a number of problems that the nation faced. Nigussu said that the Ministry has been implementing various actions along with providing different kinds of job-related trainings.

The State Minister further elucidated, "The



Ministry has planned to create around 3.7 million jobs in the current fiscal year. To achieve the set goal, the private sector plays a vital role. The government is also responsible in providing what is needed related with finance and other things." The government wants the private sector to generate more jobs for citizens and the government is also eager to provide the necessary inputs, Nigussu noted.

As to the State Minister, from the jobs created so far, agriculture related jobs take the lead. It is proven that Ethiopia has untapped potential in Poultry, and they are creating more jobs to make themselves profitable. The production of fruits and vegetables and crop production take the next stands in agricultural jobs.

"The agriculture sector has higher job creation rate, and it can be used to support the industry by providing raw materials and other inputs. It can also create more jobs related with agro-processing," Nigussu noted. Accordingly, Nigussu elucidated there are 4 agricultural colleges formed under the command of the Ministry with the objective of supporting the production and productivity of agriculture.

Nigussu further noted that during the last six months, 41 poly technic colleges, 94 one-stop service provider stations, 450 enterprises, and 18 industries, totally 670 institutions have been supervised and evaluated by a team the Ministry formed with the intention of understanding the reality on the ground.

Moreover, Nigussu also mentioned about the challenges that the Ministry and regional states' bureaus have been encountering regarding quality and evaluation system. He said the question of quality in trainings and service delivery are the major challenges. In addition, malpractices and bad ways of doing business in foreign labor agencies are the major hurdles presented in the performance reports.

In order to curb those challenges, as to Nigussu, the Ministry is working on digitalizing the service delivery of those agencies. In this regard, the Ministry is working on implementing biometric registration system, and more than 300 agencies are registered to deliver the digitalize services. "The current performance report and discussion will be used as a spring board for our next moves," Nigussu stressed.

By the same token, MoLS State Minister, Asegid Getachew, on his part said that the Ministry has been working mainly on job creating and training services.

In the performance report, he said; "We have got better insights on our strengths and weaknesses and all the responsible stakeholders are working in harmony to restrain the challenges and achieve our objectives."

"Oromia, Addis Ababa, and Amhara states have achieved better. The rest of the states have also done better, but still there are things we should work on," Asegid added. In the coming six months, as to him, the Ministry plans to give due attention to create jobs in war-affected areas and overcome the challenges.

Be that it may, Oromia State Labor and Skills Bureau Head, Mathiwos Seboka on his part said that the regional state has been acting on providing better exposure to the people of the region. As to Mathiwos, the regional state has allocated 5 billion Birr for loan and around 60 thousand hectares of land in order to achieve its goals.

Accordingly, at this time, as to the bureau head, around 2.6 million unemployed people have been registered and screened out. From the above figure, more than 214 thousand of them are university and poly technic graduates. The bureau has also provided long and short term trainings for those citizens, the bureau

head noted.

Similarly, Amhara labor and Skills Bureau Head, Arega Kebede, on his part said that the region is working on creating more than 1.2 million jobs in the current fiscal year. In the last six months, the bureau created a total of around 490 thousand jobs to citizens. Besides, the bureau has created more jobs in agriculture and industry sector, and various trainings have been organized.

Similarly, Dire Dawa City Administration Labor, Skills and Technology Development Bureau Head, Robel Getachew disclosed that the City Administration planned to create 17 thousand jobs in the current fiscal year and jobs were created for around 7 thousand citizens in the past six months. The City Administration focuses on jobs created by industry and urban farming so that around 2 thousand 5 hundred jobs have been created.

Moreover, Addis Ababa City Administration Labor Enterprise and Industry Development Bureau Deputy Head, Fisha Tibebe added that the City Administration planed to create around 4 hundred thousand jobs annually, and more than 284 thousand jobs were created. Of which, 84 percent of them are permanent jobs and the rest, 16 percent, are temporary.

The City Administration, as to Fisha, is working on five different sectors which have 130 sub-sections. Manufacturing and urban farming are the major sectors to create jobs in leather, construction, and animal husbandry. The City Administration has also supported unemployed citizens by providing loans and material purchase. Accordingly, the administration has provided around 1.8 billion Birr seed money and purchased materials worth 2 billion Birr. 75 percent of the loan is returned. They have also created jobs for 18 thousand graduate citizens, he said.

# Art & Culture

## *Jaarsummaa* : A system via which genuine justice is practiced

BY NAOL GIRMA

The Oromo people have a time-old system of peaceful settlement of disputes and troubleshooting justice-demanding hurdles they face with in and also with bordering regions. When there was no modern law and legal instruments of justice the system was there.

Although much attention was not given to it to consolidate it as a social development effort, it is now playing an important role in resolving social conflicts and problems. The system by which conflict and disagreement among the people of Oromo is settled and also justice is traditionally maintained and served is called Jaarsummaa.

According to Oromo culture and values, the Jaarsummaa as well as the traditions of judicial reconciliation in the Gada system are respected. Also among other ethnic groups, traditional justice systems such as 'Yejoka, shimgelena and ye zemed dagna are practiced.

