



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Trilateral talks on Abbay dam underway here

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** – The second round of tripartite negotiation on the water filling and annual operations of the Abbay Dam kicked off yesterday here.

The three countries are expected to resume their discussions on the draft guidelines and rules.

The Addis Ababa leg of the trilateral meeting between the delegations of Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan has been scheduled during the first round of negotiations held last month in Cairo where the parties, according to MFA Ethiopia, exchanged views to reach a win-win solution, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The latest tripartite negotiations resumed following the bilateral consultation between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed(PhD) and President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi of Egypt in Cairo on July 13, 2023.

In the opening of yesterday’s meeting, Ambassador Seleshi Bekele, the head of the delegation of negotiators from the Ethiopian side, said that this dialogue is



being held after the completion of the fourth round filling of the Abbay Dam, which was successfully carried out in pursuant to the statement of principles reached in 2015 between the respective countries.

Ambassador Seleshi believes that in this

round of discussion, the three countries will reach an understanding of the pending issues in this round of talks..

He further reaffirmed Ethiopia’s position that equitable and reasonable utilization of the waters of the Nile, as stipulated in the 2015 Declaration of

*See Trilateral talks ... page 4*



## Ethiopia, Algeria ties at highest level

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** Algerian Ambassador to Ethiopia Salah Francis Elhamd said the age-long bilateral relationship between the two countries has now reached its height due to joint efforts.

Approached by The Ethiopian Herald, Ambassador Elhamd indicated the relation between Ethiopia and Algeria has

reached the highest stage in history. The two countries have been hugely engaged to implement the long-awaited economic cooperation accords.

“Seeing the implementation of agreements that put our holistic cooperation in a solid base is really exciting and it is one of the greatest achievements that I witnessed in my 10-year diplomatic tenure here.”

*See Ethiopia, ... page 4*



## Diplomacy week gives Ethiopia’s achievements proper place

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

**ADDIS ABABA-** Marking Ethiopia’s diplomacy week helps the country’s 160-year noble diplomatic contribution to get a proper place among the international community, a senior official from the Ministry of

*See Diplomacy week... page 4*

## Cooperation curical to uphold Red Sea peace ,security : Scholar

BY EYUEL KIFLU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Countries in the Red Sea region have to cement cooperation in order to accomplish common interests of utilizing development resources and averting

potential threats, scholar suggested.

The Red Sea is a complex geopolitical space with enormous development potentials once the challenging political landscape, power rivalries and conflicts are mitigated through a close collaboration among the countries,

stated Darskedar Taye (PhD),a lead researcher at the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA).

He told *The Ethiopian Herald* that there is a potential for cooperation among the countries in the Red Sea region relying on exchanging information

*See Cooperation curical... page 4*

**“Ethiopia Tamirt”:**  
A movement to strengthen production, productivity  
*Page 6*

**Concerted hands to beat HIV/AIDS**

*Page 9*

**Addressing non-state actors’ threat in Red Sea environs via regional cooperation**

*Page 10*

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# News

## Army chief lauds psychological development activities

### • Attends marsh band cadet corps graduation

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Consolidated efforts are underway to equip the psychology of Ethiopia's committed and disciplined army in art and music that would help it to carry out successful missions, Field Marshal Birhanu Jula said.

The Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) Chief of Staff Field Marshal Birhanu Jula made the above yesterday while attending the graduation of marsh band cadet corps from the Defense Psychological Development Directorate. The cadets completed four-month training in various categories.

According to him, the extensive training the Ethiopian army has got, coupled with its initiative, discipline and capability to withstand challenges, are the factors that have contributed to its success. "To realize an ethical and able army, psychological development has played an indefensible



Field Marshal Birhanu Jula

role."

The ENDF has been contributing a lot in

the expansion of modern music, sport, art, and other psychology-building activities in the African continent and support will be

extended to the directorate's modernization efforts.

The chief of staff noted that ongoing efforts which envision a professional and competent army are further strengthened.

ENDF Defense Psychological Development Director General Maj. Gen. Endalikachew Woledkidan said for his part that the directorate has made commendable contributions in enhancing the morale and psychological readiness of the army. To this end, the center has prepared documents on army psychology, provides adequate training, and employs art and media outlets.

"A lot of work is being done to equip the directorate with a skilled labor force and modern equipment that would contribute share in the holistic efforts to modernize the Ethiopian army."

It was learned that the ENDF is in preparation to mark its 116th founding anniversary soon.

## AAU calls alumni to support efforts to revamp education, research

### • Law School celebrates 60th anniversary, alumnae convention

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**—Urging alumni to support efforts to revamp education and research aspirations, Addis Ababa University law School (AAULS) celebrated its Alumni-Alumnae Convention and 60th anniversary.

During the celebration, AAU Interim President Samuel Kifle (PhD) called all the alumni gathered at the event and beyond to lend all rounded support to the school in its endeavor to refurbish its educational and research aspirations.

As to him, the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Law School of AAU in the morrow of the gaining of autonomous of Addis Ababa University will have a big significant in accelerating the growth and development of the school in its aspiration to become a preeminent center of excellence for legal education and scholarship in changing global, regional, and national orders.

The Law School can maintain its position as a top center of excellence in legal education by leveraging reform initiatives and the autonomy granted to AAU, he said adding that By redefining its organizational structures and reaffirming its mission, the school can attract competent students, build a revenue base, and improve its curriculum.

"It can also capitalize on global trends and technological advancements to expand its presence and internationalize the AAU."

The School is expected to take advantage of fast changing global orders towards



establishment of multipolar global order. And the school can take advantage of the new technological land scopes to expand its presence in other parts of the continent and beyond in pursuit of the internationalization agenda of the Addis Ababa University, the Interim President said.

As to Samuel, the Law school trains the next generation of lawyers, offers a free legal aid service to those who do not afford legal representation and vulnerable groups of the society. "This means a lot in making justice more just."

Today's alumni meeting on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the school presents ideas platforms to frankly assess the six decades journey of the school and tap into immense potential of the alumni in its bid to rebrand itself as a formidable center of excellence in legal education and scholarship to continue supporting reforms in the justice sector, he noted.

Minister of Justice Gedion Timotheos (PhD) told Journalists the only law school in Ethiopia has been producing experts in various fields for forty years and it should improve legal research and teaching quality to produce Ethiopian legal thinking and philosophy.

Solomon Abay(PhD) on the behalf of Getachew Assefa(PhD) Dean of College of Law and Governance Studies, the law School currently runs undergraduate LLB Program(Regular and Evening) many LLM ( Regular and Evening) and PhD programs in many areas of specialization. The qualities of these programs should be maintained and improved.

"The role of the community of alumni and friends in supporting this endeavor is indispensable. That is one of the reasons why we are keen to establish a close relationship with the former graduates the law of school."

## Youth role in peace building invaluable

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**---The youth have to be given special support to help them translate their ideas into practical action thereby contributing a lot to national peace building effort as their contribution is quite invaluable in that regard.

The Youth celebrated International Peace Day on Thursday. In relation to this, Ethiopian Press Agency approached some of the youth.

The first young man goes by the name Surafel Debebe. He said that bringing about peace could not be the task of a single individual. Hence the active participation of the youth in peace building efforts has to be well capitalized on. Hence, the youth need special support to translate their ideas into action to help the effort of national peace building. Besides, comprehensive discussion among the community needs to be widespread to make peace sustainable.

As to him, the youth play great role in peace building process, and conducive environment has to be created for them to be productive., National dialogue needs to be well capitalized on to ensure peace and security in the country as the process itself requires the participation of all walks of life.

Another young woman has come from Sub Global Organization to celebrate international peace day and approached by Ethiopian Press Agency named Betelhem Behailu. She said Peace starts from self and the youth should engage in and discharge their responsibility to bring peace in the nation as the value of peace is invaluable.

"Peace touches every person's day to day life and we have to be selective and take care of using social media. This helps us decrease the negative impact of social media and we have to follow those whose approach doesn't hold destructive spirit that would leave a jeopardize repercussion upon national peace building effort."



# Editorial

## Standing shoulder high in global diplomacy

It will not be a hyperbole to claim that in the diplomatic avenue, Ethiopia has been a trendsetter not only for Africa but also the rest of the world. It therefore goes without saying it has played quite a role in lubricating the global interaction machinery of mediation.

In a show of catalytic vibe, ancient Ethiopia has been adding bricks to modern diplomatic relations since 1963.

The agreement reached in Wechale during the reign of Emperor Menelik II and Empress Taitu is one that shows sagacity on the part of Ethiopia in the sphere of diplomacy. The fact that Ethiopia emerged successful at the end of the day stands testimony to this fact.

During the era of Emperor Haile Selassie when no African Nation was a member of the League of Nation, Ethiopia had the ticket to sit beside presiding nations to decide on international affairs. It as well had played a paramount midwifery role in bringing the United Nations (UN) into life. As such, a founding member, it had partaken in the establishment of law (act) of the gigantic organization.

In the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Ethiopia had been the frontrunner. Later on, it has played an immense role in actualizing the African Union (AU). Ethiopia's role from the birth of OAU and its metamorphosis into AU is huge. This is registered as a diplomatic triumph. Currently, in the continent especially in east Africa it is playing a multipronged role to ensure peace and security. It has played no less role in the materialization of NEPAD.

Owing to the aforementioned virtuous deeds, the place Ethiopia cuts in the global arena is a special one.

With the instrumentality of IGAD, it has enabled countries in East Africa to cooperate and work not only in the political but also in the economic and social sectors.

