

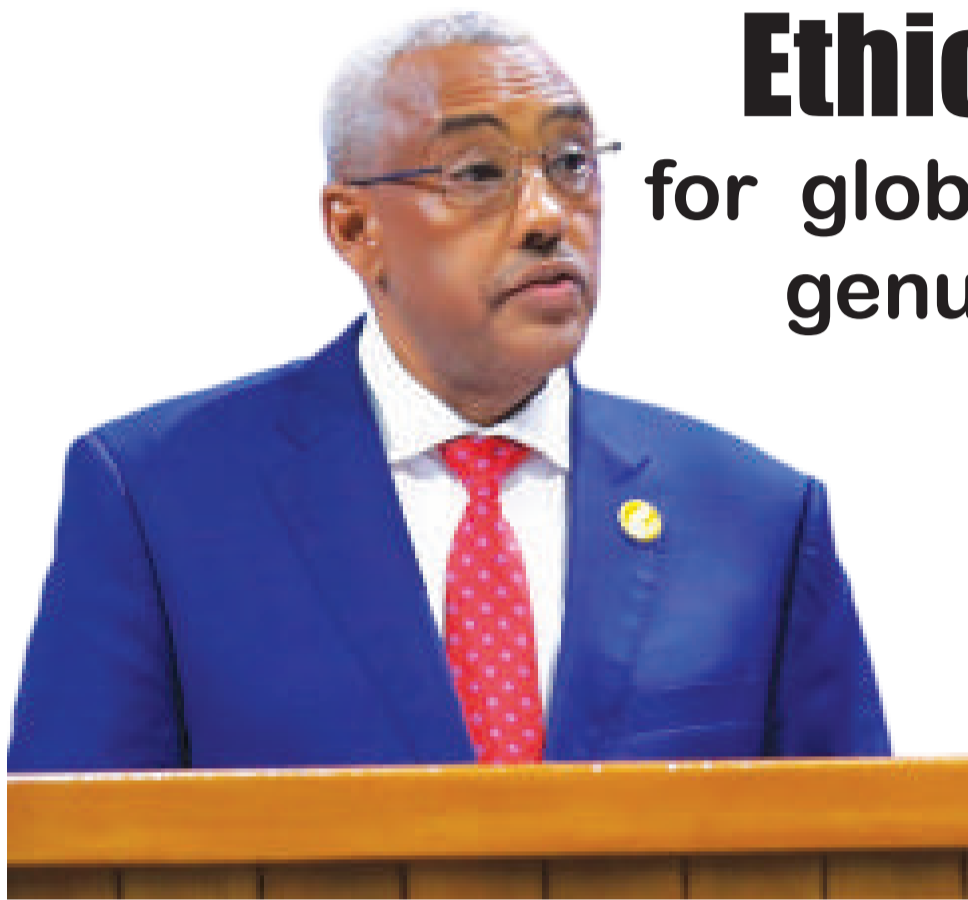


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Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen

Ethiopia calls for global institutions genuine reform

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen called for genuine reform of global institutions to accommodate the interest of the South at the Group 77+ China Summit underway in Havana.

The Group 77+ China Summit is aimed at ensuring that technology works for all humanity and accelerates the Sustainable Development.

Speaking at the Group 77+ China Summit, he said unilateral sanctions and coercive economic actions hamper progress in science, technology and economic development.

See Ethiopia calls... page 4

Enterprise purchases 67 modern public buses

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Some 67 state-of-the-art public buses purchased by Addis Ababa City Administration will enter in to the country after a month, disclosed Addis Ababa Public Transport Service Enterprise.

Deputy Director-General of the Enterprise, Adane Abdeta told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the 67 modern public buses are high quality and competitive in the market while accommodating persons with disabilities.

See Enterprise ... page 4



IACO Secretary General Solomon Rutega

Addis-hosted exhibition cardinal for African coffee producers: IACO

•Continent to adopt coffee strategic crop

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- The 20th African Fine Coffees Conference and Exhibition that Ethiopia is going to host would play a critical role to boost the competitiveness

of African coffee producing nations, the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO) said.

Ethiopia is chosen to be the venue for the 20th African Fine Coffees Conference and Exhibition

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Association ready to welcome tourists in forthcoming festivities

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- The Ethiopian Tourism and Hotel Market Association expressed readiness to accord quality services for tourists who come to the country to witness the forthcoming religious and cultural festivities including Meskel and Irreecha.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Association's President Getahun Alemu stated that close partnership is formed with different stakeholders to make the guests' stay comfortable and memorable. For instance, the association is working with the Ethiopian Airlines to provide air fare discounts for tourists that will come to the

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How much you loved me matters

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Fostering partnership to ensure quality health service delivery

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The significance of togetherness in ensuring peaceful coexistence and long-term stability

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News

UNEP lauds Ethiopia's successful filling of Abbay Dam

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

ADDIS ABABA – The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) pledged to support Ethiopia's climate resilient projects while commending the completion of the fourth round filling of the Abbay Dam.

In the sideline meetings of the Group of 77 and China Summit that held on 15 and 16 September 2023 in Cuba, UNEP Director-General Inger Andersen was briefed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen about the major climate and development issues in Ethiopia, including the progress of the mega dam.

During the discussion, Inger congratulated the Deputy Prime Minister on the successful completion of the fourth filling of Abbay Dam.

She also reiterated UNEP's commitment to support the climate resilient development projects in Ethiopia.

Demeke on his part expressed Ethiopia's



plan to diversify its energy sources in a bid to advance regional integration through connectivity, the information obtained from MoFA indicated.

Likewise, Demeke also conferred with Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel in which both agreed to strengthen the

bilateral ties between the two countries and to facilitate state visits for higher officials.

Meanwhile, more than 20 Heads of State and Government have attended the Havana Summit that deliberated on Current Development Challenges: The Role of Science, Technology and Innovations.

On the occasion, Cuba's President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermudez said due attention should be paid to the development of science and technology as it is a matter of survival for the global South.

Antonio Gutteres, UN Secretary General on his part noted that Group 77 and China can play critical role in ensuring justice in the global system.

Developed countries must deliver the promised 100 billion USD, double adaptation finance by 2025, and recapitalize the Green Climate Fund, he underscored.

"That is the reason that I have proposed an SDG Stimulus that would release at least 500 billion USD per year in affordable long-term finance for sustainable development and climate action in developing countries," Gutteres expressed.

The Havana summit was a platform where Heads of State and Government of developing and emerging countries, that represent 80 percent of the global population, have reverberated the call for a new economic world order.

Ministry says upholding int'l scholarship outlines

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - The government of Ethiopia has given due emphasis to the developments of the education system through scholarship schemes in a bid to promote the capacity of higher education institutions, the Ministry of Education (MoE) said.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Scholarship and Internationalization Desk Head with the Ministry, Idossa Terfassa (PhD) said that as part of the national education strategic plan, the ministry along with global institutions and higher education institutions has long been engaged in various interventions to improve and realize its vision through enhanced bilateral ties with various international institutions.

He further remarked that through consolidated efforts, for example, Ethiopia has been sending students to Russia, China, Taiwan, German, France, Norway, among others for degree, masters and PhD levels. Currently, we are strengthening our bilateral and multilateral relations more than ever before for the development of the education system in the country.

He said, "Development of digital literacy, education facilities and technology transfer are the major thematic areas of the sector in the form of free scholarship, experience sharing, visiting, short and long term trainings among others."

As to him, among many other sponsor awarding countries, China offers full



Idossa Terfassa (PhD)

scholarship awards to over 50 Ethiopian students through government-to-government scholarship scheme annually.

Furthermore, the Middle East countries are also increasing the level thereby awarding some 273 students for first degree education last year, he added.

So far, about 1,000 scholarships have been awarded to the Ethiopian students in the global arena, it was learnt.

"We have planned to scale up the number by two folds through multifaceted policy interventions and negotiations, including memorandum of understanding that help build the capacities of higher education institutions thereby many countries are expressing keen interest to strengthen the intervention," he noted.

As per the diplomatic channels and revised MoU documents, he said that they are striving for boosting the existing levels and reaffirms commitment to offer chains of technical supports such as bank related issues and authentication processes for public-scholarship winners.

Ethiopia, Argentina trade relation growing steadily

ADDIS ABABA -The bilateral trade relation between Ethiopia and Argentina has been growing steadily, according to Ambassador Gustavo Teodoro Grippo of Argentina.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, the ambassador said that the bilateral relationship between Ethiopia and Argentina is positive in all senses.

Since the reopening of the Embassy of Argentina to Ethiopia in 2013, the bilateral trade relationship between the countries has grown steadily, he added.

"When I just arrived ten years ago, the trade was only 1 million USD per year. Now it has reached 1 billion USD."

Ambassador Grippo elaborated that this is only in the commercial aspect. "In the political aspect too, the countries have good relationship. We have developed a good strategy in our relationship with Ethiopia. We have to continue opening markets and continue working on this path."