Jaarsummaa is highly respected both in Oromo culture and the Gada system. Since Jaarsummaa is not subject to change, no one can evade it. The system serves all ethnic groups with equality, truth and fairness. Being engaged in the Jaarsummaa is considered as a great honor. For one to be a candidate for *Jaarsummaa she/he* must be advanced in age, exemplary of maturity, conversant, and sociable.

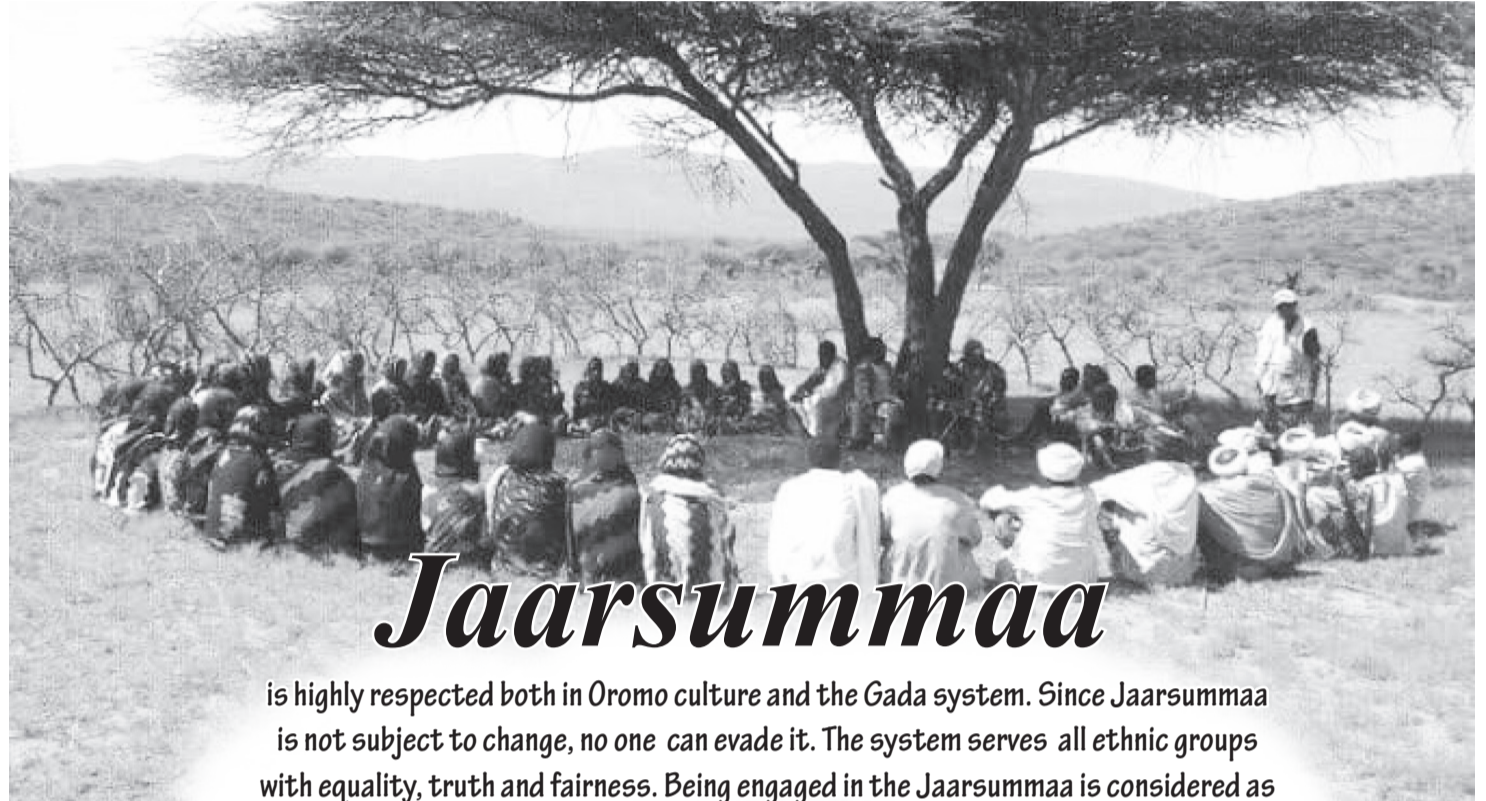
In Jaarsummaa more than one elder participates in the process. These elders make a decision after carefully considering and listening to the arguments between the two conflicting parties. The decisions of the elders in Jaarsummaa are used to reconcile conflicting individuals or groups and to further strengthen their relationships and bonds.

A person or group who fails to implement the decisions passed by the elders will be punished by the law, ostracized, from the community. Nor will s/he be allowed to a wedding or a trip. Furthermore, he is also subject to temporary deportation. So no one can dare refuse the binding decision passed by Jaarsummaa.

If there are elders who violate the law, they will not be allowed to participate in an other session of Jaarsummaa and they will lose their trust in the eyes of people. People have the right to shun this kind of eldership. The elders have no reason to distort the law because for want of salary or any material gain.

The selection of participants in the peace-brokering elders must be neutral of either group affiliation.