But, during the Derg regime the diplomatic policy of the country was based on a preferential treatment that precludes some and embraces others. The closed-door policy ousted the west solely focusing on the east bloc.

However, the policy which Ethiopia pursues now is based on common benefits. It doesn't show a coldshoulder treatment to any quarter. As such, many countries are forging ties with Ethiopia to strike a deal with it and the rest of Africa. Consequent to this or as a living billboard to this fact, presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers from where the sun goes around are gushing to Ethiopia in droves to consolidate their clicking with this nation that has set precedence in many aspects.

There is a call for thoroughly understanding the longstanding diplomatic footprint and history of the country in a bid to crystalize an all-round diplomatic feat. It is a timely agenda to mend mistakes and step-up winning formulas so as to ensure Ethiopia's sovereignty and supremacy.

Ethiopia's diplomatic role in helping the stateless Somalia state to get back in shape and have one was a glaring one. Ethiopia has played a noteworthy role in emasculating Al-Shebab and annihilating ISIS. It showed its conviction dispatching peace keeping force that flogs the terrorists to the domain of discipline.

Ethiopia had also played a noteworthy role in letting South Sudan be self-reliant. It assisted the furtherance of the nation as a sovereign nation helping quaff internal conflicts. PM Abiy had done well in brokering peace between the warring factions of Sudan. Still today, Ethiopia desires the two groups to come to round tables to resolve their cases by themselves calm, cool and collected.

Ethiopia deserves a credit not only for the role it played in ensuring regional peace and security but also for the continental peace.

Last but not least, its task in thawing the ice of no-war-no-peace situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea is entailed in its lion's share role in the diplomatic sphere.



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# Opinion

## Viable Economic Diplomacy for Ethiopia's national economic development

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

As Ethiopia is celebrating World Diplomacy Week from October 2-6, 2023, the writer of this article took upon himself to make a modest contribution towards this global event by focusing on economic diplomacy from the perspectives of Ethiopia's economic development.

Economic diplomacy refers to global economic issues in which states use their diplomatic institutions and homegrown non state actors 'international economic issues' to enhance the economic interests of states as they are engaged in nation building and development. Economic diplomacy is one form of diplomacy employed by states and of course not the only one. States are also resource to cultural, educational, regional, public and all other forms of diplomacy.

In a broad sense, economic diplomacy can be defined as any diplomatic activity that promotes the state's economic interests. It also includes diplomacy that uses economic resources to achieve a specific foreign policy objective.

In a narrow sense, economic diplomacy is about export promotion and inward investment. This is sometimes called commercial diplomacy which constitutes a section of economic diplomacy.

At the present level, developing countries confront severe inadequacy of resources, or are torn by internal conflict and poor governance, leaving them woefully dependent on foreign aid. The globalization process does nothing for them. In between are located the majority of states, scrambling for the right mix of structure, policy and method, to take proactive advantage of the external environment. Economic diplomacy is the process through which countries tackle the outside world, to maximize their national gain in all the fields of activity, including trade, investment and other forms of economically beneficial exchanges, where they enjoy comparative advantage; it has bilateral, regional and multilateral dimensions, each of which is important.

Economic diplomacy is a major focal point of Ethiopia's foreign policy and diplomatic objectives. The Revised Foreign Policy and Strategy document of the Ethiopian Government has devoted a special section to the conduct of economic diplomacy by enumerating five economic diplomacy and foreign policy objectives which included devising mechanisms on how to narrow the gap between export and import transactions, promotion of trade relations between African countries, the neighboring countries and other less developed countries based on mutual benefits, curbing cross border illegal trade, conducting extensive research on market potentials in the neighboring countries, promoting export of quality and value added commodities, striving to ensure Ethiopia's membership into the WTO and ACFTA.

Under a situation in which world economic development has been fixed in favor of the advanced western countries, Ethiopia cannot remain in the periphery of world economic system. Therefore, the nation prioritizes economic diplomacy to ensure that the strategic economic objectives of the country are addressed through formal and informal diplomatic relations that will boost the county's economy.

Although the country is still grappling with ramified forms of poverty, it is important that the country utilize its natural and manmade resources for the promotion of her sustainable development. Economic diplomacy will therefore serve as a tool for promoting the comparative economic advantages of the country and exploit the available global markets for her products.

Those who are not in favor of peace and development in Ethiopia are not only stoking for continued economic embargo on the country but have been continuously calling to discontinue relief and development partnership and aid for the country.

However, events in the last three years and particularly after the end of the war in the northern part of the country, the Prime Minister, career diplomats and ambassadors representing Ethiopia fought inch to inch with adversaries of the country to lure more than 2 billion USD FDI into the country.

Economic diplomacy conducted by the personal charismatic diplomacy of the Prime Minister and economic professionals of the country enabled the country to be registered as full member of BRICS. This is a diplomatic victory not only for Ethiopia but for African countries at large.

Over the last 12 years, Ethiopian diplomats and mission heads fought neck to neck in ensuring that the flagship project of Ethiopia will complete filling the dam and completing generation of power from additional 5 turbines.

Ethiopia is now engaged in vibrant and emerging third economy in Sub-Sahara Africa. On the other hand, Ethiopia's bilateral and multi-lateral economic diplomacy is not geared only to the development of the country but also benefits the rest of Africa. For instance, Ethiopia's bilateral relations with China in the context of Belt and Roads initiative and their strategic relations in the context of BRIC is strategically projected to transform African economy through the framework of ACFTA and other regional economic arrangements.

The writer of this article thinks of some recommendations for conducting stronger economic diplomacy in and for Ethiopia.

In the first place a strong coordination between ministries and sector institutions in the country need to back the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ethiopia's overseas missions by providing detailed and deeper information of their respective achievements and plans.

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



# News

## Ethiopia, Somalia vow to improve labor migration governance

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA**—Ethiopia and Somalia agreed to safeguard the rights of migrant workers and increase trade union solidarity through fair labor migration governance.

Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Union (CETU) President Kassahun Follo said that since Ethiopia and Somalia are situated in the Horn of Africa, they produce, transit and host large swaths of refugees and migrant workers.

In addition to endeavoring to foster labor migration fair governance at national level, he emphasized that it is critical to strengthen union-to-union collaboration for the better protection of the rights of migrant workers.

Moreover, he noted that collaboration between trade unions in countries of origin, of transit and of destination is important to enhance the protection of migrant workers, increase trade union solidarity that would play a key role in bringing large paths of informal migrant workers under safe and protected employment.

“My union is campaigning to obtain ratification of ILO conventions in a bid to address the challenges encountering Ethiopian migrant workers, to facilitate, regulate labor migration flow and reduce incidences of abusive irregular migration,” he indicated.

He said, “This agreement would be of a paramount significance in jointly promoting cooperation between the Government of Ethiopia and Somalia thereby boosting fair labor migration governance.”



Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU) Secretary General, Omar Faruk on his part stated that this agreement is very historic in our continent as these countries are origin, transit and destination.

As our citizens are always confronted with abuses, Omar emphasized that this Union-to-Union agreement is believed to promote and protect the rights of workers and prevent the abuses, exploitations and violations happening from time to time.

He said: “We have to put this accord into operation in a consistent manner and make sure in executing our mandate of defending, representing and speaking for the workers of these countries.”

ILO Country Director in Ethiopia, Alexio Musindo on his part said that this agreement represents a significant milestone in their collective efforts to address the

challenges faced by Ethiopian and the latter migrant workers in these countries and beyond.

He said, “Labour migration in this contemporary world should not be ignored as issues related to migration are complex, multifaceted and transcend borders.” Therefore, it is critical to enhance intra-regional dialogue and cooperation by working hand in hand across nations and organizations to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of workers who contribute a lot to their respective countries and societies.

“Ethiopia and Somalia have long been known as major countries of origin for mixed migration. This agreement is not just about signing a document, rather it’s about creating a framework for change, commitment to fairness, dignity and safety for all migrant workers,” he added.

## Diplomacy ...

Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, African Affairs Director General with MoFA Ambassador Fesseha Shawel stated that the forum is enabling the country to promote its diplomatic achievements and contribution to the rest of the world.

Despite Ethiopia’s successive governments’ immense contribution in diplomacy, little efforts have been made to cherish and promote their achievements, he emphasized.

Traditionally, Ethiopia is a the nation of diplomacy since the times Queen of Sheba and Axum Empire and it is always long and tall along the members of the international community in terms of interactions. The country’s unique history of promoting peace, trade, and others has not been celebrated.

Emperor Menelik and his wife Empress Taytu’s diplomatic wisdom during the Wuchale Treaty and Emperor Haile Selassie’s success in making Ethiopia to participate in the League of Nations during the 1920s are among major successes.

The carrier diplomat further noted that Ethiopia is also the founding member of the United Nations, OAU-AU, and NEPAD and played a decisive role in the establishment of IGAD. “We have also been in global hotspots as peace keeping operation that started in 1963 in Korea,

By the same token, Ethiopia has a unique role in supporting peace efforts in Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia and its contribution in global diplomacy is very enormous. All these contribution to ensure global peace and security from Korea up to Somalia, over the last 160 years, must be celebrated.

“The coming generation must know this. The policy of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) is let us taking the entire positive from our history and let us put aside those negative after taking lessons. We do not want them to be point of contentions.”

In the week, event will be held to recognize living and late diplomats in a bid to inspire the younger one serving under the ministry to do the same contribution and promote defend Ethiopia’s interest in future places of deployments, Ambassador Fesseha remarked.

