



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## High time to call for Africa's permanent seats on UNSC

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – Withstanding attempts to maintain the unbalanced world order, Africans should stand together to secure permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and have a say on their peace and security matters, a veteran diplomat said.

The UNSC reform, including the expansion of the current five veto-wielding members has remained the major talking point among actors of international politics. The 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) which opened yesterday and runs until 26 September 2023 is also expected to confer with the issue.

Speaking to The Ethiopian Herald, the ex-diplomat Ambassador Tirunch Zena stated that Africa's robust economic growth, establishment of strong institutions and productive population make its exclusion from the council inconvincible. "Some permanent members of the UNSC want to keep the current international order, but this cannot be true due to various reasons. For instance, there is a loud voice and strong



push from African countries to join the council on a permanent basis."

The ex-ambassador pleaded African leaders who will partake in the UNGA 78 to make a

united voice to ensure the continent's permanent representation in the world's premier body for international peace and security.

See High time ...page 3

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### Bale mountains UNESCO's status boosts tourist flow

Page 3

### Gedeo Cultural Landscape's inscription central to tourism headway: Bureau

Page 3

## UNHCR commissioner lauds Ethiopia

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA-** The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Commissioner Filippo Grande praised Ethiopia for its policy on refugees.

On the side event of high-level political summit on sustainable Development Goals held in New York on Monday, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen discussed with UNHCR Commissioner on refugees' affair.

During the course of the discussion, Filippo lauded Ethiopia for receiving and hosting the Sudanese refugees in a very human manner. He also appealed for donors to scale up their support to refugees in Ethiopia, it was learnt.

See UNHCR commissioner ...page 3



The new tourism destinations bearing fruits

Page 6

Ethiopian-British poet adopts Kafka's "Metamorphosis" to the stage

Page 7

Emerging as a major player in Africa and beyond

Page 8



# News



## NDRMC delivers humanitarian aid to returnees

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

**ADDIS ABABA** –The National Disaster Risk Management Commission(NDRMC) announced that it is providing humanitarian support to 4,000 Ethiopian returnees who recently displaced from Sudan.

The commission is assisting the returnees by forming a task force that incorporates Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Women and Social Affairs(MoWSA), and other stakeholders, NDRMC Public Relations Senior Expert Atalele Abuhay said .

“We are providing food support. However, the returnees do not have a permanent location which makes the support very difficult,” he said.

Though the support is not steady, Atalele told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the commission is providing immediate food aid including macaroni, pasta, safe water, and nutritious meals for mothers and children.

Absence of permanent residence is still a challenge ,thus, returnees must settle in one area, he stressed.

North Gondar Zone Risk Management and Food Security Office Head Selamyihun Mulat on his part said that there are 4,000 returnees in the zone receiving medical support though there is shortage of other humanitarian aid.

He called on all domestic and international organization to play due role to facilitate and provide humanitarian assistance.

In addition, all pertinent government institutions have to pay due attention to recover the returnees from their economic and moral crisis, according to Selamyihun.

Ethiopian returnees told various media outlets that they are looking for immediate humanitarian aid since they arrived barehanded leaving everything they possessed behind when they escaped the Sudan conflict.

## Flight Global lauds Ethiopian airlines recurrent progress

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Flight Global has acknowledged and appreciated the current state of Ethiopian airlines in terms of global connectivity.

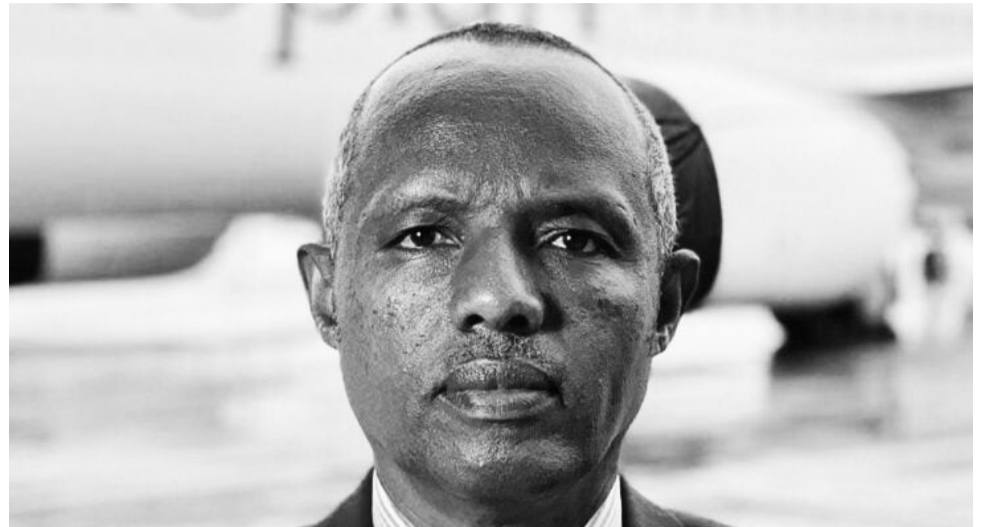
The organization stated that Ethiopian Airlines CEO Mesfin Tasew is guiding Africa’s stand-out performer into its next growth phase through widening connectivity.

In the piece entitled: “How Mesfin Tasew is delivering the next phase of growth at Ethiopian Airlines” Flight Global stated that Mesfin will continue encouraging the growth of the aviation industry using business experience, technology, and he is also attempting to connect the African continent with the rest of the world.

Citing what Mesfin uttered, the organization said Ethiopia planned to numerically increase the aircraft from 143 to 271 by 2035. The airline is currently working hard for achieving its goals of Vision 2025 roadmap as early as several years, and strengthen the aviation industry in Ethiopia.

Mesfin said: “Over the past fiscal year, we carried 13.8 million passengers, which are 14% higher than in the pre-COVID period. In terms of revenue, we generated slightly over 6 billion USD, which is about 50% more compared to pre-COVID-19 as well as in terms of revenue passenger kilometers.”

Mesfin further stated that as many airlines in Africa focus only on passenger operations,



Mesfin Tasew

they became a victimized when the passenger operation stops functioning. However, since Ethiopian Airlines is doing passenger, cargo and Maintenance, repair and operations (MRO), it immediately switched to cargo, which was in big demand during the COVID-19. It means that Ethiopian airlines quickly recover in the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, those positive metrics have not happened by accident rather all bodies were worked hand –in hand and day in and day out.

“The Ethiopian airline strategic roadmap shows that Ethiopian Airlines would like to expand across the globe. Therefore, the core operation of the airline is to connect Africans together and Africans to the rest of the world” he added.

Mesfin admired the tasks and operation

of some African airlines such as ASKY in Togo, Malawi and Zambia Airlines, Nigeria Air, and DRC though a lot remain to be done in filling infrastructure gap and other related issues. Similarly, Kenya and South African Airways are hoping to emulate Ethiopian’s pan-African model with their own group structure but have faced their own financial challenges in recent years. He mentioned that 71% of the African traffic is being served by non-African airlines and Ethiopian Airlines’ share is only 15%. He also stated that China is a very important market for Ethiopian Airlines.

Furthermore, flights from the Middle East and developed countries to the African continent and vice-versa are helping to foster the capacity of the continent regarding aviation sector.

## Hospital longing support to burning unit expansion

BY YESUF ENDRIS

A mother of a 21-month- old child, Hiwot Tsidola sat somberly at Arba Minch Hospital whereas the doctors told her to bring her child home as there are a line of patients who are desperate to get beds and her child’s condition is getting better.

Hiwot admitted that the condition of her child, who was burnt by boiled water, is slightly improving, “It was a shocking moment. He was almost in a critical situation leading to death. Now, he is recovering fast.” However, she insisted that the child needs more treatment for proper recovery. But shortage of beds in the burning unit makes her wish far from reality.

Another mother, Etenesh Mala was also in the hospital for more than a week accompanying her one- year- old child Endalkew. He was injured by cooking fire while her mother was busy with housework. “Plastic surgeons are reconstructing his burnt skin by taking skin even from me and if he was not hospitalized, he would die.”

A General Surgeon, who is also Plastic and Reconstructive Sub-specialist Ephrem



Temesgen Ashebir

Gashaw (MD), admitted that burning cases need more hospitals and organized units in existing hospitals. The Burning Unit of Arba Minch Hospital has only nine beds. “So, we are building another facility to expand the Unit.”

“Nationwide, only a few hospitals are providing medical service for burning patients in organized units. We are one of these few hospitals delivering the service. I would like to urge governmental and non-governmental health institutions to work on burn diagnosis.”

“Burning treatment is one of the highly



Ephrem Gashaw (MD)

marginalized health issues in Ethiopia.”