Since the number of potential elders is not fixed, as much elders who treat both groups across the board are chosen. Groups on each other end of the scale can voice complaint



*Jaarsummaa* is highly respected both in Oromo culture and the Gada system. Since Jaarsummaa is not subject to change, no one can evade it. The system serves all ethnic groups with equality, truth and fairness. Being engaged in the Jaarsummaa is considered as a great honor. For one to be a candidate for Jaarsummaa she/he must be advanced in age, exemplary of maturity, conversant, and sociable

against people who want to be candidate peace-broker elders. The elders choose one among them to lead them and start looking into the matter. They take an equal number of persons from both groups and to treat the matter equally include those who do not have groups.

Elders must not distort or abuse the law for the sake of their own names and dignity. If elders abuse the law, they suffer a cold shoulder treatment from the community. loss of social respect, eldership chance and they are neglected and do not get respect.

Therefore, elders rarely violate the standards and rituals of eldership. Nor do they claim wage. As the Oromo people know morals and respect the decisions of elders, the two conflicting parties do not refuse to accept the decisions of the elders. Elders must prove to be reputable, polite, and respectful of the jarsumma system, treat everyone equally, and act fairly and truthfully.

Approached by EPA's journalists, the Director of the Institute for the Study of Oromo Language, Culture and Arts at the University of the Oromia Region, Mr. Lenin Qutoo Hamado, said that jaarsummaa plays a paramount role in the Oromo culture. Jaarsummaa is conducted by sitting in a circle in the shade of a tree. Anyone can participate in the process; there is no strict standing on the law in the event of jaarsummaa. There are three important components to the partnership. They are: the head, the foot and the judgment.

The head comprises the parties that bring together the sides of the issue and make it public for discussion. The judge makes a decision by listening to everything the participants in the jaarsummaa say and the snow on the head.

This system is called *Ilaafi ilaamee* among the Maccaa and Tuulamaa, *Kottu Dhufee*, and the Sikkoo Mandoo. In the Oromo system of jaarsummaa, when they come to the truth and are about to be judged by the prosecutor, anyone who has a complaint or reservation about the verdict is asked.

If anyone feels that the decision is wrong, he will voice a complaint. If his complaint proves right, the elders in jaarsummaa apologize we missed the due process. If the aggrieved person has misunderstood things, they tell him exactly and explain or convince him. If the matter needs to be reviewed, they will schedule another appointment.

The other very amazing thing in Jaarsummaa of the Oromo culture is, if a judge by some chance sneezes while passing a verdict, is assumed wrong. In such a case there is a belief God has something to say. If the voice of the judge does not come out properly or if he hiccups or his tongue is tidd while speaking, he will wipe his mouth and leave the judgment. The person who lost a relative life is also reconciled by the jaarsummaa by atoning for the crime to avoid revenge (*Gumaa*).

In partnership, *gumaa* is not a compensation for human life. Gumaa is the reconciliation of the family, relatives and tribe of the conflict. They rebuild the hearts of conflicting people, families, or tribes through sacrifices. The main purpose of gumaa is reconciliation, not the compensation.. Lenin said.

Policies and laws issued at the federal and regional levels also encourage eldership. The elders appointed for the work of elders must be trustworthy in the community, stand for justice, independent of both parties and have no expectations of any benefit from the matter under consideration and have a good reputation and acceptance in the community for doing well.

Peace-brokering Elders must treat the disputing parties equally and encourage them to come to conciliation and keep the secrets they know because of their eldership.

Both parties to the mediation must be physically present at the mediation process and should refrain from using hurtful words that could mar or hinder reconciliation. They should also provide the necessary support to resolve disputes as soon as possible. When one of the two groups expresses his or her opinion, the other should not interfere or speak without taking the right turns.

Elders should conduct the work of eldership or reconciliation insulated from any pressure and based on truth and justice. Elders must refrain from any relationship with any group in connection with the eldership matter that may undermine the independence and neutrality of the matter.

Jaarsummaan is a system by which disputes are resolved out of the formal disputes resolving mechanism. The appointed elders make the final decision, while reconciliation is a system of informal disputes where the parties come together with the support of the elders and resolve their disputes by agreement.

Settling one's own case through eldership strengthens the relationship between the two parties that at times conflict, ensures public safety, reduces the workload of the courts, save time and expenses of the parties, and provide justice in a timely manner.

Currently, the community is using modern eldership alongside traditional eldership system to seek justice. The eldership body at any level is free from the influence of any government or other body or official. Lawyers practice their profession with complete freedom.

# Global Affairs

## Addis bracing up for AU summit

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Addis Ababa may be the capital city of Ethiopia but it is also seat of scores of international agencies such as UNECA, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and many others; but above all it is the seat of the African Union, AU and every year as it is written in the Charter of the AU, once a year the AU summit is held in Addis Ababa. Besides we have seen in the past that whenever there was a need to hold an emergency summit, Addis Ababa has almost always been the preferred destination of African leaders and we have heard from many African leaders that they feel at home in Addis and that it is a pleasure to be hosted in Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia has the huge responsibility of hosting the AU Summit once a year around the end of January or beginning of February. People know very well about this recurrent event and are ready to welcome the guests. But there are several prerequisites that the host country needs to fulfill for the success of the summit. The first important factor in this huge event is the security situation. Addis Ababa has the solid reputation of being a quiet and peaceful city with relatively few criminal activities compared to several other huge cities in Africa and other cities around the world. Even if lately the economic situation of the city in particular and the country in general may not be among the rosiest, there are no significant rises in criminality that are capable of concerning the guests.

