



# The Ethiopian Herald

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Happy New Year



## Religious fathers call for love, harmony in New Year message

• Ethiopians mark New Year

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopians should welcome the New Year by strengthening the useful ones of the past, leaving behind the harmful things, religious leaders said, calling on the faithful to uphold love and harmony.

Ethiopians at home and in the Diaspora are

marking the unique New Year today.

In his New Year message, Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church His Holiness Abune Mathias I said problems and differences should be resolved through dialogue and rule of law. "We should silence the guns and ensure Ethiopia's sovereignty and the unity of its people."

"In order to maintain Ethiopia's existence and keep the unity of its people for long, we must respect the rule of law and equality, ensure mutual benefit and support the injured and comfort the attacked."

See Religious fathers ... page 3

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## Public's perseverance enables Ethiopia to overcome colossal challenges: Premier

• Extends New Year best wishes

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopians' established perseverance in dealing with challenges has enabled the country to overcome pressing

See Public's ... page 3

## Ethiopia announces Abay Dam's 4<sup>th</sup> round filling completion

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA –Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) on Sunday announced the completion of the fourth round filling of Abay Dam.

Prime Minister Abiy has congratulated Ethiopians following the completion of the fourth round filling of the mega dam.

"Congratulations to all on the fourth [round] filling of Abay Dam. Our national perseverance against all odds has delivered," he wrote in his social media post.

In the message, the prime minister underscored that Ethiopia has started works to make proof that it is undefeatable nation

See Ethiopia announces... page 3



## Ambassadors foresee improved relations with Ethiopia

• Convey New Year, BRICS congratulatory messages

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ambassadors of six countries have extended their New Year wishes to the people and government of Ethiopia, expressing

See Ambassadors ... page 3

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# News

## Ethiopia sees fruitful diplomacy in 2015: MoFA

### • *BRICS membership unprecedented achievement*

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ethiopia has witnessed remarkable achievements in the diplomatic frontier and the discussions and connections held with global leaders have been translated into stronger cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

In its annual report, the MoFA stated that high-level government officials including Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen have made tremendous diplomatic contributions in the just-concluded year.

For instance, Premier Abiy has capitalized on his participation in various global and continental events to seek ways of elevating Ethiopia's relations with numerous countries and multinational companies. He has also employed the forums to promote Ethiopia's positive image and attract global businesses to its emerging market.

This kind of engagement is instrumental to Ethiopia's aspiration of playing an active role in the global politics



and economy and lure cooperation in key areas of mutual interest, the report elaborated. "The deployment of competent and professional diplomats have also paid off in preserving national interest and protecting the rights and benefits of Ethiopians in different parts of the world"

Moreover, BRICS membership is the major milestone for Ethiopia's diplomacy in the year 2015. Apart from many benefits, the accession would help the country to ensure more market destinations and investment inflow.

In the reported period, world leaders, high-level officials and corporate chiefs have made frequent visits to Ethiopia. To mention some, UAE's President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, as well as foreign ministers of U.S. and other several countries paid a visit to Addis



Ababa.

Also, World Bank Group President Ajay Banga also visited Ethiopia's Bole Lemi Industrial Park.

On the Ethiopian side, Prime Minister Abiy met with global leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Emanuel Macron and Chinese President Xi Jinping. He also met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in South Africa and Egyptian President Abdul Fattah el-Sisis in Paris. The deliberations are centered on ways to invigorate the partnership in key areas of mutual interest.

Ethiopia has based its diplomatic activities on the structural transformation, trade, investment and tourism and the country's national security is inextricably fastened with rapid transformation and protects its interest in the Horn of Africa, the report remarked.

## Public diplomacy bolsters Ethiopia's ties with neighboring states

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ethiopia's education scholarship opportunity given to South Sudan and Somaliland students is solidifying the public diplomacy between the neighboring states.

The country has graduated students from South Sudan and Somaliland in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) program in various field of studies.

The graduates expressed that the scholarship opportunity given by the Ethiopian government helped them to acquire academic knowledge and experience Ethiopian cultures.

A South Sudanese graduate Felix Said Khamis Ayuoub who took his bachelor degree in Civil Construction Technology told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the scholarship has helped South Sudanese to acquire adequate knowledge, technics and skills from Ethiopian technical and vocational

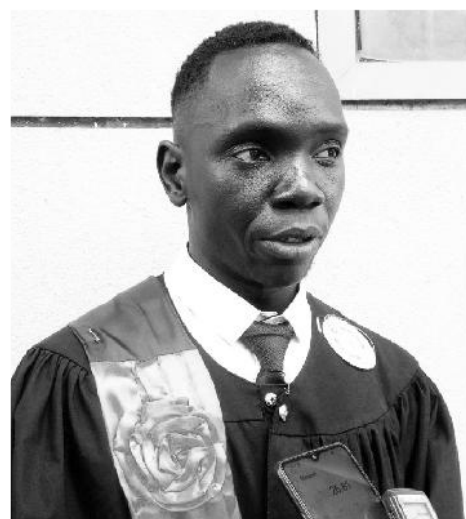
education and training institutes.

He said, "I was one of those who applied to use the scholarship given by the Ethiopian government to South Sudanese students. As a result, I have attended the education in TVET program, which is the best for me though difficulties were witnessed in relation to adopting new environment."

Felix is nostalgic of those days in which his classmates received him with warm welcome in the past four academic years in Addis Ababa where he enjoyed Ethiopian culture, music and food.

He pointed out that a number of South Sudan students are attending their education in the various Ethiopian institutions. This shows the two countries have a huge interest to improve the quality of education and encourage their constructive relationships, he noted.

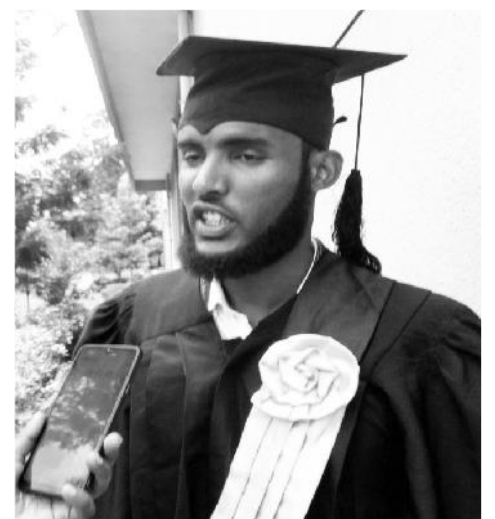
Felix advised that encouraging the two countries relationships in the field of education especially in TVET, would



Felix Said Khamis Ayuoub

play a deceive role in nurturing adequate skilled human power.

Supporting the above statement, a Somaliland graduate Mohammed Daib expressed that the scholarship is quite invaluable for students with low economic status to obtain knowledge and solve their multitude of problems.



Mohammed Daib

Mohammed holds BA in the field of Agro-Processing, Fruit and Vegetable Processing Technology in Ethiopia.

"I have obtained significant experience from Ethiopia's TVET institute," he said, adding that the scholarship opportunity is crucial to fill the knowledge gap in his country.



# News

## Religious fathers call...

The Patriarch also called on the faithful to live in harmony with fellow brothers and sisters and shun away hatred and stereotypical attitude as well as materialism.

Head of Fatwa and Research Department with the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council Sheikh Idris Ali stated that Ethiopians should leave the bad things that they went through last year and take the good things and move on to the next New Year.

“In the New Year, the Muslim community should contribute to sustain the long cherished value of tolerance and mutual existence of the society.”

In accordance with Islamic teaching, the faithful are required to demonstrate their love and compassion for the disadvantaged, Sheikh Idris added.

For Archbishop of the Ethiopian Catholic Church Cardinal Berhaneyesus Demerew, the New Year should be the time when the laity does their part to replace wrong narratives with good ones. “If we accept the New Year with humility and hope, it will raise us to praise.”

The solution to many of the social and economic crises that the country has been facing is in the hands of the public, President of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Rev. Dr. Yonas Yigezu said.

According to him, sincerity of heart is the solution to the pressing national problems. “A sincere heart strives to multiply sincerity and it works to turn problems into good without running away from them. So let’s think about ourselves honestly and ask ourselves about our situation.”

Vice President of the Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia, Pastor Senbeto Bashe pleaded followers to show their love and compassion for the disadvantaged.

It is necessary to the laity to discharge their spiritual responsibility and to make the New Year a bright era where the broken will be renewed, big visions will be emerged and brotherly responsibility will be fulfilled, he remarked.

## Public’s perseverance...

hurdles it encountered in last year (2015), Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said.

Extending his New Year’s best wishes to the people of Ethiopia, the Premier stated that the public’s determination is the key factor for Ethiopia’s success in withstanding the pressing tests. “We are here now due to our firm principle, strong citizens, and unconquered God. We have accomplished greatly while standing firm against our major challenges. Those countless obstacles that we faced served as a foundation to where we are now.”

He went on saying: “Our achievements are the sum of our multi-nationalism while the problems that tested us are outcomes of our differences. Let us put the peace and security of Ethiopia on a firm foundation and resolve our differences and strengthen our solidarity for the upcoming year.”

Ethiopians should also jointly put the nation on the level of development and prosperity it deserves, PM Abiy appealed.

## Ethiopia announces Abay Dam’s...

and has the ability to accomplish all its desires.

“It is my great pleasure to herald all Ethiopians that the fourth round of Abay dam filling has been accomplished.”

He also acknowledged all citizens who contributed financial, knowledge, energy and moral support to the construction of the dam.

“Our Unity must be replicated once again in further affairs. It [the Dam filling] was testing; we were forced to retreat back. We faced internal problem and external pressure. Now, we are here,” he noted.

He called upon the people to extend more supports until the ribbon cutting of the Dam: “We are at the pick of the mountain but our journey is not completed yet. It is my belief to accomplish more other plans.”

Following Abiy’s statement, various citizens have sent a congratulatory message in which Water and Energy Minister Habtamu Itefa (PhD) is one of them.

Having 120 meter height and 168 kilometer long artificial lake, the Dam is the biggest water bank that can generate interest to the

people of Ethiopia, he said.

For him, electricity generation, fish agriculture, transport service, entertainment and tourism are the major benefits of the water bank of the dam.

Ethiopia’s Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the U.S. Seleshi Bekele (PhD) told local news outlet that the water captured by the Aswan Dam of Egypt has been released for it held more than enough water during this rainy season.

On the other hand, the filling of Abay Dam has been carried out without causing any significant harm to the lower riparian countries. The dam is demonstrating the fact that there will be no damage or significant harm, he indicated. “Our Unity must be replicated once again in further affairs. It [the Dam filling] was testing; we were forced to retreat back. We faced internal problem and external pressure. Now, we are here,” he noted.