Due to the shortage of burn diagnosis centers and professionals across the country, the hospital is receiving a large number of patients coming from outside the service region.

Facilitator of the Burning Unit, Temesgen Ashebir also suggested that both public and private hospitals should organize their units to treat burning patients.

Females and children are most vulnerable to burning, so, institutions engaged to help women and children should support burning treatment centers, he pleaded.



# News

## Gedeo Cultural Landscape's inscription central to tourism headway: *Bureau*

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** – UNESCO's newly-inscribed Gedeo Cultural Landscape would be central to protect the environment and galvanize tourists' inflow into the area, the Gedeo Zone Culture and Tourism Bureau said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Bureau's Tourism Development Department Head Yosef Maru (PhD) noted that the Gedeo community is known for their indigenous knowledge in protecting the ecosystem and culturally fused agriculture system.

"Gedeo Cultural Landscape, which covers over 29,000 hectares of land, is chosen for harmonious interplay of an agro forestry system, breathtaking megalithic monuments, and sacred forests which are believed to be the oldest in East Africa."

The head further stated that the Gedeo community's traditional administration system called 'Songo' is also helping the site to be inscribed by UNESCO. By the same token, the organization considered



agro forestry, in which the community's multilayer cultivation of large trees sheltering indigenous enset, fruits, coffee and other commodities in its decision.

The registration of the site as a world heritage would be of paramount importance in strengthening Ethiopia's tourism development apart from expediting the site's preservation and conservation activities.

Apart from economic value, the site's inscription would also help in promoting

Ethiopia's positive image and advancing its efforts to become a preferred tourist destination.

Yosef expressed the zone's desire for investors to engage in the construction of star-designated hotels, lodges and resorts across tourist attraction sites.

It is to be recalled that the UNESCO inscribed Gedeo Cultural Landscape as a World Heritage Site at its 45th World Heritage Meeting in Riyadh last Sunday.

## Malaria remains leading cause of child death in Africa

**ADDIS ABABA (ENA)** -Malaria epidemic remains the leading cause of death in Africa particularly children, Ethiopia's Health Minister, Lia Taddese (MD) remarked.

The 9th Pan-African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA) Annual Conference and Exhibition opened on Monday in Addis Ababa.

Over 1,000 participants have been attending the 5-day global conference to discuss on ways to combat malaria in Africa.

In her virtual message she delivered to the conference, Health Minister Lia said the spread of malaria and related diseases in Africa are major public health predicaments noting that Malaria epidemic has been the leading cause of death in the continent, particularly children.

According to her, Ethiopia has been registering encouraging achievements in the prevention and control of the disease due to the efforts carried out by the government in collaboration with various stakeholders over the past two decades.

Ethiopia has been implementing national malaria strategic plan, which was commenced in 2021 with the objective to eliminate malaria from the country.

Though significant progress has been gained in terms of controlling malaria and associated diseases in Africa, conflict, displacement, floods and droughts have caused the relapse of the disease all over again, she added.

Hence, she stressed the need to maximize efforts to control the spread of the disease by properly utilizing the available technologies.

Pan-African Mosquito Control Association Chairman Professor Dilnesaw Yehualaw for his part said the strategy designed to control malaria by eliminating mosquito from the continent of Africa was successful.

However, he added that currently the spread of the disease has been increasing due to the occurrence of new type of mosquitoes and other diseases like Dengue.

In Ethiopia, the number of individuals contracting and succumbing to malaria has undergone a major decline of 90 % over the past decade.

Nonetheless, the spread of malaria has been on the upswing in the past two years mainly due to natural and man-made problems like climate change and security issues.

However, the government, in collaboration with partners, is working on the prevention and control of malaria in Ethiopia, it was learned.

## Bale mountains UNESCO's status boosts tourist flow

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA** – The registration of Bale Mountains National Park under UNESCO's World Heritage list has a paramount importance in recognizing, preserving and promoting the heritage thereby attracting more tourists to the country, Bale Zone Culture and Tourism Bureau said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Bureau Head, Robida Jarson said that the inscription of bale mountains national park by UNESCO benefits the Oromia state in particular and the nation in general in terms of attracting additional local and foreign tourists.

"After a relentless effort, our park is inscribed by UNESCO. The registration of park is expected to increase its international acceptance so that contributes a lot to the national economy," she said.

In her congratulatory message, Tourism Minister, Nasise Chali, said that the registration comes after all-rounded efforts of all stakeholders.

Bale Mountains National Park inscribed on World Natural Heritage List by UNESCO last Monday during the 45th extended session of the World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The Minister stated that registration of the Park under the UNESCO world heritage list has put the country first for registering a highest number of UNESCO-inscribed world heritage properties in Africa.

She noted that the registration plays a great role in attracting more tourists to the country.

"The Ethiopian government will strengthen its commitment in protecting and maintaining the Park's flora and fauna for the generation to come," she said.

In addition to making strong policies and strategies, and approving related international agreements, awareness raising programs are being prepared to the surrounding community to conserve the park, according to Nasise.

Bale Mountains National Park is registered by UNESCO as the second largest natural heritage site in Ethiopia and the 11th largest natural heritage site in the world, it was learnt.

The park was established in 1962 covering 2,150 square kilometers of land and 40 rivers including Wabe shebele, Genale, Wolmel and Dumel. Located at 400km southeast of Addis Ababa, Bale Mountains National Park contains a spectacularly diverse landscape. The high altitude, afro-mountain and Sanetti Plateau rise to over 4,000m and includes the highest peak in the southern Ethiopia highlands.

## High time to call...

"There is a projection that some African countries would join the club of big economies around 2030/40. As a result, countries including Ethiopia would become economically robust in the near future. The next century could be Africa's century as the continent is registering astonishing developments and achievements."

About Ethiopia, he expressed optimism that the country could play a prominent role in mobilizing African partners to come up with a united stance that would enhance the continent's share in international relations.

According to him, rotating Africa's permanent seat in the UNSC would make the continent advantageous and help the countries to have more capacity to take their peace and security matters in hand. The seat would be granted for the African Union (AU)

and it would rotate among constituent members, Ambassador Tiruneh remarked.

Some permanent members of the UNSC including the U.S. and Russia supported the motion to ensure permanent seats not only for different countries including Japan, Germany, and India but also for countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The UNSC is one of the six principal organs of the UN and charged with international peace and security. China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States are UNSC permanent members with veto-wielding status.

It is to be recalled that The African Union officially took its seat at the table of the world's richest and most powerful countries, commonly known as G20 in the latter's meeting in India some 10 day back.

## UNHCR commissioner...

Meanwhile, Demeke also conferred with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation CEO, Mark Suzman and commended the partnership between Ethiopia and the Foundation.

On the occasion, Demeke said that Ethiopia deserves support as it is consolidating peace after the Pretoria peace deal and implementing the ten-year development plan.

He, moreover, said that Ethiopia has continued to register robust economic growth, demonstrating strong national resilience... and mentioned the bumper wheat production and bounty of the basket initiatives as successful national

flagship projects.

"Normalization with bilateral and multilateral development partners is also promising, and Ethiopia will continue to intensify its positive engagements."

Mark Suzman, on his part, said the foundation has the strongest and most important partnership with Ethiopia in health, agriculture, and digital finance, among others. He also expressed the unwavering commitment of his foundation to work with Ethiopia and agreed to further intensify the partnership in line with Ethiopia's development goals.



# Opinion

## The gear shifter incident

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

The fourth round of filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) or Abbay Dam has been hailed as a success, despite facing diplomatic pressures, according to Yacob Arsano, a member of the GERD negotiating team.

Similarly, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) announced the achievement of the fourth-round filling, highlighting the immense challenges Ethiopia had to overcome. The successful completion of this phase has not only reversed the pressure against Ethiopia but also secured a significant diplomatic victory for the country.

Yacob Arsano, who is also a Hydro Politics Researcher at Addis Ababa University, emphasized that the Ethiopian people prioritize their national interest and the well-being of future generations over personal interests. The Abbay Dam, funded and built by the Ethiopian public, is a testament to their commitment.

Yacob Arsano stated that the dam's filling is a result of the collective contribution of the public in terms of financing, labor, knowledge, and prayers.

Ethiopia has always taken into consideration the mutual benefits of neighboring downstream countries in its water development projects. The filling of the dam has been carried out while ensuring sufficient water flow to the downstream countries.

Yacob further highlighted that Ethiopian officials have confirmed that the Aswan Dam in Egypt is holding sufficient water. This demonstrates Ethiopia's commitment to utilizing trans boundary water resources fairly and without causing significant harm to downstream countries.

The Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) recognizes the progress in the construction of the Abbay Dam as a symbol of mutual growth in the Horn of Africa. Minister Water and Energy, Habtamu Itefa emphasized that the dam, financed by Ethiopia, aims to benefit all stakeholders and integrate the region.