According to him, the government is working with Argentine producers and exporters to closely monitor and meet the needs of Ethiopian markets with a view to fully tapping on the immense potential of the bilateral relations for growth.

The ambassador also added that the joint work of the Ethiopian Biotechnology Institute and the Argentine Institute for Agricultural Technology has been very fruitful over the last year.

"Not only have we concluded a joint project on the development of bioinoculants for sustainable agriculture, but also working on a project for the improvement of Begait beef and dairy production."



Ambassador Gustavo Teodoro Grippo

Ambassador Grippo expressed his belief that cooperation in these fields is highly relevant for Ethiopia, given the relevance that both agriculture and cattle raising have for its economy.

Commenting on the importance of Ethiopian Airlines in boosting tourism and commercial ties between the countries, he described Ethiopian as one of the most important airlines with many destinations across the globe.

Since 2018 Ethiopian Airlines has been directly flying to Argentina with a stopover in Sao Paulo.

"The CEO of Ethiopian Airlines told me that in the future, perhaps this year, (Ethiopian) will start traveling to Argentina without a stopover and directly to Buenos Aires," Ambassador Grippo revealed.

He further noted that the airline now "offers wonderful infrastructure such as Skylight Hotel for example. This hotel is amazing. You have everything to promote tourism for Argentina, to start flying here to visit this wonderful country."

This is my task to promote tourism to Argentina and the Ethiopian government's task is to promote tourism to Argentina."

Editorial

Diplomatic accolades

Whenever a political discourse about the quest for justice or the clamor for a level ground on the global arena across the ages arises, Ethiopia's name comes to the center stage true to its being a beacon of freedom, aura of invincibility and emblem of independence. Add to that, the role the votary-of-tranquility nation played for collective peace worldwide. Based on these virtues, Ethiopia is turning into a sought-after nation by different coalitions for a common good.

Ethiopia has played a significant role in the birth of the defunct League of Nation and its successor the United Nations.

In the sphere of development, its thrust to stand on its own feet by bringing into life Mega projects, which turn around the lives of people beyond its perimeter, sticks out. GERD, Green Development and bumper wheat harvest are but to mention a few of its glaring accolades.

In the passage of eras, the international acceptance Ethiopia has been winning is gathering momentum from time to time. If we recount recent developments we come across the fact that among the 40 countries that applied to join the ranks of BRICS' members, drawing attention, Ethiopia has found itself among the six countries that enjoyed the green light. This showcases that BRICS' members know full well Ethiopia's position in Africa. In the red-hot or cut-throat global economic competition locking arms with Ethiopia has proved beneficial. Many have understood partnering with this great nation is worth the candle, for the country abounds in bountiful natural resources, offers less expensive labor and boasts a geographical location preferable owing to its proximity to the European market. Hence, provided the aforementioned investor sniffing for a lucrative business venture could not bat an eye to outlay its finance.

In the G-77 countries' Summit held for the past two days Ethiopia was present as a founding member. Ever since its inception Ethiopia was conspicuously taping the group's back in a bid it portrays conviction. About 50 African countries are members of the group. Its cardinal objective is setting directions for African countries to ward off hurdles in their pursuit of development and prosperity. Also the decisions this south summit comes up with will prod the UN to better heed the burning issues. Snowballing from time to time the number of member countries has hit 134 marks. Unlike groups that collapse easily and in no time, member countries are on a long march towards set objectives.

It will not be a hyperbole to claim that nowadays there is no quarter that doesn't want to work with Ethiopia. The amendment of Ethiopia's Foreign Affair policy is ascribable for the door opened wide for a win-win clicking. It does not brush aside any country as an enemy. It rather stretches out arms towards those aiming at common growth. As such it treats all cordially.

When the economies of countries display leaps they show desire to do transactions by themselves free of impositions. At this precise moment many are inhibited to do business without USD even in the presence of common ways. As such countries including Ethiopia are suffering from shackles to do business. The G-77 summit is expected to troubleshoot such challenges.

The reason attributable to the strong relationship China created with Ethiopia and also the remaining African countries is the strong and long bond China created with Ethiopia. Currently it is portraying its solidarity with G-77 countries. This country on par with a continent is building a robust economy to lock horns with the so far domineering ones. China's role as a partner in G-77 allows a sense of freedom. African countries could secure loans from China's banks to translate their action plans of development.

According to historical records, when G-77 was established sovereign Ethiopia was exemplary for the global community. Ethiopia was singing about liberty, equality, justice and democracy.

Now Ethiopia's image in the global arena is picking up steam. The success could be traced back to various reasons. To keep the diplomatic achievements going there is a call for a common national narrative. For this to happen setting the ball of the national dialog rolling must come to the front burner.



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Opinion

Some notes on the effects of climate change on the security of the Horn of Africa

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The recent 11th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa which was held On September 1, 2023 in Nairobi Kenya dwelt upon seven basic thematic issues that were interrelated with climate change mitigation efforts in Africa. However, there was no serious discussion on the issue of climate change and its implication of security as most of the issued enumerated dwelt upon strictly development issues.

Almost all countries of the Horn, sometimes referred to as IGAD countries have been suffering from recurrent climate change induced drought, soil erosion, desertification, deforestation, environmental degradation, food insecurity, lack of drinking water, shrinking of grazing land.

The above mentioned factors have directly or indirectly contributed to intra and interstate conflicts which have threatened the stability of the region. External political and military intrusion into the affairs of the region by tri-polar global powers portended the extent of security of countries on the Horn of Africa.

It must be noted that some 70% of the total area of countries of the Horn receive less than 600mm of precipitation every year. The El-Nino – La-Nina dichotomy and the resultant loss of crops by swarms of locust across the region, famine related migration through inland and across official borders, influx of refugees continued to ignite intra and interstate conflicts over scares resources. Intra and interstate ethnic based border skirmishes in the Horn of Africa have previously led to wars that have continued unabated.

In Somalia for instance Al –Shabab has used the recent drought situation and earlier incidents as an excellent opportunity to lure new recruits in its rank and file by providing limited relief aid and income to accelerate its terrorist activities in the Horn of Africa. It propagated false promises for young Somalis to provide them with employment opportunities abroad, something that has never happened.

Climate changed triggered food and water insecurity has for ages led to conflicts over decades on the Horn of Africa. The border area between Ethiopia and Somalia is inhabited by same nomadic populations that are separated by colonial boundaries but they managed to share water and pastureland through traditional ways which they have developed over generations.

The massive influx of refugees from Somalia to Ethiopia and Kenya mentioned earlier is in most cases driven by the recurrent drought that brought famine and severe shortage of food and livestock.

Earlier this year, although there was no marked sign of conflict, the most unprecedented drought in Borena Zone of Oromia wiped out millions of animals that the population could have used for coping mechanism the drought gradually subsides. This is an excellent case of the need for accurate early warning system that could have helped to make all the necessary preparation including repositioning water and fodder for animals.

Climate change has seriously affected the progress of normal education systems in many of the countries of the Horn of Africa because children were either forced to migrate with their families or have been so weak to go to school.

The linkage theory has it that climate change of any level brings about a threat to the health, food security, and peace which is a precondition for survival and development of any society and the wellbeing of a population in the Horn of Africa. Over the last several years in the Horn of Africa,

climate change has exacerbated local conflicts, COVID-19, proliferation of swarms of locust across countries

Having enumerated the basic scenario between climate change and security, the author believes that the basic solution lies on three areas including the introduction of climate resilient green economy in the region by using all available resources in an equitable and sustainable manner and conducting massive mass based environmental rehabilitation projects and utilizing carbon free energy resources like solar energy, hydropower, wind farms and geothermal energy sources.

According to a World Bank report from December 12, 2022, The triple shocks of climate, COVID-19, and locust swarms had aggravated the plight of vulnerable populations in the Horn. About 6.7 million people in Somalia are likely to face worse levels of food insecurity. Famine is projected among agro pastoral populations in southern Somalia, the area most impacted by conflict, and drought-related displacement since 2021 is 1.1 million, with 4.6 million people internally displaced (3 out of every 10). Moreover, the high cost of fuel and fertilizers is further intensifying the crisis, and statistics reveal that Eastern and Southern Africa account for 60% of fertilizer consumption in Sub-Saharan Africa, with Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan being top consumers."

As indicated on the pervious analysis, the issue of linkage between climate change and security is a multi-pronged challenge that requires an integrated and multi-purpose approach in which the countries of the region and international partners should take.

The WB report comes up with some basic suggestion and states, "To achieve lasting solutions, action plans need to be pro-poor and just, with effective policies that promote low carbon growth and climate adaptation. The Horn of Africa Initiative (HoAI) presents a new business model for regional integration, encompassing policy dialogue, investments, and political ownership."