## Cooperation curical to...

and knowledge through utilizing continental and regional institutions, and other platforms.

Darskedar mentioned institutions and discussion platforms like the Red Sea Forum, IGAD, the African Union, and the Gulf Cooperative Council among crucial platforms that can facilitate cooperation among the countries in the region.

He emphasized the potential for synergy between the Gulf countries and nations in the Horn of Africa contributing fair share in terms of technology and finance, labor, land, water resources.

The countries need to arrange policy



dialogue seminar to gather diverse ideas and policy options that can contribute to the betterment of the societies surrounding the Red Sea, Darskedar indicated.

He highlighted the intention to transform these ideas into research topics or policy proposals that address the needs and interests of the region.

The researcher also noted the significance of diplomatic dialogue in understanding the security dynamics while generating ideas and policy options that can foster regional cooperation that contributes to the development and stability of the societies in the area.

Ethiopia’s economic growth helps to boost cooperation among the red sea countries, Darskedar said, and acknowledged the growing interest of the country in the Red Sea and the need to explore alternative mechanisms to secure access to the region.

## Ethiopia,...

Lauding the two countries’ strong political and diplomatic ties, the Ambassador stressed that the economic relation still needs more of a push from both sides. Politically, Ethiopia was one of few African nations which supported Algeria’s War of Independence and the two countries maintained warm diplomatic ties since the latter’s independence in 1962.

“The people and government of Algeria are very much grateful for Ethiopia’s support during our war of independence and there

is a strong enthusiasm to transform such historical ties to robust economic and investment cooperation.”

Ethiopian Ambassador to Algeria Nebiat Getachew said for his part that the commencement of direct flights between Addis Ababa and Algiers is an important move in creating economic cooperation.

“During his visit to Algiers, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) conferred with Algerian officials on ways to attract pharmaceutical

companies to Ethiopia’s market. Algerians firms have the reputation on the manufacturing of pharmaceutical facilities and their entry to Ethiopia’s untouched market would bring immense benefits for both sides.”

Mentioning the Algerian Chamber of Commerce President’s involvement in the Air Algérie’s inaugural flight to Ethiopia, Ambassador Nebiat pointed to the possible discussion on trade diplomacy in the coming few days.

## Trilateral ...

Principles, is the only viable way to ensure a fair use of the river.

Ethiopia is committed to reaching a negotiated and amicable solution through the ongoing trilateral process, Seleshi underlined.

In their respective opening remarks, Egypt’s Minister of Water and Irrigation, Prof. Hani Sewilam, and Sudan’s Acting Minister of Water, Dawelbeit Abdelrahman Mansour Basher, expressed their hope for an agreement.

The trilateral meeting of the three countries’ respective representatives will continue deliberations until today according to the FDRE Government Communication Service.



# Opinion

## Tourism sector new impetus for Ethiopia

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Apart from being the cradle of mankind, water tower of the continent and geopolitically decisive location in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia has these days been a mesmerizing spot and influential tourism magnet. Following the development of tangible and intangible heritages and growth of tourism sector in the country, tourist inflow from all over the globe has been rising throughout the nation.

Interestingly, the tourism sector in Ethiopia is gaining momentum, and its contribution to the national economic progress is quite immense indeed! Undeniably, many people love to travel and their move does have many cultural, social as well as economic benefits for the host nation. Tourists and local or foreign visitors have thus sought out new places like vibrant cities, beautiful natural environments like parks and forests as well as cultural and natural heritages.

It is well recognized that for years, the tourism industry has evolved and grown as people scour the globe for unique experiences and activities. Things stalled in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and some sporadic and recurrent skirmishes across the globe, but as countries like ours start to see improvement, tourists are once again booking trips in high numbers. This signals hope for the future of the tourism industry in Ethiopia.

In addition to the tourist destinations recorded in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), two newly registered tourist destinations have now come. True, the Gedeo Cultural Landscape and Bale Mountains have recently been registered in the UNESCO World Heritage list pushing the number of Ethiopian heritages recorded in the latter to eleven.

Such an audacious approach has thus required a long journey and firm cooperation. Since planning for tourism and heritage management is integrated at a destination level, the natural and cultural possessions need to be well protected and citizens have to eye at tourism progress. Tourism is intermingling of members of different communities and leads the nation to the creation of an international understanding of culture, traditions and values of destinations.

Consensus, close talks as well as stakeholder cooperation where planning for tourism and heritage management is integrated at a destination level should be well coordinated. The natural and cultural assets in the country are also expected to be valued, protected thereby reinvigorating tourism progress.

Tourist attractions have thus contributed a lot to national revenue, tourism employment and tourism businesses.

Hence, conservation of habitats, species, historic sites, cultural assets, tangible and intangible heritages as well as natural legacies have to be well focused on.

Yes, many people peculiarly tourists love to travel. They seek out new places like fine-looking natural environments and the likes. The very reasons that have signaled hope for the future of the industry are, among others, the tourism industry has employed a lot of people. The tourism sector has been a big job creator for years as the industry is so varied and includes jobs like pilots, hostesses, hotel workers, travel guides, and more and it can be hard to estimate exactly how many, but it is untold.

The sector can pay off very well. Needless to state, the tourism industry offers many opportunities for good-paying jobs. Certain jobs, like luxury travel advisors, hotel managers, and cruise ship directors tend to pay the most.

The tourism sector impacts GDP growth of Ethiopia, indeed! The smokeless industry also supports low income countries like ours. The sector is also instrumental in playing a role in gender equality, too. In most parts of the world, women fill the majority of the tourism industry.

Rural tourism has also become increasingly popular as tourists from great cities of many countries of the globe come and visit. They seek out unique experiences such as staying on a farm, going for days-long hikes with guides, rock-climbing, and the likes. These visits create jobs for people living in these rural areas and show authorities that these places are worth preserving and investing in. The sector also offers opportunities for tourists to learn more about an area in its natural state and form a closer connection with the people who live there.

Tourism can also play a role in fighting against climate change as it encourages conservation, definitely! Besides, one way tourism can help nature is through preservation. Nature-based tourism is very popular, which provides establishments with a strong incentive to protect nature such as old-growth forests, lakes, coastlines, state parks, wildlife, and a range of heritages, among others.

Furthermore, the tourism sector preserves culture as it helps maintain culture in many ways. One is through the support of artisans who sell their wares to visitors. Markets and shops are a draw to many tourists interested in souvenirs for people back home or as a way to remember their trip. Tourists also often visit cultural sites and watch, dance, theater, and other performances. These sustain intangible culture and heritages, which gives regional states in particular and the state in general with unique identity and protects the multiculturalism of our country.

It is widely witnessed that tourist attractions across Ethiopia create employment opportunities for locals and generate revenue for the local economy through entrance fees, souvenir sales, and other tourist spending. To make the long story short, tourist attractions play a vital role in the tourism industry by attracting visitors, creating jobs and generating revenue, promoting cultural exchange, contributing to destination branding, and supporting infrastructure development.

No doubt, tourism is an indispensable part of the service sector in an economy as it highly adds to the national income of Ethiopia. It has also enormous potential to create jobs and thus combat widespread unemployment in the country.

Yes, transport and communication facilities have to be improved, especially in the tourist hotspots. Better infrastructure must also be developed, and attention needs to be paid to cleanliness in order to enhance aesthetic appeal. Tourism plays a quintessential role in the socio-cultural integration of a country. Captivatingly, domestic tourism encourages intermingling of members of different communities, the tourism sector leads to the creation of an international understanding regarding the culture, traditions and values of tourist destinations.

The sector has been instrumental in generating employment opportunities for local communities, inspiring and driving them to battle against poverty, malnutrition, hunger etc. and achieving sustainable development goals. Heritage and culture tourism would also increase the knowledge of arts, artifacts and architecture as it has become a symbol of Ethiopia's history.

The Ethiopian tourism industry is made up of a variety of different kinds of enterprises, including accommodation services for visitors, exhibitions and conferences, food and beverage-serving activities, passenger transport, transport equipment rental, travel agencies, cultural activities, and sport and recreational activities.

Unquestionably, tourism is an indispensable part of the service sector in Ethiopian economy since it adds to the national income, GDP. It plays a quintessential role in the socio-cultural integration of Ethiopia, too.

Not only is the country expected of getting tourist attraction sites registered but it is also duty bound to well nurture and maintain the safety of these precious national, continental as well as global assets.

Generally, tourism is instrumental in contributing a great deal to the national revenue from tourists, a range of local as well as foreign visitors. If this is so, every citizen of the country is duty bound to play their part in supporting the conservation of habitats, species and historic sites as well

as cultural and natural heritages.

The tourism industry has now become the most important sector in Ethiopia and the sector has been a means to play vital role in ensuring gender equality as women fill the majority of the tourism industry. Yes, tourism is a field ripe for opportunities and strategies that can further empower women.

The government is determined to level-up the country and to ensure that every region is reaching its full potential. Ethiopia's brilliant tourism sector is one of the country's greatest assets, making a huge contribution to the national economy and delivering jobs across all segments of the society.

Tourism is unequivocally a critical industry, a powerhouse of innovation, creativity and employment via injecting cash into the economy with a track record for growth and leveling-up, supporting local economies in every part of the country and strengthening Ethiopia's place on the world stage. Hence, Ethiopia has set to tap into its immense tourism potential in order to become one of Africa's top five tourist destinations within the shortest time possible.