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## Ambassadors foresee...

hope that bilateral relationships with the Horn of African nation will bolster in the year of 2016.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, ambassadors of China, Russia, India, Brazil Japan and, Israel, India and Brazil wished the Ethiopian people and government a happy and prosperous year.

Extending New Year wishes and congratulating Ethiopia on its accession to BRICS, Chinese Ambassador Zhao Zhiyuan said: “As Prime Minister Abiy said, Ethiopia’s BRICS membership could be taken as one of the biggest diplomatic victories of the country recorded in its recent history.”

China shares this joy with all member states and always stands ready to expand cooperation with Ethiopia under the BRICS framework and bring more dynamics to the bloc’s cooperation, he underlined.

Russian Ambassador to Ethiopia Evgeny Terekhin on his part noted that the recent meeting between PM Abiy and President Vladimir Putin, at the Second Russia-Africa Summit in Saint-Petersburg, indicates the

intensified political dialogue between the two countries.

Ambassador Terekhin added: “The important agreements adopted on the margins of these events will pave the way for further development of multifaceted cooperation and cordial relations between our two countries.”

For India’s Ambassador Robert Shetkintong, the two countries’ relations have been traditionally close and cordial, which is witnessed by excellent political partnership and regular exchange of high-level visits.

Prime Ministers Ethiopia and India met in Johannesburg on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in August 2023 and agreed to deepen ties and discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation in capacity building, trade and investment, defense, ICT, agriculture and other sectors.

According to him, the 5000 Indian nationals who resided in Ethiopia for various purposes will enthusiastically celebrate all Ethiopian festivals. “On behalf of them, I wish all of you a prosperous New Year and joyous Meskel celebrations.”

Brazilian Ambassador to Ethiopia Jandyr Ferreira Dos Santos also extended his best wishes to the people of Ethiopia mentioning BRICS membership as the showcase to the latter’s growing influence in global politics. “No accession of African countries to the BRICS could fail to give due recognition to Ethiopia, one of the largest and most dynamic countries in the continent.”

“At this important juncture in Ethiopia’s history, we would also like to commend the resilience and determination of the Ethiopian people, who have shown remarkable strength through challenging times. We recognize Ethiopia’s progress in addressing social, economic and security issues, and we stand ready to support Ethiopia in its development journey,” the ambassador remarked.

Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia Ito Takako wished a more peaceful and prosperous New Year for the people of Ethiopia.

“The two countries had an eventful and productive year whereby the Japanese Foreign Minister visited and held fruitful and cordial discussions with Ethiopian

higher government officials including Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed PhD.”

She also highlighted on the positive step in the investment area mentioning Safaricom Telecommunications Ethiopia, the first private telecommunication company in Ethiopia, and partially owned by the Sumitomo Corporation of Japan, started its service operations last October, followed by a new license for its mobile financing.

By the same token, Israeli Ambassador to Ethiopia Aleigne Admasu mentioned the similarity in the two countries’ calendars. “We in Israel also welcome our New Year this month, on Saturday, September 16, when we will begin the Hebrew year 5784. At this time, we would like to express our hope for a year of prosperity and peace for both of our peoples, and for the world.”

In this New Year, Israel will continue to strengthen its long-standing relationship with Ethiopia on many levels: political, economic, development, and cultural.

ready to support Ethiopia in its development journey,” the ambassador remarked.



# Editorial

# NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

## New Year, New Spirit

Cheers to another year together and forever to go! Not only does the New Year help mark the excitement for the fresh time but it also offers a moment to say goodbye to the already ended year in a meaningful way. Undeniably, nothing is more thrilling as well as alluring than celebrating new life chapter surpassing ups and downs out of the already seen epoch.

At the eve of the New Year in Ethiopia, great breaking news is also heard—about the fourth filling of the Grand Abay Dam. The New Year's gift is seamless. It flickers hopes in the heart of each and every Ethiopian.

Yes, 2015 is just seen off and 2016 is coming to help citizens start a new chapter. This year holds hope and prosperity for Ethiopians despite challenges through which the country has been for years. As citizens look ahead to bright future and hallowed destiny of the nation, everyone needs to capitalize on peace and coexistence as it is the very foundation of all successful activities of the nation.

Here the national dialog has come to the forefront to deal with all forms of peace and security concerns since it is designated to come closer to all citizens at all corners of the nation thereby ensuring peace and serenity via conducting honest dialogue and close talks among/ between nations of the country.

Needless to state, a new year is like starting a new chapter in everyone's life. As it is also a chance to write an incredible story for citizens and their country, all have to pursue hopes and dreams to have much success and enjoy trekking a wonderful journey. As the New Year has already set in, Ethiopians must be filled with the promises of a hopeful tomorrow though there are trying scenarios here and there in relation to high cost of living, peace concerns and other related matters.

If Ethiopians are willing to jot down new resolutions for the problems they have been through, this transitional time will be a perfect step for reaching out to the piled up hurdles.

The start of each New Year is a time to reflect on the year just past and make plans for the future. It holds a special magic, with a promise of new opportunities and the possibility to change lives for the better. The New Year is a great time to bond over old memories as citizens endeavor to make more.

The New Year has to be made an avenue that provides citizens with a fresh kick off to life and amicable ties. It should also be an epoch filled with wonderful and memorable feelings across the nation, when people bid adieu to the by-gones and welcome the New Year.

In a nutshell, with the start of a new year, people have to take time to reflect on the past and move forward with renewed meanings for the 365 days ahead. A pivotal point here is when people prepare to usher in their New Year determinations, they must not forget to think of those who are devoid of what is required to happily receive the period since their positive contributions and supports could make all the difference! Whatever the New Year has in store, all Ethiopians should be in it together. As it brings in new opportunities and rosy treks to record remarkable outcomes, all Ethiopians have to work hand in glove to create a prosperous and peaceful nation!

It is a great moment to expats who reside in Ethiopia or to visitors to experience the New Year's vibe here, feeling seven years younger of course.

Happy New Year!



(Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Ethiopia) ITO TAKAKO

***'I sincerely hope business environment will further improve in the New Year'***

(Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Ethiopia)

On Ethiopian New Year's Day, on behalf of the people and the government of Japan, I would like to send my best wishes for a more peaceful and prosperous new year for all the people in Ethiopia.

Looking back at the last twelve months, we had an eventful and productive year. As for Japan-Ethiopia relations, the Japanese Foreign Minister visited Ethiopia last month for the first time in four years. Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa had fruitful and cordial discussions with Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonen, and they confirmed their commitments to further strengthen bilateral relations, including promotion of investment.

Speaking of investments, Safaricom Telecommunications Ethiopia, the first private telecommunication company in Ethiopia, and partially owned by the Sumitomo Corporation of Japan, started its service operations last October, followed by a new license for its mobile financing. The healthy competition in the telecommunication area has already benefitted the people of Ethiopia, and the expansion of its digital services both in its geographical space and in the type of services will further enhance inclusiveness among the people and improve the ICT environment for business in the 21st century. Vitality in the private sector is a driving force towards a prosperous economy and better lives. How Safaricom Ethiopia is treated will be a litmus test for the business environment in this country: fair and equitable treatment of foreign investors as well as transparent tax and customs administration will attract more FDI. I sincerely hope the business environment will be further improved this coming year so that more FDI will come to Ethiopia. Let us hope that the ongoing negotiations with the IMF will be concluded successfully soon and the economic reforms will bring a lot of benefits to the Ethiopian economy.

Investment in people is also very critical. The TICAD Human Resource Development



(Israel Ambassador to Ethiopia) ALELI ADMASU

***A year of health, prosperity, peace for both Israel, Ethiopia***

On behalf of the government and people of the State of Israel, I would like to wish the government and people of Ethiopia a very happy New Year- 2016!

Israel and Ethiopia share history and heritage. We in Israel also welcome our New Year this month, on Saturday, September 16, when we will begin the Hebrew year 5784. At this time, we would like to express our hope for a year of health, prosperity and peace for both of our peoples, and for the world.

In this new year, Israel will continue to strengthen its long-standing relationship with Ethiopia on many levels: political, economic, development, and cultural.

The relations between Israel and Ethiopia have continued for more than three thousand years. The nations' connection is inscribed in history. Even when our Prophet Moses was in Egypt to bring back the Children of Israel to the Promised Land, his wife Tziporah is said to have been an Ethiopian lady.

Regarding the two nations' bilateral partnership, due in part to the long history of the Ethiopian Jews, Ethiopia and Israel share a strong cultural bond. Additionally, as one of the first nations to accept Christianity, Ethiopia owns a number of churches in Israel, including in the holy city of Jerusalem. The people and governments of the two nations have built a relationship focused on culture, development, and economics for the past many years. At this time, we are working to strengthen our partnership even further.

Israel has been working with Ethiopia in the fields of agriculture, health, technology and innovation, among others. In agriculture, one of the joint achievements is in avocado production. Four million avocado seedlings have been distributed to Ethiopian farmers through Israeli programs. Due to its climate and its natural resources, Ethiopia is an ideal place for avocado production. Meanwhile, avocado remains an important import for countries throughout Europe, Asia, and North America.

In the health sector, Israelis have worked in



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The Ethiopian Herald



# Opinion

## Congratulatory messages of Ambassadors concerning Ethiopian New Year



Russia-Ethiopia relations experiencing another upsurge Evgeny Terekhin

Dear friends,

The New Ethiopian Year 2016 is coming! In all regions of Ethiopia, this solemn holiday will be celebrated with its usual scope and splendor. Mass celebrations, services in churches and thousands of people laughing and singing on the streets – a unique spectacle. At such moments you can clearly understand the spirit of the Ethiopian people, what are their values and joys. And I am very pleased to be here, in Ethiopia, and celebrate this holiday with you.

I am really happy that our bilateral relations are experiencing another upsurge. First of all, we can see a notable intensification in the political dialogue between our countries. This was clearly demonstrated by the recent meeting between the President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed at the Second Russia-Africa Summit in Saint-Petersburg. The important agreements adopted on the margins of these events will pave the way to further development of multifaceted cooperation and cordial relations between our two countries.

Ethiopia's accession to the BRICS family is an outstanding result of the outgoing years. I am sure that joining the ranks of the BRICS is a great moment for Ethiopia and I want once again to congratulate the country's leadership and all Ethiopians on this remarkable achievement. I am confident that your participation in BRICS will make a considerable contribution to the development of this dynamic partnership structure that is rapidly gaining its influence in the whole world.