In this regard Addis Ababa can be a comfortable and convenient venue to host such important conferences and that leads inevitably to the booming of conference tourism. Ethiopia has a wonderful record of hosting international events with success and there are no doubts that this as well will be another success.

Already committees have been formed to take care of all the various activities to take place such as the arrangements for the hotels, the logistics, the security situation as well as the sequence of activities beginning with the ministerial and ambassadorial sessions up to the heads of state.

These special committees have the experience of arranging such events and just a few days ago the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen gathered them to assess the already finished activities and what remains to be covered yet or rectified.

This year's summit is going to be special for Ethiopia because it comes after the conflict in the north has come to a halt and the implementation of the peace accord is underway with an air of peace and stability being breathed. Such atmosphere is very important for such a conference to be held smoothly without any hiccups.

We just experienced the return of hundreds of tourists coming to Ethiopia to attend the Christmas celebrations in Lalibela where hundreds of thousands of people reportedly attended the solemn festivities

while more were seen attending the Timket celebrations both in Addis at Jan Meda and others traveled to Gondar in the north where the festivities were carried out with such peaceful atmosphere. This was not thinkable in the past three years first due to the COVID pandemic and then due to the conflict in the north with the negative publicity many international media carried out on Ethiopia. But now that things seem to have returned to normal all the negative reports on Ethiopia seem to have halted and the country will definitely benefit from it. Even last year there were some pressures not to hold the AU summit in Addis but eventually it was held here and it was another successful event irrespective of the adverse publicity on Ethiopia. This year all that has gone away and finally Ethiopia can host its guests in an atmosphere of peace and harmony.

Addis Ababa is now a huge city with millions of inhabitants. In the past couple of years there have been a continuous flocking of people to the city many escaping instability and risks of violence in their neighborhoods where they used to live, others attracted by the probability of finding jobs in the city. This is of course a phenomenon quite common in other developing countries as well. And it must constitute a huge headache to the city council authorities. In Ethiopia as well we have heard that the City Administration has been grappling with this issue making it central to its meetings and discussions regarding the problems of the city. Some inhabitants of Addis say they do experience it with their bare eyes while the city continues to swell up with new arrivals or immigrants in search of not only jobs but also shelter and food. Some economics experts say this is also a result of the economic situation of the country with inflation not abating and constituting to be a major challenge for our economists as well as policy makers.

Meanwhile, the government says that it is working round the clock, all year round to come to terms with this uncomfortable situation. We have seen an increase in the number of homeless people engaged in begging on the sidewalks of the streets of Addis, the large squares of Addis and this presents a huge challenge for the city authorities. They have in recent times tried to gather all these people and accord them some sort of shelter and employment but apparently it has not been very successful in decreasing their number. Economists say there is need for short term and long term planning to address this issue successfully.

What is more, there is an increase in construction in the city despite even the rising prices of construction materials some of which are imported. And we can observe that the sidewalks have been invaded by the construction materials such as bricks, sand pebbles, and iron rods necessary for the construction. Addis already needs many more sidewalks than it has even if lately there has been tremendous progress in this regard with some sidewalks well-constructed inviting for long walks with

trees and flowers contributing to the beauty and fresh air of the city. Pedestrians complain the fact that these sidewalks are crowded by the deposit of the constructions materials. They say they are forced to walk in the main roads where vehicles are supposed to circulate freely. This exposes them to accidents. In discussions about how the city life could be improved carried out on radio programs we have heard engineers advising vigorous measures to be taken by the city administration, the relevant roads authorities and other concerned agencies. They also talked about better articulated planning regarding the way the city must be allowed to expand.

Now that we are bracing up to host the most important event of the year, we clearly need to address the most urgent issues before our image risks to blurred in front of the international community. There is no denial that the country is passing challenging times but we can limit the damage in terms of image and impression. Addis has made tremendous growth during the past few years especially in terms of making the city more inhabitable and pretty, but we should also not forget the negative sides.

There are no doubts that there are many places to visit in Addis such as Unity Park, Friendship Park, Entoto Park, all the newly built streets where pedestrians can enjoy long walks. Then there are the vast Abrehot Library and the Science and Technology Museum and all these could be accessible to the hundreds of journalists who will inevitably invade the city in the event of the AU summit. Addis residents are very cordial and welcoming and this is well known and witnessed even by foreign tourists. Let us keep our reputation intact and contribute more to the shining image of Ethiopia in Africa. Let us not disappoint any of our guests and behave with our usual courtesy and kindness in all our interactions with the guests. In the end if they are happy with our performance not only will they make nice reportage for the international audience but also think of coming back to see more of Ethiopia and this is what such huge events serve for; attract more people to visit Ethiopia.