Economic integration and cross border trade and joint and integrated action against terrorism serves as a means to reduce insecurity and promote people to people relations among the countries of the Horn.

Climate change and its effects must be used by the countries of the Horn of Africa as an opportunity to join hands in resolving the problems through regional approach and not through the efforts of each country. This is to be chosen as a strategy because any level of the impact of climate change is not confined to a single country but covers the entire region.

IGAD countries in particular must share their experiences in the mitigation of the effects of climate change in several ways. On the other hand, cooperation in the areas of combating transnational crimes, illicit trade, contraband, and human trafficking must be conducted along with promotion of climate change mitigation programs to reduce the opportunities created by terrorists to assert their presence in the region.

Under the auspices of IGAD, the countries of the Horn need to establish a comprehensive institute for deeper research on climate change mitigation and for finding new coping mechanisms that can be accomplished at community and family levels. New technologies that are applicable in the agriculture sector of semi-arid areas need to be put in place. This must be accompanied with exchange of data and research findings related to climate change.

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

News

Oromia plans to deliver 5,000 kg gold current FY

BY TSEAGYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Oromia Mineral Development Authority revealed the plan to increase the gold production and to supply up to 5000 kg to the Central Bank this Ethiopian fiscal year.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Authority Head Bezu Wakebeka said consolidated efforts are underway to increase gold production and the amount that the state is supplied to the Central Bank.

During the past fiscal year, the authority earned over 469 million Birr from minerals

which surpassed that of the previous year same period by 30 percent.

The authority has been taking bold steps to boost the mine sector's revenue in the current year and it issued a license for 1,557 investors and associations that have been engaged in gold production. Traditional miners take a lion's share in the figure.

The head further noted that mining activity in the state has been impacted by smugglers and illegal activities. To avert the situation, the authority has been carrying out consolidated efforts to bring individuals involved in illegal activities to justice.

Accordingly, some 14 individuals were arrested on suspicion of mines smuggling and the authority's engagement has enabled it to increase the amount of gold production in the state. Alone in July and August, the authority provided 405 kg of gold to the national bank of Ethiopia (NBE).

In addition to increasing production and supply, the authority is working to overcome illegal activities and smuggling in the mining industry. "Hence, we are taking a number of steps to attract investors in the mining sector and attempting to strengthen legal structure," Bezu remarked.

Nat'l rehabilitation commissioner confers with heads of Int'l organizations

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - The National Rehabilitation Commissioner Ambassador Teshome Toga held discussion yesterday with the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Ramiz Alakbarov and European Union Delegation Head in Ethiopia, David Krivanek.

Commissioner Teshome discussed with the officials on ways of further strengthening cooperation on supporting the ongoing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program in Ethiopia.

They have pledged to strengthen their collaboration towards ensuring lasting peace in Ethiopia.

Ambassador Teshome tweeted that he had a discussion with the new UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Ramiz Alakbarov on how to further our cooperation on supporting the DDR program to ensure lasting peace in Ethiopia.

The commissioner also indicated that he had very good discussion on European Union's support in the implementation of the DDR program.

He reaffirmed the commitment of Ethiopia to ensuring peace and stability in the east African region.

"We reiterated the importance of Ethiopia's peace and stability in the Horn of Africa," he said.

The National Rehabilitation Commission was established by the government of Ethiopia in November 2022 to assist with demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants across the country.

The commission has so far identified 371,971 ex-combatants which need to be engaged in the national development efforts.

In this regard, the support to the DDR process by partners is anticipated to play a significant role in the stabilization and peace building efforts, and in creating an environment in which a peace process, political and social reconciliation, access to livelihoods as well as sustainable development can take root.

Association ready ...

country to witness those events.

Different travel packages have been offered to tourists who wish to visit indigenous cultures including the Evangadance of the Hamar community, and attraction sites counting Tiya -archaeological site in the central part of the country.

"We are also working closely with the Ministry of Peace (MoP) to promote the value of peace to tourist inflow and the tourism sector at large. We will also open a photo gallery in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Office of the Prime Minister at the National Science Museum in a bid to display Ethiopia's tourism potential."

Getahun further noted that the association has been offering customer service training at different parts of the country including Jigjiga, Benishangul-Gumuz, Araba Minch, Hawassa, Bishoftu, Adama, Bahir Dar, and Gondar. The training aims to increase the accessibility of the hospitality service for both domestic and foreign tourists.



Providing special discounts in the tourist-peak season and Ethiopian embassies' involvement in the promotion of historical places would bring the desired outcome in increasing tourist inflow to attraction sites. Hence, Ethiopia has a lot to do in the diplomatic frontier to attract

international tourists and secure adequate benefit from the sector, he recommended.

It is to be recalled that Meskel (the burning of a large bonfire -Demera) and Irreecha-the Oromos' thanksgiving festivity were registered by UNESCO under intangible heritages category.

Ethiopia calls...

According to him, facilitating knowledge and technology transfer through South-South cooperation fosters innovation and the implementation of SDGs.

In this respect, Ethiopia's digital strategy envisages inclusive digital economy with wider benefits to the wider public, Demeke added.

The deputy premier also said that Ethiopia has registered encouraging results in the implementation of the digital strategy.

The summit concluded yesterday issuing declarations, according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

Enterprise...

They are also said to be fuel-efficient as well as believed to deliver convenient service to the public.

Previously, Ethiopian Engineering Bishoftu Automotive manufacturing would deliver the buses to the city administration; nonetheless, the administration will import buses due to time constraint and the challenge in the transport sector.

The Deputy Director-General added that the number of public transport users is increasing, thus, the purchasing of the 67 buses aims to alleviate the transport demand.

Reform activities that aim to transform the provision of bus are underway, he said, adding that due emphasis has also been given to

deliver convenient and safe transport service to the public.

The state-owned public transport enterprise also indicated that over 1050 public buses provide transport service to the public on a daily basis.

Moreover, Adane reminded that the enterprise received some 310 city buses, of which, 110 donated from World Bank and 200 purchased by the city administration during 2022/23 fiscal year.

Of the 1100 buses that the enterprise possessed, around 1050 buses serve the public daily in the city. In the same manner, the enterprise is responsible to filling the fuel of the vehicles that serve in government institutions.

Addis-hosted ...

and the first African Coffee Week which will take place at Millennium Hall from February 5-9, 2024 under the theme "Specialty Coffee at Origin."

IACO Secretary General Solomon Rutega told journalists that the grand event would help to educate major stakeholders about African coffee sector's major challenges and the available opportunities in the value chain. The event is also instrumental to enhance coordination, policy formulation and collaboration among IACO members.

African Coffee Week is an historic opportunity for Ethiopia and Africa at large and the event

would have a paramount importance to bring global coffee actors and African coffee producing nations to Addis Ababa.

The conference will bring about 2000 regional and international coffee roasters, traders, producers, buyers, and professionals together under one roof to discuss policies, coffee competition and sustainability thereby raising the quality and competitiveness of African coffee, he added.

"It is also an opportunity for wider African coffee producing countries to establish long term relationships between private and public sectors that lead to the establishment of more

efficient production and trade with each other."

Solomon added: "Delegates from 86 countries and renowned coffee companies will have an opportunity to taste Ethiopian coffee. For the last many years African coffee industries have been facing a lot of challenges with regard to price and quality. So we are not expected to continue doing so and we have to come up with new thinking."

According to the secretary general, IACO is mainly working to provide a unified platform for the entire coffee sector and avail the opportunity to the African coffee industry to adopt coffee as a strategic crop and as an AU

agricultural agenda. The organization hosted the G-25 Africa Coffee Summit in Uganda Kampala and later came up with the Kampala Declaration. Under the declaration, coffee is going to be adopted as a strategic crop under the AU 2063 agenda.

The IACO is composed of 25 coffee producing countries and envisioned to transfer Africa's coffee sector to value addition through the implementation of meticulous strategic objectives. The organization has also been mobilizing its members to address major challenges in Africa's coffee industry, it was learned.

Opinion

Outdoor celebrations for togetherness, tourism headway

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Life is synonymous with festivals because there are more fiestas than people can count, and each of these mirrors our culture and traditions in countries like ours. Breaking the humdrum of daily routine, these festivals bring with them a wave of excitement and happiness.

Interestingly, almost every big and small occasion in Ethiopia calls for a celebration. Experiencing the festive spirit of the country is akin to celebrating life, speckled with an ample dose of colors, religious festivities, annual celebrations, public holidays, music, dance, folk songs, food, and friends, all rolled into a healthful bundle offering out-and-out enjoyment.

Religious festivals are a time of spiritual renewal and communal celebration that have been observed for centuries in Ethiopia. These festivals serve as a reminder of the beliefs and values that unite people of different faiths across the nation. From colorful processions to elaborate rituals, each festival is unique and special in its own way.