Taking this opportunity, also I would like to congratulate the team of *The Ethiopian Herald* and thank it for close and fruitful cooperation during the past year. We cooperate with your newspaper with great pleasure and I expect that this good tradition will be continued through the coming year.

On the eve of the New Year I would like to take the opportunity to wish all the citizens of Ethiopia to stay united and strong, get all your wishes realized. Let the upcoming year bring you more joys!

Happy New Year 2016!



ZHAO Zhiyuan

### BRICS membership: big diplomatic victory to Ethiopia

On the occasion of the Ethiopian New Year, I would like to extend my best wishes to the Ethiopian people and wish the lovely country prosperity, happiness and peace!

First of all, congratulations to Ethiopia on joining the BRICS! Just as Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said, Ethiopia's BRICS membership could be taken as one of the biggest diplomatic victories of the country recorded in the last few decades. China shares this joy with all member states and always stands ready to expand cooperation with Ethiopia under the BRICS framework and bring more dynamics to BRICS cooperation.

Both China and Ethiopia are countries with ancient civilizations, and the relationship between the two countries has a long history. In recent years, under the leadership of President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, China-Ethiopia political mutual trust has been continuously enhanced, economic and trade cooperation has yielded fruitful results, people-to-people and cultural exchanges have continued to deepen. By implementing the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative together, our bilateral relations have entered into a new stage of development.

I have been a witness to China-Ethiopia Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership growing in depth and substance. China has been Ethiopia's largest trading partner, largest source of investment and largest project contractor for many years in a row. China has played an important role in promoting Ethiopia's development in fields of infrastructure, manufacturing, energy, and agriculture, and realizing the country's industrialization and modernization. China-Ethiopia cooperation has once again achieved remarkable outcomes this year. In the first half of 2023, the total bilateral trade volume increased by 28.53% on year-on-year basis. China has delivered 2242 metric tons of food aid to Ethiopia and offered zero-tariff treatment to 98 percent of the tariff line, with 8804 items of products, originating from Ethiopia. 225 students and 710 officials from Ethiopia sponsored by Chinese Government have pursued their study in China. Chinese Medical Team in Ethiopia has provided medical service to thousand of Ethiopian patients and conducted free clinic for hundreds of Ethiopian children. China Foundation for Rural Development has provided food support for 14280 Ethiopian primary school students in Afar, Oromia, Amhara, Southwest, and Somalia regional states. With high level delegations from both countries visiting each other frequently, all kinds of cooperation and communication continues to deepen.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative. Over the past 10 years, the BRI has evolved from broad strokes to refined details, becoming the most popular international public good and largest-scale international cooperation platform. Adhering to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the BRI has made fruitful achievements. Over the last decade, China has helped African countries build over 6,000 kilometers of railway, 6,000 kilometers of road, around 20 ports, over 80 large power facilities, and more than 130 hospitals and 170 schools. To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the BRI, China will hold the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing in October. China looks forward to advancing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with Ethiopia, strengthening infrastructure connectivity and developing a green and digital Silk Road. I believe our cooperation under BRI, FOCAC and BRICS will continue to make concrete progress.

China and Ethiopia are good friends, good brothers and good partners, treating each other with sincerity. China has every confidence that by working together, we two countries will successfully map out still greater developments in the future. መልካም አዲስ አመት ለ መላው ኢትዮጵያ!



Ambassador Robert Shetkintong (Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia)

(Ambassador Robert Shetkintong celebrates Indian festival of Raksha Bandhan in Addis Ababa. Brahmakumari Sister Lemlem Adane ties Rakhi (thread) on Ambassador. It is a celebration of the sacred bond between a sister and her brother.)

Ethiopia was one of the first countries from Africa to establish diplomatic relations with India in 1948. Therefore, we are now commemorating 75 years of diplomatic relations between our two friendly countries.

India Ethiopia relations have been traditionally close and friendly. We have excellent political relations and witness regular exchange of high level visits. In February 2023, a 50-member Ethiopian Parliamentary delegation attended a training programme at the Parliamentary Research & Training Institute for Democracies in New Delhi. The delegation consisted of govt whips, chairperson & deputy chairperson of various standing committees and speakers of 12 regional parliaments.

In April 2023, External Affairs Minister of India visited Addis Ababa and met Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister. They discussed bilateral relations, developments in the region and shared views on our strong multilateral cooperation including in the African Union and United Nations.

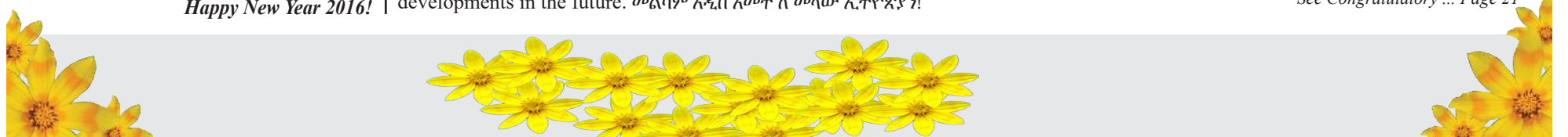
Prime Ministers of India and Ethiopia recently met in Johannesburg on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in August 2023. The leaders agreed to deepen ties between the two countries and discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation in areas like parliamentary contacts, development partnership & capacity building, trade & investment, defence, ICT, agriculture, skilling of youth and people to people linkages.

Congratulations Ethiopia for joining the BRICS. Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that India fully supported BRICS expansion. Such an expansion makes BRICS stronger and more effective. In that spirit, India welcomed Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and UAE into the BRICS family.

India's G20 presidency has marked a significant milestone in global deliberations. India has focused on various issues like inclusive growth, digital innovation, climate resilience and equitable global health access. India has been the voice of the global south by providing a common platform to deliberate on the concerns, interests and priorities that affect the developing countries and most importantly, to unite in voice and purpose in addressing the concerns and priorities. India has fostered collaborative solutions that contribute to the broader global well-being, reinforcing its spirit - One Earth, One Family, One Future.

During the past three years, I have travelled to many places in this beautiful country, interacted and made friends with many people. There are so many similarities between India and Ethiopia including cultural diversity, food habits, religious tolerance and most striking is the energy and enthusiasm of people in our two countries to celebrate festivals.

See Congratulatory ... Page 21





# In the Sphere of Diplomacy

## BRICS shatters mentality of Hostility and distrust among nations

BY MELAKU MULUALEM K.

Brazil, Russia, India and China formally established the BRIC partnership in 2009. In 2010, South Africa was invited to be part of the group. The 15th BRICS Summit was held in South Africa from August 22-24, 2023 in the presence of many heads of state and government. The Summit was conducted under the theme “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism”. Its Declaration has affirmed that it will support the African Union Agenda 2063 and the operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area. From the theme and the details of the Declaration, it is clear that the Summit has given considerable attention to African countries and the continental organization at large.

In the preamble of the Declaration, it is stated that one of the three main pillars of BRICS is to strengthen “political and security” cooperation. It also opposes unilateral actions and promotes multilateralism. The Declaration stated about the reform of the United Nations and to make the Security Council representatives and mentioned Brazil, India, and South Africa “to play a greater role in international affairs, in particular in the United Nations, including its Security Council”. The Declaration has also underlined the significance of the peaceful resolution of international disputes and conflicts through diplomatic means including “dialogue, negotiations, consultations, mediation and good offices”.

This 15th Summit is historical in its decisions. Article 91 of the Declaration stated that BRICS members have “decided to invite the Argentine Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to become full members of BRICS from January 1, 2024”. President Ramaphosa of South Africa, the current chair of BRICS, announced the joining of the six countries. Even if about 42 countries have shown interest in being part of the BRICS, only six of them could join the partnership.

There are various comments about the new BRICS+. Some Western media called the BRICS+ group as an anti-dollar group in the de-dollarization process. Others say the member states of the group have more disagreements and historical rivalries than harmony and cooperation. In explaining this matter many mentioned the disagreements between Saudi Arabia and Iran for their regional hegemony and religious sect competition; Ethiopia and Egypt on the Nile River; China and India on border issues; Brazil and Argentina on the geopolitical competition, UAE and Iran on the territorial dispute over three islands- Abu Musa, Lesser Tunb and Greater Tunb; the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt as a threat to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. This has ignited



discussions about the political ramifications among member states of BRICS+6.

Of course, there are some improvements in the above-mentioned problems. For instance, after China brokered a deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the two governments are trying to overcome past hostility and boost cooperation. Now they agreed to “end a diplomatic rift and re-establish relations following years of hostility that had endangered regional stability in the Gulf, as well as in Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon”. They have also reopened their embassies in one another’s countries to improve diplomatic relations. Egypt and Ethiopia are also negotiating on the use of the River Nile or Abay. Other member countries are also coming to terms.

In my opinion, the presence and invitation of “unfriendly governments” in BRICS is a paradigm shift from the mentality of animosity and suspicion to ray of hope. It also shows that governments have a lot of common issues than the specific issues of disputes. For instance, Ethiopia and Egypt have different positions on the use of the Nile River/ Abay. But they can have trade, investment, cultural, and political relations that can benefit both governments. The disagreement on one issue should not be determinant to contain other cooperation and partnerships between the two countries.

Thus both the negotiations on their differences and cooperation on common agendas can go together. It is the same for Iran-Saudi Arabia, and other “unfriendly” governments. They can get a chance to discuss not in big conferences such as the United Nations and the African Union, but in small circles comprising only eleven governments. BRICS+ is complementing the main objective of the United Nations to maintain peace and security in the world.

BRICS has proven the practical application of “unity in diversity”. In addition to conflicts of some interests, there are big common interests i.e. common interests are larger than conflicts of interests. The Global North cannot use the conflicting interests of member states to the benefit of their own i.e. no “divide and rule” against the Global South. BRICS+ will challenge the old world order and put new alternatives. It seems that

BRICS+ relies more on soft power than hard power to challenge the present world order which is based on more of hard power than soft power. Soft power includes a larger population, larger market, the use of other alternative currency, stronger multilateralism than unilateralism, natural resources and the like.

BRICS+ has also proven that developing countries have a lot of common agendas to work on. It is also showing that the IMF and World Bank are not the sole sources of funds. BRICS Development Bank can be a source of finance for big projects in the Global South. There is no arm-twisting like that of the IMF and World Bank that requests structural adjustments and other attached strings so as to provide finance.