Ethiopia has already been providing renewable energy to Sudan, Kenya, and Djibouti at an affordable price, and there are plans to export power to South Sudan too. The interconnectedness facilitated by Ethiopia's green energy sources, including the Abbay Dam, strengthens regional cooperation.

The Abbay Dam project not only contributes to Ethiopia's energy security but also opens up opportunities for economic growth. Minister Habtamu highlighted that the artificial lake created by the dam could serve as a source of income through fishing and recreation services.

Additionally, the industrialization driven by the dam's power generation capacity can attract investments and address the pressing issue of youth unemployment.

In line with Ethiopia's focus on renewable energy development, the Geothermal Sector Development Project Department of Ethiopian Electric Power announced a

significant milestone. The Aluto Langano underground steam project has successfully produced 25 megawatts of power from the production test. The project involves drilling steam generation wells and utilizing geothermal energy. The completion of the additional wells in the project is expected to further increase power generation capacity. The project, supported by the World Bank, aims to generate 70 megawatts of power and create both permanent and temporary job opportunities for Ethiopians.

Ethiopia possesses abundant natural resources and favorable geographical conditions that make it highly suitable for harnessing renewable energy sources. As the country strives to meet its growing energy demands while reducing its carbon footprint, it is crucial to effectively exploit and utilize renewable energy resources. This comprehensive guide aims to provide a roadmap for fully exploiting and utilizing renewable energy projects in Ethiopia.

The first step is to conduct a thorough assessment of Ethiopia's renewable energy resources. Solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, and biomass energy sources should be identified and evaluated across the country. This assessment will help prioritize the most viable options for exploitation and utilization.

Developing a robust policy framework is essential to support renewable energy development. This includes setting renewable energy targets, providing incentives for investors, and establishing favorable regulatory environments. Clear guidelines for project development, grid integration, and power purchase agreements will attract private investments and accelerate the deployment of renewable energy.

Partnerships between the government, private sector, and international organizations play a crucial role in fostering renewable energy growth. Collaborations can drive innovation, technology transfer, and financial support for renewable energy projects. It is important to engage local communities in the planning and implementation processes to ensure inclusivity and maximize social acceptance.

Modernizing and expanding the existing grid infrastructure is necessary to accommodate the integration of renewable energy. Enhancing transmission and distribution systems, implementing smart grid technologies, and establishing energy storage facilities will enable the effective management of intermittent generation from renewable sources. Strengthening the grid will facilitate efficient power delivery and reduce transmission losses.

Ethiopia's solar potential should be leveraged through the implementation of large-scale solar projects. Encouraging the adoption of solar photovoltaic systems for residential, commercial, and industrial applications is essential. Incentives such as net metering and tax benefits should be provided to promote decentralized solar installations. Solar parks and mini-grids can be developed to power remote areas and support rural electrification.

Identifying favorable wind corridors and establishing wind farms with significant

electricity generation capacity is another important step. Detailed wind resource assessments should be conducted, and private investment in wind power projects should be encouraged. The integration of wind power into the grid should be carefully planned to ensure stability and reliability.

Hydroelectric power has been a traditional source of energy in Ethiopia, and there is still untapped potential for further development. The construction of large dams, such as the Abbay Dam, should continue to be pursued to harness the power of rivers effectively. Small-scale hydropower projects can also be implemented in rural areas to provide electricity to local communities.

Ethiopia's geothermal resources have significant potential for power generation. Conducting detailed geothermal resource assessments and drilling exploration wells will help identify suitable sites for geothermal power plants. Public-private partnerships can be formed to attract investment and expertise in geothermal development.

Biomass energy, derived from agricultural waste and forest resources, can be utilized for both electricity generation and cooking purposes. Promoting the use of efficient biomass cook stoves can reduce deforestation and indoor air pollution. Biomass power plants can also be established to convert organic waste into electricity and heat.

To ensure the sustainability of renewable energy projects, capacity building and skills development programs should be implemented. Training local technicians and engineers in the operation and maintenance of renewable energy systems will create job opportunities and enhance the sector's expertise.

In conclusion, Ethiopia has immense potential to exploit and utilize renewable energy resources. By conducting resource assessments, establishing a supportive policy framework, fostering partnerships, modernizing the grid infrastructure, and promoting different renewable energy sources, Ethiopia can achieve its energy goals while contributing to global efforts in combating climate change. The successful implementation of renewable energy projects will not only provide clean and affordable electricity but also drive economic growth and improve the livelihoods of the Ethiopian people.

Water politics and diplomacy refer to the complex interactions and negotiations between countries over shared water resources. As water scarcity becomes an increasingly pressing global issue, the management, allocation, and utilization of water resources often give rise to diplomatic challenges and conflicts. We can cite that some important rationales about the utilization of water.

Most of all, many rivers, lakes, and aquifers span multiple countries, necessitating cooperation and diplomacy to effectively manage these shared water resources. The diplomatic engagements surrounding trans boundary water resources involve negotiations, agreements, and institutions to ensure equitable and sustainable water allocation.

Water is a vital resource for human survival, agriculture, industry, and ecosystem health. Disputes often arise when countries perceive their access to water as inadequate or when they believe their water rights are being infringed upon. Negotiations and diplomacy are necessary to address issues of equity, ensuring fair access to water for all stakeholders.

Water can have significant geopolitical implications, especially in regions where water scarcity or disputes over water resources intersect with existing political tensions. Water-related conflicts can exacerbate existing political disputes and create additional challenges for diplomatic resolutions.

International water law, including customary law and specific agreements, provides a framework for resolving water-related disputes and promoting cooperation. Treaties and conventions, such as the United Nations Watercourses Convention, establish principles and guidelines for the equitable and reasonable use of trans boundary water resources.

Diplomatic efforts often involve mediation and conflict resolution mechanisms to address water-related disputes. International organizations, such as the United Nations and its agencies, as well as regional bodies, play a crucial role in facilitating negotiations, providing technical expertise, and mediating conflicts over water resources.

Hydro-diplomacy refers to the use of diplomatic means to foster cooperation and prevent conflicts related to water resources. It emphasizes the importance of dialogue, trust-building, and shared benefits in managing trans boundary water resources effectively. Hydro-diplomacy aims to shift the focus from a zero-sum game to mutually beneficial outcomes.

Access to reliable and comprehensive data on water resources is crucial for effective water management and decision-making. Diplomatic efforts often include agreements and mechanisms for data sharing, joint monitoring, and cooperation in water-related research and assessment.

The impacts of climate change, such as changing rainfall patterns and increased water stress, further complicate water diplomacy. Adapting to these changes and developing sustainable water management strategies require international cooperation, technological innovation, and diplomatic efforts to address the challenges posed by climate change.

Overall, water politics and diplomacy are essential for promoting cooperation, preventing conflicts, and ensuring the sustainable and equitable management of shared water resources. Effective water diplomacy involves dialogue, negotiation, and consensus-building among stakeholders at local, national, regional, and international levels.

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



# Editorial

## GLI for sustainable future

The first year of the second phase of the Ethiopian Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) that was launched under the theme 'Let's plant tomorrow today' was concluded last Monday, September 18, 2023.

The second phase that was launched following the success story of the first program has also witnessed added feats.

In the second phase carried out in the just concluded rainy season, Ethiopia managed to plant 500 million tree saplings in 12 hours and made history by planting 566,971,600 million seedlings.

And all together, in this year's tree planting program, a total of 7.5 billion trees were planted by mobilizing millions of Ethiopians from all walks of life.

Last Monday, the concluding program of this year's Green Legacy Initiative was held in the Jogo Basin area, Lome Woreda, East Shewa Zone of Oromia State, in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, chief administrators of states, and heads of agriculture bureaus.

Speaking at the program, Prime Minister Abiy said that following the undesirable impacts of climate change, a number of deliberations have been conducted at the global level. Unluckily, the practical paces made to reverse the challenges were not at the desired level. However, Ethiopia, through its groundbreaking Green Legacy Initiative, is taking practical measures and performing exemplary actions.

Mentioning the target to plant 25 billion tree seedlings in the second phase of the initiative program, the Premier said that efforts will be exerted to increase the number of saplings planted in both phases to 50 billion. He also lauded the determination and perseverance of Ethiopians.

The commitments shown by Ethiopians in the past five years to rehabilitate the country's degraded lands and mitigate the undesirable impacts of climate change are bearing fruits.

Since GLI was first launched in 2019, it was made possible to mobilize millions of Ethiopians and plant 32.5 billion seedlings across the country.

The success aside from supporting the country to increase its forest coverage and contributing to global efforts exerted to combat climate change; it has yielded multifaceted results. It has raised the awareness of the people regarding the significance of preserving nature in a sustainable manner for the current and future generations.