It is well known that the government is engaged in preparing three huge projects called the Gorgora Project, the Wonchi Project and the Koyisha Project all three with a huge potential of attracting not only international tourists but also national ones as well because they are all made by taking advantage of the huge natural beauty of the lakes and the green forests that are found around the projects. Ethiopia's potential in the tourism field is unbelievably vast and what we just need is exploit it to the maximum and with respect to conference tourism, events such as the AU heads of state conferences are key that inevitably invite other conferences to be held here. Hence the coming AU summit will be valuable in many senses and all of us must do our part to make it a complete success like we have done in the past.

***There are no doubts that there are many places to visit in Addis such as Unity Park, Friendship Park, Entoto Park, all the newly built streets where pedestrians can enjoy long walks***



# Law & Politics

## Pretoria peace deal: True reflection of Africa's wisdom

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is worth mentioning that the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed between the federal government and Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF) under the auspicious of the African Union (AU) has been playing a paramount role in strengthening African capacity in addition to resolving the continent's predicaments in its own way devoid of the interference and dictation of any third party.

Though a lot has been said on the subject of the peace accord by some pessimists, the African Union-led peace agreement has been pursuing its objectives. There is no doubt that the African Union brokered ceasefire accord has proved its effective capability in getting to the bottom of the predicament in its own way. In consideration of the foregoing, the entire situation in the northern part of the country has embarked on getting back on track in the shortest possible time and receiving a pat on the back.

For the sake of truth, the African Union-led peace accord has protected the benefits of the continent giving the cold shoulder to some entities' evil moves that have been making all possible efforts to twist Ethiopia's arm and encroach its sovereignty. Notwithstanding the fact that some entities have made extraordinary efforts to downplay the African Union brokered peace deal under the veil of many make-believe stories, Ethiopia at the end of the day turned out to be successful putting a damper on the evil mission of scaremongers.

In spite of the fact that more than a few entities have been going to great lengths to besmirch the African Union-led peace accord, Ethiopia has been making progress in the right direction on the grounds that the peace deal has been bearing fruits and producing results. In good truth, the breakthrough milestone taken by the federal government has been assisting the progress of the peace implementation.

The thing that makes the positive gesture of the federal government unique is its readiness to avert the conflict on its own initiative without the involvement of any third party's dictation. It is common knowledge that right from the beginning, the incumbent has shown its unflinching stance to act in accord with the norms and standards of the African Union.

It appears clear that since the beginning of time, Africa has passed through many ups and downs, as a consequence of the dictation of the third party in the internal affairs of the continent. It is widely known that no matter what scaremongers say about the African Union brokered peace deal, the peace implementation in the shortest possible time metamorphosed into achieving results.

In the wake of the firm stance of the incumbent, Ethiopia has been taking the capability of the African Union brokered deal into the next level of accomplishment and showing the continent's wisdom to the



entire world.

Resolving the predicament revolving around the continent of Africa utilizing the AU-brokered peace deal has been playing a huge role in building a yielding continent in addition to strengthening harmony and cooperation among Ethiopians.

The uncompromising stance of the federal government to effectuate the peace agreement has portrayed that Ethiopia has enabled it to solve any internal problems without the interference of any third-party involvement. As a matter of fact, concerned bodies have been witnessing the fact that the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) has been seeing the light of day in accordance with the agreement.

The implementation of the peace accord has been going through vitally important steps that pave the way for the full implementation of the peace accord in the shortest possible time.

This being the case, the cessation of hostilities agreement has been flickering peace of hope in ensuring sustainable peace in the length and breadth of the northern part of the country. Regardless of the fact that some entities that have been disappointed by the successful journey of the African Union come up many a time and oft with bogus stories, the federal government has continued accelerating the delivery of humanitarian assistance and restoration of social infrastructure.

The Pretoria peace agreement is a sign that Africans can resolve conflicts by themselves through peaceful discussion, according to military attachés residing in Addis Ababa.

Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) International Relations and Military Cooperation Director-General, Major General Teshome Gemechu briefed military attachés of different embassies residing in Addis Ababa about the implementation and progress of the peace agreement.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, South African Defense Attaché Colonel Goodman Hokwana emphasized the importance of

implementing the agreements that were taken out of the meeting of the commanders in Nairobi.

Colonel Hokwana noted that the peace agreement marks a very important impetus to permanently cease the conflict in northern part of Ethiopia.

The stand that has been taken to put down the guns and focus on the economic development of the country is a very important step, the colonel added.

Furthermore, he underscored "I think Ethiopia became an example to say as Ethiopians we want to sit down and talk.

And I think that should be significant and it (Ethiopia) should talk a lot to other countries that are faced with same problems.

"Nigerian Defense Attaché, Colonel Rufai Umar Mairiga said on his part that building trust and confidence between TPLF and the federal government is crucial for the steadfast implementation of the peace deal.

"This is a sign that Africans can solve their problems. If you look there are no foreign troops there, it is only the TPLF and the government and they have agreed. So it is possible through discussion.

Africans can solve their problems through discussion," Colonel Mairiga stressed.