As the country boasts eleven UNESCO World Heritage Sites incorporating diverse and distinctive wildlife, colorful birdlife as well as tangible and intangible heritages, it has now worked hard to unlock the vast potential of its tourism sector.

The government has thus well eyed at the sector to help the country use its tourism potential thereby boosting the economic growth, promoting inclusive development and ensuring environmental sustainability.

In sum, Ethiopia has a lot of hard work ahead of it, but the strategic thinking behind the setup of the tourism industry means that Ethiopia is heading in the right direction regarding the sector. So as to fully benefit out of its vast tourism potential for supporting economic growth, alleviating poverty and protecting the natural heritage, Ethiopia needs to prioritize and overcome some fundamental challenges from which the sector has been suffering.

Everyone has to work hand-in-hand to improve the sector and turn Ethiopia into one of the top tourist destinations in Africa and beyond. Besides, enhancing the protection and conservation of tourist attraction sites, expanding the tourism infrastructure, establishing a tourism marketing organization as well as increasing education and training institutions in the field has to be well bolstered as such a bold step will surely make tourism a pillar of the development of Ethiopia.

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



# Business & Economy

## “Ethiopia Tamirt”:

### A movement to strengthen production, productivity

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

Ethiopia has high potential in the manufacturing industry. However, the sector’s many problems, both in terms of type and quantity, have prevented the country from getting the benefits it deserves. In addition, the problems have been obstacles to the success of the structural transition of the economy, which has been talked about for many years. It has been repeatedly stated that the sector is constrained by problems of space, power, finance and foreign exchange among others.

Lack of foreign currency in the sector and inequitable use, lack of proper attention to local investors, and weak work culture are raised as bottlenecks. Besides, improper implementation of policies and guidelines to encourage the sector is one of the main problems investors faced.

According to Ministry of Industry, industries are producing below their capacity due to the reasons mentioned above. Currently, the manufacturing industry sector has a share of no more than seven percent of the total national product, and it is planned to increase this share to 17.2 percent in the next 10 years. In addition, there is a plan to increase the productivity of the current 50 percent of industries to 85 percent.

Among the solutions set by government is the “Ethiopia Tamirt” national movement announced in April 2022. The main objectives of the national movement are to jointly solve the problems of the manufacturing industry by creating favorable conditions for sustainable development and competitiveness, enabling the sector to contribute to the economic structural transition. They are also improving the work culture in the sector, improving the quality and competitiveness of industrial products and enhancing the ability to substitute imported products.

The movement is believed to be a crucial step in Ethiopia’s efforts to sell competitive industrial products in the international market, to replace imported industrial inputs with domestic ones and to overcome the shortage of foreign currency. The pillars are engaging stakeholders, supporting the sector through research, providing sustainable support to the sector and promoting local products and productivity.

Creating more jobs for citizens by creating enabling conditions in the manufacturing industry sector, increasing foreign currency earnings and saving foreign currency costs by substituting import products are the main results expected from the “Ethiopia Tamirt” program.

In the year it was started, more than 50,000 investors and stakeholders in the regions, zones, districts and city administrations participated, and made a great contribution to creating awareness and bringing the investor and the management closer together. This has helped to revive the sector. More than 352 industries that had stopped



*Scaling up the role of manufacturing industries for national growth*

working have been brought back to work. 635 new industries have started production. Four thousand new investments have been approved to enter the sector.

Regions have implemented the “Ethiopia Tamirt” national movement based on their investment capabilities and other existing conditions. The movement has enabled them to work effectively by solving the problems faced in the industrial sector and they are getting encouraging results from the implementation of the movement. The one-window service and the coordinated operation of institutions have been improving in the regions and the institutions. Support for construction of production centers (sheds) and land supply has been improved.

The move has created a huge potential for manufacturers to produce locally. The movement also helped create better connections not only between manufacturers and buyers, but also between industries. In addition, the producers stated that it is helping them to solve the problems they had in the past and they are getting encouraging results from the implementation.

Information from the Ministry of Industry regarding the performance of the 2022/23 fiscal year indicated that import products worth more than 2.2 billion Dollars were substituted by domestic products. The production capacity of the country’s industries has reached 55 percent. In addition to recording promising results in the implementation of the movement in terms of job creation, product supply and production of proxy products, a better job has been done in supporting the actors of the manufacturing sector to have market and raw material supply links, to improve their understanding and to produce to their full potential.

Biniam Bulcha, the founder and manager of

the Yanabi Sheka Nordic Honey Company, said that the “Ethiopia Tamirt” movement has an important role in creating connections between producers. According to him, the relationship between the producers allows for the exchange of resources, production and marketing as well as experiences. This will create a new system and capacity for the sector.

Solomon Tadele, manager of “Onekoo Coffee” in the Oromia Coffee Farmers’ Cooperative Union, explained that the movement has created an opportunity for them to increase production, offer new products, increase production standards and create working relationships with other organizations. Investors in the manufacturing sector should be encouraged to add value to products. For this, manufacturers should be close to the government and discuss on the problems of the sector, and the government should facilitate the procedures that ease the problems of the sector,” he said.

Founder and manager of the “Habte Garment” Private Limited Company, Habtesilassie Gebrekristos said that the “Ethiopia Tamirt” movement is not a step to be taken lightly. It will play an important role in correcting the stereotypes of the sector. Since the movement started, there have been positive changes in awareness.

Many actors in the sector have been made aware of the movement. In addition, the movement includes measures to increase the productivity of producers. In general, the one-year journey of the movement has shown that directions have been set to alleviate the problems of the manufacturing industry.

The problems of unemployment and cost of living can be solved when the manufacturing industry is supported and the problems solved. For this reason, the “Ethiopia Tamirt” movement should be

strengthened, Habtesilassie said.

Assistant Professor, Habtamu Girma, an economics teacher at Jigjiga University and a doctoral student at the University of Ibadan, said that although the movement has made a positive contribution in solving the problems of the manufacturing sector, it is necessary to constantly monitor and evaluate the changes that the campaign has brought about, and the problems of the sector require structural solutions rather than short-term ones. He recommended that there is a need to focus on solutions that bring lasting change.

Mola Alemayehu (PhD), a professor of economics at Haramaya University and a senior researcher at “Frontieri” research and consulting firm, explained that the movement is a program that suggests the country should produce based on its potential resources.

“Many countries are trying to get their citizens, investors and foreign investors to produce in their country. Ethiopia’s efforts will not be different. ‘Ethiopia Tamirt’ is related to increasing its national production capacity and strengthening its role of substituting imported products with local products,” he said.

According to him, since lack of resources has forced the country’s industries to produce less than half of their capacity, it is necessary to facilitate the supply of resources to increase production capacity. The move will allow both local investors and foreign investors to engage in investment activities in a better capacity. If supported by appropriate policy framework and concerted efforts, it can be an alternative solution to increase productivity as well as alleviate the shortage of foreign exchange.

For the success of the program, the role of the government, the investor and the people should be clearly identified. The movement needs to be supported by appropriate policies and strategies to achieve better results and to be helpful for sustainable solutions, Dr. Mola suggested.

When the government provides incentives, it must ensure that the incentives are used for their intended purpose. Moreover, the government should monitor and evaluate the implementation of the program and make adjustments, Dr. Mola added.

Regarding the role of the society, he said, “The attitude of giving better attention and interest to foreign products than domestic products should be changed. It is important to realize that whenever we use local products, we are strengthening the capacity of the producers.”

The “Ethiopia Tamirt” movement is believed to be able to reduce the cost of living by enhancing national production capacity, creating more jobs, alleviating the shortage of foreign currency and building a competitive national economy. Actors of the manufacturing sector stressed that it is an alternative solution that should be done.



# Planet Earth

## Ethiopia: A champion of climate diplomacy in Africa, the world

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

International diplomacy week would be colourfully marked in Ethiopia from October 2-6, 2023 with multiple sets of events regarding the diplomatic achievements of the country in different spheres of diplomacy. This piece deals with important contributions that Ethiopia has offered to the world in terms of curbing the devastating effects of climate change through a national climate diplomacy initiative.

Before proceeding with some issues on climate diplomacy, the author of this article feels that it is appropriate to define what diplomacy itself means. Best Diplomat publication defines diplomacy as:

“... as the art and practice of negotiation and conducting dialogues through different measures between states, groups, or people to influence the international system’s decisions, events, and behaviors. It is undertaken to promote peace among nations and avoid a state of war or violence.

In ancient times, diplomacy referred to the conduct of formal (often bilateral) ties between sovereign governments. By the 20th century, European diplomatic practices had spread throughout the globe, and the definition of diplomacy had expanded to include summit meetings, international conferences, multilateralism, the international endeavors of supranational and subnational organizations, unofficial diplomacy by nongovernmental actors, and the performance of international civil servants”.

There are various types of diplomacy identified in modern international relations.

They include public diplomacy, economic diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, science diplomacy, cyber diplomacy, energy diplomacy, regional diplomacy, education diplomacy and relatively more recently, climate change diplomacy is identified.

In popular understanding, Climate diplomacy encompasses the use of diplomatic tools to support the ambition and functioning of the international climate change regime and to attenuate the negative impacts climate change risks pose for peace, stability and prosperity across the world. Furthermore, climate diplomacy entails using the issue of climate change for furthering other foreign policy objectives such as confidence- and peace-building or strengthening multilateralism. Climate diplomacy calls for preparing appropriate risk assessment and risk management strategies at a global strategic level.