So long as Ethiopians are highly intertwined and genealogically loomed, the festivals some segments of the society celebrate all the time belong to others, all citizens of the nation, of course. From small cultural and tribal festivities to bigger anniversary proceedings and holidays incorporating all nations and nationalities like Meskel, Irrecha, Fiche chembelala, Ashenda/solel, among others, Ethiopians have been celebrating these festivities together in a very harmonious manner.

These festivals have been the best family-friendly ones and are being taken place across the nation. One is really tired of listing Ethiopians' values that have highly clued all citizens like domestic camping festivals, music festivals, events with dress-up tents, craft areas, great food and adult areas as well.

Outdoor events and festivals of all types are woven into the cultural fabric of Ethiopians. With a world-leading reputation for experience, delivery and safety, these events welcome millions of people each year. Offering a diverse blend of entertainment and content demonstrations or open door celebrations come in all shapes and sizes and see professional expertise working in tandem with a proudly independent creative element.

The festivals/anniversaries which are being marked annually in Ethiopia see a diverse mix of multi-national corporates and independent promoters working alongside a host of professional event machinists. So long as safety is a pivotal part of outdoor events' celebration and sees close collaboration between congregations, authorities, crowd management providers, security staffs have, since long back, been to be vanguards of the celebrations.

Thousands and millions of outdoor

events and festivals in Ethiopia have been demonstrating the strength of the cultural-tourism sector. With a diverse mix of event types, attendees attend for entertainment, socializing, experience and escapism. A strong sense of discovery, innovation and community lie at the very heart of the outdoor. From the globally renowned celebrations and UNESCO registered cultural and religious values found across the nation, these celebrations are often dedicated to culture, entertainment, arts, food, comedy, leisure and lifestyle, offering something for everyone—every citizen of the nation, not only the faithful.

So, citizens in general and religious congregations in particular want to undertake festival ventures, or they may simply want to have a festival cultural tourism themed party. Leaving doldrums at the door and building a giant catapult or playing in a mesmerizing podium, the celebrations have highly required firm serenity.

All religious commemorations or holidays at a blissful time are really zero-waste festivals in the country. Since annually celebrated festivals make citizens feel proud, they have to be the perfect tonic. As its name bespeaks, holiday celebration is a chirpy wellness-themed stretch. Here the shared passion for off-road/outdoor running is a good enough reason to get together and salute the creator.

With a number of anniversaries or outdoor celebrations taking place in September, January, and any other time convenient for them to be held, tourists or visitors are guaranteed to find something out of them.

Events are taking place throughout the country and many of them are listed in the printed brochure, which are made available from shops, tourist information centers and other outlets nationally, across the region and even globally. The greatest religious festivals celebrated across various cultures and religions in Ethiopia help explore the significance and traditions that make them truly awe-inspiring. Annual celebrations are times for renewal, reflection, and celebration for many faiths and cultural aspects.

The celebrations provide a unique opportunity to identify common values such as togetherness, fraternity, amicable way, generosity, and service, among others. In light of the mission of the country to advance religious pluralism, all citizens are invited to expand personal religious literacy and promote understanding and curiosity at a shared time of observance. Everyone comes for the observance of celebrations, and the celebrations center the attributes of generosity, love, compassion, praising God, and friendship.

All national celebrations observed in Ethiopia are particularly well known for their being mosaic. These holidays are also closely associated with cultures, norms, values, religions and other aspects. All these outdoor celebrations/festivals are instrumental in reinvigorating community growth and in both its cultural and religious

context are fundamentally about community, progress, and merriment.

Each festival in Ethiopia has an essence and flavor of its own that people need to experience first-hand. Considering the festival of love and the festival of colors, celebrations signify the arrival of spring and the victory of good over evil. They are celebrated all over the country with a lot of enthusiasm and fervor.

Festivals and events have flourished in recent decades and interest in understanding their significance in the tourism conservatory has risen accordingly. Even the leading tourism intelligences demonstrate that works on festivals and events is now one of the most prolific of any area of tourism exploration and there is now a burgeoning collection of monographs, practical handbooks available, among others.

Great strides have been made in recent times to outline the nature and extent of tourism related festivals and events. In its entirety, a notable development has been the emergence of the events tourism. Specifically, the nexus between celebrations/holidays and tourism is posited as being the set of interrelationships underpinning the marketing of events to tourists, and the development and marketing of events for tourism and economic development purposes.

Here we see a clear dichotomy between historically treated events and festivals and the strategically useful tourism potentials, and another that problematize the instrumental development of festivals and events in the interests of tourism sector. A key question here is whether potential exists for different disciplinary approaches to align more closely in the interest of creating a holistic understanding of the nature and management of festivals and tourism relationships.

Sustainability in tourism requires hosts to be positively disposed towards developments, so as to enhance the tourists' experience and contribute to the destination's attractiveness via intensifying holiday or religious celebrations. If, for instance, one asks how planned events can effectively contribute to the development of sustainable tourism, it is important to take the worth of the interaction of tourism and festivals or events into consideration and well investigate the influence of the latter on mutual reproduction of places, cultures, religious, festivities, and communities as well.

Simultaneously, these transient, albeit often recurring, phenomena acted as an important means of collective identification for the communities hosting the events. Festivals and events thus have a long historical trajectory, and embody the traditions of various pasts.

A key driver for the growth and reinvention of festivals and events internationally has been their potential to deliver a series of development outcomes in terms of economic restructuring and revitalization, destination

repositioning, inward investment and tourism revenue generation like good items for evaluating the success of festivals and annual celebrations.

For example, festivals and events have in the first place staged as urban ephemera or urban spectacle yield economic benefits by raising the profile of places, their products and institutions and attracting flows of tourists, capital and inward investment.

Secondly, conceiving of festivals and events as phenomena that are embedded in diverse religious, spatial, cultural, social and political environments is fundamental to fully understanding the relationships between festivals, events and tourism. A closer convergence of disciplinary approaches would yield greater understanding of the links between processes and outcomes in respect of a multiplicity of issues and societal mutual understanding.

Festivals have gradually become highly developed segments of the continuously expanding tourism industry, because of the closer connection between festivals, holidays or annual celebrations and the tourism sector. Religious holidays or festivals can also be used to shape destination image and to promote economic development of the country and even beyond where they are widely held.

The cyclical features of festivals and the development from hallmark events to hallmark destination are in the meantime very important for the sustainable development of tourist destinations. Due to the rapid growth of festival tourism industry in Ethiopia, fiercely competitive and homogeneous festival products have become the prominent advantages and sources of income for the tourism operators in particular and for the entire nation in general.

Henceforth, Ethiopians, at all walks of life of course, have to be increasingly aware of the importance of sustainable management of festivals, holidays and celebrations to strengthen market position and competitive advantage as they have untold advantages.

Yes, holidays are inherently social events and provide a means for people to interact and share experiences with significant others. For many festival tourists, the most meaningful experiences derive from social interactions with peers rather than from specific activities.

In sum, the shared beliefs, behavior and interactions with one another generate perceived emotional closeness between individuals including tourists. In contrast to the wide examinations of the relationships between residents and tourists under the framework of holiday celebrations, tourists have cemented citizens each other/one another and emotional solidarity and firm relationships.

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

Business & Economy

Boosting energy sector for multifaceted benefit

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

According to the Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP), Ethiopia has abundant renewable energy resources and has the potential to generate over 60,000 megawatts (MW) of electric power from hydroelectric, wind, solar and geothermal sources. As a result of Ethiopia's rapid economic growth over the previous decade, demand for electricity has been steadily increasing.

Despite Ethiopia's energy potential, the country is experiencing energy shortages and load shedding as it struggles to serve a population of over 120 million people and meet growing electricity demand that is forecast to grow by approximately 30% per year. With some of the projects are still under construction, the country currently has approximately 4,500 MW of installed generation capacity. There is a plan to exponentially increase the power generation capacity to 17,000 MW in 10 years.

The country launched the building of Climate Resilient Green Economy in 2007 which emphasizes the development of renewable energy sources to protect the environment from pollution.

In fact, unlike other advanced countries, Ethiopia relied on renewable energy sources such as hydropower and exploring and exploiting of these resources has been continued. Only in the last two decades more than seven hydropower dams had been constructed and began power generation and increased the nation's power stock capacity.

The generated power in addition to supplying energy to the grid, it enabled the nation to garner foreign currency from export. Currently, Ethiopia exports electricity to Djibouti, Kenya and Sudan. There is a plan to increase power exports to Djibouti due to a growing demand in the country.

Menilik Getahun, the head of sales and customer management, recently announced that over 102 million USD was obtained in the last fiscal year from electric export to the neighboring countries. He further said that the mentioned amount of money was obtained from export to Djibouti, Sudan and Kenya. Djibouti is one of the leading importers of Ethiopia's electric power energy.

Ethiopia secured 41 million Dollars from Djibouti in the mentioned period and obtained 34 million Dollars from Sudan. In addition to these it was reported that Ethiopia earned 24 million Dollars from electric export to Kenya.