The AU-brokered Cessation of Hostilities Agreement demonstrates Africa's ability to solve internal problems thereby protecting its interest and bringing inclusive economic progress, experts in the issue said.

Bahir Dar University Political Science and International Relations Assistant Professor Yayew Genet told the *Ethiopian Press Agency* (EPA) that the ability to solve internal problems independently would have a significant impact in creating strong unity among the people of Ethiopia. The truce also has the ability to ensure sustainable peace and development in the country.

Likewise, resolving problems in accordance with the political culture of the country should ensure inclusive growth and also

avoid external interference and pressure. The situation would also open the space for promoting the political culture and ability of countries to solve their problems by internal mechanisms.

The academician further noted that the CoHA aligns with AU's vision of seeking African solutions to African problems. The government of Ethiopia has, in practical terms, demonstrated its commitment to resolving the conflict peacefully through the auspices of the continental body.

"Ethiopia believes that the principle of 'seeking African solutions to African problems' shall dictate the policies of those involved in the conflict and those advocating for a negotiated peace."

As to him, most of Africa's problems are different from the rest of the world and addressing those problems requires special mechanisms. Accordingly, solving the issue needs indigenous and continental approach.

For Political Science and International Relations Lecturer Degu Asres (Ph.D.), resolving internal problems by own capacity would have a significant impact on building a strong continent and a self-confident country. Similarly, it strengthens unity and cooperation among citizens thereby contributing to the development of the country.

Sharing the above rationale, the renowned economist Costantinos Berhetesfa (Ph.D.) stated that solving issues independently will have a significant impact on creating a strong economy and open space for new technological innovations. Similarly, such capability eases the burdens extorted on countries by creating strong economies.

Resolving international problems free from intervention and interface on the other hand creates strong unity among the people, and also protects the national interest of the country. The condition also creates a competitive economy which is crucial in averting external pressure, the scholar emphasized.

# International

## U.S. to end COVID-19 emergency declarations on May 11

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration on Monday said it will end COVID-19 emergency declarations on May 11, nearly three years after the country imposed sweeping pandemic measures to curb the spread of the illness.

The COVID-19 national emergency and public health emergency (PHE) were put in place in 2020 by then-President Donald Trump. Biden has repeatedly extended the measures, which allow millions of Americans to receive free tests, vaccines and treatments.

The White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) said in a statement the declarations, which were set to expire in the coming months, would be extended again until May 11 and then terminated.



"This wind-down would align with the administration's previous commitments to give at least 60 days' notice prior to termination of the PHE," OMB said in an administration policy statement.

The government has been paying for COVID-19 vaccines, some tests and certain treatments under the PHE declaration. When it expires, those costs will be transferred to private insurance and government health

plans.

PHE's expiration will also end directives, known as Title 42, that expel migrants from Nicaragua, Cuba and Haiti caught crossing the U.S.-Mexico border back to Mexico, OMB said.

OMB said in a separate statement that Biden would veto a proposed bill in the U.S. Congress that would eliminate COVID-19 vaccine mandates for healthcare providers working on certain federal programs.

COVID-19 cases are declining in the U.S., though more than 500 people continue to die each day from the disease, government data showed.

Source: Reuters

## Samsung profits sink to 8-year low as smartphone and PC demand drops

Samsung's quarterly profits have plunged to their lowest level in eight years as customers snapped up fewer cell phones and laptops.

The tech giant reported operating profit of 4.3 trillion Korean won (\$3.5 billion) on Tuesday for the three months ended December, down 69% from a year ago. Revenue fell 8% to just under 70.5 trillion won (\$57.3 billion), it said in a statement.

It was the company's weakest quarterly profit since the third quarter of 2014, when its smartphone business lost serious ground to competitors.

"The business environment deteriorated significantly in the fourth quarter due to weak demand amid a global economic slowdown," Samsung noted in the statement.

The dreary results were anticipated. Samsung (SSNLF) had flagged the lackluster performance in a pre-earnings forecast earlier this month, with analysts citing falling memory chip prices and fewer orders of consumer devices.

In a presentation to investors, the electronics maker confirmed that "mobile and PC demand was weak,"

and its memory chip business had also suffered "as customers continued to adjust their inventories amid deepening uncertainties."

Samsung expects some of those problems to continue in the coming months due to global economic uncertainty, though it anticipates overall demand to start recovering in the second half of the year.

Smartphone demand will likely slide again this quarter compared to the same period a year ago, "due to the economic slowdown in major regions," it said.

Samsung's shares dropped 3% in Seoul on Tuesday.

There were some bright spots. Samsung said it took in 302.2 trillion won (\$245.7 billion) in revenue for the full year of 2022, up from 279.6 trillion won (\$227.4 billion) in 2021, and a record high.

Analysts have said, however, that they expect the company's profits to drop again this quarter because of a continued decline in memory chip prices.

Source: CNN

## IMF raises 2023 global growth forecast on China's reopening

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday estimated that China's economy will grow by 5.2 percent in 2023, 0.8 percentage points higher than its October 2022 forecast.