BRICS+ will strengthen a multipolar world that can counterbalance the unnecessary pressure from hegemonic powers. A multipolar world is more advantageous to developing countries than developed countries that have the leverage to use unilateral decisions on other weak countries. BRICS+ is not to challenge the global north but to complement the gaps and interests of developing countries. It can work with the Global North on common issues including global peace and security, climate change, human rights, sustainable development and democracy. Thus BRICS+ is not creating the replica of the “Warsaw Pact” as a contending power to NATO and Global North. Rather it helps to transform the world order from confrontation to cooperation.

BRICS+ is developing a new system that can shape the current global order which is dominated by the Global North. BRICS has life to develop from time to time (from BRIC to BRICS then to BRICS+6 and it will continue). Membership is not cut and dried like that of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. This shows that the world is moving from veto to motto of partnership and cooperation.

Unlike the veto power of the United Nations system, BRICS+ will work on equal footing with member states. It has also affirmed about “mutual respect and understanding, sovereign equality, solidarity, democracy, openness, inclusiveness, strengthened collaboration and consensus”. The theme of the 15th

Summit of BRICS has shown sympathy to Africa and other developing countries. It is based on neither political ideology (such as socialism and capitalism) nor religious sects (Sunni, Shia, and denominations of Christianity). Thus ideology and religion are not determinant factors to create partnership under the BRICS+ grouping.

Similar to a football team, the number of BRICS+ is eleven. Both need strong teamwork to be successful. Each member and player contributes to the success of the team. The weakness of one member will affect the entire team. Eleven members of BRICS+ play together for a shared goal or purpose i.e. economic prosperity, peace, and security. Success means winning the game. When the need arise they can change their strategies and tactics to be winner. All members communicate to work effectively and efficiently. There must be trust among the members and to have autonomy in decision-making.

Before the enlargement, BRICS covered 30% of the world’s territory and 18% of global trade. As stated in the Declaration, BRICS countries produce “one-third of the world’s food”. Sources show that the additional six nations to BRICS have increased the coverage of the group concerning the world population from 42% to 46%, of global GDP from 23% to 36%.

In conclusion, BRICS+ will help to grow together and build trust among “unfriendly” member states. As Helen Keller forwarded the famous quote “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”. BRICS+ members have their own comparative and competitive advantages i.e. some have fuel, others have big population and markets, and others have important geopolitical positions, and others have technological advancement. BRICS+ will combine the advantages of each member for success of the group. Thus the eleven members of BRICS+ can play in their comparatively advantageous position for the same goal be it midfielder, striker, defender, or goalkeeper.

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# Business & Economy

## Nation's New Year economic outlook: Minimizing challenges, maximizing successes

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIRGIS

The government has set to push forward with the second phase of its home-grown economic reform agenda initiated by encouraging results from the initial phase implemented over the past three years.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) revealed during a briefing with parliament members on 06 July, 2023 that the next phase of reforms will commence soon. The objective of these reforms is to revive an economy impacted by both domestic and international conflicts. The announcement comes two weeks after the conclusion of consultations with the executive committee of the Development Assistance Group.

State Minister of Finance, Eyob Tekalign (PhD), recently announced that the newly introduced second phase of the home-grown economic development plan to be implemented in the next three years. The forthcoming macroeconomic reform will primarily focus on two aspects: halving the debt-to-GDP ratio and reducing inflation to below 30%. The previous reform agenda, initiated in 2019, aimed to maintain a stable macroeconomic environment, reduce debt burden, and limit inflation to a single digit. Yet, the current situation is far from the intended targets.

The other target of the first reform agenda was to uphold a stable exchange rate. However, achieving this in an environment with relatively high inflation remained challenging for the government. In recent years, the local currency, Birr, has experienced a consistent decline in value against major international currencies; particularly the scarcity of hard currency has driven the black-market value of a dollar to surpass 110 Birr. This substantial premium of over 100% marks a significant impact in the nation's economic history.

The Prime Minister, however, noted that this is beyond the government's control. The Reserve Bank's decision to raise interest rates in the United States of America in order to tackle inflation led to the appreciation of the Dollar in the global currency market, subsequently causing a significant depreciation of the local currency, Birr. According to the National Bank sources, the Ethiopian Birr has depreciated by nearly 40% against the US Dollar since January 2022.

On the other hand, the Minister of Planning and Development, Fitsum Assefa (PhD), recently announced that Ethiopia has registered 6.2% average growth during the last three years annually. She announced this during the Evaluation of the government's nine months performance and the implementation of the first phase of the homegrown economic reform program, and the preparation of the second phase. The second phase of the homegrown economic reform program will be implemented from 2024 to 2026.

According to the Minister, Ethiopia is the third largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa and its population will create great potential



for economic transformation. Fitsum pointed out that, the government has been successful in implementing the first phase of the 10-year perspective development plan during the past three years.

Despite natural and man-made challenges, Ethiopia's economy is doubled when compared to the average growth rate of 3.1% in sub-Saharan African countries, the Minister said.

Fitsum noted that the home-grown economic reform program has been facing major challenges such as COVID-19, drought, Russia-Ukraine war and the withdrawal of support from development partners. However, she pointed out that due to the measures taken by the government, an average growth of 6.2% has been recorded in the last three years. The Minister further explained that the progress has been made in many areas, especially in agriculture, services and manufacturing.

In the second phase of the home-grown economic reform program, three key pillars that focus on building a stable macroeconomy, creating a favorable investment and business environment have been identified. The home-grown economic reform program will also focus mainly on accelerating structural transformation of the economy, enhancing investment and savings, and stabilizing inflation and cost of living.

Tewodros Makonnen (PhD), a country economist at the International Growth Center (IGC) Ethiopia, argues that many of the tasks outlined in the reform agenda have remained incomplete due to the COVID-19 pandemic and internal conflicts in the country. "If these reforms had been fully implemented, the current macroeconomic situation would have been different," he remarked.

Over the past three years, Ethiopia has seen some improvements in its debt stress status measured by the debt-to-GDP ratio. According to the Prime Minister's previous report, in June 2021, both external and domestic debt accounted for about 51% of the GDP. By March 31, 2023, this figure had dropped to 38.8%. However, such progress

was insufficient to change the country's debt stress rating from high risk to moderate risk.

In early 2021, the government sought debt restructuring under the Group 20's Common Framework—a plan targeted at restructuring government debt in low-income countries. However, progress was hindered by a two-year civil war that erupted in November 2020, and ongoing discussions with development partners have yet to reach a conclusive outcome. Sources close to the matter have disclosed that the government is presently seeking approximately three billion Dollar in assistance from the IMF and the World Bank.

The spokesperson of IMF, Julie Kozack explained two months ago that there were clear commitments from development partners and financing assurances from creditors under the G20 common framework to finance any program.

Addressing concerns about inflation, the Prime Minister acknowledged that it remains a significant issue for policymakers and the general public. He described it as "spreading like a pandemic," despite the government's extensive efforts to curb it. Three years ago, when the reform was launched, the administration aimed to bring inflation below the single-digit mark. However, the results have fallen short of this target, with some initial improvements observed.

During his most recent appearance before lawmakers, Prime Minister Abiy stressed that limiting the money supply will be a key priority for the government over the next three years. He emphasized that slowing down inflation has been challenging, given the current global environment of rising prices.

According to official reports, the government has allocated close to 100 billion Birr this year to subsidize fertilizer and fuel as part of efforts to stabilize inflation.

Limiting the money supply will be a key priority for the government over the next three years, aimed at tackling inflation. Notably, the budget for the upcoming year shows a mere two percent increase

compared to the previous year.

Limiting the money supply also means depending on financial resources mobilized from the economy, mainly in the form of taxes. In the last 11 months, 365 billion Birr was collected from taxes, representing a 20% increase compared to the same period last year. However, according to the Ministry of Finance, the tax income collected falls short of its potential, with the tax-to-GDP ratio declining in recent years from 10.7% to 7.1% last year, and below the sub-Saharan African average of 16%.

But the poor tax performance didn't outdo the economic growth. According to Eyob, it is growing "phenomenally." To fully comprehend this, he emphasized the importance of evaluating achievements on a global and regional scale.

Sub-Saharan Africa's growth was also projected to sharply slow to 3.6% in 2022, before increasing to 3.7% in 2023 and rebounding to 4.2% in 2024. In light of this global trend, Ethiopia's GDP growth, which is forecasted to remain around six percent in the next two years, is unquestionably exceptional. However, this is not enough for the current administration. As to Eyob, the government has aimed to reach an even higher annual growth rate of 7.1% in the coming years.

Some of his claims such as the expectation of the industry sector growing by 8.2% this year do not align with the reality on the ground. Over the past three years, many large and medium-scale manufacturing industries have either drastically reduced production or completely shut down, mostly due to a scarcity of raw materials caused by foreign currency shortages in the country and conflicts in different parts, including the Northern Ethiopian war.

In 2022, Melaku alebel, the Minister of Industry reported that over 246 industries had halted operations due to the war. The government responded by launching a nationwide campaign called "Ethiopia Tamerit" (roughly translated as "Let Ethiopia Produce"), resulting in the revival of over 160 industries. The industry sector currently makes for 28% of the GDP.



# Law & Politics

## Major successes of the ending Ethiopian year

BY HENOK TADELE HAILE

On September 11, Ethiopians celebrate New Year. While the world is in 2023 Ethiopians will enter 2016. The ending year was a pivotal moment for Ethiopia as momentous events highlighted the year. Unlike the previous one it was a year of major blessings. Some of the major successes include Ethiopia's transition from major wheat importer to exporter, the Pretoria Peace deal, the diplomatic breakthroughs following that agreement and of course BRICS membership. The biggest of all is the last stage of GERD filling.

### Ethiopia's wheat miracle

For decades, Ethiopia relied heavily on imported wheat to meet domestic needs, costing the country up to \$1 billion annually. However, a historic transformation has taken place in recent years under the Prime Minister's Wheat Production Initiative launched in 2018. This ending Ethiopian year, the strategic effort has enabled Ethiopia to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat production and emerge as an exporter for the first time.

This year, Ethiopia reaped a bumper wheat harvest of over 150 million quintals, the largest yield since the initiative began. This massive output exceeds Ethiopia's annual domestic wheat needs of around 97 million quintals. Over 108 million quintals were harvested during the main rainy season, with efforts ongoing to produce another 45 million quintals through irrigation by July.

The expanded wheat farming into new areas along with enhanced productivity is credited for the record yields. While wheat farming has traditionally centered in highland regions and relied on rain-fed smallholder farms, the government is now promoting irrigation-based wheat cultivation in arid lowlands to further boost production.