The initiative has also created jobs for young people engaging in planting tree seedlings. Its contribution in ensuring food security is also pivotal as significant portions of the tree seedlings included edible fruits.

This fact was also appreciated at the African Climate Summit 2023 that took place in Nairobi, Kenya.

As the COP28 President-Designate and the UAE's Special Envoy for Climate Change, Sultan al Jaber (PhD) indicated; Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative is enhancing food security. The initiative is also stimulating green jobs across the Horn of Africa setting examples for the world, he remarked.

Just as important, Ethiopia's green legacy program is playing a significant role not only in mitigating climate change impacts but also promoting peace, development, and strengthening diplomatic relations, collaboration and cooperation among countries of the horn and beyond in addressing environmental challenges. It has inspired many countries facing similar challenges and compelled them to follow suit – to plant seedlings and restore degraded lands thereby reducing the undesirable impacts of climate change.

In actual fact, GLI is a bequest that yields positive impacts not only for the present but also for the succeeding generations. In this regard, the responsibility of preserving the environment lies on each of us. Thus, we should further strengthen collaboration and cooperation to attain GLI's target to realize a greener Ethiopia and create a more sustainable future.



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# Opinion

## G77+ China Summit, a pathway to global socio-economic justice

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The G77+ China Summit comprising of a group of developing and emerging countries representing 80% of the world's population, was conducted in Havana, Cuba from 15th to 16th September 2023 with a call to "change the rules of the game" of the global order. A total of 30 heads of State and Government from Africa, Latin America, and Asia presided over the conference. Formed in 1964, the group has increased its size over the years and currently has 134 developing nations as members.

Speaking on the opening session of the conference, Cuban President Miguel Daiz-Canel remarked "After all this time that the North has organized the world according to its interests, it is now up to the South to change the rules of the game,"

In his remark on the conference, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for a world that was "more representative and responsive to the needs of developing economies," stressing that these countries were "trapped in a tangle of global crises."

On his keynote address to the conference, Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs said unilateral sanctions and coercive economic actions hamper progress in science, technology and economic development.

He added that, 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 alarming socio-economic state among the less developed countries is similar. The author has selected the less developed countries of Africa to demonstrate the state of affairs in the rest of the less developed countries. According to a deliberation of a conference organized by the UNECA from March 21, 2023.

"Today, 546 million people are still living in poverty, which is an increase of 74 % since 1990", "Global shocks have ripple effects on the poor in Africa through inflation, which, in 2022, stood at 12.3 %, which was much higher than the world average of 6.7 %".

In demonstrating the state of poverty in Africa, UNECA estimates that households in Africa spend up to 40 % of their income on food, and the impact of global crises

has hit the poorest households in Africa severely. A staggering 310 million Africans experienced some form of food insecurity and 6 million Africans faced extreme hunger in 2022.

According to recent research, the 10 African countries with the highest levels of poverty in Africa are Burundi, Somalia, Madagascar, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Malawi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Zambia, in each of which between 60 % and 82 % of the population is poor.

The burden of import dependency, the devastating effects of climate change and rising debt stress is quite obvious. The commissioner for Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission, Albert M. Muchanga told the conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development that although Africa is the richest in the world in terms of natural endowments, we are the poorest.

African reliance on imports makes the continent vulnerable to commodity price shocks. In 2021, 39 African countries were net importers of food products. In addition, in 2021, Africa exported only \$5.7 billion of refined petroleum products but imported over \$44 billion of them.

"Coming out of the low levels of income and wealth is now being made more challenging by climate change as seen in the recent flooding in Madagascar Malawi and Mozambique" stressed Muchanga. "We must add to this, the looming debt crisis which could undermine all the growth achievements of the past 23 years".

Experts and Ministers at the conference noted that African countries continue to face declining revenue, rising debt stress and increasingly constrained fiscal space.

In 2022, the government debt-to-GDP ratio in Africa was 64.5 %, which is significantly higher than the pre-pandemic figure for 2019 that was 57.1 %.

Most members of the G77+ China comprise as the UN noted that as of 2021, 46 countries which make up 14% of the global population are less developed countries and out of this 33 are from Africa. While comprising 15% of the global population, Africa contributes only 3% to the global GDP.

The socio-political dimension in Africa is even more alarming. Recurrent coups, ethnic based conflicts, all out wars, lack of strong political and juridical institutions, deteriorating health situation, inadequate spending on education and health, and a myriad of other problems still persist in Africa.

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



# Business & Economy

## The new tourism destinations bearing fruits

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

Tourism has been classified as one of the five main sectors that have a positive impact on Ethiopia's economy and has been given special attention by the government. The sector has the potential to involve a large number of human resources and experts in the sector say that it has a significant role in reducing unemployment. According to recent data, the tourism sector alone involves 10% of the working force. It is a huge industry.

The influence of the sector is huge in terms of overcoming the shortage of foreign currency and building the country's image. It is often said that it can benefit the country via showing its potential particularly by promoting Ethiopia's history, beautiful nature, Land of Origin, multicultural, language, alphabet, early literature and architecture and attractions registered as international heritages.

For the reasons mentioned above, the government has given special attention to the tourism sector by organizing it independently at the ministerial level. It is also carrying out constructions of destinations by bringing new ideas. Under the initiative of the Prime Minister, the projects that have been implemented and are being implemented in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromia and southern parts of Ethiopia in the last two or three years are considered to be examples of this. The projects are expected to add potential to the sector.

Scholars in the field also say that these tourism destinations' development projects have shown results quickly; have built Ethiopia's image; connected professions with professionals and are rapidly changing the concept of Ethiopian tourism. The scholars suggest that the projects that have come into operation, such as Gebeta Lesheger, the ongoing construction of Gebeta Lehager (Wonchi Dandi Echo Lodge, Gorgora Beach Project, and Koisha), as well as the projects that will be built in Gebeta Letiwild, will be fully completed and put into operation. It is said that the attractions such as Entoto and Unity parks, Friendship Square in Addis Ababa and Halala Kella in Dauro Zone, which have been completed and put into operation, have a significant impact in terms of income, job creation, and increasing the flow of tourists in a short period of time.

Yitaseb Siyum, Deputy Director General of Tourism Training Institute said that Ethiopia is a country with a lot of tourism resources. The destinations that have been built add value and have stimulated the sector. They will attract tourists who go to other African countries, including Kenya, for fun, wedding and special celebrations, and will bring a new perspective to Ethiopia. This approach is different from the previous idea of tourism and that it provides an additional option.

"If we take the recently completed Halala Kella Resort as an example, it has the capacity to allow visitors to choose for their weddings and 'honeymoon' celebrations not only from Ethiopia but from all over the world," Yitasab said. Likewise, projects such as Gorgora, Wonchi and others will create this kind of potential in the tourism



Halala Kella the perfect place to take a breather, enjoy rejuvenation – photo google

sector. The parks that started their operation in Addis Ababa are showing good results in this regard.

Stating that Ethiopian Airlines transports several millions of people to different parts of the world; the deputy director pointed out that transit or "stop-over" tourism creates the opportunity to visit parks and attractions in the city. In this regard, the destinations that have been built and started providing services in recent years will have a huge contribution and are convenient for visitors. Entoto, Unity, palace historical heritages and similar destinations are also said to be up to standard.

Mentioning that tourism is a sector that creates a lot of job opportunities, Yitaseb said that these mega projects have been able to create a positive impact in terms of job creation. The new destinations in the tourism sector such as Gorgora, Wonchi, Koisha, which will be launched in the future, will create real job opportunities for many people.

"If we take Friendship Park as an example, there are many people who provide services in hospitality, food and drink service, photography and others, starting from those who sell tickets at the gate," Yitasab said. It will create new entertainment and sightseeing culture especially in Addis Ababa.

Yitasab further said that apart from building a standard destination, high ethics is expected especially from service providers when visitors come to Ethiopia. He also pointed out that continuous improvement works are expected to bring an Ethiopian and consistent service delivery when a visitor goes to all parts of the country.

During his stay with the Ethiopian press agency, Abiy Nigussie, Head of the Tourism Sector and a Teacher at the Tourism Training Institute, explained that the newly built and operational destination projects have shown rapid changes and can be exemplary.

"In addition to new attraction and tourism destination the Entoto Amusement Park has taken a big part in the creation of job opportunities," Abiy said. Similarly, the tourism destinations that have been built and renovated in the city are examples of

**The influence of the sector is huge in terms of overcoming the shortage of foreign currency and building the country's image**

the significant contribution of tourism to the economy. This means that when attractions, natural resources, heritages and similar destinations can be tourism products and are presented on the market, it makes us see the positive effects they directly create on the society.