Climate diplomacy on the other hand is one of the components of modern diplomatic activities which also include economic diplomacy, public diplomacy, cultural diplomacy and diplomacy which is also conducted in the context of CSOS.

Although the negative effects of climate change have remained with us, Climate

diplomacy gained currency since 1972 as a threat to global peace and security. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was conducted in 1992 followed by COP 1 from 1995 to COP 27 2022 and COP 28 in 2023.

The Kyoto Protocol was the first ever legally binding climate treaty in which the developed countries agreed to reduce carbon emission by 5% below the 1990 levels regarding the reduction of greenhouse emissions by 192 countries, 37 industrialized countries were committed to keep up to their expectations. This was followed by the Cancun Climate Fund at COP 16.

The Paris Agreement of December 2015 limiting carbon emission below 2 degree agreed by 196 countries is the most significant climate change agreement to date. Each country to the agreement was made to submit carbon reduction pledges through Known National Determined Contributions to limit global warming to the level of 1.5 degree Celsius

Why was Ethiopia interested in the deliberations of climate diplomacy at all levels? In the first place, the country was designated as one of the 20 countries across the world as highly vulnerable to the devastating effects of climate change.

Over the last 50 years, Climate change which used to occur every 10 years in the past to 5 years after the 1984 drought in the country and now effects of climate change on the country is visible almost every year affecting the country’s agriculture, water development, tourism, infrastructure development, mining, foreign and local trade.

In addition, Ethiopia can effectively use multi-lateral programs in climate diplomacy for promoting the climate resilient green economy policy it is pursuing at the national level

Ethiopia could benefit from multilateralism and cooperation, negotiation, climate justice diplomacy, promotion of agriculture based national economy. Therefore effective climate diplomacy is a matter of survival for Ethiopia.

Climate diplomacy in which Ethiopia is actively engaged is based on major principles which include accountability in meeting the provisions of the agreements and treaties to which the signatory countries are obliged to fulfil their obligations. On the other hand, no country in the world can engage in efforts of curbing climate change through a single hand approach but through multi-lateral approach. The principle of climate funding by countries who are engaged in emitting the biggest tonnage of carbon and using climate change for peace building and promotion of scientific and partnership on issues of climate change.

In terms of promoting climate diplomacy, Ethiopia has indeed registered a lot of achievements that are already recognized by international partners and global climate

change related institutions.

Accordingly, in 2009, Ethiopia organized the first National Climate Change Conference in line with the Paris Climate Change Agreement. This was a conference in which the national participants deliberated on the effects of climate change on the environment and also charted out various means and ways of decarbonizing the national economy by further accelerating the construction of carbon free energy resources. Along with the conference a national Climate Change Forum was formed in the same year.

Ethiopia coordinated Africa’s efforts on climate diplomacy from COP-16 to COP-21. The country planted 1.7 billion trees in line with UNEP initiative for 2007 and took over India’s leadership on tree planting.

Ethiopia ratified the UN Framework Convention for climate change in 1994 and Kyoto protocol in 2005.

Ethiopia designed a National Adaptation Plan in 2011 and Nationally Determined Contribution to UNFCCC in 2015 came up with Nationally Determined Contribution to UNFCCC in 2015.

Ethiopia is engaged in climate diplomacy not only from the perspectives of promoting its national interest but from her strong commitment to a multi-lateral approach for saving the global ecosystem from being damaged by global warming and other resultant effects of climate change.

The author believes that climate diplomacy is not and must not be restricted to only issues of climate change as variation and recurrences of climate change are also associated with other global issues of significance including poverty reduction and a constellation of other issues linked with the development of under development.

What are the main reasons behind Ethiopia’s successes on climate diplomacy? The most important factor, among others is a strong political leadership that was put in place since 2009.

The late Prime Minister of Ethiopia Meles Zenawi led the Conference of African Heads of State and Governments for two terms starting with COP 15 in Copenhagen and up to COP 17 in Durban, South Africa. On the occasion of COP 15, Ethiopia firmly advocated for a pledge of USD 100 billion each year to provide economic support for less developed countries affected by climate change.

Moreover, Ethiopia was also an active participant in formulating IGAD regional climate change strategy for the period from 2016- 2030 for the purpose of harmonizing national efforts to reduce the effects of climate change among the member countries.

As part of the National Green Legacy Initiative, Ethiopia dispatched higher level government officials to Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, and Rwanda for using tree planting

as a tool for good will and peace building among the countries of Africa.

Ethiopia is also engaged in integrating the climate diplomacy both in domestic sector development programs and international investment initiatives, thus used climate diplomacy as a vehicle for promoting national economic development through a strong national coordination.

As a diplomatic capital of Africa, Ethiopia tasked herself to developing riverside projects in the city to contribute to the national efforts underway to curb the effects of climate change in every location of the country.

It is no accident or a simple diplomatic gesture to see diplomats and representatives of UN and AU engage in tree planning programs that Ethiopia has organized over the last four years through the National Green Legacy Initiative in which ambassadors and representatives of regional and international organizations planted trees in solidarity with Ethiopia’s Green Legacy Initiative.

To date, Ethiopia has planted more than 30 billion trees in four years and According to the Arbor Day Foundation report from 2015, in one year a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange. One can therefore imagine the magnificent role that Ethiopia is playing in fighting off the effects of climate change at the global level.

Ethiopia is now entering into a new phase of climate diplomacy as the nation has now become a member of BRICS effective January 2024. The nation can use climate diplomacy along with other routine diplomatic undertakings to siphon in more FDI into the country and also for promoting tourism and people to people public diplomacy across BRICS member countries.

In addition, Ethiopia needs to scale up her efforts in G77 countries to promote climate diplomacy in the context of South-South cooperation framework.

On the other hand, Ethiopia can use the nation’s experience in public diplomacy to bolster climate diplomacy by blending it with the promotion of ecotourism as a driving force for climate diplomacy and also by incorporating the various forms of diplomacy mentioned earlier.

It must be noted that diplomacy that is conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is institutional diplomacy that is conducted at government level. Heads of State and Government also conduct diplomacy at their level either by mobilizing the various government institutions or just by themselves.

Climate diplomacy is therefore one form of diplomacy from among various forms of diplomacy employed by the states. Ethiopia has a lot to gain from climate diplomacy in the future.



# Art & Culture

## The Best and Worst of Ethiopians Food Cultures on Holidays

MULUGETA GUDETA

Ethiopians are not only spiritually motivated and God fearing people. They are also resilient, hopeful having great survival instincts that no hardships can break. Life might sometimes be as hard as possible but Ethiopians have a way of making it fun despite the sharp rise in the costs of living these days. By the way this is not the first time for Ethiopians to face such hardships. Roughly the last fifty years after the 197 Revolution have seen many difficult times.

The revolutionaries of the time were often telling people that things could go worse before they could get better and some revolutionaries had eaten their belts (not a savory thing to do anyway!) when famine struck. They said that the people would eat cornflakes for breakfast once the bad days will be gone. Nowadays the revolutionaries have overcome those bad days and the grandchildren of the “belt eaters” are now some of the overweight kids in the world eating the best foods even by Western standards. How about us? Where are the hard talking revolutionaries who promised better days half a century ago?

At one time in Addis bread was in such a short supply that people formed long queues in front of bakeries at five in the morning. When meat was expensive as it is at present, they resorted to killing oxen in their neighborhoods and share the meat among the members of the group of people who contributed money according to the size of their pockets. When industrial beer became expensive as it is now, they drank tella, or the home-brewed alternative adding araki, a kind of strong liquor like the Mexican tequila to make it stronger and creating a mellowing high. Hardships and drinks seem to make good companions in Ethiopia.

Generally speaking a New Year is a time of renewal both on individual and national levels. Individuals make what is known as a New Year pledge or decision to start life anew or introduce changes in their lives. Nations us New Years in orderto make new plans for the nation. They plan to develop the economy, improve people’s lives or start to build a new future depending on the specific circumstances or conjectures. All in all a New Year is a time of hope, and a time of preparations for better achievements. Unfortunately, there are many countries in the world that are spending New Years without even being aware of them.

One of the mysteries of Ethiopian culture is reflected in its calendar. By the way Ethiopia has a unique calendar that sets her apart from the Gregorian calendar adopted by the most of humanity. The Chinese too have also a different way of counting the year. They have a new Chinese New Year they call after different animal names.



According to Encarta Encyclopedia, “Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year, celebration of the New Year in Asian communities around the world. The date of the New Year is determined by the lunar calendar, so festivities begin with the new cycle of the moon that falls between January 21 and February 19. Each year is named for one of 12 symbolic animals in sequence. The animals, in their sequential order, are the rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, serpent, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog, and boar.

New Years are celebrated in different ways in different cultures. In Ethiopia, the New Year falls at the end of the rainy season when the downpours of the last three months are reduced to light showers and the sun which was timid for three months starts to turn brighter and even hotter. Preparations for the New Year usually start a few weeks before the actual day.

The New Year day is a time if great festivities and traditional foods are making a huge comeback once again and meaty dishes dominate the menus. The best and worst of Ethiopians’ food and beverages culture rear their heads. When you talk about holidays in Ethiopia, you mostly talk about foods.

There is a popular saying in Ethiopia that holidays don’t feel like holidays without meat and meat-based foods. We can also add butter to this. Meat goes with butter, the one reinforcing the positive effects of the other. Ethiopians may speak dozens of languages but they eat almost the same popular dishes particularly during holidays. They have a hidden contempt for fasting dishes and most of them wish that they could always eat meat. Ethiopians’ fascination with meat in all its forms and shape is legendary to say the least. They associate eating meat with good times and happiness and even wealth. If someone eats meat most of the week, he or she is considered someone enjoying a good life. If you ask someone why they are strong and good looking, they tell you that they were raised on meat, butter and honey. There may be some truth in this but it is far from being the whole truth.