For a country that used to be one of the largest wheat importers worldwide, Ethiopia has now achieved the remarkable accomplishment of not just self-sufficiency, but having a surplus for exports. The Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration estimates that over one million quintals of wheat have already been exported, without impacting local prices or demand.

Experts emphasize that Ethiopia has potential for even higher yields and production volumes. The massive wheat harvest this year highlights the success of the Wheat Production Initiative in securing food stability. With continued efforts to modernize farming methods and expand wheat acreage, Ethiopia is poised to consolidate its position as an emerging wheat exporter, in the new Ethiopian year.

### Signing of peace deal

The signing of the peace agreement between the government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) in Pretoria, South Africa, was also one of the major breakthroughs of the year.

The deal concludes over two years of conflict in northern Ethiopia. It reiterates respect for Ethiopia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and constitution, while providing for TPLF disarmament and reintegration.

The signing of the peace agreement presented opportunities as Ethiopia emerged to rebuild its economy and investor confidence. While past divisions damaged Ethiopia's reputation with cautious businesses overseas, renewed stability can help attract foreign capital again.



For investors, doubts may still linger like receding storm clouds after the winds of war. But prudent governance, transparency and bold outreach can rebuild trust in Ethiopia's immense potential.

### Ethiopia's diplomatic renaissance

The November 2022 peace agreement between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) has sparked a dramatic revival of Ethiopia's diplomatic standing.

The 21-month civil war had damaged infrastructure, displaced millions, pushed many into poverty, and strained diplomatic ties as international allies watched uneasily. Recovery will require years of work.

However, the landmark peace deal has led to renewed global engagement. High-level delegations from the US, China, Japan, Europe and beyond have visited Ethiopia, meeting with Prime Minister Abiy to build closer ties and signal restored credibility.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to mend relations was highly symbolic despite past tensions. He praised Ethiopia's peace progress and both sides agreed to fortify ties.

In a similar show of support, China's new Foreign Minister chose Ethiopia for his first overseas trip. This highlighted China's steadfast support, endorsement of the peace process, and desire for expanded economic opportunities.

Beyond the US and China, Ethiopia has repaired damaged relations with numerous influential countries that have applauded the deal and reaffirmed backing for Ethiopia's government.

This revived international engagement shows how the peace agreement has opened new diplomatic avenues, facilitating Ethiopia's welcome back into the global community.

Moving forward, continued ally involvement will be indispensable as Ethiopia pursues lasting stability and prosperity through national rebuilding and reconciliation.

Alongside mending political ties, Ethiopia has pursued economic diplomacy to attract foreign investment, aid, trade, and infrastructure funding. Partners like China, the UAE, Turkey, Russia, and the World Bank seek to support Ethiopia's growth into a regional economic powerhouse.

In summary, the landmark TPLF peace deal has sparked a dramatic revival of Ethiopia's global diplomatic standing. Renewed political and economic engagement paves the path for national rebuilding as Ethiopia emerges from conflict.

### Ethiopia joining of BRICS Bloc

In a groundbreaking development, Ethiopia was welcomed as the newest member of the BRICS

bloc at the grouping's annual summit held in Johannesburg.

BRICS, comprising leading emerging economies Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, endorsed Ethiopia's admission into the bloc, signaling the strategically located African nation's growing prominence.

Addressing the summit, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed hailed the country's BRICS membership as a "victory achieved through many struggles," thanking the BRICS countries for their support.

Highlighting Ethiopia's credentials, Abiy pointed to its large, youthful demography and massive infrastructure investments aimed at enhancing regional integration.

Analysts predict Ethiopia's BRICS membership will bring immense opportunities like foreign investment, trade and financing. However, Ethiopia will need to undertake reforms to fully capitalize on the benefits.

With its strategic location, rapidly growing economy, and championing of African interests, Ethiopia brings substantial value to BRICS. The historic summit cements Ethiopia's position as a rising strategic power.

### GERD fourth round filling

The completion of the fourth and final round of filling for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) represents a major milestone for Ethiopia. The dam is seen as a powerful symbol of Ethiopia's sovereignty, self-reliance, and determination to achieve its development goals.

When fully operational, the GERD is expected to generate over 15,000 GWh of electricity annually, doubling Ethiopia's electricity generation capacity. This will allow Ethiopia to become a major exporter of power in the region.

"I am very happy to announce that the fourth and final filling of the Renaissance Dam has been completed successfully," said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed after the final round of filling was finished.

"God has helped us Ethiopians by working together. Congratulations to all who participated in this project with their money, knowledge, energy and prayers," the Prime Minister added.

He emphasized that the unity displayed on the GERD should be replicated when tackling other national issues.

The successful completion of the dam, despite numerous internal and external challenges, is a testament to Ethiopia's resolve. While an important milestone has been reached, the journey is not yet over.

"We have more plans to fulfill and more hills to

climb. With God's help and the continued support of our people, I believe we will achieve our goals," stated the Prime Minister.

Here are some of the reasons this achievement is so meaningful for Ethiopians:

It demonstrates Ethiopia's self-reliance, having been built entirely by its own people without foreign assistance.

It is expected to spur massive economic growth by providing electricity and irrigation.

It offers a solution to droughts and famines by storing water.

It strengthens Ethiopia's regional leadership in energy production.

Ethiopians from all backgrounds donated funds and volunteered labor to support the GERD's construction. For many, its completion is a historic moment demonstrating national unity and pride.

### Green Legacy

The Ethiopia Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) has been an extraordinary success. Launched in 2019 with the ambitious goal of planting 20 billion trees in four years, Ethiopia has now planted over 25 billion trees, surpassing expectations. Over 6.5 billion tree seedlings were planted this year alone.

The GLI has successfully mobilized the Ethiopian public, with millions participating across the country, including officials, students, teachers, and local communities. Businesses and organizations have also provided vital support.

The impacts have been profoundly positive. Degraded lands are being restored, soil quality and moisture improved, erosion reduced, and climate change mitigated.

Praised by the UN Secretary-General as a "remarkable achievement" and a "model for the world," the GLI has inspired other countries to pursue their own ambitious tree planting programs.

Challenges remain, like ensuring planted trees survive at the claimed 80% rate and are located in suitable areas, not farmlands. However, the GLI represents a monumental accomplishment for Ethiopia and demonstrates the power of mobilizing the public to address environmental crises head-on. It offers hope and sets an example for the world.

### Summary

The ending Ethiopian year saw monumental successes like the peace deal, wheat self-sufficiency, and BRICS membership. These achievements paved the way for stability, prosperity and global prominence. With continued prudent governance and unity of purpose, Ethiopia is poised to realize its immense potential.



# Society

## BRICS memberships shows Ethiopia's strategic importance, growing influence

BY JANDYR FERREIRA DOS SANTOS  
(Ambassador of Brazil to Ethiopia)

As we usher in a new year, it is with great pleasure that the Embassy of Brazil in Addis Ababa extend its warm greetings and best wishes to the Ethiopian people. As we take a moment to reflect on the past year, we find many reasons to celebrate. The friendship between Brazil and Ethiopia continued to deepen, and our two nations have made significant progress in our shared pursuit of prosperity and development.

I would particularly like to celebrate the future accession of Ethiopia to the BRICS, which is going to be formalized four months from now, as recently announced in South Africa. It is a shared victory by the government and people of Ethiopia, and a testament to the strategic importance and growing influence of Ethiopia in the international community. No accession of African countries to the BRICS could fail to give due recognition to Ethiopia, one of the largest and most dynamic countries in the continent, which is why President Luiz



Inácio Lula da Silva gave his full support to the Ethiopian candidacy.

For many years, Brazil and Ethiopia have worked together to strengthen our partnership and promote cooperation in various fields, such as political ties, trade, investment, aviation and cooperation

for development. The successes we have achieved together have laid the foundation for further cooperation and progress in the years to come. That is why we see Ethiopia's future role in the BRICS as an opportunity to deepen our partnership further, as we explore new avenues for

collaboration and mutual support. We are confident that we will continue to build on the achievements of the past.

At this important juncture in Ethiopia's history, we would also like to commend the resilience and determination of the Ethiopian people, who have shown remarkable strength through challenging times. We recognize Ethiopia's progress in addressing social, economic and security issues, and we stand ready to support Ethiopia in its development journey.

As we celebrate the Ethiopian New Year, let it remind us of the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead and of the symbolic power of fresh starts. Let it encourage us to continue to work together, to deepen our partnerships, and to build bridges of friendship and cooperation between our peoples. Together, we can work towards a shared vision of a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future.

መልካም አዲስ ዓመት አዲሱ አመት የሰላም፣ የስኬት እና የብልፅግና እንዲሆን አመኛለሁ።

[Happy New Year. I wish the new year to be a year of peace, success, and prosperity.]

## Happy Ethiopian New Year!

BY STAFF REPORTER

When the rainy season is concluded and the Ethiopian New Year *Enkutatash* festival is already upon us, it is common to hear '*Abebayehosh*' song, performed by young girls.

ሆ ብለን መጣን ሆ ብለን ጌቶች አሉ ብለን

ሆ ብለን መጣን ሆ ብለን እጭቴ አሉ ብለን

አበባየሆሽ - ለምለም አበባየሆሽ - ለምለም

ባልንጅሮቼ - ለምለም; ቁሙ በተራ - ለምለም

እንጨት ሰብሬ - ለምለም ቤት እስከሰራ - ለምለም to mean

We came on purpose, thinking that the master is there

We came on purpose, thinking that the Mistress is there

Abebayehosh lemlen abebayehosh lemlen

The beginning of a New Year is a time that people try to visualize what happened in their past and welcome the coming year with a renewed hope, perseverance and positive vibe; hoping the New Year to be a year in which all their aspirations and ambitions become a reality.

And today, Ethiopians are celebrating the first day of their New Year

(Meskerem 1, 2016) warmly and colorfully.

Hoping that the New Year to be a time for a new beginning in which the challenges and inconveniences that they encountered in the previous years to be concluded, filled with the optimistic spirit they are marking *Enkutatash* (Meskerem 1, Ethiopian New Year) in high spirits and fortitudes.

The Ethiopian New Year has a history that goes back to the days of Queen Sheba. According to historical accounts, the name *Enkutatash* itself is derived from a story of Queen Sheba's return to Ethiopia after she paid a visit to Israelite King, Solomon in 98 BC in pursuit of wisdom in Jerusalem.

During her visit, Queen Sheba loaded camels with perfume, a lot of gold and special gifts that were not found in Jerusalem as gifts to King Solomon and upon her return to Ethiopia, the queen was showered with bounties of jewels "*Enku*". And the name *Enkutatash* derived from the gifts given to her- '*Enku*' means 'Jewels' and *le-tatash* means for your finger.