According to Menilik, it was aspired to obtain 143 million USD from power export to the mentioned countries in the last budget year and achieved 71% of what was planned to obtain.

He also said that the power sold to Kenya exceeded the target and the ongoing political impasse in Sudan deducted the revenue by 34% compared to the previous year.

To mitigate the overdue of payment due to the civil war in Sudan, EEP is working closely with the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Sudanese Embassy



The Ethiopia-Kenya transmission interconnection line – photo Google

in Addis Ababa.

In the last fiscal year Ethiopia generated over 17414 Giga watt of electric power and supplied to local and international market.

Ethiopia Electric Power (EEP) is in charge of maintaining more than 14 hydropower and three wind power plants throughout the country. EEP will focus on management of the existing power generation plants, substations and transmission lines, with all new power generation projects to be developed through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Approximately, 90% of the installed generation capacity is from hydropower, while the remaining eight percent and two percent are from wind and geothermal sources respectively. The hydropower dominated energy system is severely vulnerable to drought, and the Government of Ethiopia (GOE) is now working to diversify the generation source mixing with other sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal that is a more climate-resilient power system.

Currently, all hydropower dams are producing below their stated capacity. An assessment has been conducted to propose rehabilitation and optimization of their output.

The Grand Ethiopia Renaissance Dam (GERD) or Abbay Dam, with a projected installed capacity of 5,150 MW and under construction by the Ethiopian Government is eyeing its completion soon.

Water and Energy Minister Habtamu Itefa (PhD & Eng.) said that work is being done to increase the turbines' number to 7 that generate power at the Abay Dam.

In addition to the two turbines that started generating power in 2022, five turbines are being put into operation in the current 2023/24 fiscal year. He said that when the five turbines come into operation, Ethiopia will increase its current power supply of 4,818 megawatts.

He said that compared to the two turbines that have been put into operation, the five turbines that will be put into operation this year will generate equivalent to or more than the average of 1,180 megawatts of Beles, Gilgel Gibe I and II and Tekeze power stations.

The Government of Ethiopia is also constructing Koysa Hydo Power dam on the Omo River, which will be the second largest in Ethiopia next to Abbay Dam. The total investment cost for this project is 2.5 billion Euro. The expected time frame to finalize this project is three years with a capacity 2,170 MW of power. Currently 39% of the project is completed.

Ethiopia aspires to change its agricultural led economy in to the industry led economy and to that end, the government introduced investment laws to create enabling environment both to the local and foreign investors. It constructed industrial parks in various parts of the country. So far, the number of industrial parks reached to 13 and many manufacturing industries have been operational.

The expansion of manufacturing industry without the availability of sufficient electric energy is unthinkable.

The industry sector plays pivotal role in the economy. It creates job opportunity to thousands, serves to enhance creativity and import substitution, boosts export, create linkage with the agriculture sector and supply products to local markets.

To change the agricultural led economy in to the industry led economy, there must be bringing structural change. It is obvious that almost 85% of the labor force is stranded in the rural part of the country engaged in the agricultural sector.

Attaining structural change needs shifting the rural labor force in to the non -farming sector such as manufacturing industry which are currently flourishing in various parts of the country. To attain these objectives, the expansion of electric power generation

plays key role.

The hydropower generation is highly vulnerable to climate change and variation. When shortage of rain occurs due to extreme weather condition, the dam's power generation capacity will be decline up to 40%.

Therefore, to mitigate the problem, strengthening green legacy and water-shade management through tree plantation is essential. In addition to containing desertification, the green legacy enables storing underground water which is the source of river water. In line with this effort, exploiting other renewable energy sources mentioned above should be taken as a way out.

Exporting energy sources to the neighboring countries and beyond has great importance. It shores up shortage of hard currency in which the nation is suffering for decades which brings some kind of remedy for the macro -economic imbalance.

Ethiopia has been indulged in negative trade balances in which it imports more capital and commodity goods than it exports.

According to the report of National Bank of Ethiopia, the country imports goods worth 15 billion Dollars annually while it exports commodities and services worth not more than three billion Dollars. Hence, exporting energy can play crucial role in balancing the trade deficit.

In addition to power generation, exploiting renewable energy plays pivotal role in paving the way for building green economy. Currently, Ethiopia spends four billion Dollars to import the petrochemical based energy source which has hazardous effect on the environment.

Generating renewable energy enables the country garner hard currency that it spends for the importation in addition to substituting the imported carbon based energy. It has also a strategic importance as Ethiopia is located in the horn of Africa.

Planet Earth

Ethiopia's fight

against tsetse fly to secure its livestock resources

BY FIKADU BELAY

Tsetse fly is one of the insects that pose a risk to the health and productivity of animals in Ethiopia. Found predominantly in sub-Saharan Africa, it comes as a serious threat to animal health, agriculture, and overall economic development.

Tsetse fly is a blood-sucking insect belonging to the family Glossinidae. There are several species of tsetse flies, but the most common ones in Ethiopia are *Glossina morsitans* and *Glossina pallidipes*. These flies are usually brown or grey, approximately the size of a honeybee. The insect possesses a prominent proboscis used for feeding on the blood of vertebrate animals, including humans.

The tsetse fly has been a significant factor in shaping the development of the country. Those flies transmit a parasitic protozoan called *Trypanosoma*, which causes a severe and often fatal disease known as African trypanosomiasis or sleeping sickness. This disease affects both humans and livestock, posing a considerable threat to the well-being of communities across the country.

Risk Leader for the release, sterilization and prevention of tsetse fly at Ethiopian Animal Health Institute, Moges Hidito said tsetse fly affects almost 240,000 km of square fertile land which is used for agriculture and livestock production.

Tsetse flies are another factor that can hamper Ethiopia's agricultural progress. Numerous areas of land have been reported to be infested by flies, making them unsuitable for raising cattle and growing crops. Due to the risk of trypanosomiasis, farmers are frequently forced to leave beneficial locations, which hurts food security and the growth of livestock. Many Ethiopians depend on livestock for their livelihoods, making animals particularly susceptible to tsetse fly infestations. In addition to causing immediate harm through blood loss, the flies also cause animals to lose weight, produce less milk, and become less fertile.

These tsetse flies occur in Africa, especially in sub-Saharan countries that are suitable for its reproduction. In Ethiopia the most affected areas are Amhara region, Benshangul Gumuz, Oromia, Southern west Ethiopia, Southern Ethiopia and Sidama regions, he added.

He mentioned that the insects cause economic loss amounting to some 34.5 million USD annually in Africa including Ethiopia.

Climate as well as rainfall patterns may vary as a result of climate change, and these changes may have an immediate impact on whether or not tsetse fly habitats are suitable. Environmental factors, especially humidity and temperature, can affect how these insects behave.

The distribution of these hosts and their migratory habits may vary as a result of climate change and deforestation. Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns, for instance, can have an impact on the availability of water resources and flora, which can then alter where host animals are located. As tsetse fly populations follow their preferred hosts, this can affect the way it spread and travels.

Climate change can influence the prevalence and transmission dynamics of the trypanosome parasites carried by tsetse flies. Warmer temperatures and altered rainfall patterns can create more favourable conditions for the development and survival of both the tsetse flies and the trypanosome parasites within them. This can result in increased infection rates and a higher risk of trypanosomiasis transmission to humans and livestock.

Ethiopia can enhance its efforts in controlling the spread of trypanosomiasis and minimize the negative consequences on human and animal health, agriculture, and economic development. Efforts to combat the tsetse fly and its associated diseases have been ongoing in Ethiopia for many years. The government, in collaboration with international organizations and research institutions, has implemented various control strategies. These include the use of insecticide-treated traps, aerial spraying, and the release of sterile male flies to suppress the fly population.

Controlling the diseases caused by tsetse flies in animal reservoirs through measures like veterinary interventions, such as treatment, vaccination, or selective breeding, can help reduce the spread of tsetse flies. However, implementing such measures on a large scale can be logistically challenging and resource-intensive.

He stated that efforts are underway to address the issues of tsetse flies by using of insecticides or chemical substances to

target and kill tsetse flies. This method typically includes the application of insecticidal sprays and baits designed to disrupt their reproductive cycle or directly eliminate them or traps in areas where tsetse flies are prevalent. However, he underlined, that the application of this chemical needs due precaution. The chemicals need to be carefully managed and regulated to minimize any potential negative impacts on the environment or non-target species.

Controlling the existence of tsetse flies requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the issues. Based on research data, tsetse flies thrive in specific habitats, such as dense vegetation and woodland areas. Clearing or modifying these habitats can help reduce their breeding sites. However, this approach may face challenges in terms of environmental impact, as it may disrupt ecosystems and biodiversity.