The positive attributes meat and butter enjoy in Ethiopia are not due to the highprices you pay for them than ordinary dishes, at least on holidays. On the contrary, even if you are a pauper, you can feast on sub-quality meat sold at butchers’ at discount, chopped from different parts. These are small pieces of meat called kinitabi or small cut pieces and sold at discount. I remember the time when someone could buy a big chunk of kinitabi enough for five people for a more 50 cents. I think these chunks of low-cost meat are no more visible on the butchers’ tables for sale. Why? Maybe they are as expensive as the other meat.

Unfortunately these days meat and butter consumption is associated with heavy consumption of these healthy but potentially deadly foods. Many ordinary people in the rural areas as well as diehards of the meat culture do not subscribe to this view. If you raise the specter of bad health in connection with meat and butter, they will certainly and proudly tell you that their forefathers were living exclusively on meat and butter and suffered none of the modern illness.

However, they forget that even if people from the older generation were consuming a lot of meat and butter, they were burning them in the field during the times of hard labor where they have been working the land from dusk to dawn. In other words, the older meat fans were exercising in the fields while their modern counterparts drive in cars or stay all days in one place, thereby showing early symptoms of the food related diseases and spend their rest of their lives swallowing pills.

In some cultures, there are misconceptions about the negative effects of these fatty foods, namely meat and butter. On Meskel holidays, the gurage people of southwestern Ethiopia consume a lot of meat and butter. They don’t bother about eating too much of these things as a matter of culture or habit and they would tell you that they take a potent drink called araki to neutralize the ill effects of these fatty foods.

Alcohol taken in moderation is believed to help speed digestion. Yet, too much alcohol

is also a source of many ailments including liver complications. And many people in the rural areas are not consuming alcohol in moderation. They drink as if the end of the world is fast approaching and suffer from complication starting the same afternoon the feast take place.

We may ignore the worst effects of too much of something, but the truth is what we consider expensive or tasty is not always the best food. I remember an advertisement on CNN was mentioning Ethiopia’s fasting foods as being one of the healthiest in the world worth testing. These fasting foods are nothing more than injera, shiro wot, lentil sauce, raw tomatoes, green pepper, turmeric and others considered by the medical world as the sources of the best and healthiest ingredients recommended by modern dietitians. But here in our country these items are considered signs of poverty and shunned. If you suggest eating some of these foods on holidays, I am sure you will be regarded as a lunatic and will be left alone to enjoy you chosen poor man’s fasting foods.

Ethiopian New Year is not only about foods and beverages. It is also about togetherness (despite the presently isolating effects of COVID-19) union, good wishes, sharing, and blessings. COVID-19 has changed many of our healthy habits. It has prevented us from coming together and invite one another to tasty meals, songs and dances. These things are now becoming sources of much nostalgia and loneliness. Yet there is no choice other than respecting the COVID-19 protocols of mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing.

You cannot avoid COVID-19 because you are enjoying in families. There are many stories of families who caught the virus while enjoying in groups. Ethiopia is now the fifth African countries where COVID has become deadliest and infections are goring at an alarming rate. Ignoring these facts would be suicidal. No amount of butter and meat as well as alcohol will protect us from the virus. No amount of love for our families would spare us from the infections.

Going out for eating or drinking in groups or for taking family pictures or enjoy the festivities in nightclubs have also become deadly. The source of our neglect might be the consumption of more than enough alcohol which MIGHT make us feel invincible even to COVID-19. So, the most prudent thing to do would be to stay safe, and spare the joy for another holiday free from the virus. There is always another day for happiness as long as we keep ourselves safe. One could write volumes about Ethiopians’ food and beverage cultures that are not yet properly explored and studied. Suffice it to say that Ethiopia is rich in many food and drinks while the task of choosing which is what is up to we, the consumers.



# Society

## Concerted hands to beat HIV/AIDS

BY STAFF REPORTER

Since the virus was first identified in the 1980s, HIV remains a major public health threat and claimed the lives of millions of people round the globe. Despite the global efforts exerted to stopping new HIV infections and ensuring that everyone with HIV has access to HIV treatment, the case is still challenging the global community.

According to the recent report (13 July 2023) launched by WHO regarding global situation and trends of the HIV, HIV remains a major global public health issue, having claimed 40.4 million [32.9–51.3 million] lives so far with ongoing transmission in all countries globally; with some countries reporting increasing trends in new infections when previously on the decline.

There were an estimated 39.0 million [33.1–45.7 million] people living with HIV at the end of 2022, two thirds of whom (25.6 million) are in the WHO African Region.

In 2022, 630 000 [480 000–880 000] people died from HIV-related causes and 1.3 million [1.0–1.7 million] people acquired HIV, the report added.

Like many of the global countries, the case has also affected Ethiopia and claimed the lives of its productive citizens.

According to the 2022 estimation made by the UNAIDS, the number of adults and children living with HIV was 610 000 [510 000 - 750 000].

In fact, Ethiopia since the outbreak of the case has been working obstinately and exerting utmost effort to control the HIV epidemic effectively and decrease the number of people infected by the virus.

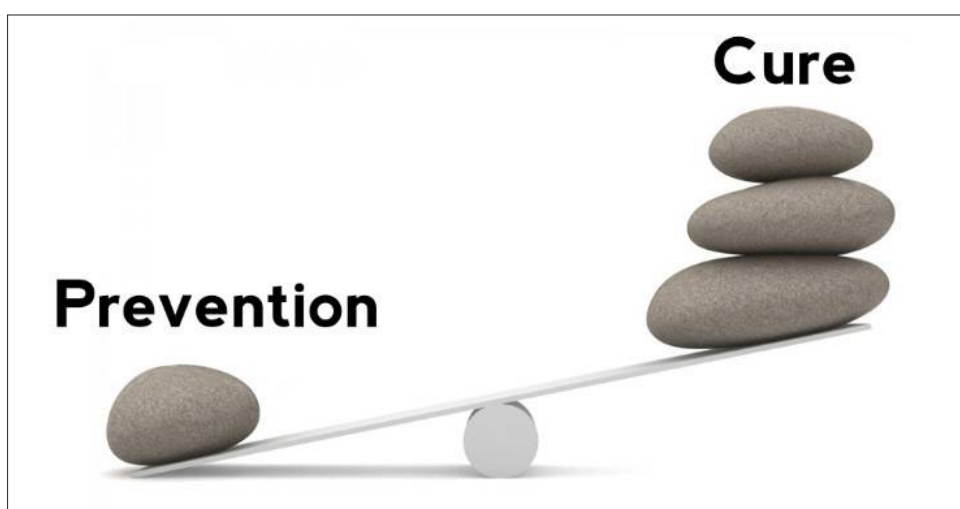
As a result, encouraging achievements are witnessed. For instance, as documents indicate as of 2022, the rate of new infections decreased by 59 percent and the death rate decreased by 52 percent compared to 2010 figures.

Recently, a three days forum targeting too evaluate the activities and performance of the national HIV and AIDS prevention and control was carried out at Adama Town. At the national forum, participants drawn from all states and city administrations, partner organizations, and various institutions took part, according to a Ministry of Health report.

Opening the forum, Chief Executive Officer of HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control OFFICE at the Ministry of Health Fekadu Yadeta, said that as HIV is one of the pressing health challenges and negligence about the case can cost the country a lot. Thus, it is necessary to be more careful than ever about it.

According to Fekadu, giving due emphasis to issues including mother-to child-transmission of HIV, improving access to antiretroviral drugs and treatment, monitoring disease stage among others, are crucial to control and prevent the spread of the virus.

Underscoring the critical importance of decreasing the current rate of mother-to-child transmission, which is now 12



*The infectious disease HIV, even after three and plus decades since it was first identified, remains to be one of the major public health challenges around the world*

percent, and improving the services of ARV, he said, if more efforts are not put in place, the number may rise.

In order to improve the use of the support fund allocated for the prevention and control of HIV and AIDS, a direction was given to the leaderships at all levels to supervise the whole activities- to ensure that the fund is used within the set timetable and for the stated purpose, as well as to evaluate the outcomes after it has been used and give strict directions,

In his message, Public Relations and Communication Executive at the Ministry of Health Tegene Regassa (PhD) on his part said that the HIV AND AIDS Prevention and Control Chief Executive being organized under the Ministry of Health will create a favorable environment in terms of working together, in cooperation.

Stating that the communication work of the office is being organized effectively and at a better manner than before in order to make the required information accessible to the public, he underlined that it is necessary to do comprehensive communication and advocacy works to prevent and control the disease by raising the awareness of the

society to overcome the current negligence observed among the public about HIV AND AIDSS.

According to the national statistics with regard to the prevalence rate of HIV AND AIDSS, 84 percent of the people have information that the virus is in their blood, and the transmission rate of the virus from mother to child is 12 percent. The prevalence rate of the virus is 0.91 percent.

At the three days forum, various partner organizations conveyed messages through their representatives; and performance reports of the federal and states, as well as the 2016 Ethiopian year plan, the newly prepared strategic plan and survey research were presented and discussed thoroughly.