Thus, Ethiopians called the New Year "*Enkutatash*" because the period the queen arrived back to Ethiopia coincided with the New Year's

celebration in September.

In Ethiopia, *Meskerem* is a month Ethiopians bid farewell to the three months of the rainy season and welcome the new bright sunny season. And, when the fields, mountains and valleys are covered by daisy flowers or (Meskel flowers, or *Adey Abeba*) that marks the end of the heavy rainy season and the beginning of the sunny, bright season started, they mark their New Year, *Enkutatash*.

A week or two earlier than the actual day, several preparations are made to receive the New Year. People, depending on their means, will shop what is necessary to celebrate the holiday. Women prepare food and drink, bake bread, and cook Doro Wat. Young girls, adorned by cultural attires and beating a drum, move to each house in a neighborhood and perform '*Abebayehosh*' song. One of the girls chosen by the team, lead the verses of song and the rest accompany her by repeating the verse used throughout a song, in their songs, they praise and appreciate the owner of the house. In return, they receive gifts, such as money, and blessings from the elders. And once they receive the gifts, they will praise again the head of the house and leave. The song continues even on the actual day, *Enkutatash*.

On the eve of the New Year, when the sun sets and gets dark, families and neighbors gather in a communal place, usually in front of their houses, to light '*chibo*' (bonfire) that is prepared by young boys. According to documents, the '*chibo*' symbolizes the coming of the bright new season and the conclusion of the rainy season.

Everyone, regardless of any difference including elderly and children take part in the ceremony. Young boys and girls sing and dance around the fire joyfully and express their delight for the reason the three months of the foggy, rainy and cold season concluded and *Meskerem* arrives with its sunny and bright weather.

All deliver best wishes to one another; and at the end of the event, elders give their blessings- the New Year to be a blissful and successful year, to bring warmth of love, happiness, prosperity for all.

The New Year's Day starts with brewing coffee, cutting baked bread, eating and drinking with neighbors. The whole family would wear new clothes to symbolize the start that the New Year brings. And the whole day is marked by visiting families, relatives, neighbors, by expressing best wishes and enjoying the day.





# News

## Authority finalizes drafting several directives, regulations

• *Concludes Central Securities Depository system procurement*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian Capital Market Authority (ECMA) finalized drafting of several directives and regulations to ease licensing marketers.

The new directive is expected to address the major constraints that face emerging companies to invest in public offering, he said.

ECMA Director-General Brook Taye (PhD) told The Ethiopian Herald that ECMA is ready to unveil the new directive for public consultation in the next few weeks to receive comments.

The directive is aimed at formulating a strong framework that encourages the formation of new public companies. The draft directive requires a disclosure of all necessary information to the investor based on a market survey, according to the Director-General.

Finalizing the draft preparation, the Authority only left with the task of undertaking manual activities and correcting procedures, he said.

In addition, the Authority has also concluded the procurement of a central securities depository system that allows efficient issues and depository work of corporate and government securities, he added.



He expressed that Ethiopia would launch its first official securities exchange this Ethiopian fiscal year. Bond markets are powerful tools that facilitate government's fiscal policy and monetary policy development.

This market, as to Brook, also allows managing the national debt more effectively by extending the maturity profile of debt thereby reducing the re-financing risks.

This in turn, he said, contributes to price stability and the overall economic growth. A well regulated and a deep capital market is a good entry point for international investors with an appetite for emerging market investment opportunities. The effort would advance economic growth and investment as well as reduce dependency on traditional economic sources, he noted.

## Ethiopia, China bolstering ties

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

ADDIS ABABA –Ethiopia and China's ancient civilizations and cultural resources could serve as gear changing inputs to leapfrog the bilateral ties.

China and Ethiopia share astonishing history and diverse culture so that the two can utilize these potentials to bolster their current bilateral ties, so said Shen Qinmin, Charge de Affair of Chinese Embassy to Ethiopia.

He noted that the two countries are great ancient civilizations so that they have much in common to share, contribute and also push forward.

The Deputy Chief on Saturday opened the first Chinese theatrical performance in Addis Ababa since the occurrence of coronavirus pandemic.

President Xi Jinping personally proposed the Global Civilization Initiative and this artistic performance is the vivid example of the initiative because it is a symbol of people-to-people cultural exchange between the two nations, he stated.

"This is the first cultural performance staged in Ethiopia after coronavirus pandemic and I believe its contribution to the two countries cultural exchange is immense," Shen said.

Traditional opera is very popular in China just like the modern operas, he said while describing the event as a rare opportunity to see and appreciate classical traditional Chinese opera.

The enhancement of the brotherhood and cordial friendship between Ethiopia and China has been bolstering through time and the recent meeting of the leaders of the two nations in



South Africa was helped to showcase this reality, the Deputy Chief said.

"I would like to congratulate Ethiopia to join the BRICS countries. I am so proud of Ethiopia. I hope we will have more profound exchanges with Ethiopia in various areas," he noted.

Ethiopia and China have enjoyed lingering diplomatic relations for more than have a century in which the recent entry of Ethiopia into the BRICS bloc is just an extension of the bilateral relations between the two nations, stated Manyazewal Endeshaw, General Manager of Ethiopian National Theatre, in his welcoming speech on the Saturday event.

This relation played a significant role in promoting economic, political and international cooperation as well as people-to-people exchanges, he added.

Prime Minister Abiy's announcement of supporting the initiatives proposed by President Xi including the global development, security and global civilization initiative proves that the relation between Ethiopia and China is becoming stronger, Manyazewal stated.

Last Saturday, Chinese artists from Zhejiang Wu Opera Research Center have presented traditional Chinese opera and musical theatre performances at the Ethiopian National Theatre in the presence of ambassadors and distinguished guests.

## Congratulatory messages...

(From Japan Ambassador)

Center for Business and Industry (TICAD-HRD), a Japan grant aid project in Addis Ababa, will open in October, and is expected to function as a human resource development hub where people not only in Ethiopia but also from all over Africa will come to learn KAIZEN (continuous improvement) for their business development.

EC 2015 also witnessed last November the conclusion of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA), which ended the two-year-old conflict in northern Ethiopia, followed by the ceasefire monitored by the AU MVC Mission. When Japan hosted the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May, the G7 Leaders welcomed the positive developments stemming from the CoHA and called on its full implementation. I visited Mekelle at the time of the launching of the AU MVC Mission, and again in June to observe the extensive damage caused by the conflicts in Tigray and Afar. Japan has already provided USD 8.1 million in support of the rehabilita-

tion of school facilities and will continue its support, together with relevant international organizations, towards the reconstruction and rehabilitation not just in the north but also in other parts of Ethiopia.

In May, I visited Borena and witnessed the magnitude of the need for humanitarian assistance after the severe droughts and floods. There I was deeply moved by the words of an IDP: "Please help us to help ourselves". The current State of Emergency in the Amhara Region is a serious concern and the peaceful settlement of the situation is strongly urged. The National Dialogue is expected to start its work this year, and with its hope that the process will be truly inclusive, Japan has contributed USD 3 million in support of the National Dialogue Commission. A lot of preparatory work has also been done for starting the transitional justice process in line with international standards. It is our high hope that these undertakings starting this year will bring the Ethiopian

people together, consolidate peace and stipulate reconciliation and nation building.

Ethiopia has been resilient even in the face of these multiple crises. While Japan has provided various support for the resolution of conflicts, droughts, floods and global food inflation, it will continue to work together with the Ethiopian people in their efforts towards peace and development, in line with the recently revised ODA Charter of Japan.

Now that Covid-19 has subsided, people-to-people exchanges will be revitalized in the coming year. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) has also returned to Ethiopia as well. In November, the Japan Day celebration and the Japan Film Festival are scheduled. We will showcase aspects of Japanese culture and tradition through various activities.

*I wish you all a very happy Ethiopian year 2016.*

## Congratulatory messages...

(From Israel Ambassador)

collaboration with hospitals throughout the country, including in Addis Ababa, Gondar, and Bahir Dar, among others. Israel medical delegations come to the country to help train and work with their Ethiopian counterparts. On these missions, the doctors share cutting-edge Israeli medical expertise.

In the private sector, Israel Aerospace Industries has signed an agreement with Ethiopian Airlines to convert passenger airplanes into cargo. So far, two passenger planes have been converted into cargo, with the third one on the way. They envision Addis Ababa becoming a global hub for airplane conversions, and are helping to make this vision a reality.

The above are but a small taste of the millennia-old, ongoing connection between Ethiopia and Israel. Let us take this opportunity to say thank you for the past, while looking forward to a peaceful, hopeful and prosperous future.

*Happy New Year!*

## Congratulatory messages...

(From Indian Ambassador)

In Ethiopia, we all look forward to this time of the year to celebrate the Ethiopian New Year followed by Meskel festivities. The country's landscape is also pleasantly dressed in the golden colors of the Adey Abeba flower.

Just like in India, Ethiopian people cherish their bonds with family, relatives and communities. Many Ethiopian people who live in different parts of the country go back to their families and communities to celebrate New Year & Meskel festivals. Families bond around the Chibo

fire sharing joys and sorrows and pray for wellbeing of family and country. I echo the universal prayer on the lips of every Ethiopian - for peace, unity and country's development.

There are about 5000 Indian nationals

who have made Ethiopia their home – investors, businessmen, educators, and social workers. We enthusiastically celebrate all Ethiopian festivals. On behalf of them, I wish all of you a prosperous New Year and joyous Meskel celebrations.



# News

## Ethiotelecom launches 5G commercial service

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**-Ethio telecom launched the fifth generation (5G) mobile network service in Addis Ababa thereby supporting the socio-economic development and overall progress of the nation.

In her opening remark at the launching ceremony, ethio telecom CEO, Frehiwot Tamiru said that the 5G mobile network has been launched in 145 locations of Addis Ababa. This follows the pre-commercial 5G mobile technology trial service in Addis Ababa and Adama cities.

The company's commercialization of 5G service will enable the society to obtain best-in-class digital solutions, improve their experience as well as offer unlimited 5G data, 5G to the home, and a variety of 5G mobile packages to all customers and offers the fastest speeds (up to 10 Gbps), low latency, and massive communication capability (up to 1 million connections within 1 km<sup>2</sup>), as to her.



Frehiwot added that the company has continuously introduced the latest technologies to support Ethiopia's socio-economic development, play an enabling role in the overall progress of the nation by deploying the latest technologies and providing digital solutions to positively impact the day-to-day life and business activities to our society.