Abiy said; "We don't have to look at the high costs we spend when doing tourism destination development works." spending on the right development even if the cost is high, the tourism sector can return the costs in a short time and create more national resources. For example, the destinations recently built at high cost such as Friendship, Unity, Entoto Parks and the like, are being visited by a large number of people and are bringing in income.

According to the data of destinations that have been operational; among the destinations that are being built under Gebeta Lesheger and Gebeta Lehager projects, some have been fully completed and put into operation. One of these is the park located on the historic Entoto Mountain, which includes various services integrated

with the environment. Both domestic and foreign visitors will have the opportunity to see historical places when they are there, and they will be offered the services and entertainment that the times allow.

What makes this location unique is that mothers who had been engaged in tedious and low-income jobs in the area for a long time have got a life-changing job opportunity following the project's emergence. Other popular resorts in the city and well-known service providers are on site ready to host visitors. Data indicates that Entoto Park is the first of the projects that entered the tourism industry.

Next to Entoto, Friendship and Unity Parks, which were built in Addis Ababa, are the second projects to be mentioned. As the capital of Africa and the seat of many diplomats, Ethiopia is an all-inclusive resort.

Friendship number two park is targeted on kids and teenagers. According to the data, thousands of students, parents, youth and adults have been visiting the park since the day it was inaugurated and opened to the public. The park is a great entertainment option where children can find all kinds of toys in one place. The site has several contents that indicate that it takes into account the inclusivity that tourism demands.

The Halala Kella Resort is one of the destinations planned to be built in Koisha by Gebeta Lehager project. It is among the resorts that have been rapidly completed in recent years and have joined the Ethiopian tourism industry. This place is becoming preferred by visitors from abroad or within the country to go to the place due to its attractiveness and amazing view. It is expected that in a short time, the tourist flow will increase in popularity and stimulate the hospitality sector of Ethiopia.

These projects make Ethiopia the place of diversified tourism resources. Apart from being the owner of nature, culture and history, they indicate that it is making progress with new tourism concepts and values. In addition, it is possible to realize that the country is the owner of projects that have been able to show results in a short period of time.



# Art & Culture

## Ethiopian-British poet adopts Kafka's "Metamorphosis" to the stage

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Ethiopian-British writer Lemn Sissay's life is perhaps as strange as intriguing as that of Gregor Samsa, the main character in Franz Kafka's tragic and classic short novel called "Metamorphosis". Unlike Gregor Samsa, Lemn's was born in Lancashire in 1967 and was adopted by British foster parents, where he grew up after coming to the UK with his mother while she was still pregnant of him. His mother came to Britain after his father, Giddey Estifanos, who was a pilot for Ethiopian Airlines, was killed in a plane crash in 1972. After giving birth to Lemn, his mother continued her studies while he was raised by foster parents.

His official biography in Wikipedia portrays him as, "a British author and broadcaster who was the official poet of 2012 London Olympics, chancellor of the University of Manchester from 2015 until 2022 and joined the Funding Museums board of trustees two years later having previously been appointed one of the museum's fellows. He was awarded the 2019 Pen Pinter Prize. He has written a number of books and plays."

In this brief Wikipedia biography of the writer, Lemn Sissay was not mentioned as an Ethiopian-British writer or as a British author of Ethiopian origins. I have no idea what British law says about what nationality people of African origin should take. Whatever the case might be, Lemn should at least be referred to as a British author with Ethiopian roots or as an Ethiopian-British writer. This is, however, my personal opinion and I have no objection against the nationality given or adopted by writers of African descent.

Let us go back to Lemn Sissay's adoption of Metamorphosis as a stage drama. "Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis is about Gregor Samsa, a traveling salesman who wakes up one day to find that he has transformed into a giant insect. His family is disgusted with him, especially when he is no longer able to earn an income. Gregor eventually dies after deciding that he is a burden to his family."

According to a summary of one literary analysis of the short novel suggests that, "The Metamorphosis explores the degradation and transformative power of alienation, as its protagonist, Gregor Samsa experiences personal alienation from the people he has cared for and served, he is transformed, losing himself altogether." Alienation is therefore the most dominant theme in the novel

Why Lemn Sissay chose to turn this story into a stage drama? What inspired him to do so? Is it based on his personal experience? Is it because of the alienation he faced while growing up in British society? A recent article in The Guardian newspaper apparently provides the answer to this question by quoting Lemn's idea as the headline to the article. The article is entitled: 'This Family is being devoured' Lemn Sissay on why Kafka's Metamorphosis is

a tale for our times." Lemn explains why this story of family meltdown is all about modern life. He is quoted as saying that, "Under pressure, we turn on each other or something snaps," he is quoted as saying.

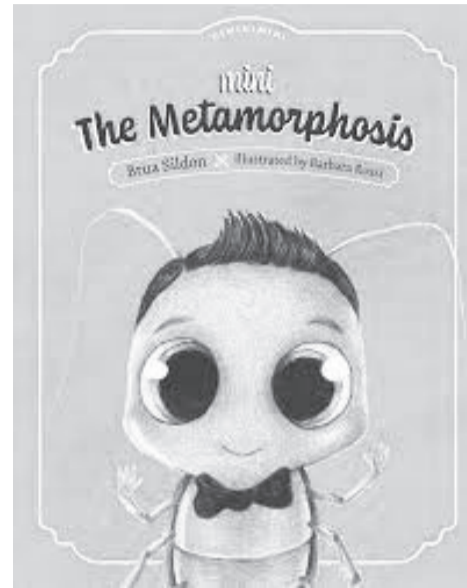
Kafka's absurdist tale, whose protagonist is unable to go to work due to his sudden shocking metamorphosis, is very much a story of today. This is about modern living and an economic system which invites you into debt and then squeezes you. The moment you can't pay it back, you're not worth anything. Gregor is dealing with the pressure to provide for his family but also to repay debt, according to Lemn and director Graham in the Guardian article.

What the Wikipedia biography about Lemn has omitted, namely his background, the Guardian article mentions it in the above-quoted article by saying that, "Sissay, who is of Ethiopian heritage and has spoken about his experience of growing up in Britain's care system, thinks the story is much about pressures on the family, economic and otherwise." Although Sissay does not speak of his personal experience in foster home where he grew up as alienation comparable to the one portrayed by Kafka in the novella, he reflects on present day British family life with a scathing criticism when he says that, "It's happening now. More kids are going into care. People are having trouble to provide care for their family members."

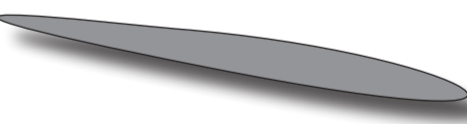
Maybe there is also a universal dimension to Kafka's Metamorphosis in the parallel sense with the classic drama American playwright Arthur Miler entitled, "Death of a Salesman". The play was premiered in Broadway in 1949 and is about a travelling salesman called Willy Loman who is despondent with his life and appears to be slipping into senility. However, the main protagonist in Death of a Salesman also dies at the end of the play. The two deaths may look different as far as their causes are concerned. However, there is a thin thread uniting both of them and that is the suffering they faced as a result of alienation.

Willy Loman kills himself because life was too much for him and he was on the verge of mental collapse due to his illusion and misunderstanding of the American Dream and its work ethic. "The play also explores his relationship with his wife, his sons and his acquaintances." According to another analysis of the play, "The American Dream equates success with being well-liked. Likability is an important quality for a salesman like Willy, yet he is unable to achieve the success he desires."

In the case of both Gregor Samsa death comes after he faced a personal crisis that is beyond his control, i.e. his transformation into an insect. Thus the element of alienation is present in various degrees. In the case of Samsa, alienation is complete because of circumstances beyond his control while in the case of Willy Loman his crisis is caused because of his failure to enjoy the respect he was expecting from his employers and



***The Metamorphosis requires a higher degree of understanding because it is a play based on an absurd event that needs reinterpretation while Death of a Salesman is a realistic play that can be easily understood and enjoyed by the audience***



society at large in his wrong conception of the American Dream.

The two plays are set in different times and environment and yet we can realize that both salesmen lose their lives because they are unable to practice their trade and live their dreams. This is a common or unifying theme running through both dramas and hence the universal character of their alienation. The two men struggle to get out of the impossible situation they were facing by adopting death as a final solution out of

their crises. In a way, they are rejected by their families and then by society at large. Both of them are social failures because one of them fails to live up to his family's expectations while the other fails because of wrong expectations from society.

Various interpretations were given to Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman, one of which was a psychoanalytical theory. "Psychoanalysis reveals that Willy's decision is totally wrong because he is not able to face the problem so given the conclusion. Death is not the answer for his depression this drama ends with sadness because Willy did not believe himself to commit suicide."