"Growth is expected to pick up in China with the full reopening in 2023," the IMF stated in the newly released update to its World Economic Outlook report.

The IMF said global growth would still fall to 2.9 percent in 2023 from 3.4 percent last year, but that marked an improvement over its earlier prediction of 2.7-percent growth in 2023.

The IMF said it had raised its growth expectations due to "surprisingly resilient" demand in the U.S. and Europe, an easing of energy costs, and the reopening of China's economy after the removal of its strict COVID-19 restrictions.

IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said recession risks had subsided and central banks had made progress in controlling inflation, but more work was needed to curb prices, while the further escalation of the Russia-Ukraine conflict could lead to new disruptions.

He acknowledged that China's reopening would put some upward pressure on commodity prices, but "on balance, I think we view the reopening of China as a benefit to the global economy," noting it would help ease production bottlenecks that have worsened inflation and increase Chinese consumer demand.

Source: CGTN

## UAE and France to explore investable opportunities to boost clean energy sector

- Projects will be developed jointly and Abu Dhabi's Masdar will lead the initiative on behalf of the Emirates

The UAE and France have agreed to develop commercial and other investable opportunities as part of the Cop28 global climate summit, to further accelerate clean energy development.

Projects will be developed jointly, with Abu Dhabi's clean energy company Masdar leading the UAE side.

The partnership aims to "fully align with the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change", with each opportunity being assessed based on the relevant and internationally accepted methodology, Masdar said on Tuesday.

The programme, which will be officially launched in November during the Cop28 climate summit, will combine French and Emirati expertise, especially in the decarbonisation of hard-to-abate industries, including clean hydrogen solutions for mobility.

The two sides will look to deliver "tangible, positive impacts" on climate change mitigation and the adaptation of climate-orientated projects on biodiversity.

"This initiative builds on the long-standing partnership between the UAE and France to take advantage of practical, commercial opportunities for low-carbon growth that will accelerate the energy transition and promote climate action and sustainable economic development in both our countries and across the globe," said Dr Sultan Al Jaber, President-designate for Cop28 and the UAE's special envoy on climate change.

"Leveraging our combined technological and energy expertise, we will intensify

our efforts to promote renewable and zero carbon energies to decarbonise economies and, in particular, hard-to-abate sectors."

As the UAE prepares to host Cop28, "we are intent on making it a Cop of action and a Cop for all", said Dr Al Jaber, who is also the Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, managing director and group chief executive of Adnoc and chairman of Masdar.

"We are extending an open invitation to the world to join us in constructive efforts to raise ambition, move from deliberation to delivery and achieve the central goal of the Paris Agreement to keep 1.5[°C above pre-industrial levels target] alive," he said.

On Monday, French Finance and Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire said the UAE could count on the support of the French government and its corporate sector to make Cop28 a huge success, not only for the Emirates but also for the whole region and the planet.

"I want to make very clear to my Emirati friends, you can count on the support of France," Mr Le Maire, who also met Dr Al Jaber in Abu Dhabi on Monday, told top business executives and investors at the Abu Dhabi Global Market.

At the Cop28 climate summit, the meeting of heads of state, finance and business leaders and members of civil society will take stock of what has been achieved since the Paris Agreement of 2015.

The latest initiative by the UAE and France builds on their existing partnership in the clean and renewable energy sector.

French and Emirati companies have



already joined forces to develop, invest and operate more than 6.2 gigawatts of clean and renewable energy projects around the globe, including two of the world's largest single-site solar projects in the UAE.

The companies have mobilised more than \$6 billion in investment and have displaced about 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually through their operations.

"This targeted programme will leverage synergies between public and private sectors from both countries to accelerate the implementation of impactful projects of clean energy development for transportation," Mr Le Maire said.

"I am very happy [about] this new illustration of France-UAE strategic partnership and our common objective to raise ambitions towards Cop28".

Source: Al-Ain Business

# Planet Earth

## Ethiopia reaping the benefit of stumping coffee trees

BY SEMIRA BERHE

In Ethiopia coffee accounts for 40 percent of the agricultural exports. It is a means of living for six million farmers while more than 20 million people are directly and indirectly engaged in coffee business, according to the report of Ethiopian coffee and tea authority last year.

The coffee farm in Ethiopia covers 950,000 hectares, from which 680,800 tons of coffee is harvested. Depending on their method of production grown in Ethiopia; the forest coffee covers 175,000 hectares, which is 8 to 10 percent and gives 2-5 tons of coffee per hectare. This one is highly needed in international market. The other is partial forest coffee that lies on 400,000 hectares, which is about 30 to 35 percent. It yields about four up to five tons of coffee per hectare.

But the coverage of the coffee plant and the amount of the output does not match. According to research report by Coffee and Tea Authority from the coffee tree grown all over the country 67 percent are long aged coffee trees that are more than 40 years old. The old coffee trees show less productivity and lack of quality in the final coffee product and it decreases the acceptance in the international market.

To fill this space, through improving the amount and the quality of the product the Ethiopian coffee and tea authority is working on using the technique of stumping coffee tree that increases the productivity of



coffee by two folds.