She said: "It will also play a paramount role in satisfying business customers, enhancing their productivity and efficiency, generating

new revenues with next-generation applications, improving operations with real-time analytics, adapting quickly to changes in business dynamics, and delivering secure and fast access to mission-critical data."

She further stated that the 5G service has tremendous significance for smart home, health services, smart agriculture, education, industry, manufacturing, smart airports and travel services, smart transportation, digital shopping, broadcasting and entertainment, as well as cloud-based 5G gaming.

## Arab guests at G20 summit put Global South center stage

It is often hard to find consensus across large diplomatic groups, and the G20 is no exception. However, the members of this group of the world's 20 largest economies, though often lacking in commonalities, do together drive the world economy. Very much a creation of the 21st century, the G20 club of countries rose in importance after the 2008 financial crisis.

The group's growth in prominence provides a forceful addition to the role of the post-Second World War Bretton Woods institutions, which are less reflective of the balance of power in the world today. India's invitations to the UAE, Oman and Egypt to attend this weekend's summit, alongside members Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, put the Middle East at the forefront of the considerations of the Global South, following years of a perceived American disengagement from the region.

A fortnight after an unprecedentedly large BRICS meeting that saw the admission of the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Iran to the club of large developing economies, the G20 this weekend reinforced the trend that rapidly growing economies from the developing world seek to restructure the international system based on their disenchantment with the postwar global order.

The COVID-19 pandemic created major economic inequalities and exposed the unbalanced nature of an international system that is increasingly perceived to ignore the interests of the developing world. With the growing clout of these nations allowing them to increasingly promote their vision of the world, especially their own conditions for trading in the global economy, it is little

surprise that India is using its G20 moment to reinforce these arguments.

Since 2004, when Canada surpassed Saudi Arabia as the largest single oil exporter to the US, the Middle East region has gradually strayed from the focus of US policymakers. Though the US remains a major trading partner of Saudi Arabia, the latter's trade with China is almost double.

A surge in oil and gas exports from the UAE to China also makes Beijing its largest trading partner. Significant and importantly growing trade with India, Egypt, Pakistan and Turkiye, among others, highlight the increased importance of South-South trade and thereby the efforts of BRICS and India to integrate new actors.

Though Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman and Egypt have different levels of development, they are united in their strategic importance and indeed their potential for growth. Despite their position as energy producers, they will also play a role in the future of energy.

Oman and Saudi Arabia will play a role in hydrogen production and Egypt will be a significant producer of the "transitional fuel" of gas during the global energy shift that will inevitably take place. Together occupying the Suez Canal and the straits of Hormuz and Bab Al-Mandab, these countries are integral to global supply chains and ripe for a project akin to the International North-South Transport Corridor that connects India, Iran and Russia.

It is little surprise, therefore, that central to India's outreach to Western Asian nations for the G20 summit is transport. Aside from

New Delhi's increased foreign policy focus on the future centers of global trade through the auspices of the G20, it has already been building its ties in the Middle East.

The UAE's first ever comprehensive economic partnership agreement was signed with India in February last year. A dirham-rupee trade agreement has also come into force to encourage increased bilateral trade between the UAE and India, with a target of \$100 billion in non-oil trade by 2030.

Alongside the strategic partnership that exists with Saudi Arabia, India has sought to expand its ties with the Kingdom beyond oil, focusing on the growing digital and innovation economy.

A rail and port infrastructure deal that would better connect the Middle East with India, though endorsed by the US under its "Partnership for Cooperation," is very much indicative of India's growing clout. The plans for a far-reaching, multinational ports and railways deal are a direct counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative global infrastructure network, which also has the Middle East in its sights.

Though President Vladimir Putin's continued absence from the G20 is significant, as British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak stated, he is "the architect of his own diplomatic exile."

Looking ahead, Arab nations must make sure that an apparent great-power vacuum does not force them to impossibly straddle the growing global geopolitical divide.

Source: Arab News

## Ethiopian Airlines Enhances Cargo Service in Mexico with Move to Felipe Ángeles International Airport

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services, the largest cargo network operator in Africa, has relocated its operations from Mexico City Airport (MEX) to the newly inaugurated Felipe Ángeles International Airport (NLU).

Effective September 2, 2023, this shift signifies a new era for Ethiopian Airlines in Mexico becoming the latest carrier to switch freighter flights to New Mexico City Airport

Mesfin Tasew, the CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group, expressed their commitment to excellence, stating, "Our relocation to the Felipe Ángeles International Airport brings with it a state-of-the-art cargo terminal equipped with cutting-edge technology and modern facilities. This upgrade underscores our dedication to efficiency and service excellence, allowing us to provide an elevated level of services to our valued customers."

Ethiopian Airlines plays a pivotal role in establishing trade routes connecting Mexico to the rest of the world and vice versa. With its modern freighter aircraft, the B777-200F, Ethiopian Airlines operates in five cities in the Americas: Mexico City, Bogota, Santiago, Sao Paulo, and Miami. Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services, a key unit within the Ethiopian Airlines Group, covers more than 130 international destinations globally, offering both belly hold capacity and 67 dedicated Freighter services.

The Mexican government's decree to relocate freighter operations from Mexico City International Airport (MEX) to Felipe Ángeles International Airport (NLU) aims to reduce congestion at the crowded MEX hub. Several cargo operators, including DHL Express and United Parcel Service, have already made the move to NLU, a former military base converted for commercial operations.

Ethiopian Airlines has been serving Mexico City for over six years, operating twice a week using their B777F fleet, which has the capacity to handle 100 tons per flight. The airline will continue to serve Felipe Ángeles International Airport, mirroring its previous operations to MEX.

Source: Airspace-Africa

## Morocco/Earthquake: India, AU, Paris, WB, IMF & EU Express Solidarity & Pledge Financial Support

BY STAFF REPORTER

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chair of the African Union & Pdt. of the Comoros Azali Assoumani, President of France Emmanuel Macron, World Bank Chief Ajay Banga, IMF Managing Director Ms. Kristalina Georgieva and Head of European Commission Ms. Ursula von der Leyen have expressed "full solidarity

with the Moroccan authorities and people" following the deadly powerful quake that hit the North African Kingdom on September 9.

In their joint solidarity statement issued Sunday on the sidelines of G20 Summit held in India, they said "we offer our condolences to the families of the victims" and "express our willingness to support Morocco in the best

possible way."

"We have been and continue to be committed partners of Morocco, supporting the authorities' as they have built an inclusive and resilient economy with strong institutions," said the joint statement.

"With all our international partners, we stand by Morocco to provide all the necessary

support for any urgent short term financial needs and for the reconstruction efforts," added the statement.

"We will mobilize our technical and financial tools and assistance in a coordinated way to help the people of Morocco overcome this terrible tragedy," underlined the statement.

Source: North Africa Post



# International

## Stop calling people ‘climate refugees’

- *We need to recognise the diversity of ways climate impacts influence people’s movements, not reduce*

By Kalia Ruth Barkai

Despite the rejection of the term “climate refugee” by the United Nations refugee agency, and the International Organization on Migration, the term persists in popular media. On Wednesday, the phrase was even added to Dictionary.com.

At first glance, the growing informal use of the term might look like a shift towards recognising and protecting populations displaced by the adverse impacts of climate change.

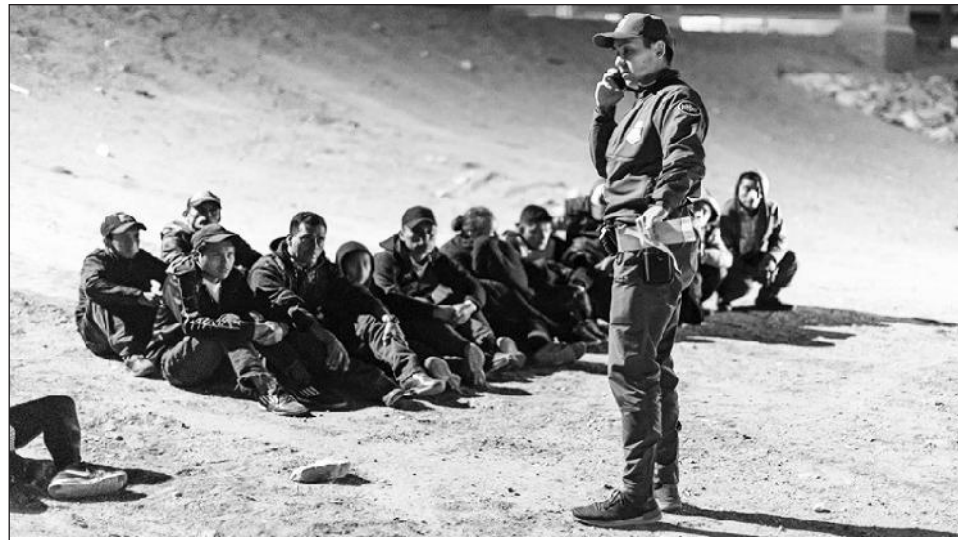
After all, there is growing evidence of displacement of people due to weather-related disasters. There were nearly 22 million internal displacements due to floods and storms in 2021.

Climate mobility also happens across borders. For example, citizens from the Marshall Islands have migrated to the United States due to the risk of sea level rise, and the increasing pressure of floods and droughts on their homes and livelihoods.

It’s increasingly clear that climate change stressors are leading to both voluntary and forced displacement.

So why shouldn’t the term “refugee” be extended to such populations, leveraging its historical precedence to grant vulnerable populations with international protection?

While its growing popularity might have good intentions behind it, the term is unable to capture the diversity of experiences of those on the move due to climate change, which can lead to more exclusive policies.



Why does language matter?

In international law, labels serve to standardise policies and thereby become instrumental tools. The United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention was drafted in response to the Holocaust with the aim of ensuring international protections for populations being persecuted.

A policy decides not only who deserves protection, but also by extension who doesn’t. The term “climate refugee” implies that populations displaced by climate change are protected by the Refugee Convention. They are not. Experiencing environmental changes does not fall under the ambit of persecution.

Perhaps it is time to expand our definition of “refugee” to include these vulnerable populations?

But opening up the Refugee Convention risks weakening the protections it does offer.

Especially with the growing antagonism against immigrant and refugee populations, both in society and in planned policies that leverage security concerns to tighten up border control.

Labels and their definitions create a common language and understanding of issues. However, they are not immune to these changing attitudes in societies.

Unfortunately, “refugee” is increasingly being used to describe people as either victims with little agency or as security threats.