The infectious disease HIV, even after three and plus decades since it was first identified, remains to be one of the major public health challenges around the world. Even if more energy, resources and concerted efforts are applied, and international health institutions including WHO, the Global Fund and UNAIDS devised global HIV strategies that are aligned with the SDG target 3.3 of ending the HIV epidemic by 2030, the disease is still claiming the lives of many

people across the globe.

According to organizations' target, by 2025, 95 percent of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) should have a diagnosis, 95 percent of those should be taking lifesaving antiretroviral treatment (ART) and 95 percent of PLHIV on treatment should achieve a suppressed viral load for the benefit of the person's health and for reducing onward HIV transmission.

Needless to say HIV infection has no cure, at least up until this moment. Therefore, leveling up the endeavors made to prevent and control the spread of the virus, providing the required treatment and care, as well as accessing ARV is critical. In this regard, works should be carried out in a more organized and concerted manner than before.



# Law & Politics

## Addressing non-state actors' threat in Red Sea environs via regional cooperation

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is common knowledge that the Red Sea region has become increasingly complex and unpredictable in recent years making it challenging to maintain security and stability. The region faces the threat of terrorism, piracy, and smuggling, and these challenges have complicated the security environment.

Regional cooperation is essential due to the shared challenges of the Red Sea region, which countries cannot tackle alone effectively. Cooperation creates a collaborative approach towards addressing challenges, provides the necessary expertise and resources that may not be found in individual countries, and helps build trust between states.

The looming threat of non-state actors in the Red Sea bordering states is a significant factor contributing to the changing security landscape in the region. Addressing this threat requires close cooperation and dialogue between the states bordering the region, as well as with international partners who have a shared interest in maintaining security and stability in the region.

To address this threat, there is a need for greater cooperation between states to disrupt and dismantle the networks of cross-border criminals and to develop mechanisms to prevent their activities. Extremists and terrorists also pose a significant threat to regional security in the Red Sea region. These non-state actors use violence and terrorism to achieve their objectives, which can lead to the destabilization of societies and an increase in the risk of conflict.

With shared challenges and significant geopolitical importance, the security environment has become increasingly complex and unpredictable. Cooperation is necessary to address the challenges and reap the benefits, which include a safer and more stable environment, economic growth, and promotion of investment and trade. There are numerous benefits to increased cooperation among countries in the Red Sea region. The most significant benefit is a safer and more stable environment, which enhances economic growth and promotes investment, tourism, and trade.

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons is another concern in the Red Sea region, which can fuel conflict and violence. These weapons can be acquired by non-state actors and used to threaten the security and stability of the region. To address this threat, there is a need for greater cooperation between states to implement measures to control the proliferation of these weapons and to prevent their use by non-state actors.

By working together to create more stable and prosperous societies, countries in the region can reduce the risks of security threats and create a more conducive environment for peaceful coexistence. This includes addressing poverty, inequality, and political instability in the region. Furthermore, investing in regional security frameworks



and capacity-building initiatives can help build resilience against external threats and shocks.

Countries can pool resources to develop a more robust and resilient regional security framework that can withstand external pressures and shocks. This can help countries in the region to navigate challenging global conditions and maintain their security and stability. Cultural exchange and dialogue are also important aspects of regional cooperation. By promoting cultural exchange and dialogue, countries can gain a better understanding of each other's values, beliefs, and traditions.

The looming threat of non-state actors in the Red Sea bordering states requires close cooperation and dialogue between the states bordering the region, as well as with international partners who have a shared interest in maintaining security and stability in the region. By coordinating efforts, countries can pool resources to develop infrastructure, promote trade, and increase investment in the region. This can create new opportunities for economic development and help to reduce poverty and unemployment in the region.

By promoting cultural exchange and dialogue, countries can gain a better understanding of each other's values, beliefs, and traditions. This can help to reduce tensions and promote tolerance and respect for diversity in the region. By working together, countries can develop a more robust and resilient regional security framework that can withstand external pressures and shocks. This can help countries in the region to navigate challenging global conditions and maintain their security and stability.

Regional cooperation is essential to enhance security interdependence among states bordering the Red Sea. The region faces a range of security challenges, which can only be effectively addressed through a coordinated approach. By working together, countries can promote security, stability, and prosperity in the region, and build a more resilient and sustainable future.

By working together to create more stable and prosperous societies, countries in the region can reduce the risks of security threats

and create a more conducive environment for peaceful coexistence. Furthermore, investing in regional security frameworks and capacity-building initiatives can help to build resilience against external threats and shocks.

The security landscape of the Red Sea region has been transformed in recent years due to various factors such as economic projections, military rivalries, competition over resources, the spread of protest movements, and the potential confrontation between regional and international players. By promoting cultural exchange and dialogue, countries can gain a better understanding of each other's values, beliefs, and traditions. This can help to reduce tensions and promote tolerance and respect for diversity in the region, which are key factors in promoting peace and stability.

Addressing these challenges require greater regional cooperation and dialogue, investment in regional security frameworks and capacity-building initiatives, economic cooperation, and cultural exchange and dialogue. By working together, countries in the region can promote security, stability, and prosperity in the region, and build a more resilient and sustainable future.

The increased level of cooperation builds trust and promotes a peaceful environment that supports the resolution of existing conflicts and prevents potential conflicts from arising. This cooperation boosts the sense of responsibility towards the common collective security of a region, which promotes multilateralism, a crucial prerequisite for global peace.

The Red Sea has become an area of intensifying geopolitical competition, with non-state actors posing a significant threat to regional security. Terrorist groups, piracy networks, and arms smugglers have all exploited the region's porous borders and weak governance structures to advance their agendas.

Regional cooperation is imperative to enhance security interdependence among states bordering the Red Sea as the region has become increasingly complex and unpredictable, Institute of Foreign Affairs Deputy Executive Director Mesafint said, according to information obtained from

Ethiopian News Agency.

Speaking at the First Annual Regional Consultative Forum on Red Sea Security Dynamics, Mesafint Tefera said the security landscape of the Red Sea region has been enormously reshaped for the last few years.

This is due to various factors such as economic projections, military rivalries, competition over resources, the spread of protest movements and the potential confrontation between regional and international players, he added.

In addition to this, the deputy executive director said that there is also a looming threat from non-state actors including traffickers, pirates, cross-border criminals, extremists, and terrorists making the need for regional dialogue and cooperation crucial.

Considering the complex and unpredictable security situation in the Red Sea region, the Institute of Foreign Affairs organized the consultative forum aimed at raising awareness.

“This regional consultative forum is organized with the objectives of raising awareness about the mounting security threats the region is facing and continues to face in the near future in an assumption to effectively address them.”

It also seeks to engage in discussions or regional cooperation platforms that can enhance security interdependence among states bordering the Red Sea, with the view to enhancing the influence of think tanks in shaping regional platforms and promote among them to develop innovative solutions to security challenges.

According to Mesafint, the forum is expected to produce well informed policy makers, research oriented policy and eventually shape public opinion towards peace through research, advocacy, and outreach services.

“By achieving these outcomes we can contribute to the establishment of the Red Sea region forum that is both secure and prosperous, characterized by peace and stability. We have the ability to foster an atmosphere that encourages effective governance, cooperation and inventive ideas by leveraging knowledge and collaboration.”





Ephrem Endale  
Contributor

# Between you & me

## 'Busy in a Hurry'

A couple of times we talked about the difficulty of walking in the streets with so much bumping of shoulders or someone practically crashing their entire frame into you. "What's wrong with people these days? Oh, civilization where art thou!" But it is not about things being wrong with others or their acting in 'uncivilized' manner. It's about each one failing to take responsibility for mistakes committed or putting our own houses in order. One curse of this age is that when it comes to all the wrongs being done it is always "Them" and seldom "Us." They are the ones with the fangs and tails of Lucifer or whatever and we are the ones with the angelic wings.

"Can't you see where you are going? You almost knocked me down!"

"You are the one who unloaded your eighty something kilos on me!"

Anger all over. Someone said that anger is a condition where the tongue works faster than the mind. So true! And the many tongues working faster than the many brains in the streets are proof that walking the streets in such congestions isn't an easy practice these days.

This is something where you can design some directive "Anyone bumping into someone in the streets will be locked in for a week." Bingo! Finally got the perfect solution. Not so fast. In the first place I can tell you it would be difficult to agree on who bumped into whom.

There is this recent 'bumping shoulders' incident where no one indeed saw the real problem but the red hot exchanges between the parties involved. Both guys were probably anywhere from mid-forties to early fifties. Now, you would think theirs was the time of

life where the tongues remain in backbenches as the brains fill the front row seats. But not with these guys! They were loudly accusing each other of deliberately bumping into one another. And the words these innocent and content guys threw at each other were so crude practically no one tried to interfere. At a certain moment they drew so close to each other that the only question was which fist would fly through the air as the curtain raiser for some dramatic fight. It never happened.

A couple of days ago were taking our once or twice a week walk when one of us bumped into a pretty lady. It was his fault since he was so immersed in telling us some current affairs 'breaking news' he wasn't aware the lady coming the opposite direction. But then she, too, should have focused on the road ahead of her. The outgoing sort of guy he was he smiled 'the smile of the month' and said "Sorry!" When it comes to playing the friendliness card few could rival him.