The situation is similar in both Death of a Salesman and Metamorphosis in the sense that both leading characters are the victims of guilt and self-alienation. "In the Metamorphosis, the symbolical transformation of a man into a bug signifies the repressed desires and the unconscious sense of guilt that worried him. The giant insect is the building up of the hidden expectations and desires that was disregarded by his father."

Generally speaking, rewriting or changing a novel into a script for stage drama is a daunting task. A novel is written to be read by individuals but theatre is something that can be seen more vividly through the actions of the characters. The two plays, and the Metamorphosis requires a higher degree of understanding because it is a play based on an absurd event that needs reinterpretation while Death of a Salesman is a realistic play that can be easily understood and enjoyed by the audience.

There is a long tradition in Ethiopian theatre of translating foreign works into Amharic and staging them on local stages. The late poet laureate Tsegaye Gebremedhin is the quintessential Ethiopian translator of Shakespeare's works and adopting foreign works like Bertolt Brecht's Mother Courage to the local stage. The plays were enjoyed by the local audience because of their universal appeal and the central themes they were dealing with.

My hope is that one day; someone will take up the task of translating or rewriting The Metamorphosis for the local stage. That would also invite theatre goers to think profoundly about universal themes like guilt and family crisis that not unusual in Ethiopian society which is generally fond of tragic dramas.

It would be best if Lemn Sissay could do this job if his m his mastery of Amharic is commensurate to the task. Or it could be done in collaboration with local script writers. That could provide a good opportunity to challenge Ethiopian stage actors, producers and script writers and also the audience with something unconventional. That would also introduce every one with what absurdist drama is and how it can be done in a tradition that was born and grew up in realistic or naturalistic drama.



# Global Affairs

## Emerging as a major player in Africa and beyond

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Ethiopia's recent economic and political developments have attracted the attention of countries around the world. The country has surged in economic, political, and international activities over the past year, and the Ethiopian Year 2015 marked a pivotal point in the country's growth trajectory. The year witnessed significant milestones, including Ethiopia's admission into the BRICS bloc and the announcement of the 4th filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

The Ethiopian government has implemented a series of economic reforms that have contributed to the country's impressive economic growth in recent years. The government has prioritized the development of key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and infrastructure, which has been crucial to the country's rapid development.

Ethiopia's membership in the BRICS bloc has opened up new opportunities for trade and investment, which is expected to further boost economic growth. In addition to economic reforms, Ethiopia has also been making significant strides in political development.

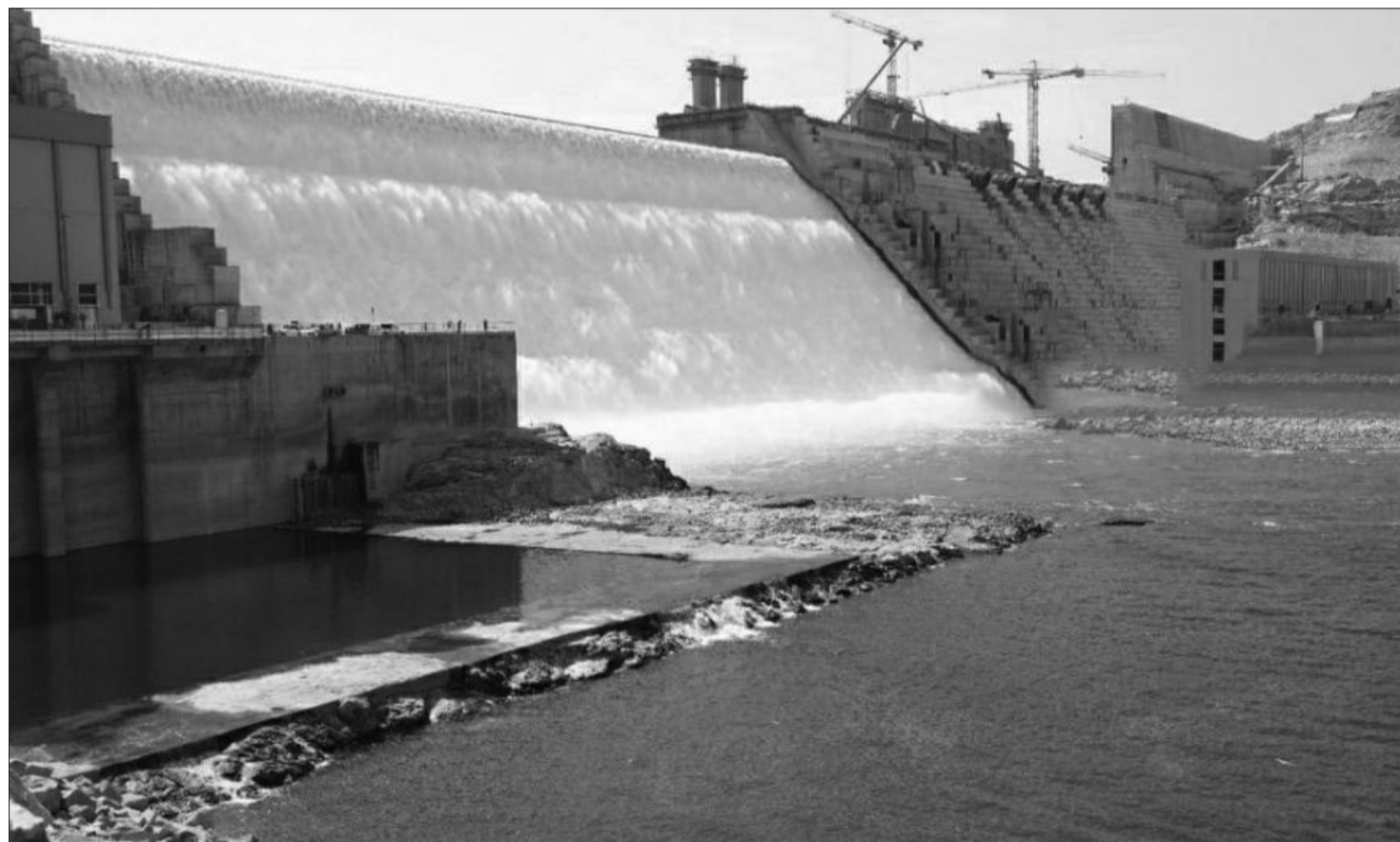
Ethiopia's acceptance into the BRICS bloc is indicative of the country's growing economic prowess and potential to become a regional economic giant. This recognition puts Ethiopia in the same category as other emerging economic powers like Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The admission of Ethiopia into this grouping is a significant step towards economic cooperation and collaboration with these countries leading to opportunities for mutual growth and development.

The 4th filling of the GERD is a crucial step towards this goal and signifies Ethiopia's commitment to meeting its energy needs and those of neighboring countries. The GERD has been a source of controversy between Ethiopia and Egypt. The issue has also garnered international attention, with different countries and organizations weighing in on the matter.

The GERD is not only a symbol of Ethiopia's aspirations for energy security and economic growth but also of its determination to assert its sovereignty and pursue its national interests. As a result, Ethiopia's position on the issue has been firm, and the country has expressed a willingness to defend its right to pursue its development goals.

Ethiopia has been experiencing a rapid ramp-up of economic, political, and international movements, particularly in the just ended Ethiopian Year 2015. Major events such as Ethiopia's acceptance into the BRICS bloc and the announcement of the fourth filling of the GERD have garnered significant attention. However, some unresolved issues have emerged following the Ethiopian government's announcement of the 4th round filling of GERD leading to accusations from the Egyptian government.

The construction of the \$4 billion GERD



project commenced in 2011, and Ethiopia considers it crucial for its economic development. The dam will not only provide electricity to power the country's growth but also enable increased electricity coverage and exports to neighboring nations. Additionally, the dam will facilitate flood protection, irrigation, sediment control, and navigation.

Once completed, the GERD will be the largest dam in Africa, spanning 1,800 meters in length, 155 meters in height with a total volume of 10.4 million cubic meters. Its reservoir will cover 1,875 square kilometers and hold 74 billion cubic meters of water. However, the construction of the dam has been a subject of debate between Ethiopia and downstream countries.

Engineer Kifle Horo, the Project Manager of the dam, stated that Ethiopia began construction in the Guba Valley 12 years ago, and the overall progress has reached 93%. Civil work is nearly 98% complete, and the construction of the Saddle Dam has been finished.

The completion of the Saddle Dam has raised the dam's height to approximately 645 meters, increased its power generation capacity to 5,150 MW, and expanded its water storage capacity to 74 billion cubic meters, according to Engineer Kifle.

Engineer Kifle Horo added that five additional turbines are currently being constructed and will begin generating power in the 2023/24 period.