Refreshing coffee tree means cutting long aged coffee tree's by trimming unnecessary branches systematically to be ready again to give more product than the first. Refreshing a coffee tree is essential to increase the productivity of coffee.

But before three and four years the farmers' knowledge about stumping coffee is low and they don't feel comfortable to cut parts of

the coffee tree as they consider it a heritage handed down from their posterity.

Communication and public relation Director with the Authority Sahle Mariam Gebremedhin explained that the authority has been working on stumping coffee plantations in the past three to four years to improve the productivity of coffee. The initiatives address the farmers' technical awareness about cutting unnecessary part of

the old coffee tree so as to make it ready to be more productive of high quality.

Accordingly in the past four years the authority has accomplished stumping works over 300,000 hectares while coffee plantations that rest over 45,000 hectares of land has been uprooted and replaced by new coffee trees as they have already stopped production.

If one coffee tree becomes old it starts to decrease the amount of product and even may stop production. In addition to this, comparing to the new coffee tree and the old one, it is different with its quality and the amount of the product had been affected the farmer's economic life, it sinks the ability to sell their product in higher quality to the market.

The public relation officer explained that the campaign of renewing coffee tree is carried out annually, with the support of professionals. The farmers partition their coffee plots in to three or four sections depending on the width. Because the refreshed coffee tree takes a year or two to be being productive fully and after one year when the refreshed coffee tree starts production they turn to the others coffee tree.

The Coffee and Tea Authority has been working on it strenuously to increase the productivity of coffee in this technique with regional administrators, professionals and the farmers to be adapted with the technique and increase the amount of exporting the commercial item with good quality.

## Promoting space science to assist development in all sectors

BY FIKADU BELAY

The development of space science has a great role in the economic and social development of a country. It is remembered that Ethiopia started to better organize the Institute of Space Science and Technology in 2016 according to the European model.

To this end, Ethiopia has launched two earth observation satellites, built two one-meter optical telescopes, and built a multi-satellite data receiver, which is better than East Africa and the continent. In Africa, most of the countries except Egypt, South Africa, Nigeria, Morocco, Algeria, and Kenya, including Ethiopia, have not started a space science program.

The Ethiopian Remote Sensing Satellite (ETRSS) has played a major role in delivering a lot of information to institutions and researchers for the past three years, the Ethiopian Space Science and Geospatial Institute announced.

Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Space Science and Geospatial Institute Satellite Operations Melaku Muka told The Ethiopian Herald that the satellites that Ethiopia has launched are earth observation satellites and that they will take pictures of the surface of the earth 628 kilometers above the ground.

He said that the information collected by the

satellite through the camera censor attached to it is used for various purposes conducted in various sectors.

According to Melaku, the satellite will help increase the productivity of agriculture by identifying the type of crop and what stage it is at. And another advantage was that images showing the water cover during the filling of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and used for forest screening were found.

Besides, some study was done by taking data from the ETRSS satellite and showing the forest cover in the southwestern region of Ethiopia; one would get a dynamic plants of the country in that place, he added.

It will play a significant role in reducing the cost of living in the country and increasing the income so that our people can get information as much as they need and do different jobs. Along with developing the technology in the country, the country can benefit from creating job opportunities, avoiding high foreign exchange, and working to make the sector earn foreign currency as its own source of income.

As part of the efforts to popularize the technology ETRSS has entered in the curriculum as an independent chapter for Grade 8 students so that they can start learning about it from early age. And also, universities are taking different types of information from the satellite and using it

for their teaching and learning programs.

According to Melaku briefing, students studying at different universities will be made to use the information collected from ETRSS for what they need in their laboratory sessions, which will enable theory-oriented education to become action-oriented.

He said that this is a sign of a big change in the fact that they are learning from the information of the country instead of learning from the data of another country.

There is a situation where students who are studying for a master's or a PhD program can use different information when they want to do creative work and when doing research writing. For this reason, teachers and other members of the educational institutions attended the trainings provided by the satellite monitoring system at Entoto, he added.

Mainly, the message that the satellite gave was to awaken the youth. He explained that young people have been able to increase their knowledge in the field by visiting and practicing at the satellite data receiving station at Entoto.

In order to increase Africa's space science and technology capacity, the African Union Summit launched the "African Space Policy and Strategy," but it still has a lot to do compared with the current situation.

As space science and technology is the

biggest field of competition, countries with developed experience and capabilities in the field are widely controlling it.

Google, Amazon, Facebook, and other giant companies around the world are joining the field by starting space science research projects. Therefore, Africans are expected to work together and build the capabilities that will make them competitive in space science and technology.

He said that the satellite is working successfully by identifying problems and providing solutions when the Ethiopians are facing problems on their own. He pointed out that various works are being done to enrich other satellites, including communication satellites, due to the wide demand for information in our country.

In this sense, broadcast satellite and communication are used by broadcast media for internet, cable, and communication. Currently, the country spends millions of dollars in foreign exchange by renting these services from abroad.

For example, up to ten million dollars are spent annually on broadcasting. And for telecommunications, it will cost several million dollars. He said that for this reason, the institution is working to reduce the high cost of foreign currency by verifying the plan for building this communication satellite.