However, friendliness was the last thing on the lady's mind. You could read it splashed all over her face, "Another one of them! Does he think I'm a fool to accept that he didn't see me coming!" She dumped a torrent of abusive words on our friend and coming from such a pretty lady made them more hurting than they usually would have been. Yes, she was pretty and that didn't make things any easier. Somebody should have told her that even the prettiest face in this corner of the world isn't some immunity-card allowing the holder to abuse others. That was what this lady was trying to do. She crossed so many red lines and our pal was so worked up he threw at her a single four-letter word which had the bruising power of an entire dictionary of not-so-nice

vocabulary and the effect was devastating. She looked like an unsuspecting character in some Aliens and Predators episode suddenly faced with the monster of monsters.

You see, the problem is that it is the age "They did it!" and not, "We did it!"

Now, our pal was the last guy to claim the word 'handsome' be included before your name. But you're not that unsightly for her to call up the help of all her angry cells. He just bumped into her accidentally and that is all there is to it! These days all of us bump into each other with such frequency that you don't need to do shoulder exercise in the gym. If you go out into town at most hours of the day and return home without a couple of bumps then you're the Invisible Man. Hollywood is in much need of you. There're numerous unintentional things you might do and later feel sorry or even regret. But then the hardest thing is to convince people that it is unintentional. Of course with the slyness gripping mankind in this age the intentional might be a well thought up ruse.

A hundred and one thoughts crop up; "Why did he bump into me when there are hundreds of people. Maybe the guy was sent after me by someone." Well someone could be anyone from the friend you stashed his girlfriend from in junior high. That could be more a couple of decades plus a few months. Well some memories never leave! Especially being seen as a fool seeing your girlfriend carried away by a dear friend and doing nothing about it! "Why are you guys harassing the poor fellow!" What has he done to you?"

"Nothing!"

"Then why is everyone talking such trash

about him?"

"Well, he had this girlfriend and his best friend took her away from under his nose."

"So!"

"So he did nothing! Would you believe it?"

"What should he have done!?"

"He should have beaten the hell out of the guy!"

We could be so sensitive that innocent bumps could bring about all kinds of memories.

So how can we deal with this bumping thing? I don't know. How in the world could I know? I'm one of those guys who hunt for the quieter less congested parts of town to go from some place or another. Even a harmless walk is difficult and most of the time less congested means fewer shoulder bumps! Ha! And also in this age of congestion more deserted areas could be scarier.

By the way we used to wonder when we see footage of other places where people practically flow like some human river. The only thing is you don't see them bumping into each other. So however tight the congestion bumps could be avoided.

So it's all about acting responsibly. Busy and in a hurry! Well many of us are busy and in a hurry. Claiming to be "busy and in a hurry" is the new game in town. Well, not really new; but it seems to have taken a fresh dimensions. You might be going practically nowhere and you might have all the time in the world but claiming to be 'busy in a hurry' is you're self-asserted right. I mean, you can't be left out when practically everyone is busy and in a hurry!

## Is 'PCs on the Tables' the New Normal!

I've said it and will say it again. Though I know technology is catching up on us in almost every sector of life I'm not yet fully into saying "Yes, that's it." Look when organizations fail to serve you due to system failure, when the dudes try to fool you with the criminal phone calls and when only one of the multiple ATMs is working you can't help having a hundred shades of suspicion. (Just for the record nothing to do with 'Fifty Shades of Gray'.) More and more we're paying bills electronically. But I'm one of those who waits until such things become mandatory before rushing to comply. The very presence of the receipt in your breast pocket gives you more confidence than those text messages.

Of course there is no argument that we need the use of technology more than ever. Going to various offices and organizations you feel that we're really in a race to fully join the world of modern technology seeing all these PCs and laptops racing all the tables. In fact you wonder if you really need all this stuff or are they doing it just to prop up their public images! Thinking the hundreds of thousands even millions of birr those places spend on the modern gear you expect that the use of modern technology is spreading like anything.

But then despite so many PCs calling for attention in some places you must be a very observant person to point out the PCs that are actually active. You'd be pardoned to wonder what the hell is going on. Why in the world do

they need so many PCs and laptops when they are still shuffling tons of papers! Why do they need to search for dusty files in the archives when they could have put all documents on the many PCs! You can't help wondering. "If they are still dealing with dusty paper documents, if the PCs look as if they are there for decoration purposes like the plastic flowers the table what kind of management approves their purchase."

There is this middle-age domestic worker I know. She's barely could read and write. But when you talk to her about all the social media stuff and phone applications you can't help pondering "Maybe I'm the ignorant apple in the basket." Once we were talking about people abroad we know and she tells me she had regular contact. I took as if she was telling me they regularly phone her. Well that said until she dropped the bombshell "I call them two three times a week." What! Was I listening right! Yes I was listening right. Yes, there really must be changes. Yes, I'm way, way back in the use of these modern appliances. Ha! I mean if you have the financial muscle to make regular long-distance calls you really must be having it nice. Yes, I can tell you that if given the economic squeezes if you can afford to make long distance calls that must be what the soccer transfer guys call breaking the bank.

"Are you telling me you call them so regularly?"

"Yes. I do." She must have thought of me. "I can't believe me he's asking me such stupid questions."

"I mean making long distance calls must be expensive." That's when the technological revelation came.

"I use imo." Imo! What the hell is imo! That's how she pronounced it "i" pronounced as in 'impossible!' What in the world was this 'imo' thing? Well she was telling me she uses the IMO application. I've have never used it not because I hate free lunches but because I've yet to orient myself how to use it. Then, here is when I was really dealt the "Ahs!" and the Ohs! The ball was in her court so she asks;

"Do you use TikTok?"

"No I don't!" well, actually a couple of times guys told me to look some outrageous material and I did so. That was my first and last engagement with TikTok. But this middle aged lady who could barely read and write was a regular user of TikTok! To the extent that she asks me if I also was a user!

Phone frauds, we are told are on the rise. "I'm calling from such and such bank. We're upgrading our mobile banking..." Shut up you dude! I never went anywhere to your mobile banking stuff! The bad sheep are aplenty in every flock. Yes that's a reality we'd have liked to avoid. Of course we might haggle about what we exactly mean by bad sheep.

Only those who abuse rather than use their technological knowhow to dig through the ins and outs and we the rank and file are just innocent victims begin warned "Beware!"

For the third time in a couple of weeks someone calls and claims he's was from some bank. He talked for minutes about mobile banking and said that his bank was upgrading their mobile banking system and needed information from me. He asked me for some confirmation code. I asked him from which branch he was calling. I think I caught him in midflight. He was searching for words when I told him at the moment I was at a certain branch of the bank he mentioned. Is the noise so loud when people hang up on you! I never thought that such loud sounds came from cell phones.

PCs are expensive these days. Especially, if you are after brand new gadget you have to dig deeper into your wallets and that is becoming more painful by the day. And when it comes to enterprises government or private we hear of tight budgets preventing them from realizing all their plans. So what is the logical spending so much money on PCs which month after month gather dust and their only use if any is form some staff members to play solitaire? Is 'PC on the table' the new normal in enterprises? Are performances measured by the number of PCs you display?

Questions, questions and more questions. Is 'PCs in the Table' the New Normal!



# Ethiopia atop Africa's heritage lists in UNESCO

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

This week, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has inscribed Gedo Cultural Landscape and Bale Mountains National Park in to the world heritage list.

Adding the two new sites into the world heritage increased the number of Ethiopia's heritages registered in UNESCO heritage site into 11. With 11 heritages inscribed as world heritages,

Ethiopia becomes number one in Africa, followed by South Africa with 10 heritages at UNESCO-heritage list.

The Axum Obelisk, Lalibela Monolithic Churches, the Fasil Ghebbi, Harar Jugol, Konso Cultural Landscape, Lower Valley of the Awash, Lower Valley of the Omo, Simien National Park, and Tiya Stelae are the other UNESCO-registered world heritage sites located in Ethiopia.

## Gedeo Cultural Landscape



Gedeo Cultural landscape is an area of agroforestry which utilizes multilayer cultivation with large trees sheltering indigenous enset crop. The nature of the area is protected with indigenous traditions thanks to the Gedeo people. It is densely populated but the population is a blessing to protect the area. "More people, More Trees."

For the Gedeo community, Forests are sacred and used for ritual associations with the Gedeo religion. In Gedeo, people and nature are living harmoniously and this natural connection becomes a world heritage this week.



The above picture is the view of Tuto-fela stelae found in the Gedeo Cultural Landscape. These monuments found at the mountain ridges are dense clusters of megalithic monuments, which comes to be revered by the Gedeo and cared for by their elders.

## Bale Mountains National Park



Bale Mountains National Park is among the protected afro-alpine ecosystems in Ethiopia. Ethiopia takes over 80 percent of Africa's afro-alpine ecosystem and Bale Mountains takes the lion share of Ethiopia's afro-alpine ecosystem. This ecosystem is home to many endemic plant and wildlife species in Ethiopia. In addition, the ecosystem is the main water source.

The picture shows an areal view of some part of the park with among the endemic animals found with in the park. In addition to the wildlife, The park is home to many endemic wildlifes in Ethiopia like Bale shrew, Ethiopian wolf and Mountain nyala.



Rising over 4,000 metres, the Afro-Alpine plateau of the Bale Mountains is the highest mountainous area in southern Ethiopia. The Bale Mountains are a place of beauty, in both nature and community. Ethiopia established Bale Mountains National park in 1970 to protect this magnificent area. Now, it becomes a new world heritage site after UNESCO inscribed it.

Bale is known for its lush forests and high concentration of mammals. It attracts hikers, wildlife watchers, and nature enthusiasts and it the home of gorges, lakes, streams, waterfalls, volcanic ridges and stunning views.