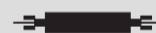
The government should prevent tsetse flies through the use of natural enemies to control the population of tsetse flies. He further stated that this method relies on the identification and introduction of organisms that are natural predators, parasites, or pathogens of tsetse flies. This method can help reduce tsetse fly populations by preying on them, laying their eggs inside them, or infecting them with diseases, he added. For instance, certain wasps and ants are known to parasitize tsetse flies, while certain species of bacteria and fungi can cause infections in tsetse flies. Those methods are considered to be more environmentally friendly.

Besides this, raising awareness about tsetse flies, their associated diseases, and preventive measures is vital. Educating local communities, travellers, and healthcare professionals about the risks, symptoms, and available control strategies can help prevent infections and encourage early treatment-seeking behaviour. However, reaching remote populations and ensuring sustained awareness can be challenging.

Furthermore, the prevention of tsetse flies and associated diseases requires collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, scientists, policymakers, research institutions, international organizations, and local communities. Such collaboration is vital for developing comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of tsetse fly infestation and its associated diseases.



Warmer temperatures and altered rainfall patterns can create more favourable conditions for the development and survival of both the tsetse flies and the trypanosome parasites within them



Art & Culture



Unmatched grace

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

When a traditional
 Music and dance,
 Accentuating
 A century-old bilateral
 Ties, took place
 A biracial and mesmeric
 Greek goddess,
 With chocolate Lucy's face,
 Exhibiting elegance
 And radiant face,
 With splendor
 Leased in the citadel of
 My heart a place
 Making it palpitate
 Picking pace
 Driving home
 The crossbreeding of
 This with that race
 At times lends human beings
 Unmatched grace!

(A short story)

BY DESALEGN DAGNEW

A soft girl's hand caressed the man's chest up and down to fasten the knot of the necktie. The man was standing engrossed in thoughts. The girl was hungry of attention. But his eyes were engaged elsewhere as can be witnessed from his face. Eleni and Samson had spent five years in marriage.

She fixed probing eyes on that of his. But he could not reciprocate. She was of the opinion that a man who is in love with you is capable to look back into your eyes for a while. The opposite could not be love but the beginning of an end.

Finishing fastening his red necktie she was rubbing his shoulders. He kissed her on her forehead and tried to turn back, but she tightly held his hips to draw him back. A black suit over a snow-white T-shirt in red necktie made him to stand out like diplomats.

He once more a kissed her forehead and said "I love you" she released her hold on his hips. The words coming out from his lips proved lighter as the wind and tasteless as waters for Eleni.

The former "I love you" from his lips were heavier than earths, farther than skies, and deeper than oceans. However this time the descriptions turned out to be lighter than winds, not deeper than a cup of waters and not farther than the roofs.

"How much do you love me" posed Eleni after a while, while he was struggling with the door knob to open it to go to work.

"What is so new today," he said fastening his belts.

"It matters to me!" she frowned,

He smiled and said "from this to that" pointing from the floor to the roof.

"Only from floor to roof?" she became irritated!

"No, from earth to sky" he smiled and once more twisted the doorknob to going out.

How much you loved me matters



"Haven't you forgotten using these words yet?" she crossed her hands over her pink pajamas waiting the challenging words.

He came in and closed the door, and then he put his suitcase on the tables. He stood close to her and crossed his hands like her.

"Why do I forget the words? It is real and actual to our love?" he put his hands on her shoulder.

" 'How much do you love me is an easy question' and needs no rethinking to respond to" she looked into his eyes, he shifted the direction of his eyes looking towards the other side.,

She looked him and blurted out "I need an answer?" Piercing his ears. He moistened his lower lips, and held both of her hips tightly, "I love you from earth to sky"

"That is a geographical expressions not love," she confusedly smiled.

"My love is deeper than the ocean," he reassured her his stance.

"Love does not dwell in the ocean floors, it revolves around in the beach for those who are there for one another in deep emotions not in the oceans" said Eleni gazing into his eyes to find a clue.

"So?" he became confused looking clearly into her eyes. He can look straight into her eyes when vexed. But lately when it came to love, he diverted his eyes from her .This

created distrust in her hearts.

"So come close to the reality!" she looked stiffly into his eyes, he tried many times to flee from her gaze. She distrusted him as he wronged her. Eleni believed in her ability as she had a quality of telling the sheep from the goat or the truth from false statements. Men are vulnerable to this kind of trap.

"Look my love..." Samson began closing her pajama that laid bare the rift between her breasts, and he gently caressing her said, "I am here for you, and you are all that I have in these worlds," his eyes assured her of love after many months. She gave him a hug tightly. He did as her too. Her lost smiles resurfaced. Putting up a smile on one's face in the morning is more beneficial than breakfasts.

A life began again in the heart of her heart. A word have been killing and curing many lives. She escorted him to the veranda to see him off with greedy eyes. Not even before he departed she began pining for him.

A short ping under his suit's pocket made him to stop in the middle of the compound.

"Darling are you coming?" he read SMS message. A secretive love overwhelmed him.

"I am coming for you! You are all that I have in this world" Samson sent a text without fear, regret and doubt.

Truth

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

We try to be perfect
 But we often get lost
 We are not always right
 Things are not always bright
 We have a darker side
 That we deny so bad
 We suppress our emotions
 To experience happiness
 But it doesn't work like that
 That is the known fact
 Happy emotions come with sad
 The good comes with the bad
 As there is night and day
 Feelings change the same way
 The world is meant to be heavenly
 For those whose mind is easy
 They don't worry or bother
 About things that don't matter

They are conscious in the moment
 Never once do they go out of it
 For majority of us that isn't the case
 We try to find a needle in a maize
 Our intelligence demands definition
 To every little thought and action.
 Part of us wants to be ill
 We don't know how to be still
 We can say we miss the darkness
 In the time we find happiness
 our creativity is fueled by pain
 Without it there is no gain
 Stability gives us boredom
 We can't pass the conundrum
 Without being tied to the norm.
 As a diamond shines through heat
 ours is revealed through it!
 "We are all like the bright moon,
 we still have our darker sides"



Society

Fostering partnership to ensure quality health service delivery

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

According to market experts, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are an effective approach that could facilitate opportunities to increase access to quality services, improve efficiency and help to ensure public satisfaction as well as address institutional and national priorities.

The experiences of many countries indicate that PPPs involve collaboration between a government agency and private-sector companies that can be used to finance, build, and operate projects such as roads, public transportation networks, health and education sectors as well as in a number of wide ranging areas.

Since the last few years, the private health sector has been burgeoning and becoming operational in Ethiopia in a number of areas. Ranging from primary level facilities such as private pharmacies and drug stores to non-government health facilities and civil society organizations, and primary clinics or medium clinics; to secondary level facilities including private for profit, the private health sector is operating immensely.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau (AACHB) Head Yohannes Chala (MD) said that the role PPPs could play in bringing quality and efficiency in the health care services is tremendous.

In view of this, The Bureau is keen in strengthening and enhancing the presence of the PPPs in the health sector; and it is ready to work with the private sector. Its door is open, he said.

As to him, various concerted efforts are underway to expedite the involvement of PPPs in the health sector and to identify service sectors that should fit the requirement to be practiced through PPPs. The Bureau also engaged in tracking the performances of PPPs on other African cities in the health sector.

According to him, Addis Ababa Health Bureau has applied PPPs in full swing at the dialysis center built at Menelik II Referral Hospital. "We are looking to further enhance the engagement of PPPs in the health care services and make the city one of the destinations for advanced medical care."

He further noted that the City Administration will keep on working along with stakeholders to make Addis Ababa a medical tourism destination.

The Bureau oversees the establishment of partnership in the health sector to be in line with the set standards and ensures their implementation in accordance with



the National Health Policy and standards.

The Bureau encourages private firms in the health sector to establish facilities in underserved areas, transfer knowledge, skills and experience through offering incentives such as tax benefits and other packages to make sure the partnership grows to the level of achieving the desired results.

"The Bureau fosters PPPs approach with the conviction to bridge the gap in healthcare provision and improve the distribution of health facilities in the city and by doing so to ease the health burden of the public," he added.

Addressing the challenges witnessed in the health sector requires a multifaceted approach. To this effect, involving increased investment in quality health care infrastructure, enhancing public-private partnership, and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare services for all residents of Addis Ababa is essential. Equally important, working more on prevention strategy is pivotal, he finally underlined.

Partnership and Cooperation Directorate

Director with the Bureau, Beshir Mohammed for his part said that private health care facilities working in partnership with the public health sector is one option to create sustainable health systems and to ensure the health and well-being of all the residents.

As the second-most populous country in Africa with a rapidly growing economy and increasing demand for quality health services in the capital, putting in place public-private partnership is influential and timely.

To meet the ever growing necessities of the people, to access the provision of efficient, quality health care services thereby easing the burden of public health facilities, applying PPPs approach is the best possible solution.