It’s for similar reasons that some people from Tuvalu, an island nation threatened by sea level rise, reject the term “climate refugee”.

Attributing climate change to human mobility Dictionary.com now defines a “climate refugee” as “a person who has had to flee their

home due to the negative effects of climate change”.

Climate change, unfortunately, has many negative effects. It might be clear that those fleeing an extreme weather event, such as storms or flooding, require emergency protections.

Here, it’s easy to attribute the cause of displacement to climate change. But the task is more difficult when the impact develops over time, for example when droughts lead to land degradation and the loss of economic opportunities.

Climate change is also a threat multiplier, meaning it exacerbates existing vulnerabilities. The decision to leave one’s home is usually based on multiple factors.

At what point can we say climate change is the driving factor of displacement? And if moving is only partially motivated by climate change, does that mean the people affected are not deserving of safe migration routes and protection?

Rather than try to reduce the experience of climate mobility into one, provocative, label, we need discussions and international policies capable of creating comprehensive labels that recognise the diversity of experiences and address the context-specific needs of people on the move due to climate change.

Kalia Ruth Barkai is a German Chancellor Fellow from South Africa, based at the University of Potsdam.

Source: *Climate change news*

## ENEC signs MoU with ORLEN Synthos Green Energy to advance Small Modular Reactors

BY STAFF REPORTER

The Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) and ORLEN Synthos Green Energy (OSGE) have announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support the decarbonisation of the Polish and European power sector and industry, by looking into opportunities to invest in Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

ENEC’s expertise, through building and operating the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, is supporting the growth of nuclear energy as a source of abundant clean electricity to tackle the dual challenges of energy security and climate change.

The MoU aims to provide both parties with an enabling framework for developing SMRs based on GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy’s BWRX-300 SMR technology in Poland and the United Kingdom, as well as within Central and Eastern Europe to create new clean energy capacity for meeting the growing demand for electricity. The framework agreement was signed by Mohamed Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Managing Director & CEO, ENEC and Rafał Kasprów, CEO, ORLEN Synthos Green Energy, during the World

Nuclear Symposium 2023 in London, U.K.

Nuclear energy is recognised by both the UAE and Poland as an essential clean energy resource in safeguarding the stability of the energy sector. OSGE seeks to build a nuclear organisation that can meet energy sector challenges, by the increased use of advanced nuclear technologies, such as fourth generation SMRs.

Al Hammadi said, “This MoU sets the stage for our plans to accelerate nuclear adoption globally and lend our expertise in advancing the clean energy transition towards achieving Net Zero. The development of the Barakah Plant in the UAE is a catalyst for innovation and R&D in new areas, including SMRs which, we are currently exploring as part of our future growth opportunities, alongside other next-generation technologies. Globally, there is an urgent need to ramp up nuclear capacity if we are to meet climate goals. We look forward to working with ORLEN Synthos Green Energy to support decarbonisation in Poland and other parts of Europe.”

ENEC and OSGE will work together to identify specific areas of mutual

cooperation. ENEC will share the experience learned from the development of the Barakah Plant, its experience in building operational readiness, and stakeholder management, including building commercial frameworks with technology vendors and other contractors.

“A partnership with ENEC marks another milestone for ORLEN Synthos Green Energy. I am very excited that our programme to deploy a fleet of BWRX-300 reactors in Poland, CEE and UK is now being supported by such an excellent partner. ENEC brings unique experience in building nuclear power plants in accordance with the highest nuclear industry safety and quality standards, delivering projects on time and on budget. Furthermore, I am pleased that ENEC recognises the development of SMR’s as important for the future of nuclear energy. I truly believe that thanks to this cooperation, we are taking a significant step forward in the development of SMR’s worldwide,” said Rafał Kasprów.

Playing a significant role in the UAE’s clean energy transition, the Barakah Plant is now one unit away from full-fleet operations and realising ENEC’s commitment to accelerating

decarbonization of the power sector by generating up to 25 percent of the UAE’s electricity demand. Barakah provides significant environmental benefits for the nation today, and for the next 60 years and beyond, and this will be showcased at COP28 in November, which will be held in Dubai, UAE. The first multi-unit operating Plant in the Arab World, Barakah already generates more than 80 percent of Abu Dhabi Emirate’s clean electricity, whilst preventing millions of tons of carbon emissions.

OSGE aims to play an important role in the deep decarbonization process that Poland is facing. The company wants to deploy the first SMR in the country before the end of the decade, with the next units ready in the 2030’s. OSGE as a partner of GE-Hitachi, has exclusive rights to deploy BWRX-300 technology in Poland. To successfully implement the strategy of building SMR’s in Poland, OSGE is collaborating with companies from Canada – Ontario Power Generation (OPG), and from the U.S. – Tennessee Authority Valley (TVA), both of whom have also selected BWRX-300 technology.

Source: *emirates 247*



# Planet Earth

## The origin of eating *Feto* on the first day of Ethiopian New Year

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The cold winter season comes to an end around the beginning of the New Year when the fields, mountains, and valleys are blooming with flowers and the sun shines brightly through the clouds. People cherish new hopes and dreams in times of change of season.

In Ethiopia, there are various practices to farewell the old year and welcome the New Year. For New Year, some traditions and practices have been passed down from generation to generation in Ethiopia not only to make the present change and be bright, but also to make the future era of peace, love, and happiness, especially health.

Indeed, each nation has its customary way of ringing in the New Year. For instance, the Chinese, who live in the age of the tiger, burn bamboo and display red paper to ward off evil spirits at times of transition. They dress in crimson and light candles. To ensure prosperity in the future, Sri Lankans who follow the Sinhalese calendar of the Buddhist era boil milk and apply it to their foreheads with their priests.

People participate in or practice a wide variety of customs throughout the New Year. A lot of people take the start of a new year as an occasion to create resolutions and goals for that year. These objectives may pertain to your personal life, career, or health. These customs are optional, and each person has their special manner of ringing in the New Year. Doing what feels right for you and is in line with your values and objectives is what's most crucial.

Ethiopia is a gallery of numerous rituals and traditional activities that are followed to promote harmony, peace, optimism, and health among individuals, families, and the general public. Among others, Eating *Feto* or garden cress on an empty stomach is regarded as a traditional practice across the nation.

Eating *Feto* is an Ethiopian New Year Morning tradition. Garden cress (*Feto*) is consumed by everyone in the home on an empty stomach. The most crucial questions here are: Why do Ethiopians eat garden cress in the morning of the year and where does garden cress come from?

Generally speaking, the following ingredients are required to prepare garden cress (*Feto*): Garden cress seeds, ground to 1/2 tsp. Lemon/lime

juice, Enjera, and 1/4 cup water. They combine and consume two tablespoons (tbsp) on an empty stomach, and wait a few hours until they start to enjoy the special meal for the holiday.

Along with the health advantages, eating garden cress on an empty stomach symbolizes two things. The first one, regardless of place, ethnicity, educational status, religion, and so on, garden cress is recognized as an indigenous, herbal medicine. It is widely experienced in Ethiopia and plays an imperative role in the healthcare systems of the country. In many instances, people have acknowledged the value of *Feto* and have taken various measures to integrate it into their healthcare systems.

More importantly, after the ghetto meal is prepared, the family members abstain from any other food for a few hours. Eating *Feto* helps get rid of the waste and unnecessary things that are accumulated in the abdominal organ. It is believed that eating *Feto* on the first day of the New Year helps to avoid and recover from diseases throughout the year.

Therefore, *Feto*/ garden cress is accepted as an herbal or indigenous medicine and it is widely used as an essential healthcare infrastructure. Furthermore, *Feto*/garden cress has various health benefits. As a result, it is a plant that is frequently grown in Ethiopia. Because of its high nutritional value, it is frequently eaten as a leafy vegetable or as a spice in many cuisines. Garden cress is a well-liked option for promoting health because it is high in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. Besides, it is frequently used to increase the flavour and nutritional value of salads, soups, stews, and sauces. Since they have a milder flavour than mature leaves, the plant's leaves are normally collected when they are young and fragile.

The other representation of eating *Feto*/ garden cress is to put on the spirit of hard work, forgiveness, and service to avoid things that disturb the peace of mind. As anyone who eats *Feto*/ garden cress, cleans his or her body especially, its stomach from parasites, she or he should also clean his/or her mind from evil or negative thoughts. Hence, it is believed that the garden cress helps the person to banish negative energy and welcome the New Year with positive energy.

It is also culturally significant to eat garden cress on New Year's Day in

Ethiopia. Garden cress consumption around this period is thought to bring luck and wealth for the upcoming year. The idea of celebrating the start of a new year is in line with the idea that garden cress represents fresh starts and rejuvenation. Garden cress is also loaded with nutrients, so eating it could be a good way to start the year off well.

Given the symbolic representation of garden cress, there are still disagreements in science over its genesis. Many scientific studies suggest that the garden cress plant originated in Ethiopia before being dispersed and domesticated in other nations, according to Falana et al. (2014) and Wadhwa et al. (2012). Garden cress is currently grown on a limited scale in many nations, particularly in India, Pakistan, Europe, and the majority of African nations due to its tolerance of various temperate zones.

Garden cress can, however, be grown all year long in many climates and elevations, but damp loam soil is best for its high yield. Garden cress has many uses, and the leaves, seeds, and roots are just a few examples. The plant's roots are used as a condiment, the raw leaves are used to make a salad and can be cooked with other vegetables, and the dried leaves are used to treat a variety of illnesses and disorders including inflammation, bronchitis, rheumatism, and muscle discomfort, and they are also used as a diuretic.

Hence, garden cress is prized for its therapeutic benefits in addition to its culinary applications. It is thought to provide several health advantages, such as enhancing immunity, stimulating hair growth, and enhancing digestion. Garden cress is frequently prescribed in conventional medicine as an herbal treatment for conditions like coughs, colds, and stomach issues. Overall, garden cress is very important to Ethiopian culture and diet. Its cultivation and use aid in the preservation of conventional medical procedures as well as food security and nutritional diversity.

Therefore, eating *Feto*/ garden cress is an Ethiopian New Year Morning tradition that symbolizes the cleansing of both the mind and the body. It is believed that eating *feto* at the beginning of the New Year helps to avoid and recover from diseases throughout the year. Besides, in the New Year, it is necessary not only to maintain the health of the stomach but also to put on the spirit of hard work, forgiveness, and service to avoid things that disturb the peace of mind.

Eating *Feto*/ garden cress is an Ethiopian New Year Morning tradition that symbolizes the cleansing of both the mind and the body