Regarding the recent announcement of the fourth and final filling of the reservoir, it is crucial to clarify that "final" does not signify that the dam will never be filled again. Dr. Eng. Habtamu Itefa, the Minister of Water and Energy, explained on local media that the term "final" is used because the four rounds of filling require a substantial amount of water. The dam has successfully retained the intended amount of water in these four rounds. So, after this without

filling high level of water the construction will continue.

Engineer Gideon Asfaw, an Ethiopian GERD negotiator, clarified that the accusations made by Egypt are incorrect. He emphasized that the filling was carried out in accordance with the agreed-upon principles, and there has been no violation of the agreement.

Throughout the project's development, Egypt has consistently attempted to impede its progress by making colonial assertions and spreading false information about the dam on various international platforms. Also, Egypt refers to the agreements reached during the colonial period. But Ethiopia has repeatedly stated that these agreements made during the period of colonial rule are not accepted and that the construction of the dam will not bring any particular problems to Egypt. Rather, it helps protect downstream countries from being attacked by floods every summer.

One of the most significant colonial agreements regarding the Nile was the 1902 Anglo-Ethiopian Treaty. The treaty granted Britain control over the territories around the upper Nile, while Ethiopia was given control over the lands around the Blue Nile. The treaty did not, however, recognize Ethiopia's rights to the waters of the Nile, leading to tensions between Ethiopia and Britain that persisted for decades.

In 1929, a new agreement was signed between Britain and Egypt, known as the Nile Waters Agreement. This agreement gave Egypt and Sudan the exclusive right to use the waters of the Nile, despite the fact that the river also flowed through other countries. The agreement was based on the colonial-era assumption that Egypt and Sudan were the sole beneficiaries of the Nile, while the other countries that shared the river had no valid claim to its waters.

However, the 1929 agreement remained in force until 1959, when Sudan, Egypt, and

Britain signed another agreement known as the Agreement for the Full Utilization of the Nile Waters. This new agreement recognized the rights of upstream countries, such as Ethiopia and Uganda, to build dams and other infrastructure on the Nile for their own economic development.

Sudan put pressure on Egypt to revise the 1929 agreement after gaining its independence in 1956 in order to better protect its interests. As a result, in 1959, Egypt and Sudan reached an agreement. The agreement completely excluded other riparian nations by assigning 55.5 and 18.5 bcm to Egypt and Sudan, respectively, and leaving 10 bcm for evaporation and other reasons out of the average annual Nile flow, which is agreed to be 84 bcm. Ethiopia, the largest provider of the overall amount of Nile water (86%), was not included in the negotiations and was not given any portion of the water, let alone other riparian nations.

In spite of this, as Ethiopia forges ahead with its ambitious agenda, it remains committed to harnessing its potential for the benefit of its people and the region. The completion of the GERD and its acceptance into BRICS represent significant milestones in Ethiopia's journey towards sustainable development. Despite the challenges and controversies that have arisen, Ethiopia's resolve to overcome these obstacles and emerge as a global player remains unwavering. With careful diplomacy, strategic partnerships, and a clear vision for the future, Ethiopia is poised to make a lasting impact on the world stage.

Despite the numerous obstacles that Ethiopia has faced in its endeavor to forge ahead with its ambitious agenda, it remains steadfast in its commitment to exploit its potential for the benefit of its people and the region. Ethiopia's determination to complete GERD and its acceptance into the BRICS demonstrate significant milestones in the country's quest for sustainable development.



# Law & Politics

## Ethiopia's continued contributions towards regional stability through IGAD

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Ethiopia has become a committed member of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) with its unwavering stance towards regional integration. The country's active participation in IGAD's initiatives has cemented Ethiopia's vital role in the region. Through its membership in IGAD, Ethiopia has contributed to the policy and strategy development of the regional bloc aimed at overcoming shared challenges facing the region.

The participation of Ethiopia in IGAD's activities has resulted in the development of cohesive relationships and collaboration amongst its member countries. By actively engaging and making valuable contributions towards the regional bloc, Ethiopia has been able to align itself with the common objective of striving for regional development.

Through the implementation of comprehensive policies and targeted strategies, IGAD aims to streamline efforts towards achieving regional integration and sustainable development. Ethiopia's proactive involvement in IGAD's initiatives has also enabled the country to strengthen its relations with other African countries within the region.

Ethiopia has been able to intensify its economic and trade engagement with other countries in the region ensuring the prosperity of its citizens. Ethiopia's active involvement in IGAD has also been valuable in promoting peace and security in the region. By contributing to the deployment of peacekeeping missions and the promotion of conflict resolution mechanisms, Ethiopia has been able to maintain regional stability while also protecting its own national interests.

Ethiopia has also been able to provide support to other member states, ensuring that the region remains safe, secure and free of violence. In addition, Ethiopia's contributions towards IGAD have been focused on addressing various socio-economic challenges faced by the region. The country's support towards initiatives aimed at improving access to healthcare and education has had a positive impact on the region's human development index.

Through its involvement in IGAD's policies and strategies, Ethiopia has been able to drive regional efforts towards addressing issues affecting the environment, food security, and gender inequality. Ethiopia's participation in IGAD has also enabled the country to leverage resources towards development projects geared towards addressing shared challenges.

Through its membership in the regional bloc, Ethiopia has been able to tap into global platforms and extend its reach beyond the region. This has enabled the country to pursue its foreign policy objectives while also contributing towards regional development.

Ethiopia's active involvement in IGAD has been a significant milestone towards



regional integration, development, and cooperation. The country's contributions towards the development of policies and strategies aimed at addressing shared challenges facing the region have been valuable towards the attainment of common objectives.

Through its active participation, Ethiopia has been able to leverage its position to align policies and strategies with national interests while ensuring that regional goals are addressed. Ethiopia has become a key ally in promoting regional stability due to its active participation in IGAD initiatives. The country's reputation for commitment to peace and stability has earned it the respect of other IGAD member countries and the global community.

Ethiopia's efforts towards resolving conflicts through diplomatic channels and participation in peacekeeping missions have been highly valued. Through its involvement in IGAD initiatives, Ethiopia's contributions towards promoting peace and stability in the Horn of Africa region have been instrumental. The country's active military support, mediation efforts, and economic development programs have demonstrated its unwavering commitment towards ensuring regional stability.

Ethiopia's involvement in IGAD initiatives has also been significant in the provision of humanitarian aid, support for refugees and internally displaced persons, and disaster management. Ethiopia's active role in IGAD provides a platform for maintaining and promoting peace and security in the region. With the country's participation in peacekeeping missions, IGAD has been able to deploy troops and peace monitors in conflict areas, contributing towards the restoration of peace and stability in the region.

Ethiopia's active engagement in IGAD has been focused on promoting conflict resolution mechanisms and promoting dialogue as a means of resolving disputes among IGAD member countries. Besides, Ethiopia's involvement in IGAD initiatives has also been valuable in promoting economic development programs aimed at preventing conflicts and promoting long-term stability in the region.

The country's contributions towards IGAD initiatives have also been significant in promoting cross-border collaboration in addressing shared challenges. The country's active role in promoting regional development and its provision of support towards regional integration efforts has had a positive impact on the Horn of Africa's social, economic, and political development.

Through its active participation in IGAD initiatives, the country has garnered the respect and admiration of the international community for its unwavering commitment towards regional stability. Ethiopia's involvement in IGAD initiatives has also served to raise awareness on issues affecting the region, including migration, human trafficking, terrorism, and other security challenges.

Ethiopia's active role in promoting peace and stability in the region has also been focused on building strong relationships with other member states. Through its participation in IGAD initiatives, Ethiopia has been able to foster positive relationships with other countries, enabling it to develop closer ties and stronger networks across the region.

The country's active engagement in IGAD initiatives has also been instrumental in creating platforms for diplomatic engagement and the negotiation of regional agreements for the promotion of peace, security, and development.

Ethiopia continues to take on a leadership role in promoting collaboration, integration, and cooperation among IGAD member states towards achieving common goals. The country's active participation in IGAD initiatives has had significant contributions towards promoting sustainable economic development and fostering peace building within the region.

Ethiopia's leadership role in IGAD has been instrumental in the promotion of regional integration initiatives. The country's participation in regional economic projects aimed at promoting trade has been significant in driving regional economic growth and development. What's more, Ethiopia's active participation in IGAD has been focused on achieving sustainable

economic development within the region.

The country's leadership in promoting regional economic programs has been significant in addressing poverty, inequality and promoting job creation in the IGAD member countries.

Through its participation in IGAD initiatives, Ethiopia has been able to take charge of policies that promote access to healthcare, education, and other essential social services aimed at addressing regional challenges that impede human and social development. Moreover, the country's leadership role in IGAD has been geared towards promoting regional representation in global platforms.