He further said that the health sector service is demanding; owing to this, it has the potential to create opportunities for health professionals and investors as well as the diaspora communities to have a hand in.

"I want to urge fellow citizens, investors and the Diaspora community to enhance

efforts and invest in the health sector including in the areas of pharmaceutical industry and human development as well as in the provision of high quality laboratory services."

He underlined that directives and other supporting documents are prepared and there is a green light to put in place the PPPs in each health sector services through well-established fashion.

The Bureau hopes that the effectuation of PPP in the health care service will address the primary challenges of the health sector where there is limited healthcare infrastructure and unequal distribution of healthcare facilities as well as shortage of skilled human power and limited resources among others.

Despite the challenges, the Bureau has recorded a number of successful achievements, to mention but a few, private health care providers in the city are creating possibilities in the business climate, improving competitiveness and further strengthening the quality of the services.

As the nation is striving to reach middle income status in 2025, fostering a more dynamic public-private partnership is instrumental to meet the set goals and let the community be healthy and productive.

"As various reports indicate, we should work hard to address the pressing health care gaps through further fostering public-private partnership in the health system of the nation."

In recent times, we are witnessing that Ethiopia's health sector service is expanding from primary to tertiary level facilities. However, a lot remains to be done in terms of accessing high-quality and equitable healthcare services, creating sustainable health systems and to ensure health and well-being of all citizens. In this regard, the engagement of private and public partnership in the health sector should be strengthened.

According to reports, Ethiopia has made significant investments in the public health sector which have led to improvements in the health outcomes. Over the past two plus decades, it was enabled to expand health posts across the country, increase the number of health extension workers and address many health challenges and meet many key health targets including reducing child maternal mortality.

Currently, the government is working with the private sector to build advanced tertiary care hospitals thereby alleviating the health burden of local people that would otherwise be met through travelling abroad and at the end of the day to promote medical tourism in Ethiopia.

Law & Politics

The significance of togetherness in ensuring peaceful coexistence and long-term stability

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Togetherness plays a pivotal role in ensuring peace within a society. It refers to the idea of collective responsibility and working together harmoniously to achieve common goals. When people work together, they give a sense of belonging and community, which ultimately results in peaceful coexistence. Without togetherness, society would be fragmented, and conflicts would arise quickly, leading to instability and chaos.

When people communicate openly and honestly with each other, they develop mutual understanding and trust, leading to collaborative efforts to address common issues that may lead to conflict. Listening to and understanding each other's point of view makes it easier to find a lasting solution to problems.

When people come together, they bring with them different perspectives, experiences, and opinions. It is important to acknowledge these differences and use them to reach a common goal or understanding that benefits everyone. Consensus building creates a sense of ownership and pride in group achievements, leading to greater social harmony.

By coming together, people gain a better understanding of their neighbors, and often this leads to a strong sense of compassion towards those who are less fortunate. It is through empathy and compassion that people build long-lasting relationships and foster a deep sense of community. In such communities, people are more likely to support each other in times of need, reducing the likelihood of conflicts arising.

When people come together, they learn to respect each other's differences while recognizing their similarities. In such surroundings, everyone has an equal voice and value, which fosters trust and cooperation. With respect, stereotyping and discrimination reduce, leading to an inclusive society that is peaceful.

Communities that appreciate diversity are likely to be more tolerant and thus more peaceful. This is because they are built on shared values and common aspirations, and not on insignificant differences. Togetherness plays a vital role in ensuring peace within a society. It involves working collaboratively, building consensus, exercising empathy, and promoting equality, respect, and tolerance. When people come together, they create a sense of community and belonging that fosters peace and stability.

Togetherness is one of the key components that cement unity among people. It refers to the ability of individuals to come together with shared experiences and a common goal. Communities that are characterized by a sense of togetherness often exhibit a bond that creates a sense of belonging that transcends cultural, social, and economic boundaries.

Togetherness fosters a sense of collective responsibility among individuals, leading to a greater commitment to the community's well-being. Members who feel a part of a community are more likely to take ownership of their actions and hold others



accountable for theirs. This sense of collective responsibility goes a long way in promoting social harmony and reducing conflicts that may arise due to individualistic tendencies.

When people come together, they are less likely to discriminate against each other based on factors such as race, gender, or religious beliefs. Inclusivity is, therefore, a vital aspect of social integration, which is critical for promoting social cohesion and preventing extremism. Communities that have a sense of togetherness are more likely to be tolerant and accepting of diversity, which leads to a richer and more vibrant social fabric.

Togetherness is the foundation of mutual trust among people. When individuals come together, they develop relationships founded on mutual respect and understanding. Trust is the glue that holds any community together, and it is essential in promoting cooperation and collaboration. Communities that lack trust are more likely to experience conflicts, which undermines the fabric of society.

When people come together, they develop a shared identity that creates a sense of belonging. This sense of belonging is essential in promoting mental well-being, as it reduces feelings of isolation and loneliness. Communities that have a sense of togetherness are more likely to be happier and healthier, as they provide the kind of social support that is critical in promoting well-being.

Togetherness fosters a sense of pride in the community. When individuals feel part of a community, they are more likely to take pride in its achievements. This sense of pride is critical in promoting a positive outlook on life, as it encourages individuals to focus on the positive aspects of their lives. Communities that have a sense of togetherness are more likely to be resilient in times of crisis, as they have a foundation of shared pride and optimism.

One of the key aspects of togetherness in politics is the ability to build consensus through dialogue. By fostering open and inclusive conversations, political actors can create a space where different viewpoints

are heard, understood, and respected. This exchange of ideas leads to a better understanding of the diverse needs and aspirations within society, facilitating the identification of common ground that can serve as a foundation for collective decision-making.

By creating spaces for negotiation and compromise, political actors can find middle ground that addresses the concerns of all parties involved. This approach creates opportunities for collaboration, fostering a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding. By recognizing shared goals and interests, political actors can collaborate with like-minded individuals or groups to achieve common objectives. These alliances leverage collective strength and resources, maximizing the impact of their efforts and enhancing the likelihood of success.

By acknowledging and valuing various viewpoints, individuals and communities can perceive that their voices are truly heard and their concerns are genuinely taken into account. This increased recognition and responsiveness generate a heightened level of public trust in the political system, as citizens begin to acknowledge and appreciate the fair, transparent, and inclusive nature of decision-making processes.

When people witness their perspectives being genuinely valued and understood, it creates an environment of mutual respect and empathy. This atmosphere of empathy facilitates dialogue, collaboration, and compromise, resulting in policies and decisions that reflect the broader needs and desires of the population. By actively engaging with dissenting opinions and fostering a culture of open dialogue, political actors can bridge ideological gaps and create opportunities for reconciliation. This collaborative approach helps to reduce social tension, promote unity, and cultivate a shared vision for the future.

When political actors actively seek common ground and build consensus, they inspire citizens to unite and work together towards shared goals. This collective effort towards a common purpose transcends individual differences, fostering a sense of togetherness and camaraderie among the populace.

By prioritizing collaboration over conflict, political actors create an environment where trust, mutual respect, and effective communication flourish. This shift in attitude and approach allows for more constructive dialogues and discussions, enabling the resolution of disagreements in a peaceful and productive manner. When individuals from diverse backgrounds and ideologies are encouraged to work together, they develop a greater understanding and appreciation for one another. This increased empathy and respect serve as a foundation for a cohesive and harmonious society, reducing the likelihood of social unrest and promoting long-term stability.

The culture of cooperation and unity often has a ripple effect on other aspects of society, transcending the political realm. When individuals witness political actors engaging in constructive dialogue and working together towards common goals, it inspires them to emulate these behaviors in their personal and professional lives. This cultural shift towards cooperation and unity can have wide-ranging positive impacts, fostering a more cohesive and compassionate society as a whole.

By putting aside differences and focusing on shared objectives, one can create a conducive environment for implementation of initiatives that can bring about positive change. This sustained collaborative effort paves the way for continuous advancements in various spheres of society, ensuring a brighter future for generations to come.

By fostering a culture of inclusivity and cooperation, political actors can bridge ideological gaps, reconcile conflicting interests, and forge alliances that lead to effective and legitimate governance. By encouraging active participation and inclusivity, governments can create an environment where individuals feel heard, valued, and represented. This strengthens the social fabric and enhances trust in institutions, fostering a collective identity that transcends individual differences and ultimately contributes to a more harmonious society.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

Of the 'Real Bosses' and the 'Performers!'

Why are bosses in the positions they hold? "The most nonsense questions any one claiming to possess complete upstairs machinery can ask!" you might say. But then whenever expiations and reality fail to be on the same plane you are pardoned to go a little offline asking 'nonsense' questions. The conventional wisdom is or has been whenever anyone gets a higher position in their line of work, family and friends feel happy. "Did you hear? Our guy has been promoted to the position of a CEO!" 'Hip! Hip! Hooray!' the applause comes in drove, and rightly so.