Ethiopia's tireless efforts have created a pathway towards a more integrated and prosperous future for Africa as a whole. The country's involvement in IGAD has been significant in many ways, with its contributions advancing the organization's objectives.

Ethiopia's tireless efforts and leadership in IGAD have been instrumental in promoting regional integration, connectivity, and sustainable development. The country's contributions towards the development of infrastructure, energy, agriculture, education, and vocational training have had a positive impact on the economic growth and development of the IGAD member countries.

Through its continued participation in IGAD initiatives, Ethiopia is expected to make further contributions towards the promotion of regional integration, socio-economic development, and a more prosperous future for the African continent.

IGAD Executive Secretary Workneh Gebeyehu will participate in high-level bilateral engagements aimed at strengthening partnerships and fostering sustainable development in the IGAD region during his stay in New York to attend the upcoming 78th Session of the UN General Assembly, according to information obtained from Ethiopian News Agency.

His engagements will focus on opportunities for collaboration and the sharing of best practices in the face of global challenges in line with IGAD's mission to promote regional cooperation and sustainable growth, according to a press release of the authority.

The executive secretary "will also call for support for regional initiatives for peace and security and mediation efforts in the IGAD region," the release added.

During his visit, Gebeyehu will also participate in high-level bilateral engagements aimed at strengthening partnerships and fostering sustainable development in the IGAD region.

Besides, he will address side events on climate change and peace and security in which the executive secretary is expected to underscore the urgent need for international cooperation to address the escalating climate crisis and its implications for food security and livelihoods.



# Planet Earth

## Optimizing fruit, vegetable productivity through Green Legacy Initiative

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

The government is working to increase the production and productivity of fruit growing and to ensure food security, especially through the Green Legacy Initiative. It is known that avocado cultivation has been given attention in the field of fruit cultivation. This development task is being worked on not only to replace what is bought from abroad but also to increase the earning of foreign currency by offering it to the foreign market, it is being worked on.

However, there are complaints about the development and export earnings. It is also suggested by some developers that domestic sales are better than exports. Abdella Negash, Executive Director of Horticulture Development at the Ministry of Agriculture, gave an explanation about the matter. He believes that it is important to improve the various gaps in the sector. However, he says that it should not be concluded that what is sold in the country will contribute to the income from what is offered to the foreign market.

According to Mr. Abdela's explanation, since the produce arrives, most of the producers harvest their produce at the same time. When there is surplus product in the market, prices fall. An abundance of produce will be served. When there is an abundance of produce, it is expected to increase competitiveness. Here, it is necessary to pay special attention to quality. Especially during this season, production is expected to increase. Ethiopia now competes with its neighbors, and this is a good opportunity.

From the point of view of the market, as Abdella explained, there is a market for all kinds of fruits, but bananas and avocados are in high demand, and their share is high. The development is taking into account the needs of the foreign market and is being developed widely. Currently, vegetables and fruits are being cultivated on 162 thousand hectares of land. More than 19 million quintals are produced. Banana cultivation has the largest share of the development, both in terms of land area and production.

Earlier, mango was second in terms of covering a huge land area. However, due to the occurrence of a pest that attacks mangoes, the area of land is decreasing and the production is also slowing down, so it is the avocado vegetable that occupies the second place. The vegetables that are being produced are selected varieties that have a better market. In this way, attention is paid to it, and it allows us to benefit as a country.

Although the development work is being done in this way, Abdella mentioned that there will be various challenges in providing the market with what it needs. One of the challenges faced is cold storage, which can keep the product in a cold chain at the development site; not using a product collection method that prevents the product

from being wasted and useless during product collection; loading it with different things during the transportation process; not being careful to maintain the desired temperature and cold level; and other related issues. These also lead to reduced product quality. As quality decreases, so does market demand.

Abdella stated that it is appropriate to focus on development in order to increase production and productivity by gathering products and ensuring that needs are fulfilled even after production. They pointed out that if productivity cannot be run side by side to meet the demands of the market, the impact will increase. He declared that good agricultural practices are important for the market.

According to Abdella's explanation, it was difficult to estimate the selling price due to the lack of work to be done to reduce the quality. Arguing that the product is not of good quality, it is necessary to provide it at the price that the market demands. Thus, the effort to break into the European market is limited. It is known that there is a high demand in the Middle East and Far East countries, but due to the poor quality they produce, it is not being supplied as needed. Currently, 80 to 90 % of market destinations are Djibouti, Somalia, and other neighboring countries. Efforts are being made to earn foreign currency by sending it to these countries.

Abdella mentioned that although there are things to be done, unexpected things are challenges for the sector. As he said, in relation to the security problem facing the country, there is a challenge in supplying the avocado product produced in the Amhara region to the foreign market. If the security risk cannot be addressed, the manufacturer will not be motivated to produce again. The products are prone to failure due to their nature, and if they cannot be marketed quickly, they will incur losses. This is another threat to the manufacturer, so they are not encouraged to produce. Such concerns can be mitigated by involving your industry experts and those who work on them to create a bond with the manufacturer. National stability also requires standing with the government.

Another is to go through the process of obtaining a certificate of authenticity, meeting various requirements, finding buyers, and so on. Following this, there is a non-payment of the price required to supply to the foreign market. If an effort is made to produce quality with its own label, Ethiopian fruit is in demand in the foreign market because it is natural (organic). If hard work can be done, they can be brought to the market with a selling price. The current foreign market is not disappointing. It helps to strengthen what is there and fill gaps. Here is the alternative. Mr. Abdella pointed out that foreign investors are also showing interest in avocado development in Ethiopia, and there is something promising.

**It is appropriate to work on increasing production. When a product is produced on a large scale, there is an opportunity for the local consumer to buy it at a lower price**

Another thing that needs to be done is promotion. They said that it is expected to promote the product in different countries, and the parties who have to work in this regard should fulfill their roles. He said that the producer should be encouraged to offer a better price. Brokerage is a hindrance to the sector. By raising and lowering prices, they create problems by misleading the manufacturer and the exporter. This also requires joint work. He pointed out that all the stakeholders are doing their part and working together to achieve what is expected from the sector. He stated that the Ministry of Agriculture will try to resolve the obstacles in the sector by bringing them up in the consultation forum with the stakeholders. Even after the discussion, he is trying to continue the work by evaluating who did what.

Costantinos Berehese (PhD), an economist, said there are many countries that produce and market avocados on a large scale. Ethiopia also competes with these producing countries. If various fruits, including avocados, were not produced in Ethiopia, it would have been necessary to import them from abroad. Therefore, it is appropriate to work on increasing production. When a product is produced on a large scale, there is an opportunity for the local consumer to buy it at a lower price.

According to Dr. Constantine's explanation, currently, domestic demand is growing.

As interest grows, so does the person who spends money on small things. When faced with currency fluctuations and inflation, the producer or farmer wants to sell at a higher price, considering not only the cost of labor but also the living conditions. The one who receives the produce from the farmer and sells it, and the broker in the middle, also light up the market. The product reaches the consumer after going through many chains from the place of production. An alternative solution to overcome these gaps is mass production.

Dr. Costantinos, who pointed out that Ethiopia's population has reached over one hundred and eighty million and the number of users has also increased, pointed out that the domestic market is competing with the foreign market.

According to Dr. Costantinos, some vegetable-producing countries grow avocados and other vegetables on an industrial scale on large tracts of farmland. Because they are widely produced, the selling price is also low. Even in the production process, their experience is well defined. Every farmer strives to be recognized for his different agricultural activities and results. For example, from fruits and vegetables in avocado cultivation only, cultivate the wealth of honey, butter, and cattle. It moves in a way that makes itself known to others.

According to Dr. Costantinos, in the actual situation in Ethiopia, what is collected and presented to the foreign market is what each farmer produces for his daily food. Therefore, attention should be focused on production in Ethiopia first. According to the government, the direction taken on wheat cultivation should be applied to all agricultural activities in the same way. In order for production to grow, the investor should also be involved. When there is an abundance of produce, it is possible to take advantage of the market.

Dr. Costantinos recalled that in the history of Ethiopia, sugar was supplied to the foreign market. They state that even though the existing sugar factories have already been established, it is difficult to supply to the foreign market and to meet domestic demand, and it is imported from abroad. He advised that such problems can be avoided by working hard on the development of the country.

It is also necessary to see whether the amount of production and the population are in line with the demand. Efforts should be made to supply the foreign market without being able to meet domestic demand.

Another option is to have foreign banks operate locally. As the banks bring in capital, it helps to reduce the perceived foreign exchange pressure. When the capital system market that is currently being established will have an impact on what Ethiopia exports to the foreign market, it is necessary to check and implement the overall macroeconomic policy.