These days being a boss at higher levels by itself is not much of a story. Sitting you frame in that mammoth leather chair which seems to be sinking forever is not much of a story. It is the actual performance of 'Dear Mr. Boss' that should matter. When only the heavy leather chairs and the expensive four wheel drives are taken as the measures of success, when the movement up and up the ladder of the bureaucracy is taken as sort of legitimate 'prize' that's where the real problems start coming from all corners. No wonder; when our 'new boss' forgets he was placed in that position for good and very important reasons and continues to practice how to display that air of importance, that inclination of being among the 'VVIP untouchables' the very crucial tasks of making their workers more industrious and productive and boosting the dynamism and profit-making ability.

Acting 'bossy' meaning, the multi-folded foreheads and the frowns which come and go according to which rung on the ladder one might be and the usual "He's not available.." shield that keeps people out

of the office while they are enjoying those flirtingly conspiratorial phone calls aren't about being good at management. Those good at managing the organization they have been entrusted with take themselves out of the suffocating box of strikingly furnished and carpeted office and strive for higher elevations for their organizations and staff. That's what they do, trying to achieve the higher level of productivity and growth. We'd like to believe that bosses, wherever they are, are given the posts because of the belief that they are the right choices for the posts. That of course should be how things should be going.

Now, there are good, even excellent, bosses in many places. Of course such bosses who are confident about what they do and really deliver on their vow of doing their best are usually far from the spotlight where there is much commotion these days. After all, every one of us seem to be clamoring to wriggle our way through the commotion and put ourselves in the spotlight we have nothing to prove we deserve to be in any light alone the spotlight. They don't talk; they work. But unfortunately there are many who force you to pose a hundred and one questions the outstanding one being "How in the world did they give the guy such an important post?" That's what many of us ask these days when faced mistreatment in places.

"Can I Help You?" Talking about service rendering that should be the most important phrase you, as the client, would like to hear, isn't it? Even if the smile is nonexistent the words would speak volumes for themselves. Someone seems to be ready to help you in any way they can. Isn't that one of the

greatest things to happen to you these days?

More and more when we tend to generalize it isn't because we're pessimists. It isn't because we're the types who always look for the tiny black spot ignoring the white expanse which could cover a whole soccer field. It is because we run into so much mistreatment in many offices and not because we're bent at picking only the wrong side things. In recent months a few friends had nasty run-ins with employees of certain organizations. Forget the "Can I help you?" thing and they faced employees who weren't willing to take up their cases and listen them out. Now, those employees are there exactly for that, to serve clients who come with cases to be needing intervention of the respective organizations.

Now whatever mistreatment clients suffer at the lower levels mostly goes down to bad or incompetent management, doesn't it? Most of the organizations which fail to realize their 'annual plan of actions' find themselves in such sorry positions because of weak management. When the rank and file know that their management is weak-kneed and they are sure they would not face any disciplinary action you can imagine the atmosphere that would reign in the whole origination. Months back we talked about the gentleman who decided his fight for fair treatment to higher levels with the comment "I'm a tax payer!" And they said that prompted the loudest of laughs. That's how bizarre things are these days.

But then there is this tendency (or is it a strategy!) of the managerial brass washing their hands clean of whatever happens. "The

workers are the lazy, all they do is talk, talk, talk!" Even in financial institutions where the highest form of professionalism should be in evidence there are more than a few times where you feel that you're not being treated like you should be. The guy behind the counter is so uncooperative he makes it appear you're there begging what is not yours! Someone should have told him that you the customer are the ones paying his salary.

But that guy has bosses at higher levels. If you wish it's your right to report him to his immediate boss or knock even bigger doors. That should be the place where all the riddles would have their final answers. But then what should be and what is are usually miles apart. You make it all the way to whoever is at the top.

"So what is the problem?"

You tell your problem. The boss says that you should have settled it at the junior managerial level and. "Well sir, I've talked to all responsible down the line and none of them is willing to help me." Now the boss should be all ears and ask, "What do you mean they aren't willing to help you?" You tell him all the reactions most of which are meant to protect the guys who made the initial mistakes. No he isn't that curious a boss; and that is the kind boss we'd have liked to avoid in times when there is no space or time for complacency and when the highest form of passion and compassion is needed form every soul.

Time to separate the real bosses from the performers!

Get Rich Quick! Is it that easy?

Well, sorry but I can't tell you it's that easy or not until I come across someone with the experience.

But we have no shortage of stories about the 'lucky lot' who got rich overnight. I'll tell you the story of some guy who allegedly got rich overnight and he made sure everyone recognized. One story is that sometime back the guy wasn't anywhere close to being a member of the so-called middle income crowd. (I always am confused about the interpretation of the 'middle income. What are the real criteria of the term in relation to our particular situation? Does a couple of thousand in the bank make someone a middle class dude? Or does it need a few millions?)

Time flies real fast, doesn't it? Forget the fact the seconds. The minutes and the hours still run with the same pace they have been doing over centuries. It is about the feeling of time flying so fast that you couldn't put a hand on its tail or anything. So the conventional wisdom for quiet many of us seems to be getting rich as soon as possible. All of a sudden we're turned into philosophers. "You know time will not wait for you to catch up. So you better run while you can!" In fact time never waited for us and we seem to have never been as restless as we seem to be presently to get rich soon! Well, maybe just maybe the 'chances to get rich quick weren't as 'abundant' as they're supposed to be now. Are there ways to get rich soon? Well though I'm not the right person to try to answer that question I can throw a word or two from the narratives I hear as many are

probably hearing. "You wouldn't believe it; just a few months back he was so broke he used to plead with me to buy him a couple of beers! Now he doesn't even have a few minutes for me for a short greeting. The guy has changed so much I wonder if I had missed anything about his real behavior during the many years of our friendship."

Ok; get ready to get rich soon. How do you do it? I don't know; I don't really know! But if we go by the narratives about the overnight rich folks they might have some tried and tested ideas up their sleeves. The only thing and this is coming from a guy who just can't see this whole picture of that crowd, most of them wouldn't be problem-free or within the bounds of things you can legally do without breaking the laws and regulations of the land!

Are we seeing some kind of craze while people are trying to get rich quick? Of course, 'quick' is subjective. Are we talking about days, weeks, months or years? In fact so many real crazy stories we hear and we might as well add, "When we say 'quick' are we talking about all the overnight stories of some pretty young lady going to bed closer to the poverty line and waking up way, way above it economically stable and even inching closer to riches?" And we thought such stories were meant for Hollywood screenwriters who run out of ideas and yet have to get their daily bread writing one thing or another. "No more!" so the latest 'conventional wisdom' seem to have it.

You hear of stories of people who became

filthy millionaires overnight.

"Hey I saw that girl with whom you went to college. From what you've been telling me I thought she was having a hard time getting any fair employment."

"Yes; you could say that again. She really has been suffering! She had no means to support her family which had a hard time to make ends meet."

"Well maybe that episode is coming to an end."

"Why do you say that?"

"Well I saw her driving an eight-million birr car and the way she was dressed looked like some fashion diva."

"Don't tell me, she...she...No! I'm sure she wouldn't go that far however bad her family's economic problems."

"I know what you mean. But these days it's difficult to give the final verdict on any one of us!"

Well said, wouldn't you say? Life goes in all sorts of wild swirls and spins and all we can do is watch. I mean it is common to hear of ladies shooting all the way up in a couple of nights and all of a sudden acting as if they were born with the gold spoons their mouths. You hear of very young guys who, with the help of some financial or administrative muscle suddenly driving the latest model cars and all you can do is speculate. "This guy must be into something very filthy or else there is no way he can have his own bicycle let alone million-birr car!"

Look there is nothing wrong with the ambition of becoming rich ASAP! We've taken ASAP from the medical emergency room to the financial 'emergency' world. Yes, no one could tell you they would prefer to get rich over years while they have all the legitimate and legal ways of achieving that goal much sooner. The problem comes when the whole plan is only getting rich. In such cases what matters isn't how you get the riches but that you get them. Every other thing comes after that.

Recently a couple of us were talking with a few youngsters who were bent on getting rich quick whatever it takes. You have to admire their passion and their confidence that in a very short time they will go far up the ladder. But at the same time you can't stop worrying the kids were get themselves in a lot of water and only then they will realize the passion of getting rich alone doesn't do the trick. What matters would be how to do it legitimately.

Look, going to some part of the city which you don't frequent is a real eye-opener. Things are changing so thoroughly you might even wonder it isn't all illusion and nothing more. Yes, we're confused. "What in the world is going on?" "Am I looking at some video presentation of some other city?" There are so many rich-looking and rich-acting youngsters you wonder if they somehow have been secretly blessed to be rich 'quick' while you were trying to make your voice heard over a hundred and one issues and no word passed over your hairline.

Is getting rich quick as easily done as said!